

August Meeting

Tuesday, August 24 , 2010

3:00 p. m.

The Thomas E. McMillan Museum

The Program: The Monroeville Mockingbird Players

Everette Price, Jr., a member of the cast of Mockingbird since 1994, will recount his memories of being an actor in and a director of this group.

Everette played Atticus for 11 years and also played Judge Taylor. He is shown at the right in his role as Atticus.



Of his experience with the Mockingbird players, he says, "The play has had a profound impact on my life, not only because of the message of To Kill A Mockingbird, but also because of the fine people I have come to know.

"It has been a privilege to work with this incredible cast and to carry the message of To Kill A Mockingbird all over the world" (from The Mockingbird Call, Spring 2007, quarterly newsletter of the Monroe County Heritage Museums).

History of the Mockingbird Players

The following article is taken from the Monroe County Heritage Museum website <<http://www.tokillamockingbird.com/>>.

"Monroeville's Mockingbird Players have a distinct edge in performing the dramatization of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Monroeville, Ala. is the birthplace of Harper Lee and is generally regarded as the model for the novel's fictitious setting of Maycomb. Hollywood filmmakers carefully recreated the Monroeville courtroom

for the 1962 movie, but the Mockingbird Players regularly perform in the real thing.

"The Mockingbird Players, an amateur theater group, have performed the play to sold-out crowds at the Old Courthouse Museum since 1991. The players are all volunteers — even the mockingbirds that appear on cue in trees outside the courthouse during Act I volunteer their vocal abilities.

"The first Monroeville production was in the

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The Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

The Speaker

**Betsy Irwin, Education Outreach
Coordinator with Moundville Archaeological
Park.**

A Reminder

It is now time to pay dues for the coming year.

- ♦ \$25.00/person,
- ♦ \$35.00/two family members
- ♦ \$250.00/person for Lifetime Members
- ♦ \$50.00/year business (business card size)



**Second St. Siloam Baptist
Missionary Church**

Volume 37, Number 8

August 2010

History of the Mockingbird Players *(continued)*

(Continued from page 1)

courtroom of the Old Courthouse in November of 1991. A standing room only crowd braved freezing weather for the premier performance, and, even in the unheated courtroom, they loved the show.

"The next year, the production was moved to May. Soon, the production grew to two acts, with the first act on the back lawn of the courthouse. The sets include the homes of Atticus Finch, Miss Maudie and Miss Dubose, and Boo Radley.

"The role of Atticus Finch was first played by T.M. McMillan, Jr., a Presbyterian minister, who was fond of quoting Gregory Peck about the role: "Atticus Finch was the kind of man I wish I was." In 1996, he turned over the role to attorney Everette Price, Jr. and others who followed. Tom Robinson, the wrongly accused black man, was played by Monroe County Commissioner Charlie McCorvey, Jr. for many years.

"In 1994, old spirituals sung by the Monroe County Interdenominational Mass Choir were added to the performances. The choir has been a popular addition to the play at home and internationally

"The Mockingbird Players gained international attention in 1996 when they were invited to perform at the Jerusalem,



The Monroeville Mockingbird Players at the Kennedy Center

Israel International Cultural Festival. The production was well received, performances were sold out and covered by Israeli television and CNN International.

"In September of 1998, the Mockingbird Players traveled to Kingston-upon-Hull, England, to perform at Hull Truck Theatre and conduct an Alabama Cultural Symposium. In addition to performances of the play, the cast and crew offered seminars on Alabama agriculture, music, cooking and a

special session for teachers on teaching *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Again, the group had an international success with sold-out performances each night.

"In 2000, the Mockingbird Players took their production to the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. where they did a special sold-out performance for members of the U.S. Congress and other dignitaries. The five-night Kennedy Center run was a huge hit with this national audience.

"In 2004, they made a return trip to Kingston-Upon-Hull, again playing to sold-out houses. In 2005, they traveled to Chicago for five performances at the Museum of Contemporary Art"

Mondays at the Museum: A Field Trip to the Monroe County Heritage Museum

Monday, August 30, 2010



The Old Courthouse in Monroeville, Now a Museum

Monday, August 30, 2010, ECHS will head to Monroeville to the Monroe County Heritage Museums' Old Courthouse location on the square in downtown Monroeville.

The Monroe County Heritage Museums maintain and operate six historic sites in Monroe County. However, ECHS will only plan to visit the Old Courthouse location.

ECHS members will leave the Thomas E. McMillan Museum at JDCC in Brewton at 9 a.m. Plan to arrive in Monroeville prior to 10 a.m.

At 10 a.m. in the Old Monroe County Courthouse courtroom, for-

mer Probate Judge Otha Lee Biggs will give us a brief overview of the history of Monroe County and the survival of the old courthouse.

There will be time for a self-guided tour and to visit the gift shop before heading to Radley's Restaurant for a Dutch treat lunch at 1 p.m. No group activities are planned for the afternoon.

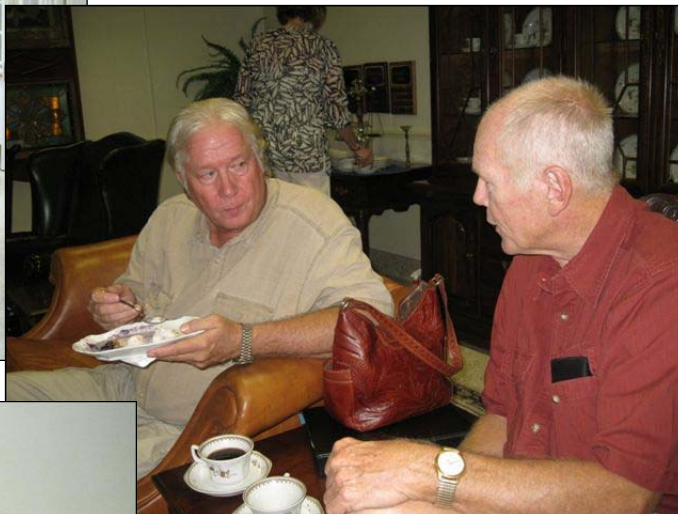
The website for the Monroe County Heritage Museums is www.tokillamockingbird.com. A map of the museum can be downloaded from the website. There are informative exhibits about Nelle Harper Lee and her childhood friend, Truman Capote. There is a handicapped entrance to the courthouse and an elevator to the courtroom.

Any questions, phone Ann Biggs-Williams at 251-867-2445.

Snapshots of the July Meeting



At Left, Guest Speaker John Jackson and ECHS member Jeff Ross



Above, ECHS Member Don Sales and ECHS Vice- President Robin Brewton



At Left, ECHS Secretary Joe Brewton and ECHS Newsletter/Journal Editor Ranella Merritt

An Alabama Room Project: A Call for Volunteers

A new project has begun: the digitizing of the society's newsletters, quarterlies, and journals. This involves digitizing these documents beginning in 1972-1973 through the period when the newsletters/journals began to be digitized and placed online.

Jerry Simmons will help members get started on this time-consuming effort to develop a way to search these archival publications for names, places, etc. The 1973 newsletters are in process and may soon be finished.

It requires a minimal computer expertise. There are only a few steps on a computer once Jerry sets it up for you. Place an issue into the scanner; click a button and the scanner does its job and saves it on the computer; then re-

move the issue from the scanner and file it back into its three-ring binder.

As you gain confidence in the procedure, you can rename the file according to its date either before the scanner saves it or after. Ask for a demonstration.

You could do several years' worth of newsletters in one sitting of a couple of hours. The thing is that we have nearly three decades of them to do, so it could prove tedious for one person.

Please consider volunteering for this worthwhile project so the Society may be brought into the 21st century by providing greater access to the materials in the Alabama Room.

The Lottie Historical Marker



Pictured with the Lottie, Alabama Historical Marker are several families:

Jean Ardis and family of the Lottie area, the Elbert and Janice (Ardis) Croley Family of Pensacola, Florida, and the Steve Croley Family of Molino, Florida.

Jean is a member of the Poarch Creek Indians. Janice Croley's Father' Henry Ardis was a World War II Veteran who was buried overseas and honored with a flag at the Lottie Alabama Historical Marker on Memorial Day 2010.

In the picture left to right are : Darrell (Bubba) Ardis Jr., Regina Ardis Brown, Thomas Ardis, Jean Ardis.

In front of Jean are grandchildren: Logan Brown, Braden Laird, Sidra Brown, Brianna Laird,

The Croley family to the right of the Jean Ardis' family includes: Janice (Ardis) Croley with granddaughter Claire Croley, (standing in front of her Grand-mother); Grace Croley, another granddaughter; Elbert Croley; and son, Steve Croley of Molino, Florida.



In the second picture with the marker are direct descendants of Richard Dailey (Dick) Padgett, one of the early settlers.

Pictured left to right are: John Bell, Great, Great grandson of Dick Padgett; John's wife, Dawn Bell; great, great, great grandchildren of Dick Padgett: Braxton Bell, John Griffin Bell, Peyton Bell, Jackson Bell; and Great granddaughter, Geraldine Bell.

Lottie Historical Marker Text Correction: Below, the actual Text on the Marker

Side One

Lottie has the highest elevation in Baldwin County. A ridge forms a divide where waters to the east flow into Pensacola Bay and waters to the west flow into Mobile Bay. Pine Log Creek begins in Lottie. Pine Log Ditch, used to float logs for over 100 years, started in Lottie and ran to The Alabama River.

Naturalist William Bartram, in 1775, followed the ridge to Mobile, on part of County Road 47. This Indian trading path later became part of the Federal Road of 1805 and was later part of The Old Stage Road. The stage stopped in Lottie near The New Home Church.

In July, 1813, Col. James Caller led a militia group to camp at Davy Tate's cowpens in Lottie to wait for reinforcements from Tensa. His band, 180 men strong, continued up the Federal Road for Burnt Corn Springs, then south on the Wolf Trail to the ford on Burnt Corn Creek for the first skirmish of the Creek Indian War.

Side Two

Turpentine, logging and farming was once the lifeblood of Lottie. W. M. Carney Mill Co. operated a camp and turpentine still at Redtown. The mill had a school, store, and church. Three logging railroads crossed Lottie. Richard Bailey (Dick) Padgett, who was Creek Indian and English, was one of Lottie's first settlers.

Pre-Lottie settlements included Carney, Langham, Magic City, Pine Log, Red Town, and Taitsville. The Lottie area was often called "Head of Pine Log." In 1903, a post office was established and one name was needed ; **Lottie Presley's** name was selected from the teenage girls.

Today, churches maintain the legacy of the community. Former residents return annually to homecoming events at Lottie Churches and to visit the resting places of their ancestors at Lottie cemeteries.

Note: This is a correction to the text of the marker which appeared in the last edition of the newsletter. July 2010.

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Second Saint Siloam Missionary Baptist Church

From 1910 to 2010

*Researched and Compiled
by ECHS member Darryl
Searcy.*

Background and Introduction

From the very beginning this researcher knew that he could go nowhere without the generous help of three of the church's faithful servants: The Rev. Willie Blue (pastor), Historian Mrs. Annette Reed, and Minister Emma Lancaster.

As we sat in the Reverend's comfortable study, I said that I cared little for the accolades and celebrations, but instead I would be looking for the character and soul of the congregation that had built and has maintained this edifice. While the beautiful historic building would also be paramount in this article, it was the devoted and determined people that would interest me most.

It was known early on that this church would need leaders of profound vision. Rev. Willie Blue has been the latest of such visionaries. He expressed his thoughts clearly when asking the church members to abandon traditional comfort zones and not to see a church within a building but to become a church within the community, thereby placing the church in a position to help draw people to Christ.

79th Anniversary Celebration in 1989

It was in 1989 that Rev. Blue wrote: "The Historic Second Saint Siloam Baptist Church pauses to celebrate its 79th year anniversary. God has brought us across another twelve months. Another twelve months in our march towards eternity. We take this time out to give praise and adoration for the blessings

"He has bestowed upon us as a church family. We pause to pay recognition to those whom in the last twelve months have gone from work to rest. There is much work to be done and everyone who wants to work will be given the opportunity to do so.

"As we approach the year 1990 we must define the church and its mission. What is the church? A Christian Church is a body of regenerate persons, baptized on profession of faith



Church from the West View

in Christ; united in covenant for worship, as the gospel requires; recognizing and accepting Christ as their supreme Lord and Lawgiver and taking the New Testament as a divinely inspired record and therefore a trustworthy, authoritative and all-sufficient rule of faith and practice.

"Let us continue to pray for the welfare of each other."

Celebration of 100th Anniversary and Listing on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage

The works of the good preacher (Rev. Blue) continued and on April 7, 2010, the Alabama Historical Commission sent a letter to Mr. Ted Jennings, Mayor of Brewton, stating in part, "The Alabama Historical Commission is pleased to inform you that the above referenced property (Second Saint Siloam Missionary Baptist Church) has been favorably reviewed and is now listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. The letter was signed by Lee Anne Wolford, Alabama Register & Cemetery Program Coordinator.

On June 13, 2010, His Honor the Mayor, in turn, sent a letter to the Friends and Family of the Second Saint Siloam Church stating that "Brewton has been recognized as one of the 'Top 100 Small Towns in America' and the City is celebrating its 125th anniversary of incorporation this year." He went on to say that the annual Blueberry Festival will also celebrate its 30th anniversary the weekend of June 19-20, 2010.

"These events," the mayor said, "are more remarkable when it is realized that we become part of the history of the area every day. We should always remember the old, the new and the now."

It was no surprise to the members of this House of Worship that as of Saturday, June 12, 2010, it had earned the right to be called a "Historic Landmark" in Escambia County.

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Second Saint Siloam Missionary Baptist Church (continued)

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A marker was placed and dedicated. The Rev. Willie Blue stood proudly with his Trustee Board and other dignitaries and listened as his peers praised the work of this most deserving congregation.

State Representative Alan Baker and other dignitaries were present to dedicate the marker. Messages of richly deserved recognition came from Alabama Governor Bob Riley, U. S. Senator Jeff Sessions, Mayor Ted Jennings, city administrators, court judges, and of course a proud and grateful community.

It was a glorious day of celebration for Second Saint Siloam and a well-earned testament to the dedication and determination of peoples past that raised this structure to its highest.

Not only did the Second Saint Siloam celebrate its 100th birthday, it was also a time to celebrate one of its own having been named 'Sunday School Teacher of the Year.' No doubt it was a proud moment for Carrie Lewis when she was recognized by the Evergreen District Association for her devotion and hard work.

From the pamphlet, The Church that Rev. Franklin Built, it is stated that "a good Sunday School Teacher does not necessarily have to possess a long list of degrees or speak big words to be effective in the work of the Lord. When one is truly called by God to teach, He equips their heart, mind and soul with his spirit and ultimately His will is done."

The Church Is Organized – 1909

"Can this Society (ECHS) add anything to further enlighten the untold labors of the good people who had a dream and followed on it? We believe we cannot, but we can highlight the small stepping-stones of events that led up to a larger mosaic picture.

"It will be our intent here not to follow a set rule of praising this or that person, but to weave a fabric made of hopes and promises held by the faithful. Dreams and fruition of promises kept are evidence of the good deeds upon which empires are built - this landmark is no less than an empire to the many people who gave it reason to flourish and to serve its community for 100 years" (Darryl Searcy) .

In an article that appeared in the Heritage of Escambia County, Alabama (2002), the church historian, Amanda Payne, wrote of this historic place, "On November 5, 1909, the members of the Second Saint Siloam Missionary Baptist



The Historic Marker

Church, after much prayerful consideration, assembled in the building in which the church worshiped, and known as the Congregational Church." It was located at the corner of St. Joseph and Evergreen Street, or about where the Opti-World and the old Sonic buildings stand today.

We must wonder as to what type building would have existed at the time. These were poor folks of little means, but they had a combined big heart and unwavering determination to have a permanent place unto themselves in which to worship.

There was some discussion that perhaps the original structure was no more than a brush arbor, but that was enough on which to build a future.

There were floods and disease to deal with, but these hard-working people persevered.

They spoke, they prayed, they kept the faith. And out of that faith came a great spiritual temple in which to worship their Lord and to raise their voices in songs of praise as family upon family joined hands in fellowship and thanksgiving.

The membership was small in 1909 but it wasn't long before the church counted 150 devout souls. Deacons were named, choirs were formed, and committees set themselves about the work of building a dream that would serve its members well.

In short order, deacons Peter Blankenship, P. H. Johnson, Johnny Robbins, Alex Allen and Alex Hamilton were named.

Trustees S. W. Mills, R. T. Thompson, Jim Dean, L. L. Ingraham, Charles Smith, John Feagan, J. H. Mills, and Walker Dacus were selected to oversee all facets of the church's committees. A Chairman was necessary and R. T. Thompson was the right man for the job. Jim Dean was named Secretary.

When everything and everyone was in place, it was time to call a pastor.

I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to my people? Who will go for us?" And I said, "Lord, I'll go! Send me." Isaiah 6:8

Rev. William Franklin was without doubt the man they needed to minister to them and when the call came, he accepted. While he devoutly tended his flock, he was also busy making plans for a more permanent church building.

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Second Saint Siloam Missionary Baptist Church (continued)

(Continued from page 7)

Services were held in the Congregational Church for a length of time, but Rev. Franklin, along with the trustees and deacons knew there should and could be more. The pastor and officers began planning for that day. The site selected was on East Street. Land was acquired and contractors were hired.



The First Minister, Rev. William Franklin, Who Served from 1910 - 1918

Construction and Dedication of the Church Building (1910)

Historian Amanda Payne: "Rev. Franklin presented his plan on a piece of cardboard to the membership, which was accepted and approved. William Brown and Charles Smith were selected as contractors. On June 10, 1910 the new building was dedicated. That was a glorious day.

"The judge, the pastor of the First Baptist Church and other officials of the town were present. Some commended the members for building such a large church in such a short time. At that time no other church in Brewton or nearby areas could surpass its splendor.

"Rev. R. J. Madison, who was pastoring Baptist Hill Church, delivered the dedication sermon. The subject of his sermon was *Lift up a Standard*. Mrs. Sophronia Stallworth preceded the sermon with a solo."

The new church building was constructed of Hudson River Brick (also known as Haverstraw), with a high crawl space beneath. The flooring was elevated some 36 inches so to put the main floor above flood water stage. That engineering decision has served it well. Although the great flood of 1929 did reach the main floor, there was no damage done to the building super-structure, and no flooding has damaged the church since. The flooring quickly dried out and the membership never missed a sermon.

The Hudson River Brick however is not as durable as today's kiln-dried brick and some minor repairs have been needed over the years. Nevertheless, the original bricks are still in place and though showing signs of wear, it is expected that no major repairs will be needed for many years to come.

The foundation, the façade, and the congregation are as solid as ever. At the southeast corner a plaque was placed at the time of dedication in 1910

1910-1958

The church grew and its member numbers swelled. Being a pastor of this church was becoming a tremendous job and the pastor needed to be ready at all times to attend to the needs of

those adhering to a common faith. So it was that during the pastorate of C. W. Wilson (4th pastor to serve), a parsonage was purchased and a pavilion was built.

The pavilion served as an entertainment center for both the young and the young at heart, proving to be a great financial asset to the church.

From the 100th Year Anniversary Celebration booklet: "Under Rev. A. M. Mosley (9th pastor) a new roof was put on the church and it lasted some forty years." The streets



Cornerstone Plaque which reads: "St. Siloam Baptist Church, Erected 1910, Dedicated June 10, 1910, Wm. Franklin, Pastor."

The Pastors of Second St. Siloam

Historian Amanda Payne notes: "Rev. Franklin did many good works during his tenure here. He resigned in 1918 to accept a pastorate in Omaha, Nebraska.

"The pastors since 1918 in succession have been L. L. Hawthorne, Rev. Smith, C. W. Wilson, J. L. Peterson, J. Murphy, J. A. Clausell, R. H. Williams, A. M. Mosley, B. F. Dudley, E. E. Radney, J. H. Williams, C. C. Bradley, H. J. Lancaster and the present pastor, Willie James Blue.

"To those of this group that still live, we pray God's richest blessings upon them. To those whom God has called from labor to reward, we shall ever cherish their fond memory. Those ministers of God rendered great service for the Lord to his people."

were red clay or poorly laid asphalt then, so concrete sidewalks were poured completely around the church so the membership wouldn't walk in water or mud during rainstorms.

Indeed, clearly a spiritual uplifting was immediately felt as many new members were added. As well, badly needed financial assets were increased. A church and its congregation were on the move.

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Second Saint Siloam Missionary Baptist Church *(continued)*

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1958-1965

As a young man, Rev. J. H. Williams (12th pastor - 1958 to 1965), accepted the call to lead. It was obvious that he was blessed with untold leadership abilities that were put to good use. The educational complex was built and paid for. Renovations were made on the church and new memberships continued at a steady rate; deacons were ordained, and many other features were carried out so that the Second Saint Siloam could become a full-time church.

Today the members look back in grateful admiration for the manifold blessings that have been bestowed upon them from the year 1910. As the years began to add up so did the fortunes of the church. This congregation didn't need "buying power," as it had the finest in spiritual leadership and that was power enough.

1965-1986

Rev. C. C. Bradley led the congregation from 1965 to 1966.

Rev. H. J. Lancaster accepted the call to lead in 1967. He served the faithful until 1987, a total of 19 years. This was longer than any of his predecessors. His inspirational leadership increased membership and many deacons were ordained. His knowledge of finance and budget controls vastly increased the church assets.

Usher Boards were created, a Mass Choir and the Inspirational Choir were organized. Rev. Lancaster was a dynamic speaker and an inspiration to both young and old. When he saw the need for building repairs and upkeep, he inspired his congregation to work harder and to cause the many improvements to be made without delay.

1987-2010

In 1987 the Rev. Willie James Blue was called to be the

interim pastor.

"He was a young man with clear vision and broad leadership abilities. . . . He was known for his peaceful demeanor and spiritual meditation skills" (from the 100th Year Anniversary Celebration booklet). Rev. Blue was elected as pastor on November 9, 1987 and he has served

the congregation faithfully to this day.

As a young pastor, Rev. Blue stood firm while overseeing the placement of a new roof and to follow the most meticulous details while the work was being done. The roof held strong until 2004 when Hurricane Ivan destroyed it.

Not only was his church building almost brought to ruins, but the powerful

storm had created havoc among his congregation, as homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed.

Never was the time so great that his sheep needed his

dedicated attention and calm demeanor. It was time for him to remain solid of purpose and to show his flock how to get through these "worst of times."

The Church

Bell

Also in April of 1987 there came the need to remove the heavy bell from its tower. To leave the bell in place would surely raise a serious issue of safety in months to come.

Rev. Blue stood firm as plans were put into place to find a permanent site for it. The perfect place was at the front lawn on East Street, to sit beneath the church bulletin

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The Crystal Chandeliers

"In 1978 a special day of thanks and celebration was upon the congregation as member Emma Bell presented the Sanctuary with two crystal chandeliers that would forever more cast a glorious light upon the congregation. No gift would ever be more beautiful or as specially placed as these magnificent artifacts.

"The chandeliers were not given as a memorial piece, but as a parting gift of love for these people and this place, as she removed herself to the city of Atlanta. Her gift is as splendid today as it was 32 years ago" (Darryl Searcy).



Rev. Blue pictured in the pulpit of Second St. Siloam

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Second Saint Siloam Missionary Baptist Church (continued)

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board.

Ask any member today and there will be no end to the fond memories of churchgoers who relied on the bell's chimes to call them to worship, Sunday school, or to sound the loss of a loved one, or announce a blessed event. It was an arduous task to ring the bell and strong hands were needed to guide the ropes.

From an article that appeared in The Brewton Standard, Wednesday, January 13, 1988 - "A special service was held to honor the bell which was placed in the tower structure of the church when it was constructed in 1910. The bell has been refinished and mounted in front of the church.

"The old tower bell continued to ring true, but it had to come down and the tower echo chamber would be closed. In its greater day, the powerful tones of the massive bell could be heard for miles around. Its primary use was to call to worship or to announce a tragedy, or a blessing."

The Church Bell

"Crowds gathered on the day the bell came down. It is said to have been an amusing sight to those who stood, waited and watched as the men ascended the tower and brought the bell down. To this day, seniors and children alike enjoy tapping on the bell and to stand in awe of the sweet tones that vibrate still" (Darryl Searcy).



The Bell Committee

and John Farrish (brothers).

"September 1990 -- The work was completed on the steeple. Our church is known throughout the district, state and nation and through the efforts of the Walking Missionary from East Africa that visited our church during 1991; it is also known worldwide.

"August 18, 1991 -- The organ and drums were dedicated. The instruments have added much to the spirituality of our services. A building was erected for the purpose of cookouts, car washes and other entertainment for the youth. This was dedicated on Sunday, November 10, 1991.

"We purchased a copy machine and two vans that are used to transport people to and from church services and to special functions such as trips to the beach and to visit other churches in and out of town.

"There has been an increase in the number of church organizations and activities, such as forming a birthday and anniversary club and a special effort committee. A Royal Ambassador Club for boys was organized under the direction of Mrs. Lillie Drakeford McKenzie.

Church Timeline from 100th Year Anniversary Celebration

"February 1987 -- Rev. Willie James Blue was selected as our interim pastor. In April 1987 another roof was put on the building (it lasted until 2004) when Hurricane Ivan destroyed it. On May 21, 1987, our bell that has called us to Sunday school, Church services, tolled at deaths, etc., was moved from its tower because of safety factors.

"September 21, 1988 -- A lot located on the right hand side of the church was purchased. It was formerly owned by the late Pinkie Haywood and Minnie Lloyd. The lot added additional parking space for our members, visitors and friends.

"January 1, 1989 -- The following deacons were ordained: Leon Stallworth, Grover Tucker, Ronnie Farrish



The Ornate Pulpit, Deacons Chairs, and Mural over the Baptismal Pool

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Second Saint Siloam Missionary Baptist Church *(continued)*

(Continued from page 10)



Fellowship– Study Room

“April 9, 1995 -- Willie Thomas and Ricky Page were ordained as Deacons. **“In the Year 2004**, Pastor Blue’s office was remodeled, the shed for the vans was rebuilt (due to Hurricane Ivan), and the finance room was remodeled.

“Years 2004, 2005, and 2006 -- Pastor Blue knows that the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. God saw fit to send him some help. During this period Pastor Blue licensed seven dynamic ministers.

The names and dates of their initial sermons are as follows: Minister Sylvia D. Riley (October 3, 2004), Minister Kathy Farrish (March 22, 2005), the late Minister Carolyn Payne (August of 2005), Minister Regina Watson (September 18, 2005), Minister Emma Lancaster-West (April 23, 2006, and Minister Deborah Broughton (May 28, 2006).

The Creed by Which this Church Stands

“Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior; and in the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

“We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advance-



Pastor's Study-Office

ment of this church in knowledge and holiness; to give it a place in our affections, prayers and services above every organization of human origin; to sustain its worship, ordinance, discipline and doctrine; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, towards its expenses, for the support of a faithful and evangelical ministry among us, the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel throughout the world.

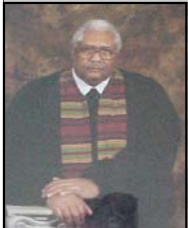
In case of difference of opinion in the church, we will strive to avoid a contentious spirit, and if we cannot unanimously agree, we will cheerfully recognize the right of the majority to govern.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to study diligently the word of God; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintance; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be kind and just to those in our employ, and faithful in the service we promise others; endeavoring in the purity of heart and good will towards all men to exemplify and commend our holy faith.

“We further engage to watch over, to pray for, to exhort and stir up each other unto every good word and work; to guard each other’s reputation, not needlessly exposing the infirmities of others; to participate in each other’s joys, and with tender sympathy bear one another’s burdens and sorrows; to cultivate Christian courtesy; to be slow to give or take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, being mindful of the rules of the Savior in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew, to secure it without delay; and through life, amid evil report, and good report, to seek to live to the glory of God, who hath called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

“When we remove from this place, we engage as soon as possible to unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of the covenant and the principles of God’s word.”

Introducing Rev. Willie J. Blue



Rev. Blue is a native of Escambia County, Alabama. He is a 1967 graduate of the Southern Normal High School. He is a man who loves God and his fellow man. He was called into the Ministry in April of 1972.

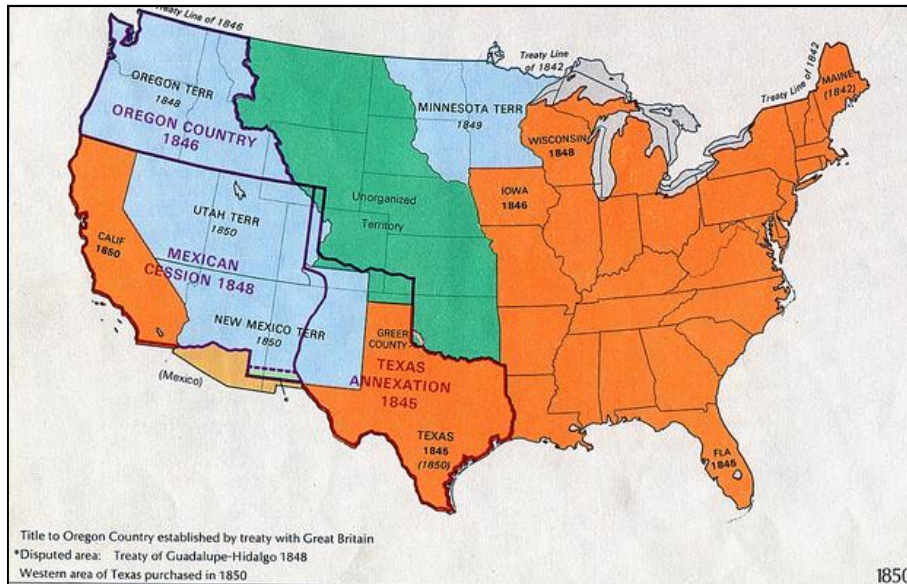
He is a former Pastor of the Mt. Rose Baptist church in Garland, Alabama where he served for two years. Rev. Blue also pastured his home church, the First Marietta Baptist Church for almost eight years.

Rev. Blue joined the Second Saints Siloam Baptist Church in June of 1972 and later was ordained to preach from this Church. He also became Assistant Pastor at a later date. Rev. Blue is an employee of the Containers Corp. (now Georgia-Pacific) for the past 21 years.

He has a compassionate nature and loves to work with people for a better community. During the time of compiling this article, I (Darryl Searcy) was privileged to meet Mrs. Jacqueline Blue and one of their sons. She is the former Jacqueline Humphrey. They have three children; Michael, Timothy, and Tiffany. All are active members of the Second Saints Siloam Baptist Church.

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Compromise of 1850



Map Showing the Growth of Territories as of 1850

This is a continuation of this article which is being published as a serial. The first installment was in the July 2010 issue of ECHOES.

Banning Slave Trade in the District of Columbia

The fifth law, enacted on September 20, 1850 prohibited the slave trade (but not slavery itself) in the District of Columbia

Significantly, before this particular measure could be passed, the extent of the District of Columbia was drastically reduced. The original District of Columbia was 10 miles square and consisted of Washington County (including the City of Washington), derived from the State of Maryland and Alexandria County, including the City of Alexandria, derived from Virginia. Alexandria was a major center for the slave trade. Many freedmen settled in the District of Columbia.

One of the major interim planks of the Abolitionist Movement was to abolish slavery, and especially the slave trade, in the national capital. Fearing what such a move would do to their business, many Alexandrians supported a movement in favor of retrocession of the portion of the federal District of Columbia obtained from Virginia (there were other reasons as well. Alexandria County was returned.

Background and Earlier Proposals

Missouri Compromise Line

Soon after the war started and long before negotiation of the US-Mexico border, the question of slavery in the territories to be acquired polarized the Northern and Southern United States in the most bitter sectional conflict up to this time, which lasted for a deadlock of four years during which the Second Party System broke up, Mormon pioneers settled Utah, the California Gold Rush settled California, and New Mexico under a federal military government turned back Texas's attempt to assert control over territory Texas claimed as far west as the Rio Grande. Eventually the Compromise of 1850 preserved the Union, but only for another decade. Proposals included:

- ♦ The Wilmot Proviso banning slavery in any new territory to be acquired from Mexico, not including Texas which had been annexed the previous year. Passed by the United States House of Representatives in August 1846 and February 1847 but not the Senate. Later an effort to attach the proviso to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo also failed.

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- ◆ Failed amendments to the Wilmot Proviso by William W. Wick and then Stephen Douglas extending the Missouri Compromise line west to the Pacific (south of Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, allowing slavery in most of present day New Mexico and Arizona, Las Vegas, Nevada, and Southern California, as well as any other territories that might be acquired from Mexico. The line was again proposed by the Nashville Convention of June 1850.
 - ◆ Popular sovereignty, developed by Lewis Cass and Douglas as the eventual Democratic Party position, letting each territory decide whether to allow slavery. William L. Yancey's "Alabama Platform," endorsed by the Alabama and Georgia legislatures and by Democratic state conventions in Florida and Virginia, called for no restrictions on slavery in the territories either by the federal government or by territorial governments before statehood, opposition to any candidates supporting either the Wilmot Proviso or popular sovereignty, and federal legislation overruling Mexican anti-slavery laws.
 - ◆ General Zachary Taylor, who became the Whig candidate in 1848 and then President from March 1849 to July 1850, proposed after becoming President that the entire area become two free states, called California and New Mexico but much larger than the eventual ones. None of the area would be left as an unorganized or organized territory, avoiding the question of slavery in the territories.
 - ◆ The Mormons' proposal for a State of Deseret incorporating most of the area of the Mexican Cession but excluding the largest non-Mormon populations in Northern California and central New Mexico was considered unlikely to succeed in Congress, but nevertheless in 1849 President Taylor sent his agent John Wilson westward with a proposal to combine California and Deseret as a single state, decreasing the number of new free states and the erosion of Southern parity in the Senate
 - ◆ Senator Thomas Hart Benton in December 1849 or January 1850: Texas's western and northern boundaries would be the 102nd meridian west and 34th parallel north.
 - ◆ Senator John Bell (with assent of Texas) in February 1850: New Mexico would get all Texas land north of the 34th parallel north (including today's Texas Panhandle, and the area to the south (including the southeastern part of today's New Mexico) would be divided at the Colorado River of Texas into two Southern states, balancing the admission of California and New Mexico as free states.
 - ◆ First draft of the compromise of 1850: Texas's northwestern boundary would be a straight diagonal line from the Rio Grande 20 miles north of El Paso to the Red River (Mississippi watershed) at the 100th meridian west (the southwestern corner of today's Oklahoma).
 - ◆ The Compromise of 1850, proposed by Henry Clay in January 1850, guided to passage by Douglas over Northern Whig and Southern Democrat opposition, and enacted September 1850, admitted California as a free state including Southern California. organized Utah Territory and New Mexico Territory with slavery to be decided by popular sovereignty.
 - ◆ Texas dropped its claim to land north of the 32nd parallel north and west of the 103rd meridian west in favor of New Mexico Territory, and north of the 36/30 parallel north and east of the 103rd meridian west, which became unorganized territory. In return the US government assumed Texas's debts. El Paso, where Texas had successfully established county government was left in Texas.
 - ◆ Also, the slave trade was abolished in Washington, D.C. (but not slavery itself) and the Fugitive Slave Act was strengthened.
- No southern territory dominated by Southerners (like the later short-lived Confederate Territory of Arizona) was created.

Clay and Douglas Draft Compromise

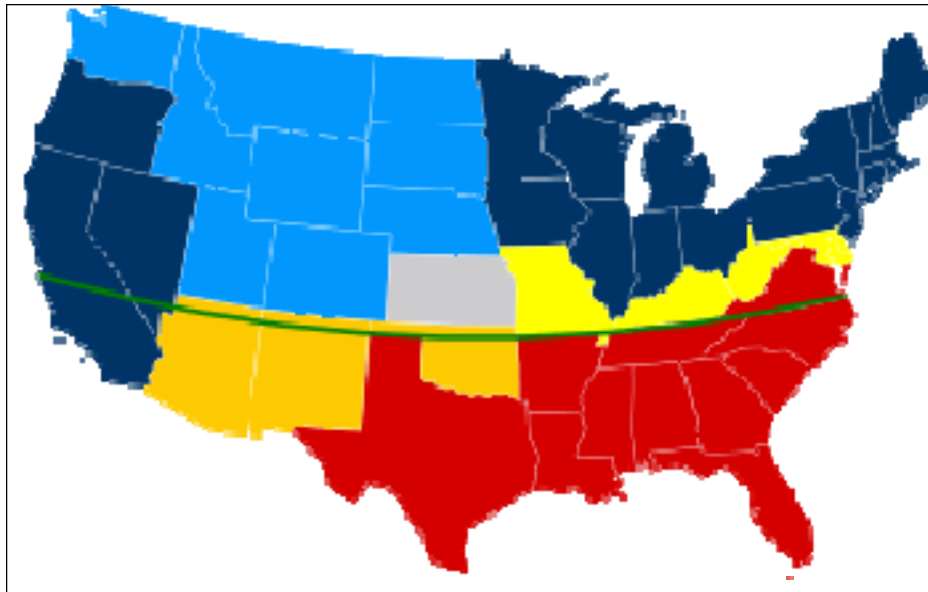
Congress convened on December 3, 1849. On January 29, 1850, Whig Senator Henry Clay gave a speech which called for compromise on the issues dividing the Union. However, Clay's specific proposals for achieving a compromise, including his idea for Texas' boundary, were not adopted, although Clay later claimed credit for drafting the entire compromise. Rather, it was Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, who largely guided the Compromise to passage.

The Compromise came to coalesce around a plan dividing Texas at its present-day boundaries, creating territorial governments with "popular sovereignty" (without the Wilmot Proviso) for New Mexico and Utah, admitting California as

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The Compromise of 1850 (continued)



The Missouri Compromise Line of 36 degrees .30' north shown in its final version, and colored according to the later Civil War alignments.

Description	United States secession map of 1865, plus Missouri Compromise Line. Legend:
	Union states
	Union territories not permitting slavery
	Border Union states, permitting slavery
	Bleeding Kansas, entered Union
	Confederate states
	Union territories permitting slavery

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Seward and the Northern Whigs

Most Northern Whigs, led by William Henry Seward who delivered his famous "Higher Law" speech during the controversy, opposed the Compromise as well because it would not have applied the Wilmot Proviso to the western territories and because of the Democratic new fugitive slave law, which would have pressed ordinary citizens into duty on slave-hunting patrols; this provision was inserted by Democratic Virginia Senator James M. Mason to coerce border-state Whigs, who faced the greatest danger of losing slaves as fugitives but who were lukewarm on general sectional issues related to the South into supporting Texas's land claims.

Mexican War hero Zachary Taylor avoided the issue as the Whig candidate during the 1848 U.S. presidential election but then as President attempted to sidestep the entire controversy by pushing to admit California and New Mexico as free states immediately, avoiding the entire territorial

process and thus the Wilmot Proviso question. Taylor's stand was unpopular among Southerners and surprised them because Taylor was a Southerner.

Northern Democrats and Southern Whigs supported the Compromise. Southern Whigs, many of whom were from the border states, supported the stronger fugitive slave law.

Debate and results

On April 17, a "Committee of Thirteen" agreed on the border of Texas as part of Clay's plan. The dimensions were later changed. That same day, during debates on the measures in the Senate, Vice President Millard Fillmore and Senator Benton verbally sparred, with Fillmore charging that the Missourian was "out of order". During the heated debates, Compromise floor leader Henry S. Foote of Mississippi drew a pistol on Senator Benton.

In early June, nine slave holding Southern states sent delegates to the Nashville Convention to determine their course

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The Compromise of 1850 *(continued)*

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of action should the compromise take hold. While some delegates preached secession, eventually the moderates ruled, and they proposed a series of compromises, including extending the geographic dividing line designated by the Missouri Compromise of 1820 to the Pacific Coast.

The various bills were initially combined into one "omnibus" bill, which failed to pass the Senate because only a minority supported all the provisions. The situation was changed by the death of President Taylor and the accession of Fillmore on July 9, 1850. The influence of the new administration was now thrown in favor of the compromise. Illinois Senator Stephen Douglas and his supporters in the House assembled different majorities for each of five separate bills. The Northern Democrats held together and supported each of the bills and gained Whigs or Southern Democrats to pass each one. All passed and were signed by President Fillmore between September 9 and September 20, 1850.

- ◆ California was admitted as a free state. It passed 150-56. (Hamilton, Holman. *Prologue to Conflict*. University of Kentucky Press, copyright 1965. P. 160)
- ◆ The slave *trade* was abolished (the sale of slaves, not the institution of slavery) in the District of Columbia.
- ◆ The Territory of New Mexico (including present-day Arizona) and the Territory of Utah were organized under the rule of popular sovereignty. It passed 97-85.
- ◆ The Fugitive Slave Act was passed, requiring all U.S. citizens to assist in the return of runaway slaves. It passed 109-76.
- ◆ Texas gave up much of the western land which it claimed and received compensation of \$10,000,000 to pay off its national debt.

Implications

The Compromise in general proved widely popular politically, as both parties committed themselves in their platforms to the finality of the Compromise on sectional issues. The strongest opposition in the South occurred in the states of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, but unionists soon prevailed, spearheaded by Georgians Alexan-

der Stephens, Robert Toombs, and Howell Cobb and the creation of the Georgia Platform.

This part of the Compromise was broken only by the divisive Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 introduced by Stephen Douglas, which repealed the Missouri Compromise and led directly to the formation of the Republican Party, whose capture of the national government in 1860 led directly to the secession crisis of 1860-61.

Nearly every document research argued that the Compromise played a major role in postponing the American Civil War for a few years, during which time the Northwest was growing more wealthy and more populous, and was being brought into closer relations with the Northeast. During those years of quiet unrest, the Whig Party had completely broken down and was being replaced with the new Republican Party dominant in the North and the Democrats in the South.

But others argued that the Compromise only made more obvious pre-existing sectional divisions and laid the groundwork for eventual conflict. With that in mind, the Fugitive Slave Law helped polarize North and South, as shown in the enormous reaction to Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

The passage of the Fugitive Slave Law aroused feelings of bitterness in the North that eventually led to a breakdown in the spirit of compromise in the antebellum period, directly before the Civil War. While the Compromise exemplified this spirit, the deaths of influential senators who worked on the compromise, primarily Henry Clay and Daniel Webster, contributed to this feeling of increasing disparity between the North and South.

The delay of hostilities for ten years allowed the free economy of the northern states to continue to industrialize thus giving the northern territories a distinct advantage should hostilities arise.

The southern states, to a large degree was based on slave labor and cash crop production, lacked the ability to heavily industrialize. By 1860, the northern states had added many more miles of railroad, steel production, modern factories, and population to the advantages it possessed in 1850. The North was better able to supply, equip, and man its armed forces, an advantage that would prove decisive in the later stages of the war.

ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
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