

S H I L O H B A P T I S T C H U R C H

Longview, Gregg County, Texas

A History of Shiloh Baptist Church

By

Tom Adams, Dorris Adams, Mildred J. Ragsdale, Narva Snoddy,
and Shirley Snoddy

Typing By

Patsy Darden

April 1992

Longview, Texas

ADDENDUM

Reverend John Baptist, according to the United States 1870 Census, was an African American who lived in Liberty County, Texas. He was 60 years old and had a wife, named Peggy, who was 55 years old. She was a native of Florida. They had no children.¹

According to Heirs of Charter Members of Shiloh Baptist Church, Reverend Baptist was a traveling Minister who went from place to place and organized churches for the recently freed slaves. The Slave Master, Mr. Ged (Gedeon) Christian secured the services of Rev. Baptist to aid Blacks of the Shiloh Community in organizing Shiloh Baptist Church.² Three years later (1874) he organized the neighboring Center Baptist Church in the Camp Switch Community.³

The exact date that the Shiloh Community was founded is unknown, but according to information passed by word of mouth and substantiated by "The History of Gregg County, the community was founded in the 1800's."⁴

Shiloh is a small rural community comprising only a portion of Gregg County's 284 square miles in 1882.⁵ While farming was the

¹ Jackson, Ronald Vern, Editor. 1870 U.S. Census. Texas 1870. Accelerated Indexing Systems International, Inc. P. 96.

² Heirs of Charter Members: Allen, William (Bill), Christian, Zora, Jones, Maurice, Jones, Brady, Jones, Muriel. History of Shiloh Baptist Church as told by Heirs of Charter Mmembers. Unpublished. Longview, February 1992. p.

³ Clark, Lucille, Hunt, Leneva, Stephens, Frederick. Centennial Booklet of Center Missionary Baptist Church, 1874 - 1974. White Oak, Texas. p.3.

⁴ Sponsored by Longview Junior Chamber Commerce. (LJCC). The History of Gregg County. Fort Worth: Published by University Supply & Equipment Company. 1st. Edition. 1957. p. 2

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chief industry, domestic workers, logging and saw - milling were minor industries that provided employment for black residents in rural communities.⁵ There were no known businesses or public institutions in the Shiloh Community during this era. Shiloh Baptist Church was the only black church in the community. Later, in 1885, a 20 X 30 ft. one room frame school building was used for church services by whites in the neighboring White Oak Community.⁶

After the Civil War and after the slaves learned that they were free (June 19, 1865), there were many problems and hardships. Most slaves had not learned to read or write.⁷ Texas declared that black education would have to be funded by black tax payers. However, there were few black property owners and jobs to fund their own schools. As a result black children were denied an education. Many years passed before rights would be granted for black education. It was during this time, the 1870's and up to the 1890's that school was held in Shiloh Baptist Church.⁸ It is not known how many students attended the Shiloh Church School, but it was open to all children of the community regardless to religious beliefs.⁹

⁵ McWhorter, Eugene W. Traditions of the Land. Longview: Gregg County Historical Foundation. 1989. pp. 66, 70.

⁶ The White Oak Story - A News Bulletin. Published by The White Oak Independent School District - 1885 - 1985. p. 1

⁷ Elbow, G.S., McDonald, A.P., Metzger, M.G., Rocha, R.,. Texas Yesterday and Today. Dallas: Silver Burdett & Ginn. p. 170.

⁸ Kingston, Mike, Editor, Harris, Ruth, Assistant Editor, Crawford, Mary G., Editorial Assistant, Bailey, Erma, Artist, Deal, David, Artist. Texas Almanac. (1986-1987) Sesquicentennial and State Industrial Guide Edition. pp. 207, 208.

⁹ Heirs of Charter Members. Ibid. p.1.

The Shiloh Baptist Church Cemetery is active and adjacent to the church property. ¹⁰ The cemetery was established in 1892. It is not known who the first person was that was buried there. The Shiloh Historical Research Committee surveyed the Shiloh Cemetery and discovered that there were unmarked graves or marked only with a rock as a headstone with no indication of who was buried there. The following are some of the earliest marked graves with birth and death indicated:

	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>
Harriett Holomon	June 1836	April 23, 1902
B.C. Christian	1836	Jan. 20, 1903
Sarah Thomas (Butcher Christian's daughter)	1870	June 3, 1892
Ison Jones	Jan. 1877	1894
Sam & Lucy Ingram	Feb. 11, 1882	Feb. 11, 1882

Oil was discovered in the Shiloh area in 1931. Oil wells on the property have been capped for several years now.

Deed records citations for land donated by Ged (Gedeon) Christian to Butcher Christian were found in the Upsur County Court House, but none was found in either county, Upsur or Gregg, where Butcher Christian deeded the land to the church.

For further information, see attached page 50 of the McWhorter Book.

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Map. Shiloh Baptist Church & Cemetery Lands. G.W. Hooper Survey, Gregg County, Texas. Miliard H. Hackney, Registered Surveyor #487.

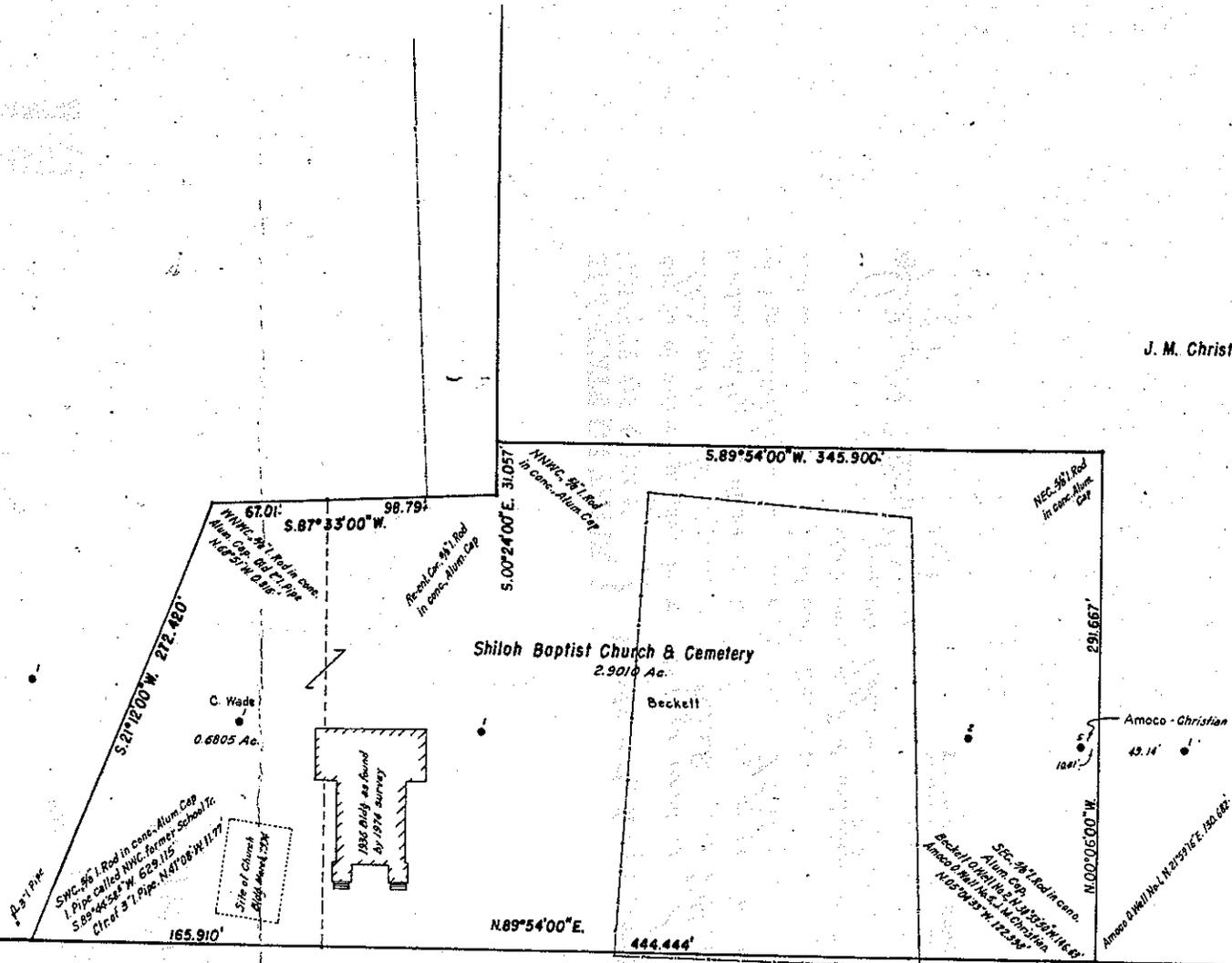
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Jim Allen Est.

J. M. Christian Est.

Mobil

Amoco



Shiloh Road (Oiled)

W. J. & G. Hindmon Est.

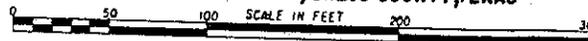
Mobil

I, Milard H. Hackney, Registered Public Surveyor, certify the above Plat truly depicts the results of an actual made on the ground in March, 1934, retraced and monumented Nov-Dec, 1974.

Witness my hand and Official Seal this 5th day of Dec. 1974

Milard H. Hackney
Registered Public Surveyor No. 431

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH & CEMETERY LANDS
G. W. HOOPER SURVEY, GREGG COUNTY, TEXAS



COMPALED

13083

FILED
B. M. "BUCK" BIRDSONG
COUNTY CLERK

'74 DEC 6 AM 10:30

GREGG COUNTY, TEXAS
BY Z. C. [Signature]
DEPUTY

SP
M. H. Harbony
Box 189

THE STATE OF TEXAS, }
COUNTY OF GREGG

I hereby certify that the foregoing deed or instrument of writing was filed in my Office for record at

A.M., on the 6 day of Dec, 1974 and that the same together with the Certificate of Record was on this day, correctly recorded on page 214 in volume 955 record of DEEDS of Gregg County, Texas

Given under my hand and Seal of Office in Longview, Texas, this 12 day of Dec, 1974

Joyce Lamb Deputy

B. M. "BUCK" BIRDSONG
COUNTY CLERK GREGG COUNTY, TEXAS

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Note: Bibliography will be attached using footnotes in the summaries.

Note: Additional statements will be added from Heirs of Charter Members.



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512)463-6100

June 22, 1992

Dr. Norman W. Black, Chair
Gregg CHC
417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, TX 75602

RE: SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH
18" x 28" marker w/ post
Job #29792

Dear Dr. Black:

We have received the above-referenced marker application. The application will be reviewed and evaluated by the Texas Historical Commission staff in the order in which it has been received. Currently, there is a 4-6 month wait between the time subject marker applications are received and evaluated. Because applications for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark designations (RTHLs) require an architectural review in addition to an historical evaluation, RTHL applications may take slightly longer. Should additional information be needed for the review, we will contact you and any parties listed below at that time. After any deficiencies have been corrected, we will send copies of the application to the members of the State Marker Review Board, who will make the final determination of the topic's acceptability for marking.

We will notify all parties as soon as the marker committee makes its decision. If the topic is approved for marking, payment will be requested at that time. If not approved, the application will be returned along with a letter of explanation.

Because of the variables involved in the marker process, and because we must coordinate our orders with the schedule of the contracting foundry, we suggest that the date of the marker dedication not be set until the completed marker is received.

We appreciate the effort made to record this topic. Should there be any questions about the status of this marker application, please contact me at the letterhead address and phone number above.

Sincerely,

Egina G. Kaase
Office Manager
Local History Programs

pc: Narva L. Snoddy

The State Agency for Historic Preservation



Gregg County Historical Commission

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone
903-757-2261

March 28, 1993

Cynthia J. Beeman, Administrator
Official Texas Historical Markers
Local History Programs
Texas Historical Commission
P. O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Shiloh Baptist Church, Gregg County

Dear Cynthia:

Enclosed is the additional information you requested December 4, 1992. This consists of two papers received February 25 and March 4, 1993 from Mrs. Narva Snoddy and additional documentation just completed. I believe this is probably as much information as we are likely to find. The loss of records in a fire which destroyed the Upshur County courthouse in 1888 hampered further documentation. There may be some discrepancies in the oral histories of the church and what we were able to document. For example, the John Baptist which appears on the microfilm of the 1870 census was thirty-nine years old while the John Baptist in the church's history was said to have been sixty years old in 1870. Of course, this could have been a father - son relationship with twenty-one years difference.

Sincerely,

Norman

Enc.

Local History Programs
Texas Historical Commission
P. O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711
512/463-6100

Date: December 4, 1992
Re: SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH, GREGG COUNTY
To: Narva L. Snoddy
Dr. Norman Black

Our staff has made a preliminary review of the above-mentioned historical marker application. Before we can complete our evaluation, however, we need the following information. We will place the application on hold until all requested material has been received.

- ✓ 1. Please provide some biographical information on The Rev. John Baptist, as well as information concerning how he came to be first pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church.
- ✓ 2. Please provide some background information on the Shiloh community. For instance, how large was the community, when was it founded, what businesses and public institutions and other churches were there, etc.?
- ✓ 3. Brief mention is made in the narrative history of the public school conducted at the Shiloh Baptist Church. Please provide some additional information on the school, such as when it was in operation, numbers of students served, etc.
- ✓ 4. Is the cemetery adjacent to the church property? When was it founded, and who was the first person buried there? Is it still active?
- ✓ 5. When was oil discovered on the church property?
- 1/6. ✓ 6. Please provide deed record citations for the land donations by Gib Christian and Butcher Christian to the church. ^{1 - write}
- ✓ 7. Please send us a copy of page 50 of the McWhorter book.

Please note that this is not a rejection of your application, but simply a request for more information. Answers to the above questions should be prepared as an addendum to the original application, and should include proper documentation in the form of reference notes. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or have need of assistance.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Beeman

Cynthia J. Beeman, Administrator
Official Texas Historical Markers
Local History Programs

SHILOH COMMUNITY

Upshur County was organized by an act of the Texas legislature on July 13, 1846. At that time it was composed of all of what is now Upshur, Camp and the part of Gregg north of the Sabine River.¹ Gregg County was organized in 1873 and the G. W. Hooper Headright, which was originally in Upshur County, became a part of the new county.² The Shiloh Community is within the G. W. Hooper Headright.

In 1857 the Upshur County post offices were Coffeerville, Earpville, Gilmer, Hopewell, Calloway, Pine Tree, Pittsburg and Red Rock.³ According to the 1860 Upshur County Census,⁴ Gideon Christian received mail through the Pine Tree Post Office.⁵

Gideon Christian, a farmer, was born in South Carolina in 1830. His wife, Carrie, was born in Georgia in 1840. Their oldest child, Charles, was three years old and born in Texas. They also had an infant daughter, six months old. Christian valued his personal estate at \$30,000 but did not declare any

¹ Loyd, T. Doyal, A History of Upshur County, Texas, p. 7, The Gilmer Mirror, 1966.

² McWhorter, Eugene W., Traditions of the Land - The History of Gregg County, Texas, p. 61, Longview: Gregg County Historical Foundation, 1989.

³ Loyd, op. cit., p. 12.

⁴ 1860 Upshur County Census, Microfilm Roll #1306, Longview Public Library.

⁵ Patman, Wright, A History of Post Offices and Communities - First Congressional District of Texas, Upshur County, 1968, p. 10. The first Postmaster was appointed February 9, 1848.

real estate holdings.⁶

The Slave Schedule credits Gideon Christian with 32 slaves ranging in age from a 71 year old female to a one year old female. There were 18 males and 14 females. Thirteen of the males were between the ages of 7 and 25 years. Four of these slaves were mulatto; the remainder Black.⁷

In 1860 there were only two heads of households named Christian in Upshur County. In addition to Gideon there was James Christian. James was a native of Georgia. He was a 39 year old farmer with land valued at \$3,520 and personal property at \$13,000. James' wife, Margaret, 29 years old, and their six year old son were also born in Georgia. They received their mail through the Pittsburg Post Office.⁸ James Christian did not have any slaves.⁹

By 1870 there were several families with the Christian surname living in Upshur County. Nine of these were consecutively numbered in the order of visitation for the census and received mail out of the Coffeeville Post Office.¹⁰ Five of the heads of households were Black, two were mulatto and two were White.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Slave Inhabitants in Western District in the County of Upshur, State of Texas, August 4, 1860, p. 49, Microfilm Roll #1312, Longview Public Library.

⁸ 1860 Upshur County Census, op. cit.

⁹ Slave Inhabitants in Western District in the County of Upshur, State of Texas, op. cit.

¹⁰ Patman, op. cit. p. 3. The first Postmaster was appointed March 15, 1852.

Gideon Christian's family was #360. Family #359 was Butcher Christian. Butcher, a 32 year old Black, was born in Alabama. He was a farmer with a wife and five children.¹¹

The Christian surname was listed throughout Upshur County in 1870. The majority of the heads of household were Black and several families received mail from the various post offices in the county.¹²

One such family was C. Christian, a 28 year old Black laborer. He was born in Alabama. His 20 year old wife, Angeline, was born in Georgia. Salley Christian, a 80 year old Black female, born in South Carolina, lived with them and their two year old daughter.¹³ This family received their mail out of the Pittsburg Post Office and was shown as Household #418 on the census.¹⁴

The C. Christian family's nearest neighbor, Household #419, was John Baptist, a 39 year old mulatto Minister, born in Virginia. His wife Ellen, was a 33 year old native of Georgia. They were the parents of four children ranging in ages from 5 years to 17 years. The three oldest children were born in Georgia and the youngest in Texas.¹⁵

¹¹ 1870 Census of Upshur County, Microfilm Roll #1607, Longview Public Library.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Patman, op. cit., p. 4. The first Postmaster was appointed May 23, 1855.

¹⁵ 1870 Census of Upshur County, op. cit.

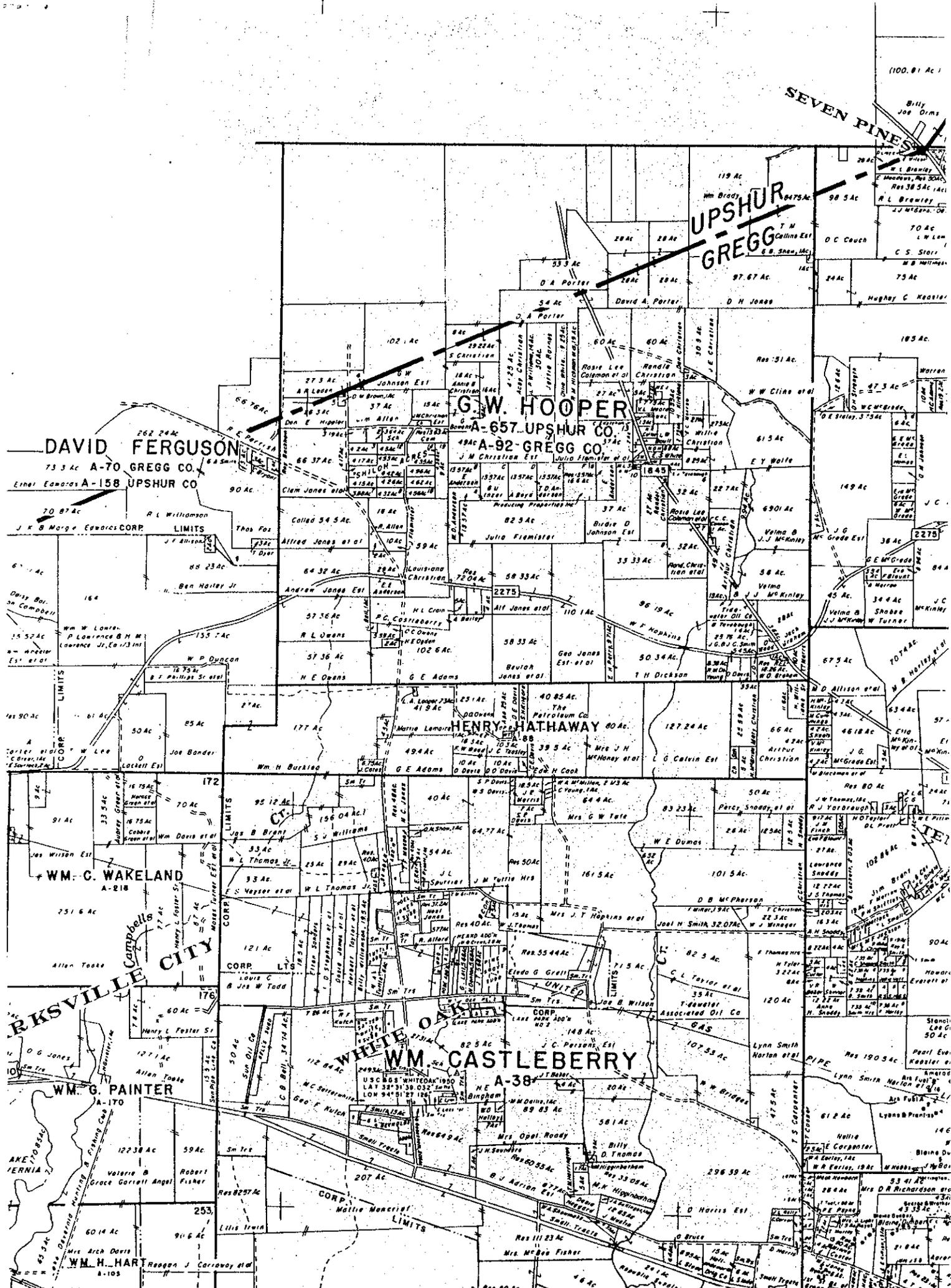
No deed record could be found for a land transfer from Gideon Christian to Butcher Christian specifically referring to church property. Deed records were checked in the Upshur County Courthouse and the Gregg County Courthouse. However, on October 25, 1888, the Upshur County Courthouse in Gilmer was destroyed by fire, together with all records and papers. There were a few exceptions which the county clerk had placed in a recently built fire proof vault.¹⁸

No reference to any businesses located in Shiloh Community was found.

¹⁸ Baird, G. H., A Brief History of Upshur County, p. 13, The Gilmer Mirror, August, 1946.

This documentation provided by:

**Charlotte Allgood Black
March 26, 1993**



SEVEN PINES

UPSHUR
GREGG

G.W. HOOPER
A-657 UPSHUR CO.
A-92 GREGG CO.

DAVID FERGUSON
A-70 GREGG CO.
A-158 UPSHUR CO.

HENRY HATHAWAY

WHITE OAK
W.M. CASTLEBERRY
A-38

WM. C. WAKELAND
A-218

WM. G. PAINTER
A-170

WM. H. HART
A-105

100.01 Ac

Billy Joe Orms

W. L. Brawley

F. Moore, Res 30.4

Res 38.5 Ac

H. L. Brawley

70 Ac

C. S. Stone

M. B. Matthews

75 Ac

Hughay C. Keeler

183 Ac

W. W. Clark et al

Res 31 Ac

W. C. McGrade

O. E. Stiles, 3.55 Ac

6.6 Ac

E. J. James

W. M. D. D.

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Official Texas
Historical Marker Dedication
for

Shiloh Baptist Church
Shiloh Road - Longview, Texas



1871 - 1994

Sunday, May 15, 1994
3:00 P.M.

Rev. Glen Boyd, Pastor

Shiloh Baptist Church

P. O. BOX 150037
LONGVIEW, TEXAS 75615

Please
Affix
Stamp
Here

GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dr. Norman W. Black, Chairman</i></p> <p>Mrs. Mildred Wood Barker Mrs. Sally Gossett Barron Mrs. Charlotte Allgood Black Mr. Jack Buchanan Mrs. Pauline Cox Mrs. B. W. Crain, Jr. Ms. Sondra Daniel Mrs. Bill W. Dodson Dr. Ken Durham Mrs. Helen McHaney Griffin</p>	<p>Mrs. Nelda Lewis Ms. Carol Morris Little Mrs. H. L. Long Ms. Anne P. Mackenzie Ms. Amanda Pratt Nobles Dr. W. D. Northcutt, III Mrs. John W. Osteen Mr. Ben Reynolds Mrs. Nancy Ruff Mr. Joe White</p>
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SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Narva Snoddy, Chairperson</i></p> <p>Dorris Adams Tom Adams</p>	<p>Juanita Ragsdale Shirley Snoddy</p>
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SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH OFFICERS

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>PASTOR</i></p> <p>Rev. Glen Boyd</p> <p>DEACON BOARD CHAIRMAN TRUSTEE BOARD CHAIRMAN CHURCH CLERK FINANCIAL SECRETARY TREASURER SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT YOUTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS</p> <p>SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRPERSON SENIOR MISSION PRESIDENT JUNIOR MISSION PRESIDENT GUSTAVIA ALLEN CIRCLE CHAIRPERSON ANDREW JONES CIRCLE CHAIRPERSON USHER BOARD #1 PRESIDENT</p> <p>USHER BOARD #2 PRESIDENT BROTHERHOOD PRESIDENT MALE CHORUS PRESIDENT GOSPEL CHORUS PRESIDENT SENIOR CHOIR PRESIDENT MASS CHOIR PRESIDENTS</p> <p>PROGRAM COMMITTEE</p> <p>BENEVOLENT COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON FOOD COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON DECORATION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON ANNOUNCING CLERK</p>	<p>Wayne Snoddy Tom Adams Linda Snoddy Wayne Snoddy Narva Snoddy Tom Adams Linda Snoddy Linda Moseley Victoria Boyd Juanita Ragsdale Victoria Boyd Arie L. Jefferson Dewey Grimmett Jackie Brown Helen Crain Brandy Snoddy Wayne Snoddy Belvin Snoddy Vonya Johnson Dorris Adams Dorris Adams Vonya Johnson Juanita Ragsdale Shirley Snoddy Arie L. Jefferson Linda Moseley Dorris Adams Brandy Snoddy Victoria Boyd</p>
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History Of Shiloh Baptist Church

Compiled By:
Dorris Adams, Mildred Ragsdale, and Narva Snoddy

The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln, January 1, 1865.¹ It had been only 8 years since the Emancipation Proclamation when Shiloh Baptist Church was organized.

There were many problems. Blacks who had been slaves became free people. They were starting a new way of life. They were glad to be free but, many did not have jobs or a place to live. Just out of slavery most Blacks had not learned to read or write in this small rural community of Gregg County.

Later the new government agency "The Freedmans Bureau" was set up to help the freed slaves. Schools were set up where they could learn to read and write.² Many years later, Gregg County, then the White Oak School Systems provided separate educational facilities for Blacks.³

Farming was the main industry in the rural area of Shiloh Community. Principal crops were cotton, corn, oats, potatoes, yams, sweet potatoes, sugar cane, sorghum, berries, nuts and fruits.⁴ Farmers used most of the goods produced by their labor. They had little left over to sell. The people made most of their tools, clothings and furnishings at home.⁵ The men had to leave the farms to serve in the army during the war. This meant that the women and children had to do all the work on the farm. Some farmers had to sell their farms to get money to live. They became sharecroppers. The "Freedom Bureau" helped them find jobs, homes and furnished food for thousands of poor people, both black and white.⁶

Transportation was by buggy, walking, wagon or horseback, after the war. These methods of transportation were adequate, since most farmers were subsistence farmers, i.e. they grew enough different crops to take care of basic needs of the family.⁷

Because of these and other difficulties after slavery, a small group of Blacks felt a strong need to turn to a greater source for help. Hence, the organization of the Shiloh Baptist Church for the purpose of worshipping and praising God came into being. In keeping with the Baptist Doctrine as established by Roger Williams, members of the church committed themselves to be one of several rural Black churches to organize.⁸ With the help of his former slave master, Gid Christian, and Butcher Christian, located a minister, Reverend John Baptist, who organized Shiloh Baptist Church in 1871.¹⁰

Charter Members of the Church were: Butcher and Chaney Christian, Alex Jones and Wife, Anthony Allen and Wife, Hulda Christian, George and Callie Jones, Simon and Katherine Boyd, A Mr. Wilhite and

¹ Nannie H. Burroughs Publications, Matties A Robinson, Editor-in-Chief: The Worker. Washington, D.C.: Black History Calendar, p. 10.

² Elbow, G.S., McDonald, A.P. Metzger, M.G., Rocha, R.: Texas Yesterday and Today. Dallas: Silver, Burdett and Ginn, P. 170.

³ McWhorter, Eugene H.: Traditions of the Land. Longview: Gregg County Historical Foundation, 1989. P. 50.

⁴ Sponsored by Longview Chamber of Commerce. The History of Gregg County. Ft. Worth, Texas: Published by University Supply and Equipment Company. 1st Ed. 1957. p. 72

⁵ Elbow, G.S., Al Ibid, P. 205

⁶ Elbow, G.S., Al Ibid, P. 170

⁷ McWhorter, Ibid, P.50

⁸ Hiscox, Edward T., D.D. The Standard Manual for Baptist Churches. Philadelphia: The American Baptist Publication Society, 1951, P. 169.

⁹ McWhorter, Ibid, P.50

¹⁰ McWhorter, Ibid, P.50

Wife Ollie, a Mr. Wilson, Randell and Rebecca Christian, June Castleberry, and Ike Anderson and Wife.¹¹

Butcher Christian gave 3 acres of land on which the first building was made. It was small windowless log cabin structure about 25 x 40 feet in size.¹² The building was located south of the present church near the Clarence Davis farm, according to Brady Jones, a descendent of one of the Charter Members.¹³ The location of the present building is about 8 miles north of Longview,¹⁴ north of White Oak and about 3/10 miles south of the Upshur County Line, on Shiloh Road.¹⁵

In 1892 three acres of land was given to the Shiloh Colored Church Community by A.B. Bryan according to Deeds Records, Vol. D., p. 491, Gregg County, Longview, Texas, 1892.¹⁶

To Whom It May Concern:

I, A.B. Bryan....in consideration of the benefits of morality and Christianity....do release and convey unto George Jones and Alex Jones, Trustees for the Shiloh Colored Church Community....three acres of land to have and to hold free from me, my heirs and assigns forever....In testimony whereby I here unto set my seal this 5th day of November, 1892.

A.B. Bryan
K. Bryan
W.I. White, Notary

On this property, deeded to the church by A.B. Bryan, a white frame building about 60 feet long and 40 feet wide was constructed. It had gable ends and a steeple tower. The building, facing Shiloh Road, was built near where the present church now stands replacing the log cabin structure.¹⁷ The exact dates for the above buildings are unavailable because records, which were kept in the home of E.E. Anderson, the church clerk, were lost in a fire.¹⁸

Reverend John Baptist was the first Pastor of the church. Twenty five Pastors have served since. Specific accomplishments of Pastors prior to Reverend J. E. Campbell are not noted because the records are not available.¹⁹

In 1936, during the Pastorage of Reverend J.E. Campbell, a white brick building was built on the present location.²⁰ It was remodeled during Reverend H.W. Gray's Pastorage in 1949, with red bricks.²¹ During the tenure of Reverend R.C. Christian in 1970, the edifice was repaired and redecorated. A new Church Cemetery

¹¹ Heirs of Charter Members: Allen, William (Bill), Christian, Zora; Jones, Maurice; Jones, Brady; Jones, Muriel. History of Shiloh Baptist Church. (As told by Heirs of charter Members). Unpublished. Longview: February 1992. p. 1-2

¹² McWhorter, *Ibid.* p.50

¹³ Heirs of Charter Member. *Ibid.* p.1

¹⁴ Hackney, M.H., State of Texas Public Surveyor #13083. Description and map of Shiloh Baptist Church and Cemetery Properties. G. W. Hooper Survey. Gregg County Texas. Longview: December, 1974.

¹⁵ McWhorter, *Ibid.* p. 50

¹⁶ Bryan, A.B., Deed. Longview: Gregg County Court House, Deeds and Records, Vol. D. p. 491, 1892.

¹⁷ Heirs of Charter Members, *Ibid.* p.1

¹⁸ Snoddy, Narva L., A Brief History of Shiloh Baptist Church. (Compiled from Church Records and as told by the late Sr. Deacons George Allen and Aubrey Green). CENTENNIAL BULLETIN. Published, Alto, Texas, 1971. p. 1-2

¹⁹ Snoddy, Narva L., *Ibid.* p. 1, p. 3

²⁰ Cornerstone of Shiloh Baptist Church, Front of Church, Front Eastside. Reverend J.E. Campbell, Pastor, 1936.

²¹ Cornerstone of Shiloh Baptist Church, Front of Church, Westside. Reverend H. W. Gray, Pastor, 1949.

was planned and constructed on southeast corner of the present church building during the Pastorage of Reverend Paul Mack.²² During the Pastorage of Reverend Dale Laster, the Fellowship Hall was remodeled. In 1991, under the leadership of Reverend E.L. Lockett, the church was completely remodeled, inside and out with the addition of ramps for the handicapped.²³

The church grew in grace and worth steadily for several years with the blessings of the oil discovery on the church property. Membership increased and while Sunday School was held every Sunday, Preaching was from one Sunday a month, to two Sundays a month, and then to every Sunday in a month. Nine Ministers have been licensed to preach the Gospel. Five Ministers have been ordained and eighteen Deacons have served.²⁴

Activities of Shiloh Baptist Church have been varied according to the needs of those it served. The membership is small, partly due to the exodus of members to other places for better jobs, but, much planning has been done in developing well rounded services for Sunday and weekly meetings. This is evidenced by the Annual Bulletin which is developed by cooperative efforts of the various auxiliaries, including the Brotherhood, Sunday School, Benevolent, Missionary, Music and Youth Departments.²⁵

Baptizing was held at the climax of Revivals, on a Sunday, called "The Big Day". Members who had joined the church were baptized in a creek or near by pond in a very sacred service. Later that day the Right Hand of Fellowship was given to the new converts by the entire congregation. Today, this service is done in the Sanctuary of the Church in the newly installed baptistry.²⁶

An activity which has was and is thoroughly enjoyed is the Feast Together, called "Dinner on the Ground". In the early church the people bought their food and spread it on quilts on the ground, sat and relaxed with friends as large quantities of food was consumed.²⁷ This practice is done today under the direction of a Food Committee and served in a modern dining facility. At the close of Revivals and "Juneteenth" (June 19, 1865, the date of the announcement in the South that slavery had ended)²⁸ were good examples of when "Dinner on the Ground" was held.

Shiloh Baptist Church has been and continues to be deeply involved in Community and Civic affairs. If there was a need, it had only to be made known and Shiloh came to the rescue. Needed items have been given to The Women's Center of Longview.²⁹ Clothing, refreshments for Birthday and Christmas Parties and musical entertainment have been provided for various local and area Nursing Facilities.³⁰ Financial aid has been given to those who had various needs: a family whose home and contents were destroyed by fire; furnished finance for building a home for a neighbor; gave contributions to The Community Chest and Tuberculosis Association. The Brothers worked together in replacing worn roofs on neighbors' homes. The women aided in caring for the sick.³¹

²² Snoddy, Linda, Church Clerk. Church Records: Minutes. Longview: 1971 - 1981. pp. 6, 397

²³ Snoddy, Shirley, Church Clerk. Church Records: Minutes. Longview: 1988 - 1991. pp. 125, 197, 198

²⁴ Snoddy, Narva L. *Ibid.* p. 2. Snoddy, Shirley, clerk Shiloh Baptist Church Bulletins (1988 - 1991).

²⁵ Snoddy, Shirley, *Ibid.* 1991.

²⁶ Heirs of Charter Members. *Ibid.* p.2

²⁷ Sponsored by Longview Chamber of Commerce, *Ibid.* p. 26

²⁸ Elbow, G.S., ET AL. *Ibid.* p. 171

²⁹ East Texas Association for Abused Families, (Renamed) Women's Center of East Texas. Susan Sims, "Thank-You Notes" for Contributions. Longview, 1989 - 1992.

³⁰ Cleaver Convalescent Center. Henry M. Bradford, Administrator; B.J. Jackson, Activity Director. "Thank-You Notes" for Contributions. Longview, 1989 - 1992.

³¹ Snoddy, Narva L., *Ibid.* p. 2

Other projects supported by the church included financial aid to The Camp Normal Industrial Hospital, which was built for the Black Community in Longview, Camp Kennedy at Easton for Boy Scouts; and gave two lots to Gregg County to be used as a playground for children of the community³²

Missionary work has extended beyond the Shiloh Baptist Church and community. It is consistent in sharing spiritually and financially in services of the District,³³ Texas and Louisiana Association,³⁴ National Baptist Sunday School and Training Union Congress,³⁵ National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc.,³⁶ and during their existence, the Shiloh School; The Dixon Colored Nursing Home of Gilmer, Texas; the Bishop College of Marshall and later of Dallas, Texas.³⁷

Currently, Shiloh is striving to make a greater contribution to the community and the world. There was a time when the church served as the public school in addition to promoting spiritual growth, but today, public schooling is available through the White Oak Independent School District. The church continues support of education by purchasing school supplies and clothing, and providing tutoring for those in need. Scholarships are given to high school graduates who anticipate higher training.³⁸ The church is committed to sharing God's Blessings, both financial and spiritual, with those in need, regardless of race or color.

³² Adams, Dr. E.K., Victor and Victor Consulting, Inc. Gregg County Historic Site Survey, Book C, p. 2. Austin, Texas: 1986.

³³ Gibson, Clara, Secretary: Christian, Reverend R.C., Moderator, The Texas and Louisiana Baptist Association; District Board #3 Minutes. Gladewater, Texas. 1992. p.149.

³⁴ Walker, O.L., Secretary: Todd, Reverend Paul A., Moderator, the Texas and Louisiana Baptist Association. Financial Records. Marshall, Texas. 1991. p.203.

³⁵ Estell, Mrs. Bessie, Secretary: National Baptist Sunday School and Training Union Congress. Auxiliary to the N.B.C., U.S.A., Inc. Minutes. Dallas, Texas. 1973. p.210.

³⁶ Jemison, T.J., Secretary: Jackson, Dr. J.H., President, National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc. Financial Records. Annual Session, Orleans, Louisiana. 1978. p.442.

³⁷ Snoddy, Linda. Ibid. p. 146.

³⁸ Snoddy, Shirley, Church Clerk. Church Records: Minutes. Longview: 1988 - 1991. pp. 125, 197, 198.

Acknowledgment

We wish to thank those of you who gave of your time, knowledge and efforts in supplying material to make this church history possible. We are more grateful than words can express.

Dorris Adams
Tom Adams
William (Bill) Adams
J. W. Anderson
Arthur Christian
R. C. Christian

Zora Christian
Brady Jones
Maurice Jones
Muriel Christian Jones
Mildred J. Ragsdale
Narva Snoddy

Shirley Snoddy

MARKER DEDICATION CEREMONIES



PROGRAM

PHASE I

MASTER OF CEREMONIES.....Mr. Tom Adams

PRELUDE.....Musicians

SCRIPTURE.....Rev. Acie Christian

INVOCATION.....Pastor Glen Boyd

MUSICAL SELECTION.....Shiloh Mass Choir

PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER.....Mrs. Juanita Ragsdale

ADDRESS.....Mrs. E. Hill-Allen

MUSICAL SELECTION.....Shiloh Mass Choir

PRESENTATION.....Mrs. Narva Snoddy

INTRODUCTION.....Mr. Tom Adams

PHASE II

MASTER OF CEREMONIES.....Dr. Norman Black

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS.....Dr. Norman Black

UNVEILING OF MARKER.....Mrs. Shirley Snoddy

READING OF MARKER.....Mrs. Dorris Adams

BENEDICTION.....Rev. Glen Boyd
or Appointee

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE

We would like to say, "THANK YOU" to all of our members and friends for their time, effort and contributions, in helping us to make this historical event, a reality.

***** Platinum *****

Mr. & Mrs. Otis Ragsdale, Sr.		Mr. & Mrs. Wayne L. Snoddy	
Mrs. Martee Price	Mr. Otis Ragsdale, Jr.	Mr. Bryan Snoddy	Ms. Brandy Snoddy
Ms. K. Savoi Ragsdale	Ms. Tylee Ragsdale	Ms. Brooke Snoddy	
Ms. Jordan Ragsdale Longview, Texas		Longview, Texas	

A & A CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
CHURCH DESIGNERS AND BUILDERS
"A Full Service Company"

Tom Adams President	Dorris Adams Secretary	Wayne Snoddy Engineer
Longview, Texas		

***** Gold *****

Alert Synteks - LV, TX	Carter Temple CME Church - TY, TX
American Canopies - GW, TX	Center Baptist Church - W.O., TX
Mrs. Myra Bush - LV, TX	East Texas Brick Co. - TY, TX
Atty. LaJuanda Lacy - TY, TX	

***** Silver *****

Rev. Acie Christian - LV, TX	Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Crain - LV, TX
Mr. & Mrs. B. W. Crain - R. Lacy, Inc. - LV, TX	

***** In Memory Of *****

In Memory of my parents, the late Rev. & Mrs. George Boyd. May God continue to take you to higher heights.

—Love you,
Sis. Gladys Boyd Brown

In Memory of our parents and grandparents, Willie and Jessie Christian.
Children: Aleaner Christian Turner & Willie Christian
Grandchildren: Alvin Christian, Charles E. Christian, Gizelle Christian, Herman Christian, James E. Christian, Johnnie Christian, Panna M. Christian, Willie Christian & Bettie J. Hobbs.

In Memory of my parents, Deacon W. D. & Martha Anderson.

—Dorris Y. Adams

In Memory of F. C. Christian, Mattie Christian, Fourson Christian, Howard Christian and Warnez Christian Jones.

—Susie M. Craddock

In Memory of James Allen, Jr., Robert S. Allen, Essie L. Johnson, Melvin Johnson and Jewel Allen Lucas.

—Arie L. Jefferson

Deacon George Allen &
The Butcher Allen Family
—Alfred Allen & Family

Julia Flemister, Pink Allen, Davis Allen
& Johnnie Christian.
—Bernice Christian & Della Christian

James A. Allen & Gustavia Allen
—Arie L. Jefferson

Deacon Aubrey Green
—Shiloh Church Family

Mary D. Anderson
—Mildred Ragsdale

Horace Green, Sr.
—Malinda Green

Berry Christian & Frenchie Christian
—Dewey Christian & Della Christian

Baby Jennifer Mitchell
—Mary Latham

Hazel Crain & Alf Jones
—Myrtis Crain

Laura LeAnn Moore
—Ever Grace Derrick

Annie Christian, Pearlle Christian,
Robert Christian & Tommie Christian
—Loyd Christian

***** Bronze *****

BASS CHEVROLET, INC. - LV, TX
 BUCK'S LAWNMOWER SHOP - GW, TX
 GANS & SMITH INSURANCE AGENCY - LV, TX
 H & D AUTO PAINT & BODY SHOP - LV, TX
 JONES A/C & APPLIANCES - TYL, TX
 NEW LIFE BIBLE BOOK STORE - LV, TX
 NIKK'S BARBER SHOP - LV, TX
 STROMAN'S AUTO PARTS - W.O., TX
 J. O. WILLIAMS MOTORS, INC. - GW, TX

MR. CLARENCE W. BAILEY - LV, TX
 DR. & MRS. JOSEPH BIANCA - LV, TX
 REV. & MRS. GLEN BOYD - LV, TX
 MR. & MRS. R. W. CHRISTIAN - LV, TX
 MS. PATSY R. DARDEN - LV, TX
 MR. E RAY GREENMAN - LV, TX
 MR. ELWOOD RAY HENDERSON - LV, TX
 MS. IDA HICKS - KLG, TX
 MS. ANNE P. MACKENZIE - LV, TX
 CO. COMM. DAVID MCBRIDE - GW, TX
 MR. JIMMY JOE MCKINLEY - LV, TX
 MR. & MRS. RUPERT MOSELEY - LV, TX
 DR. JOHN KEITH PANNELL - W.O., TX
 MR. & MRS. RUDOLPH PHILLIPS - WNA, TX
 MRS. BEVERLY M. ROBERTS - LV, TX
 ELD. & MRS. JOHNNIE SHELTON - TTM, TX
 MR. BELVIN SNODDY - LV, TX
 MR. & MRS. LEO SNODDY, TROY, MI
 MS. NARVA SNODDY - LV, TX
 MR. LORENZA WILLIAMS - MSL, TX
 MS. CORDIA MAE GREEN - LV, TX

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH - LV, TX
 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - LV, TX
 GOD'S WILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - TYL, TX
 HOPEWELL VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH - TYL, TX
 NORTH STAR MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - TYL, TX
 TRUE VINE BAPTIST CHURCH - TYL, TX

***** Members and Friends *****

Head Sheet Metal - LV, TX
 Carol Long - State Farm Ins. - LV, TX
 Manning Realty Co. - LV, TX
 North Oak Grocery - W.O., TX

Mr. Charles F. Banning - GW, TX
 Ms. Vera R. Barnes - DAL, TX
 Ms. Eulene Christian - LV, TX
 Ms. Willie Mae Christian - LV, TX
 Mr. & Mrs. Comoses Davis - LV, TX
 Mr. Horace Green, Jr. - GW, TX
 Ms. Malinda Green - GW, TX
 Mr. Charles Grimmett - W.O., TX
 Ms. Dewey Grimmett - W.O., TX
 Ms. Arie L. Jefferson - GW, TX
 Co. Comm. James Johnson -
 Ms. Mary McCauley - GW, TX
 Ms. Julia D. Moore - GW, TX
 Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Nevels & Family - LV, TX
 Ms. Lillie Pickram - LV, TX
 Mr. Earnest Sanders - W.O., TX
 Ms. Cynthia W. Stephenson - TYL, TX
 Ms. Deborra Tettles - DAL, TX
 Mr. & Mrs. Wenford Wilborn - W.O., TX
 Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Williams - KLG, TX
 Ms. Bernice Christian - LV, TX
 Ms. Ruby L. Wallace - LV, TX

Ms. Billye Allen - LV, TX
 Ms. Ida Mary Allen - GW, TX
 Mr. James Allen - LV, TX
 Ms. Lois Allen - LV, TX
 Ms. Millie Allen & (Dgt) Jeneffier - LV, TX
 Mr. Robert E. Allen - LV, TX
 Ms. Roberta Allen - LV, TX
 Ms. Sherri Y. Allen - IRV, TX
 Ms. Veronica Allen - LV, TX
 Mr. Willie F. Allen, Jr. - LV, TX
 Mr. Issac Anderson - LV, TX
 Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Anderson - LV, TX
 Mr. & Mrs. Norris Anderson - DAL, TX
 Mr. Willie George Anderson - LV, TX

The State of Texas: Know all men by these presents
 County of Shelby & that I A. B. Bryan of above
 named County & State, and in consideration of the
 benefits of Morality & Christianity and by these
 presents: do release and convey unto Geo Jones
 & Aleck Jones Trustees for the Shick Colored
 Church Community, a certain tract or parcel of
 land, situated in Gregg County Texas, and a
 part of the Hedright Survey of Geo Hooper and
 located as follow - Beginning at a stake from
 which a pine tree N 28 1/2 E 5 7/10 Tns. Thence E 160 Tns
 to a stake from which a pine tree N 6 7/8 Tns. Thence
 N 10 5/8 Tns to a stake from which a pine tree N 24 1/2
 E 5 7/8 Tns Thence N 16 8 Tns to a stake from which a
 pine S 6 5/8 Tns 7 5/10 Tns. Thence S 10 5 Tns to the place
 of beginning, containing three acres of land to have
 and to hold free from me my heirs and assigns
 forever, and I hereby warrant and defend the title
 of the same against all persons lawfully
 claiming the same or any part thereof. In testimony
 whereof I hereunto set my seal this 5th day of Nov 1892

A. B. Bryan
 A. H. Bryan

The State of Texas: Before me W. D. White a J. P. & Official Notary Public in
 County of Shelby & for Shelby County Texas, on this day personally appeared
 A. B. Bryan well known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed
 to the instrument on reverse side hereof and acknowledged to me that he
 executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed. Given
 under my hand and seal of office on this 3rd day of November 1892

Seal

W. D. White, a J. P. & Official Notary
 Public in and for Shelby County Texas

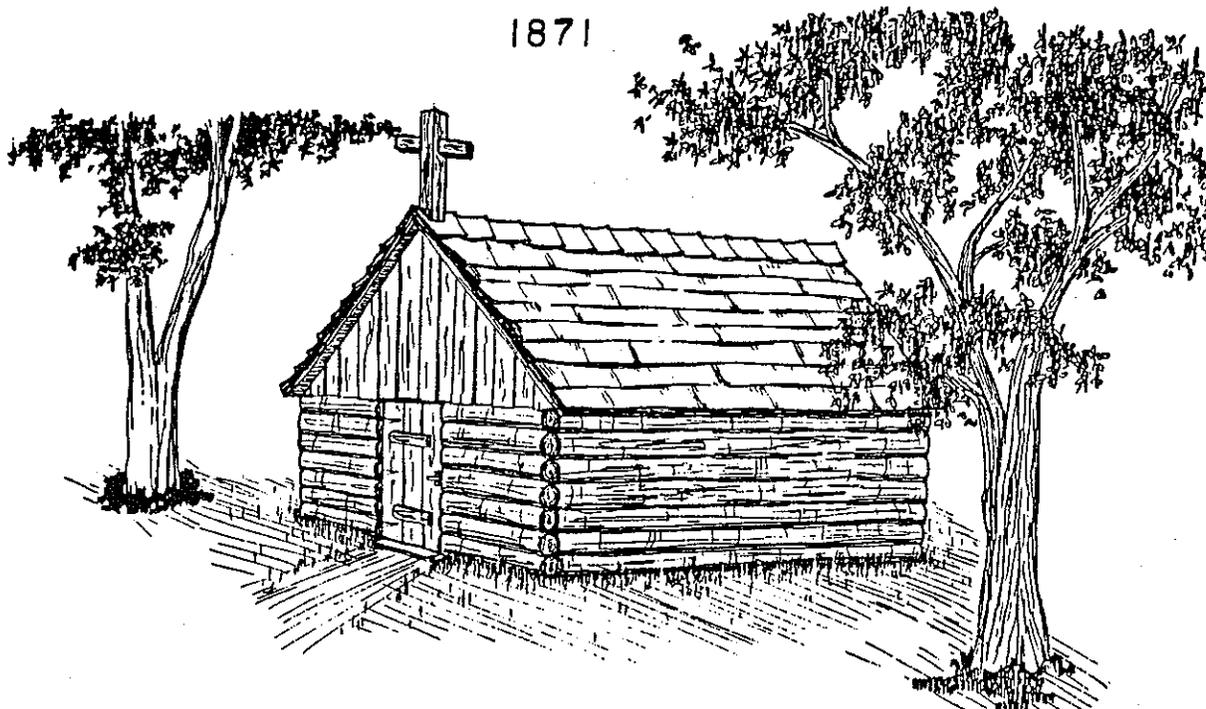
Shiloh Baptist Church

1871 - 1994

"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building"

I Corinthians 3:9

1871



1994



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512)463-6100

April 12, 1993

Narva L. Snoddy
Shiloh Baptist Church
2909 Snoddy Road
Longview, TX 75604

RE: SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH
18" x 28" marker w/ post (Job #29792, Gregg County)

Dear Ms. Snoddy:

This letter is to notify you that the State Marker Review Board has reviewed and approved the above-referenced topic for an Official Texas Historical Marker.

Payment for the marker, in the amount of \$450.00, is now due. Please complete and return the payment form at the bottom of this letter at your earliest convenience. Once payment for the marker is received, the application will be placed in line to have the marker inscription written. The inscription will not be written until after funds have been received. When the text is prepared, a copy will be sent to you and any parties listed below for review and approval.

The Texas Historical Commission congratulates you on your efforts to record and preserve Texas history.

Sincerely,

Frances Rickard
Frances Rickard, Director
Local History Program

pc: Norman W. Black, Gregg CHC

MARKER TITLE _____

COUNTY _____ JOB NUMBER _____ AMT. ENCLOSED _____

Please specify method of payment: Check enclosed Visa Mastercard

Credit Card number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Checks should be made payable to the Texas Historical Commission.

The State Agency for Historic Preservation



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2276

512/463-6100

August 17, 1993

Dr. Norman Black, Chair
Gregg CHC
417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, TX 75602

RE: SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH
18" x 28" marker w/ post
Job # 29792

Dear Dr. Black:

Enclosed is the proposed inscription for the above-referenced marker. (Please note that this is a working copy, including filing and foundry instructions. The right-hand margin, which is uneven in this copy, will be justified on the finished marker.)

Please review and verify the information contained in the inscription. In particular, be sure to check all names and dates, and make certain we have noted the correct marker location. Please contact other sponsors of this application to discuss the wording of this marker. If you approve of the inscription, sign and return your own card. You may retain this inscription for your files.

If you have corrections to make or changes to suggest, please make a copy of the inscription and return it to me with the marked corrections. Please do not type a new version of the inscription; we have style and spacing requirements to consider, and require documentation of any changes (particularly of names and dates) in this draft for our permanent file.

The marker will not be ordered for casting until the county historical commission and other persons or groups listed below have approved the inscription. Again, in order to avoid any unnecessary delays, I encourage you to consult with all parties to determine that all are in accord before returning your card or submitting any suggested changes.

A form for ordering paperweights and other marker-related items is enclosed for your information and convenience. Any order you may wish to place from this form may be made at this time or at any time in the future.

Sincerely,

Ruben E. Ochoa, Historian
Official Texas Historical Markers
Local History Programs

pc: Narva L. Snoddy

Texas Historical Commission Staff (REO), 8/13/93

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Gregg County (Job #29792)

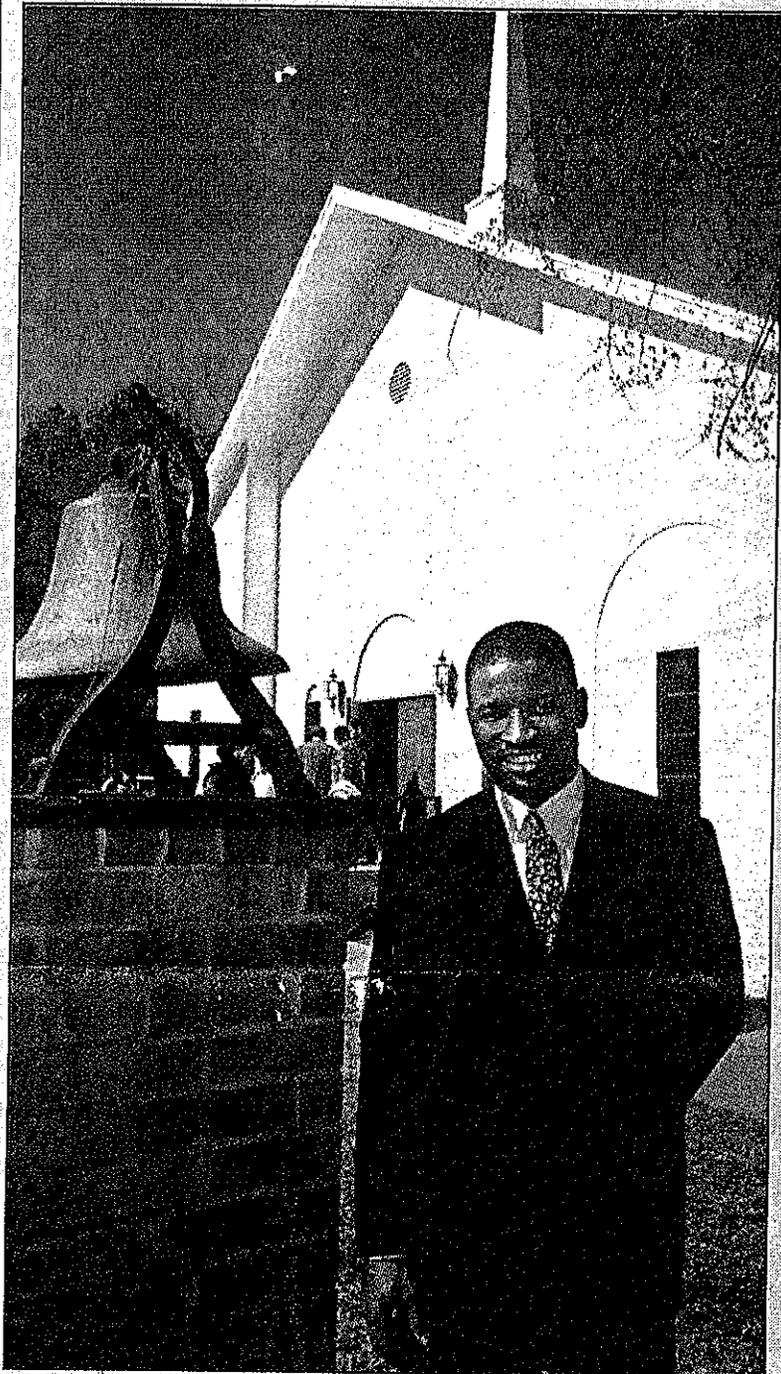
Location: 3.5 mi. N of White Oak on FM 3272 (White Oak Rd.)

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH*

ACCORDING TO LOCAL TRADITION
FORMER SLAVE BUTCHER CHRISTIAN,
HIS FORMER MASTER GID CHRISTIAN,
AND NOTED POST-CIVIL WAR CHURCH
ORGANIZER THE REV. JOHN BAPTIST
ESTABLISHED THIS CHURCH IN 1871.
SERVICES BEGAN IN A LOG SANCTUARY
LOCATED ON 3 ACRES DONATED BY
BUTCHER CHRISTIAN. A SCHOOL FOR
AFRICAN AMERICANS OPERATED THERE
UNTIL ABOUT THE 1890s. AN ADJACENT
CEMETERY, WITH MARKED GRAVES
DATING TO 1882, IS STILL ACTIVE.
REVENUES FROM OIL DISCOVERED ON
CHURCH LAND WERE USED TO BUILD A
NEW SANCTUARY HERE IN 1936. SHILOH
BAPTIST SERVES THE COMMUNITY
WITH A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS.**

(1993)***

*3/4 inch lettering
**1/2 inch lettering
***1/4 inch lettering



By Allen Hensley/chief photographer

Rev. Glen Boyd stands outside Shiloh Baptist Church in northwestern Gregg County after the morning worship services Sunday. The Texas Historical Commission plans to erect a marker at the church this summer recognizing the formation of the church in 1871.

Texas to honor Shiloh Baptist with historical markers

By Angela Martin
Staff Writer

Christians founded the Shiloh Baptist Church just outside of White Oak.

The Texas Historical Commission will erect a

land owner from South Carolina named Gideon Christian.

Gregg County Historical Commission Chairman Dr. Norman Black said he became curious about the all-black

Shiloh Baptist to receive historical markers

From 1A
Christian.

In researching the Shiloh Community, Black found that in 1860, a farmer by the name of Gideon Christian with an estate of about \$30,000, but no land holdings, moved to Northeast Texas bringing with him his family and 32 slaves.

It is possible Christian was attempting to flee turmoil in South Carolina, which was the first state to secede from the Union on Dec. 20, 1860, during the Civil War.

In that day and age, slaves took on the surname of their owners, Black said. Gideon Christian's foreman, a slave named Butcher Christian, was one of 18 males and 14 females, ranging in age from a 71-year-old woman to a 1-year-old girl.

President Abraham Lincoln abolished slavery in the rebel states with the Emancipation Proclamation decree on Jan. 1, 1863, during the Civil War, but the 13th Amendment didn't bring all slavery to an end in America until three years later.

After slavery was abolished, records show that several Christian families became land owners in the Shiloh Community. But, Black said, records do not document whether Gideon Christian divided his property holdings between his freed slaves, or gave Butcher Christian land holdings to divide among the remainder of the newly freed slaves, all named Christian.

Records do show, Black said, that Gideon Christian went in search of, and found the Rev. John Baptist, an

African-American farmer and preacher, who returned to Gregg County and helped the former slaves establish the Shiloh Baptist Church organization in 1871.

"There never were any stores of any size up there, or schools,

or anything that would constitute a town, just a large rural community," Black said.

"In the middle of that, the church was formed."

Baptist later moved to Camp Switch, also in Gregg County, and founded the Center Baptist Church, Black said.

HEADLINE

140006 USPS 294700

061394 D&S

BLACK, DR. NORMAN

417 ROBBERTY AVE

LONGVIEW, TX

75602

8 PAGES, 1 SECTION — 25¢

Gregg Court tables two items during Thursday meeting

By SANDY WARREN

LONGVIEW — Gregg County Commissioners' Court Thursday in regular session tabled two items pertaining either county employees or elected officials until they can be discussed during a workshop session.

Commissioners tabled a resolution regarding sick, vacation and compensation time for county employees. They also tabled requests from Justices of the Peace Virginia Barlow and B.H. Jameson, Precincts 3 and 1, for travel expenses for use of their personal vehicles when conducting county business.

In other business, the court approved the following:

— Directional markers to the Shiloh Baptist Church in Precinct 3, which will be dedicated with a Texas state historical marker May 22. The markers will be set up at FM 1845 and Shiloh Road, East Mountain and Shiloh Roads, Jamerison and Shiloh Roads and White Oak Road to East Mountain Road.

— Lease between Sabine Youth Baseball-Softball Association and the county for

disposal of dirt and debris on 5.176 acres of land in the J.W. Bradshaw Survey Tract.

— The Office Center Inc. in Kilgore was an annual contract for office supplies as the lowest bidder. Other vendors were Edge Office Products, Topp Office Supply and Sav-On Office, all in Longview.

— \$75 increase in Judge Barlow's petty cash fund.

— Acknowledgement of Elections Administrator/Voter Registrar Hatti Owen's 1993-94 election services contract fund budget of \$5,700.

— Needs assessment of a building currently housing human services personnel and halting of a deposition of the building and Lot 24-B until further action is taken.

— Bids for remodelling of community buildings to make them comply with the American Disabilities Act by January 1995. The buildings include Kilgore Community Building, Kilgore South Street Community Building and Liberty City Community Building, all in Precinct 3, and others.

RE NEWS

small city — capital of the E

KILGORE, TEXAS, FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 28, 1994

PROGRAM

PHASE I

MASTER OF CEREMONIES.....Tom Adams
PRELUDE.....Musicians
SCRIPTURE.....Rev. Acie Christian
INVOCATION.....Pastor Glen Boyd
MUSICAL SELECTION.....Shiloh Mass Choir
PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER.....Mrs. Juanita Ragsdale
ADDRESS.....Mrs. E. Hill-Allen
MUSICAL SELECTION.....Shiloh Mass Choir
INTRODUCTION.....Tom Adams
PRESENTATION.....Ms. Narva Snoddy

PHASE II

MASTER OF CEREMONIES.....Dr. Norman Black
INTRODUCTION OF GUEST.....Dr. Norman Black
UNVEILING OF MARKER.....Mrs. Shirley Snoddy
READING OF MARKER.....Mrs. Dorris Adams
BENEDICTION.....Pastor Glen Boyd
or Appointee

"REFRESHMENTS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING IN FELLOWSHIP HALL"

PHASE I, CONTINUED.

INTRODUCTION: (Mr. Adams introduces Dr. Black) "Thank you Mr. Adams. For the next portion of today's program, I would like for all of us to assemble outside at the front of the church for the historical marker dedication."

(Direct the audience to the outside.) Once outside and assembled, begin....

PHASE II.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: (Dr. Black)

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. As a continuation of this wonderful service inside, I would like to welcome you to the dedication of an Official Texas Historical Marker: The Shiloh Baptist Church. This marker is sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission, the Gregg County Historical Commission and, of course, the Shiloh Baptist Church.

The County Historical Commission is an arm of the county government appointed by the County Judge and the Commissioners Court. It is the responsibility of the Historical Commission to protect our county's historical heritage and to cooperate with and encourage others in any activities concerning the preservation of local history.

The histories of Texas and the Baptist Church have been intertwined since the earliest days of the Republic of Texas. It is only fitting that we, today, dedicate a memorial in the form of an Official Texas Historical Marker to this church which has contributed so much to the history of Texas and the Baptist Church.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: (Dr. Black)

We have some guests with us this afternoon and I would like to introduce them at this time: (Dr. Ellie Caston, Director of the Gregg County Historical Museum....Charlotte Black, President of the Gregg County Historical Society and The Reporter of the Historical Commission... (Judge ^{Kenneth J.} Walker, any County Commissioners, Officials, et. al.) "Gregg Co. Commissioner of Pct. 3, - Comm. David McBride and his lovely wife, CHRISTI

UNVEILING OF MARKER: (Mrs. Shirley Snoddy)

Mrs. Shirley Snoddy will now unveil the marker and Mrs. DORRIS ADAMS will read the inscription of the marker..

BENEDICTION: (Pastor Glen Boyd)

The benediction will now be given by The Pastor, Glen Boyd...Rev. Boyd...

ANNOUNCE REFRESHMENT AT THIS TIME. THEN, .."THANK ALL OF YOU FOR COMING!"

(TO BE USED IF IT SEEMS APPROPRIATE AND IF TIME PERMITS)

ON A PERSONAL NOTE:

My father came to Gregg County in the mid 1930s. He was a religious education and choir director of a Baptist Church. He loved music and I remember well his telling me how fine the music was at the Shiloh Baptist Church in the northern part of Gregg County. When I began studying the history of Shiloh a few years ago I saw how much music has been a part of your history. And this afternoon, we heard examples and continuation of the tradition of wonderful music.

APPLICATION FORM
OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

This marker is for (title or subject): Shiloh Baptist Church

Marker location (street address and city, or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map):
Shiloh Road, 1.25 miles west of FM 1845, White Oak, Texas.

County: Gregg

Distance and direction of marker topic from marker site (if applicable):
Fifteen feet from front of building, left side of walk.



APPROVAL OF COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The application and narrative history must be approved by the county historical commission before forwarding to the Texas Historical Commission.

Chair's Signature: Norman H. Black, D.D. Date: 6-13-92

The CHC chair automatically will receive all copies of correspondence regarding this marker project.

PERMISSION OF OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT

Permission for placement of a marker must be obtained by the property owner. Please provide the name of a contact person if the owner is an institution, organization, or public entity. This section need not be completed if the marker is to be placed on right-of-way maintained by the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation.

Name: Tom Adams, Chairman, Trustee

Contact person(if applicable): _____

Mailing address: 116 Adams Road
Longview, TX 75604 Phone: (903) 759-1080

Owner's Signature: Rell E. L. Lockett

Do you wish to receive copies of all correspondence concerning this marker application? Yes No

To whom should the request for payment be addressed?

Name: Shiloh Baptist Church

(Provide contact person if payee is an institution, organization, or public entity.)

Mailing address: Narva L. Snoddy, 2909 Snoddy Road
Longview, Texas 75604 Phone: (903) 759-4567

Does this person wish to receive copies of all other correspondence concerning this application? Yes No

Is there anyone else to whom all correspondence concerning this marker application should be addressed?

(One additional name and address only, please.)

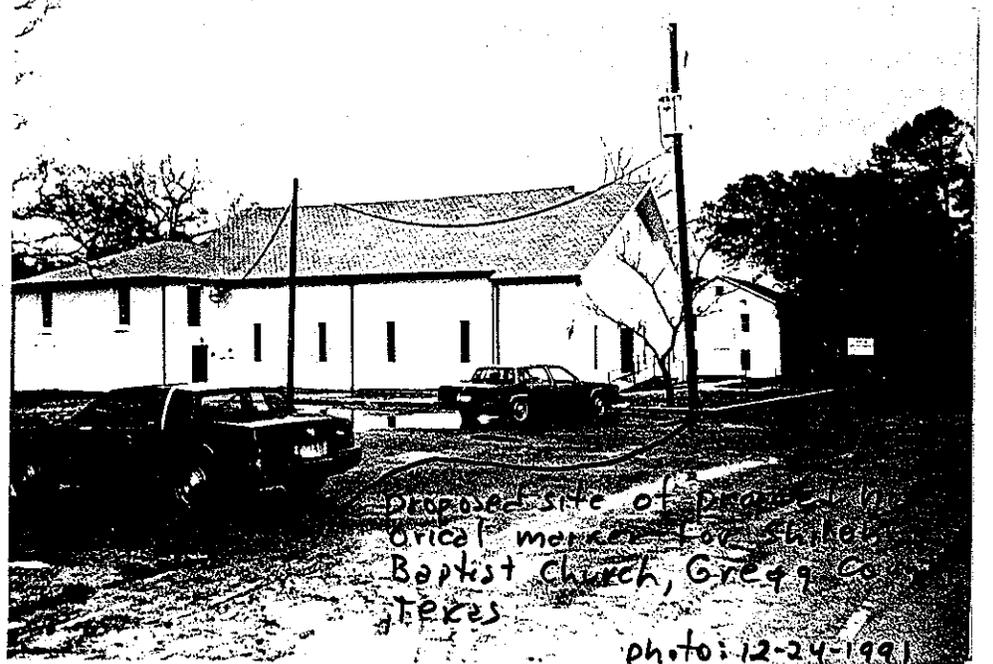
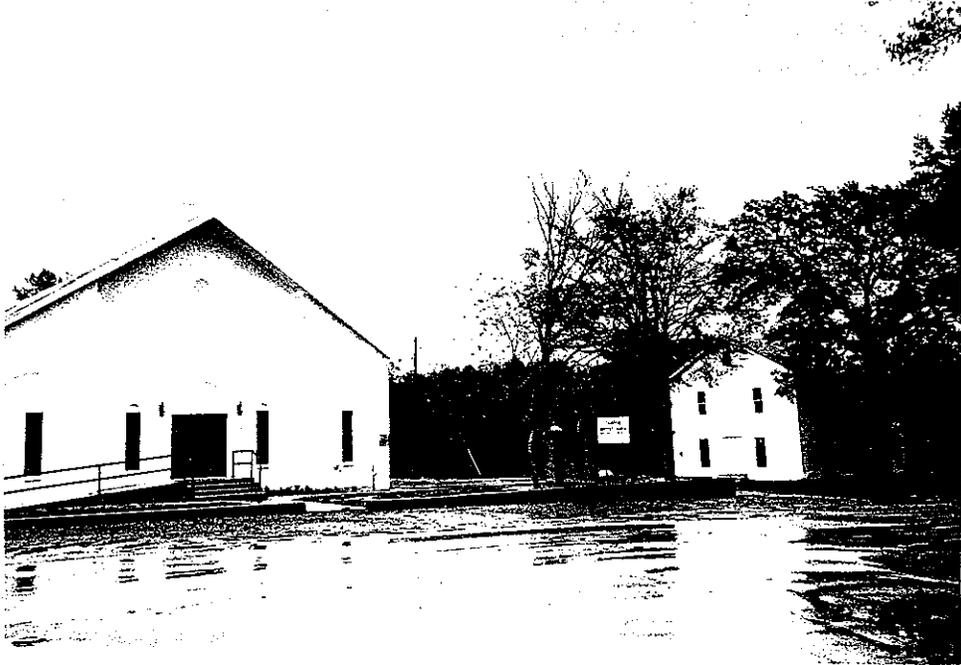
Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____

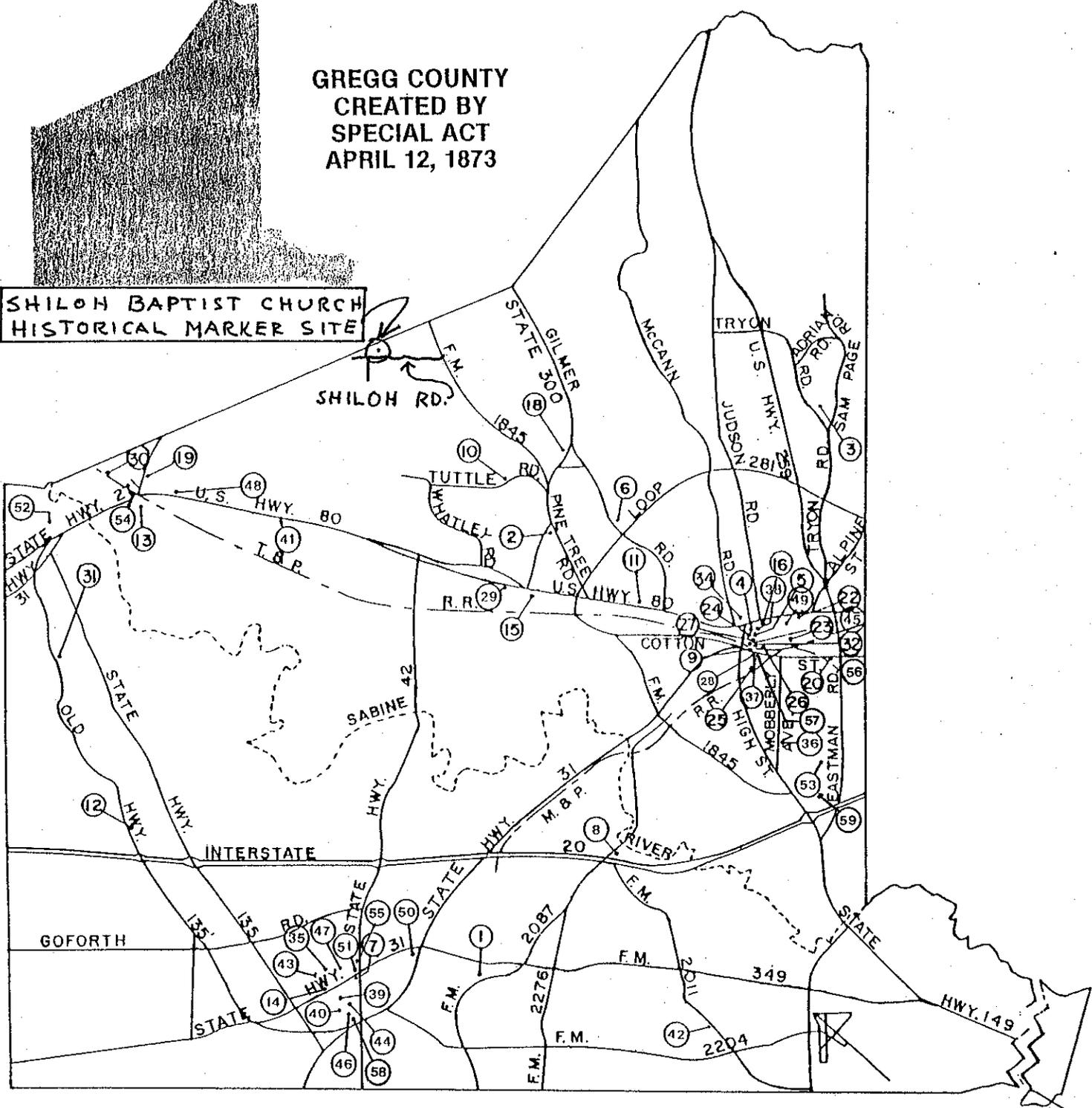
SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, neither post office box numbers nor rural route numbers can be accepted. If the marker is to be placed on the highway right-of-way, it will be shipped directly to the district highway engineer.



**GREGG COUNTY
CREATED BY
SPECIAL ACT
APRIL 12, 1873**

**SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH
HISTORICAL MARKER SITE**



Map prepared by Gordon Ward
and Dr. Norman W. Black

10 mm. = 1 mile (approx)

GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
417 Moberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602
903-757-2261

Mailed 12-14-93



Marker Dedication Announcement

This form may be used to announce your marker dedication in the Texas Historical Commission's newsletter, *The Medallion*; in the THC's marker dedication calendar, which is distributed to agency commissioners and staff; and in the monthly *News for County Historical Commissions*.

To announce your dedication to THC commissioners and staff in the agency's marker dedication calendar, this form needs to be received approximately three weeks prior to the dedication. The announcement will be listed in the next calendar issued after its receipt. To include your announcement in *The Medallion*, please submit this form at least two months before the marker dedication.



Title of Marker SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH

Community or Nearest Town WHITE OAK

County GREGG

Date of Dedication FEBRUARY 6, 1994

Contact Person Dr. Norman W. Black

Address 417 Mobberly Ave.

City, State, and Zip Longview, TX 75602

Area Code and Telephone Number (903) 757-2261

Return this form to:

Local History Programs
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276



(revised 7/93)

Shiloh Baptist Church

Shiloh Road
P. O. Box 150037 - Longview, Texas 75615



March 2, 1994

Dear Christian Friends,

It is our pleasure to invite you to participate in our historical marker dedication and unveiling service on Sunday, May 15, 1994, at 3:00 p.m.

We would be especially honored to include your name on the PATRONS LIST to be included in our Program brochure which will be an integral part of the archival records of the event for use by generations to follow.

We have enclosed a re-print from the February 7, 1994 edition of the Longview News-Journal which further highlights our endeavor.

In addition in lending your name for prosperity, in the midst of the needs all about us, this is a magnificent opportunity to share God's gift, through our scholarship fund and building program, as well as serve one another.

We are looking forward to seeing you at this memorable event.

Again, the date and time is Sunday, May 15, 1994, at 3:00 p.m.

Please fill out the enclosed Fee Schedule and return it with your check made payable to SHILOH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH not later than March 15, 1994, so your name will be included in our brochure.

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Norman Black, Chairman
Gregg County Historical Society

Ms. Narva Snoddy, Chairperson
for Church

Rev. Glen Boyd, Pastor

Enclosures:

1. News re-print
2. Fee schedule

A. B. C. Income
Feb. 1994

A. School
Feb. 6 - \$ 120.45
" 13 - 113.00
" 26 - 120.32
" 27 - 107.04

\$ 460.81

Tithes/Off
\$ 627.56
515.00
521.42

445.65

\$ 2,109.63

Other
18.00 (2/6) Assn. Bldg. Fund
100.00 (2/13) Souvenir Book
52.20 (2/13) Gospel Choir
9.01 (2/18) Brotherhood
25.00 (2/20) Ed. Fund
250.00 (2/20) Souvenir Book
168.36 (2/26) Sr. Choir
200.00 (2/26) Souvenir Book
403.35 (2/27) Black History Program

\$ 1,225.92

Expenses (Feb:94)

Pastoral
2/6 - \$ 90.00
2/13 - 90.00
2/20 - 90.00
2/27 - 90.00
2/27 - 360.00
2/27 - 75.00 - Rev. Assoc

\$ 795.00

Musicians
250.00
250.00 (?)
250.00
250.00 (?)

\$ 1,000.00

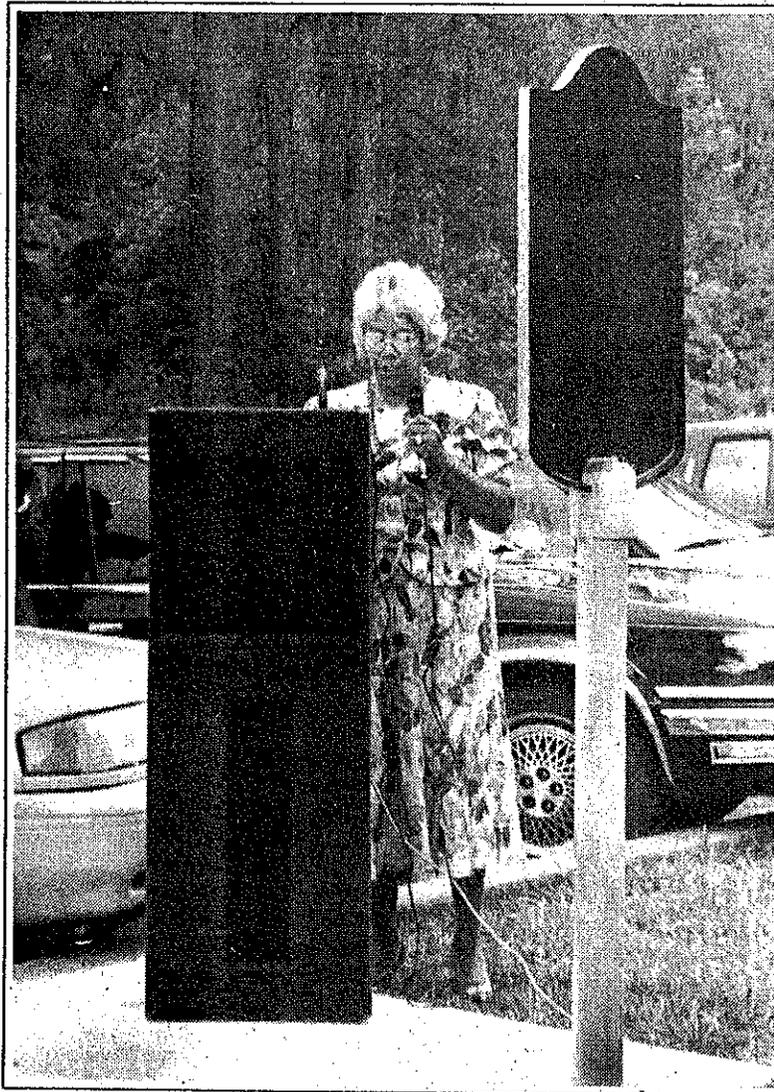
Other
\$ 25.89 (2/1) Muntzman Press (Eun)
5.80 (2/6) Postmaster (BK Stg)
21.46 (2/6) Phone
4.73 (2/6) New Life B. BK Stg
135.00 (2/6) Janitorial
189.29 (2/20) SWEPES

\$ 382.17

Sunday

■ **Pine Tree Elementary Principal LaNell Dowell retirement reception, 2-3:30 Sunday, Pine Tree Elementary School foyer, 815 Birch.**

■ **Historical marker dedication, 3 p.m. Sunday, Shiloh Baptist Church, White Oak. Information: 759-4567.**



DEDICATION — Mrs. Dorris Adams reads the historical marker erected on the Shiloh church grounds honoring its 123 year-old history during dedication ceremonies held last Sunday, May 15.

State historical marker unveiled Sunday at Shiloh Baptist Church

By WINNIE NEWMAN
Independent Managing Editor

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church celebrated the dedication of an official Texas Historical Marker honoring the 123 year-old history of the church and community. The formal services were held last Sunday, May 15 at 3 p.m.

Officials with the Gregg County Historical Commission were on hand for the ceremonies.

Shiloh Baptist Church was organized by the Rev. John Baptist in 1871 for members of the Christian families, former slaves who eventually became land owners and established the Shiloh Community.

After a welcome from master of ceremonies Tom Adams, members of the Shiloh Mass Choir opened with song. A scripture was then read by the Rev. Acle Christian followed by the invocation given by Shiloh pastor Glen Boyd. Church member Juanita Ragsdale introduced the guest speaker of the afternoon, Eulala Hill-Allen. She is a former educator with Gladewater ISD and is still active in educational programs, both local and statewide.

Mrs. Hill-Allen spoke of the families who began the Shiloh Church 123 years ago and said that the bonding of the black community has been rewarded through a strong church boasting of 11 ministers and 15 deacons throughout its history. "We are strong for we have learned the tools of survival from our forefathers," she said.

Talking about struggles of today including the loss of the family unit, violence and drugs, she said, "We cannot afford to loose

our children. Gun violence has not only changed our schools but the history of our children. Our youth need strong role models. Those role models should be Christians, parents, teachers and preachers."

Hill-Allen continued by saying "To see good put in action is what everybody needs. If we care enough for our children and our elderly we can be the bridge over troubled waters."

"Shiloh has given us a legacy that we can pass on to future generations," she concluded.

Narva Snoddy recognized those who contributed to the placement of the historical marker and helped to obtain a history of the Shiloh Church and its community. Each was presented with a certificate of appreciation.

Dr. Norman Black, chairman of the Gregg County Historical Committee, was instrumental in helping record the history of the Shiloh community and church leading to the erection of the historical marker. He was introduced, then Shirley Snoddy unveiled the marker and Dorris Adams read the inscription.

After benediction was given by Rev. Glen Boyd, church members and guests were served refreshments while socializing in the fellowship hall.

Members of the Shiloh Baptist Church Historical Committee include Narva Snoddy, Dorris Adams, Tom Adams, Juanita Ragsdale and Shirley Snoddy.

The White Oak Independent

50¢

August 8, 1996

Vol. VII, No. 26

One Section This Week

Offices at 201-B Hwy. 80 East

P.O. Box 445; White Oak TX 75693

Phone (903) 759-4410

Historian traces origin of Shiloh community

By WINNIE NEWMAN
Independent Managing Editor

[Ed. Note — This is the first of a two-part series on the Shiloh and Fredonia communities of Gregg County.]

Dr. Norman Black was guest speaker at the Community Club of White Oak's last meeting held Tuesday, July 16. He presented a talk on the Shiloh Community of White Oak. Dr. Black is chairman of the Gregg County Historical Commission, an arm of Texas government dedicated to preserving county historical heritage. The Gregg County commission presently has 20 members from all parts of Gregg County.

Dr. Black opened his talk by explaining that the first "industries" in Texas were hunting and trapping. Although evidence of habitation goes back 10 to 12 thousand years, true farming really didn't exist until the 1300s when the Caddo Indians had developed a pretty sophisticated system of farming.

By 1821 Stephen F. Austin had received a grant from Mexico to move in 300 families to settle in the area to farm and clear land. The land which is now Gregg County was not as suitable for settling and farming as in other areas in almost all directions because of the presence of Indians and the lack of colonial organization as was had in central Texas settlements.

Dr. Black also attributed the steep hill-

sides, forests and swamps as deterrents as well as malaria that existed well into this century. That disease in itself discouraged early white settlers. White people's diseases wiped out the Caddos who, it is supposed, had no resistance to white man's diseases.

The diseases did not seem to affect the Cherokees as much though, "no doubt because the Cherokees had been living with or in close proximity to the whites for over 200 years," Dr. Black explained.

Early Indian Villages

"There were two Indian villages that were what is now present day Gregg County. The Big Head Village at Gum Springs which is believed to have been located to the side of where the old Danville Church had been built is shown to have existed on 1850 maps. The church burned not too many years ago. The other was the little known village of Rabbit Village situated on Rabbit Creek."

Adventurous souls like John Walling, who probably came here in 1829, established Walling's Ferry, also known as the community of Camden. It is believed that Sam Houston spent the night of Dec. 10, 1832 in this community. After the fall of the Alamo in 1836 many central Texas families fled in what was known as the "Runaway Scrape" but since there were very few whites living in this area not much changed. One of the settlers, Mirabeau B. Lamar hated the Indians and succeeded in driving the highly



Dr. Norman Black

civilized Cherokees out of Texas in 1939, supposedly removing one of the obstacles to settlement in the area.

In the next few years people began moving into the area and Camden became a thriving town. James Earp came and established the town of Earpville; Isaac Moody, had already settled at Cherokee Trace, where

West Mountain is, and was joined by many others by 1844. The present Gregg County began to be sprinkled by many communities in the 1840s such as Rock Spring (whose one-room school house still stands as probably the oldest structure in the area), New Danville, Pine Tree among others.

Gideon Christian

Sometime in the 1850s a man by the name of Gideon Christian came to Texas. He was born in 1830 in South Carolina. He brought with him his wife and 30 slaves. The 1860 census listed 32 slaves but at least one was known to have been born in Texas.

"When I was trying to learn a little about the reason for such a rather large black community as Shiloh, I discovered a large number of people with surnames of Christian. I envisioned there once must have been a large plantation home much like those around Caddo Lake or even Tara (from Gone with the Wind). This was not the case, however," Dr. Black said.

It is known that Carrie Christian, Gideon's wife, was born in Georgia in 1840. It seems doubtful that she married Gideon before she was 15 years old but assuming she was 15 at the time they arrived in Texas the year would have been 1855. Therefore Dr. Black gives the date of the beginning of the Shiloh Community circa 1855 or '56 according to

See SHILOH on page 10

Shiloh

Continued from page 1
various sources referenced.

Their oldest child, Charles, was born in Texas and was three years old at the time of the 1860 census. About this time in 1860 the Christians also had a six-month-old daughter. Although no real estate was declared Gideon's worth was valued at \$30,000. At this time he had 34 slaves, the oldest, Sallie, being 71-years-old and a one-year-old baby girl.

According to records there were 18 males and 14 females. Thirteen of the males were between the ages of seven and 25 years. Four of these slaves were mulatto; the remainder were black. There were seven slave homes provided.

Two Households

In 1860 there were two heads of households named Christian. In addition to Gideon there was a James Christian who was a native of Georgia. "These people came from several different southern states and were undoubtedly related one way or another," said Dr. Black. He was a 39-year-old farmer

with land valued at \$3,520 and personal property at \$13,000. James' wife, Margaret, was 29-years-old and their six-year-old son were both born in Georgia.

"James Christian did not have any slaves which makes one wonder what personal property did he own that was worth \$13,000," commented Black. "Neither do I understand what Gideon had that was worth \$30,000. He must have been fairly wealthy at a young age to be able to come in with the number of slaves that he had and be able to build the houses that he did."

Of interest separating the two families is the fact that James' family received mail through the Pittsburg Post office and Gideon's family received mail through the Pine Tree Post Office.

By 1870 there were several families with the Christian surname living in a part of Upshur County that later became Gregg County. Nine of these were consecutively numbered in the order of visitation for the census and they received their mail out of the Coffeeville Post Office. Five of the heads of households were black,

two were mulatto and two were white. Gideon Christian's family was #360 on the census.

Butcher Christian

Family #359 was Butcher Christian, a 32-year-old black born in Alabama. He was a farmer with a wife and five children. It is not sure whether he took the Christian name after he came to Texas or if he had it in Alabama but it is felt that there is a definite connection of family.

Another such family was C. Christian, a 28-year-old black laborer. He, too, was born in Alabama, he 20-year-old wife, Angeline, was born in Georgia. Salley Christian, an 80-year-old black female was born in South Carolina, she lived with them and their two-year-old daughter. This family received their mail out of the Pittsburg Post Office and were shown as Household #418 on the census.

The C. Christian family's nearest neighbor who lived next door to Christian was Household #419, the residence of John Baptist, a 39-year-old mulatto minister, born in Virginia. His wife, Ellen, was a 33-year-old native of Georgia. They

were the parents of four children ranging in ages from 5 to 17. The three oldest children were born in Georgia and the youngest in Texas.

Church Established

Gideon Christian entered into some arrangement with John Baptist to aid the people of this Shiloh Community thus the formation of the Shiloh Baptist Church. It is not known how the name of Shiloh came about when organizing the Shiloh Baptist church but it was, indeed, the heart of the Shiloh Community. It is known that John Baptist had lived in Liberty County at one time but it is not known when he moved to this area. Baptist also is known to have organized the Center Baptist Church in the Camp Switch Community.

No deed record could be found for a land transfer from Gideon Christian to Butcher Christian. This could possibly be due to the fact that on Oct. 25, 1888 the Upshur County Courthouse in Gilmer was destroyed by fire consuming all records and documents. A few exceptions survived, those were papers placed in a then recently built fire-proof vault but no references to the Shiloh Community were found.

Unfortunately no records of any businesses or stores have ever been discovered and there is no other information available as to the heritage of the Shiloh Community and very little information is known about the historical Shiloh School which burned a few years ago.

[Editor's Note: If you have any information whatsoever on the Shiloh Community or any of the above mentioned people or other persons or information relevant to the forming of the Shiloh Community, please contact Dr. Norman Black at the Gregg County Historical Commission or Winnie Newman at this newspaper.]

Making White Oak... Our Hometown...

Narva Snoddy – Citizen of the Month

Shiloh Baptist Church is happy to nominate Narva Snoddy as White Oak State Bank's Citizen of the Month for October.

Narva is retired as a classroom teacher with the Longview Independent School District, but she remains firmly committed to education both in her church and as an active tutor with the Longview Literacy Council. She served as a Sunday school teacher with the Primary Class for many years, and remains a member of the Davis Allen Circle at Shiloh. She is also a member of Sigma Gamma Rho sorority and the NAACP.

Her other activities at Shiloh include service as the church treasurer, historian and reporter, as well a president of the Senior Choir.

As activity coordinator for the Shiloh Missionary Society, Narva provides services and goods for Cleaver Memorial Nursing Home. She is an active supporter of the Food Share Program and the Mission Outreach Program, and is also chairman of the Committee for the Historical Marker at Shiloh Baptist Church.



NARVA SNODDY
White Oak
says "Thanks!"



YOU CAN BANK ON US

White Oak State Bank

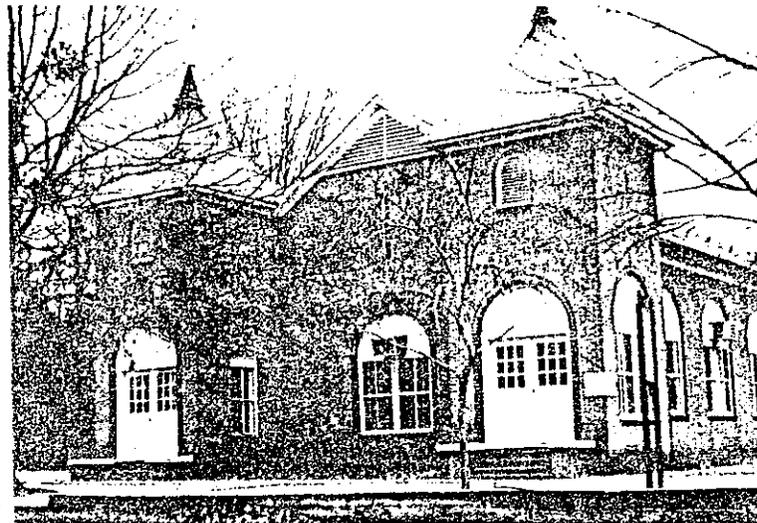
1101 South White Oak Road • 759-3836 • Member FDIC

Shiloh Baptist Church

Longview, Texas

Pastor, Rev. E. L. Lockett

Before:



After:



SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH

OFFICERS:

Rev. E. L. Lockett..... Pastor
Wayne L. Snoddy.....Chrm. Deacon Board
Shirley Snoddy..... Clerk
Wayne L. Snoddy..... Financial Secretary
Narva L. Snoddy..... Treasurer

DEACONS:

Wayne L. Snoddy, Ike Thomas - in training

TRUSTEES:

Ike Thomas..... President
Tom Adams.....Vice-President

Members - Belvin Snoddy, Otis Ragsdale

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS AND TEACHERS:

Superintendent Wayne L. Snoddy
Asst. Superintendent Ike Thomas, Jr.
Secretary..... Brandy Snoddy
Asst. Secretary..... Mesha Christian
Men's Class..... Otis Ragsdale
Women's Class Willie Lockett
Young Adults..... Fern Christian
Sr. High Class..... Linda Snoddy
Jr. High Class..... Barbara Thomas
Juniors..... Gloria Roberson
Primary..... Linda Moseley
Beginners..... Narva Snoddy

USHER BOARD:

Helen Crain..... Sr. President
Shirley Snoddy..... Vice-President
M.J. Ragsdale..... Sec.-Treasurer
Shirley Snoddy..... Junior Ushers

MISSIONARY SOCIETY:

Barbara Thomas..... President
M.J. Ragsdale..... Vice-President
Shirley Snoddy..... Sec.-Treasurer

SENIOR CHOIR:

Fern Christian..... President
Belvin Snoddy..... Vice-President
Barbara Thmomas..... Sec.-Treasurer

MALE CHORUS - BROTHERHOOD:

Ike Thomas, Sr..... President
..... Vice-President
Belvin Snoddy..... Sec.-Treasurer

GOSPEL CHORUS:

Tonya Moseley..... President
..... Vice-President
..... Sec.-Treasurer

MASS CHOIR:

Beverly Roberts..... President
Majorie Thomas..... Vice-President
Mesha Christian..... Sec.-Treasurer

YOUTH COMMITTEE:

Linda Snoddy..... Director
Linda Moseley..... Asst. Director

HISTORY OF SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH

Compiled By:

Dorris Adams, Mildred Ragsdale, and Narva Snoddy

The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln, January 1, 186~~5~~¹. It had been only 8 years ¹⁸⁶³ since the Emancipation Proclamation when Shiloh Baptist Church was organized.

There were many problems. Blacks who had been slaves became a free people. They were starting a new way of life. They were glad to be free but, many did not have jobs or a place to live. Just out of slavery most Blacks had not learned to read or write in this small rural community of Gregg County.

Later the new government agency "The Freedmans Bureau" was set up to help the freed slaves. Schools were set up where they could learn to read and write. ² Many years later, Gregg County, then the White Oak School System³ provided separate educational facilities for Blacks.

¹ Nannie H. Burroughs Publications. Mattie A. Robinson, Editor-in-Chief: The Worker. Washington, D.C.: Black History Calendar, p.10.

² Elbow, G. S., McDonald, A. P., Metzger, M. G., Rocha, R.,: Texas Yesterday and Today. Dallas: Silver, Burdett and Ginn. P.170.

³ McWhorter, Eugene H., : Traditions of the Land. Longview: Gregg County Historical Foundation, 1989. P.50.

with the Baptist Doctrine as established by Roger Williams, members of the church committed themselves to be one of several rural Black churches to organize.⁹ With the help of his former slave master, Gid Christian, and Butcher Christian, located a minister, Rev. John Baptist,¹⁰ who organized Shiloh Baptist Church in 1871.

Charter Members of the Church were: Butcher and Chaney Christian, Alex Jones and Wife, Anthony Allen and Wife, Hulda Christian, George and Callie Jones, Simon and Katherine Boyd, A Mr. Wilhite and Wife Ollie, a Mr. Wilson, Randell and Rebecca Christian, June Castleberry,¹¹ and Ike Anderson and Wife.

Butcher Christian gave 3 acres of land on which the first building was made. It was a small windowless log cabin structure about 25 x 40 feet in size.¹² The building was located south of the present church near the Clarence Davis farm, according to Brady Jones, a descendent of one

8

Hiscox, Edward T., D.D. The Standard Manual for Baptist Churches. Philadelphia: The American Baptist Publication Society, 1951. p.169.

9

McWhorter, Ibid. p.50.

10

McWhorter, Ibid. p.50.

11

Heirs of Charter Members: Allen, William (Bill), Christian, Zora; Jones, Maurice; Jones, Brady; Jones, Muriel. History of Shiloh Baptist Church. (As told by Heirs of Charter Members). Unpublished. Longview: February 1992. p.1-2.

12

McWhorter, Ibid. p.50.

frame building about 60 feet long and 40 feet wide was constructed. It had gable ends and a steeple tower. The building, facing Shiloh Road, was built near where the present church now stands replacing the log cabin structure.¹⁷ The exact dates for the above buildings are unavailable because records, which were kept in the home of E. E. Anderson,¹⁸ the church clerk, were lost in a fire.

Rev. John Baptist was the first Pastor of the church. Twenty five Pastors have served since. Specific accomplishments of Pastors prior to Rev. J. E. Campbell are not noted because the records are not available.¹⁹

In 1936, during the Pastorage of Rev. J. E. Campbell, a white brick building was built on the present location.²⁰ It was remodeled during Rev. H. W. Gray's Pastorage in 1949, with red bricks.²¹ During the tenure of Rev. R. C. Christian in 1970, the edifice was repaired and redecorated. A new church Cemetary was planned and constructed on

17

Heirs of Charter Members, Ibid. p.1.

18

Snoddy, Narva L., A Brief History of Shiloh Baptist Church.
(Compiled from Church Records and as told by the late Sr.
Deacons George Allen and Aubrey Green). CENTENNIAL BULLETIN.
Published, Alto, Texas, 1971. p.1-2.

19

Snoddy, Narva L., Ibid. p.1, p.3.

20

Cornerstone of Shiloh Baptist Church, Front of Church, Front East-side. Rev. J.E. Campbell, Pastor, 1936.

21

Cornerstone of Shiloh Baptist Church, Front of Church, West side.
Rev. H. W. Gray, Pastor, 1949.

the Brotherhood, Sunday School, Benevolent, Missionary, Music and
25
Youth Departments.

Baptizing was held at the climax of Revivals, on a Sunday, called
"The Big Day". Members who had joined the church were baptized in a
creek or near by pond in a very sacred service. Later that day the
Right Hand of Fellowship was given to the new converts by the entire
congregation. Today, this service is done in the Sanctuary of the
26
Church in the newly installed baptistry.

An activity which has was and is thoroughly enjoyed is the Feast
Together, called "Dinner on the Ground". In the early church the
people bought their food and spread it on quilts on the ground, sat and
27
relaxed with friends as large quantities of food was consumed. This
practice is done today under the direction of a Food Committee and
served in a modern dining facility. At the close of Revivals and
"Juneteenth" (June 19, 1865, the date of the announcement in the South
28
that slavery had ended) were good examples of when "Dinner on the
Ground" was held.

Shiloh Baptist Church has been and continues to be deeply involved
in Community and Civic affairs. If there was a need, it had only to be
made known and Shiloh came to the rescue. Needed items have been

25
Snoddy, Shirley, Ibid. 1991.

26
Heirs of Charter Members. Ibid. p.2.

27
Sponsored by Longview Chamber of Commerce, Ibid. p.26.

28
Elbow, G.S., ET AL. Ibid. p.171.

services of the District, Texas and Louisiana Association, National
 Baptist Sunday School and Training Union Congress, National Baptist
 Convention U.S.A., Inc.; and during their existence, the Shiloh School;
 The Dixon Colored Nursing Home of Gilmer, Texas; and Bishop College of
 Marshall and later of Dallas, Texas.

Currently, Shiloh is striving to make a greater contribution to the community and the world. There was a time when the church served as the public school in addition to promoting spiritual growth, but today, public schooling is available through the White Oak Independent School District. The church continues support of education by purchasing school supplies and clothing, and providing tutoring for those in need. Scholarships are given to high school graduates who anticipate

33

Gibson, Clara, Secretary: Christian, Rev. R. C., Moderator. The Texas and Louisiana Baptist Association; District Board #3 Minutes. Gladewater, Texas. 1992. p.149.

34

Walker, O. L., Secretary: Todd, Rev. Paul A., Moderator. The Texas and Louisiana Baptist Association. Financial Records. Marshall, Texas. 1991. p.203.

35

Estell, Mrs. Bessie, Secretary: National Baptist Sunday School and Training Union Congress. Auxiliary to the N.B.C., U.S.A., Inc. Minutes. Dallas, Texas. 1973. p.210.

36

Jemison, T. J., Secretary: Jackson, Dr. J. H., President. National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc.. Financial Records, Annual Session, Cleveland, Ohio, 1971. p.205. Houston, Texas, 1977. p.240. New Orleans, Louisiana, 1978. p.442.

37

Snoddy, Linda. Ibid. p.146.

3 Bryan
 Grant
 Begett
 Jones & Co
 Trustees
 9403

The State of Texas Know all men by these presents
 County of Shelby & that A. B. Bryan of above
 named County & State, and in consideration of the
 benefits of Morality & Christianity and by these
 presents do release and convey unto Geo Jones
 & Aleck Jones Trustees for the School Colored
 Church Community, a certain tract or parcel of
 land, situated in Gregg County Texas, and a
 part of the straight survey of Geo. H. H. H. and
 described as follows - Beginning at a stake from
 which a line brs S 28 1/2 E 5 7/10 Tr. Thence E 160 Tr
 to a stake from which a line brs N 6 Tr. Thence
 N 105 Tr to a stake from which a line brs 24 1/2
 E 3 1/10 Tr Thence N 165 Tr to a stake from which a
 line S 65 1/2 W 5 1/10 Tr. Thence S 105 Tr to the place
 of beginning, containing three acres of land to have
 and to hold free from me my heirs and assigns
 forever, and I hereby warrant and defend the title
 of the same against all persons lawfully
 claiming the same or any part thereof. In testimony
 whereof I hereunto set my seal this 5th day of Nov 1892

A. B. Bryan
 A. H. Bryan

The State of Texas Before me W. D. White a J. P. & officio Notary Public in
 County of Shelby & for Shelby County Texas, on this day personally appeared
 A. B. Bryan well known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed
 to the instrument on reverse side hereof and acknowledged to me that he
 executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed. Given
 under my hand and seal of office on this 3rd day of November 1892

(Seal)

W. D. White, a J. P. & officio Notary
 Public in and for Shelby County Texas

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH
Prepared for

THE CENTENNIAL SOUVENIR BOOKLET

November, 1971

INTRODUCTION:

It was a distinct honor to be asked to compile the history of the Shiloh Baptist Church. It was also a challenge, since records before 1936 were lost in a fire that destroyed the home (where the records were kept) of the late Deacon and Recording Secretary, E. E. Anderson. Therefore much information that was given prior to 1936 was from memory of elderly people in the community, may conflict. The late Senior Deacons, George Allen and Aubrey Green, seemed most knowledgeable and helpful in providing information.

Narva L. Snoddy

Shiloh Baptist Church, located 8 miles northwest of Longview, Texas, was organized by Rev. John Baptist in 1871. It has grown from a small log cabin near the present Lodge Hall to a neat box-type frame building where the present church now stands. (Dates for the buildings are not available). In 1936, a white brick building was built on the present location while Rev. J. E. Campbell was Pastor. It was remodelled during Rev. H. W. Gray's pastorage with red bricks. The edifice was repaired and redecorated in 1970.

The church grew in grace and worth steadily for several years with the blessings of the oil discovery on church property. It increased

petuation of District, State and National life of the Baptist Church. It has supported many of the early church projects, such as, The Texas and Louisiana Baptist Association; The Dixon Colored Nursing Home (at Gilmer, Texas); Bishop College, formerly of Marshall, Texas, but now at Dallas, Texas; Foreign Mission; Sunday School Congress; and the National Baptist Convention.

The following Pastors have served the church: Rev. John Baptist was the first. He was credited in organizing the church in 1871. Other Pastors who served were, (accomplishments and dates for term of service were not available, hence they may not be in the order in which they served). Revs. Butcher Christian, Peter Fields, R. T. Taylor, I. S. Stephens, R. R. Barnes, M. J. Walker, Dr. A. T. Steward, W. M. Hill, J. J. Fleming, A. B. Howard, S. H. Howard, R. T. Harris, Rev. Doan, Rev. Daniel, W. M. Bolden, L. L. Lemons, Rev. Whiten, and Rev. Davis Allen, Assistant Pastor.

<u>Other Pastors</u>	<u>Called to Serve</u>	<u>Accomplishments</u>
Rev. J. E. Campbell	1935	Built the white brick church.
Rev. H. W. Gray	1939	Remodeled church, using red brick.
Rev. C. C. Colquit	1951	
Rev. M. A. Coleman	1953	
Rev. R. C. Christian	1967	Repaired and redecorated the church.

Deacons who served the church during the time the brick edifice (1936) was being built and whose names appear on the Corner Stone in-

HISTORY OF SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH

as told by

Heirs of Charter Members

William (Bill) Allen, Zora Christian, Maurice Jones,

Brady Jones, and Muriel Jones

Gid Christian, a slave master, gave land which was used for church purposes. Later, after the Civil War, (1871) the church was organized by Rev. John Baptist.

The following people were charter members: Butcher and Chaney Christian, Alex Jones and Wife, Anthony Allen and Wife, Hulda Christian, George and Callie Jones, Simon and Katherine Boyd, A Mr. Wilhite and Wife Ollie, A Mr. Wilson, Randall and Rebecca Christian, June Castleberry and Ike Anderson and Wife.

Butcher Christian gave three acres of Land on which the first church was built. It was a small one room log cabin, located south of the present church location near the Clarence Davis farm.

Later, A. B. Bryan gave the church 3 acres of land joining the old cemetery where a small neat box-type frame building was built near the church's present location. It had a belfry tower in the front which faced the road. The pulpit was at the north end and a choir loft on each side of the pulpit, a single isle and a seating capacity of a bout 100 people.

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Cornerstone. Shiloh Baptist Church, Front of Church, East
Side. Rev. J.E. Campbell, Pastor.1936.

Cornerstone. Shiloh Baptist Church, Front of Church, West
Side. Rev. H.W. Gray, Pastor. 1949.

Letters

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