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INVENTORY OF THE CHURCH ARCHIVES
OF FLORIDA

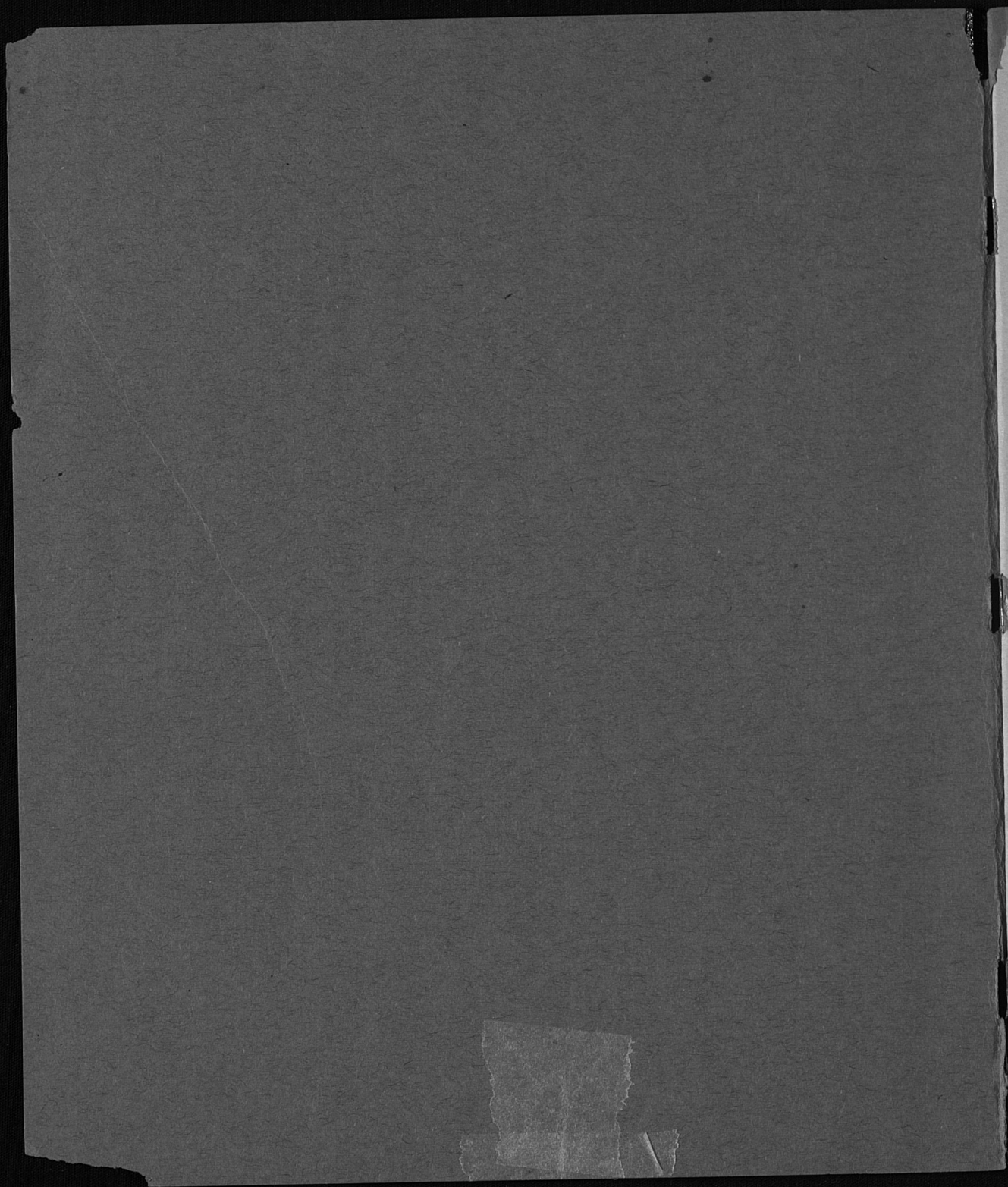
BAPTIST BODIES

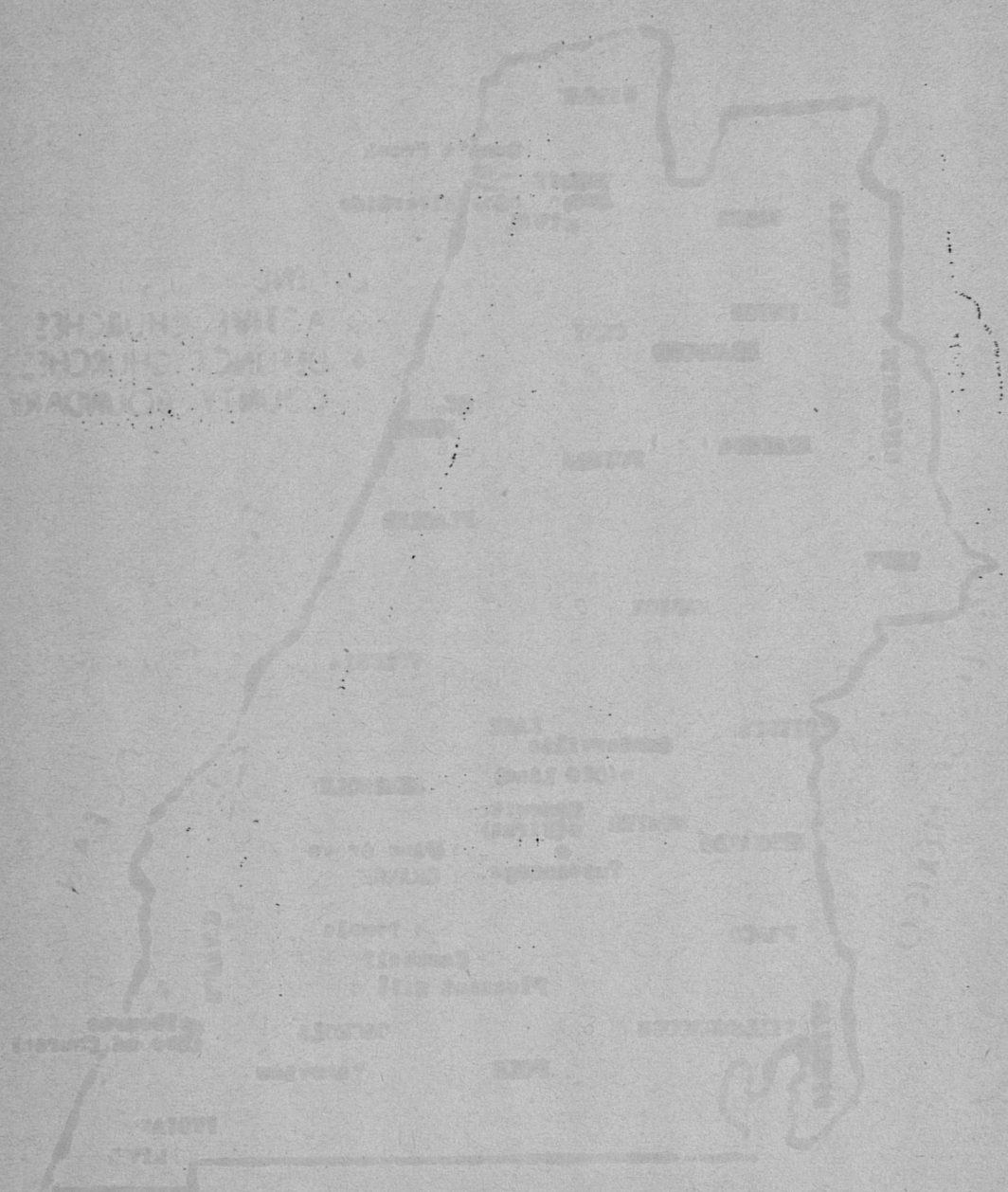
Florida State Association Of Old Line Baptist,
Composed Of Missionary Baptist Churches

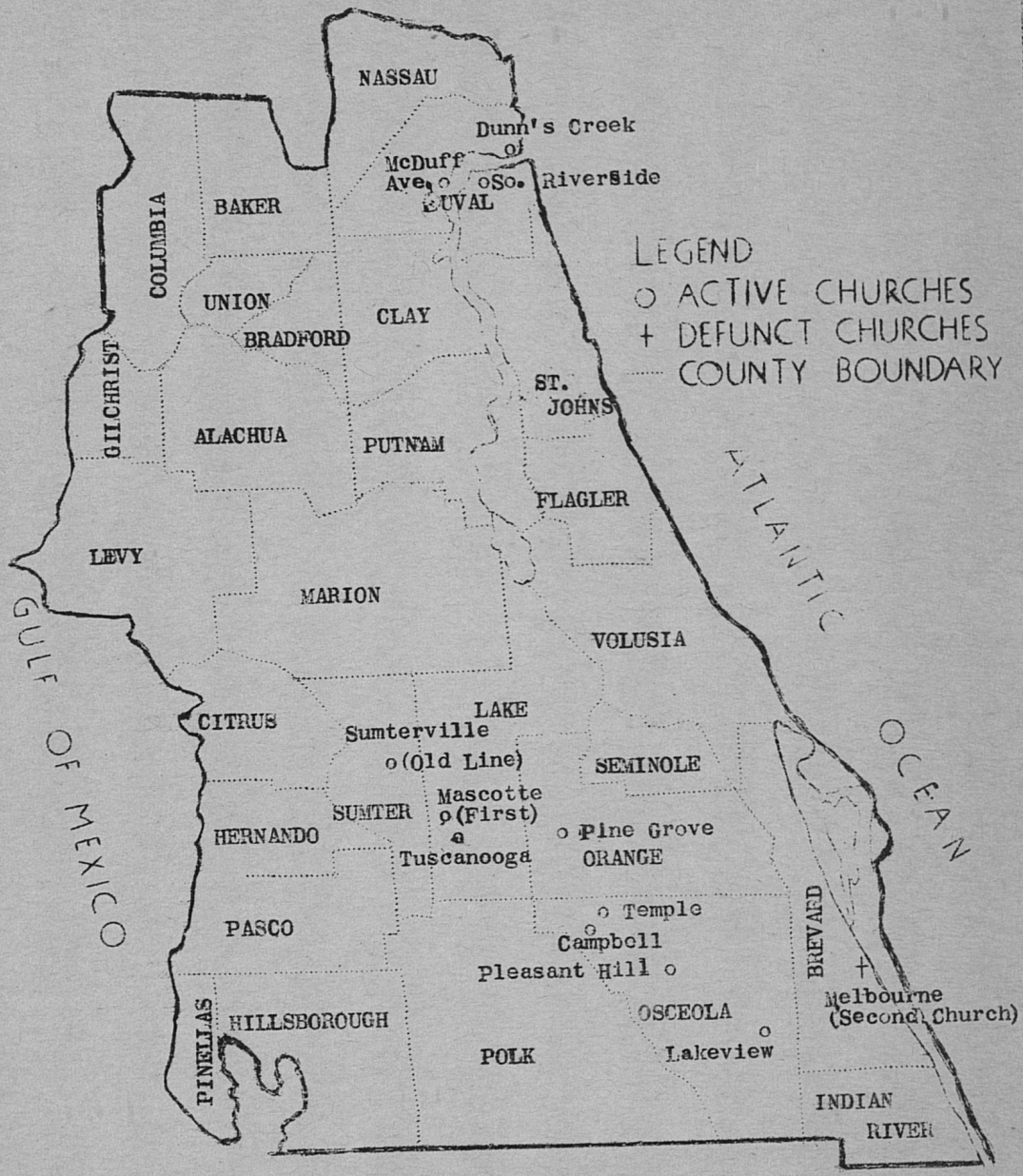
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION

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OLD LINE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

INVENTORY OF THE CHURCH ARCHIVES
of Florida

Prepared by
The Historical Records Survey
Division of Professional and Service Projects
Work Projects Administration

BAPTIST BODIES
FLORIDA STATE ASSOCIATION OF OLD LINE BAPTIST,
COMPOSED OF MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCHES

State Library Board
Tallahassee, Florida
July 1940

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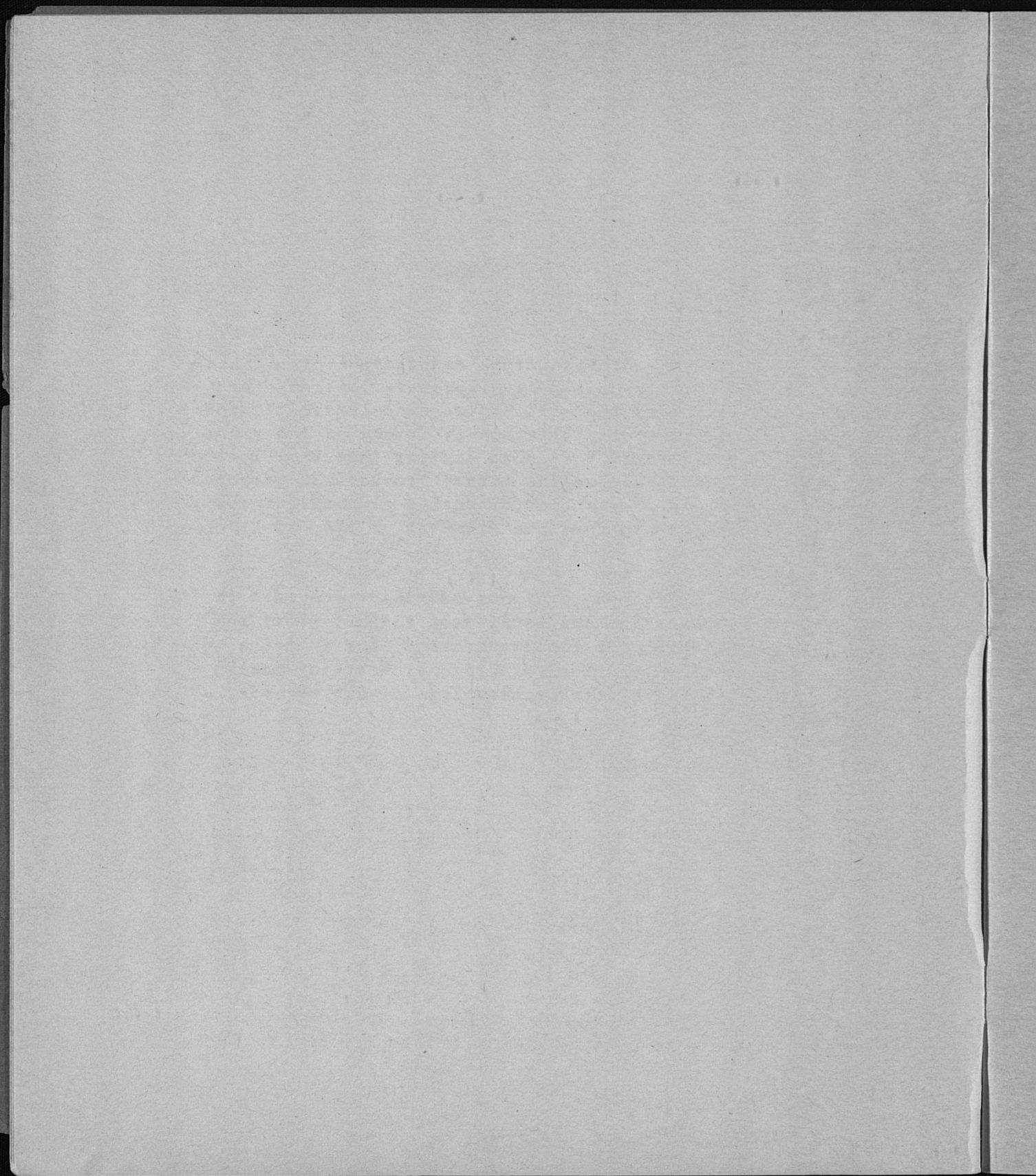
FOREWORD

The Florida State Association of Old Line Baptist composed of Missionary Baptist Churches is one of the more active denominational groups in the state, although it is one of the youngest. It is therefore fitting that the Florida Historical Records Survey Project has prepared as one of its initial series of publications, an Inventory of the Archives of the Old Line Association.

The Moderator has examined a copy of the publication and is pleased to call it to the attention of the association, for he feels that there is a need for more careful making and the better preservation of our records.

W. R. Lanier

Elder W. R. Lanier
Moderator



PREFACE

The Historical Records Survey program operates as a series of state-wide projects in the several states under the Research and Records Section, Division of Professional and Service Projects, Work Projects Administration. The program was organized in Florida in 1936 under the national direction of Dr. Luther H. Evans. On March 1, 1940, Dr. Evans left to become Director of the Legislative Reference Section of the Library of Congress, and was succeeded by Sargent B. Child.

The Survey is engaged in the preparation of inventories of, and bibliographical guides to, source materials hitherto inaccessible to research workers. The Survey program in Florida, as throughout the nation, includes an inventory of state, county, municipal, and church archives, of American imprints, and of manuscript depositories and collections.

The Church Archives Inventory represents an important phase of the Survey for it is through this inventory that many unknown and unusual religious records of interest to historians and genealogists will be located. The records of individual churches are being inventoried and these inventories will be grouped and published by denominations.

This volume is one of a series of inventories to be published on groups within denominational bodies in Florida. Later these surveys may be combined into volumes by denominations and published for the whole state. The inventory of each group includes an entry on the general organization, on each active church and mission connected therewith, and on churches that became defunct while associated with the group.

The Florida State Association of Old Line Baptist, composed of Missionary Baptist Churches is an independent Baptist body without national or regional affiliations.

Churches listed have weekly services unless otherwise stated in the entry. The educational background of the

pastor is unknown if not given. The actual titles of records are written in full capitals, assigned titles of records are written in full capitals and are enclosed in parentheses, explanatory titles are written with initial capitals and are enclosed in parentheses. All records are located in the church building unless the names and addresses of the official custodians are given. Records not reported are either missing or destroyed.

This volume was compiled and edited under the direction of Gordon C. Reeves, Church Editor, in accordance with technical instructions from the Washington Office of Historical Records Survey Projects. It was reviewed by Donald A. Thompson, Assistant Archivist in charge of Church Archives Inventories. The field inventory for this volume was made under the direction of Miss May L. Touchton, district supervisor.

The publications of the Historical Records Survey are issued for free distribution to public and institutional libraries. Requests for information concerning the publications or the work of the Survey in Florida should be addressed to the State Supervisor, Historical Records Survey, 49 W. Duval St., Jacksonville, Florida.

Sue A. Mahorner
State Supervisor
Historical Records Survey

Jacksonville, Florida
September 1, 1940

1. FLORIDA STATE ASSOCIATION OF OLD LINE BAPTIST, composed of Missionary Baptist Churches (Commonly called Old Line Missionary Baptist Association) 1935--.

The Florida State Association of Old Line Baptist, composed of Missionary Baptist Churches, was organized in 1935 by churches which withdrew from the State Association (of Landmark) Missionary Baptist Churches.(1) The Old Line Association is statewide in scope, but at the present time there are member churches in only five counties. (Duval, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Sumter).

Six churches: Campbell, New Hope, Pine Grove, Providence, South Kissimmee and Tuscanooga were represented by messengers at the preliminary organization session held with the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, 10 miles northeast of Kissimmee, Osceola County, on Sept. 28, 1935.(2) Of these churches only three: Campbell, Pine Grove and Tuscanooga became members of the permanent organization.(3)

At the first annual session in 1936, the Temple Baptist Church, Kissimmee, was admitted into membership in the association.(4) The following year five churches: Lake View, Pleasant Hill, South Riverside, First Baptist Church of Mascotte and the Second Baptist Church, Melbourne, came into the body.(5) At the 1938 session the Old Line Baptist Church, Sumterville, sponsored by the association, and the McDuff Avenue Baptist Church, Jacksonville, joined the association.(6) In 1940 the Dunn's Creek Baptist Church was added to the association membership. The only loss to the association has

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1. Florida State Association of Old Line Baptist, composed of Missionary Baptist Churches, *Minutes*, 1936, p. 13.
 2. *Ibid.*, 1935, p. 2. 3. *Ibid.*, 1936, pp. 4, 5.
 4. *Ibid.*, 1936, p. 5. 5. *Ibid.*, 1937, p. 6.
 6. *Ibid.*, 1938, p. 6.

been the Second Baptist Church, Melbourne, which became defunct in 1937.

The messengers from the churches represented at the preliminary organization session, held Sept. 28, 1935, declared themselves an association of churches and elected Elder W.R. Lanier as moderator and Elder M.E. Taylor, clerk. (7) The group adopted an Order of Business, a Declaration of Principles, an Abstract of Faith and Rules of Decorum. The time and place for the first annual session was also set. By a vote of the messengers the transactions of the association were referred to the individual churches represented for their final approval or disapproval. (8) As previously stated, only three of the six churches entered into the permanent organization.

The Declaration of Principles which serves as a constitution for the association is very similar to the Declaration of Principles of the State Association (of Landmark) Missionary Baptist Churches from which some of the churches came. (9) The Declaration states that the association is opposed to Convention or any similar control of denominational energies and provides that this association shall never exercise any power over the member churches beyond that of advisory council. (10) The association may withdraw fellowship from any of its member churches if that church be guilty of charges of unorthodoxy or disorderliness; the accusation having been made by another member church. (11)

The general object of the association is "to aid in giving the gospel to all men on the gospel or New Testament plan, as exemplified by the example of the apostolic churches." (12) The missionary work of the association is carried on by missionaries appointed by the cooperating churches. When an individual church desires aid in sending out a missionary to any

7. *Ibid.*, 1935, p. 2. 8. *Ibid.*, 1935, pp. 2, 3.

9. See *supra*. 10. *Ibid.*, 1935, pp. 3, 4.

11. *Ibid.*, 1936, p. 16. 12. *Ibid.*, 1936, p. 15.

field, the church corresponds with the nearest sister churches, stating the amount necessary for full support of the missionary and the amount the appointing church will give and calling on the sister churches to adopt and help the same missionary until the full support is provided.(13) Elder J. Grover Sparkman proposed by the Tuscanooga Baptist Church and approved in 1936 has served as a missionary since that time. (14) The association owns a gospel tent, an automobile truck and an electric light plant which are used in conducting services at mission points.(15)

The association holds annual sessions at a time and place selected by the messengers at the previous session; the moderator and clerk may select some other place for the convening of the body if the original church selected is unable to entertain the association. (16) Fifth Sunday union meetings are held but are not specifically provided for in the Declaration of Principles or the Rules of Decorum.

Each church may send three messengers to the annual sessions so that there will be equal representation. The association prescribes no qualifications for messengers, the church sending the messengers is the sole judge of their qualifications.(17)

The Declaration of Principles as originally adopted provides for the following officers: a moderator, a clerk, an assistant clerk, a treasurer, and an auditor.(18) The next year, 1936, an assistant moderator was added to the list of officers.(19) In 1935, Elder W.R.Lanier, was elected moderator and Elder M.E.Taylor was elected as clerk, both of these officers have served continuously since that time. In 1936,

13. *Ibid.*, 1936, p. 16. 14. *Ibid.*, 1936--, *passim*.
 15. *Ibid.*, 1939, p. 12. 16. *Ibid.*, 1939, pp. 15, 16.
 17. *Ibid.*, 1937, pp. 12, 13. 18. *Ibid.*, 1935, p. 4.
 19. *Ibid.*, 1936, p. 15.

Elder M.E.Taylor was elected as treasurer, an office he has also filled to date.(20) The *Minutes* contain no mention of the election of an auditor, assistant moderator, or assistant clerk; there have been, however, several occasions when clerks *pro tem* and reading clerks have been appointed by the moderator.

The only auxiliary to the association is the Old Line Baptist Bible School. This auxiliary was approved at the 1938 meeting of the association.(21) The Bible School held its first annual session, June 15-16, 1939, with the South Riverside Baptist Church. Elder Edward E. Swearingen served as moderator and Elder M.E.Taylor served as clerk.(22) The second annual session of the school was held June 29-30, 1940, with the Temple Baptist Church. Elders, M.E.Taylor, J.M.Keene, and E.J.Prevatt served as a program committee to arrange the meeting.(23)

Although no committees are provided for in the Declaration of Principles (Constitution) certain committees have functioned at each of the regular annual sessions. These committees and their chairmen for the various years were as follows: State Missions, 1936, N.B.Howard;(24) Inter-State Missions, 1936, Claud Partin;(25) these two committees were combined in a report on Home Missions, 1937, Elder J.M.Bryant.(26)

Foreign Missions: 1936, Elder J.G.Kilpatrick;(27) 1937, Elder E.J.Prevatt.(28) In 1938 all missionary committees were combined into one, Missions 1938-39, Elder J.M.Keene.(29)

Bible Schools: 1936, Elder J.M.Bryant;(30) 1937, Elder

20. *Ibid.*, 1936, p. 5. 21. *Ibid.*, 1938, pp. 5, 6.

22. *Ibid.*, 1938, p. 11. 23. *Ibid.*, 1939, p. 14.

24. *Ibid.*, 1936, p. 12. 25. *Ibid.*, 1936, p. 11.

26. *Ibid.*, 1937, p. 9. 27. *Ibid.*, 1936, p. 10.

28. *Ibid.*, 1937, pp. 8, 9.

29. *Ibid.*, 1938, p. 8; 1939, p. 11. 30. *Ibid.*, 1936, p. 9.

J.M.Keene;(31) 1938, Elder A.W.Brantley;(32) 1939, Lonnie Bronson.(33)

Education: 1936, Elder M.E.Taylor;(34) 1937, Elder Edward E. Swearingon;(35) 1938, Elder J.G.Kilpatrick;(36) 1939, Elder M.E.Taylor.(37)

Publications: 1936, Cap Watson;(38) 1937, Elder A.W. Brantley;(39) 1938, Elder J.O.Campbell;(40) 1939, Elder Charles H. Bacon.(41)

Support of Orphans: 1936, Jim Curry;(42) 1937, N.B. Howard;(43) 1938, Lonnie Bronson;(44) 1939, J.W.Williams.(45)

Temperance; 1936, Elder M.E.Taylor;(46) 1937, Elder J. G.Kilpatrick;(47) 1938, Ray Watson;(48) 1939, Elder J.O. Raulerson.(49)

FLORIDA STATE ASSOCIATION OF OLD LINE BAPTIST, COMPOSED OF MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCHES, *Minutes*, 1935--, printed, complete file in the custody of the clerk, Elder M.E.Taylor, Route #1; Box 208, Kissimmee; 1937--, in the Library, John B. Stetson University, DeLand, Fla.

2. PINE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, 1874--. State Highway 22, Christmas, Orange County.

Constituted 1874. The first pastor, Elder Robert W. Lawton,

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| 31. <i>Ibid.</i> , 1937, pp. 7, 8. | 32. <i>Ibid.</i> , 1938, p. 7. |
| 33. <i>Ibid.</i> , 1939, p. 10. | 34. <i>Ibid.</i> , 1936, p. 10. |
| 35. <i>Ibid.</i> , 1937, p. 8. | 36. <i>Ibid.</i> , 1938, pp. 7, 8. |
| 37. <i>Ibid.</i> , 1939, p. 11. | 38. <i>Ibid.</i> , 1936, p. 11. |
| 39. <i>Ibid.</i> , 1937, pp. 9, 10. | 40. <i>Ibid.</i> , 1938, p. 8. |
| 41. <i>Ibid.</i> , 1939, p. 12. | 42. <i>Ibid.</i> , 1936, p. 11. |
| 43. <i>Ibid.</i> , 1937, p. 10. | 44. <i>Ibid.</i> , 1938, p. 10. |
| 45. <i>Ibid.</i> , 1939, p. 13. | 46. <i>Ibid.</i> , 1936, pp. 12, 13. |
| 47. <i>Ibid.</i> , 1937, p. 10. | 48. <i>Ibid.</i> , 1938, p. 10. |
| 49. <i>Ibid.</i> , 1939, p. 13. | |

walked twenty miles, once a month from Oviedo, and held services in the home of J.R.A. Tucker until the present white, rectangular, frame church erected and dedicated in 1874. This group is at present in litigation with another group each claiming to be the original church. (See entry on Pine Grove Baptist Church in Inventory of the Church Archives of the Seminole Baptist Association.) A half-time church, meeting 2nd and 4th Sundays. Present membership, 48. Active organization, Bible School. First settled pastor, Elder Robert W. Lawton, 1874-80; common school education. Present pastor, Elder J.O. Raulerson, 1939-- , 682 Herman St., Jacksonville.

(CHURCH RECORDS), 1874-- , 2 vols. Showing minutes of church conferences and business meetings, membership roll, baptisms, deaths. 1874-1920, 1 vol., custody of attorney, George Palmer Garrett, 419 Exchange Building, Orlando. 1920-- , 1 vol., custody of clerk, J.C. Dodson, Bithlo.

(CHURCH CASH RECORDS), 1874-- , 2 vols. Showing all receipts and disbursements. 1874-1920, 1 vol., custody of George P. Garrett, see *supra*. 1920-- , 1 vol., custody of clerk, J.C. Dodson, see *supra*.

(BIBLE SCHOOL RECORDS), 1874-- , 6 vols. Showing pupils, teachers, officers, attendance. Custody of superintendent and secretary, Elder J.G. Kilpatrick, Christmas.

3. PLEASANT HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH,
c1878-- . 15 miles southeast of Kissimmee,
via U.S. Highway 92 and Pleasant Hill High-
way, Osceola County.

Constituted c1878. First services in unpainted, rectangular, frame building erected c1878, also used as a school house until 1910. This church was formerly a member of the **Wekiva Baptist Association**. (See forthcoming Inventory of the Church Archives of the Wekiva Baptist Association.) It withdrew from Southern Baptist Convention affiliation c1921. A half-time church, meeting 2nd and 4th Sundays. Present membership, 14. Earliest known pastor, Elder J.C. Taylor,

1891-92. Present pastor, Elder J.O.Campbell, 1938--, Loughman.

(CHURCH RECORDS), 1929--, 1 vol. Showing minutes of church conferences, membership roll; receipts and disbursements. Custody of clerk, Everet Clinton, Kissimmee.

4. CAMPBELL BAPTIST CHURCH, 1882--. 6 miles south of Kissimmee, U.S.Highway 92, Osceola County.

Constituted 1882. First services in school house on same site until present white, rectangular, frame building was erected in 1910. This church was formerly a member of the Wekiva Baptist Association. (See forthcoming Inventory of the Church Archives Wekiva Baptist Association.) It withdrew from Southern Baptist Convention affiliation c1924. A half-time church, meeting 1st and 3rd Sundays. Present membership, 30. Active organization, Bible School. First settled pastor, Elder T.J. Ball, tenure unknown. Present pastor, Elder W.R.Lanier, 1930--, Kissimmee.

(CHURCH RECORD BOOK), 1930--, 1 vol. Showing minutes of church conferences, membership roll, baptisms, deaths; receipts and disbursements. Custody of clerk, N.B.Howard, Kissimmee.

(BIBLE SCHOOL RECORDS), 1930--, 5 vols. Showing pupils, teachers, officers, attendance, visitors, minutes of business meetings. Custody of pastor, Elder W.R.Lanier, see *supra*.

5. TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH, 1932--. South Randolph and Partage Avenues, Kissimmee, Osceola County.

Constituted 1932. First services conducted and church constituted in a tent. Present white, rectangular, frame church building was erected in 1932 at the corner of Clyde Avenue and Midland Road. In April 1936 it was moved to present location and dedicated. Present membership, 53. Active organi-

zation, Bible School. First settled pastor, Elder W.R. Lanier 1932-35. Present pastor, Elder M.E. Taylor, 1936--, Campbell Station, Route #1, Box 208, Kissimmee; University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.

CHURCH ROLL AND RECORD, 1936--, 1 vol. Showing church covenant, charter members, membership roll, minutes of business meetings, baptisms, deaths; receipts and disbursements. Custody of clerk, Clyde Bass, Boggy Creek, 8½ miles north of Kissimmee.

(TREASURER'S RECORD), Sept. 11, 1938--, 1 vol. Showing receipts and disbursements. Custody of treasurer, L.R. Godwin, 420 Mabbette St., Kissimmee.

(BIBLE SCHOOL SECRETARY'S RECORD), July 26, 1936--, 1 vol. Showing pupils, teachers, attendance, visitors, collections. Custody of secretary, Mrs. Sara Neal, 322 Lily Ave., Kissimmee.

6. SOUTH RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, 1933--. Old St. Augustine Road, near Felch St., South Jacksonville, Duval County.

Constituted 1933. First services in private homes until present, square, white, frame church with steeple was occupied and dedicated in 1933. The building was built in 1889 by the Philips Congregational Church, defunct. Present membership, 50. Active organization, Bible School. First settled pastor, Elder Edward E. Swearingen, 1933-39, 1990 Southampton Road, South Shores, South Jacksonville. Present pastor, Elder J.M. Keene, 1939--, Route #5, Box 617, Jacksonville.

(MINUTE BOOK), 1933--, 1 vol. Showing minutes of business meetings, roll of membership, baptisms, deaths, financial reports. Custody of clerk, Olie Foracker, Old St. Augustine Road, South Jacksonville.

(BIBLE SCHOOL RECORD), 1935--, 2 vols. Showing attendance and offering.

7. SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF MELBOURNE (Valcaria Missionary Baptist Church 1933-36), 1933-37. Defunct. Melbourne, Brevard County.

Constituted 1933 as the Valcaria Missionary Baptist Church. First services in Valcaria School house about 9 miles south of Melbourne on U.S. Highway 1. In 1936 the church moved to a mission tent of the Old Line Missionary Baptist Association, in Melbourne, for about two weeks. The church then rented the Fraternal Building, on the west side of Melbourne, where services were held until church became defunct early in 1937. First settled and only pastor, Elder W.R. Lanier, 1933-37, Kissimmee.

8. TUSCANOOGA BAPTIST CHURCH, 1935--. Mascotte, Lake County.

Constituted 1935. First services in present unpainted, square pavilion type frame building erected, 1935. The site of this church was formerly occupied by another Baptist Church of the same name which became defunct in 1926, and by a Community Church. (See forthcoming publications in this Church Archives Series.) A quarter-time church, meeting on 4th Sunday. Present membership, 52. Active organization, Bible School. First settled pastor, Elder J.G. Sparkman, 1935-37. Present pastor, Elder Whites Hancock, 1939--, Bithlo.

LEDGER (Minutes of Tuscanooga Baptist Church), 1938--, 1 vol. Showing minutes of business meetings, membership roll, baptisms, deaths; receipts and disbursements. Custody of clerk, Arthur Alexander, Mascotte.

UNIVERSAL NOTE BOOK (Bible School Record Book) 1938--, 1 vol. Showing pupils, teachers, attendance, visitors, receipts and disbursements.

9. LAKE VIEW MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, 1936--. 2 miles west of Highway 29, Kenansville, Osceola County.

Constituted 1936. First services were held in building erected in 1904 by the Lake View Baptist Church 1890-1926, defunct. This church disbanded when its building was damaged by storm. (See forthcoming Inventory of the Church Archives of the Wekiva Baptist Association.) In 1937 the present white, square, frame church was erected, using materials salvaged from the old building, dedicated November the same year. A. half-time church, meeting 1st and 3rd Sundays. Present membership, 21. Active organization, Bible School. First and present pastor, Elder Whites Hancock, 1936-- , Bithlo.

(CHURCH RECORD), 1936-- , 1 vol. Showing minutes of business meetings, membership roll, baptisms, deaths; receipts and disbursements. Custody of clerk, H.Z. Harvey, Kenansville.

(BIBLE SCHOOL RECORD), 1939-- , 1 vol. Showing pupils, teachers, officers, attendance, visitors; receipts and disbursements.

40. OLD LINE BAPTIST CHURCH, 1936-- . Sumterville, Sumter County.

Constituted in 1936. Sponsored by Old Line Missionary Baptist Association. First services held in association mission tent on Highway 23, for a period of several weeks. Then used the First Baptist Church building in Sumterville for approximately 3 years. Early in 1940 the membership bought and occupied an old school building, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile off Highway 23. Present membership, 40. Active organization, Bible School. First pastor, Elder J. Grover Sparkman, 1936--37, Webster. Present pastor, Elder Whites Hancock, 1937-- , Bithlo. Church not holding regularly stated services at present.

PERFECT CHURCH RECORD, 1936-- , 1 vol. Showing list of members, financial records; receipts and disbursements. Custody of clerk, Bill Conley, Sumterville.

(BIBLE SCHOOL RECORD), 1938-- , 1 vol. Showing list of pupils, officers, teachers, attendance, collections and disbursements.

Custody of secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Agnes Traylor, Sumterville.

11. MCDUFF AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH, 1937--. 29
McDuff Ave., Jacksonville, Duval County.

Constituted 1937 by members from South Riverside Baptist Church (see entry 6). First services in present commercial structure, a rectangular, gray wood and concrete building, remodelled 1938. Front part of building used for church, rear part for pastor's home. Present membership, 99. Active organization, Bible School. First settled and only pastor, Elder E.J. Prevatt, 1937--., 29 McDuff Ave., Jacksonville.

(CHURCH RECORD), 1937--., 1 vol. Showing minutes, membership roll, baptisms, deaths, financial records. Custody of clerk, C.H. Bacon, 3045 Dillon St., Jacksonville.

(BIBLE SCHOOL BOOK), 1937--., 1 vol. Showing attendance, offerings.

12. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MASCOTTE, 1937--.
Church St., Mascotte, Lake County.

Constituted 1937. Sponsored by the Old Line Missionary Baptist Association with some members coming from the Bay Lake Landmark Baptist Church (See forthcoming Inventory of Church Archives of the State Association (of Landmark) Missionary Baptist Churches.) First services were held in association's mission tent adjoining present site until present unpainted, rectangular, frame building was erected, 1937. Present membership, 8. Active organization, Bible School. First settled and only pastor, Elder J. Grover Sparkman, 1937-39, Webster. The church is practically dormant at present.

"Composition Book" (Church Records), 1938--., 1 vol. Showing minutes of business meetings, membership roll, baptisms, deaths; receipts and disbursements. Custody of clerk, H.G. Hawkins, Mascotte.

"Composition Book" (Bible School Record), 1939-- , 1 vol. Showing list of pupils, teachers, officers, attendance, visitors, collections and disbursements.

13. DUNN'S CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH, 1939-- . Dunn's Creek Road, between New Berlin and Starrat Road, 4 miles east of Oceanway, Duval County.

Constituted in 1939. Sponsored by South Riverside Baptist Church (see entry 6). First services in present rectangular, brown, frame church erected in 1939. Present membership, 9. Active organization, Bible School. First pastor, Elder Edward E. Swearingen, 1939-40, 1990 Southampton Road, South Shores, Jacksonville. Present pastor, Elder J.M.Keene, 1940-- , Route #5, Box 647, Jacksonville.

"Composition" (Church Records), 1939-- , 1 vol. Showing minutes of business meetings, list of members, financial records. Custody of pastor, Elder J.M.Keene, see *supra*.

Alexander, Arthur, 9.

Bacon, Elder Charles H.,
5, 11.
Bass, Clyde, 8.
Bay Lake Landmark Baptist
Church, 11.
Bell, Elder T.J., 7.
Bible School, 4.
Brantley, Elder A.W., 5.
Brevard County, 9.
Bronson, Lonnie, 5.
Bryant, Elder J.M., 4.

Campbell, B.C., 1, 7.
Campbell, Elder J.O., 5, 7.
Christmas, Florida, 5.
Clerk of Association, *see*
Elder M.E. Taylor, 3, 5.
Clinton, Everet, 7.
Community Church, Mascotte,
9.
Conley, Bill, 10.
Curry, Jim, 5.

Dodson, J.C., 6.
Dunn's Creek Baptist
Church, 1, 12.
Duval County, 1, 8, 11, 12.

First Baptist Church of
Mascotte, 1, 11.
First Baptist Church, Sum-
terville, 10.
Foracker, Olie, 8.

Garrett, George Palmer, 6.
Godwin, L.R., 8.

Hancock, Elder Whites, 9, 10.
Harvey, H.Z., 10.
Hawkins, H.G., 11.
Howard, N.B., 4, 5, 7.

Jacksonville, 1, 8, 11.
John B. Stetson University
Library, 5.

Keene, Elder J.M., 4, 5, 8,
12.
Kenansville, 9.
Kilpatrick, Elder J.G., 4-6.
Kissimmee, 5, 7.

Lake County, 1, 9, 11.
Landmark Baptist Association
see State Association (of
Landmark) Missionary Baptist
Churches, 1, 2.
Lake View Baptist Church, 1,
9, 10.
Lanier, Elder W.R., 2, 3, 7,
9.
Lawton, Elder Robert W., 5, 6.
Library John B. Stetson Uni-
versity, 5.

McDuff Avenue Baptist Church,
1, 11.
Mascotte, 1, 9, 11.
Melbourne, 1, 9.

- Moderator of Association, *see*
Elder W.R.Lanier, 3.
- Neal, Mrs. Sara, 8.
New Berlin, 12.
New Hope Baptist Church, 1.
- Oceanway, 12.
Old Line Baptist Bible
School, 4.
Old Line Baptist Church, Sum-
terville, 2, 10.
Orange County, 1, 5.
Osceola County, 1, 6, 7, 9.
- Partin, Claud, 4.
Philips Congregational
Church, 8.
Pine Grove Baptist Church,
1, 5, 6.
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church,
1, 6.
Prevatt, Elder E.J., 4, 11.
Providence Baptist Church, 1.
- Raulerson, Elder J.O., 5, 6.
- Second Baptist Church, Mel-
bourne, 1, 9.
Seminole Baptist Association,
6.
Southern Baptist Convention,
6, 7.
- South Kissimmee Baptist
Church, 1.
South Riverside Baptist
Church, 1, 4, 8, 11, 12.
Sparkman, Elder J. Grover,
3, 9, 10, 11.
State Association (of Land-
mark) Missionary Baptist
Churches, 1, 2, 11.
Sumter County, 1, 10.
Sumterville, 1, 10.
Swearingen, Elder Edward E.,
4, 5, 8, 12.
- Taylor, Elder J.G., 5, 6.
Taylor, Elder M.E., 2-5, 8.
Temple Baptist Church, 1, 4,
7.
Traylor, Mrs. Agnes, 11.
Treasurer of Association,
see Elder M.E.Taylor, 4, 5,
Tucker, J.R.A., 6.
Tuscanooga Baptist Church,
1, 2, 9.
- Valcaria Missionary Baptist
Church, 9.
Valcaria Schoolhouse, 9.
- Watson, Cap, 5.
Watson, Ray, 5.
Wekiva Baptist Association,
6, 7, 10.
Williams, J.W., 5.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE FLORIDA
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