



EBSTER POOL POPULAR PLACE--The swimming pool at Ebster Park is a crowded place during the hot summer. The staff teaches Red Cross swimming.

DECATUR PARKS #3

Ebster Park Is Monument

By REBECCA WORSHAM

"Deacon," Donald Grant Ebster was 82 years old in 1958 and a prominent citizen of Decatur. He was well thought of in the Negro community in Decatur, having served as clerk of Thankful Baptist Church for some 40 years, as secretary of the Decatur Civic League and as a respected advisor to the young people.

When the city officials planned the dedication ceremonies for the new recreation center in the Negro park, on Atlanta Avenue, it was suggested that it be named for the deacon. The center was dedicated formerly on March 9, 1958.

Built at an approximate cost of \$40,000 by W. E. Carroll and Son, the center contains a gymnasium and rooms for games and arts and crafts. Bothwell and Nash were the architects.

The land for Ebster Park was included in a parcel deeded to the city by the Druid Hills Land Company in 1935. At a July 2, 1946 meeting of the Decatur City Commission, it was agreed that the land be divided into two portions, one for the colored and one for the white, with a high fence between the two acres. The white portion was named Adair Park.

A POOL was built for the Negro park in 1950 and with the addition of the recreation center, a full program of activities was launched. Decatur parks and recreation director William Scarce said that the ath-

letic field is in the process of being extended this summer to provide room for adult softball and an expanded baseball program. Additional outside lighting also is being installed.

Mr. Scarce said that more than 22,000 people used the center and park facilities in June of this year, as compared to 6,058 in June of 1958, the first year of its operation.

Recreation scheduled during July includes swimming lessons, arts and crafts, taught by Mrs. Alice Shaw, who has been with the park for 23 years, free play for boys and girls, baseball competition with other teams in the Atlanta area, a story hour, and a supervised playground program.

TWO HORSE SHOE pits have been set up in the parking lot behind the center, drawing a lot of interest, Mr. Scarce said. "Sometimes adults passing by will stop and play a game of horse shoes," he said. Senior citizens also have organized a club at Ebster, similar to the one at the main recreation center on Sycamore Street.

Deacon Ebster died in February, 1962, at the age of 90. He probably would be very proud and happy to know the park has been such a busy success.

His adopted daughter, Miss Annie Lou Broughton, said the deacon was "loved by the young, by the middle aged, and by the old. He advised the young people to be good citizens and good Christians."

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This is a reprint of the original book in memory
of Deacon D. G. Ebster - the author
BY PERMISSION OF
his daughter Mrs. Annie Mae Broughton
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A Short History
of the
Thankful Baptist
Church
Decatur, Georgia
AND THE
Hopewell Association



D. G. EBSTER
418 Herring St.
Decatur, Ga.

PREFACE

September 15, 1926.

Your humble servant, thinking of the past, living in the present and concerned about our future, thought that it would be unjust to our Heroes that have helped to make the Baptist of Georgia and Nation what it is today if something was not said about them and the good work they did and some are still doing today, attempting to say a few words concerning the Thankful Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga., and the Hopewell Association, of which our church is a member, and your humble servant has been its clerk for ten years. I'm hoping that this brief history will meet your approval and give some information that perhaps some don't know. I am thoroughly convinced to say if some of you young people only knew the hardships that some of the older people had undergone, they would be inspired to render more service to God and Humanity. The need of the hour is more service and less complaining, more Christianity and less formality.

Yours for the work,
D. G. Ebsster.

PART ONE.

CHAPTER I.

In 1881, my father (J. H. Ebsster) and my mother (Nicy Ebsster) bought my oldest brother (Luke), my twin brother (Joe) and I our first school books, three blue-back spellers, slate and pencils, and started us to school. I was then seven years old. It was in the winter and was very cold. We had long and cold winters in those days. We were barefooted boys, but the joy of our lives was to go to school. We knocked down Jack Frost many a morning going to school. Our school house was an old-fashioned one-room building with a stack chimney that you could lay a piece of four-foot wood in, but we did not have the wood. We school children would go into the woods and get armfuls of sticks and brush to warm by. Of course, our building was an old structure—we could see out of the top, sides or floor without leaving our benches or boxes that we sat on. We had plenty of ventilation. Rev. Lewis Thornton was our first teacher and he knew Webster's speller, and you certainly had to learn something. He whipped children in those days. We had no desk, tablet, ink or anything like that; our slate took care of all of those things. I can remember how we had to stand in our class. We had what we called turning down or going to foot of our class in those days. Nobody liked to stand at the foot of the class. The joy of our lives was to spell. A good speller was somebody. I can remember some of our lessons—ba-be-bi bo bu-by, etc., and when we got to baker, shady, lady and banquet we were considered good spellers. The highest aim of a student in those days was to spell "comprestibility," and if you could spell that you were a professional speller. Nearly all of the students brought their dinner in tin buckets, because they

had peas, cabbage, turnips, collards, and food like that. Very seldom any of the children were absent from school on account of sickness. They ate solid food. We had to say a speech every Friday evening or get a whipping. Some of those speeches are fresh in my mind today. Here is one:

I can handle a musket,

I can smoke a pipe,

I can kiss a pretty girl

At 12 o'clock at night.

Those old school days were great. Words cannot express the joy that we school children got in those days. At recess girls and boys played together, but no had conduct like we have today.

CHAPTER II

Getting back to Thankful Baptist Church, this same old dilapidated school house turned out to be Thankful Baptist Church. In 1882 Deacon Robt. Tankleys and family moved to Decatur from Augusta, Ga.; also Rev. Frank Paschal. The father of Dr. W. F. Paschal, chairman of the Executive Board of Georgia, moved his family to the old Robt. Alston place near Decatur. He came from Columbia County; also Sister Kittie House and Deacon Reese Howlworth got together, with Rev. Lewis Thornton, our school teacher, and they decided to organize a Baptist church in Decatur, as there was none. Here they began by holding prayer meetings from house to house. I can remember it just like it was yesterday. We boys asked our mother what they were planning to do and she told us they were fixing to organize a Baptist Church. So, finally, with the above named persons and a few others, with the assistance of Rev. Jerry Jones,

THANKFUL BAPTIST CHURCH

they organized the church, naming it Thankful, since Deacon Tankley and Rev. Paschal belonged to the Thankful Baptist Church, Augusta, Ga. Hence we derived our name. Rev. Lewis Thornton served as pastor only a short period. Then Rev. Martin Scruggs was called as pastor, and the church began to grow with leaps and bounds. People from afar and near began to visit the church, some bringing letters, others joining under watch care. Sister Nancy Wylson was the first person to join for baptism. She still lives and is active in church work. She loves her Thankful. She is a noble soul and a Christian of the old type. The church grew and prospered to the extent that the members decided to buy the grand old school house property and all. So the church sent a committee to see the owner of the property, Judge Brice, who readily agreed to sell them the property, so he made them the terms and the church accepted them, bought and paid for the same. The property line ran from Bennett street on the north, Atlanta avenue on the east to Swanton's Branch and on the south Swanton's Branch. Later the church sold Rev. Frank Paschal, Sr., a lot on the south; then later Sister Matilda Paschal sold Mr. George Simon a lot on the south, but all of this property belonged to Thankful Baptist Church at one time. The people were thoroughly aroused over their property and began laying plans for a new church. People were still joining the church and were having great meetings. Rev. Scruggs would get the best ministers to assist him. Rev. W. H. Tillman, Dr. E. J. Fisher, Rev. Cyrus Brown, Rev. Clemmons, Rev. Frank Simmons and others too numerous to mention. Thankful was still growing, also our Sunday school had been organized with Deacon Reese Howlworth as superintendent.

CHAPTER III.

We had no Sunday school Quartermen—the Bible and Catechism of course. The teachers started in Genesis with the Sunday lessons, but they taught us children the Ten Commandments. Those Catechisms began with who made you? God. How long was God in making the world? Six days, etc. The members began having church suppers and the people would all give chickens, cakes, custards, pies, fish, etc., and would come out in great numbers and buy all of the food. Of course they had red lemonade on great days. So they decided to build. Rev. Paschal, Sr., cut the pine logs for framing and hauled them to the church. Deacon Phelix McWhorter and others shaped them for the building. The church was receiving some strong families; Deacon Lewis Parker and family, Deacon Alonzo Harvey and family, Deacon Smith Moore and family, Deacon George Temple and family, Deacon Phelix McWhorter and family, Brother Henry Randolph and family, Rev. Frank Paschal, Sr., and family, Brother Henry Ebster and family, Brother Rufus Savage and family, Brother Miles Clarke and family, Brother Ed Smith and family, Brother Peter Gibbs and family, Sister Harriet Jackson, Sister Everline Walker, Bro. Ellis Gibbs and family, Brother Dick Gray and family, Deacon Henry Harris and family, Brother T. I. Burdette, Brother Sam Thurman and family, Sister Milbra Bailey, Sister Penny Benjamin, Sister Jackson and family, Sister Cheney Fayette, Sister Unice Burdette, Sister Dorcas Reese, Sister Lizzie Henderson, Brother O. W. Lee and family, Sister Mattie Jackson and family, Brother Wyatt Colquitt, and other families too numerous to mention; so we built our first church and we all rejoiced and thanked

our God for His manifold blessings bestowed upon us. The church continued to grow and prosper. Brother Ellis Gibbs succeeded Deacon Howlworth as superintendent of the Sunday school and was a great man in those days. Most all of the old people belonged to the Sunday school and would attend. I was made secretary of the Sunday school when I was twelve years old. It was the happiest day of my life, of course. We did not have any business to attend to; about all we had to do was call the roll and keep the money straight. We called the roll every Sunday morning. Rev. Scruggs served for twelve years. Then Rev. H. W. White, a member of the Wheat Street Baptist Church, was called. The church continued to grow and prosper. The Sunday school had bought an organ under the administration of Rev. Scruggs. Sister Eugenia Gibbs being our organist, but the church and Sunday school did not care much for organ music. The Sunday school had a choir, but we sang the old-fashioned way. Shaped notes were great in those days, so we sang do-re-me-fa, etc. The church people sang their old hymns, "Amazing Grace," and shouted for joy. Rev. White was a lovable man, the majority of the people loved him. He had some of the best ministers of his time to help him in his services—Rev. Dellinger, Dr. A. D. Williams, Rev. W. H. Tillman, Jr., Rev. C. S. Johnson, who is now afflicted; Rev. J. T. Latimore, Rev. W. F. Paschal, Rev. A. B. Freeman and other ministers of renown. The church continued to grow under the leadership of Rev. White. He baptised a new church and added new life in the membership. Many of the older members have moved away, others have been called from labor to reward. So we had a new Thankful. During his administration the church was remodelled. He

pastored successfully for twelve years. Then he had a stroke which disabled him to pastor, but he lived several years thereafter and was called home to rest from his labor to reward. Then the church called Rev. Jonah Gresham, the efficient pastor of Antioch, East Atlanta, he being a strong gospel preacher. He proceeded to carry on the work with success. The membership increased and the church continued to grow. He did some repair work on the building. He pastored successfully for four years or more. During the administration of Revs. Scruggs, White and Gresham the church was connected with the New Hope Association, of which the much beloved Rev. J. W. Centers was its moderator. During the pastorate of Rev. White the church sent him to the National Baptist Convention, which convened in Cincinnati, Ohio. He came back full of information which he imparted to the church. The church had a Missionary Society since the early pastorate of Rev. Scruggs. The lamented Rev. A. A. Blake was on the Foreign Missionary Field and would come out to Decatur and hold meetings and collect money for the Foreign Missionary Field. During the pastorate of Rev. White the late Mrs. Sylvia Bryant and other members of the Wheat Street Baptist Church would hold meetings for State Missionary Work at the church. After the pastorate of Rev. Gresham the church called one of its own sons to pastor, Rev. A. L. Harvey, a convert and baptised member of the church, who served as deacon, then licensed to preach, and was called to serve the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, North Decatur. The church was in debt when Rev. Harvey accepted the call, but he soon relieved the church of all its debts, and aside from that we had a great revival, baptising a number of people. We were still using

our organ and the people were beginning to like music in the church some better during Rev. Harvey's administration. Miss Martha A. Jackson, now Mrs. M. A. Ebert, moved to Decatur, her sister and brother-in-law having bought and built a home there. She suggested to us a B. Y. P. U. for the people on Sunday evenings, as we had so many people, young and old, that she thought we could interest, she being a member of the Wheat Street Baptist Church, with Dr. P. James Bryant as her pastor and leader. We readily agreed to her suggestion. In a short while she succeeded in getting the people together and began holding meetings. Then she got Deacon L. G. Harris, of the Wheat Street Church, to organize our B. Y. P. U., and from that time until now we have had a live B. Y. P. U., getting our literature regularly from our publishing house in Nashville, Tenn. We have only had two presidents in sixteen years. Mrs. Lizzie Bratcher was our first president and served well for a year or more. Then your humble servant, the writer, has been its president ever since. We had so many inspiring young people that we decided to get a piano. In a short while we got a piano and paid for the same. The church flourished under the leadership of Rev. Harvey. Rev. James Walker, who had been church clerk, was licensed and ordained under the pastorate of Rev. Harvey. He has a church in Atlanta, Ga.; also a church at Messena, Ga., and is making good. We are proud of Rev. Walker. After Rev. Harvey, the church called Rev. T. T. Gholston, a pulpit orator and a gospel preacher. During his administration the church had many members to join with us. He had to assist him on many occasions Rev. J. M. Gates, one of Georgia's best young preachers; also Rev. P. L. Scruggs, one of Thank-

ful's sons who was then pastoring the Bethlehem Baptist Church of Atlanta, a great leader of his people. The Bethlehem Church had as pastor before Rev. Scruggs another one of Thankful's sons, Rev. E. D. Smith, a strong preacher of his day and a pupil orator. Rev. Gholstin resigned to accept a call from the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church of Atlanta. He is now pastoring in Cleveland, Ohio; so is Rev. Scruggs. After Rev. Gholstin the church called Rev. L. T. Jones, the moderator of the Hopewell Association. The church needed repairing or building anew. The people had grown tired of repairing the wooden structure, so Rev. Jones, with the members, decided to launch a rally and build a new church. It was during the World's War and money was plentiful. So we launched a rally and raised something over \$1,100 at our first drive, which put inspiration in our people, and we continued to rally until we got \$4,000. We tore down the wooden structure and built a rock basement and paid for the same. Our church continued to prosper under the pastorate of Rev. Jones. We had a great Sunday school, B. Y. P. U., Mothers' Board and Mission. Brother M. B. Sims, Deacon W. H. Randolph, Brother Stokes Stanaker served as superintendents of the Sunday school during the pastorate of Rev. Jones. Each one was a successful leader.

During the pastorate of Rev. Jones the Sunday school and B. Y. P. U. sent their superintendent and president to the National Sunday School and B. Y. P. U. Congress, in the persons of Deacons W. H. Randolph and D. G. Ebert; also the church sent Rev. Jones to the National Baptist Convention, which met in St. Louis, Mo. Last but not least, we had a splendid Deacon Board to assist Rev. Jones. We had a good choir also that won the

Hopewell Sunday School and B. Y. P. U. banner in a singing contest. Much of our success in singing is due to the services rendered by Mrs. C. M. Clayton and Mrs. M. A. Ebert. The mission made wonderful progress under the leadership of three presidents while Rev. Jones was pastor in the persons of Sisters Mattie Jackson, Cora Stanaker and Mattie Morten. Sister Jackson went to Cleveland, Ohio, and lived there with her children for about two years, but came back and went to work in her church and is still on the job. She counts one any time. Brother Frank Wilson, an old standby, our ex-officio superintendent, is still on the job doing his bit. The pastorate of Rev. Jones was a very successful one. After Rev. Jones the church called Rev. W. M. Jackson, of Madison, Ga., auditor of the State Baptist Convention of Georgia and pastor of several of our best churches. Rev. Jackson is a great organizer. Aside from the several boards and clubs in operation, he has organized the Willing Workers Club, the Young Men's Booster Club, the White Rose Social Club, all of which are a great asset to the church. Also we have the Sunshine Band, for the little folks, with Mrs. C. M. Clayton as supervisor. Also we have the Wednesday evening prayer service for the little folks with Sister Addie Harris as supervisor.

We had a successful revival this spring when fifty-six connected themselves with the church, forty-eight for baptism. We also had a successful rally, raising something over \$800. We also had the Sylvia Brvant Preparatory School to render a concert and raised \$25 for our school. Also the Fifth District State Convention met with us, Rev. N. T. Thompson, president, and we went over the top.

At present our church is in a prosperous condition. Every board is doing its bit for the betterment of the church. We had our first musical in March, 1926, and with the assistance of the A. M. E. Church, Decatur; Big Berbel Atlanta; Morehouse College, Atlanta, the Sylvia Bryant Baptist Institute, Atlanta, it was a great success. Our white friends turned out in great numbers. We realized \$200 from the sale of tickets. We had a packed house. Too much cannot be said of the club members and friends who sold tickets. Sisters Angier Jones, Viola Burford, Lula Moon, Carrie Johnson, Addie Harris, Lela Gordon, Rosetta Moore, Marie Sellers, Lucile Clayton, Harrie Mae Jackson, Maud Bolden, Eula Mae Pitts, Ruby Sims, Maggie Randolph, Mattie Jackson, Mattie Morten, Cora Scruggs, Willie Mae Holmes, Leslie Bussie, M. A. Ebster, Emily Pritchett, Deacons W. H. Randolph, T. W. Beasley, W. D. Daniel, J. D. Bussie, Legree Bussie, D. G. Ebster, C. D. Clopton, Brothers M. B. Sims, John Pitts and others.

The church is well organized into boards and clubs and is rendering valuable service. The deacon board consists of Deacon Henry Harris, chairman; Deacon T. W. Beasley, assistant chairman; Deacon Legree Bussie, secretary; C. D. Clopton, W. H. Randolph, G. W. Carroll, John Johnson, D. G. Ebster, J. A. Ingram, J. D. Bussie. The Mothers' Board, Sister Amelia Stalnaker, chairman; Sister Emma Harris, assistant chairman; Sister Leslie Bussie, secretary; Sister Mary Ingram, treasurer; Sisters Carrie Johnson, Ophelia Mckenzie, Mary Bussie, Lillie Randolph, Rosetta Moore, Mattie Morten, Rachael Freeman, Emma Clopton, Martha Paschal, Anna Gibbs, Angier Jones, Ella Carroll, Annie Daniel, M. A. Ebster, Nancy Wilson.

Missionary Society, Sister Mattie Morten, president; Sister Rosetta Moore, vice president; Sister Viola Burford, secretary; Sister Amelia Stalnaker, treasurer; Sister Maggie Randolph, chairman charitable committee; Sister Rosetta Moore, chairman of educational committee; Sister Julia Crawford, chairman of the missionary committee; Sister Marie Sellers, chairman devotional committee; Sister M. A. Ebster, chairman of program committee; Sister Lula Moon, chairman of society committee. *Level 2 79 official*
 Willing Workers Club, Sister M. A. Ebster, chairman; Sister Lela Gordon, assistant chairman; Sister Marie Sellers, secretary; Sister Rosetta Moore, treasurer. Sunshine Band, Sister C. M. Clayton, supervisor and treasurer; Sister Ruby Williams, president; Miss Lula M. Lindsay, secretary. Sunday School Roster, Deacon C. D. Clopton, superintendent; Sister M. A. Ebster, assistant; Sister E. M. Pitts, secretary; Deacon D. G. Ebster, treasurer; Sister C. M. Clayton, pianist. Adult Class No. 1, teacher, Sister Mattie Morten; Adult Class No. 2, teacher, Sister M. A. Ebster; Adult Class No. 3, teacher, Deacon D. G. Ebster; Advance Class No. 4, teacher, Sister Marie Sellers; Junior Class No. 5, teacher, Brother F. J. Wilson; Junior Class No. 6, teacher, Miss Anna B. Walker; Primary Class No. 7, teacher, Sister C. M. Clayton; Cradle Roll No. 1, teacher, Sister Lethenia Henry; Cradle Roll No. 2, teacher, Sister Mabel Holt.
 B. Y. P. U. officials, Deacon D. G. Ebster, president; Sister Mattie Morten, vice president; Deacon J. D. Bussie, treasurer; Sister Lula Moon, secretary; Sister Ruby Sims, assistant secretary; Sister Minnie Ebster, pianist; Group No. 1, teacher, Sister Mattie Morten; Group No. 2, teacher, Sister Viola Burford; Group No. 3, teacher, Sister Louise Bussie; Group No. 4, teacher, Deacon J. D.

Bussie. Choir officials and members, Deacon D. G. Ebster, president; Sister Mattie Morten, vice president; Sister Mary Anthony, secretary; Sister Della Isbell, treasurer; Sister C. M. Clayton, organist; Sister M. A. Ebster, musical directress; Sisters Mattie Morten, Louise Bussie, Marie Sellers, Winifred Barnett, E. M. Pitts, W. L. Holmes, Ruby Simms, Della Isbell, Lucile Keaton, Minnie Ebster, C. M. Clayton, M. A. Ebster, Viola Burford, Mary Anthony, Ida Burdette; Deacons C. D. Clifton, J. D. Bussie, D. G. Ebster, Legree Bussie, W. H. Randall, Brother Lace Harris, Brother Frank Ebster, Brother M. B. Simms.

Loyal Boosters, Brother F. J. Wilson, president; Brother W. I. Robinson, vice president; Brother Rufus Wilson, secretary; Brother John Pitts, assistant secretary; Brother Lewis Holt, treasurer. White Rose Social Sisters, E. M. Pitts, president; Sister Louise Bussie, secretary; Sister Louise Keaton, treasurer. Junior Mission, Sister E. M. Pitts, president; Sister Lethenia Henry, secretary; Sister Ethel Parks, treasurer.

We sent part of our chorus to Savannah, Ga., this year to the State Sunday School and B. Y. P. U. Convention and won the third banner. During this month we let out a contract to finish our church. When complete it will cost \$25,000. Our trustee board consists of Brother Russel Anthony, chairman; Sister M. A. Ebster, assistant; Sister C. M. Clayton, secretary; Brother M. B. Simms, Sisters Angier Jones, Lela Gordon, Maggie Randolph, Cora Scruggs, Brother Abe Giddings and Brother John Flynt.

Too much cannot be said of Rev. C. K. Stalnaker, who has made good. We are proud of him; also Rev. Roland Smith is a coming young man. He is now going to

Morehouse College. We are praying for his success. We are expecting great things of Brother Alvin Usher, another young minister. Rev. Simon Reese, one of the old fathers, is loved by Thankful, as he loves Thankful. May he live long and prosper. He is one of the old landmarks. Rev. Byron Dunn, another one of our fathers, has moved to North Carolina to live, but we love and respect his memory. He was a wonderful man. Dr. W. F. Paschal, one of our own sons, organized and built the Beulah Baptist Church, at Edgewood, Ga., which is an honor to Thankful and the Baptists of Georgia. It has a strong membership and he has been its pastor for thirty-one years. May he live long to lead his people. Our present membership is 250 and new members are being added all along.

Thankful is the name that sounds so dear,
 Happy are the people whom God doth cheer,
 And we welcome your presence into our church,
 Nothing to boast of, or either to shrink;
 Knowing His eyes are watching us all the time,
 Full of grace and love divine,
 Unless we show our kindness to every one,
 Love will forsake us and our work is done.
 Yours for the work,
 D. G. EBSTER.

PART TWO.

CHAPTER I

MOTTO.

Telling the World of Some of Our Good Deeds While We Live.

Your humble servant would like to say a few words about the Hopewell Association and its organization. We think it better to mention some of our good deeds in life rather than say so many things about us after we have been called from labor to reward. We believe in less flowers, less eulogies, less obituaries and shorter funeral ceremonies and more good deeds one towards another while we live. The Hopewell Association was organized in the year of our Lord, 1885, by the deceased, Rev. W. L. Jones, and his co-laborers at Norcross, Ga., in the Hopewell Baptist Church (hence its name). Rev. Jones being a member of Salem Baptist Church, Lilburn, Ga., he saw the necessity of getting a few churches together in that part of North Georgia and forming an association. From the beginning it was a success, new churches being added at each annual session. Rev. Jones grew to be one of the strongest preachers in Georgia and pastored some of our largest churches before he was called home, but his body was brought back to Norcross, Ga., and it rests in the graveyard by the Hopewell Church, and each year of our annual session we never forget Sister Jones, his widow, who still lives among us. Long live his memory. Rev. R. Dorsey succeeded Rev. Jones as moderator, and the work continued to grow for several years. We did not have any special object in view other than the regular

service, seeing one another and helping the state workers as they would drop in to see us, but we were noted for our quiet way of doing things, as we would let the Lord guide us. Rev. John W. Williams succeeded Rev. Dorsey as moderator and he saw the necessity of more organization in order to better reach more of our people, as we were not doing what we could and ought to do.

We were raising money for education, but not in a systematic way. He therefore wrote some by-laws for the education board, the body adopted them and we are using them today with much success, in the men's department. He also organized the Women's Mission of the Hopewell Association and it is growing in leaps and bounds each year. Our Sunday School Convention was organized in 1886, one year after the Association and has been steadily growing ever since. Will tell you more about the auxiliaries further on. Getting back to the Association, in 1913 we had only twenty small churches, most of them missions. Our membership consists of 1,214 members. At our annual session we only raised \$254.77, but that was a step forward to what we had been doing. We were adding new life and inspiration in the work. Now our educational board meets on Saturday before the fifth Sunday during the year, closing Sunday evening. The money raised during the year is turned over to the Association for our people that are going to high school. In 1913 the board turned over to the body \$15,500; in 1925, \$70,000. We can readily see that the board is worthwhile. The present officers of the board are Rev. T. W. Smith, president; Rev. J. H. Kirk, vice president; Deacon Warren Johnson, treasurer; Deacon D. G. Ebster, secretary. The Women's Mission turned over to the body in 1913 \$26,000; in 1926, \$142,000. The

women are really going over the top it appears. That the women are raising more finances than the brothers it seems queer to me. Ask the sisters, they will tell you why. The Mission meets quarterly, Saturday before the third Sunday, closing Sunday evening. The present officers are: Sister Emma Nuckles, president; Sister Lizzie Dawson, vice president; Sister F. D. Porter, secretary; Sister S. E. Hoppins, treasurer; Sister Mattie Morren, assistant secretary; Sister M. A. Ebster, organist.

Getting back to the Sunday School Convention in 1913, we raised \$142.60; in 1925 we raised \$308.91. We enrolled eleven schools in 1913; 1925 we enrolled twenty-two. We ought to enroll as many schools as we have churches. Some more work to do. We must "work, the work of Him that sent us while it is day; the night cometh when no man can work." As I have said heretofore, in 1913 the Association raised \$254.77; in the year 1925 we raised \$1,201.80. Our present membership is 3,236. We have thirty-five churches, against twenty in 1913. Our property value in 1913 was \$15,567; in 1925 property values \$75,000. So we can readily see that the Hopewell is advancing, going from victory to victory, spiritually and financially. We all are proud of our record and standing of the Hopewell. It is great to belong to the Hopewell.

CHAPTER II.

As it has been stated, we did not have any special aim in view. There was a growing unrest among some of the members until it became general. So the moderator, Rev. Williams, and his co-laborers, got together and decided that something had to be done at our next annual session. The body appointed a committee to see about buying

some land. Deacon J. R. Chandler had stated to the body that he was satisfied that we could buy two acres of land near his property in Duluth, Ga. The names of the committee are as follows: Rev. Jno. T. Jackson, chairman; Deacons Warren Johnson, J. R. Chandler, P. N. Hood, R. J. Kilgore, C. E. Grenard, L. M. George, secretary. They were called together and took the land over. Deciding it was a good investment they closed the trade, paying \$100, leaving a balance of \$100. But before we got it paid for Deacon Chandler informed us that we could buy eighteen acres for our old folks home for \$1,200, so we sold our two acres to the Chandler Bros. and bought the eighteen acres. During this period our beloved moderator, Rev. Williams, was called from labor to reward, and he rests in the cemetery at Duluth, Ga. Peace be to his memory. For several years at our annual session we remembered Sister Williams and her children. Rev. L. T. Jones succeeded Rev. Williams and the work continued on. We have our land paid for with one cottage and we are planning to build another in short. We rent our land each year and it brings us an income. There is some splendid timber on the land good for building purposes, so you see our thoughts have become a reality.

CHAPTER III.

Rev. L. T. Jones was president of the Sunday School Convention for several years and he decided while doing good work we could be improved. So a B. Y. P. U. Convention was added to the Sunday School Convention, and it has been growing in leaps and bounds ever since. Too much cannot be said of Rev. Jones and his co-laborers for their untiring efforts to put the Hopewell Convention on

the top. Deacon H. M. Cosby has been its secretary for many years and is still rendering valuable service. Not many small conventions in Georgia have a B. Y. P. U. along with the convention. Then a few years later a musical contest was added to the convention, which has inspired many of our young people to take a part in the work. The officers of the convention at present are: Rev. T. W. Smith, president; Rev. J. A. Smith, vice president; Deacon H. M. Cosby, secretary; Deacon P. N. Hood, treasurer. Too much cannot be said of these Christian soldiers that we find on the battlefield every time the drum taps.

A word for the B. Y. P. U. Convention, which is growing in leaps and bounds each year, under the leadership of Deacon C. E. Greenard, clerk of the Poplar Hill Church, treasurer of the Hopewell Association, a born leader and a gifted orator. Deacon A. Nuckles is its vice president. A coming young man that we feel proud of, full of pep and fire, he is a member of Zion Baptist Church, Roswell, Ga. That's saying enough. We all know Roswell. Sister S. M. Nesbit is its secretary. Very quiet but ever on the job, she is a member of the Central Baptist Church, Norcross, Ga., and she counts one. Its treasurer is Sister S. E. Hoppins, the old dependable whom we all love. She is always on hand to render service. She is the Giant Oak of the Mt. Carmel Church at Duluth, Ga. Sister C. M. Clayton is the pianist of the Sunday School and B. Y. P. U. Convention and renders valuable service and is ever ready to go anywhere in the bounds when called upon. Also she is the pianist of the Thankful Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga. Sister Mattie Greenard is assistant. The daughter of Deacon Greenard, she is a coming young soldier following in

the footsteps of her father. Sister M. A. Ebster is musical director for the Sunday School and B. Y. P. U. Convention, she always thinks that she can put it over with the help of God: she is an untiring and a dependable worker. She is assistant superintendent of the Thankful Baptist Sunday School; also president of the Willing Workers Club and president of Building Club No. 7. Deacon D. G. Ebster is the organizer of the Hopewell B. Y. P. U. Convention; also clerk of the Association, president of the Thankful B. Y. P. U., president of the Thankful chorus, clerk of the church; is every ready to go when called upon to organize or help any B. Y. P. U.; too much cannot be said of Deacon C. Nuckles, president of the Poplar Hill B. Y. P. U., president of the Young Men's Band; also the best representative in North Georgia for the Atlanta Independent, our colored paper, the best paper in Georgia, a paper we all should take. He always gives the convention some good instructions, which are highly appreciated. He is a B. Y. P. U. man and is consecrated to the work.

CHAPTER IV.

Just a few words about our school, the Sylvia Bryant Baptist Institute. The now deceased Sister Sylvia Jenkins Bryant, the founder of our school, was a constant visitor to our sessions, and always was asked to make a talk or lecture to the body which she did, and she always gave us some timely information. During the later years of her life she suggested that the Hopewell would join in with the Atlanta Association so as to make the school, financially, stronger, so it could render better service. The Hopewell gave her suggestion serious consideration and decided to join hand in hand with the Atlanta Association, which we

did. The school has been quite a help to us. We have some young people who finished at the school and are out in the world making good. Others are going to school, making good in their studies.

"Help us to help each other, Lord,
Each other's cross to bear,
And each a brother's aid afford,
And feel a brother's care."

Too much cannot be said of Prof. C. M. Clayton and his co-laborers of the school, who are doing their best to keep up the high standard of our school. The school is very much needed because it gives so many of our people the second chance. Christian education is a blessing to any people. Willful ignorance is a curse. We would be a much better people if we could get more of our people to get education. Solomon has well said "Get wisdom." After we get wisdom, get understanding, keep her. She is the apple of thine eye.

Names of the trustees of the Hopewell: Rev. L. T. Jones, Rev. W. B. Bell, Deacons Warren Johnson, J. R. Chandler, C. E. Greuard, L. M. George, D. G. Ebster, Revs. W. M. Jackson and R. H. Milner. So we can readily see what the Hopewell has accomplished in a few years with good leadership, ever trusting the Master for results.

CHAPTER V.

The Woman's Mission is a great asset to the Association. We cannot say too much for these dear women that know no failure. They set their mark and work up to it. The mission has had only two presidents, Sister F. D. Porter, our first president, started the work to

grow. She served only a few years. Sister Emma Nuckles succeeded Sister Porter and has been president for several years. The work has continued to grow and bringing better results each year. Sister Lizzie Dawson, vice president, is an untiring worker. Sister F. D. Porter, secretary, is ever ready to serve. Sister Mattie Morren, assistant secretary, is on the job, helping to put the work over. Sister S. E. Hoppins, treasurer, counts one sister. Sister Georgia Teasley is making a record as corresponding secretary. Sisters Hannah Burnett, Josephine Backwell, Nettie Seals, Nora Griffin, Bell Snow, Rosa Lee Cawthorn, Rosetta Beasley, Izzie Williams, M. A. Ebster, Mattie Jackson, Sarah Seals, Eliza Garrett, Leatha Scott, Katie Eagle, Georgia Allen, Ida Weaver, Viola Burford, Mattie Parks, Amelia Stalnaker, S. E. Tye, Emma Bell, Janie Williams, Ella Eason, Susie Williams, Lena Harkness, Sisters Taylor and Robinson, of Mt. Zion. These are some of the "Deborahs" and are rendering valuable service to the work. It is a pleasure to meet these noble women in any of these sessions. They are really on the job, trying as best they can to put the work over for the Master, for in union there is strength. Also we have some noble men in the Hopewell. Rev. R. H. Milner is a strong young preacher and is rendering valuable service in the Poplar Hill Baptist Church. Also he and his people are erecting a brick church. We all know Buford Rev. W. E. Maxon is also an asset to the Association. He has built up a strong church in Decatur and is erecting a new building for his people. Rev. J. H. Barnes is also a progressive leader and preaches for the people in Decatur. They have erected a new church, which is a credit to the Hopewell and our people. Rev. W. B. Bell, our vice president, has a splendid church and a noble

people. There is just one Bell. Rev. T. W. Smith is a cunning young preacher, full of aspiration and is making good. Rev. J. E. Weaver is a strong young man and is doing great work at Chamber. Rev. James Walker is making good at the Israel Baptist Church. We are proud of him. He is a railroad worker. Rev. W. M. Deas is a strong preacher and is doing great work at Miller's Grove and has a good people that are loyal to him. Rev. A. Z. Watley, the old war horse, is on the job at Koswell and is deverting the goods. Long may he live to do God's service. Revs. J. R. Cunningham, J. J. Garrett, R. T. Dorsey, J. A. Smith, S. S. Kelly, P. N. Hogan, E. A. Echols, A. L. Love, M. Stafford, L. J. Johnson, J. M. Maddox, L. L. Harris, A. J. Scruggs, H. J. Jetterson, W. M. Roland, W. M. Jackson, R. T. Cooper, A. F. Jones are lined up with the Hopewell and are making good. We are blessed with a noble set of laymen. Dear C. E. Greenard, A. J. Grogan, C. Nuckles, S. P. Walthall, P. P. Nesbit, J. R. Chandler, Ephraim Hill, C. C. Shaw, A. R. Pruitt, J. M. Butler, R. J. Williams, T. H. Baily, A. J. Weaver, W. D. Allen and others who love the Hopewell.

We cannot say too much for our State and National leaders who come to our session and give valuable information about the state and national work. Dr. A. D. Williams, treasurer National Baptist Convention; Dr. P. James Bryant, president National B. Y. P. U. Board; Dr. J. M. Nabrit, assistant secretary National Baptist Convention; Dr. D. D. Crawford, corresponding secretary State of Georgia; Dr. W. F. Paschal, chairman executive board of Georgia; Dr. J. W. Jackson, state missionary; Sister E. J. Bennett, chairman Ninth District Woman's Convention of Georgia. One of the secrets of

our success, has been, that we are ever ready to accept the best advice and govern ourselves accordingly. The now deceased, Dr. D. W. Cannon and Dr. C. H. Robinson, were constant visitors to our sessions and always would do what they were called upon to do. They said that they felt themselves at home among us, and we always felt the same towards them. We mourn their loss, but we believe the Master had better use for them. The Hopewell is helping to support whatever the Baptists stand for. We are helping to support our local schools. We send representatives to our state conventions. We send representatives to our national conventions. We are sending money to Dr. J. E. East, in Philadelphia, to help support our people in Africa. We are ever ready to help the poor and needy. Last but not least we donated to Rev. Bowie, our African missionary, in our churches and our annual session when he was with us on his vacation to foster our work in Africa. Rev. J. A. Smith, our regular old standby, is chairman of the executive board. He is on the job looking out for the interests of the Hopewell. We are ever mindful of some of the ministers who have helped to make the Hopewell a success. Rev. J. W. Howard, T. T. Gholston, H. H. Woodson, P. B. Broughton, T. H. Fannin, J. V. Collins, G. W. Carter, A. W. Williams, W. F. James, G. O. Sumner, G. L. Allen, J. H. Blake, J. H. McCluskey, Parham, Jones, J. J. W. Williams and many other preachers and laymen. Last but not least Rev. J. M. Gates, whose song, "The Little Black Train Is Coming," is being sung all over America. He was a successful pastor in the Hopewell. May he live long and prosper under God's divine guidance.

Hope is the source of all our hearts;
Only in God we trust;
Peaceful we meet and peaceful we part—
Everything done for the just.
We are glad to meet you face to face;
Every place, wherever we go,
Love is our motto, full of grace;
Lord help us as ever before.

We have the pleasure of holding our annual session this year at our mother church, Hopewell, Norcross, Ga. Rev. J. H. Ponder is now its pastor and is a great leader, is doing much good for his people and is bringing things to pass. The Hopewell has long decided that the principles as taught by the Savior are the only ones that will make this world better—to live in, and we should live and practice a daily Christianity. Hate no man. Love the brotherhood. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you, without strife or malice, and so fulfill ye the laws of Christ. All other forms are mockery, for out of one blood made he all nations to dwell upon the face of the earth for God is no respecter of persons.

We hope these few sayings will meet your approval.
It is great to belong to the Hopewell.

D. G. Ebsner, 418 Herring Street, Decatur, Ga.