

THE FIRST 150 YEARS (1856-2006)



**SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH
KING GEORGE, VA.**

OUR HERITAGE

Imagine what life was like in a rural King George County church in 1856. The Civil War had not begun. People rode to church in a horse and buggy. Their Sunday-best clothing was homemade, washed on a washboard, and ironed with flatirons. A wood stove kept the congregation warm, and members used an outside privy for their comfort needs. The church minutes were written with pen and ink, separately.

Often church repairs were done by church members, or someone in the congregation would cover the expense until enough money was collected from the congregation. Time and time again, these servants repaired or painted the church or parsonage, fixed the parsonage porch, repaired the well, cut cords of wood, cleared the brush and undergrowth, and even replaced a roof on the parsonage stable.

Our most loving God saw to it that we had the right leaders and the right servants at the right time to follow His Word and lead us into the 21st Century and beyond. These righteous people gave their best to the Lord. Month after month, year after year, decade after decade, church clerks diligently penned the church minutes, our only concrete connection to the early beginnings of Shiloh.

We are thankful for J. Cleveland Grigsby, the longest serving church clerk, who authored the 100th anniversary history, linking our 19th Century history to the 20th Century. We are grateful for Lewis Howland, who highlighted historical and financial events during the 30 years he was treasurer.

It was Julia Lumpkin who linked our 20th Century history to the 21st Century. For over 25 years, she served in capacities, such as clerk and historian, authoring a significant portion of our church history from her own notes, as well as from notes kept by former historians, Dora Inscoe and Elsie Berry, and minutes kept by former church clerk, Dorothy Rose. Mildred Thorne contributed a detailed index of our history from 1973 to recent times. To all these fine servants, we are deeply grateful.



Rev. Howard W. Montague
Pastor, 1856-1876
*Photo Courtesy of Virginia Baptist
Historical Society*



McGinniss-Grigsby Family, circa 1905. Standing (l to r) Betty, Cleveland, Lily, and Edna Grigsby. Sitting (l to r) Andrew Hampton McGinniss (Alice Howland's father), Elizabeth Diane (Grigsby) McGinniss, Samuel Andrew McGinniss, and Richard Irvin McGinniss, Sr. (father of Richard and Ralph McGinniss). *Photo courtesy of Keith McGinniss*

We are fortunate that historical preservationists, Aubrey and Nancy Jennings, Ed Hastings, and Elizabeth Lee had the foresight to archive our historical records for safekeeping, but it was Dorothy Rose who handcarried our treasured Shiloh records to the Virginia Baptist Historical Society (VBHS) to preserve them for our future generations. We are thankful to Fred Anderson and his staff at VBHS who have dedicated their lives to historical preservation and for allowing us to conduct endless hours of research on our history project.

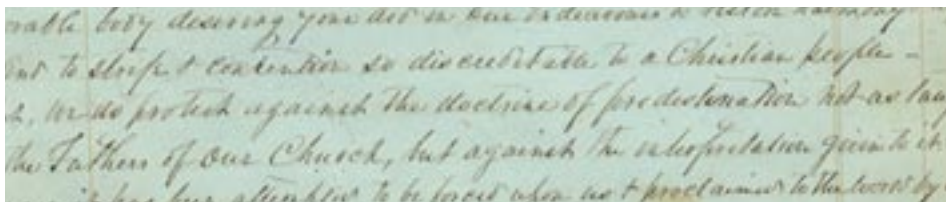
We are thankful to the present church members and officials, too numerous to name, who recounted events long forgotten by the faithful who centered their lives around the church and provided vintage photographs from their family albums to further show the Shiloh story.

To the future generations of Shiloh Baptist Church, we encourage you to carry the banner that J. Cleveland Grigsby, Julia Lumpkin, and their predecessors carried from century to century. We challenge you to do your part in expanding Christ's Kingdom. May God bless you on your journey.



Mrs. Mildred Marshall, wife of Rush Marshall and mother of Sam Marshall, with grandchildren, John (father of Jean Rowe) and Margaret Quesenberry, ready for a buggy ride to church. *Photo courtesy of Jean Rowe*

EXCERPTS FROM *SHILOH: THE FIRST 100 YEARS*



At the March 31, 1877, church meeting, “the church proceeded to organize the Sunday School by the election of officers:” Samuel B. Hearn, Superintendent; Phillip Marshall, Assistant Superintendent; Daniel McDaniel, Secretary; and Rush Marshall, Librarian. They were given instructions to open the school and “enter upon their duties the 1st Sunday in April 1877.”

In the June 30, 1877, church minutes, the first mention of appointing delegates to the Rappahannock Association occurred. Samuel S. McGinniss and William McDaniel were chosen. At that same meeting, Brother Phillip Marshall presented “a list of names of male members of the church who never attend church or contribute anything to defray the expenses of the church.” On motion, a committee of six was appointed “to see the brethren, that they might show cause for such indifference.”

When church members were reported to be “in a suffering condition” collections were taken for their relief. A family was presented to the church as an “object of charity.” The

church brethren “investigated all the matters to determine the family’s condition” and declared them “objects of charity and entitled to the sympathy and aid of the church.”

When two members were at variance with each other and did not speak, the “brethren were appointed to reconcile the difficulty.”

The brethren performed marriage counseling. They advised a couple to have “a spirit of prayer on the part of each of them...hoping they might reconcile and harmonize.” Sometimes the brethren “found it impossible to effect a reconciliation between them as man and wife.” The brethren considered that the man and wife “were both in fault and walking disorderly.” Further, “in obedience to the teachings of the Scripture,” the brethren felt “it would be impracticable for us to retain them in the church, as we believe it would be detrimental to the cause of Christ and hurtful to the church.” The man and wife were excommunicated from the church.

On May 18, 1879, at a called meeting, the collectors of the female Missionary Society of the church made their report. All except four reported to Bettie Jones, the President of the Society, that they had collected in a fraction of \$60. On motion, “Elder J. O. Kirk was appointed a delegate to represent the church in the General Association of Virginia and to distribute the missionary fund sent between the different boards as he might think best for the good of the cause.”

On April 4, 1880, Sunday School officers elected were George G. Marshall, Superintendent; Howard Lee, Assistant Superintendent; Law B. Edwards, Secretary; Rush Marshall, Treasurer; and Richard Potts, Jr., Librarian.

In 1880, the following brethren were appointed to a committee “for having the condition of the flooring of the house examined:” S. L. Atwell, Thomas Lee, Eldred Lee, Frederick McGinniss, and Rush Marshall.

On October 5, 1889, a motion was made that “the old stove should be sold and a new one bought to put in its place. It was also decided to “do away with the spit boxes and notify the congregation not to chew tobacco in church or spit on the floor.”

A motion was passed in June 1901 giving Rev. Horace A. Newbill “the privilege of organizing a Woman’s Missionary Society.”

During 1903, a dollar was given to a church in Portsmouth “for that church’s need.” On July 4, 1903, “Miss Kate M. Owens was endorsed as the representative of the Women’s Missionary Society at the association.”

Year after year, page after page, charges were made; committees were appointed; brothers reported; sinners repented; committees excluded; and committees excused...

...so state the minutes of Shiloh Baptist Church.