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Serials

JOHN ERNEST SUMMER

JOHN ERNEST SUMMER was born in Senoia, Georgia, on August 26, 1873. His parents were John C. Summer and Mrs. Lizzie Bedenbaugh Summer.

He was educated in the public school of his community. He did not attend a liberal arts college, but he attended business college and prepared himself for a career in the business world. He was enjoying his chosen work when he heard the call of God to the ministry. He gave himself immediately and thus began a life's work that was highly successful. Although he was unable to secure a college education before entering the ministry, he devoted himself to careful study and was known for his extensive knowledge of many subjects. He attended schools provided for ministers and became efficient both as a preacher and administrator in the church.



The important dates in his life are:

1. On July 11, 1897, he was married to Miss Lotta M. Barrow. To this devoted couple two children were born.
2. John was admitted into the South Georgia Conference at Americus in 1905. He was ordained a deacon by Bishop James C. Atkins, and received into full connection at Brunswick in 1907. He was ordained an elder at Waynesboro in 1909 by Bishop A. W. Wilson.
3. His appointments and the number of years he served each are: St. Mary's and Kingsland, 2; McKendree, Brunswick, 1; Alapaha and Willacoochee, 3; Deenwood and Hebardsville, 1; Towns Circuit and Alamo, 3; Midland Circuit, 1; Parrott Circuit, 4; Macon Mission, 1½; Byron Circuit, 1½; Evangelist (Cordele and Thomasville Districts), ½; Superintendent Georgia Masonic Home, Macon, 5½; Oglethorpe and Ideal, 2; Helena Circuit, 3; Lake Park, 1; Boston Circuit, 2; Abbeville and Rhine, 4; Omega, 1; Pineview Circuit, 3; Making a total of 40 years as an active member of the Conference.

It should be noted that twice he was moved in the middle of the year to fill vacancies - - to Byron in May 1922, from the Macon Mission, and from evangelist to become Superintendent of the Masonic Home in Macon.

He served his fourth year at Pineview after retiring, and then served two years on the Mitchell Circuit, making a total of 43 years he served in the Conference.

nior College, Adel, Trinity Waycross, Idosta District, First Church Dublin, ct, Trinity Savannah, First Church omasville, Superintendent Waycross Emory College Brother Brooks met as a teacher in the public schools 2 they were married, living happily years. She was a great help to him ch. She preceded him, by a few ome. The following children were Brooks, Annie Sara Brooks Golsby, 1 G. Brooks, Dr. Warren A. Brooks; 1 A. Brooks died a few years ago. ildhood.

ays were spent at Orlando, Florida, ear his son, who was a physician. as the days went by. However, the his in his earlier years, remained He was always cheerful, enjoying it him during his illness. On July one of our finest men went to his life remains as an inspiration to ved him devotedly.

ld in First Church, Waycross, con- and Rev. W. E. Scott. Interment had given more years of service the Conference. No one ever fell ing years, than did Brother Brooks. ished him a home and many of of life in a way that was simply

—Julian P. Dell.

4. John retired at the Conference meeting in Waycross in 1945. He and Mrs. Summer went to live with their daughter, Mrs. Forrest L. Minix, at Hapeville, where they lived except the two years he served at Mitchell.

He was active in the work of the Hapeville Methodist Church and identified himself with the community and participated in such activities as he was able. He saw the need for a hospital to serve a large area in South Fulton-Clayton-Fayette Counties. He was so convinced that there should be a hospital authority to give leadership to this movement that he devoted much time in promoting it. By 1951 he had aroused enough interest to bring about the creation of an authority.

From its origin until 1957, when he resigned due to ill health, he served, without a salary, as Executive Secretary of the authority. That his services were both successful and appreciated by the people he served is indicated by the following:

1. In 1956, he was named Hapeville's "Man of The Year" by the Hapeville Exchange Club. In awarding the year plaque, Mr. Bob McCord, chairman of the club's selection committee praised John for his "unceasing work" to get a hospital built in this area.
2. Since his death the clergymen in the hospital building fund campaign, are raising funds to include in the hospital a chapel to be designated, "The John E. Summer Memorial Chapel."

John was always faithful in the discharge of his duties in all his charges. He never served what many would call the "larger" churches, but he has made a real contribution toward advancing the Kingdom, because of his consecration and diligence.

His death came Sunday morning, January 4, 1959, after three months serious illness. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, January 6, 1959, in the Hapeville Methodist Church, by Reverends B. W. Hancock, James D. Reese, and Warren Candler Budd. Burial was in the City Cemetery at Senoia, Georgia.

He is survived by his wife; a son, David Bardin Summer of East Point; a daughter, Mrs. Forrest L. Minix, Hapeville; three grandchildren, F. L. Minix, New Orleans; Tony Minix, Columbus, Mrs. A. B. Cannon, Hapeville; and four great-grandchildren.

—L. A. HARRELL.