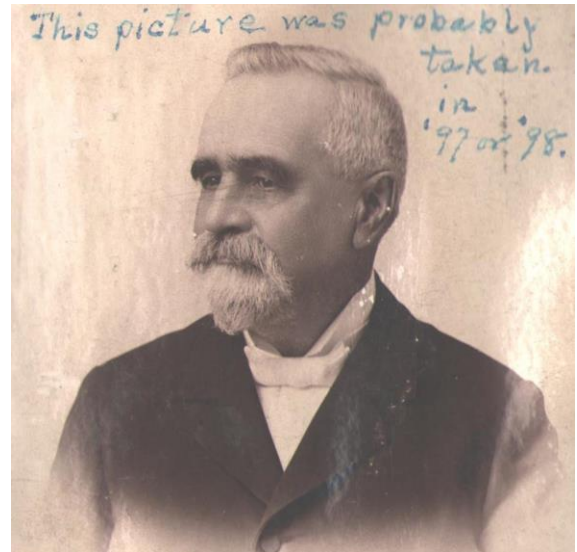


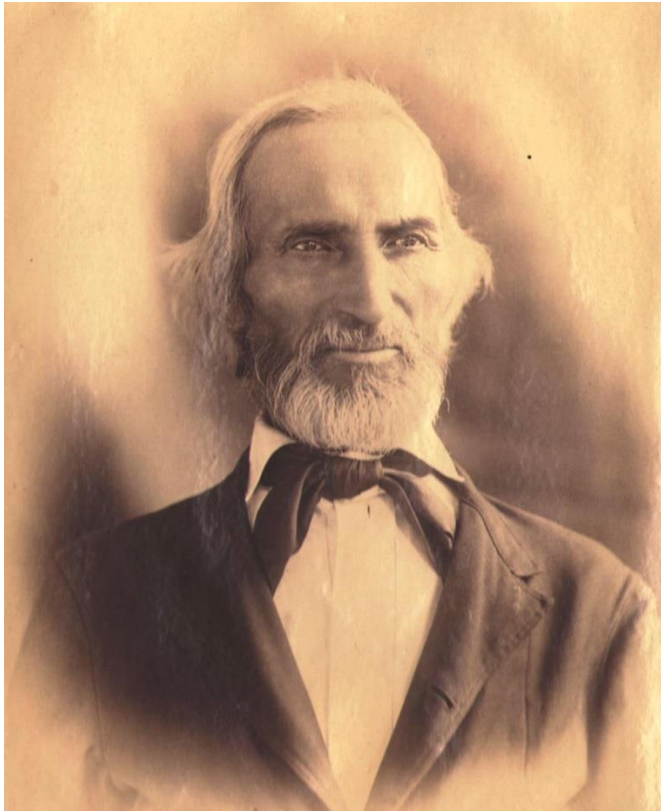
The Early History of First Baptist Ames and Oklahoma - Bacone College Connections

As our church prepared for a mission trip to Oklahoma in the spring of 2018, we discovered that we had connections to Oklahoma, then Indian Territory, from the very early years of our history.

Rev. Samuel Mitchell was the first resident pastor of First Baptist (1870-75). He left Ames to serve as Financial Agent for Des Moines College, a Baptist school. From 1890-92, Mitchell served as a missionary with the American Baptist Home Mission Society in Indian Territory (Oklahoma).



Rev. Mitchell worked with Chief Charles Journeycake of the Delaware Indians. He was a Baptist preacher and missionary who worked throughout Oklahoma. At the Alluwe Indian Church (pictured here), Chief Journeycake was pastor and Rev. Mitchell was the Assistant Pastor. Mitchell wrote [a biography of Chief Journeycake](#) published by the American Baptist Publication Society in 1895.

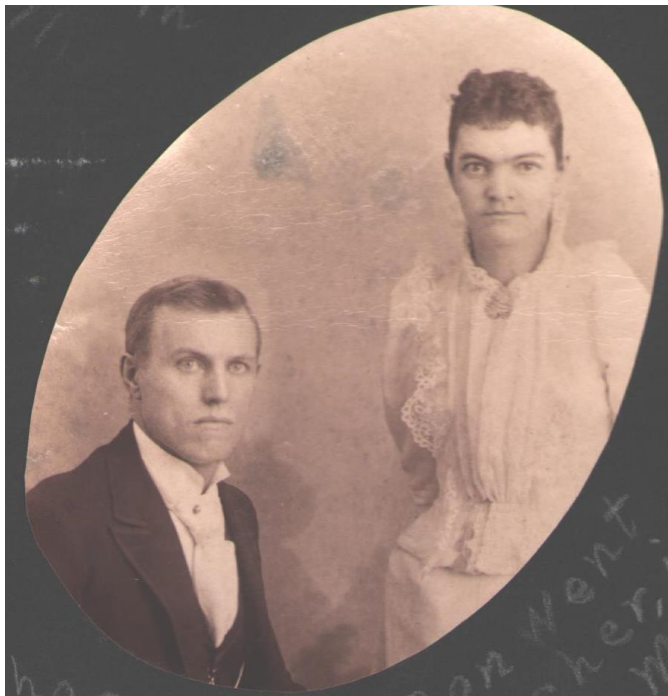


Chief Charles Journeycake was also a farmer. It is said that he never accepted pay for his work as a pastor and missionary.



Jane Sosha Journeycake (pictured here) and Chief Journeycake had ten daughters and two sons. One of their daughters, Nannie, married the son of John G. Pratt, a Baptist missionary. After her husband's death, Nannie married again and during her second marriage she raised money for a library at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City. The library was named the Pratt-Journeycake Library in honor of her father and her first father-in-law.

Rev. Samuel and Mary Ann Mitchell's granddaughter Minnie Mitchell Lucas went to Muskogee, Oklahoma in 1889 to teach music at what was then called Bacone Indian University. Close to 130 years later, we are still sending groups to work at Bacone and the Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee. Journeycake Hall at Bacone College is named for Chief Journeycake's mother, Sally Journeycake.



From the caption in a family photo album: "Charles H. Maxson went to Bacone as teacher in 1891. Here he and Minnie became friends and lovers, and they were married on Sept. 15, 1892 at the K.W. Brown home (Minnie's aunt and uncle's home) in Ames, Iowa. They returned to Bacone College and taught two years more."



Bacone College, ca. 1890. Minnie is near the center of the picture, noted with a faint check mark.



Minnie (seated on chair) with some of her students.

These photos were part of an album created by Margaret Mitchell Brown. She was the daughter of Rev. Samuel and Mary Ann Mitchell and married Capt. Kendrick Brown, a Civil War veteran and Baptist layperson instrumental in the founding of First Baptist. (Minnie was married at her home). Margaret created the album for her grandson, Robert Owen Higgs. They were given to the church by Farwell Brown, cousin of Robert Higgs.