

## Rev. James Henry Breaker

February 1856 - March 1866

His father, Lewis Frederick Breaker was listed in the:

1810 Charleston Co., SC census

1820 Kershaw Co., SC census

1830 Monroe Co., FL census

1840 Monroe Co., FL census

father George Breaker  
mother  
Nantha Cantey  
md. S.C.

Lewis died at Key West, FL in 1842. He had another son named Rev. Jacob Cantey Breaker, born about 1826, who was the editor during the Civil War of a magazine named "The Confederate Baptist." After the war Jacob moved his family to St. Louis, MO and later to Houston, TX where he died in 1894.

(Manly)

James Henry was the first known pastor of the Union Baptist Church of Pierceville, FL as per the church records and the Alachua Baptist Association minutes. He was born April 28, 1820 at Edgefield, SC. At the age of 22 years he was licensed to preach and studied medicine in Connecticut. James Henry Breaker and Charles Casson Lewis were seamen who came from Mystic, CT to Key West, FL in 1842. James arrived with his newly married wife, Abby Niles. James and Charles helped to start the First Baptist Church of Key West in 1843. In the Dec. 4, 1850 "Southern Baptist," (South Carolina state paper) the following obituary appears for his first wife: OBITUARY: Died at Protersville, Conn., Oct. 1, 1850, in the 28<sup>th</sup> year of her age, Mrs. Abby Desiah Breaker, wife of Rev. J. H. Breaker, pastor of the Baptist Church at Key West, Florida. The Monroe Co., FL census lists James as a Baptist clergyman living with ~~seemingly some~~ unrelated family. On July 10, 1853, he married a second wife, Eliza Jane Spencer, born November 8, 1835, at Hamilton Co., FL, daughter of W. S. Spencer. James and Eliza were married in Hillsborough Co., FL. A daughter, Eliza Jane was born August 30, 1854 in St. Louis, MO and died there. Then on September 2, 1854 his wife died at St. Louis. She is buried at the Oak Lawn Cemetery, Tampa, FL. In 1853 James Henry Breaker first attempted to organize a Baptist church at Tampa, FL. His second attempt was in 1859 according to the 1982 Florida Genealogist. The Alachua Baptist Association minutes first mentions James as a delegate in 1854 from Tampa and he was the alternate preacher. In 1854 the Tampa Herald shows

Changed

what seems to be an

Followed to death two days later by his wife

that he was the contractor and builder of the Hillsborough County Court House. The Florida Peninsular on May 5, 1855 shows that he constructed a new building, the Union Baptist Church, Pierceville, Hernando County, FL. While in Brooksville, he was associated with Captain Frederick Eugene Lykes and Dr. Sheldon Stringer, Sr., in religious and educational work. He married his third wife, Angelina C. Johnson of Putnam County on January 23, 1856. She is listed as a member of this church, joining on March 1, 1857. The following year his 19 year old son, John William Breaker was accidentally killed according to the Florida Peninsular of Tampa. In 1857 James Henry Breaker joined the Eden Baptist Church, Hernando County, where he pastored (undoubtedly part-time). The Hernando County Tax Roll records that he owned 122 acres and had 1 slave. He owned property in Hernando County from 1856 until 1875. In 1861, a son, Manly Breaker was accidentally shot by George Atkins and died at Fernandina, FL. A letter from Mrs. Frierson\* dated April 12, 1862 tells about a "fine daughter" seven weeks old named after her grandmother, Permelia Johnson. In 1862, James Henry Breaker enlisted as a Chaplain, a Florida soldier, CSA, according to the book, Florida Department of Military Affairs. He was a Captain of Old Guards, Mounted Rangers mustered in March 29, 1862 and mustered out on May 17, 1862. The years 1866 - 1867 he was the moderator of the Alachua Baptist Association. In 1868 the Florida Peninsular shows he left for his new home in Missouri. In 1891 he was the preacher of the introductory sermon for the Alachua Baptist Association meeting. The St. Louis Missouri city directories lists him for 1893 - 1897 as a pastor in Missouri churches. His third wife, Angelina, died in 1893. James died in 1897 in Missouri. He had two sons who also became famous in religious work. At his death he left five grown children and many grandchildren.

\*Mrs Frierson is a deceased relative of Mrs. Ann Hudart, of Spring Hill, FL whose Frierson ancestors were members of this church. She has shared copies of several letters mentioning Rev. Breaker.

<b>Subj: Rev James Henry Breaker</b> <b>Date: 01/22/2001 6:21:12 PM Central Standard Time</b> <b>From: debusk@innet.com (Earl DeBusk)</b> <b>Reply-to: debusk@innet.com (Earl DeBusk)</b> <b>To: Robertbre3@aol.com</b>
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This will not be in any order only as I pick it up from my papers.

Md(2) Eliza Jane Spencer born 03 Nov 1835 in Hamilton Co FL

md 10 July 1853 in Hillsboro Co FL. He was an ordained Baptist minister. She died 02 Sept 1854 in St Louis MO. Source Tampa newspaper.

From a Florida genealogy book, they had a daughter Eliza Jane that also died in St Louis, MO. She was born 30 Aug 1854.

Rev J H Breaker, a former resident of this and Hernando Co, but who has been living in MO for some years, returned here on Saturday on a visit and preached to a large and appreciative audience in the M E Church on Sunday. He also held services Sunday and Monday nights. Mr Breaker is well known throughout South Florida as a very able minister of the Baptist denomination. Source The Sunland Tribune of Tampa FL 26 Jan 1882

In a letter from Samuel Graham Frierson to his wife, Fernandina, Nov 04 1861

A very serious accident happened in our camp on yesterday. Manly Braker and George Atkins was playing and Manly had a piece of wood (?) in his hand and said to George he would shoot him and George jumped in the tent and caught up a gun and shot Manly through the heart. He never said anything except Oh, Lordy was all he said. I left camp about two hours before the accident. I never was so sorry for anything in my life. I had just left them in fine spirits and then see Manly a corpse. We will start the corpse home tomorrow. Mr Braker was down here a few days ago. He left last week. I expect it will almost kill him

Baptist Witness, November 3, 1897

#### A Veteran Mustered Out

One of the oldest Baptist preachers of America, either in age or in years of service, passed away when the Rev James Henry Breaker died. He was 77 years old last April. For fifty five years he preached the gospel and filled pulpits in the North, South, East and West. His death came at 12:30 a m, Sunday. It was caused by heart failure.

For years and years that Mr Breaker preached the word it was in the thinly settled portions of the South, when he rode his circuit on horseback. During the past twenty-two years he had charges in various portions of St Louis, MO, where the simplicity of his life and the earnestness of his work endeared him to many people outside of his own denomination. He was married three times and leaves five living children, all grown and married, and many grandchildren. His last wife died four years ago when he was filling the Baptist pastorate in Carondelet. (MO) Then Mr Breaker gave up active work and since then had no regular charge. For a man of his age he was remarkably strong and well preserved, and enjoyed robust health until a few weeks ago. During the last year he made two long railway journeys to Tennessee, where one of his sons lives. Two weeks ago the old gentleman was stricken with heart disease. At his advanced age the physician saw the end. His absent children were summoned by telegraph. They were with him when the end came, as quietly and as peacefully as had been his life, early Sunday morning at the home of his son-in-law, W H Grate, 4140 Louisiana ave.

The old minister was born in Edgefield, S C, Aapril 28, 1820. when but a child he removed with his parents to the island of Key West, off the coast of Southern Florida, and there he was reared. He went to New England when a youth, and finished his education there. The young man studied medicine in Connecticut, and was licensed to preach in that state at the age of 22 years. For a few years the young minister preached in New England and then went South, settling first in his native state. He answered various calls, and filled several pulpits in that state and frequently had to ride from twenty five to fifty miles on horseback to fill a Sunday's appointment to preach. Then the Rev Mr Breaker went to Florida, where he remained until he removed to St

Louis, in 1872. His first pastorate in the county was at Gray Summit, where for years he was the hard-working and beloved pastor of the Brush Creek Baptist Church.

From that charge he went to the Carondelet Baptist church, then to Concordia Baptist church and then back again to Carondelet. Later he preached at times in various portions of the county, but the Carondelet was his last regular church.-- St Louis (MO) Post Dispatch

We visited the Brush Creek church several years ago but they only had his name as a former pastor. I let them copy the obit and the newspaper picture that I had.

In our Alachua Baptist Assoc minutes he is the first known pastor Feb 1856. As per our church records he was pastor until Mar 1866.

1810 Charleston, Co S C census L F Breaker  
 1820 Kershaw Co S C census Lewis F Breaker  
 1830 Monroe Co FL census Lewis Breaker (Key West)  
 1840 Monroe Co FL census Lewis Breaker  
 1850 Monroe Co FL census James H Breaker born S C

In 1853 he first attempted to organize a Baptist church in Tampa. The 2nd attempt was in 1859 which then became the First Baptist Church (Florida Genealogist 1982)

1855 May 5 Florida Peninsular 1855-1871 shows that Rev J H Breaker constructs a new building- Union Baptist Church, Pearceville, Hernando Co FL (which is now Brooksville and our church)

1856 married Angelina C Johnson, Putman Co FL (LDS library) 23 Jan 1856. (third marriage)

1857 Dec 17 Florida Peninsular John William Breaker, youngest son of Rev J H Breaker, Putnam Co FL, accidently killed Dec 3

1854 Tampa Herald -shows that Mr Breaker was the contractor and builder of the Hillsborough Co Court House. I have a picture of it.

1856-1875 Hernando Co Tax rolls - He owned 122 acres and had 1 slave.

1862 Mar 29 He mustered in as a Captain of Old Guards, and Mounted Rangers, out May 17, 1862 ( Dept of Military Affairs No 94)

1868 Florida Peninsular 1855 - 1871 Rev J H Breaker, Baptist church, Tampa, FL, departed in Oct 1868 for his new home in MO.

Bk-FL Dept of Military Affairs - Breaker, Henry M killed by accident at Fernandina in 1861.

He had two sons who became famous in religious work.

While in Brooksville he was associated with Capt Frederick Eugen Lykes and Dr Sheldon Stringer, Sr in religious work.

St Louis city directories lists:

1893-1894 Breaker, James A(?) Rev  
                   Breaker, Frederick clerk  
                   Breaker, Josephine M teacher -all lived at the same address

1894- 1895 Breaker, James H

1896-1897 Breaker, James H Rev  
                   Breaker, Frederick W student  
                   Breaker, Josie M teacher -all lived at the same address

Info I found of others:

1850 Hillsboro Co FL census

Breaker, J W H 30 born OH Major U S A

1860 Walton Co FL census

Breaker, Christopher	62	S C
George	18	AL
Nancy E	6	AL
Jane	16	AL
Claborn H C	3	AL

Microfiche deaths for FL

Braker, Ezekiel	Duval Co	1918
Breaker, Elijah	Duval Co	1918

I have researched the Florida Baptist Witness from the start of 1885 through 1960 in search of info for our history. I looked through the Tennessee state Baptist papers also. I hope this will help you some. He must have been quite the person in his day!

Betty DeBusk (I will get the picture at a later date for you)

I would be interested in the articles from a Breaker in Key West who wrote about the revivals.

----- Headers -----

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