

Elim Baptist Church was organized and managed by men and women who valued hard work, Sunday worship, and Bible education for their children. The roots of Elim Church have been put down deep. The constituting members established a hardworking standard that is continued into the present and is shored up daily to carry Elim Baptist Church into the future. This is an outline of some of the rich heritage shared among one of the families who in 1857 made the decision to charter Elim Baptist Church.

Sarah (Brewer) Howard (1835-1909) **and** **John Hall Howard (1824-1878)**

The following information was extracted from family records of the Howard Family provided by James William "Jimmy" Howard and from information available on census records.

Sarah Ann L. Brewer was born on 9 Jun 1835 in Liberty County, Georgia. Her parents were Mr. James Brewer (1793-1853) and Delilah Simmons Brewer (1800-after 1880).

Mrs. Delilah Simmons Brewer was a member of the first congregation attending Elim Baptist Church. Three of her children were charter members. Another daughter, Nancy A. Brewer Gordon, wife of Artemis Gordon, was among those members of Jones Creek Church who moved their membership to Elim Baptist Church and became a member of the first congregation of Elim Baptist Church. Delilah and James had the following children:

William Brewer CM (1818-1890) married **Catherine Parker CM** (1821-1896)

James R. Brewer (1820-1850)

Zilpha Brewer CM (1823-1896) married Henry Jones (James/John) Ripley Wheeler (1822-1881)

Mary Brewer (1825-1854)

Jane Brewer (1827-1843) married Richard Michael Herbert.

Jesse Brewer (1829-1907)

Nancy A. Brewer (1834-) married in 1853 Artemus Gordon (1830-)

Sarah Ann L. Brewer CM (1835-1909) married **John Hall Howard CM** (1824-1878)

George E. Brewer (1838-1868)

Caroline Brewer (1845-)



Elim Charter Member

Sarah Ann Brewer Howard
(1835-1909)

Widowed in 1853, Delilah took into her home, John R. Foster and Harriet Foster (the siblings of **Doctrine Hampton Foster CM**) to help tend her large farm. These two children attended Elim Baptist Church with Delilah. The first congregation must have honored Sister Delilah Brewer as the "first grandmother of the church." Thirty-three of her grandchildren were raised in the church congregation during the first twenty years of Elim Baptist Church's existence. Sister Delilah must have had a strong feeling of commitment and pride and sense of purpose as she watched her grandchildren grow up in the church.

Delilah's daughter, **Sarah Ann Brewer** married **John Hall Howard** on April 7, 1853, the same year Sarah's father passed away. Sarah was 18 years old at the time of her marriage. She was 22 years old with two toddlers and expecting another child at the time Elim Baptist Church was organized. She was the youngest of the leaders who were led to organize Elim Baptist Church. The congregational strength of spirit was a characteristic of her family. Three of her siblings were also charter members of Elim Baptist Church. Also, her mother, Delilah Brewer, and her sister, Nancy Ann Brewer Gordon, were members of the first congregation.

John Hall Howard (1824-1878)

John Hall Howard CM was born in 1824 in McIntosh County, GA. He was the son of John Howard (1798-) and Rachel DeLoach Howard (1795-abt 1855). John Hall Howard's mother, Rachel DeLoach Howard was the older sister of **Sallie DeLoach Way CM** of Elim Baptist Church. Both Rachel and Sallie were the daughters of Mr. Hardy DeLoach, Jr. (1758-1828) and Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Ross DeLoach (1762-1830). Mr. DeLoach was a revolutionary soldier who served in the South Carolina militia and later settled in the Taylor's Creek area. Their grandfather, Hardy DeLoach, Sr. RS (1735-1820) married in 1757, their grandmother, Elizabeth Hart (1738-1800). Elizabeth Hart was the daughter of Hardy Hart.

John Hall Howard had three brothers and one sister listed in the 1850 census for the 271st District of McIntosh County: James Howard (1828-), William Howard (1831-), Jesse Howard (1836-), and Sarah A. Howard (1826-). Also, there is a good possibility that Hardy Howard (1821-) was an older brother. **John Hall Howard** was 29 years old at the time of his marriage to **Sarah Brewer** and Brother John was 33 years old at the time Elim Baptist Church was organized. Both Sister Sarah and Brother John were part of the party of those faithful Baptists who moved their membership from Jones Creek Baptist Church determined to organize Elim Baptist Church in 1857. One can imagine the number of meetings and discussions that must have occurred and the wonderful story of how God had been working in their hearts when they began the process by which Elim Baptist Church came into being.

John Hall Howard and **Sarah Brewer Howard** owned a farm, but Brother John's main employment was working for the railroad. By 1870, he and his two older children were working for the railroad.

Brother John and Sister Sarah had nine children, eight boys and one girl:

James Richard Howard (1854-1922)
William Henry Howard (1856-1936)
John Archibald Howard (1858-1939)
Gideon H. Howard (1860-1926)
Jesse Lee Howard (1864-1942)
George Howard (1866-1867)
Jasper Ripley Howard (1868-1918)
Sarah Elizabeth Howard (1871-1948)
Spencer Hart "Bud" Howard (1874-1948)



John Archibald Howard (1858-1939)
Clarence Elton Howard (1900-1953)
Miriam Zorn Howard (1859-1939)
Photo Taken Early 1900's



Spencer Hart "Bud" Howard (1874-1948)
Mary J. Wells Howard (1874-1947)

Brother John was 54 years old when he died in 1878. On 25 December 1879, Sister Sarah married her second husband, Jeremiah Shaw (1800-). Jeremiah Shaw was 79 years old at the time of this marriage. He became the stepfather to Sarah's younger children, Jasper, Sarah and Spencer "Bud" Howard.

Sister Sarah died in 1909 and was buried in Elim under the name of Sarah Brewer Howard. Brother John and Sister Sarah leave a legacy of hardworking, church-going, and faithful children, grand children and many great(s) grandchildren. A number of their descendants have greatly contributed to the advancement of Elim Baptist Church.