

EDWARDS, O. T., Mt. Vernon Springs, N. C.,---Born, Moon's Chapel, N. C.;
Stud. Sylvan Acad., W. F. C., N. C., and S. B. T. S., Ky.; Lic. 1875,
Ord. '80, Moon's Chapel Ch.; P. Love's Creek, 18 Yrs.; Athens Ch.,
Moon's Chapel, Rocky River, Bear Creek, Brush Creek, Gunn Springs, Cane
Creek and Moore's Chapel, N. C.

BAPTIST MINISTERIAL DIRECTORY

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Geo. W. Lasher, ed.

REV. ORIN T. EDWARDS - B. 7 OCT. 1845 in _____

D. 30 AUG. 1906 in _____

Buried - Moon's Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery
near Siler City, Chatham County, N.C.

M. CIRCA 1877

KARA C. JORDAN - B. 30 AUG. 1861 in _____

(Aged - 40 YRS., 1 MON., 18 DYS.)

OBIT. - BIBLICAL RECORDER D. SAT., 18 JAN. 1902 In, ML. Vernon Springs, Chatham County, NC.
her home

29 Jan. & 5 Feb. 1902

Buried - Moon's Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery
near Siler City, Chatham County, N.C.

DAUGHTER OF H. H. JORDAN AND WINCY _____ ?
(d. After 18 Jan. 1902)

she was a Member of the Baptist church for 25 years and baptized
by Elder Daniel Hackney.

CHILDREN: TWO

TWO LITTLE BOYS (1902)

303 Buttercup Drive
Jamestown, N. C. 27282

March 31, 1982

North Carolina Baptist Historical Collection
PO Box 7777 Reynolda Station
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27109

Gentlemen:

I am researching my family history and writing to you in the hope that you can help me with one (or two) of my lines. My great-grandparents were James R. EDWARDS, Sr. (1809-1885) and wife Gracey L. M. TEAL (1821-1871) of Chatham County, N. C. They had eight children, the oldest and youngest of which were Baptist ministers:

Oren TEAL EDWARDS (1845-1906)

James Romulus EDWARDS, Jr. (1862-1945)

I know that James R. EDWARDS, Sr.'s parents were Joshua EDWARDS and wife Sarah ?, but I have been unsuccessful in all attempts to learn something of Gracey TEAL's parentage. The only thing I know is that she may have been born in Pitt County, N. C.

It occurs to me that biographical information might be available on the two minister sons in the Baptist Church. They had long careers in the ministry as follows:

Oren TEAL EDWARDS was pastor of Moon's Chapel Baptist Church in Chatham County, N. C. (his home church) in 1881 immediately following his seminary training in Louisville, Kentucky (ca 1878-1880). He was pastor of Jonesboro Heights in 1884 and Tysons Creek 1902-04, both of the Sandy Creek Baptist Association. He became pastor of Love's Creek Baptist Church at Siler City, N. C. in 1883 where he served until his death in 1906. I discovered this data in the old minutes of Moon's Chapel (1849-1883) and the History of Sandy Creek Baptist Association at the N. C. State Archives.

James Romulus Edwards, Jr. studied at Wake Forest College, graduated from Colgate University college and seminary, New York. He held pastorates in Brooklyn, N. Y.; Gulf, N. C.; Siler City, N. C.; Apex, N. C.; Mullins, S. C.; Ruston, Louisiana before becoming pastor of First Baptist Church in Auburn, Alabama in 1927. He served at Auburn until his death in 1945. I do not have dates on the earlier appointments. This information comes from an article in the Chatham News on the occasion of his death in 1945.

I realize that your records probably pertain to North Carolina only. Can you help me at all by providing biographical data, information pertaining to other sources with addresses for same and/or pictures of my great uncles? I will be happy to pay your customary charges for copies and services.

Sincerely,

Doris Stafford

(Mrs.) Doris Thompson Stafford

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Leaving, July 1876

Arrive at coal & pasture, Dec.

Exp. House for Education & the community

Sept. 07 Edward selected as pastor of Mount Airy

EDWARDS---At her home, Mount Vernon Springs, Chatham County, N. C., after a lingering illness, Saturday, January 18, 1902. Mrs. Kara C. Edwards, daughter of H. H. and Wincy Jordan and wife of Rev. O. T. Edwards, aged 40 years, 4 months, 18 days. She had been a member of the church about twenty five years, and was baptized by Elder Daniel Hackney. She had been married nearly twenty years. She leaves her husband and two little boys, a mother, brothers and sisters, and a large circle of relatives and friends to mourn her departure. She was a good girl at home and in school, of a gentle, confiding, cheerful disposition, and in womanhood moved on in that ever retiring way; and when the hand of affliction was laid upon her, she was still supported and comforted by that religion which was such an anchor to her father in death, and is still sustaining her aged mother in life. She was indeed a helpmeet to her husband, who has been proclaiming the Gospel in all those years. She exemplified, very strikingly, the Christian's faith, the Christian's hope, the nature and power of her Christian religion in her last hours.

When her day of life was setting, she said that Jesus was with her, that dying grace was given her, and soon she would drink of the water of life and thirst no more. A word of hope and cheer and admonition for her husband, and all that stood weeping around her dying bedside.

When her breath was nearly gone, and her eyes turned upward in death, her husband put his mouth to her ear and whispered, "Is it dark?" She could not speak, but she nodded, "No."

Blessed thought! Thanks to Him who lights up the dark valley, takes away the sting of death, and giveth triumphant victory in the end. May we all meet up there.

A FRIEND.

BIBLICAL RECORDER, February 5, 1902, p. 3:3

At a conference of the church on August 12, 1894, the name of the church was changed from "Crane's Creek Baptist Church" to "Cameron Baptist Church." The present trustees of the Cameron Baptist Church are Brethren C. E. Jones, T. B. Goodman and E. P. Pierce.

During the year of 1905, Doc Hinesly took possession of the Crane's Creek Church property, by storing in the church building a quantity of lumber and some farming tools. At that time there were in the building a stove, Bible and perhaps some song books belonging to the church.

From the foregoing facts I conclude that the legal title to the Crane's Creek Church property is now vested in the trustees before named, C. E. Jones, T. B. Goodman and E. P. Pierce, and it seems to be their duty, as trustees, to repossess the said property for the church.

On August 29, 1906, I urged upon the trustees to call upon Mr. Hinesly and to endeavor to adjust the matter of title and right of possession in an amicable and friendly manner; but whether my suggestion has been followed I am not informed.

As a matter of legal right, if the trustees refuse to act in the premises, any member of Cameron Baptist Church could maintain an action at law, with the said trustees as parties, for the purpose of determining the title and right of possession of the said property. I would not advise that any action at law be undertaken until every peaceable means of securing the rights of the church have been first resorted to.

Respectfully submitted,

H. F. Seawell.

Report was adopted.

On motion, subject of Obituaries was taken up. N. H. Shepherd read sketch of O. T. Edwards:

MEMENTO.

Oren Teel Edwards, son of James and Gracy Edwards, was born Oct. 7, 1845, near Siler City, Chatham County, N. C. He was reared on his father's farm and joined Moon's Chapel Baptist Church at about the age of seventeen years. At the age of eighteen years he volunteered to go as a soldier in the Confederate army to defend what he thought was a just cause. There, as everywhere else in life, he did his part faithfully and nobly.

Soon after the close of the war he attended school at Sylvan Academy, near Snow Camp. Here he prepared himself for teaching, and taught his first school at Moon's Chapel in 1872. From there he went to Pleasant Lodge Academy and taught a few terms. The academy being burned, he went to Wake Forest College. Before graduating he was asked to return and teach in the new academy at Pleasant Lodge, which he did. But realizing more and more his call to the ministry and the need of preparation for that great service, he quit his school and went to Louisville in 1877 to attend our Seminary, from which institution he graduated in 1880. He was set apart to the full work of the gospel ministry at Moon's Chapel Church the same year he returned from the Seminary.

He was married to Miss Kara Jordan in 1882, to which union

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August 12, 1894, the name of "Sandy Creek Baptist Church" to the trustees of the Cameron Association, T. B. Goodman and E. P.

They took possession of the building in the church building at that time there were some song books belonging

that the legal title to the property was vested in the trustees before E. P. Pierce, and it seems to be the said property for the

the trustees to call upon Mr. Edwards in the matter of title and right of the property; but whether my

trustees refuse to act in the matter of title and right of the property, for the purpose of the said property. The trustees could maintain the property until every of the church have been first submitted,

H. F. Seawell.

taken up. N. H. Shepherd

Gracy Edwards, was born in N. C. He was reared at Chapel Baptist Church at the age of eighteen years he joined the Confederate army to defend his country as everywhere else in life,

attended school at Sylvan and prepared himself for teaching, and in 1872. From there he taught a few terms. The next year he attended Forest College. Before he entered the new academy at Sylvan more and more his call was for that great service, he went to attend our Seminary, and he was set apart to Moon's Chapel Church the

in 1882, to which union

there were born two children—Herbert Spurgeon, age 17, and James Jordan, age 15, both now living. Mrs. Edwards died in 1902.

Brother Edwards at some period of his life served as pastor of about half the churches in the Sandy Creek Association, and some churches outside. He served as pastor of the Church at Love's Creek during his entire ministry, and was loved more when he died than when he began.

He served as Moderator of the Sandy Creek Association a number of years.

He had some very flattering calls and invitations to other churches and fields, but his patriotism—his love for his own Association and the school at Mount Vernon Springs—impelled him to take up work at home. So, in 1880 he began teaching in the Mount Vernon Springs Academy. He taught with our present Moderator, Prof. R. P. Johnson, and for years the school proved eminently successful. His other labors being so great, he quit the school for a number of years, till a little more than a year ago, when the circumstances were such that the continuation of the Associational School was well nigh hopeless, the trustees asked Brother Edwards to take hold of it again. His religion was such as would lead him to help where help was most needed, so, in September, 1905, he took charge of the school again, and the very existence of the school today is due mainly to the labors and sacrifices of him who was willing to toil and sacrifice, yea, willing to suffer for the good of others. He realized very soon that the only hope of success was to erect and equip some dormitories for the accommodation of boarding students. The last year of his life was a year of toil and sacrifice to this end. He worked too hard, but it was necessary because some of us failed to do our part.

Your committee would recommend that we endeavor to raise by private subscription enough money to finish nicely and paint the dormitories and place a nice memorial plate of marble above the front door and call it the "O. T. Edwards Building."

He was in the midst of his revival season when the summons came. How sad to think he had to leave the work unfinished, that gave so much joy to his heart! And yet how sweet to go from Pisgah's top to Heaven!

He died August 30th, 1906, and was buried at Moon's Chapel in the midst of a host of friends whose tears told of the sorrow of their hearts. Brethren J. L. Smith, D. R. Sears, G. W. Harmon, W. T. Hurst and L. R. Dixon spoke fitting words at the burying. The writer was too far away in a protracted meeting to be present.

I have tried to realize that Brother Edwards is dead, but now I am trying to imagine what joy it will be to see him glorified.

N. H. Shepherd.

On motion to adopt, remarks were made by N. H. Shepherd, R. B. Lineberry, D. L. Webster, L. R. Dixon, W. H. H. Lawhon, and J. L. Smith. Adopted and ordered printed in minutes.

G. J. Dowell read a sketch of the life of William C. Petty:

WILLIAM CAREY PETTY.

Major William Carey Petty was born about 58 years ago, and died the 5th day of January, 1906. He was nearly all his life a Christian.

NAME: Edwards, Orron Teel

DATA: Licensing (1876)

SOURCE: Moon's Chapel Baptist Church Records, Volume 1 (CR 78)

NAME	<i>Eld. Orron Teel Edwards</i>		b. ¹⁸⁴⁵ d. 8-29-06
Ancestry			Married
			b. d.
WFC 1875-76			Ancestry
Record	<i>Ore Hill</i>	<i>1881</i>	
	<i>W. F. Vernon</i> 1900 77-80 S.B. Theo. Se., Ord. May, 80, Moore's Creek Chap. Ch., Chatah, Cp., Pastor in Sandy Creek Assoc. Prim. Academu, Mt. Vernon prings. Chatham Co.		
See	W.F. Alumni Catalogue, 79' Sandy Creek Min., 1906, 12-13		
File No.			

(Over)

EDWARDS, O. T.

b. Moon's Chapel, Chatham Co., N. C., Oct. 7, '45;
Wake Forest College; Sem. (3) '77-80, English graduate;
ord. Moon's Chapel, May, '80; p. Moon's Chapel 3 yrs.,
Rocky 4 yrs., Bear Creek 3 yrs., Rive's Chapel 8 yrs.,
Loves Creek 6 yrs., Gum Springs 6 yrs., Fall Creek 3
yrs., Pittsboro 1 yr., Jonesboro 1 yr., Crane's Creek
1 yr., Moon's Chapel 2 yrs.; principal Mt. Vernon
Springs Academy, N. C., 5 yrs.

SOU. BAPT. THEO. SEMINARY, 1859-89, p. 89-90

By: John R. Sampey
(B/207/So8s)

EDWARDS, ORRON TEEL, 75-76, ed. adm., min., Ore Hill.

d 8-29-06

WAKE FOREST ALUMNI DIRECTORY, p. 79
