

Honoring Mt. Zion
Ladies
of The Past

Compiled and edited by
Charles & Mary Roy Edwards
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Lelia Overton Wingfield

By her great-niece
Nancy Edith Mahone Miller

Lelia Overton Wingfield was born June 23, 1865 at Esmont, Albemarle County, Virginia. She was the oldest child of Civil War veteran, William Old Wingfield and his wife Dorothy Minor Childress. Lelia's childhood was spent in the Esmont area along with her four siblings: Virginia A. Wingfield, James Edlow Wingfield, Ada Waller Wingfield, and Daisy Wingfield. A fifth sibling, Robert William Wingfield died in infancy.

Lelia Wingfield had a distinguished lineage, descending from at least five known American Revolutionary War Patriots, including Benjamin Childress, who along with his wife, Ann Key Johnston Childress were instrumental in the formation of Mount Zion United Methodist Church. Ada's other Revolutionary ancestors were: Ann Joplin Childress, the mother of Benjamin Childress; Henry Johnston, the father of Ann Key Johnston Childress; John Old, Sr.; and John Wingfield.

A life-long member of Mount Zion, Lelia never married and was known as "Auntie" by her beloved nieces and nephews. On August 28, 1886, Lelia received a teaching certificate to teach second grade in the Albemarle County public schools and did so for many years.

Lelia Wingfield died December 2, 1929 and is buried in the cemetery at Mount Zion. Before her death she requested that her grave be marked with a simple river stone, an action that was carried out by her nephew, Burton Mahone.



Ida Lee Clark Bates

By her granddaughter, Kathleen
Bates Hasse

Ida Lee Clark Bates was born on March 27, 1876 in Esmont, Va. Her parents, Charles David Clark and Emma Mariah Childress, are buried at Mt. Zion. As a child, Ida Lee attended Mt. Zion Church. Ida's son, Samuel, said his mom taught at an academy and went to Richmond to become a dental assistant. She was a very smart lady and well ahead of her time.

On a visit to her sister, Ella Clark Wilson in Charleston, West Va., she met Charles Nelson Bates at his store. On a bag of potatoes, he wrote, "Please Mrs. Wilson, introduce me to the lovely redhead." Charles and Ida married on Oct. 3, 1904. They had three children, Samuel Clark, Helen Emma, and John Nelson Bates.

Ida made sure that her children were brought up with "Southern manners". She always dressed beautifully, never going to church without her gloves, hat, and lovely jewelry. She loved to travel, and especially to visit her double first cousin, Kate Childress, in Esmont, a daughter of Thomas Henry and Mary A. Clark Childress. I remember coming to Esmont as a child with my grandparents. I remember the old pump organ at Mt. Zion Church and the outhouse in the back of the cemetery.

She was proud that her father, Charles David Clark, fought in the Civil War. He is buried at Mt. Zion Church. Her ancestors on her mother's side go back to Benjamin and Ann Childress. Ida died on Dec. 23, 1962.



Genevieve M. Bragg

By her son, Carrington Bragg

Feb. 10, 1911- Dec.16, 2003

To my dear mother I send my love through God's angels. Mom loved Mt. Zion Church, but she also understood that the church was more than a building, that the members of Mt. Zion were

the real church.

As the expression of love in her face shines forth for her only great-grandson, over the years she showed that love for her fellow members of Mt. Zion. She was a guiding light for me who kept her eyes on the Lord, and her light still shines for me ever so bright.

I would like to thank the members and pastors of Mt. Zion for their unfailing love and friendship for my mother. I also would like to thank Jimmy and Sissy Cookenour for over the years providing transportation for her to the church activities. Everyone at Mt. Zion was such a blessing for her and she knew that. She always reminded me of that.

May God bless this wonderful church. May God's light shine forth from Mt. Zion.



Ellen Gertrude Ward

By her daughter, Mary Adcock

My mother was born on June 18, 1918 in Albemarle County. She was a member of Mt. Zion Methodist Church and attended services as much as she possibly could. She looked forward to Church services, especially to

Homecoming, the Easter services and Mother's Day. This was a special time of reunion and fellowship for Mom. She loved to visit with friends at Homecoming that she hadn't seen in years. At Easter, she loved to watch the children find the Easter eggs. Their laughter was music to her ears. On Mother's Day, Mom would always get a corsage for having the most children. She had nine children total.

Mom devoted her life to taking care of a "special" needs son, so she was limited in her ability to visit or call some of those friends that she was blessed to see at Homecoming.

Mom didn't sing in the choir, but she loved to sing the old hymns. Outside of her large family of children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins, the people of Mt. Zion were part of her extended family.

Because her faith was rooted and nurtured at Mt. Zion, she was able to pass on those values during her 83 years before she passed away on January 16, 2002.



Kate Lillian Childress
Wilkinson Thomas
1874-1957

By her granddaughter, Kathryn
Wilkinson-Clerico- Mastrangelo

Daughter of Thomas Henry
Childress, Mt. Zion United
Methodist Church was always
important to Kate Childress; it was
part of her family heritage. A wife

and mother, she was also a *true* daughter of Mt. Zion because
Kate's great-grandfather, Benjamin Childress, gave the land and
built the first church in 1828. In years to come she became Kate L.
Wilkinson, and then Mrs. P. P. Thomas at which point she
became an important fundraiser.

In 1943 Kate served as treasurer of the Cemetery Fund. She
collected a total of \$35 towards the purchase of kneeling pads for
the chancel. In 1954, Kate sold commemorative church plates.
Her fund raising ledger shows she sold eleven plates for a total for
\$46.75. In 1955, Kate was busy writing letters concerning the
Building Fund. She outdid herself that year recording the names
of 117 people who gave a total of \$754.00.

In 1956, Kate collected donations for furniture to be used in
the newly build Sunday school – her ledger records \$63.75. Kate's
last fundraising effort was shortly before her passing in 1957. That
year she wrote to 18 friends and family members and collected a
total of \$108.00 for the Organ Fund.

As Mrs. P. P. Thomas, Kate recorded approximately \$1,000.00
that she helped to raise for Mt. Zion. It was said she once wrote
over 700 letters for her church. Kate was not only a *true*
daughter of Mt. Zion; she was a most remarkable fundraiser of
her time.



Gladys Dowell Childress

By her daughter-in-law,
Mildred T. Childress

A resident of Whitehall,
Gladys met and married James
Clifton Childress, Sr., in 1919.
They had two children, James, Jr.,
born in 1922 and Mildred,
"Mickey", born in 1927. When
the children were young, Gladys
and James Sr. took the children
with them to church. Mickey

suffered from health problems as a small child. When she was 12
years old, Gladys and James Sr. took her to the Methodist
Children's Hospital in Richmond where she was diagnosed with
Cerebral Palsy.

As her children grew, Gladys became a behind the scenes
worker for Mt. Zion. Unable to attend church due to Mickey's
health conditions; Gladys stayed at home to provide care. She
mentioned from time to time that she hoped someone would be
able to stay with Mickey so she would be able to attend church.
By her sacrifice of staying home, James Sr. and then later on
James Jr. were both able to take an active roll in the leadership of
Mt. Zion. Gladys made sure she attended church once a year – at
Homecoming. On that day, she would be in the church to
worship and share in the fellowship while Mickey and a caretaker
sat in the car.

Gladys died in 1969. Following her mother's death, Mickey's
care was taken over by James Jr. and Mildred Townsend Childress.



Emma Mariah Childress Clark

By a great-granddaughter,
Kathleen Bates Hasse

Emma was born Aug. 8, 1848 in Esmont, Va. She was the daughter of Robert Madison and Lucy Ann Overton Childress, and the granddaughter of Benjamin and Ann Key Johnston Childress, the founders of Mt. Zion Church, and the great-granddaughter of

Benjamin and Eliza Joplin Childress. Since her ancestors were responsible for building Mt. Zion Church, she probably attended church at Mt. Zion as a child.

At the age of 18, on Jan. 8, 1867, in her parents' home she married Charles David Clark who was 23 years old. They were the parents of William David, Charles Adam, Ella Kate, Ida Lee, Lillian Mae, Edward Felix, Harry Minor, and Helen Emma Clark.

Emma died on Nov. 9, 1892, at the age of 44, and is buried at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church cemetery.



Eva Ragland Scott

By her daughter, Thelma Hooper

My mother, Eva Ragland Scott, was born July 11, 1908. She lived to be 93 and saw two sets of five generations in her family.

Mother was never officially a member of Mt. Zion, but was always one in her heart. She loved the people at Mt. Zion and always felt at home here. She loved Homecoming and seeing old friends she had not seen in awhile.

Mother was the caregiver in the family. When anyone got sick or needed help, mother was always there.

Mother passed away September 3, 2001. She has been greatly missed by her family and friends. No one can take her place.

Virginia Louise Patterson

By her daughter, Betty Lou Baber

Louise was born on Dec.20, 1918, and started attending Mt. Zion Church at a very early age.

She was a Sunday School teacher for several years. She enjoyed attending church with her family and preparing food for Homecomings and Sunday School picnics.

Her husband was Herman L. Patterson. They had three children, two sons and one daughter. Louise passed away at the age of 84 on August 21, 2003.



Maggie H. Cookenour

By her son, Jimmy Cookenour

Maggie was born on August 29, 1897. She moved to Esmont from Schuyler in 1963. She had her membership transferred from Rockfish Baptist Church to Mt. Zion in 1963. She became an active member, supporting Mt. Zion with her presence and gifts. Maggie passed away in April 1992, at the age of 94.

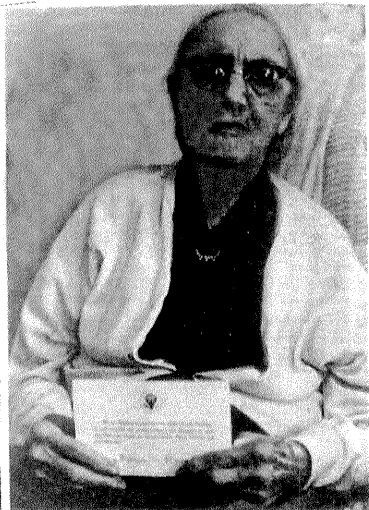


Sara Florence Patterson

By her granddaughter, Betty Lou Patterson Baber

Florence was born on March 25, 1889. Her husband was Henry Walker Patterson. They had six children, three sons and three daughters.

Florence was faithful in attending church with her family. She supported Mt. Zion financially and in many other ways. She passed away at the age of 97 on August 10, 1986.



Florence Patterson holds presidential birthday greeting.

Happy 95th Birthday Florence

Agnes Josephine Dawson

By her niece, Dorothy Dawson
and great-niece, Mary Roy
Dawson Edwards



Agnes Josephine Dawson was born on September 27th, 1864, on a Tuesday morning according to the Dawson family bible. It was a tumultuous time because her father, Andrew Jackson Dawson, was fighting in the Civil War. In 1873, when

Jo was nine years old, the family moved from Poplar Springs Farm near Faber to Cool Springs Farm in Esmont. She faithfully attended Mt. Zion for 68 years.

Aunt Jo, as her family fondly knew her, never married. She taught school in Esmont, Virginia, and lived at home with her parents, Andrew and Millie.

Jo was a real sweet person and she raised her sister's two children, Dorothy Waller and Littleton Andrew Parr, after her sister passed away just ten days after Dorothy was born.

Jo joined the United Daughters of the Confederacy on March 31, 1916. Her application, recently discovered in the Scottsville Museum, relates in detail the war record of her father and how he eventually made it back home.

She passed away on September 11, 1941 and is buried at Mt. Zion.



Betty Mahone

By her daughters, Pam Gardner
and Anita Patrick

Our mom, Betty Mahone was born in 1932 on the 19th of May. She later married our dad, Oscar, joined Mt. Zion and came here often to pray.

Whenever something was going on at Mt. Zion, Mama would be sure to go. She'd usually show up with one of her four grandchildren in tow.

On Homecoming Sunday, under the picnic shelter she'd be, Usually with some deviled eggs, cake, and her famous sweet tea.

In the Mt. Zion Church choir, Oh, how she loved to sing. and Daddy always said that she could talk so much, it would make your ears ring!

I know you will agree with us that Mama was one of a kind. She left this world to go to a better place in April 1999.

We know Mt. Zion misses her Just as much as we do. But we know she's in Heaven, and one day we'll be there too.





Ada Waller Wingfield Mahone

By her granddaughter,
Nancy Edith Mahone Miller

Ada Waller Wingfield was born June 11, 1871 at Esmont, Albemarle County, Virginia. She was the daughter of William Old Wingfield

and Dorothy Minor Childress. Ada's childhood was spent with her four siblings: Lelia Overton, Virginia A., James Edlow, and Daisy Wingfield. A fifth sibling, Robert William, died in infancy.

On June 5, 1899 Ada Wingfield married Walter O'Connor Mahone of Massies Mill, Nelson County, Virginia. They were the parents of six children: Walter Wingfield, William Lemuel, Dabney Burton, Oscar Minor, Dorothy Lyle, and Wilson O'Connor Mahone.

Ada Wingfield had a distinguished lineage, descending from at least five known American Revolutionary War Patriots, including Benjamin Childress, who along with his wife, Ann Key Johnston Childress were instrumental in the formation of Mount Zion United Methodist Church. Ada's other Revolutionary ancestors were: Ann Joplin Childress, the mother of Benjamin Childress; Henry Johnston, the father of Ann Key Johnston Childress; John Old, Sr.; and John Wingfield.

A life-long member of Mount Zion, Ada was known to frequently feed the pastor in her home with her family after Sunday services. She was described in her obituary as "a gracious kindly lady, winning the affection and respect of all who were fortunate enough to meet her. She was a devoted and loving wife and mother, a kind and sympathetic friend and neighbor, and a devout Christian." Ada Wingfield Mahone died on August 29, 1924 after a lingering illness at age 53 and is buried in the cemetery at Mount Zion.



Dorothy Waller Childress Dawson

By her great-great-grand-
daughter, Mary Roy Dawson
Edwards

A daughter of the founders of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Dorothy was born May 28th, 1794. She had four sisters, Agnes, Nancy B., Eliza, and Sophrona; and three brothers,

Henry, Robert, and Benjamin Childress, Jr. On her eighteenth birthday in 1812, Dorothy married Benjamin Dawson. They first lived in Nelson County near Faber, but in Oct. 1836 bought land on Ballenger Creek near Dorothy's parents. So, Dorothy would have worshiped at her parents' church until 1843 when she and Benjamin moved to Scottsville. They were the parents of John Sorrell, Martin Luther, Benjamin Henry, Eliza Ann, Agnes Carr, and Andrew Jackson Dawson. Her husband passed away in 1853. Years later, she was back worshiping at Mt. Zion with her son, Andrew, and his family when he purchased Cool Springs Farm in 1873. A story written by a grandson, John Stanley Dawson, portrayed her as a very kind and considerate person. She passed away Feb. 22, 1892 and is buried at Mt. Zion.

Her parents, Benjamin and Ann Key Johnston Childress, owned nearby Seven Oaks Farm and Cool Springs Farm. They gave the land for Mt. Zion Church and in 1828 a small log sanctuary was built. A brick church replaced this in 1841. In 1881, the present church was constructed.



Gertrude Elizabeth Hamner
Dawson

By her daughter, Margaret
Elizabeth Dawson Stein

Gertrude, born July 2, 1888, was certainly one of the "Ladies of Mt. Zion". Although she was a member of Sharon Baptist Church, she was active in Mt. Zion activities from the time of her marriage to William Andrew Dawson at Mt. Zion church on December 18, 1907. Their six children, William

Andrew, Mildred Brown, Wright Hamner, Margaret Elizabeth, Martin Luther, and Lucius Fletcher Dawson, all attended Mt. Zion.

She often played the organ (and later the piano) for Mt. Zion Church services and was an active member of the Ladies Aid Society. She prepared the communion for Mt. Zion and was very involved in organizing and preparing dishes for Mt. Zion Homecomings as long as she lived in the area at "Cool Springs Farm".

She died on January 26, 1958 and is buried at Mt. Zion.



Carrie Butler Lane
1905-1984

By Dr. Arthur Lane

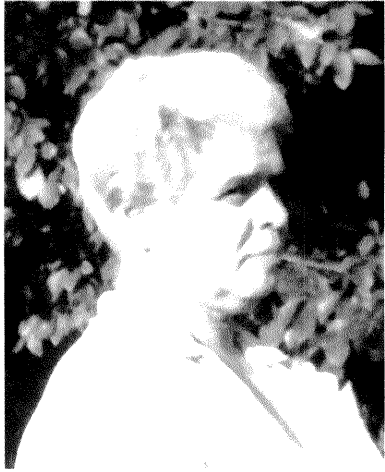
Born and raised in Esmont, Carrie attended a local Church with her parents and siblings. After getting married, she started attending Mt. Zion with her husband. Though she never joined Mt. Zion, she did participate in activities and raise her family there. She is buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery.



Laura Martin Lane
"Mammie"
1870-1961

By Dr. Arthur Lane

Born in Esmont at "Spring Hill Farm", she spent her whole life as an active member of Mt. Zion Church. Her husband bought "Esmont Farm" for her for a wedding present and she lived there for over sixty years. Although she participated in many Church activities, her most noteworthy accomplishment was working with a group to restore and further develop the cemetery in 1930. She is buried there.



Ellen Lane Jones
1891-1954

By Dr. Arthur Lane

Born in Esmont, daughter of Laura "Mammie" Lane. She graduated from Randolph Macon Women's College and taught school at Esmont for many years. She spent her life until the late 40's as an active member of Mt. Zion,

before moving to Altavista. She played the piano for Church services for many years. She is buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery.



Maude Shackelford
Dawson

1884-1964

By her daughters, Agnes Dawson Joyner & Margaret Sclater Dawson

Our mother's family was Baptist. She was baptized at Effort Baptist Church that was on Rt. #53 out from Charlottesville.

After she married, she attended Mt. Zion Methodist church where her husband, John Stanley Dawson, was a member. They had five children, Abney Binford, Margaret Sclater, Marian, Agnes, and Harriet Dawson.

She taught children's Sunday School at Mt. Zion. Our mother was the organist many times when the regular organist was absent. At that time it was a pump organ. She helped with dinners at Homecoming that were then held in August. Later Homecoming was changed to the fourth Sunday in May. She enjoyed visiting with the ladies before and after the service.

After our brother and three girls left home, Mama learned to drive. This enabled our father and Mama and daughter, Harriet, to continue attending Mt. Zion services.



Mildred Brown Childress
Dawson

By her great-granddaughter,
Mary Roy Dawson Edwards

Born on Nov. 7th, 1833, Millie was the daughter of Benjamin and Susan Thompson Brown Childress. She was a granddaughter of Benjamin Childress and Ann Key

Johnston, the founders of Mt. Zion Church. On May 31, 1860, she married her first cousin, Andrew Jackson Dawson, also a grandchild of the Mt. Zion founders.

She was one of those special women who cared for her family and their farm, "Poplar Branch", while her husband was away fighting in the Civil War.

Their children were Benjamin Brown, Agnes Josephine, Dorothy Waller, John Stanley, Susan Turner, William Andrew, and Martin Luther Dawson.

In 1873, Millie and Andrew purchased "Cool Springs Farm", adjacent to Mt. Zion Church. From then until her death on Sept. 21st, 1894, she and her family worshiped at Mt. Zion.



Katherine Donald

By her husband, R. E. Donald

Katherine was born on May 10, 1920. Kathy, as she was known, was a member of Mt. Zion Church for many years. She was always at Sunday School and worship service. She loved the children and loved

the Easter egg hunt.

Kathy passed away February 18, 2006. She is severely missed by many.



Helen Huffman Douglas

By her daughter, Frances
Cookenour

Helen was born on September 1, 1900. She transferred her membership from Scottsville Baptist Church to Mt. Zion in the early 1930's. She was very active in the church and held many positions over the years. She was instrumental in getting the church back after the merger in 1980-81, attending all the local meetings. She passed away in March of 1998 at the age of 97.