

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEMBERS
OF BETHESDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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(Bethesda Presbyterian Church near McConnells, SC is one of the four original churches in York County, dating back to the 1760s. Like most other churches in York County, Bethesda had numerous African-American members, both slaves and freemen, in the years before, during and after the Civil War. In the late 1860s and early 1870s, most of these black members left their original churches and formed new churches of their own. The minutes of the sessions of York's early Presbyterian churches often contain comprehensive lists of their "colored members," along with the names of their owners if they were slaves, dates they were baptized and received as members, and the dates they were dismissed. The following membership and baptism lists was transcribed by Harold Walker from the original session minutes of Bethesda Presbyterian Church.)

Colored Members of Bethesda Presbyterian Church, 1840-1864

<u>Names</u>	<u>Names of Owners</u>	
Fanny	William H. Bratton	
Darky	C. Moore	
Charles	Gordon	Dismissed 12/02/1866
Jane	R. S. Hope	
Esther	H. Addicks	
Jim	M. Lindsay	
Lydia	S. G. Hemphill	
John	A. Howie	Died 10/09/1866
Harry	William Hanna	
Rosy	L. Love	
Mary	John Starr	
Cynthia	Free Harry's Wife	Died 10/15/1865
Mariah	J. Swann	
Harry	M. Swann	
Tommy	William Hanna	
Harriet	William Hanna	
Cely	Jackson Sloan	
Osborn	Jackson Sloan	
Amy	William Misskelly	
Harriet	William Gordon	
Mary	F. A. Erwin	Died 10/1861
Harriet	John Ashe	
Sarah	William Thomason	
Cyrus	Reuben McConnell	
Harry	A Free Man of Color	
Jane	William Hanna	

Milley	Bennett	
Nancy	John B. McConnell	
Malinda	Newton Ashe	
Juliet	Mrs. McFadden	
Ralph	P. Sandifer	
Tom	H. Bratton	Died 05/31/1862
Charles	Thomas Lowry	
Harriet	H. Bratton	Died 12/08/1862
Leander	F. E. Moore	Excommunicated 07/1857
Anne	J. Tipping	Dismissed 11/25/1866
Fanny	William Hanna	
Harriet	Richard Sadler	
June	William Hanna	
Leila	John Starr	
Bill	J. M. Lowry	
Dave	Thomas Burriss	
Harriet	John S. Ashe	
Abram	L. Neely	
Old Man	J. Poag	
A Woman of Color	Bennett	
Kitty	Bishop	
Jo	Bratton	
Nelson		
Lena		
Oliver	S. Moore	
Harry	Lindsey	
Betty		
Vinny		
Tom	Love	
Sarah		
Esther	Lowry	
Juliet		
Charlotte	Hanna	
Charlotte	Collens	
Rosy	Gordon	
Celia	Dr. Campbell	
Fanny	Mrs. McCorkel	
Biddy	John Moore	
Osborn	William May	
Cynthia	Mrs. Lowry	
Cato (1837)	Mrs. Isabella Bratton	Died 11/1837
David	Rev. John Stitt Harris	
Ben	Mrs. Harriet Bratton	Died 07/16/1861
Simon	John B. Swann	Suspended 11/1863
Susan	Mrs. H. Williams	
John	Mary Crawford	

Matilda	Mary Crawford	
Sallie	Ed Byers	
Mary Ann	Samuel Ashe	
Kitty	John S. Bratton	
Eliza	Phillip Sandifer	
Jane (1858)	Dr. J. M. Lowry	
Grandeson	Dr. R. L. Love	Died 04/08/1862
Amy	Dr. J. M. Lowry	
Sallie	Joseph C. Johnston	
Leah	Col. W. B. Wilson	
Ritta	Dr. J. M. Lowry	
Adeline	Isabella Bratton	
Sarah	J. C. Johnston	
Eliza	Samuel Raney, Sr.	
Allen	F. A. Erwin	
Eliza	S. G. Hemphill	
Rosinda	John B. McConnell	
Matilda	John B. McConnell	
Primus (1859)	P. R. Sandifer	
Marion	John B. McConnell	
Margaret	A. McConnell	
Lucy (1830)	J. N. Bratton	Died 11/18/1862
Rose (1859)	John C. Tipping	
Agnes	Mary Crawford	
Sallie	Mary Crawford	
Patty	Mary Rowell	
Annette	J. S. Bratton	
Myra	Margaret Sadler	
Sylvia	S. G. Hemphill	
Judy	Dr. G. W. Campbell	
Mary	Samuel Ashe	
Ben	R. S. Hope	Dismissed 09/1861
Victoria	F. A. Erwin	Died 07/1860
Ned (1860)	Joseph P. Moore	Died 04/1865
Richard	S. G. Poag	
Martha	S. G. Poag	
John	John S. Ash	Suspended 01/1865 Restored 09/10/1865
Anna	John S. Ash	
Milley	William Hanna	
Lucy	John C. Tipping	
Amos	John Burris	
Young	E. Crawford	
Sabrina	Maj. J. Wallace	
Joe (1861)	F. E. Moore	Died 09/09/1862
Winny	James Kuykendal	

Cynthia	F. E. Moore	
Rachel	John B. McConnell	
Mary	John Starr	
Hannah	Ed A. Crawford	
George	W. L. Gilmer	
Leander (1862)	S. G. Hemphill	
Dinah	H. H. Williams	
Adam	William Hanna	
Billy	Nancy Ash	Suspended 1864 Restored 09/09/1865
Jackson	Martha Moore	
Juso/Jingo	Ed A. Crawford	
Melinda	John McFadden	
Morris	A. Loughridge	
Sallie	P. W. Lindsay	
Judy (1862)	Isabella Bratton	
Betsey	John M. Moore	
Rinah (1863)	Green Sandifer	
Sarah Jane	William Clinton	
Rose	Dr. J. R. Bratton	
Caroline	J. M. Wallace	
Polly (1864)	John Starr	
Eliza (1865)	Robert Lindsay	
Mary Jane	Mrs. Philip Sandifer	
Mary	John B. McConnell	Suspended 1866
Sarah Elizabeth	Philip Lindsay	
Harriet Octavia Sandifer (1866)		
Elva Lowry		
Nancy Lowry		
Narcissa	(formerly servant of Mrs. Mary Crawford)	
Violet	(formerly servant of Mrs. Harriet Bratton)	
Hannah Bratton (1867)		
Peter Crawford		
Delia Crawford		
Frances Crawford		
Theresa Crawford		
Susan McLeve		
George Huff (1869)		
Susan McConnell		
Narcissa Gordon (1870)		
Mack Crawford (1871)		
Eliza Perry		
David Thomasson		
Adeline Burriss		
Ellen Moore		

List of Colored Persons Baptized and Received into
Membership at Bethesda Presbyterian Church

Those under the Pastoral Care of Rev. A. H. Caldwell, 1840-1846:

Jan 1840 – May 1842

Two colored children of Moses Lindsay Baptized
Cynthia, servant of Mrs. Lowrie [Lowry] Received and Baptized
Esther, servant of Mr. Taite Received and Baptized
Fanny, servant of J. Thomason Received and Baptized
Fanny, servant of J. Starr, Sr. Received and Baptized

10 Sep 1842

Bill, servant of J. M. Lindsay Baptized
Bill, servant of Z. A. Walker Baptized
Hanna, servant of James S. Williamson Baptized

2 Apr 1843

Jane, Sarah, and Mose, servants of Mrs. Jane Hope Received
Rachel, former servant of R. McConnell Dismissed

9 Apr 1843

Richmond, servant of J. N. Cooper Dismissed to join Presbyterian Church in Yorkville

Sep 1843

Charlotte, servant of James Johnston Baptized and Admitted to Communion
Vina, servant of J. N. Sadler

11/12 May 1844

Betsy, servant of Mansfield Gordon Received and Baptized

7 Sep 1844

Bob, servant of R. M. Love Received and Baptized

10 May 1846

Jack, servant of James Williamson Received and Baptized
John, servant of J. Moore Received
A girl, servant of H. Tipping Received and Baptized

Those under the Pastoral Care of Rev. P. E. Bishop, 1847-1856:

14 May 1848

Person of color, servant of William Hanna Received
Person of color, servant of M. Gordon Received

10 Sep 1848

Lila, servant of John Starr Received

14 Oct 1848

Harriet and Fanny, servants of William Hanna Received

11 Nov 1849

Cynthia, a free woman of color was received into the Communion of the Church

10 May 1850

A woman of color and her child, servants of John B. Swann Received and Baptized

6 Sep 1850

A woman of color and her child, under the direction of B. Swann Received and Baptized

26 Apr 1851

A woman of color, servant of Dr. George Campbell Received and Baptized

6 Dec 1851

A woman of color, servant of William Hanna Received

14 Oct 1852

Hannah, servant of William Hanna Received

Jan 1853

Cely, servant of Sloan Received and Baptized

Harriot [Harriet], servant of William Hanna Received and Baptized

27 Mar 1853

A woman of color, servant of John M. Moore Received

30 Apr 1853

A woman of color and her child, servants of Mrs. Gordon Received and Baptized

7 Aug 1853

Mary and her two children, servants of F. A. Erwin Received and Baptized

4 Sep 1853

Osburn, servant of William May Received

10 Sep 1853

Amy, servant of William Misskelly Received and Baptized

10 Oct 1853

A woman of color, servant of John Ashe Received and Baptized

4 Feb 1854

A woman of color, servant of William Thomasson Received

9 Apr 1854

A colored servant of R. McConnell Received

11 Jun 1854

A child of color, servant of F. A. Erwin Baptized

12 Aug 1854

Hariot (Harriet) and her five children, servants of John Ashe Baptized

14 Aug 1854

A colored servant of Joseph Poag Received and Baptized

27 Aug 1854

A woman of color, servant of Bennett Received and Baptized

3 Sep 1854

Leander, a man of color Received and Baptized

9 Sep 1854

Jane, a servant of William Hanna Received

3 Nov 1854

Harry, a servant of D. Crawford Received by Letter

There were 73 Colored Members in 1854.

7 Jan 1855

A woman of color, servant of Rev. P. E. Bishop Received

Apr 1855

Nancy, servant of John McConnell Received and Baptized

Malinda, servant of Newton Ashe Received and Baptized

12 Apr 1855

A woman of color, servant of Mrs. McFadden Received

13 Apr 1855

Ralph, servant of Phillip Sandifer Received and Baptized

Sep 1855

A woman of color, servant of Mrs. Bratton

8 Sep 1855

Tom, servant of Mrs. Bratton Received and Baptized

Charles, servant of Thomas Lowry Received and Baptized

Those under the Pastoral Care of Rev. J. S. Harris, 1857-1864:

10 May 1857

Cato, servant of Mrs. Isabella Bratton Received and Baptized

Sep 1857

David, servant in employment of Dr. J. Rufus Bratton Received
Ben, servant of Mrs. Harriet Bratton Received

12 Sep 1857

Simon, servant of John B. Swann Received
Susan, servant of Mrs. Henrietta Williams Received
John and Matilda, servant of Mrs. Mary Crawford Received and Baptized
Mary Ann, servant of Samuel Ashe Received and Baptized
Kitty, servant of John S. Bratton Received and Baptized
Sallie, servant of Edward Byers

13 Sep 1857

Eliza, servant of Phillip Sandifer Received and Baptized

8 May 1858

Jane and Amy, servants of Dr. J. M. Lowry Received and Baptized
Gwendolyn, servant of Dr. R. S. Love Received and Baptized

20 Jun 1858

Sallie, servant of Joseph C. Johnston Received and Baptized

8 Aug 1858

Leah, servant of Col. W. B. Wilson Received and Baptized

5 Sep 1858

Ritta, servant of Dr. J. M. Lowry Received and Baptized
Adaline, servant of Isabella Bratton Received and Baptized
Sarah, servant of J. C. Johnston Received and Baptized
Eliza, servant of Samuel Rainey, Sr. Receive and Baptized

12 Sep 1858

Allen, servant of F. A. Erwin Received
Matilda, servant of John B. McConnell Received
Rosinda, servant of John B. McConnell Received and Baptized
Elijah, servant of S. G. Hemphill Received and Baptized

1 May 1859

Primus, servant of P. R. Sandifer Received and Baptized
Rose, servant of J. S. Tipping Received and Baptized

Margaret, servant of A. McConnell Received and Baptized
 Mimosa, servant of John B. McConnell Received and Baptized
 Agnes and Sallie, servant of Mary Crawford Received and Baptized
 Patty, servant of Mary Rowell Received and Baptized
 Seth, servant of J. S. Bratton Received and Baptized

3 Sep 1859

Myra, servant of Margaret Sadler Received and Baptized
 Sylvia, servant of Samuel G. Hemphill Received and Baptized

10 Sep 1859

Judy Campbell, servant of Dr. G. W. Campbell Received and Baptized
 Mary Ashe, servant of Samuel Ashe Received and Baptized
 Ben Hope, servant of R. S. Hope Received

1 Apr 1860

Ned, servant of Joseph P. Moore Received and Baptized
 Milley, servant of William Hanna Received and Baptized
 John Ashe and Anna, servants of J. S. Ashe Received and Baptized
 Richard and Martha, servants of S. G. Poag Received and Baptized

8 Sep 1860

Amos, servant of John Burris Received

9 Sep 1860

Young, servant of Ed Crawford Received and Baptized
 Anna, servant of Maj. J. M. Wallace

12 Jan 1861

Joe, servant of F. E. Moore Received and Baptized

10 Feb 1861

Marion, servant of John B. McConnell in compliance with our rule in reference to the marriage of colored members presented the required certificate of the owners to the formation of the marriage union between Marion and Nancy, servant of N. B. Bratton.

21 Apr 1861

Winnie, servant of James Kuykendal Received and Baptized
 Cynthia, servant of F. E. Moore Received and Baptized
 Agnes, servant of William M. Crawford Restored to Membership

11 May 1861

Rachel, servant of John B. McConnell Received

1 Sep 1861

Mary, servant of John Starr Received

8 Sep 1861

Hannah, servant of Ed A. Crawford Received and Baptized

15 Sep 1861

Ben, servant of R. S. Hope Certificate to join Church of Washington, AK

17 Nov 1861

George, a servant of W. L. Gilmore Received

In 1861 there were 88 Adult Colored Communicates and 75 Children in Sabbath School.

13 Apr 1862

Dinah, servant of Mrs. H. H. Williams Received and Baptized

Leander, servant of S. G. Hemphill Reinstated as a Church Member

10 May 1862

Adam, servant of William Hanna Received and Baptized

Billy, servant of Mrs. Nancy Ash Received and Baptized

Jackson, servant of Mrs. Martha Moore Received

Juso, servant of Ed A. Crawford Received and Baptized

Melinda, servant of John McFadden Received and Baptized

Morris, servant of A. Loughridge Received and Baptized

Sallie, servant of P. W. Lindsay Received and Baptized

7 Sep 1862

Judy, servant of Isabella Bratton Received

Betsey, servant of John M. Moore Received and Baptized

14 Sep 1862

Adeline, servant of Mrs. Harriet Bratton Restored to enjoyment of all Church privileges

27 Sep 1862

Cyrus, servant of Mrs. Reuben McConnell presented a certificate of his owner and one from Joseph P. Moore agreeing to the marriage of Cyrus with a girl now in the employment of Mr. Moore and was received as obedience to our rule as to marriage of colored church members.

In 1862 there were 90 Adult Colored Communicates and 125 Black Children in Sabbath School.

11 Jan 1863

Rinah, servant of Green Sandifer Received and Baptized

29 Mar 1863

John, servant of John S. Ash and Melinda, servant of John McFadden, both members of our Church had complied with our regulations concerning marriage of colored members previously to their respective marriages with the persons of their choice.

13 Sep 1863

Sarah Jane, servant of William Clinton Received and Baptized

Rose, servant of Dr. J. Rufus Bratton Received and Baptized

Caroline, servant of Maj. J. M. Wallace Received and Baptized

In 1863 there were 97 Adult Colored Communicants and 140 Black Children in Sabbath School.

11 Sep 1864

Polly, servant of John Starr Received and Baptized

In 1864 there were 107 Adult Colored Communicates and 150 Black Children in Sabbath School.

14 May 1865

Eliza, servant of Robert Lindsay Received and Baptized

Mary Jane, servant of Mrs. Philip Sandifer Received and Baptized

Mary, servant of John B. McConnell Received and Baptized

9 Sep 1865

Sarah Elizabeth, servant of Mr. Philip Lindsay Received and Baptized

Billy, servant of Mrs. Nancy Ash Restored to the privileges of the Church

10 Sep 1865

John, servant of John S. Ashe Restored to the privileges of the Church

In 1865 there were 100 Adult Colored Communicants and 75 Black Children in Sabbath School.

31 Mar 1866

Harriet Octavia, a colored woman Received and Baptized

8 Sep 1866

Elva Lowry and Nancy Lowry, persons of color Received and Baptized

9 Sep 1866

Narcissa, formerly servant of Mrs. Mary Crawford and Violet, formerly servant of Mrs. Harriet Bratton Received and Baptized

25 Nov 1866

Ann, colored woman and former servant of J. C. Tipping granted a Letter of Dismissal

2 Dec 1866

Charles Gordon, a freedman granted a Letter of Dismissal

In 1866 there were 103 Colored Communicants.

11 May 1867

Hannah Bratton, a woman of color Received

9 Jun 1867

Peter Crawford (colored), his wife Delila and their two daughters: Frances and Theressa were Received as members of the Church on Certificate from Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church in Chester, SC.

5 Sep 1867

Susan McLeave, a woman of color Received

13 Sep 1868

It was deemed expedient by the Session to revise the list of colored members as many have ceased to commune and others removed from the bounds of the Church. Rev. R. B. Henderson reported the above resolution to the colored people and requested those desirous of continuing their membership to make it known to him; whereupon forty-six (46) came forward and enrolled their names.

Those under the Pastoral Care of J. Lowrie Wilson, 1869-1875:

9 May 1869

George Huff, a person of color Received and Baptized

11 Sep 1869

Susan McConnell, a person of color Received and Baptized

In 1869, 48 Adult Black Members and 30 Black Children were listed in the Statistical Report.

10 Sep 1870

Narcissa Gordon (colored) Received and Baptized

The year 1870 has been fraught with Temptation: Political Troubles have weighed heavily on all minds, resulting in the alienation of races, the probable loss of several colored communicants and a corresponding loss of spirituality in some of our white members.

13 May 1871

Mack Crawford (colored) Received and Baptized

14 May 1871

Eliza Perry (colored) Received

9 Sep 1871

Eliza Perry's two children, Luella and Mary Harriet were Baptized

David Thomasson (colored) former member of the Ebenezer Presbyterian Church by certificate was Received

10 Sep 1871

Adeline Burris (colored) Received

Ellen Moore (colored) Received

5 May 1872

Winnie Kuykendal, a colored woman presented her two children, James Sumpter and Viny Rachel for Baptism

6 Sep 1872

Matilda Reed (colored) Received

8 Sep 1872

Sarah Gordon (colored) Received and Baptized

9 Sep 1872

Preston Garner (colored) Received and Baptized

10 May 1873

John McCleave and his wife Martha, persons of color Received

22 Mar 1874

Peggy Ashe, Minor McConnell, Betsey Moore, Nancy McConnell, Rose Hemphill, Sallie Lindsay, Susan McConnell, and Sarah Gordon, all colored members were Dismissed to Colored Baptist Church

9 May 1874

Robert Carrol (colored) Received

4 Nov 1874

The propriety of inviting the Rev. Mr. Loomis, a Missionary of the Northern Presbyterian Church, to organize a Colored Presbyterian Church within our bounds was discussed at length. The withdrawal of almost our entire colored membership from Bethesda, and their connection with Colored Baptist Churches, under the care of preachers of their own race, makes some such action a necessity. It was believed that the political pressure brought to bear upon people of that race by persons of their own color, together with the fact that they will not receive the Word at the mouth of any of our own Ministers, makes it impossible to comply with the recommendation of our own General Assembly, with respect to organizing them into a Church in connection with it.

2 Feb 1875

David Thomasson, Robert Byers, Lucinda Byers, Lydia Hemphill, John McCleave, and Martha McCleave, all persons of color Dismissed to Colored Baptist Church (Mt. Zion)

In view of the tendencies of the colored people to absent themselves from all public worship with the whites, and to congregate with those alone of their own color; and in the further hope of furnishing them with the pure gospel by suitable persons of their own color—the Session instructed the Moderator to correspond with the Rev. S. Loomis, a missionary of the Northern Presbyterian Church laboring in Chester, SC, a man of approved piety and zeal and well spoken of by the Brethren and invite him to organize a Colored Church in this vicinity in connection with the said Northern Presbyterian Church, if the way be clear.

1 Aug 1875

Lucinda Byers (colored) appeared before the Session and expressed her desire to remain a member of Bethesda Church, she was Reinstated

4 Oct 1875

The Status of our Colored Members, we regret to say, shows a steady decline. Name after name has been dropped from our roll, until but a very few remain. The desire of this class of our people to worship by themselves in Churches of their own color, has well-nigh emptied our galleries.

**MY EXPERIENCES AS A SOLDIER IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY
WRITTEN AT THE REQUEST OF BARNETTE,
MY ONLY LIVING DAUGHTER**

William Joseph Miller

(William Joseph Miller was born in the town of Ebenezer near Rock Hill, SC on August 12, 1845, and died on February 17, 1981, at the age of 72. In July 1916, at the urging of his daughter Barnette, he transcribed his memories of his service as a Confederate soldier in the 12th South Carolina Regiment. Editorial comments are in brackets.)

In 1861 I was going to school at Tirzah A.R.P. Church to Mr. J. Penkey, a native of Virginia, and a school teacher by profession. He had spent the greater part of his life teaching; had a large school, including young men from adjoining counties. I was then fifteen years old. School was out the last of June 1861, and every one was talking of the war between the States then going on. The entire class of which I was a member, and the youngest in the class, was going to volunteer. This, I suppose is the reason that I thought I ought to follow their example. Steve Johnson, a classmate, Mr. Wm. Brown, and Randolph Pierce, all close neighbors, joined the company then being organized at Yorkville by John L. Miller, and Wm. Dunlap of the Neeley's Creek community. This company was made up of men from Western York, and a number from the Eastern part of the county. We were assembled at Yorkville in camp for a few days, and then