

# “A Labor of Love”

## Part III Remembering .....

Remembering ...

On the following pages, early settlers we were privileged to interview are pictured with highlights of our interviews.



Mrs. Tim (Mary Pitts) Baxley

Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Baxley, Sr. and their two sons moved to the Valley in 1937 from Newnan, Georgia. Mr. Baxley and C. T., Jr. are deceased, but Bobby Joe and his wife Pat remain very active in the Roosevelt Memorial Church. Mrs. Baxley is now deceased but at the time of this publication shared her memories with us.

Mrs. Baxley remembered some of the people who were active in building the church. Mr. Bowen, a plumber; Mr. Baldwin and Mr. W. P. Etheridge, electricians; and Mr. Herbie Ross, a carpenter, were names she recalled. Her late husband Tim Baxley and Mr. Tom Tumlin helped shingle the church.

This book is a result of Bobby Joe's interest in researching and preserving information on the early beginnings of the Roosevelt Memorial Church.



Bobby Joe and Pat Baxley



**Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Brooks**

The Brooks family moved to Pine Mountain Valley on April 1, 1941 from Soperton, Georgia. Mrs. Brooks, the former Annie Stephens, told us that they have lived in the same house since they came here in 1941. Mr. Brooks was in the insurance business and served as an agent until he retired.

We learned from this outstanding couple that Mr. Brooks has served in every administrative capacity in Roosevelt Memorial Church except Superintendent of Sunday School. He has been Clerk, Treasurer, Secretary, and Deacon. Mr. Brooks also told us that Reverend J. A. Funderburke (1942 – 1945), by choice, was paid \$50.00 per month when he was pastor.

The Brooks have a daughter, Mary Alice and a son, Charles, who had been active in the Roosevelt Memorial Church until his death.



**Mrs. Sam (Sarah Lunsford) Brown**

The Sam Brown family was the third family to move to Pine Mountain Valley in 1935. Mr. Brown is deceased, but Mrs. Brown remembered that the first family to move here was the Byers family and the second family was the Blackstock family.

Mrs. Brown remembered that Reverend Ketchersid was the first preacher to live in the parsonage.

This dear lady celebrated her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 29, 1996. She attributed her long, wonderful life to “clean hands”!

The Browns had three children of which a son, George, and one daughter, Ramona, are deceased. Agnes resides in the Atlanta area. This family was very active in the Roosevelt Memorial Church.

We sadly report that Mrs. Brown died on August 9, 1996.



**Mrs. Floyd (Julia) Callahan**

It was such a pleasure to interview this fine lady in her lovely two story home. Her home is a well preserved building which was once the administration building for all the activities of the early beginning of Pine Mountain Valley. Mrs. Callahan and her family moved to Pine Mountain Valley from Tennessee. At the time they purchased this grand old home in 1968, they knew nothing about its history. After purchasing the beautiful place they became most interested in learning of its early days.

Mrs. Callahan is seen in the above picture on her front porch seated in a Morris chair that was built in the woodshop for the Pine Mountain Valley Project. This woodshop, which no longer stands, was located directly across the street from her home.

After the purchase of the home, Mrs. Callahan found an old scrapbook on top of a bookcase in an anti-room to the house. This scrapbook contained priceless pictures of the early days of Pine Mountain Valley. She so generously consented for us to use copies of these pictures throughout this book. Since the publication of this book, we regretfully report that Mrs. Callahan has passed away.

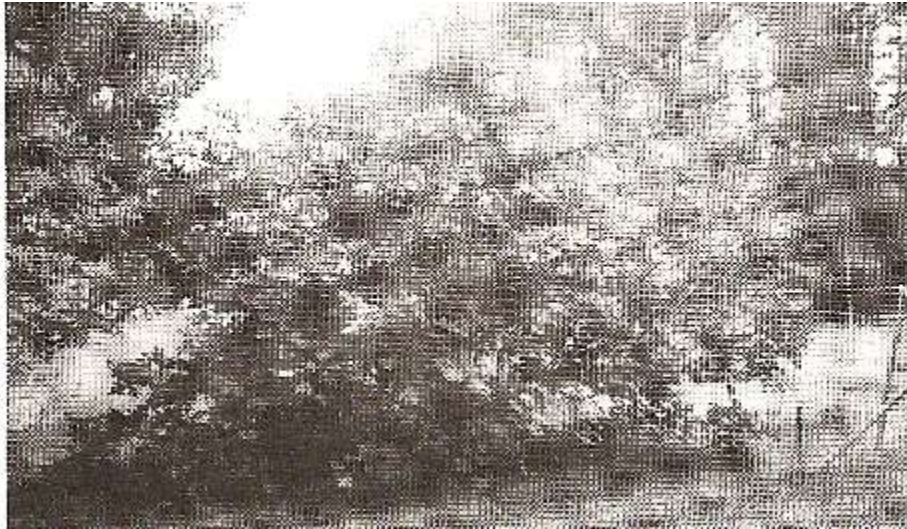


Mrs. Calvin (Lois Taylor) Duck

One of the first families to move to Pine Mountain Valley was the Duck family. Mr. Duck was the construction superintendent for the Pine Mountain Valley Project. He came to the Valley and lived in the barracks until living arrangements were available for his family. The Duck family moved to the Valley at Christmas 1935.

Our interview with Mrs. Duck and her son, Charles, was most informative. Mrs. Duck remembered that Mr. C. P. Saxton was in charge of the mess hall in the barracks. Charles related information regarding a fence post experiment with Formosa, tung oil, and black locust trees. He also told us about a sweet potato sorting house that once stood adjacent to the administration building. The potatoes, grown and sorted in Pine Mountain Valley were then sent to the Hamilton Potato House.

The Black Mission Fig tree pictured below is one of the original trees that still stands in the yard of the Duck home on "A" Circle. Charles reports an abundant crop of figs each year.



An original Black Mission Fig tree still stands in the yard of the Duck home on "A" Circle.

Mr. and Mrs. Duck and their four sons, Charles, Calvin, Lewis, and Johnny, have been active in Roosevelt Memorial Church through the years. Mr. and Mrs. Duck and Calvin are now deceased.



Mr. and Mrs. Dean Ebbett

Mr. and Mrs. Ebbett moved to Pine Mountain Valley from Maine in 1948. Mrs. Ebbett was the former Polly Ensley. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Ensley, retired and moved to Pine Mountain Valley in March 1946. The Ensleys were active members of Roosevelt Memorial Church for many years. Mr. Ensley was a Lay Leader and teacher of the Men's Bible Class.

Polly and Dean were married in Roosevelt Memorial Church in 1946. They had been very active in the church since they moved to Pine Mountain Valley in 1948. Dean served as a Deacon and Sunday School teacher for many years. Polly sung in the choir for over forty years and had taught Sunday School.

The Ebbett's son, Raymond, was ordained in Roosevelt Memorial Church after he finished Alliance Seminary in New York. He is now a missionary in Madrid, Spain. The other Ebbett children, two sons, Wendell and Dana, and one daughter, Ellen, were active in church youth groups and the choir. The Ebbetts remained active in Roosevelt Memorial until their deaths.



Mrs. Elmer (Dora Belle) Foster

The Elmer Fosters were married in 1936 and moved to Pine Mountain Valley in 1937 from Shiloh, Georgia. Mr. Foster was head of the county Ration Board and they lived on "B" Street that was run by a Mr. Nichols.

Mrs. Foster was an artist and remembered that shortly after the church was built, she painted a nativity that was used at the church for many years. Her artwork was lost when the church burned in 1967. Mrs. Dora Belle Foster passed away in 2008.



Mrs. Artis (Arlene) Hancock

Mr. and Mrs. Hancock and their family moved to Pine Mountain Valley on December 13, 1937 from Molena, Georgia. They have lived in the same home on “D” Street since that time.

Mrs. Hancock recalled attending prayer meetings under the Oak tree and in the school building. She also recalled a Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Trapp. She watched the church construction and remembers having services in the church in 1940 even though it was not completed until 1942. Mrs. Hancock related that the men would work on the church construction and the ladies would cook their meals and take them to the construction site. She also recalled that Mr. M. L. Hardin was the first full-time minister.

Mrs. Hancock prized one of the beds made at the Pine Mountain Valley woodshop when the Valley was first organized.

Mrs. Hancock was fortunate to have a daughter, Mrs. Sarah H. Langford, who is active in the church and community and lived next door to her mother. Sarah was very helpful in furnishing information for this book. Sarah’s husband, James, was a deacon in the church and very active until his death. Mrs. Hancock had two other daughters, Ada Frances and Mildred, who were active in Roosevelt Memorial Church until they moved from the community. Mr. Hancock is deceased. Since the publication of this book, we regretfully report that Mrs. Hancock has passed away.





Mrs. W. C. (Alice) Haralson

Mr. W. C. Haralson preceded his family to Pine Mountain Valley until housing became available to move the family. He lived in the old army barracks that had been moved in from Fort Benning. On October 19, 1935, when housing was available, the Haralson family moved to "B" Street. Mrs. Haralson remembers that 205 houses were initially built in Pine Mountain Valley. She also recalled that after the church was completed, the members of the congregation were asked to submit suggestions for a church name. Mrs. Sutton was the member who suggested naming the church in honor of President Roosevelt.

Mrs. George Huggins, a very popular Sunday School teacher who was one of the five people to organize the Church, was Mrs. Haralson's Sunday School teacher. The class was named the Naomi Huggins Sunday School Class in honor of Mrs. Huggins. Mrs. Haralson and Mrs. Gray helped with the Cradle Roll. She also remembers that the church parsonage was just across the street from the church and was located on "B" Street. Incidentally, the present church parsonage is located on "B" Street.

We are indebted to Mrs. Haralson and her son Bobby for their great help in compiling information for this book. Mr. Haralson is deceased. Two other Haralson children, Mary Alice and Forrest, were active in the Roosevelt Memorial Church before they left the community. Since the publication of this book, we regretfully report that Mrs. Haralson has passed away.



Bobby Haralson



Naomi Huggins Sunday School Class



Mrs. Lawson (Eva) Jackson

The Lawson Jackson family moved to Pine Mountain Valley in October 1940. They moved from Monroe County, Georgia. Mr. Jackson helped with the concrete used in the foundation of the church. Mrs. Jackson remembered that sand for the concrete was obtained from a creek on "O" Street. We are sad to say Mrs. Jackson passed away before the publication of this book.



Mrs. Allsie (Elma) Knight

Mr. and Mrs. Knight moved to Pine Mountain Valley in April 1937 from LaGrange. Mr. Knight, now deceased, was overseer for growing of the fruit trees and grapevines. Mr. and Mrs. Knight were very active in Roosevelt Memorial Church for many years. Mrs. Knight served as Sunday School teacher for young people and was active in the Missionary Society.

Mrs. Knight's family, the Langfords, also lived in Pine Mountain Valley and were active in the church. Since the publication of this book, we regretfully report that Mrs. Knight has passed away.



Mrs. T. L. (Doris) McKnight

The McKnight family moved to Pine Mountain Valley in 1947. Mr. and Mrs. McKnight and their daughter, Mary, were all active in the Roosevelt Memorial Church. Mrs. McKnight furnished and placed flowers in the church for many years. Mary, a talented musician, has played the piano and been active in youth activities in the church.

Mr. McKnight is deceased. Since the publication of this book, we regretfully report that Mrs. McKnight has passed away.



James Russell Mosley

Russell Mosley moved to Pine Mountain Valley in 1935 with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Mosley. He recalls working on the Roosevelt Memorial Church construction in the summers when he was home from attending the University of Georgia. He helped roof the church with copper shingles. Russell's father was one of the first deacons of the church. Russell was instrumental in furnishing much information for this book.

Russell's father-in-law, Mr. T. E. Tumlin, was the song leader in the church for many, many years. He and his wife "Miss Anne" rarely missed any church functions. They were dedicated members and endeared themselves to the entire congregation and community.

Russell told us that in the early days of the church, occasionally a family pet would wander in the church service. Mr. Tumlin, in the choir, felt that the time had come to call a halt to the dogs wandering into the church, so he announced that his had to stop. Just as he made the announcement, his little dog "Tippy" came down the aisle. Mr. Tumlin said, "We'll have to start with my dog," and quickly removed Tippy.

In the early years of the church, Mr. Tumlin rang the church bell, housed in the tall steeple, each Sunday morning and evening. He arrived at the church early each Sunday morning to see that everything was comfortable for the congregation. With the help of a young man, Jack Miles, wood was plentiful to supply the heater.

Russell was very active in the Roosevelt Memorial Church. His children, two sons, Tommy and Jimmy and a daughter, Carol, were active in the church until they left the community. In January 1996, Russell completed 50 years as a Sunday School Superintendent, Lay Speaker, and Church Secretary, to name a few. During the October 2007 Annual Homecoming, the Roosevelt Memorial Church Fellowship Hall was dedicated to Russell in honor of his dedication to the church. Russell passed away soon afterwards. Ellen remains an active member of Roosevelt Memorial.



Mrs. and Mrs. Tom Tumlin



Mrs. James L. (Kaysteen) Prophet

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Prophet moved to Pine Mountain Valley from Columbus, Georgia in 1945 with their two daughters, Luann and Kay.

Mrs. Kaysteen Prophet was very talented in music and served as organist and pianist at the Roosevelt Memorial Church for forty-nine years. The late Jimmy Prophet was always very active in youth activities in Pine Mountain Valley. He was one of the first people to operate the Pine Mountain Valley swimming pool. Since the publication of this book, we regretfully report that Mrs. Prophet has passed away.



Mrs. Edmund (Blanche) Ragsdale

The Ragsdale family moved to Pine Mountain Valley in 1935 from LaGrange, Georgia. Mr. Ragsdale was very active in the initial work as Pine Mountain Valley became a reality. He assisted in moving many of the early residents to the Valley. He aided in digging wells and other many needed chores necessary to begin a new settlement.

Mrs. Ragsdale related that Mr. Ragsdale hauled the lumber and supplies as needed to the church site. She also remembers that he brought the church pews to the church from South Georgia.

The Ragsdale's three sons, Gene, Richard and Charles, were active in the church and were known throughout the area for their athletic prowess. Mr. Ed Ragsdale is deceased. Since the publication of this book, we regretfully report that Mrs. Ragsdale has passed away.



Hugh P. Riley

Hugh P. Riley, son of H. L. and Pearl Riley resides with his wife Pat on Copeland Road in Pine Mountain Valley. He recalled that his brother, Howard Jr., dipped shingles for the church in vats located in the pines near where the present Adventist Church is located. He was paid ten cents an hour, and, as he painted the shingles, he would hang them on a line to dry.

Hugh also recalled that the basement of the church was dug with mules and pull pans. “Daddy Sam” Baxley (grandfather of Bobby Joe Baxley) was responsible for the operation. He used his mule “Ada” to dig the basement.

Hugh informed us that an old electrical power station was on the lot behind the church where the cemetery is presently located. There were ten acres in the lot that was deeded to the church by the power company.

The Hugh Riley’s have two sons, Hugh, Jr. (Skeet) and Lee, who both have been active in the church. Hugh was instrumental in helping us research this book.



Owen L. and Grace Riley

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Riley and their sons, Howard, Jr., Owen L., and Hugh P., moved to Pine Mountain Valley in late 1936 from Butler, Georgia. Mr. Riley was a Federal Fruit Inspector. The Riley family was always very active in the church life. Mrs. H. L. (Pearl) was a Sunday School teacher for many years. She taught young people and first graders.

Mr. Riley was a member of the first Board of Directors. He served as Sunday School Superintendent for many years.

Owen related that every year in the early days the community sponsored barbeques that were held in the pines behind the present Valley Pallet Factory. Proceeds were used toward building and furnishing the church. Owen was nine years old when his family moved to Pine Mountain Valley.

The first paid custodian of the Roosevelt Memorial Church was Owen Riley. He was paid \$1.50 a week. When cleaning one day, he found a five dollar bill under a pew. That five dollars looked awfully attractive to a young boy and he had t decide that to do – should he keep it or should he give it to the church? He decided to hide it in the electrical meter box for a week and think about what he should do. Not revealing his secret to anyone, he decided the next Sunday to get that five dollars and put it in the collection plate.

Owen also remembered that for a very short time, a preacher from Harris City, Georgia would drive to Pine Mountain Valley in an old army ambulance to preach at the community church. It was quite a novelty to have this vehicle transport the preacher.

All five members of the Riley family joined the church in its earliest days. Owen and his wife, Grace, have continued to be very active in the Roosevelt Memorial Church.



Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Riley



**Mrs. O. T. (Thelma) Smith**

The O. T. Smith family moved to Pine Mountain Valley from Warm Springs, Georgia in November 1938. Mrs. Smith was very helpful in furnishing much valuable information for this book. For many, many years, she wrote a column for the Harris County Journal under the heading of Pine Mountain Valley Echoes. She has also written many interesting articles on many phases of the community. She has done an outstanding job of reporting the Roosevelt Memorial Church homecomings and news through the years.

Mr. Smith came to Pine Mountain Valley to work as a pipe fitter and plumber. Mrs. Smith related that Mr. O. T. was responsible for restrooms in the church.

Mrs. Smith recalled worshipping under the “old oak tree” which still stands in the Pine Mountain Valley Park. She remembers the visits of President Roosevelt quite vividly and his reference to Pine Mountain Valley as his “Little Garden of Eden”.

Mrs. Smith’s daughter, Daisye Jean, is still an active member of the Roosevelt Memorial Church. Daisye Jean is very talented in music and has served as pianist, organist, and soloist. Both of Mrs. Smith’s children were present and very helpful to us during our interview with Mrs. Smith. Since the publication of this book, we regretfully report that Mrs. Smith has passed away.





Mrs. Glenn (Mary Cook) Thornton

The Thornton family moved to Pine Mountain Valley in December 1940. Mrs. Thornton vividly remembered that her husband, Mr. Glenn Thornton and Mr. Elvin Johnson worked on the steeple of the church. When the steeple was erected these two men worked all day. The following morning, Mr. Johnson was paralyzed with what was diagnosed as polio. Even so, he lived in Pine Mountain Valley for many years and participated in community activities.

She also remembered that before the church was completed, the auditorium was partitioned and used for Sunday School rooms. The children met downstairs.

Mr. Thornton is deceased. Her son, John Van, and daughter, Jean, were active until they left the community.



Mrs. Mary Thornton

In July 2005, just days after actively helping with Vacation Bible School and hosting friends in her home, Mrs. Thornton passed away in her sleep. At 90 plus, that is an awesome testimony to her faithfulness to the Lord and Roosevelt Memorial Church.



Mrs. Nettie Kate Dunahoo and her family were active in the Roosevelt Memorial Church for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Duanhoo are deceased. Their son, Emory, Jr., no longer resides in Pine Mountain Valley, but their daughter Yvonne still lives in the Pine Mountain Valley Community.



Mrs. G. C. Thornton, Mrs. Same Brown, Mrs. C. F. Brooks, Mrs. J. L. Prophet, Miss Mamie Belle Moye, Mrs. L. J. Butler and Mrs. Artis Hancock are pictured above at a Roosevelt Memorial Church Homecoming.



Dr. Bill Chambless, beloved Harris County physician, was organist at Roosevelt Memorial for many years. Dr. Chambless is deceased.



Mrs. Louise Peirce, Mrs. Nettie Kate Dunahoo and Mrs. Eva Jackson were active members of Roosevelt Memorial Church through the years. All three of these ladies are deceased.



Mr. and Mrs. Olin Chapman

The Olin Chapman Family moved to Pine Mountain Valley in 1943 with eight of their ten children, Carol, Adrian, Jewelle, Estelle, Jean Stanley, Earl and Gillette. They had seven daughters and three sons. The entire family attended Roosevelt Memorial Church and were all active in church activities. Jewelle Chapman Taul, who visits Pine Mountain Valley often, told us that the young children took part in Vacation Bible School and Church Camp.

Mr. Olin Chapman served as Deacon and Mrs. Lora Champman taught Sunday School and was active in the Women's Missionary Society.

Four of the Chapman's daughters, Carol, Adrian, Estelle and Jean, were married in Roosevelt Memorial Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Chapman, Jean, Stanley, Earl and Gillette are deceased.

## Chronological List of Preachers

1935 Reverend Alex Copeland preached the first sermon in a formal meeting held in the old barracks. Rev. Copeland was Baptist.

Reverend Laskin Earnest and Reverend M. L. Daughtry, settlers in the community, also preached.

1936 Mr. James L. Dickerson, a teacher in the Pine Mountain Valley School filled the pulpit until later 1936. Mr. Dickerson was Methodist. Various preachers, including Reverend Wilson of LaGrange and Reverend Charles Gray of the Atlanta Bible Institute, continued to fill the pulpit until 1938.

1938 Reverend N. S. Hardin, a graduate of Howard College, Birmingham, Alabama, and Southwestern Baptist Seminary of Ft. Worth, Texas, was called as first pastor of the church in April 1938. He began his work on the first Sunday in May 1938

1942 Reverend J. A. Funderburke was pastor from November 1942 until October 1945.

1946 After World War II, Reverend Woods and Reverend Edgar Crosby filled the pulpit. Rev. Woods was from Columbus and Rev. Crosby lived in the area. Rev. Crosby was Baptist. They alternately preached.

1947 Reverend Boswell, a Nazarene preacher from Kentucky, was pastor from November 1947 until July 1949. He was a former minister in Athens, Tennessee. He had a short tenure.

1949 Reverend Stanley Mingledorff, a Nazarene, was pastor. It was at this time the church split and a Nazarene Church was established in the church building that is the present Roosevelt Memorial Church.

Reverend Norman McFarland, from North Georgia, was called to preach. He was a graduate of Atlanta Christian College.

Reverend M. C. Ramp was very young and had a short tenure. He was also from Atlanta Christian College.

Reverend Russell Calcote was called. He was Methodist. Rev. Calcote served as pastor for four years.

1959 Reverend Clarence (Chappy) Wallin followed Rev. Calcote as pastor. He was Methodist. He was a retired Army Chaplain.

1960 Reverend Eugene Scott from LaGrange was pastor. He was Methodist.

Reverend Roy Greenhill followed Rev. Scott. He was an Independent Baptist from Atlanta and was a graduate of Bob Jones University.

- 1964 Reverend Harold Bennett from Brooklyn, New York, was called as pastor. He had taught at Emanuel College in Atlanta. Reverend Bennett was pastor when the church burned in 1967.
- 1967 Reverend William Stevens was called as pastor. He was from the Christian Missionary Alliance.
- 1970 Reverend Charles Fouche was called as pastor. He was Southern Baptist. He was pastor until July 1974.
- 1975 Reverend Terry Taggart, an Independent Baptist, was called as pastor. He served for a year.
- 1976 Reverend James Browning was pastor. He was an Independent Baptist.
- 1978 Reverend James Bolick of Thomasville, North Carolina was pastor. He was Baptist. He was pastor until 1981.
- 1982 Reverend Charles Fouche returned as pastor. He retired in October 1988. He and his wife, Betty, remained in Pine Mountain Valley after his retirement. Following his death, Betty lived here and remained very active in Roosevelt Memorial, until declining health forced her to move to Tennessee.
- 1990 Reverend Tommy Smith, a Baptist, was called as pastor. He served a very short tenure.
- 1991 Reverend Michael Warren was called in May 1991. He was Baptist. He was pastor until September 1995.
- 1995 Reverend Kenneth Grubb from Pennsylvania was called as pastor. He was pastor till 2001.
- 2005 Reverend Randy Oglesby was called as pastor.
- 2006 Reverend Jim Langston was called as pastor.