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Winter 2-15-2020

Thomas Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Alvin D. Jackson

Willow Hill Heritage and Renaissance Center

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Recommended Citation

Jackson, Alvin D., "Thomas Grove Missionary Baptist Church" (2020). *Willow Hill Cemeteries- Tour Programs*. 12.

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Thomas Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Pastors Who Have Served.

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Rev. A. T. Grant | 1895-1896 |
| Rev. John Powell | 1896-1914 |
| Rev. T. J. Lonon | 1915-1928 |
| Rev. E. L. Belcher | 1928-1944 |
| Rev. S. Jackson | 1944-1945 |
| Rev. J. H. Bolden | 1945-1946 |
| Rev. E. D. Channell | 1946-1948 |
| Rev. H. F. Grant | 1948-1959 |
| Rev. M. F. Fye | 1959-1979 |
| Rev. R. A. Lawrence, Jr. | 1980-1985 |
| Rev. James Ellison, Jr. | 1986-1991 |
| Rev. Hayward Dock | 1991-2002 |
| Rev. Dr. Johnny Lewis | 2003-2006 |
| Bishop Finlayson (Interim) | 2006 |
| Rev. Brock Taylor | 2007-2009 |
| Rev. Mary F. Odom Lee | 2009-2018 |
| Rev. Arthur L. Kelley, Sr. | 2018 - present |

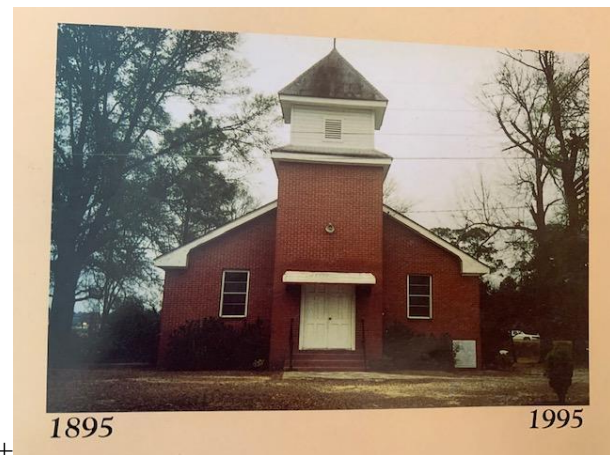
The Cone Cemetery, associated with Hutchison – Long Street Missionary Baptist Church, will be toured on March 21, 2020.

Honoring 400 years of African American History
(1619-2019)

“IF THESE CEMETERIES
COULD TALK”

Thomas Grove Missionary
Baptist Church
500 E. Olliff Street, Statesboro, GA

Saturday, February 15, 2020
9:00 AM



SPONSORED BY:

Willow Hill Heritage and Renaissance Center
4235 Willow Hill Road, Portal GA

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Greetings Dr. Alvin Jackson
Willow Hill Heritage & Renaissance Center

Invocation Rev. Arthur L. Kelley
Pastor, Thomas Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Selection Thomas Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Church History Dr. Alvin Jackson

Selection Mrs. Ethel Lane

Procession to the Cemetery

Remembrances of West Africa
Remembrance of the Ancestors - Calling Their Names

Selection Mrs. Ethel Lane

Benediction

Thank You! TO THE WILLOW HILL CEMETERY COMMITTEE

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Mr. Earl Donaldson | Mr. Khalil Maycock |
| Mr. Regan Donaldson | Ms. Maria Olivas |
| Ms. Lakia Hillard | Mr. Anthony Simmons |
| Dr. Alvin Jackson | Mrs. Joyce Simmons |
| Mrs. Valerie McCray | Mrs. Bertha Pryor |

Thomas Grove Missionary Baptist Church

The Thomas Grove Baptist Church was organized on February 24, 1895, at the home of Brother Lewis Thomas. Present during the organization was his wife, Mrs. Amanda Thomas, a long with Mr. and Mrs. Warren Long, Mrs. Ella Mincey, Mr. Daniel Joyce and Mr. James Joyce.

Rev. A. T. Grant, Rev. H. L. Haywood and Rev. James M. Jones were on a mission for the Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Association and they presided during the organization of the church.

The first meeting was held under a brush arbor on the site where the present church now stands. The first members were Brothers Lewis Thomas, James M. Joyce, Y. W. Terrell and Sister Mary Mincey. The first pastor was Rev. A. T. Grant. The first deacons were Daniel Joyce, Brother Lewis Thomas served as the first clerk.

The first building was an old school house they purchased from Mr. Dan Davis for \$6.00. Money was scarce and the congregation could not pay the full amount, so Mr. Davis gave the rest.

Since the church did not have a cemetery, many members were buried in the nearby Colored People Cemetery. This cemetery was often referred to as Thomas Grove Cemetery.

Under the pastorate of Rev. R. A. Lawrence, Jr., a Social Hall, the Pastor's Study, and a Public Address System were added to the church in 1982.

On December 19, 1991, the membership called Rev. Hayward Dock as Pastor. Under his Pastorate on November 18, 1992 the Church Mortgage was paid with a Mortgage Burning Ceremony held on December 20, 1992. Rev. Arthur L. Kelley, Sr. is the present pastor.