

age 74 (nearly)

NAME

Els. B.M. Bridges

b.
d. Mar. 30, 1928

Ancestry

Married

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Record

Lattimore 1900. Monahan - 1922

Died at Moorboro, R. I.

See

Black's Sandy Plains p 81.

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Between the States, in which he served as private, he came home and "fitted himself to preach." It has been said that he perhaps preached in every Baptist church in the county, and he often prayed in the churches of other denominations.

Rev. Irvin was twice married: he first married Harriet Weathers and they had two children, and later he married Maira Jane Crowell and they had three children.



✓ REV. B. MONROE BRIDGES

The Reverend B. Monroe Bridges was called as pastor on January 2, 1908. Rev. Bridges was born April 19, 1854, and died March 25, 1928. He was married to Alice Melinda Blanton Bridges, who was born April 14, 1855, and died March 22, 1934. They had seven children.

In September of 1908, Thomas J. Holland and M. Dovus Moore were elected as delegates to the associational meeting to be held in November at the First Baptist Church of Shelby. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the relationship of local churches to Boiling Springs High School, which later became Gardner-Webb College. As a result of this meeting, Poplar Springs appointed a committee to see how much money could be raised for the school in the next three years. Twenty dollars was given in May of 1909 to furnish one room at the school. Even at this early date, the church was interested in Christian education.



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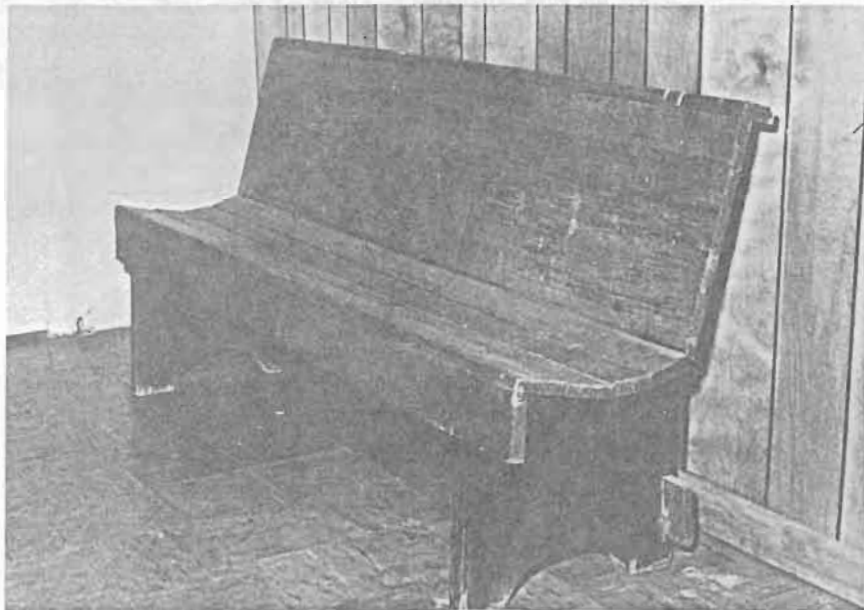
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HISTORY OF POPLAR SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH, 1898-1978 (286.1756775)

services were held in the new church building.

It was not until August of 1899 that a committee was appointed to secure benches for the church, and the minutes show that they were paid for in April of 1901, with a balance of forty cents in the church treasury. A good many years ago these benches were sold to Maple Springs Church, a neighboring Negro church, where they are still in use.



ORIGINAL CHURCH BENCH - 1901



L. R. Pruitt and Bun Brydges held first revival meeting at Poplar Springs Church in 1899.

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at Poplar Springs Church in

During July of 1899 the church held its first revival meeting. L. R. Pruitt of Charlotte, along with Bun Brydges, assisted Preacher Ezell. (Rev. Brydges was the father of Mrs. R. Hubbard Hamrick of Shelby.) There were five professions of faith made during the revival.

On July 26, 1899, Sister Sallie Davis was the first church member to die. She was 35 years, 9 months, and 23 days old.

The infant church met its problems with great faith. Once during the early days, the building caught fire. While the men carried water from the spring to put out the fire, the women gathered under the back of the church; which was high off the ground, to pray. As the ladies prayed and the men worked, a thundercloud came up and the rain put out the fire!

The committee on discipline was a integral part of the church during these days. It was the committee's duty to investigate the actions of church members that might require disciplinary measures. The rules of discipline for church members were strict. A member could be brought before the church for non-attendance, quarreling, lying, using ugly language, drinking, and yes, even for failing to pay his pledged subscription to the church. If a member missed many meetings without good reason, his name was dropped from the church roll.

In August of 1899 the church elected its first delegates to attend the Kings Mountain Associational meeting: Edward S. Glasco and Thomas J. Holland.

On August 23, 1902, the baptismal pool, which still remains on our present grounds, was built. Now instead of going to Sugar Branch, west of the church, new members could be baptized just outside the church. On July 12, 1912, improvements were made on the pool.

The story has been told of a huge old hollow poplar tree which stood near the location of the baptismal pool. Children played hide and seek and many hid in the hollow tree. When baptismal services were held the girls dressed in the wooden church building and the boys would change their clothes inside the hollow tree.



BAPTISMAL POOL - AUGUST 23, 1902

ELDER B. M. BRIDGES
1891-1901

Elder B. M. Bridges succeeded Elder J. M. Bridges as pastor of Sandy Plains. He was called November 19, 1891, and served continuously for ten years. His pastorate was rather quiet, but meant much to the church. We cannot give as much about this as we wish that we could. Brother Bridges is still living at Lattimore, N. C., and seems to be in the very best of health. The above is a good picture of him. We wish that we could give more about his pastorate but we cannot.

A SHORT HISTORY OF SANDY PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH by C. J. Black,
Page: 81 (also a photograph)

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