

This share of stock, valued at the time at \$100, was issued on Oct. 26, 1910 to R. H. Shaw by J. M. Coleman, president of the Bank of Macon. On April 20, 1928, the share was bought by Charlie A. Harris for the sum of \$25.



This frame church was built by Macon Baptists on acreage given the town by early benefactor Benjamin Iredell Egerton. Egerton made provisions for the well-being of members of two races. The seldom-used church stands today on the western edge of Macon.



Reynolds Price, nationally recognized novelist, was born in this Macon home built by his grandparents, John and Lizzie Rodwell, in the 1890s. Price was born in what is known as the Rodwell-Drake House on Feb. 1, 1933 to Elizabeth and Will Price.

Early Baptist Membership Notes Come From Greensboro Woman

Benjamin Iredell Egerton, benefactor of land for early Macon's schools and churches for the white community, made provisions as well for the black citizenry of the town.

On Jan. 30, 1886, Egerton made a gift deed of a one-half-acre tract to the First Baptist Church of Macon. Trustees for the new church were Grunnage Plummer, Judge Brown, Haywood Dowtin, Walter Thrower and Henry Pennington.

Pennington, a resident of the Churchill community, and his family attended the early church. His daughter, Elvira C. Watson became the wife of Henry Lewis Watson in 1902 and the couple remained life members. Their daughter, Mrs. Mary Watson Wynn resides in Greensboro, and it is from her notes that much of the information concerning the early membership has come.

The churches of Mt. Zion and Pine Grove shared their members to organize the First Baptist Church of Macon. Other early members were: Mrs. Fannie Boyd Nicholson, the mother of Andrew Thomas Nicholson, who served as a deacon; Mrs. Jane Suggs Washington and her sister, Harriet Boyd; Perry Faulkner and his daughter, Sallie; Robert Warwick and his wife, Cornelia; John Boyd and his wife, Eliza; Wayde Robinson and his son, Wyatt; George Plummer and his son, Alvin; and Mrs. Mary Milam and her family.

Many of the members of the First Baptist Church of Macon are now deceased and their descendants have moved away from the area. Mrs. Nancy Burwell Boyd, a granddaughter of Mrs. Mary Milam, is a surviving member who has remained in Macon. She was married to the late James Boyd, whose parents, John and Eliza Boyd, were original members.

Mrs. Boyd was brought to Macon by her grandmother at the age of four years and joined First Baptist Church at the age of 12. She recalls an active and involved congregation there who regularly attended services each first Sunday. Among the ongoing activities were a choir, a Baptist Young People's Union, Sunday School and fundraising anniversary and homecoming services. Mrs. Boyd remained a faithful member, serving as fiscal secretary and treasurer.

The last minister for the First Baptist Church of Macon congregation was the Rev. Willie Lee Taylor, who died in September of 1983. Prior to his arrival two or three years earlier, the church was renovated. Homecoming services were held for three more years, with the final service being held in 1987.

Prior to the discontinuation of services the church, a portion of the membership had left the congregation to affiliate themselves with the Second Baptist Church of Macon, which is located outside

of the town limits. The schism had developed after debates concerning the site on which the new sanctuary for the First Baptist Church should be constructed. A portion of the membership had wanted the new church to be situated closer to the railroad tracks, while others wished to insulate themselves from the noise of the trains and retain the original location, which is in a wooded area. The new, enlarged structure was constructed on the original, wooded site.

Today services are no longer held at the First Baptist Church of Macon, but the building still stands. Inside remain the pews, pulpit, piano and organ—along with the "ghosts" of a rich Baptist heritage. Although the electrical service at the church was disconnected in 1988, the memories of love and tradition, and of service to God, still remain fresh in the minds of the descendants of its founders.

Writer Proud Of Macon Roots



Macon native Reynolds Price has written eighteen books of fiction, poetry, drama and essays. He is a James B. Duke professor of English at Duke University.

By REYNOLDS PRICE

My grandparents, John and Lizzie Rodwell, moved to Macon in 1884 at the time of their marriage and soon built a pleasant home that still stands. John worked at the railway depot and, for many years before his death in 1919, was station master (he died in fact at the depot, working the telegraph key). Lizzie bore them eight children, only one of whom died young. The youngest was Elizabeth, who was born in 1905. On Feb. 1, 1933—a hard Depression winter—with my nervous father Will Price standing by, she bore me in that same rambling Rodwell-Drake house.

I lived in Macon with my parents, Will and Elizabeth Price, for my first three years (Will was from Warrenton). For part of that time, we were lucky enough to live with Clarence and Anna Thompson. And though my father at last got a job and we moved away, Macon was always home, both in our minds and for frequent visits. From the age of five onward, I returned each summer for long visits to my dear aunt Ida and cousin Macon Thornton, his sister Emma Nowell, Joyce and Edwin Russell, Grant Terry, Mary Green and many more welcoming white and black friends.

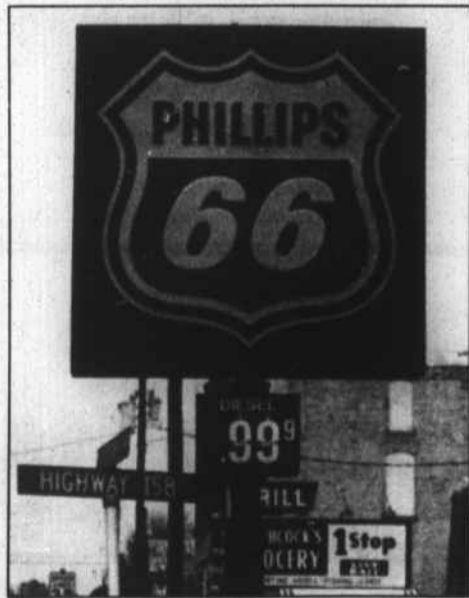
Those memories of a peaceful working village are as happy as any I keep. And to be a part now of this centennial of Macon's incorporation is a chance to renew much happiness and to hope for more.

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