

Born in Washington Co in the year of our Lord 1801 the 25 day of December. his father died when he was but a babe his mother married

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Leahy Thompson and moved to Morgan County after the deaths of her she died he was taken under the care of his guardian for who he was named James Barrow Leign remained with him a few years was bound out to the latter's trade 12 years but in consequence of bad treatment was taken away returned to Milledgeville under the protection of his oldest brother remained with him until 21 years old he then by the influence of his old pious uncle took charge of his plantation and hands according to his uncle request kept up a Sunday for the colored one on the place some of them confessed 40 years after that it was instrumental of his eternal salvation Thus began the usefulness of J. B. before he became a Baptist. at the close of that year he married the daughter of Benjamin Berins in the 2nd day of January 1824 Moved immediately to Wilcox County Ga then there became concerned about his eternal welfare under the preaching Thomas Leavett after some ~~three~~³ years of weeping praying and tears became alarmed on one occasion while walking across the floor looking behind him saw his oldest then but 3 years old trying to make her slides to place her steps he left the house in great trouble because he was a sinner repaired to the grove prostrating himself on the face before God between 2 logs crying for mercy arose with a hope that God for Christ had forgiven his sins goes to Antioch Church Wilcox County was baptized into the fellowship of that Church was baptized by Elder Jacob King the ~~third~~^{3rd} Sabbath in April 1827 commenced exercising in meeting in 1828 in 1829 the Church licensed him to preach and he immediately went to work in 1833 moved to Talbot County there lived until 1841 then moved to Corvallis County under very embarrassing circumstances with a heavy family of girls but still sustaining his religious character preaching when opportunity offered he became much afflicted with rheumatism until his feet and hands were all drowed up a man of an industrious mind but being Am

-peled to lay down his tools for physical labor he volunteered to work in the vineyard
of the Lord travels as an evangelist for many years over Ala & Georgia the results of
his labors lives in eternity ultimately the Arbacochea association petitioned to
the Carrollton for his ordination J. B. argued against stating he do as much
good exhorting as preaching that a gift-career ~~of~~ out of its regular sphere soon become
unprofitable claiming the gift of exhortation to satisfy him but the Church took
hold of the petition coming from so many of the brethren while in session so he
was ordained to the Gospel ministry about the year of 1855 in 1856 the Liberty
association employed him as a Missionary in these bounds for 4 suc-
-cessive years with results of much good while in that field of labor conducting a
meeting in Wedone a yankey rode surrounded his Church house while he was
preaching taking every horse around the house but his own being helped up
on his horse the yankeys all gone thought himself safe but on arriving
in the street was called to light in the midst of the ~~Cavalry~~ Cavalry but informing
them that he was a cripple the command was to light immediately the
answer was Sir, I shant light I will die on my first the yankey then
jerking his bridle out of his hand leads him to an open door pulls him
off sets him down on the door steps almost without hands ~~and~~ ^{on} feet 25 miles from
home. during these labors the domestic and indian mission board
employed him as an evangelist giving Ga and Ala for his. he labored for
them ten years over 2 states his general rule was to go into a settlement
commence Monday visiting families praying with them telling them where
he would preach on Sunday following therefore all became enlisted and
the settlement shined he was often heard to remark that he always knewed that
he could not preach much but could take as good a text as any body else
it was his standing request particularly to the young people to remember
text and tell him at a future day the results was, he often in his declining
day received the text a blessing that that text and talk was instrumental

of their eternal salvation & how it would fill his heart with thankfulness
that he even laid his tools of physical labor and to enter the vineyard of the Lord
to work for him on one occasion filling an appointment at a school house
on the week day the school teacher closed the door opposing the time to be
spent in preaching. Mr B was necessarily compelled to defer his appoint-
ment to another time so announced in the yard that he would preach
at that place on the following Sabbath. in that settlement a man lived
that had not heard a Gospel sermon in six years. not because it was not
occasionally preached there but pure neglect. however was passing by
that school house that meeting day inquiring of some of his friends what
was up there they informed him preaching who is to preach the friend pointed
to Mr B as ~~coming~~ leans on his crutches a pale countenance the re-
mark of the lofer was with an oath a bad looking chance for a preacher
but I will know what he has got to say ties his horse came in gave
good attention Mr B using the text will thou be made whole first showing that
by ⁽¹⁾ none was whole secondly that God in the person of his son was willing to
make the sinner whole lastly if the sinner was not made whole there was an im-
plication of fault on his own part some 2 yeares after that a church consti-
tuted at that place and the lofer came and told his experience telling all
the circumstances of the old crippled preacher that before he was done
preaching that he convinced me that I was a sinner and if I did not
repent of my sins I would be eternally damned for which Mr B.
have often exclaimed I thank God for affliction to get the
attention of one sinner so after 42 years service already her goes
for a life time if I get the attention of one more sinner