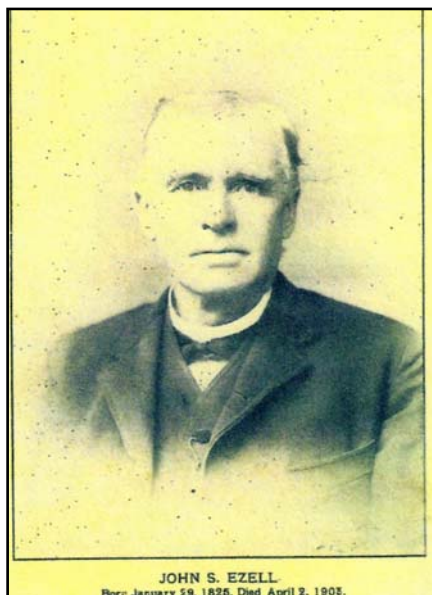


**Family of Rev. John S. Ezell, First Pastor of [Bivingsville/Glendale Baptist Church](#)
[Glendale, South Carolina](#)**



Census records were recorded as the Enumerator understood the registrant which led to numerous errors in names, spellings and dates. I have tried to copy the Census as recorded, where errors occur, I apologize.

The 1860 Spartanburg County, Limestone Springs Census, (Cherokee County was not founded until 1897) listed the household as;

John S. Ezell 36, husband/farmer

Wife; Mary 36

Children;

*Landrum 17

John B. 13

Martha 10

James G. 7

*Humphrey 4

Mary A. Lemons 26, no relationship noted

* Additional Information Given Later

The 1870 Spartanburg County, Limestone Census listed the household as;

John 45, husband/farmer

Wife; Margaret 46

Children;

Judson 17

Humphrey 14

Mary 5

Macomson Clowney 40, black lady/cook

James Hines 16, black boy/farm laborer

The 1880 Spartanburg County/Woodruff Census listed the household as;

John S. Ezell 55, husband/Minister

Wife; Martha M. 55

Children;

James J. 27, store clerk

Humphrey 24, at school

Mary 15, at school

The 1900 Spartanburg County/Woodruff Census shows that John and Margaret had been married 57 years and were the parents of 8 children, 6 living.

The household was listed as;

John S. Ezell 75, born 1825

Wife; Margaret 76, born in 1824

According to the history of the Macedonia Baptist Church of Cherokee County which was organized October 14, 1820, John S. Ezell was born January 29, 1825. At the age of 15 he was saved and baptized at Buck Creek Baptist Church and licensed by them to “try his gifts”. He later married and moved his membership to Macedonia. The mailing address of the Macedonia church at the time of its organization was Allgood, South Carolina. It is located in Cherokee Country just outside of Gaffney, S. C., on the old 29 highway.

Excerpts from the life and ministry of Rev. J. S. Ezell as recorded in the Macedonia Baptist History;

“Feeling his call to the gospel ministry, he was ordained by the Macedonia Baptist Church, March 20, 1846. At that point he realized his need for an education. Until this time, he could barely read. At 18 he married Margaret (Mahala) Thomas, the daughter of John Thomas who was a deacon at Macedonia. He soon transferred his membership to Macedonia and on March 20, 1846, was ordained By D.D. Scruggs, Dr. F.W. Littlejohn and W. B. Padgett. During this time, his wife, Margaret, helped him learn to read. Serving as a minister, he possessed a soul thirsting for knowledge. He would read scripture and memorized much of them. His great memory and splendid voice made him a power before the people. It was said that in his day, he was unmatched as a revivalist. He was very significant to Macedonia, serving on five different occasions as Pastor. Rev. Ezell helped organize the church’s first Sunday school in 1858. One of the brightest Pastors in the first 45 years of Macedonia was Rev. J. S. Ezell.”

At 28 years of age, (1848) Mr. Ezell built a large (for that day) two story home on the Sar-ratt School road, off the Love Springs road not far from the Macedonia Baptist Church. Rev. John S. Ezell served as a Captain in the 18th Regiment during the Civil War. Then he was transferred to the 4th Regiment of the militia where he also served as Captain. He later became the Regiment Chaplain. Records show that Rev. Ezell served as Pastor at Macedonia 1850 to 1852; 1854-55; 1863; August 1874 –November 1874 and 1876. He became the first Pastor of the [Bivingsville/Glendale Baptist Church](#), beginning in 1876 and serving through 1879, again in 1882 and for the third time in 1888.

According to the Sketches of Spartanburg County Churches, Spartanburg, S. C., Rev. Ezell preached in the following churches; He was the Elder of the Bethesda Church from 1848 thru 1851; Mount Ararat Church in 1850, 51&52; Buck Creek Baptist Church in 1862, and from 1866 thru 1871; Providence Church in 1866 thru 1869; Pacolet First Baptist Church in 1871; Cedar Springs Baptist Church, no date given; New Pleasant Baptist Church in 1878; Friendship Church, no date given.

He also preached in the Camp Creek Church, Cleveland, N. C., 1852& 53.

According to the Spartanburg Association's Annual, Rev. Ezell served the additional churches from 1881 until his retirement due to ill health. He gave his Lord fifty years of dedicated service.

1881-83- Cedar Shoals Baptist, annual salary \$75.00, address, Woodruff, S. C.

1884-85-Antioch Baptist, annual salary \$40.00 & \$50.00, address, Woodruff, S. C.

1886-87- Poplar Springs Baptist, annual salary \$75.00, address, Woodruff, S. C.

1888-Poplar Springs, Baptist, annual salary \$75.00

Mountain View Baptist, annual salary \$40.00, address, Martinville, S. C.

1889- No records found

1890-Poplar Springs Baptist, annual salary #75.00

Mountain View Baptist, annual salary \$ 10.00

1891-Poplar Springs Baptist, annual salary \$75.00

Mountain View Baptist, annual salary, \$ 24.00

The following obituary of Rev. John S. Ezell was published in the *Spartanburg Journal* April 4, 1903; "The funeral services over the remains of Rev. J. S. Ezell at Woodruff yesterday were largely attended. Four Ministers took part in the exercise"

Mrs. Mahala Ezell's obituary was not found. Note the variances in her name in the census and other records and her grave marker. Her correct name was "Margaret Mahala" Rev. Ezell and his wife are buried in the Bethel Cemetery in Woodruff, S. C.



Writer's comments; what a magnificent servant God had in this dear man. He was another Abraham, rising up from the foothills of South Carolina, near the Pacolet River, going to other lands as a Preacher and witness to the Power and Gospel of Christ in more than a dozen churches, traveling perhaps by horseback, buggy or wagon. Scores, perhaps hundreds, were snatched from a burning hell through his faithfulness to the message of God's Salvation through Christ Jesus.

From his loins came two sons, Landrum C. and Humphrey Ezell and one grandson, Humphrey K. Ezell Jr., who entered the ministry. He also had a grandson, Boyce Ezell, to become a Professor at Stetson University, Deland, Fla., another grandson son, Dr. W.C. Ezell, an Optometrist, who had an office in Spartanburg for many years.

"The Life and Times of John S. Ezell" which I understand gives the story of his life in detail is on the shelves of the Furman University Library and the Gaffney Public Library.

Family of Landrum Cicero Ezell, son of Rev. John S. and Margaret Mahala Ezell;

The 1910 Spartanburg County/Woodruff Census listed the household as follows;

Landrum C. 66, Widower/head of household, Baptist Clergyman

Children;

James E. 42, son, married 18 years

Fannie L. 42, daughter in-law/mother of three children

Gladys 17, granddaughter Hattie 14, granddaughter Lawrence 11, grand-
son

The 1920 Spartanburg County/Woodruff Census listed the household as;

James E. Ezell 52, head of household, merchant Wife, Fannie 51

Children;

Gladys 27, saleslady Lawrence 20, real estate

Landrum C. 77, father/retired

The Family of Rev. Humphrey K. Ezell, son of Rev. John S. and Margaret Mahala Ezell;

The 1900 Fairfield County Census shows that he had been married 19 years and they were the parents of 7 children;

The household was listed as;

Humphrey K. 44, born May 1856/Preacher Wife; Mattie 37, born May
1863

Children

Hettie L. 16, born September 1883 Boyce F. 14, born March 3, 1886

John K. 12, born March 1888 Mattie P. 9, born Septem-
ber 1890

William C. 6, born August 1893 Paul B. 4, born January 1896

Nina E. 1, born August 1898

The 1910 Spartanburg County/Cross Anchor Census shows that he had been married 27 years and was the father of 8 children.

The household was listed as;

Humphrey K. 52, husband, Minister of Gospel

Wife; Mattie C. 46

Children;

Boyce 24, public grade school teacher

Kingie 22

Pearl 19

William Carey 16

Paul 14

Nina 11

H.K. 9

The 1920 Spartanburg County/Cross Anchor Census listed the household as;

Humphrey 63

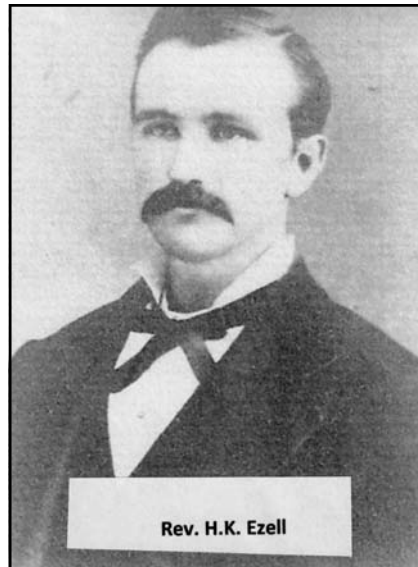
Wife; Mattie 56

Children;

Paul B. 24

Nina 21, public school teacher

Humphrey Jr. 19



Excerpts from the obituary of Rev. Humphrey K. Ezell published Saturday morning November 17, 1935.

“The Rev. Humphrey Kinsey Ezell, 79, widely known Baptist Pastor for nearly 30 years, died yesterday in Cross Anchor, a half hour after he was stricken with a heart attack. He had made his home in Cross Anchor since failing health forced him to retire from the ministry

Rev. Ezell was born in Spartanburg County May 22, 1856, the son of Rev. John S. and Mrs. Margaret Thomas Ezell. At the age of 13 he joined the Macedonia Baptist Church and was baptized by his father. After his call to the ministry, he attended the Southern Baptist Seminary. After finishing his studies, according to the Spartan Association Records, he pastored the following Baptist churches:

Beulah, Laurens County.; Lower Duncan Creek, Newberry County.; Lower Fairforest, Mount Zion, Hebron, Kelton, Jonesville and Padgett’s Creek, all in Union County; Pleasant Grove, Brush Creek and Corinth Church, all in Greenville County.; Blythewood, Crooked Run, Fairfield, Popular Springs, Longtown, Blaney and Mount Moriah, all in Fairfield, County.; Mount Zion and Cross Anchor, both in Spartanburg County. He was

active in the ministry from 1881 until 1911.

He is survived by his widow, Mattie Carolyn Fowler Ezell; eight children, Mrs. R. E. Littlejohn, Tucapau; Dr. B.F. Ezell, Deland, Fla., J.K. Ezell, Atlanta, Mrs. Pearl Yarborough, Cross Anchor, Dr. W. C. Ezell, Spartanburg, P.B. Ezell, Newberry, Mrs. B. B. Bobo, Tucapau, The Rev. Dr. H.K. Ezell Jr., Woodruff; one sister Mrs. B. M. Lanford, Woodruff and 14 grandchildren.

Services were held in the New Hope Baptist Church in Cross Anchor with interment following in the Bethel Cemetery, Woodruff, S. C.”

Excerpts from the obituary of Mrs. H. K. Ezell Sr. published Tuesday May 20, 1941;

“Mrs. H. K. Ezell Sr. of Cross Anchor, wife of the late Rev. H. K. Humphrey Sr. , died late last night at her home.

Survivors are; three daughters, Mrs. R. E. Littlejohn and Mrs. Mrs. L. E. Yarborough, Cross Anchor and Mrs. Boyd B. Bobo, Roebuck; five sons, Dr. B.F. Ezell, Deland, Fla., J.K. Ezell, Atlanta, Dr. W. C. Ezell, Spartanburg, P.B. Ezell, Newberry and Dr. H. K. Ezell Jr., Fairforest;

Four sisters, Mrs. Jessie Caylor, Los Angeles, Mrs. Margaret Barton, Simpsonville, and Mrs. S. C. Gibson, Mrs. Lola Atkinson, Greenville; one brother, A.R. Fowler, Due West. Funeral arrangements to be announced.”

My appreciation to the Macedonia Baptist Church for their material on the life of Rev. John S. Ezell and to Mr. Boyce Ezell for the pictures and other assistance he gave me in gathering this history together.

Federal Census and *Spartanburg Herald/Journal* obituaries, courtesy of Spartanburg County Library.

[Clarence E. Crocker](#), January 2013