Bringing Life Back to a Place of Death
Archaeological Work at Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery

Nestled at the corner of Mathews Drive and William Hilton Parkway is the Zion Cemetery with the Baynard Mausoleum, one of the most important historic sites on Hilton Head Island. With graves dating before the Civil War, the cemetery includes headstones for many of the most prominent families living on the Island during the 1700-1800s, including William Baynard who erected the mausoleum in 1846, the oldest standing structure on Hilton Head Island today. While the cemetery and mausoleum are of undeniable historic importance, they fell into disrepair after the Civil War with the grounds becoming overgrown and the mausoleum doors stolen, inviting people to use it as a place to drink, smoke, take shelter, and otherwise disrespect the dead.

For the last several years, the Heritage Library has labored to restore the cemetery and mausoleum making them important historical landmarks. Archaeology has been a major aspect of rehabilitating the site, in part because many of the graves have lost their headstones over the years and some of the structures that once stood on the property, such as the chapel, are no longer visible.

Archaeologists are increasingly relying on innovative technologies to answer questions about the past. Using satellite imagery, isotopic studies, and three-dimensional scanning and printing, the modern archaeologist does quite a bit more than dig in the dirt. In fact, some technologies are making it unnecessary to dig at all. At the leading edge of technological innovations is a family of instruments, including Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), which provides an opportunity to “see” underground without moving an ounce of dirt.

Every summer since 2016, along with students from Binghamton University, I have conducted fieldwork at Zion Cemetery using these new instruments. This fieldwork has resulted in a better understanding of the cemetery, including pinpointing the presence of several dozen unmarked graves. Surrounded by an iron fence and holding numerous large gravestones, the Kirk family plot is currently one of the most visible aspects in the cemetery; my research suggests it was once one of two such plots.

The most dramatic revelation was locating a family plot and a fallen headstone, both of which had been buried during decades of neglect. Conducting surveys using cutting-edge technological instruments in the open field in front of the Davant plot, I found a pattern in the data showing a rectangular anomaly buried under the soil. This anomaly measured about the same size and shape as the Davant plot and was oriented in the same direction. In addition to this rectangular feature, our instruments found another anomalous reading in its corner, something that looked like it could be a fallen headstone. Working with members of the local community and the Heritage Library, our excavations revealed that the anomaly was indeed a headstone. Thankfully the inscription on the stone was still readable and showed we had found Thomas Webb who died in 1816, born in 1769. Webb’s family owned the Marshland Plantation on the Island and he was married to Lydia Davant, daughter of James and Lydia Davant who are also buried in the cemetery.

Our excavations also showed that the fence line surrounding the Davant family plot was constructed of tabby, a type of concrete made using oyster shells in the 1700-1800s, and had been repaired over time using brick. Buried within one part of the tabby was a piece of historic pottery, known as transfer-ware, that was made in Europe and popular in the Americas during the late 1700s and early 1800s. Together with the headstone, the piece of transfer-ware shows that this family plot was established by the early 1800s and based on our surveys, holds at least six other graves.

The discovery of this family plot and associated headstone, along with at least two dozen additional unmarked graves, not only increases our understanding of this important landmark but will also help in decisions associated with further development of the site. As the cemetery and mausoleum continue to garner greater attention by residents and tourists, the site will require improvements, such as paths, more parking, and new fences which are included in Phase II of the plans for developing the proposed Zion Chapel of Ease History Park. Knowing where graves are located will help ensure that future improvements will not disturb these past island residents and that the site will continue to both educate and inspire the public for many years to come.
Spring has arrived on Hilton Head Island and our Library was a very busy place and then came COVID-19. Before having to close the Library, our volunteers completed a number of research projects and posted articles to our website. Their work is worth your time to explore. Philip Cromer researched and wrote the article **THE TALBIRDS - Builders, Planters, and Patriots.** The achievements of the Talbird family are recorded in the history of Beaufort County and found in several 18th and 19th century structures extant today. For the most part, they are recognized for their contributions as brick makers and builders but they were also successful planters, patriots, and politicians. Unique among family names, Talbird is a corruption of the name Talbot having been misspelled on some legal papers and later adopted by the family. Although the name, Talbird, has disappeared as a last name in the Beaufort area, there are a number of descendants living here today. You can find the article at [https://heritagelib.org/talbird-plantation](https://heritagelib.org/talbird-plantation). When you finish reading about the Talbirds, please take the time to look at the progress being made on the Reconstruction Era project documenting the Island during the reconstruction. What our volunteers found will amaze you. The project is divided into four areas – Land Sales, Education, People and Occupations (Occupations is going through some review but will post soon) and all of it is interesting and worth the read. The names of the volunteers working on this project are given in The Annual Meeting article on Page 3.

Finally, we are proud of our new technology. We retired the old server after 15 years and now have a greater capacity for creating and storing projects, data and records. Patron computer stations have had software and hardware upgrades including larger monitors that help with records viewing and group work. Riedel Computers provided us with their expert advice and service and helped to make the change as seamless as possible. This project was made possible by generous donations from Women in Philanthropy, The Bargain Box and Joe Player. We are grateful for these gifts.

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**From the Executive Director**

**By Barbara Catenaci**

Executive Director

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**Heritage Happenings**

In our effort to keep our members, patrons, volunteers and visitors safe the Library, in compliance with the orders issued by Governor McMaster, was closed and canceled scheduled events, programs and tours. Watch our website and Facebook page for updates. Please follow the advice of the experts and stay safe and healthy. We look forward to opening our doors again and sharing the stories of our past. The Library thanks our healthcare workers and first responders — your work is appreciated and respected, especially during this health emergency. If you have any questions, please send an email to director@heritagelib.org.
On February 20th, Board President Ezra Callahan opened the annual meeting, reporting that 2019 was a great year thanks to members, donors and volunteers. “We can’t do what we do without all of you.”

Mr. Bill Davies, the speaker, is Vice Chairman of the South Carolina Sestercentennial Commission created by the SC legislature to decide how South Carolina will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. The commission decided to leave it to the counties to determine how they want to celebrate. Davies also spoke about the Liberty Trail. He is the Senior Advisor of the Liberty Trail Organization in South Carolina. The trail will cover the original thirteen colonies. South Carolina, part of the trail, will highlight and emphasize its role in the Revolutionary War. Beaufort County will be on the trail and plans include the Battle of Port Royal in the first phase of sites.

Following lunch, President Callahan announced the awards.

Reconstruction Era on Hilton Head Island | Special Volunteer Recognition

Before recognizing the volunteers present, Linda Piekut, Project Leader, gave an update on the Reconstruction Project. Three sections of the project, Land Sales, Education and People are completed and now online on our website. The fourth section, Occupations, is being finalized and will be up on the Library website soon. Linda presented each of the volunteers at the meeting with a certificate of recognition and each volunteer got a round of applause upon receiving the award. Shown in photo: Claudia Kennedy, Cam Benson, Lois Briggs, Linda Piekut, Rick Bart and Steven Strandmark. Volunteers who were not present: Bob Blot, Nancy Burke, Murray Christopher, Marie Danforth, Barbara Friis, Karen Gobrecht, and Patricia Russo

Nancy Burke | Heritage & History Hero

Nancy has left her mark on every part of the Library, volunteering for many projects. She researched and wrote a book about her husband’s family history. In 2005 she became Deputy Director of the Library and Assistant Head Librarian; in 2006 she became a member of the Board; and in 2012 Head Librarian. Nancy researched and compiled, with volunteers Patricia Burke and Susie Marquis, They Served: Stories of the United States Colored Troops from Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, published by the Library. Nancy was unable to be present at the meeting so Ezra will present her with the award at a future date.

Barry Riodan & Iva Welton | Lifetime Achievement

The Library is proud to have Fort Mitchel and Zion Cemetery on the National Register of Historic Places. Working long hours doing research and responding to questions from the National Register required Barry’s and Iva’s meticulous attention to detail and strong organization skills to achieve this award.

Barry was in charge of the Ft. Mitchel application. He has been a volunteer at the Library since 2012. Barry’s first project was helping to prepare an ATAX proposal (Accommodations Tax Fund that the Town distributes to nonprofits each year.) He has continued to write the ATAX proposal each year. Barry has written several successful grant proposals. In 2016 he became a member of the Board and sits on the Advancement Committee.

Iva is responsible for the research and writing of the application for Zion Cemetery. She has been a member and volunteer at the Library for many, many years. Her first assignment was Director of Community Relations followed by work in many different areas. Iva writes Sharing the Heritage for the Observer. She is a member of the Board. Iva was unable to attend the annual meeting so Bill Altstaetter presented her with the award on March 10 at the South Carolina Yacht Club.
The Heritage Library has created this capital campaign to preserve the Baynard Mausoleum and create the Zion Chapel of Ease History Park. The following donors are helping to achieve these goals. If you wish to make a contribution, send your check marked “Zion Fund” to Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, Post Office Box 23019, Hilton Head Island, SC 29925.

### $20,000+ PATRIOTS

| The Church Mouse Boutique Thrift Shop | The Cypress of HHI Association LP | Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith |

### $10,000 - $19,999 PRESERVATIONISTS

| Dori M. Dixon | Carol and Ward Mathis | American Building Restoration Company |

### $5,000 - $9,999 FOUNDERS

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<th>Walt and Angie Greenfield</th>
<th>Pam and David Schofield</th>
<th>VanLandingham Rotary Club</th>
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<td>Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Webb</td>
<td>Wood + Partners, Inc</td>
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### $1,000-$4,999 HISTORIANS

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<th>Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. (Bill) Altstaetter</th>
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<th>National Society Sons &amp; Daughters of the Pilgrims</th>
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<td>Heritage Classic Foundation</td>
<td>Linda and David Piekut</td>
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<td>The Heritage Library</td>
<td>Carolyn and James Robinson</td>
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<td>Sunni Bond</td>
<td>Honor Our Heroes Foundation</td>
<td>The SC Archaeology Society-Hilton Head Branch</td>
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<td>Dr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Burke</td>
<td>Gretchen and Thomas D. Johns</td>
<td>South Carolina Humanities</td>
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<td>Capt William Hilton Chapter NSDAR</td>
<td>Thomas Johns</td>
<td>Jason and Clara Stevens</td>
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<td>Pam and Peter Cooper</td>
<td>Annie and Kelly Kellenberger</td>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Richard Thomas</td>
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<td>Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lennox</td>
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Continued on page 5
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If you wish to make a contribution, send your check marked "Zion Fund" to Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, Post Office Box 23019, Hilton Head Island, SC 29925.

$500 - $999 BUILDERS

Paul and Martha Anthony
The Baer Family
Bethea Family Fund
Maggie and Larry Burke
Ezra and Audrey Callahan
Coastal Plains Insurance
Mary Ann and Atlee Compher
Harry and Peg Davant
Teena and Charles Davant, III

Barry and Laurianne Davis
Greg and Sherrin DeLoach
Allison Diercks
Selena and David Evans
Herbert and Renee Ford
Rick Hickman
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hutton
Italian American Club of Hilton Head
The Lowrey Family

Mah Jongg Ladies
Gail and Hugh O’Kane
Mayor and Mrs. Tom Peeples
Low Country Questers
Betty and Barry Riordan
RMC Resort Management
The Stokes Family
Takacs Family
Iva Roberts Welton

$25 - $499 MILITIAMEN

Mr. James Edward Alexander
Anonymous
Barnes & Noble Booksellers
The Bedminster Group
Susan and Ivan Bennett
Barbara Borg
Mr. James Bradshaw
Stephen Appell & Marie Danforth
Forrest Davis
Ms. Phyllis Driscoll
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Facchiano
Peter Garrett
Griffin Family Fund
Carol Sher-Gyllenhoff
Elizabeth R. Hanson
Kathryn Harslip
Capt Wm Hilton Chapter, DAR
Mr. and Mrs. David Hudak

Beverly and Keith Jennings
Beverly Stoney Johnson
Ms. Marilyn Johnston
Nancy Kelly
William Kingsbury
Mr. James Davant Latham
John Lee
Nancy Love
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Maggi
Madeleine McGee
Margaret McManus
Mr. and Mrs. David McMillan
Sansing and Terry McPherson
Dr. J. Brent Morris
Janice Niver
Mr. and Mrs. George Paletta
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Patrick
Ken and Carole Pfeifle

Mr. and Mrs. David Ralff
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Russell
Kitty and Don Sager
Sea Island Friends
Debra Sherrill
Andrea and Bruce Siebold
Kathryn Stewart
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Stone
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sullivan
Dr. Sandy Termatto
Grace and William Tiernay
Gail and Andy Twisdale
Gail Wargo
Barbara Wiles
Womens Club of Sea Pines
Chuck Yahres
needed materials, met with Espy Lumber to secure the donation, transported materials and did the actual building. This project created a learning area at the Fort that we look forward to using for classes and tours with students, community groups and visitors.

In addition to the new learning area, we had some work done on walkways throughout the Fort. Mike Jukofsky and his MAJ crew helped us by repairing and replacing broken and cracked walkway sections. This project helps us to maintain a safe site and one that tourists and residents will want to visit. In the coming year, we hope to add safety striping to steps and to sand and paint handrails as we continue to keep the safety of our visitors a priority. ATAX funding helped with the needed repairs and we are grateful to Mike and his crew and the Town for their assistance.

The crew from Palmetto Coastal has been out doing spring landscape maintenance at the Fort with the help of the Boy Scouts, Joey Reindl, Mike Jukofsky, MAJ, the Town of Hilton Head Island and Palmetto Coastal.

We are looking forward to resuming tours on Tuesdays at 11am when Coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

**Librarian’s Corner**

We have had a whirlwind of activity at the Library this past winter with an increase in genealogy researchers and an attendance increase in our genealogy classes. With the Library closed, I want to share some activities you can pursue at home, continuing your search for your ancestry roots. Keep in mind that it is always a good idea to go back to the beginning of each of your family trees to do some housekeeping. Looking at your timelines, places and descendants to be sure they all make sense. I found it helpful to take one surname at a time, starting with the most recent person I have and going back as far as I can. Doing this you may be able to bust through some of the “brick walls” we all have and identify some new ancestors you haven’t found before. Consider checking out some of these sites:

**HERITAGE QUEST** – This is a free site for members of the Heritage Library. If you are having difficulty in accessing this from the library website, consider emailing to: Membership@heritagelib.org, asking to reset your password.

From the Search bar, check out the Historical Maps. Pick a state from which you have American ancestors and select when they lived in a particular county. It is possible that the records you seek can be found under another name for that time period. Under Wills & Probates, look for records by state. Several members have had success utilizing this tool. At the bottom of the Search Page are links to Additional Records. You can click on USA or foreign countries to explore the various databases that are found there. You may be surprised at what you find.

**FAMILY SEARCH** – If you don’t already have one, you will need to create your own free log-in. Be sure to write down your user name and password, keep it simple.

Within Family Search, there are two main areas to consider exploring, Historical Records and Research Wiki. For Historical Records, enter a minimum amount of information on a name. You have a better chance of matches if you use a range of dates for the birth date, perhaps a three to five-year range. Census records and others are not exact when providing birth dates. When you click on the map for location, get to a state and a county if you can. You may be amazed to see all the databases that show up. My personal favorite is Research Wiki. You can search by country or use the map on the right. For example, for Germany, it will reveal maps showing the boundaries at different periods of time which can help you find your ancestor. Once you get to the local level, there usually is a chart showing when that municipality started officially requiring vital records for births, marriages, deaths, etc. You can click on church records which lead to local parish records. Especially in Europe, a majority of the older records are there.

**SITES TO EXPLORE**

1. Find-a-grave
2. Google – GoogleTranslate, putting in an ancestor’s name and/or place
3. Cyndi’s List – has very specific databases for those hard to find specialties
4. National Archives (NARA) – old military records and homestead applications can be requested,
5. Library of Congress – has pictures and maps
6. Chronicling America – newspaper articles
7. Facebook – some of our members have found groups linking to people who have helped them find records

Hopefully this will keep you busy for a while. Check the Library’s Website and Facebook Page for future activities and events. Stay well.
I am happy to share with you a new book that I consider one of the most important books written about this Island, *Gullah Days, Hilton Head Islanders Before the Bridge 1861-1956.*

The Gullah culture, though born of isolation and slavery, thrived on the US East Coast Sea Islands from pre-Civil War times until today, and nowhere more prominently than on Hilton Head Island. On our small barrier island, descendants of the first generations continue to preserve the Gullah culture, customs, arts, and cuisine. The three authors of this book are among those descendants. They chronicle the amazing story of their secluded community from the Civil War through the 1950’s when real estate development connected Hilton Head Island to the mainland with a bridge. The three authors are residents of Hilton Head Island and I have had the pleasure of knowing them for many years.

Carolyn Grant made it a life-long goal to complete research for this book until no stone was unturned. She did that with her two colleagues, Emory Campbell and Tom Barnwell. Carolyn, a former staff writer for the Island Packet and the Greenville News, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Spelman College, a Master of Science degree in journalism from Northwestern University and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in public health from Walden University.

Grant is the Director of Communications for the Town of Hilton Head Island. She serves on the board of directors of numerous organizations. Grant grew up working with her family’s restaurant business, Abe’s Native Island Shrimp House, which was a favorite haunt of many islanders. She is a member of the 103-year-old Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.

Emory Shaw Campbell, a fifth-generation native islander, was born on October 11, 1941. Campbell graduated as class valedictorian from Michael C. Riley High School in 1960 and received a degree in biology in 1965 from Savannah State College. He went on to earn his MA from Tufts University in Boston.

Campbell served as Director of Community Service Education at the Beaufort Jasper Comprehensive Health Services for ten years before becoming Director of the historic Penn Center on St. Helena Island in 1980. Penn Center opened in 1862, founded by Laura M. Towne to educate freed slaves.

Campbell spearheaded efforts to create a family connection between the Gullah people and the people of Sierra Leone in West Africa. In 1988 he hosted Sierra Leone President, Joseph Momoh, at Penn Center. Campbell worked on a project to translate the New Testament of the Bible into Gullah.

Campbell is President of the Gullah Heritage Consulting firm based on Hilton Head Island. He manages the Gullah Heritage Trail Tours, gives lectures and offers courses related to Gullah culture. He lives on Hilton Head Island with his wife, Emma. They have two children.

Thomas Curtis Barnwell, Jr. was born in 1935 on Hilton Head Island. He is a four-generation native islander who is considered one of the “Gullah Elders” on the Island. His parents were school teacher, Hannah White and Thomas Barnwell, a farmer who grew up here when the only transportation on or off the Island was by boat. Barnwell graduated from St. Helena High School in 1954 and enrolled in Claflin College in Orangeburg, SC until he joined the US Air Force. After military service, he travelled extensively studying sociology at Fisk University, community development classes at the University of West Indies, and group dynamics at the University of Maine.

Barnwell began his community service at Penn Community Services. He was Executive Director of Beaufort-Jasper-Hampton Comprehensive Health Services, Inc. and Regional Director of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank.

He testified before the US Committee on Hunger, Malnutrition, and Human Needs in 1969. Barwell is a land developer and a private business owner of rental properties. He is married to Susan Barnwell with whom he shares a successful wellness consultant business. They have three children.

Grounded in solid research, the book is written as an interesting narrative. It is full of first-person accounts, anecdotes, photos, and illustrations -- more information about the Gullah culture than you can ever imagine.

I began this article making a list of details that fascinated me in this book and quickly discovered there were far too many to include in a review. I invite you to discover them for yourself.
Welcome to 33 New and 37 Renewal Members who have joined our Heritage Library Family.

**NEW MEMBERS**

**South Carolina**
- **Beaufort**
  - Michael Monahan
  - Nancy Crom
  - Donald Cullen
  - Ella and Milton Davis
  - Janet Luczkak
  - Elaine Ouellette
  - Shelley and Gary Reynolds
  - Dawn Reynolds
  - Franklin Roach

- **Bluffton**
  - Nancy Crom
  - Donald Cullen
  - Ella and Milton Davis
  - Janet Luczkak
  - Elaine Ouellette
  - Shelley and Gary Reynolds
  - Dawn Reynolds
  - Franklin Roach

- **Hilton Head Island**
  - Susan and Ivan Bennett
  - Marcia Falke
  - Graci and Phil Finkle
  - Charles Gowin
  - Marilyn Hayes
  - Chris and John Heatherman
  - Donald Hejna
  - Eileen and Marvin Kane
  - Janice McKelvey
  - Eric Reid
  - Gordon Weller

- **Oktie**
  - Roger Anderson

**Out of State**
- James Regis Brennan III, Iron River MI
- Barbara Fitzgerald, Scottsdale AZ
- Suzanne Kline, Nashville TN
- Karen and Tom Rush, Charlotte NC
- Danielle Smith-Elliott, West Bloomfield MI
- Sandy and Tom Thorp, Shawnee KS
- Mark Whalen, Edwardsburg MI

**RENEWAL MEMBERS**

**South Carolina**
- **Beaufort**
  - Mary and Peter Somerville

- **Bluffton**
  - Leslie and Thomas Balliett
  - Alfred Beam
  - Kathleen Branigan and Richard Egan
  - Nancy and Joseph Burke
  - Alan Chaput
  - Susan and Ed Dobbs
  - Roxanne and Larry Garrison
  - Alan Johnson
  - Lois and Louis Lunnardini
  - Julie and Richard Orr
  - Kathy and Gary Reynolds
  - Anne Tupper

**Hilton Head Island**
- Nancy and David Borghesi
- Marriott and Gilbert Campbell
- Sandra and Fred Caswell
- Heather and Robert Cherichella
- Louise Miller Cohen
- Marie Danforth and Stephen Appell
- Laurette Doscher
- Jerry Gibbs
- Suellen and Gary Goodear
- MacBeth Graziano
- Cheryl and Stephen Keller
- Claudia Kennedy
- Rita and Joseph Kerman
- Liz and Jim MacLeod
- Mary Ellen McConnell
- Ellen and John McLaughlin
- Jean Meaney
- Carol Mickklas
- Angela and Howard Misthal
- Suzanne and Keith Moyer
- Joan and William Nicol
- Judith Parran
- Richard Patrick Jr.
- Linda and David Piekut
- Joyce Rappaport
- Bart Ruby
- Betty Saunders
- Nancy and Henry Schlabrow
- Jane and Philip Sine
- Steven Strandmark
- Rosemary Staples

**Oktie**
- Roger Anderson

**Out of State**
- Joan Bryan, Charleston SC
- Suzanne and Patrick Crippen, Centerville OH
- Sara and Richard Culbreth, Savannah GA
- Paul Gerhart, Grantby OH
- Mary Hess, Glen Ellyn IL
- Melanie Marks, Fairfield CT
- Margaret Regan, Oak Bluffs MA
- Emma Simon, Savannah GA
- Kathy and Jim Smith, Punxsutawney PA
- Sharon and Donald Spellman, Andersonville TN
- Donna and Gregory Wannemacher, Lima OH

While the written records of when Central Oak Grove Baptist Church was organized do not exist there can be some reasonable assumptions based on recorded Deeds and other information.

Based on Deed records, a parcel of land to the north of Zion Cemetery was conveyed to Good Will Baptist Church by Adam Green, et al in March, 1887. This was a portion of the lands conveyed to Green and others at a tax sale in 1875.

The church’s Trustees on the 1887 deed were: James Brown, Minus Graham, Charles Garvin, George Greaves, J. B. Grant, Caesar Permelia and R. F. Greaves.

At some point the congregation at Good Will changed their name to Oak Grove Baptist Church.

In August, 1956, the Board of Deacons sold the property to Honey Horn Plantation for $1.00 and acquired the former Chaplin School across Matthews Drive which had been purchased by Honey Horn Plantation from Bluffton School District No. 2 in April of that year. The congregation has continued to worship at that location.

The membership of the church currently numbers about 200.

The Reverend Louis Johnson is the pastor and has been serving the congregation for about 20 years.