

Florida Baptist Witness, 21 May 1890

Rev. Thomas E. Langley was born near Forsyth, Georgia, August 16th, 1834, and died at Chipley, Florida, March 30th, 1890. He was the oldest son of Elder Jeremiah Langley, and his wife, Caroline, daughter of Deacon Edward Callaway, of Monroe county, Ga. The advantages of a collegiate course were denied him; but under the instructions of James H. Durham, at Perry, Ga., he became a very proficient Latin and Greek scholar.

He professed conversion under the ministry of Dr. B. F. Tharpe, at Perry, and was baptized by him there October, 1852. He was ordained at Forsyth, January, 1857, by Elder J. H. Campbell, W. C. Wilkes and J. H. Corley. His first pastorate was that of the church at Knoxville, Crawford county, commencing in 1857, at which time he was teaching with Rev. W. C. Wilkes, in Monroe Female College, Forsyth. The following year he removed to Fort Valley, Ga., accepting a call of that church, which he served till the close of 1860, continuing also during this time to serve the church at Knoxville. At the close of 1860 he settled on his farm in Terrell county, and became pastor of Dawson and Smithville churches and served ten years as pastor of these and other churches. In 1870 he removed to West Florida, where he became pastor of Greenwood and Campbellton churches, which churches he served, we think, either a part or the whole of this time, till he became unable to preach in consequence of declining health, and was elected Moderator of the West Florida Association each year. Elder Langley married Miss Lavinia Norwood of Houston county, Georgia September 25th, 1851.

Ten children were born to them: five girls and five boys, seven of whom survive, W. J. Langley Esq., J. C. Langley, Esq., of Sumterville, Fla., E. R. Langley, of Lake county, Mrs. Dr. Boye, of Chipley, Fla., Mrs. Dr. Jordan, of Columbus, Ga., Thomas L. Langley, of Decatur county, Ga., and Miss Octavia at Chipley. ... Should his mantle fall upon his son, Col. J. C. Langley, of Sumterville, who has already preached acceptably a few times, the father's prayers will doubtless be answered, and joy come to the bereaved wife and mother and children. W. N. Chaudoin.

P. S. – I am indebted partly to the "History of Georgia Baptists," for the facts in this sketch.