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W	List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth	Day Mo. Yr.	Town County	Country Day Mo.	(First Husband or Wife) List Additional Marriages with Dates on Reverse Side of Sheet
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M	5 WILLIAM CHARLES BANKS	27 Jan 1864		6 Sept	1848 TO MINNIELEE JOINES
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M	6 FITZHUGH LEE BANKS "	24 June 1866	Rocky Mount. LA	27 Jan 1	
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By B.C. Bell Published by The Presbyterian Board of Publications of the Syndrof Louisiana 1930

THE HISTORY OF PRESBYTERIANISM IN NORTH LOUISIANA

appointments. It is stated that Rev. J. T. Balch who labored at Minden for a while had walked all the way from his home in Greenville, Tenn., to Princton, N. J., for his education. These men "endured hardness" in real Apostolic fashion.



REV. A. R. BANKS

THERE is one other name which deserves a place in this record and which we most heartily recognize. It is the honored name of Rev. A. R. Banks, who figured so largely in the early history of our churches. While he did not become a member of this Presbytery until 1868, yet he was perhaps the first Presbyterian preacher who ever preached in our bounds. Tradition says (J. T. Manry) that Mr. Banks passed through Shreveport in 1836, spending the night with Col. Shreve, the founder of Shreveport, on his missionary tours of this country. Mr. Banks' home was in Spring Hill, Ark., but made many trips into this country preaching and teaching. He preached and taught in old Overton and in Minden, and later devoted 23 years to the churches of Rocky Mount and Banks Chapel. (See his memorial).

"As early as 1838, Rev. A. R. Banks, a Presbyterian minister of Spring Hill, Ark., preached an occasional sermon in Claiborne Parish in passing through; once in 1838 at old Overton, when the courthouse was there (1837-1846); once in Allen's settlement; once at Athens, when Athens was the parish site (1846-1848). In 1839 or '40, Rev. A. R. Banks and Rev. John Boggs conducted a series of services at Minden, resulting in the conversion of 12 or 15 persons, leading citizens of the town, but no church was organized."—(Mrs. H. L. Stone).

EVENTFUL 1854

WE NOW come to the memorable year of 1854. For several years the need of a separate Presbytery had been felt by these North Louisiana Presbyterians and the desire had been expressed to the Synod of Mississippi. Accordingly that Synod at its meeting in 1852 had appointed a committee to consider and report on this proposal. During the year they considered it, but it had been denied before because of the very weakness of the churches in these bounds and it now looked as if the same fate awaited it.

From Rev. B. F. Peters in the Southwestern Presbyterian we quote: "In 1853, Bro. John Davidson, just out from Princeton, and myself, crossed on horseback the Mississippi bottom from Monroe to Vicksburg to attend Synod at Jackson, Miss. We were both licentiates. Our object was to be ordained and with Bros. Ford and Helme to get Red River Presbytery created."

The Charter

The committee on the proposed new presbytery reported and the Synod took the following action, viz:

Jackson, Miss., Dec. 17, 1853

To the Rev. Messrs. J. Franklin Ford, S. P. Helme, and John E. Davidson:

Dear Brethren:

The following is an extract from the minutes of the

Synod of Mississippi, viz:

Resolved, That this Synod form a new Presbytery, to be called the Presbytery of Red River; which shall be bounded as follows, viz. North by the state line of Louisiana; East by a line commencing at the North-east corner of Morehouse Parish, and following the Eastern boundary of said parish until said line produced intersects Red River; thence down said river to its mouth; and thence due West to the State line.

This Presbytery is to be composed of the Rev. J. Franklin Ford, and the Rev. S. P. Helme, to be detached from the Presbytery of Louisiana, and the Rev. John E. Davidson, to be detached from the Presbytery of Tombeckbee, and all the churches within said bounds.

The above Presbytery to meet in Minden Church on Friday before the Second Sabbath of February next at 11

rian church, became one of Mr. Harrington's warmest friends, lived a consistent Christian life and died a triumphant death, after months of suffering.

In the fall of 1882, he received from and accepted a call to Mansfield, Smyrna, Keatchie, and Mt. Zion churches. He did not give up Keatchie until January 1893, but the pastoral relation with Smyrna and Mt. Zion was dissolved in 1888. Mansfield was the only church of which he was pastor at the time of his death. The pastorate of other churches was not broken up at the desire of the churches nor because they were not prospering under his care; quite the contrary. But Presbytery thinking that it had a more important work for him to do, as an evangelist, expressed the desire that he should take the one and relinquish the other; and a desire expressed on the part of the brethren was always sufficient for Mr. Harrington. That the Presbytery acted wisely in selecting him as an evangelist has been most abundantly proved, Mr. Harrington suffered from chronic disease from the twentieth year of his age until his death but he was willing to deny himself the pleasures of home and rest; considering no sacrifices too great for the Lord, or for his church. He did not fail a dozen times in his life to fill an appointment to preach; and then only sickness prevented; and the few times he was absent from Presbytery were from the same cause. A good many years ago, a friend living in his family asked him, if he believed that he would go to Heaven, if he died. He replied, "Yes, I do, I feel that I have a big place in Heaven in my heart, already." Brother Harrington had often expressed a desire to die with the harness on and surely the Lord granted him his desire in this particular. He had just given Presbytery a description of his work, had expressed his thankfulness to God for his blessings upon his work as a whole and looked hopefully for still greater things in the near future when he was stricken by the hand of death. He died October 21, 1893. As a Christian, we know that he lived in closest fellowship with his Savior. As a father, he was tender and solicitous. As a minister, he was true to his trust; and as a Presbyter, efficient and faithful. In his death, his family has lost a loving and tender husband and father; the church a faithful consistent and active Christian; and the Presbytery of Red River an efficient member and brother dearly beloved.

MEMORIAL-REV. A. R. BANKS

Your committee to whom was referred the painful and melancholy duty of reporting at this meeting of Presbytery a suitable memorial of our deceased Bro. A. R. Banks, beg leave to tender to this Presbytery, to this church and to his family the following tribute and memorial of our lamented friend and brother.

On the 23rd of last September at his home, Rocky Mount, La., this venerable servant of God was translated into the Kingdom of God's dear love at the ripe old age of four score and three years, and his works do follow him. "My goodness, saith the Lord is in the saints in the earth and the excellent in whom is all my delight." more guileless disciple is rarely found, a gentler spirit we never saw; loved and honored by all who knew him. He was gathered to his rest like a shock of corn fully ripe. The following historical sketch prepared by one of his children, is here offered as a part of one report, as containing information embodying facts which will doubtless interest this body. All of which is respectfully submitted:

Matthew Van Lear, chairman.

"He was born in Fairfield District, S. C., June 26, 1808, consequently he was at his death, in his 83rd year. He was of Scotch-Irish parentage, his father, Samuel Banks, having emigrated from Scotland about 1797 and settled in Chester District, S. C. His mother was a woman of strong character and possessing wonderful energy. Eleven children were born and grew up to man and womanhood except one who died in infancy. There were five sons, our dear friend being the second. Although comparatively poor, their father determined to give them a good education. Mr. Banks, having a greater thirst for knowledge than the rest, went to clerking in Winnsboro, S. C., saved his money and went to Hopewell Academy in York District. While there he became serious on the subject of religion and united with the church, under the preaching of D. L. Gray. This was in the summer of 1831. Soon after this, he went to Tuscaloosa, Ala., to enter college there. He did not like the discipline, however, and took charge of a school at Pickensville, Ala. It was while teaching this school that his mind turned to the work of the ministry and after prayer, deliberately made up his mind to become an ambassador of Christ. As soon as convenient, he turned his face homeward to convey the "glad

tidings" to his aged mother which was received with grateful joy, for he was a child of the covenant and had been raised in the faith, like Timothy, the Bible, the Shorter Catechism and Creed being taught him as soon as he could lisp.

After due deliberation, he entered the Theological Seminary at Columbia, S. C. The Seminary was then under that trio of good and learned men, Drs. Leland, Goulding and Howe. He remained there 3 years. While there he witnessed that startling phenomenon, the "falling stars."

In April, 1836, he was licensed by Bethel Presbytery to preach the Gospel and having determined to take a missionary tour through Arkansas, he was ordained as an evangelist. He had received a commission from the American Home Missionary Society to labor one year in Arkansas. In April, 1836, he set out all alone for the Far West. So, with tears but a strong heart and an abiding faith in his Master, he bade farewell to kindred and friends, and entered upon his life's work.

After a long and tedious journey, he landed at Little Rock, where he had a letter of introduction to Rev. James W. Moore, one of the two Presbyterian ministers in Arkansas. He immediately began his work under many disadvantages, undergoing hardships and privations that would have discouraged many men, travelling for days on horseback, through wild, unknown regions, swimming creeks and rivers, through tempest and sunshine but always found kind hearts and hospitable treatment. All this he endured as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, working to win souls that were thirsting for the Gospel. He organized and assisted in organizing over twenty churches.

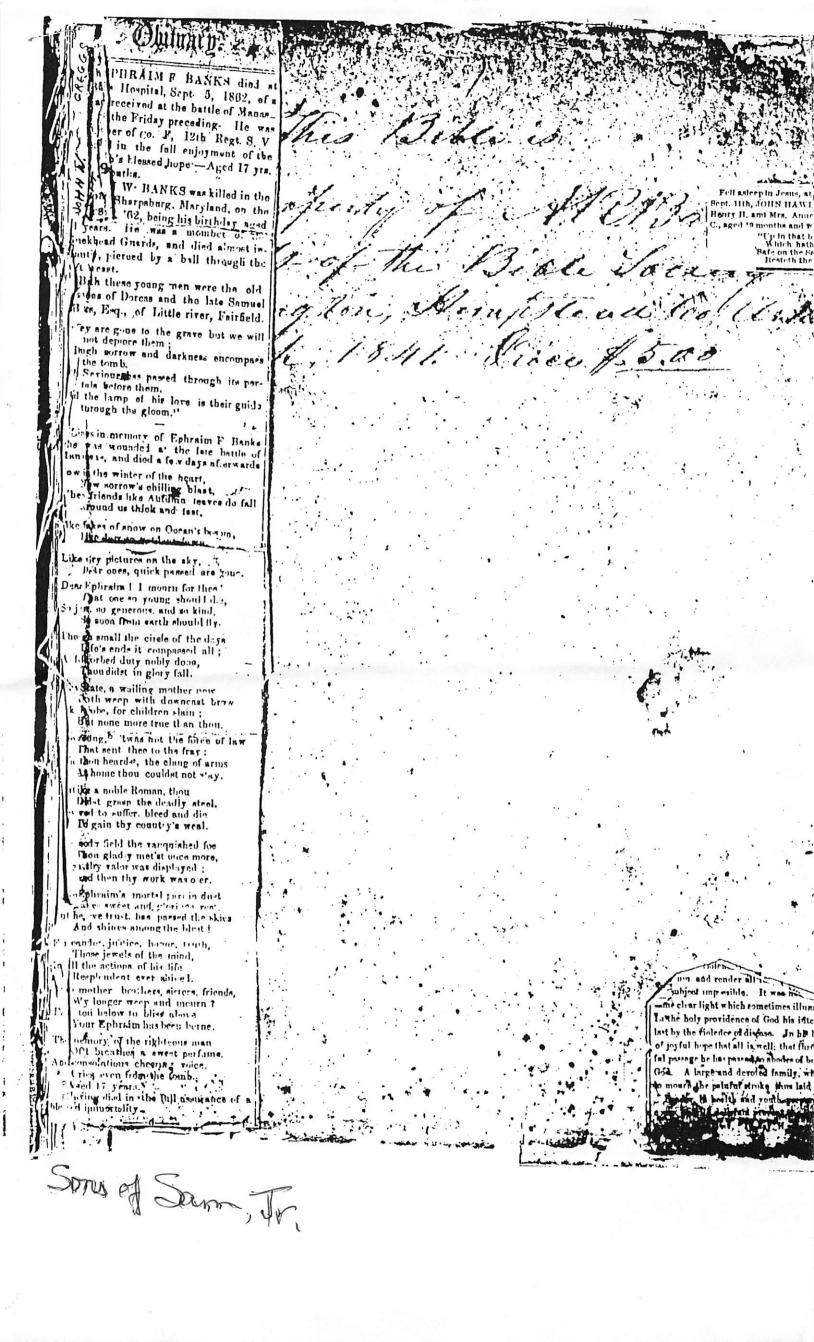
He labored in Arkansas from 1836 to 1865. After the war, being completely broken up, he moved to Rocky Mount, where he has since resided, over 25 years.

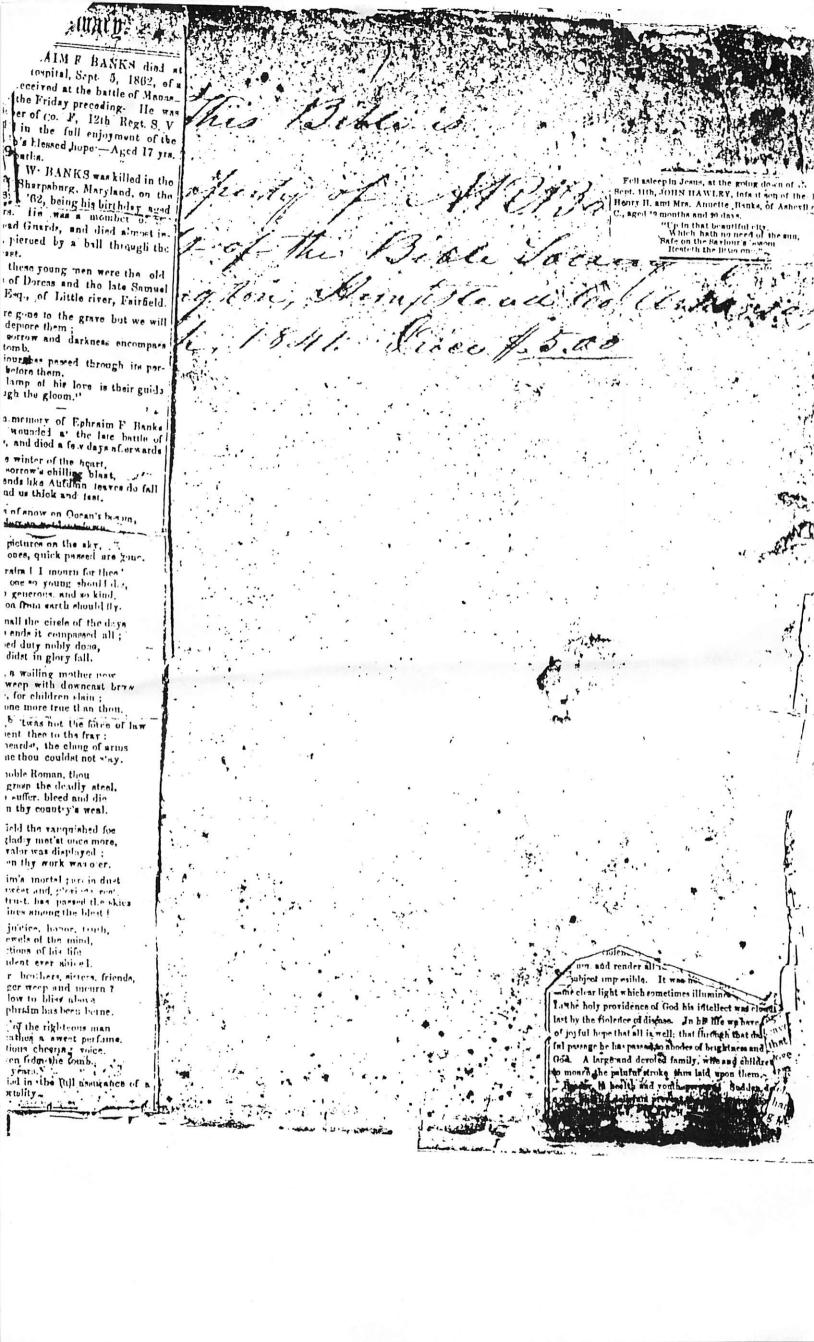
He was married in June 1838, to Miss Elizabeth Pratt a native of Hebron, New Hampshire, who was then principal of the High School at Spring Hill, Ark. They had two children, Henry Howard Banks, an able minister who died a few years ago in Asheville, N. C., and Alexander, who died when he was five years of age. He moved to Minden in 1847 and took charge of the Female College but his wife's health failing, they travelled through the Northern and New England states till her health was re-

established. Then they moved to El Dorado, Ark, and took charge of the Female Institute; there she died, September 5, 1853. May 10, 1856, he married Mrs. Mary B. Macon, widow of John T. Macon of Hardeman, Tenn. They had seven children, four sons and three daughters: all survive him but one son, Edmund Samuel, who died in 1880. His wife was the daughter of Dr. Fitzhugh of the District of Columbia. She survives him but has been an invalid for twenty years, being stricken with paralysis and unable to walk a step in all that weary time. To her the loss will be irreparable indeed, for he was her tender nurse, her guide, her teacher, for they took sweet counsel together. He cheered and comforted her and brought brightness and happiness into her sick room. His loving devotion was remarkable and often will she weep and long for his cheerful smile and soothing words.

Mr. Banks preached at Rocky Mount and Banks Chapel for twenty-three years winning many souls to Christ and gaining the love and esteem not only of his own people but of all denominations. When the infirmities of age and especially his increasing deafness pressed upon him, he resigned his charge much against the wishes of his people, they refusing to accept his resignation till he convinced them it was absolutely necessary.

He was a remarkably healthy man rarely being sick until last spring when he had a violent attack of la grippe. He recovered sufficiently to visit his son, Dr. Banks, at Pine Bluff, Ark., and from there visited ten or twelve of his old charges. He was so gladly welcomed and received so much attention, that his visit was a continued pleasure. But it was too much for his enfeebled and aged frame and he was completely exhausted on his return home, after an absence of six weeks. He had been home a week and was writing an account of his trip when he was taken with a chill. He went to bed and was never able to rise again. His mind was perfectly clear and only a few minutes before he breathed his last he spoke rationally and clearly. He was so willing to go, "just waiting for God to call him." He often spoke of the bright mansion above and of the joys that awaited him there; his only regret was in his leaving his poor invalid wife. On the morning of the 23rd he seemed to be sinking and at half past ten calmly and peacefully breathed his last and his freed spirit passed "beyond the river."





AIM F BANKS dind at cospital, Sept. 5, 1862, of a eceived at the battle of Manna_ the Friday precoding. He was er of Co. F, 12th Regt. S. V in the full enjoyment of the o's blessed Jupe - Aged 17 yes. W. BANKS was killed in the Sharpaburg, Maryland, on the 762, being his birthdey and ead Guards, and died almost inpieroed by a ball through the these young men were the old of Dorcas and the late Samuel Esq., of Little river, Fairfield. regime to the grave but we will sorrow and darkness encompara tomb. iourates passed through its perbefore them. lamp of his love is their guids igh the gloom." a memory of Ephraim F Banka wounded at the late battle of , and died a few days afterwards e winter of the heart, sorrow's chilling blast, ands like Aufdfin leaves do fall ad us thick and fast. anfanow on Ocean's housin, pictures on the skr. ones, quick passed are your. raim ! I mourn for thea! one so young should de, y generous, and so kind, on from earth should fly. nall the circle of the days ed duty nobly done, didst in glory fall. . A wailing mother now weep with downcast brow , for children slain; one more true than thou. b twas not the force of law ient thee to the fray: neards, the clang of arms no thou couldst not stay. mble Roman, thou grown the deadly steel. suffer. bleed and die n thy country's weal. feld the varquished for gladey met'at once more, was displayed ; on thy work was o'er. im's mortal pare in dust trecet and, pleasing rent. incs among the blest ! judice, haver, touch, ewels of the mind, tions of his life ident ever shire l. r brothers, sieters, friends, ger weep and meurn? low to bliss above subject impresible. It was no me clear light which cometimes illuming Lithe holy providence of God his ifitellect was ele phraim has been beine. of the rightcons man nation a sweet perfame, tions cheering voice, on from the tomb. last by the finlester of discuss. In his Me we have of joyful hope that all is well; that fhrough that the ful passage be line passadan aborder of brightness and th A large and devoted family, wife and abildre years.
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Names + ages of Servants of A.R. Banks

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