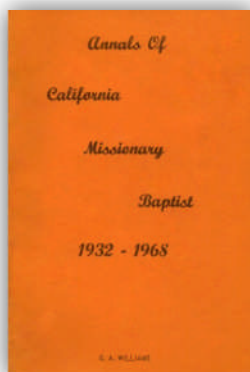


LANDMARK BAPTIST HISTORIAN

Published by Landmark Baptist Church - Folsom, California

July 2011 - Volume 1 ~ Number 3

"Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will show thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee."
Deuteronomy 32: 7



A must read by all those interested in California Baptist History. Prepared by G. A. (Sonny) Williams.

Excerpt from Preface:

"To the younger, I send this history with a prayer that you, too, will love the Baptists of California and the principles for which they stood."

G. A. Williams - December 1968

of the First Missionary Baptist Church of Riverbank, California." He served the Riverbank church as Song Leader and Sunday School Teacher until the work in Oakdale was started. In Oakdale, he, along with Brothers Rich and Othie Perdue, were ordained as Deacons in 1947. In July 1947 I surrendered to the call and preached my first sermon on Tuesday night, August 5th. I started school at Riverbank in September. The first semester was night classes only. But in February 1948, we started full time and named the school Pacific Coast Bible Institute. I continued to study there until the end of the 1949-1950 school year and after a year of absence I attended the 1951-1952 term. I was ordained on June 24, 1949, at Riverbank. I have pastored thirteen churches and led in the organization of five churches." These churches are: Fossil, Oregon, Oroville, CA; Union Gap, Oregon; Tully Road, Modesto, CA, Eureka, CA; Keyes, CA, Arroyo Grande, CA, Napa, CA, Lockeford, CA, and Cypress, Sacramento, CA.

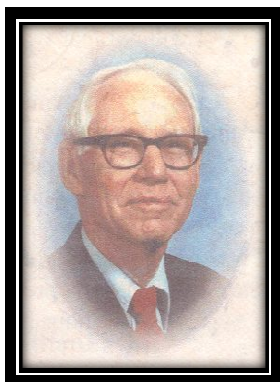
He has served as Missionary in the following areas: Lower Lake, CA, Roseburg, Oregon, Visalia, CA, Valley Springs, CA; and Los Banos, CA.

Brother Williams is truly a latter day Baptist Pioneer, especially in the area of California Landmark Baptist History. His Annals of California Missionary Baptist, 1932 - 1968, appeared at least five years before the formation of the History & Archives Committee of the California Cooperative Association of Missionary Baptist Churches. He served on this committee since its beginning and for well over a decade had been its chairman. The work of reclaiming, restoring, preserving, and presenting our California Baptist Heritage has been an extension of his already complete ministry among the people of God. He labored diligently, prayerfully, continuously, self-sacrificially for the benefit of his brethren. On numerous occasions, he wept over discovered materials and conversations regarding our history. The motivational effect of these joyful tears is both overwhelming and revealing: He loved the Lord, he loved the Lords' people and he loved the Lords' work. Our Baptist heritage Has been a blessing to him and he desired to bless others by that heritage.

Reprinted from the *California Cooperative Association History & Archives Website* at www.calhac.org - With a few minor corrections. RWC

G. A. (General Alonzo) Williams 1918 - 2000

was born in Quinton, Haskell County, Oklahoma on November 29, 1918. His parents were Thomas Jefferson Williams and Mae New Williams. He was married to Inez Alice Ryles on June 7, 1939. To this union were born three children, June, Bob, and Brenda.



The following quotation is from THIS IS THE STORY OF MY LIFE and provides his testimony to the saving grace of Jesus:

"I became ill in 1943 with no apparent cause, but I lost 20 pounds of my 146 pounds in about three months. I lost a lot of sleep during those days because of my spiritual condition. During the daylight hours I was a confident, self-sufficient, hypocritical Pharisee-, but, when it became dark and I tried to sleep, then I faced the judgment of God fearfully. I spent hours, days, even years of agony because of sin and this came to an end on Tuesday afternoon following Easter in 1944. Our family was visiting one of my older sisters for Easter and she and her husband were devout Christians, and of course our conversation included topics like salvation, Christian living, assurance, and even though not saved at that time, the subject renewed my previous teaching by my youngest sister. We went home on Monday and on Tuesday I came face to face with my Savior. I knelt on my knees and asked for mercy and it was there that I became a child of God. My wife and I were baptized the first Sunday of August, 1944, by the authority

An example of the treasures to be discovered in the Annals of California Missionary Baptist 1932 - 1968:

Extract from the 1938 of the California State Missionary Baptist Association, Seventh Annual Session held with the Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Roseville, April 11-15.

Directory of Churches and Pastors		
Church and Date of Organization	Pastor	Church Clerk
Corcoran, January 10, 1937	W. E. Dowell	Mrs. Ora N. True
Ducor, May 1, 1908	A. F. Simmons	J. R. Humaker
Ford City, February 7, 1937	Lee Dowdle	Miss Sarah Moore
Gloria Gardens, May 13, 1928	Alonzo Yancey	Miss Lora Breuner
Laguna Beach, April 12, 1937	H. C. Payton	Joe Roughten
La Habra, September 20, 1935	No Pastor	Mrs. Garland Brewster
Modesto, September 19, 1937	R. Y. Blalock	Mrs. J. A. Robinson
North Sacramento, January 23, 1938	E. J. Polson	Mrs. Alice Clark
Pomona, June 7, 1936	J. E. Hill	Albert L. Owen
Roseville, September 30, 1917	E. J. Polson	Mrs. Ethel Fogle
Salinas, August 9, 1935	John Cooper	Hazel Keeling

ORDAINED MINISTERS			
Elder R. Y. Blalock	Modesto	Elder E. J. Polson	Roseville
Elder Ben W. Brock	North Sacramento	Elder A. F. Simmons	Ducor
Elder John Cooper	Salinas	Elder J. M. Tate	Gloria Gardens*
Elder W. A. Davis	La Habra*	Elder Lester Thomas	Pomona*
Elder Lee Dowdle	Ford City	Elder John W. Watson	Ford City
Elder W. E. Dowell	Corcoran	Elder J. L. Whitmire	Roseville*
Elder S. P. Garrett	Ducor*	Elder W. S. Wilburn	El Nido
Elder Clarence Hardin	Gloria Gardens	Elder J. L. Winters	Pomona*
Elder J. E. Hill	Pomona	Elder L. W. Wright	Pomona*
Elder Silas Hill	La Habra	Elder Alonzo Yancey	Gloria Gardens
Elder M. C. Hooks	Pomona*	Elder J. S. Clark	Gloria Gardens*
Elder H. C. Payton	Laguna Beach	* Not now active. Subject to call.	

LICENSED MINISTERS			
J. R. Bowers	Salinas	Walter S. Smith	Yolt
Orville Burks	Salinas	Joe Thompson	Gloria Gardens
Roy B. Gibbs	Pomona	Hives Thurman	Roseville
Albert L. Owen	Pomona	W. L. McKeown	Modesto
Kenneth Saunders	La Habra		

"Four churches petitioned for fellowship in the Association: Corcoran, Laguna Beach, Modesto (Airport), and North Sacramento."

*Landmark Jubilee Yearbook 1931-1981
California State Missionary Baptist Association*



R. Y. Blalock baptizing Brother Farmer
Photo from Annals of California Missionary Baptist
1932 - 1968 by G. A. Williams



1937 Brush Arbor Meeting in Modesto

NEW CHURCH, MODESTO, CAL.

Last night closed a two weeks meeting we held in a little Arbor. Elder W. E. Dowell of Corcoran preached for us four nights the first week. Elder John W. Watson of Taft the rest of the meeting. They both did some wonderful preaching of the Word. One accepted Christ while Brother Dowell was with us and one while Brother Watson was with us. Much good seed was sown, we believe will bring fruit later.

September 19th we organized a true Baptist Church, 16 going into the organization that day and one received for Baptism, whom we baptized yesterday. Elder John Cooper, Mrs. John Cooper and three of their children and Brother J. R. Bowers, of Hebron Heights Baptist Church of Salinas, Deacon C. L. Hunt, Mrs. C. L. Hunt, Mrs. N. A. Fogle and her daughter of Roseville Missionary Baptist Church, and Elder John W. Watson of Ford City Missionary Baptist Church of Taft, were the visitors assisting in the organization.

We are located in a growing suburb of the city near the Airport, where there are from two to three thousand people, and no church of any kind within a mile of us. We have a great opportunity here, but it will be a hard struggle, as we must build right away to have a place to meet before cold weather. In view of the need, the opportunity and the strategic point in the center of the state and richest valley in the state if not in the United States, where the government is spending millions of dollars to irrigate the rich valley, I, by the grace of God, intend to make this the crowning work of my life for God and His truth. We are going to build a lighthouse, to shine for time and eternity. We are asking our friends, those who love God and His truth, to help us. We will need your help. If you do not get a letter from us direct, and you read this, it is for you. Pray over it then do what God leads you to do. I will report all receipts in this paper. Pray for us we need your prayers. We are weak, but God is strong. We trust Him.

R. Y. Blalock,
Box 580, Modesto, Calif.

Article as printed in
The Pacific Coast Baptist
October 1937

The Airport Church was
organized on
September 19, 1937

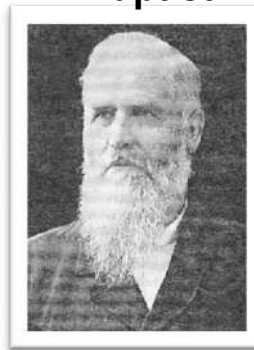


Photo Courtesy of Tom Blalock, Editor Baptist Landmarks

A. F. Simmons
Served as Moderator
for the 1938
California State
Missionary Baptist
Association
while pastoring the
Ducor Church
Organized May 1, 1908



Baptist Brethren of the Past



THE GOING OF ELDER J. H. MILLER

Our dear brother Miller is "at home with the Lord." On Sunday, Nov. 26th he departed this life at his home in The Dalles, Oregon, having suffered a stroke of paralysis on Friday before. He was born in Ohio, Aug. 18, 1835, and had been preaching the

gospel for more than sixty-five years. He pastored churches and did evangelistic work in several states. In the early part of 1894 he came to the Pacific Coast, locating as pastor at Yakima, Wash. From there he came to The Dalles, Oregon, and reorganized and pastored The Dalles Church and for sometime was Editor of the Baptist Sentinel. He was pastor also of other churches, among them was Cloverdale Church, that he pastored for several years, and where his membership was when he died. It was last September when he and Sister Miller visited at Cloverdale and while here he preached four sermons. These were the last sermons he preached. He loved the work of the ministry. He was a great student of God's Word, a wonderful preacher, a great big hearted soul that intensely loved his brethren, and the interest of the churches lay heavily upon him. On account of failing health for the last few years he had been unable to do active ministerial work, but he was a man of prayer, and oh! how he prayed for his brethren in the ministry and for the churches.

The Middle Oregon Baptist Association was blessed by his presence, counsel, prayers and preaching at the annual meetings for the past several years. How he will be missed at the next annual meeting.

No record here can be given of the great work he has accomplished, the influence for good that he has set in motion, the lives and souls he has been the means of saving. Think of it, Sixty Five Years of preaching Christ, contending for God's eternal truth, being a living, loyal representative of our Lord, a real true Ambassador of Jesus Christ. The record is kept in Heaven, and truly his works do follow him to heap upon him blessings. He could say in truth as Paul did; "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith; Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness."

He is survived by his widow, two daughters, Mrs. Eva Harty of La Mar, Colorado, Mrs. Belle Caskey of Stuart, Iowa, two brothers, Jackson Miller of Portland, and I. C. Miller of Los Angeles and two sisters, Mrs. Kris Mort of Gaston, Ore., and Mrs. Lib Mort of Los Angeles.

Continued on Page 3-first Column



EZRA FISHER: PIONEER OREGON MISSIONARY of the American Baptist Home Mission Society

Excerpt from the CORRESPONDENCE
OF EZRA FISHER
pp. 239-40
(CLATSOP PLAINS, OREGON)
Dated February 3, 1849

"I am quite sure, if you were here and knew all I know of the state of things in California, you would take the most prompt measures to acquaint yourselves with the wants of that territory and meet them. Oregon must be measurably stationary for a time, while California will swarm with people and overflow with wealth, gambling and dissipation, and unless our churches act with promptness and devotion and liberality, these inexhaustible treasures are given over into the hands of the Prince of Devils, California will be morally lost and will prove a capital scourge to our nation....

I know that an able young man now placed in San Francisco and liberally supported, another at Sacramento City (Sutter's Fort), another in the American settlements and a fourth at the mines would find profitable work in promoting the interests of Zion under the Captain of our salvation. I wish you to remember that the formation of our civil and religious character is at hand and vice in all its forms must reign, unless Zion's sons are awake. Just think of the advantageous position of San Francisco in relation to the whole Pacific trade. Where is there another such point to be occupied in all North America?

Now hold the map before you. Think of the mountains of gold behind her, the influx of population from Upper and Lower California bordering the coast, the Pacific islands, and even China, swarming hither for gold, and then let me ask our dear brethren, are we prepared to leave this point unoccupied for the want of a few hundred dollars?"

As recorded in: **Gods Gold**, pp. 43
by Sanford Fleming, Ph.D., D.D.
Berkeley Baptist Divinity School
copyright 1949 THE JUDSON PRESS

Fisher image from: Baptist Annals of Oregon,
C. H. Mattoon - Volume 1

Continued From Page 2- Column 2

The funeral services were held on Wednesday, Nov. 29th at the Zell Funeral Home, in The Dalles, and the writer preached the sermon, which was done by request of Brother Miller, made first more than two years ago. Several were present from churches of Middle Oregon Baptist Association, among them were Pastor A. S. Simmons of Madras, and Pastor G. W. Reynolds of Gateway.

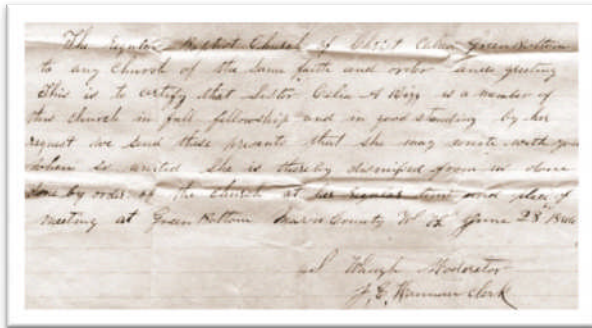
Thank God, some day we shall meet Brother Miller, and never say Good-bye.

J. T. Moore

Retyped from The Western Baptist-November 1922 Issue

Have you heard of Trunk Baptists'?

Original 1866 Letter granted in the east to a member moving out West.



The First Baptist Church in California

Letters, like the example pictured above, were used in the organization of the First Baptist Church in San Francisco, from the following churches on the East Coast.

- Jersey City Church, New Jersey
- Laight Street Church, New York
- Galway, New York
- Columbia, South Carolina

"On Friday evening, July 6th, the following individuals met at the house of Charles L. Ross, and after reading the Articles of Faith and Covenant, all joined in prayer, each taking part in the exercises, and then entered into covenant relations as members of the First Baptist Church of San Francisco. A brief address from the pastor, and the right hand of fellowship given, the church entered upon its existence with a constitutional membership of O. C. Wheeler, Jersey City Church, Elizabeth H. Wheeler, Jersey City Church, Charles L. Ross, Laight Street Church, New York, Emily Ross, Laight Street Church, New York, Lemuel P. Crane, Galway, New York, William Lailie, Columbia, South Carolina."

Excerpt from: Quarter Centennial History of First Baptist Church from 1849 to 1874 by John F. Pope

The First of a 12 part series in the Western Baptist

THE SECOND COMING OF OUR LORD.

BY J. H. MILLER.

"Second Coming" implies a previous Coming. Yes, He comes as "the Man of sorrows," in deep humiliation- in almost constant grief over the sinful perversity of his own beloved people- comes to be abused, maltreated in every way - and to finish giving up his pre-ascension life as a ransom for a lost world; for the Redemption plan was laid far back in the eternities, 1 Pet. 1:20-"Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world;" but was here in these low grounds where sorrows grow, and to finish up the terrible suffering by his ignominious death on the cross. The Father, as administrator of universal moral government must inflict the death penalty by the deadly stroke -calling out the agonized cry, "My God! my God! why hast Thou forsaken me?" This fulfils Isa. 53:10- "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; He hath put him to grief; When thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, He shall see his seed [the penitent thief] He shall prolong His days (by His' soon resurrection) and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand."

But in Acts 1:9,10 we have the record of His ascension from the earth into heaven and the promise given the Eleven by the angels, of His coming to the earth again- not as a man of sorrows now, but as an omnipotent conquering Hero, and will be a perfect fulfillment of the triumphant anchor in Rev. 19:6.- "Alleluia for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth." Rev. 1:7- "Behold he cometh in the clouds."

But when will He come? No man living nor angel knows; as nearly to the time as we can attain to - "Such a time as ye think not, the Son of man cometh." His coming will be an almost universal startling surprise to mankind, and the exhortation, "Be ye also ready," was probably left so in uncertainty that people might not become negligent in their duties and service to the blessed Master. But we can, by careful study of the word of God, know of the near approach of that time- the parable of the fig tree in Matt. 24 gives us authority to know the near approach of the time of the end.

Christ's "first coming" is the real cause for His Second Coming. He came to open the way for undoing Satan's works in the world and the salvation of those who would accept Himself as their righteous Lord and Master- to deliver them from Satan's thrall, by paying the debt incurred by our first parents in eating the forbidden fruit- "In the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"-so the surrender of life is the price to be paid- He gave His life a ransom; and in losing His life, He had power to take it again; and by his death He has now the authority to take the earth into his own possession. And in his coming again He will purge the earth of all wickedness and the "rebellious shall be (Job 18:18,) driven into darkness, and chased out of the world," and He has already begun the work - the world war prefigured its beginnings.

Through second, third, and fourth seals one fourth of the human family- war, famine, pestilence, and beasts of the earth- four hundred millions out of the 15 hundred millions will be taken away from the earth. These nations who have most cruelly treated the children of Israel will suffer most severely. See Gen. 12:3.

Then, in Rev. 9:15, we are informed that another 400 million will be killed by the 200 millions of infernal cavalry that will be let loose in the earth; but it is almost certain that those hellish fiends will not be allowed to touch those who have believed in Christ.

This destruction comes under the sixth trumpet, and the judgments are so severe the people that are not killed, will not repent of their ... fornication nor their thefts. A class of women are dressing themselves and their girls in such away as to provoke the men to licentiousness, and many seem to be glad of it. It is becoming terrible.

Stealing and robbery are increasing by leaps and bounds. No property seems to be exempt. (To be continued.)

The Dalles, Oregon.

Originally published by R. Y. Blalock in the Western Baptist, Volume 1 - Number 1 dated November 1, 1921.

From The First Baptist Newspaper in California

The article that appears below, from *The Pacific Banner*, is a sample of that which awaits the researcher or student of Early California Baptist History. While there is much uncovered or undiscovered about our Baptist Heritage on the Pacific Coast, an abundance of material has been discovered.

We are debtors to the pioneers, many that are yet unknown; those known, we do them honor by remembering both the sacrifices and the labors made by them in establishing New Testament Gospel Work on this Coast. Our early brethren burned with a passion to preach to every creature and accomplished much with very little.

What you are about to read was published in December of 1852 and yet, 159 years later, we can witness the influences as well as the footprints left in the California soil, by these great men of Faith and vision.

A Hundred Years Hence A Soliloquy. By Gaius

What will be the extent of my influence a hundred years hence? It is a great mistake of men that it is a matter of small importance what they do now, because they and their doings will soon be of no importance; every action, every word, every thought tells for good or for evil throughout the universe and throughout eternity. A good thought, though apparently a small one, may lead to a word, which may influence so as to lead to an act, which may produce a long series of actions, that may tell, yes, must tell on the universe forever.

What I have done to-day, is so much seed sown in all manner of ways, which shall act, and still act, in ever widening circles, and produce a harvest a hundred years infinitely beyond all the ideas I can form from the present. Much good or much harm will follow from every hour of every day. Let the pastor, the Sunday school teacher, the college professor, the parent, all think what may they be doing in the world, or rather, what will be the result of their doings a hundred years hence. –

But O my soul, be this thought thine own peculiar concern. Men, as to their influence, never die. Bad men always continue by their example to curse the world. Byron's poetry, and Paine's ribaldry are destroying souls. How many will they destroy within a hundred years. Bunyan and Flavel by their writings, and Whitefield and Edwards by their sermons, are still acting on the world. How many souls do they conduct annually to heaven? How much good do they within a hundred years on earth! Be it mine to watch against erroneous doctrines and unholy conduct, to cultivate a spirit of hallowed zeal, to be engaged in incessant Christian activity, and to plead much with Heaven that I may do good now and forever. May I so live as to find that –

The sweet remembrance of the just,
Like a green root, revives, and bears
A train of blessings for his heirs
When dying nature sleeps in dust.

O, for great usefulness a hundred years hence! -
Watchman & Reflector

From: *The Pacific Banner Volume 1-Number 11*
Sacramento, Saturday, December 25, 1852
O. C. Wheeler & E. J. Willis, Editors



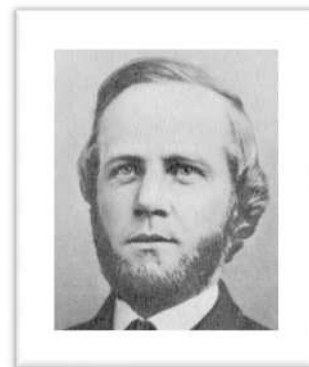
Osgood Church Wheeler

Photo Courtesy of
FBC Sacramento

In a letter to the Editor of the *Evangel*, Stephen Hilton, dated February 17, 1868, Wheeler makes the following statement:

"We hold, in both doctrine and practice, that the Bible, the whole Bible and nothing but the Bible, is the only safety of the church of God - the triumph of Christianity. Anything less is imbecility; any more is sin; upon neither of which can omnipotence look with favor. We mean to have no fellowship with any of the liberalizing, or broad church tendencies of present day. The principles of Christianity are perfect. With them, progress is impossible. Open faith and open-communion have no place in the divine arrangement. With God all is strict. That we may continue to walk in the old paths, brethren pray for us."

The Evangel, San Francisco, California.
February 20, 1868 Issue.



Edward James Willis

Photo From:
100th Anniversary Booklet-FBC Oakland, California

Please Send Comments
or Articles of Interest to:
Robert Cullifer, Editor
e-mail:
Lbfolsom@aol.com



Links to Early California Baptist History

Recollections and Otherwise

Excerpt from

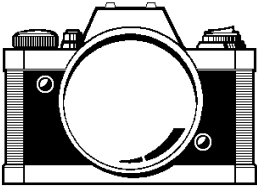
The California Missionary Baptist

Fresno, California

September 15, 1942

Written by Sister A. O. Taylor

Minister Photos Needed



If you have or know of
someone that may, please send
a jpeg image of the following
brethren to:

e-mail: Lbfolsom@aol.com

James Daley
Chauncy H. Durst
Michael Edwin Dennis
R. H. Dennis
John Carlos Derfelt
Al Derfelt
George Dever
Lester Dickson
Willard E. Dickerson
Robert Dotson
Eugene W. Dowdle
Arry Dunn
Ivan Edsal
Art Edwards
James Fenter
A. E. Ford
Rolla Ford
Wyatt Wilson Ford
Noel Forrester

More requests each month.



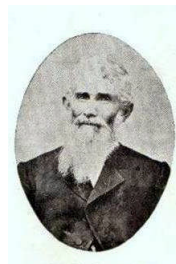
First Meeting place of the Clear Lake Baptist Association

Graduating from College in 1884 my church affiliation was with my home Union church during my teaching years, before my marriage in 1887 when we came to Lakeport, California, where my father-in-law and family had moved in 1885 for the benefit of the health of his youngest son. At Lakeport we found a 1st and a 2nd Baptist church with conditions different from anything we had known. Eld. C.S. Taylor, Eld. Diar T. Taylor, Upper Lake, and S.L. Sanford, Ukiah were the true Missionary type. In the Sacramento valley Elds. T.J. Simmons and C. S. Taylor preached acceptably at Orland and Arbuckle Baptist Churches – Other places their convictions did not jibe with practices by the so called Baptist churches. In Fresno county Eld. C.S. Taylor found at Malaya Church many of his old acquaintances and preached acceptably and not hampered in his ministerial duties. He was a strict Missionary Baptist preacher over fifty years and sleeps peacefully in Selma cemetery.

Baptist Convention and Boards are so foreign to our belief that we would have found only dry cisterns had it not been for the Baptist and Commoner for more than a quarter of a century. We read, watched, hoped and prayed for a church not given to heresies and other subversive practices. We think we have found such in Fresno Missionary Baptist church. Eld. C.E. Hunt its most earnest and consecrated pastor. We rejoice in the number of true Baptist churches being established on this coast. There is opportunity for a great religious awakening.

Diar T. Taylor

of the Clear Lake Baptist Association
See *History of Landmark Baptists of California*, page 87 for brief biographical sketch and *the Semi-Centennial History of the Clear Lake Baptist Association of California*
at www.calhac.org



Women of Faith in California



Alberta (Cooper-Harless) Perdue

Alberta Cooper was born to John and Effie Joetta Cooper August 3, 1926 in Wynona Oklahoma. She was the last of nine children. Her father and grandfather were Missionary Baptist Preachers in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas. John moved to Oklahoma before Alberta was born. In

addition to her father being a Baptist Preacher she had three preacher brothers, Doc, Luther and Ted Cooper. Two other brothers were Baptist deacons.

Alberta was nine years old in 1935 when she moved to Monterey, California with her parents and two other siblings. In November 1936 she was saved and a month later baptized in the cold Salinas river by her Father who was pastor of the Salinas Hebron Heights Missionary Baptist church (later named the First Missionary Baptist Church).

Alberta attended schools in Monterey, Salinas, Tracy, Tuolumne, Tulare and graduated from Antioch High school in 1944.

She worked at Fiberboard in Antioch over 2 years before marrying Richard Harless I. She married Richard January 3rd, 1946, Five boys were born to this union. Richard Aubrey, John Franklin, Andrew Leon, Donal Albert and Mark Kevin who died at birth.

Alberta has been a charter member of First MBC in Tulare, FMBC in Tuolumne, FMBC in Tracy, FMBC in Brentwood, Centerville MBC, Liberty LMBC in Modesto and Shilo MBC in Bakersfield. Her Father, John Cooper, led in the organization of these churches except for Centerville, Liberty and Bakersfield. Her husband Richard Harless led in the organization of these churches.

Alberta has been a pastor's wife of the following churches; Centerville 2 years, Airport in Modesto 20 years and Liberty in Modesto 7 years. She has been a member of a Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in California for 75 years. She has been very active in almost all of the ministries of the California work.

She has made three trips to Israel plus many other trips to foreign lands.

Her first husband Richard died in August 2005. She married her present husband Luther Douglas Perdue in March 2007. They live in Modesto, California and are members of the Liberty Landmark Missionary Baptist Church.

Alberta's present husband, Douglas Perdue

I joined the First Missionary Baptist Church of Riverbank January 3, 1943. Luther Cooper was my beloved pastor. Luther had a little sister named Alberta Cooper that was a few months younger than I.

The first time I remember seeing her was when I was about 16. I was really impressed with her beauty. I finally met her and was smitten by her.

A Youth Rally was held at San Pablo and four of us from the Riverbank were able to attend. Alberta was there and as we were visiting together she mentioned that her father did not like to drive in the heavy traffic. That gave me the idea to see if he would like for me to drive him and his wife and Alberta to their home in Antioch since it was on the way to Oakdale where I lived. It was fine with them and really fine with me, so I told Clyde Parish to drive my car and follow me as I drove the Cooper's car. She sat next to me in the front seat and her father and mother sitting in the back. That was the shortest forty miles I ever drove.

I was able to spend time with her and also to preach for the church in Antioch. I asked her if she would go with me on a date to spend a day in San Francisco and she said yes. So the next Saturday with Clyde and Lucille we picked her up and drove to the "City." We had a great time and visited several special places.

Later I sold my car and moved to Fresno to attend Bible School and only saw her occasionally. We did exchange pictures and the one she sent me was a nice 8"X11" with a large white border around her beautiful face. Years later when my first wife was going through our picture albums she took the picture of Alberta out and trimmed it down to about a 5X7. The picture I gave to Alberta was destroyed in a flood along with much of her belongings later in life.

In the last week of July 1944 I moved to Little Rock. I then joined the Antioch church by letter where Dr Ben M. Bogard was pastor. I received several letters from Alberta and the last one she told me that she had bought a fur coat. That statement jumped out of the letter and I was sort of numb, I thought to myself that no way could I make plans to go to school and live on what I was making and hope to win her hand. I then wrote Alberta a letter telling her what I thought wording it very poorly and telling her that I could not marry a girl that had a fur coat. She never responded.

I did win Maurine's heart and we married in January 1946 and lived a very happy life for over 61 years from the time we fell in love and raised three very special girls. Alberta married Richard Harless and raised a lovely family of four boys living together for 60 years.

About 15 years ago I was visiting Richard and Alberta, doing Historical research and after having dinner with them I was sitting in the family room visiting with Richard and noticed an identical picture of the one she had given to me before she met Richard. I commented to Richard, "By the way I have a picture just like the one on your wall." He

replied, "You may have her picture but I have the real thing." Little did I know that the time would come when I would have the picture and the real thing?

Both my wife Maurine and her husband Richard died. Sometime after I had heard that Alberta was going in a rest home so I visited her before going to Oregon. Lo and behold she was in great health and planned on continuing to live in her home. We had a great visit and the next day we had a picnic. We hit it off GREAT and fell in love again. We are now married having a great life and taking care of each other. She is a great wife. I have been very fortunate to have had two wonderful wives.

Prepared by Request: L. D. Perdue - June 2011



Your suggestions for our Dear Baptist Ladies are encouraged. Please forward a Brief Biography and a few photos for future publications.

The Editor



Elder John Cooper
[May 1946-Western Baptist-Vol.1-No.11-p3]



Left to Right:
John & Effie Cooper - R. Y. & Clara Blalock



Salinas Church 1940 Left to right from the back row

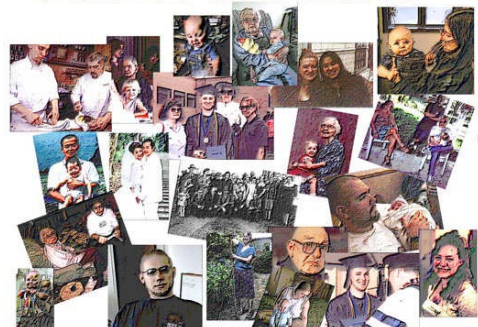
Bannie Cove, Virgil Clemons, Arvil Moore, Casey Burks, Hazel Burks, Thelma Hardin
Art Harris, Hershel Cooper, Floyd Cooper, Barney Burks, Eula Ragsdill
Mauzell Boozer, Hazel Keeling, Pauline Clemons, Orval Burks
Irene Harris, Alice Cove, Gracie Cooper, Alberta Cooper, Ann Keeling, Jearld Ramsey, Floren Wyatt,
Ruby Blalock

Photo Courtesy of Sis. Alberta



Doug & Alberta Perdue
April 2011
California State Missionary Baptist Association Meeting
at Liberty M. B. C. Modesto

Send Us Your Photos!



to Lbfolsom @aol.com