

JOSEPH STEPHENS WALTHALL

If, as we read the story of a life, however humble, we could know the inner workings of the man's heart there would be room for the consideration of the most abstruse philosophical questions. The various phases of the life of Joseph Stephens Walthall have suggested the foregoing remark. He was born in Prince Edward County, Virginia, July 2, 1811, the youngest son of John and Catherine Walthall. Upon the death of his mother, when he was quite young, he was cared for by an aunt until he was old enough to be returned to his father's home. Here he grew up and received his primary education. During his stay of a year or so with his older brother in Richmond he was converted, and, on May 8, 1831, baptized into the fellowship of the First Baptist Church, by Rev. John Kerr. He now attended the theological school in Powhatan County, conducted by Rev. Edward Baptist. This school was the root from which the Richmond Seminary (now Richmond College) sprang, and from Powhatan he went to the Richmond school, and then to Columbian College, Washington, where he graduated. After his ordination he was pastor for a season at Columbus, Miss. Next he was agent for the Baptist Publication Society, and then became a teacher at Richmond College. During this period he married Matilda E. Friend, of Chesterfield, and afterwards was pastor of Bethlehem Church in that county. For three years (1843-45) he was moderator of the Middle District Association and twice, in 1842 and in 1844, the preacher of the introductory sermon before this body. Before long he moved to Henrico County and there ran a truck farm. Richmond was his next home, and here, first associated with Mr. George Watt, and then without a partner, he was a manufacturer of plows. He next came back to preaching and was pastor of the church in Newbern, N. C., and then as associate editor of the Baptist paper of North Carolina, the BIBLICAL RECORDER. During the Civil War his home was in Nottoway County. He now moved to Richmond, where he became a member of the Grace Street Church. His declining health made it impossible for him to do much church work or to preach save occasionally. He grew more and more feeble until his death, May 23, 1870. His funeral was conducted by his pastor, Rev. N. W. Wilson, and the burial took place at Bethlehem Church.

VIRGINIA BAPTIST MINISTERS (3rd series) by Geo. Braxton Taylor.

MARRIAGE NOTICES IN THE RELIGIOUS HERALD WITH DATES OF PUBLICATION:

WALTHALL, Joseph S. (Elder), and Mrs. Matilda E., wife of
Edward O. Friend, by Elder Robert Ryland, July 23, 1840.

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Baptist Church in Newbern---We are gratified to learn that Elder J. S. Walthall, of Virginia, has accepted the pastorate of this church. Elder Walthall has now been preaching for the church some two months with much acceptance.

BIBLICAL RECORDER, June 28, 1855, p. 3:1

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NAME

Els. J. S. Walthall

b.
d.

Ancestry

Married

b.

d.

Ancestry

Record

Newberry

1852

See

File No.

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