

CHURCH HISTORIES

TOOMSUBA PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH MINUTES

1868-1914

TOOMSUBA, LAUDERDALE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

EDITED EDITION



ABSTRACTED AND COMPILED BY
R.S.V.P. VOLUNTEERS
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
JAMES T. DAWSON

LCDA&H, INC.
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Toomsba Presbyterian
Church Minutes
1868-1914
Toomsba, Lauderdale County, Mississippi
Edited Edition

Abstracted and Compiled By
R.S.V.P. Volunteers
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TOOMSUBA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MINUTES

This book is dedicated to A. Jarvis Welch who furnished the minutes for the Lauderdale County Archives and History, Inc. to copy and abstract.

Mr. A. Jarvis Welch is a long time resident of Toomsuba and historian of the Toomsuba area.

Mr. Welch is and has been a supporter of LCDA&H, Inc., from day one.

TOOMSUBA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MINUTES
1868-1914

Sept. 20, 1868

Session met. Present J.A. Switzer, Mod., Duncan Kelly and J.R. McLaurin, Elders. B.Cameron and E.A. Smith were unanimously admitted into full membership of the church. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

July 1869

Present were H. McDonald, Mod.; Duncan Kelly & J.R. McLaurin, Elders. B.Rhodes and William Redding were examined and admitted to full membership of church. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

Sept. 19, 1869

Present were H. McDonald, Mod.; Duncan Kelly & J.R. McLaurin, Elders. J.R. McLaurin appointed delegate to Presbytery at Garlandville Oct. 14th. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

April 3, 1870

Session met after services by Rev. H. McDonald. Present were H. McDonald, Mod.; Duncan Kelly & J.R. McLaurin, Elders. D. Kelly appointed to attend Presbytery at West Point on 14th inst. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

Dec. 1, 1872

O.P.H. Smith, Mod.; Duncan Kelly & J.R. McLaurin, Elders. Mr. A.J. Keeton and Miss Matta Bishop were baptised and received into full fellowship of the Presbyterian Church. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

April 6, 1873

Present were O.H.P. Smith, Mod.; J.Redding & Duncan Kelly, Elders. William Johnston and his wife, Pricilla Johnston, were baptised and received into full fellowship of the Presbyterian Church. Also, William Johnston and J. D. Harwell presented their infant sons who were baptised and received under the care of the church. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

William Johnson died 1875. (A NOTE ADDED AT A LATER DATE)

July 12, 1874

Session met with O.H.P. Smith, Mod., and J.R.McLaurin; D. Kelly absent. J.P. Keeton was baptised and received into full fellowship of the church. Also his wife, Mrs. Cornelia Keeton, presented a letter from the Methodist Church and was received by letter into full fellowship of the Presbyterian Church. Their infant daughter was baptised and taken under the care of the church. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

Aug. 1874

Session met with O.H.P. Smith, Mod.; J.R. McLaurin & Duncan Kelly, Elders. After satisfactory examination, George Wilson was received into full membership of the church. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

Aug. 29, 1875

O.H.P. Smith, Mod.; J.R. McLaurin & Duncan Kelly, Elders; and Rev. H.B. Bonds. Messrs. W.H. Moody, H.S. Moody, W.H.Smith and Henry Newton came before the session and after each gave a satisfactory evidence of change of heart were received into full fellowship of this church. W.H. Moody and Henry Newton were (continued next page)

baptised; the others having been baptised previously. **(NOTE) Henry Newton joined Baptist Church Sept. 1870.)** J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

Aug. 30, 1875

Session met with numbers present as before. Mrs. M.L. Praytor and Mr. P.E. Bozeman gave evidence of change of heart; baptism was administered to P.E. Bozeman, others having received it previously and both were welcomed into full membership of the church. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

Aug. 31, 1875

Session met with members present as before. Mr. Edward Welch was baptised and received into full fellowship of the church. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

Sept. 1, 1875

Session met with same present as before. J. Harman, Mary F. (first name barely legible) Yeager, Alma Blanks, Eugene Moore, Josephine Marshall, were baptized. Also at the same session Mary Harman, J.R. McLaurin, Jr., J.E. Simons and W.M. Kelly, all having been previously baptized, were received into communion of this church. J.R. McLaurin was elected delegate to the Presbytery in Oct. next. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

February 1876

Members present were: O.P.H. Smith, Mod., D. Kelly & J.R. McLaurin. P.E. Bozeman and J.D. Harwell were installed as ruling Elders of the Church. J.D. Harwell presented a letter of dismission from Sumterville, Ala., church. J.P. Keeton and E.A. Smith installed as elected Deacons of this church. J.R. McLaurin (continued next page)

was appointed to attend the Presbytery at Enterprise in April next, and J.D. Harwell as alternate. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

Aug. 15, 1876

O.H.P. Smith, Mod.; J.R. McLaurin, Duncan Kelly, J.D. Harwell, P.E. Bozeman, Elders. Mrs. E.A. Smith, after giving evidence of a change of heart, was received into the communion of the church. After some conversation on the matter, a committee was appointed to investigate. J.R. McLaurin, Clk. **(NOTE The committee reported it was unnecessary that the matter be investigated. Committee disc. Sept. 1876.)**

Sept. 10, 1876

Present: O.H.P. Smith, Mod.; J.R. McLaurin, D.Kelly, P.E. Bozeman, and J.D. Harwell. J.R. McLaurin was elected delegate to attend Presbytery at Scooba on 1st Thurs. in Oct., with D. Kelly elected as alternate. Session adjourned to meet at house of Mr. J.R. Saylor at 3 o'clock P.M.

Session met pursuant to adjournment, members present as before. Mr. Saylor and his wife, Mrs. Angeline Saylor, appeared before session and having given satisfactory evidence on examination were received into the communion of the church. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

March 1878

Session met with O.H.P. Smith, Mod.; J.B. McLaurin, D.Kelly, P.E. Bozeman, Elders. D. Kelly appointed to represent this church in Presbytery to be held in Meridian in April next. J.R. McLaurin was appointed alternate. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

June 9, 1878

Present were O.H.P. Smith, Mod.; D.Kelly, P.E.Bozeman, J.D. Harwell, J.R. McLaurin, Elders. Miss Julia H. Smith presented a letter of regular standing from M.E. Church S. which was received as satisfactory. She was received into full fellow-ship in this church. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

Aug. 11, 1878

Present: O.H.P. Smith, Mod.; D.Kelly, P.E. Bozeman, J.R. McLaurin, Elders. D.C. McLaurin, Minnie J. McLaurin, Elizabeth Wilson and James Welburn were received into the Presbyterian Church. On Sabbath preceding, the infant children, Harry and Ida, of Mrs. Hemphill, and Kati May, daughter of E.A. and Emma Smith, were presented for baptism and were rec'd into membership of this church. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

Dec. 8, 1878

Present were: O.P.H. Smith, Mod.; Elders D.Kelly & J.R. McLaurin. Miss Mary Yeager asked for letter of dismission from this church and this was granted. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

July 13, 1879

Present: O.P.H.Smith, Mod.; Elders D.Kelly, J.D.Harwell, P.E.Bozeman. J.R. McLaurin complained of irregularity of some members not being present. A committee of J.D. Harwell, P.E. Bozeman, and J.R. McLaurin were instructed to investigate and report members at meeting in Aug. next.
J.R. McLaurin, Acting Clerk

Aug. 10, 1879

Present: O.P.H. Smith, Mod.; Elders Kelly, Bozeman, McLaurin.
Absent: Harwell. Report on delinquent members was received and promises of delinquents accepted except for J. Calhoun, who treated the subject with such little respect that they were recommitted, with Elder Kelly added, to urge upon him the great danger that might result from his being expelled from the church, and if no promises for improvement was given that the church would certainly cut him off. (NOT SIGNED)

Aug. 11, 1879

Miss Estelle Kelly came before session and gave satisfactory evidence of a change of heart and was received into the full fellowship of the church. (NOT SIGNED)

March 1880

O.H.P. Smith, Mod.; Elders McLaurin, Bozeman & Harwell. Mrs. L.A. Harwell presented a letter of regular dismissal from Methodist E. Church South and was accepted into full membership of this church. Also her's and Elder Harwell's infant son, named William, was presented and baptised. Elder Bozeman brought up the case of J. Calhoun, which was continued because of his absence.
J.R. McLaurin

May 9, 1880

Present: O.H.P. Smith, Mod.; Elders McLaurin, Bozeman & Harwell. J. Calhoun was still absent. Bros. Bozeman & Harwell were instructed to communicate with him by letter, including a copy of the charges held against him, and to notify him that he would be put on trial for offenses charged at the next session (continued next page)

meeting. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

Aug. 11, 1880

Present: O.H.P. Smith, Mod.; Harwell, Bozeman & McLaurin, Elders. Case of J.Calhoun delayed because of difficulty in reaching him - his being at considerable distance and because of two legal notices required. Action taken which resulted in suspension for contumacy.

After services were held, Mr. W.W. Pearce came before the session and was received into full fellowship of this church. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

Sept. 12, 1880

O.H.P. Smith, Mod.; McLaurin & Bozeman, Elders; Absent, Kelly & Harwell. Mrs. M.A. Calhoun and Mrs. Lois A. Bozeman asked for letters of dismissal from the church and the clk. was ordered to issue them. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

June 1881

Present: O.P.H. Smyth, Mod.; McLaurin & Bozeman, Elders. Absent, Kelly and Harwell. J.D. Harwell and wife asked for letters of dismissal from the church to the church at Lauderdale. Clerk was ordered to issue the letter and forward to them. J.R. McLaurin, Clk. **(NOTE how spelling of Smith's name is changed)**

Sabbath, Feb. 2, 1882

O.H.P.Smyth, Mod.; J.R.McLaurin, Elder. Miss Alice Kelly and Ida Hemphill, after satisfactory examination, were received into the church. J.R. McLaurin, Clk by E.A. Smith

***(This entry was entered on bottom of wrong page and was marked-
with an*)**

Aug. 1881

Present: O.H.P.Smyth, Mod.; P.E.Bozeman, Elder. Mrs.Louisa Wilson and J.M. Bates were received into full fellowship upon profession of their faith. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

Sept. 11, 1881

O.H.P.Smyth, Mod.; Elders McLaurin & Bozeman. Mrs. C.W. Hill and Miss M.A. Bozeman were baptised and received into full fellowship of the church. (NOT SIGNED)

Sept. 12, 1881

Present as before. Mrs. R.A. Bates presented herself with a letter Of dismissal from the Met.E.Church South, also Mrs.O.C. Bozeman with a letter from Baptist Church. Both were received into full fellowship of the church. Sallie Thompson, aged 12, presented herself for membership and was baptised and received into the church. J.R. McLaurin

(see entry Sabbath, Feb. 2, 1882 entered on page 7)

June 11, 1882

Present: O.H.P. Smith, Mod.; Elders Bozeman & McLaurin. J.M. Bates asked for letter of dismissal to Presbyterian Church at Tuscaloosa, which was granted. J.R. McLaurin, Clk.

Oct. 19, 1884

One Elder, Bro.Kelly, having lately died, and the only other elder, J.R. McLaurin, being confined at home by sickness, Rev. B.N. Peters of the Presbytery of Tuscaloosa (illegible) and (continued on next page)

supply of this church after consultation with Elder McLaurin at his house, and with his concurrence, acted as evangelist (sp.) and received into the church with a letter from the Hadden Church Presbytery in Tuscaloosa: John Thomas, his wife & daughters, Rosa and Sallie, and baptised children Amanda, Alicia, Adorn Grey and John Oliver(?) J.R. McLaurin

Oct. 19, 1884

After previous notice, an election was held for Elders of this church, with J.P. Keton & E.A. Smith elected and ordained by Rev. B.F.Peters.

John Thomas, an Elder lately of the Hadden Church Presbytery of Tuscaloosa, was elected to exercises of his office as ruling Elder of this Church. J.R.McLaurin, Cl. of Session.

April 5, 1885

Session met at Church of Toomsaba. Present: Rev. B.F.Peters, Mod.; Elders J.P. Keeton & E.A. Smith. Elder J.D. Howell of Lauderdale was invited to sit as a concurring member. Letters making confession and expressing penitence for having been intoxicated in a public place were received from J.R.McLaurin, Jr., and J.P. Keeton. They were pardoned by the church.

Clerk was ordered to give a regular certificate of dismissal to W.H.Smith to join Methodist Episcopal Church South.

Elders J.M.Thomas, Principal, and E.A.Smith, Alternate, were appointed delegates to Presbytery at Weir, Choctaw Co., Miss., Apr. 25, 1885. E.A. Smith, Clk. pro tem

Nov. 25, 1886

Met after worship services with Rev. J.D. West, Evangelist and Mod., E.A. Smith & J.P. Keeton, Elders. Letter of dismissal was granted to Mrs. H.S. Moody to Tuscaloosa Church. Also granted letter to Mrs. Alice Calhoun to Stuart's Church. J.D. West, Mod.; E.A. Smith, Clk.

Feb. 16, 1887

Present: Rev. J.D. West, Evan.Mod.; E.A.Smith & J.P.Keeton,Elders. Miss Lula H. Kelly and Mrs. A.E. McLaurin were baptised and received into full fellowship of church. E.A. Smith, Clk.

Feb. 19, (1887?)

Present: Rev. J.D. West, Mod.; E.A.Smith & J.P.Keeton,Elders.Miss Lela Cameron, Mrs. Sallie Kelly and Mrs. Mollie Hodwith, after satisfactory exam. were received into full fellowship of church. Mrs. Hodwith was baptised. E. A. Smith, clk.

July 31, 1890

Session met after services. Present were: A.B.Coit, Mod.;Elders Thomas and Smith. Letters of dismissal were granted to Miss A.Kelly, Miss Allie Kelly and Lula Kelly to the Presbyterian Church at Springville, Ala. E.A. Smith, Clk.

Oct. 5, 1890

Baptism administered to Sadie M, daughter of Emma J. and E.A. Smith, by the Rev. J.M. Sykes. E.A. Smith, Clk.

Nov. 30, 1890

After divine services session convened - Rev. J.M.Sykes, Mod.
(continued next page)

Elders Thomas & Smith. Letter of dismissal granted to D.C. McLaurin to the Second Presbyterian Church at Meridian, Miss. E.A. Smith, Clk.

Jan. 4, 1891

Met after services; Rev. J.M. Sykes, Mod.; Elders Thomas & Smith. Letter of dismission granted to Mrs. Lela E. Cameron to the First Presbyterian Church at Meridian, Miss. E.A. Smith, Clk.

Jan. 5, 1891

Baptism was administered to John M. and Minnie V., children of M.M. and M.L. Wilson, at their home by Rev. J.M. Sykes. E.A. Smith, Clk.

August 1st, 1889

(Apparently skipped a page and thus the twofollowing minutes are out of sequence)

Session met after service with Rev. J.D. West, Mod., and Elders Thomas & Smith. Maud Keeton and Hugh McLaurin Cameron were received into full fellowship of this church. E.A. Smith, Clk.

Aug. 31, (1889)

Rosa, infant daughter of Rosa & D.C. McLaurin, was baptise-
dat their home in Meridian, Miss., by Rev. J.D. West.

April 6, 1891

Session was convened at the home of E.A. Smith. Present: Rev. J.M. Sykes, Mod., Elders J.M. Thomas & E.A. Smith. Absent, J.P. Keeton. Bro. A.J. Keeton was made Superintendent and Dr. J.R. McLaurin teacher of the Bible Class in the Sunday School. E.A. Smith, Clk.

"Examined and approved in Presbytry as far as is written with the following exceptions:

1st - Book has not been before Presbytery since 1866.

2nd - On eleven occasions the sessions did not appear to have been opened or closed with prayer.

Apr. 24, 1891 J.M. Sykes, Mod."

May 1891

Session met after services at night. Rev. J.M. Sykes, Mod., Elders Thomas & Smith, present; J.P. Keeton, absent. Mr. J.P. Shelburn and Miss Kate M. Smith were received into full fellowship of the church. E.A. Smith, Clerk.

Sept. 1894

Met after services, Dr. A.H. Bankly, Mod. - Elders Thomas & Smith. Following named persons were received into full fellowship of Church: Elliot Keeton, Annie G. Smith, Mammie L. Smith, Lisha Thomas. E.A. Smith, Clk.

July 26, 19--(edge of page torn)

Immediately after services the session convened. C.P. Craddock, Mod., J.M. Thomas and E.A. Smith, Elders. Mr. G.L. Blanks and J.O. Thomas were examined and were ordained to be deacons. E.A. Smith, Clk.

Sept. 1909

On the 4th Sunday of September following a series of meetings the following people were examined and received into the church: Edgar Smith, Ramsay Smith, Robert McLaurin and Keeton Saxon. E.A. Smith, Clk. J.F. Eddins, Mod.

March 27, 1910

Session met on call of moderator, J.D. West. Elder J.M. Thomas present. E.A. Smith was confined at home by sickness. The Moderator was requested to make out & forward to the Presbytery the narrative & reports on statistics and Synod Beneficence. (1) He reported that attendance was good; (2) two out of eleven families observed family worship; (3) members observed the Lord's Day in a general way with no flagrant violations known but there was considerable visiting; (4) home training of children & youth in Scriptures was greatly neglected (5) no Sunday School for children in Scriptures & Catechism - only a Union School -- both lines of training neglected.

The Statistical Reported included 2 Elders, 2 Deacons, 27 Communicants (7 out of bounds) etc....No Woman's or Young People Society.

J.M. Thomas was elected delegate with Ed Smith Alternate, to represent the church at the Spring meeting. Session appointed 3rd Sabbaths in April & August for convening. E.A. Smith, Clk.

April 1910

Toomsba minutes examined and approved with two exceptions - by Mod. of Presbytery at Philadelphia, A.J. Washburn, Mod.

April 2, 1911

Session met with J.D. West, Mod., J.M. Thomas & E.A. Smith, Elders. Prepared reports on Narrative Statistics & Synod Beneficences (see details). J.M. Thomas was chosen delegate and E.A. Smith alternate to represent church at Presbytery at Philadelphia (continued next page)

on April 19. E.A.Smith, C.S. J.D.West, Mod. J.M.Thomas was elected delegate and E.A.Smith alternate to represent the church at Spring Meeting in Moss Point. E.A.Smith, C.S. J.D.West, Mod.

June 11, 1911

Upon investigation of record, it was found that the name of Miss Susie Hodnett was omitted from record of Toomsaba Presby. Church. The clerk was directed to enroll it by order of the session. E.A.Smith, Clerk J.D.West, Mod.

Sept. 7, 1911

Session met on call - Present J.D.West, Mod., Elders E.O.Smith and J.M. Thomas. Mr. J.M. Thomas was elected delegate and E.A.Smith alternate to Fall Meeting of Presbytery. E.A.Smith, Clk. J.D.West, Mod.

Sept. 1912 Thursday after the 4th Sabbath

Mary Emma Brown, Jewell Brown and Adrien McLaurin presented themselves before the session and after answering questions propounded them, they were received into the church. Mary Emma and Jewell Brown were baptized by Rev. Goff, Evangelist of Meridian Presbytery. E.A. Smith, Clk.

Sept. 1912 Friday after the 4th Sabbath

Janie Satcher and Mildred McLaurin presented themselves to the session, were examined, and received into the church. Janie Satcher was baptised by Rev. John Goff, Evangelist of Meridian Presbytery. E.A. Smith, S.C.

June 26, 1914

After services at 11:00 A.M., the Session met to receive Bertha Kate Brown into the Church. She was baptized by Rev. Craddock. E.A. Smith, Clk.

June 28, 1914

After services a congregational meeting was convened with Rev. Mr. Craddock as Moderator. J.O. Thomas and W.H. Smith were elected deacons. Dr. J.R. McLaurin was transferred from Deacon to Elder. E.A. Smith, Clk.

June 27, 1914

After services at 8 o'clock P.M., Mr. Clyde Blanks presented himself for membership. The examination and reception of him into the church was postponed until Sabbath night.

The End

I N D E X

Bates, J. M.	8	
Mrs. R. A.	8	
Bishop, Miss Matta	1	
Bankly, Dr. A. H.	12	
Blanks, Alma	3	
Clyde	15	
G. L.	12	
Bonds, H. B.	2	
Bozeman, Lois	7	
Miss M. A.	8	
Mrs. O. C.	8	
P. E.	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	
Brown, Bertha Kate	15	
Jewel	14	
Mary Emma	14	
Calhoun, Mrs. Alice	10	
J.	6, 7	
Mrs. M. A.	7	
Cameron, B.	3	
Hugh McLaurin	11	
Miss Lela	10	
Mrs. Lela	11	
Coit, A. B.	10	
Craddock, Rev. C. P.	12, 15	
Eddins, J. F.	12	
Goff, Rev.	14	
Harman, J.	3	
Mary	3	
Harwell, J. D.	3, 4, 5, 6, 7	
Mrs. L. A.	6	
J. D.	2	
William, infant son of Elder J.D.	Mrs. L.A.	6
Hemphill, Harry	5	
Ida	5	
Mrs.	5	
Hill, Mrs. C. N.	9	
Hodwith, Mrs. Mollie	10	
Howell, J. D.	9	
Johnston, Pricilla (Mrs. Wm)	2	
William	2	
Infant daughter	2	

Keeton, A. J.	1
Cornelia	2
Elliot	12
J. P.	2, 3, 9, 10, 11
Maud	11
Kelly, Alice	7, 10
Allie	10
Duncan	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Estelle	3
Lula H.	10
Sallie	10
W. M.	3
McLaurin, Adrian	14
Mrs. A. E.	10
D. C.	5, 11
Dr. J. R.	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 15
J. R., Jr.	9
Mildred	14
Minnie	5
Robert	12
Rosa	11
McDonald, Rev. H.	1
Marshall, Josephine	3
Moody, H. S.	2
Mrs. H. S.	10
W. H.	2
Moore, Eugene	3
Newton, Henry	2, 3
Pearce, W. W.	7
Peters, Rev. B. F.	8
Rev. B. N.	9
Praytor, M. L.	3
Redding, J.	2
William	1
Rhodes, B.	1
Satcher, Janie	14
Saxon, Keeton	12
Saylor, Angeline (Mrs. J. R.)	4
J. R.	4
Shelburn, J. P.	12
Simons, J. E.	3
Smith, Annie G.	12
E. A.	1, 3, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
Edgar	12
Emma J. (Mrs. E. A.)	4, 5, 10

Julia A.	5
Katie M.	5,12
Mammie L.	12
O. H. P.	1,2,4,5,7,8
O. P. H.	3,6
Ramsey	12
Sadie M.	10
W. H.	1,9,15
Switzer, J. A.	1
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Thomas, Adam Grey	9
Alicia	9
Amanda	9
J. O.	15
John M.	9-13
John Oliver	9, 12, 15
Thompson, Sallie	8
Washburn, A. J.	13
Wilburn, James	5
Welch, Edward	3
West, Rev. J. D.	10-11,13-14
Wilson, Elizabeth	5
George	2
John M.	11
Lewis	8
Minnie V.	11
M. L.	11
M. M.	11
Yeager, Mary F.	3,5