

**DESCENDANTS OF
JOHN "JACK" WAY, JR (1790-1850'S) (givers of land)
and SARAH ANN "SALLIE" DELOACH WAY (1806-after 1880)**

- from their son -

JOHN E. WAY (1832-1922)
& Margaret C. Robinson Fennell Way (1834-1913)

- from their son -

WILLIAM B. "B" WAY (1858-1934)
& Alice Theodora Devereaux Way (1860-1955)

- from their children -



(pictured) **Maggie Lee (Way) Gaskin,**
Pearla Alice (Way) Shaw,
Benjamin Gordon Way,
(Waldo Emerson "Fulton" Floyd) husband of
Nannie Mae (Way) Floyd

PEARLA ALICE WAY SHAW (1881-1973)

& John Lester Shaw, Sr. (1868-1923)

Sister Sallie's great granddaughter, **Pearla Alice Way Shaw** (1881-1973), the daughter of **William Byron "B" Way** (1858-1934) and **Alice Theodora Devereau Way**, the granddaughter of **John E. Way** (1832-1922) and **Margaret Robinson Fennel Way** (1834-1913), was a member of Elim Baptist Church most of her life. Sister Pearla married **John Lester Shaw, Sr.** (1868-1923) on December 24, 1899. Sister Pearla was 18 years old and Brother John was 31 years old at the time of their marriage. Brother John was the grandson of **John Shaw CM** (1796-after 1860) and **Sarah Ann (Harnage) Shaw CM** (1809-1883), son of **George Wyles Shaw** (1838-1923) and **Narcissa Adella Andrews** (1847-1916).

Sister Pearla took seriously her part in the Southern Baptist Women's role in reaching the world for Christ. The Women Mission Union was constituted at Elim Church on February 2, 1890. Sister Pearla was an active member throughout her life. John Lester Shaw, Sr., her husband, was a deacon in Elim Baptist Church. Their children were raised in Elim Baptist Church.

Sister Pearla and Brother John's daughter, **Teresa Nina Shaw Griffin** (1908-), served in the music ministry. She played the piano for Elim Baptist Church and donated the baptismal portrait in the old sanctuary. She married Charlie Walker Griffin (1898-1955) on 19 April 1931.



WMU (1950's in Elim's social hall)
Top Row: Nannie Mae Way Floyd (1896-1985), Lillian Jesse Kirkland Floyd, Magnolia Belle Fletcher Shaw, Pearla Alice Way Shaw (1881-1973), Ollie Murphy
Sitting down: Janette Mobley, Mae Folker, Mary Virginia McGowan Everett

KATHERINE VIOLA WAY MORAN (1889-1948)

& Ernest Alonzo Moran (1887-1972)

Sister Sallie's great granddaughter, **Katherine "Kate" Viola Way** (1889-1948), the daughter of **William Byron "B" Way** (1858-1934) and **Alice Theodora Devereau Way**, the granddaughter of **John E. Way** (1832-1922) and **Margaret Robinson Fennel Way** (1834-1913), was a member of Elim Baptist Church most of her life. She married **Ernest Alonzo Moran** (1887-1972), the only child of Laura Radford and John Moran.



Ernest Alonzo Moran
(1887-1972)

Ernest Alonzo Moran (1887-1972) was raised in the Bethesda Boys Home in Savannah, Georgia. His daughter, **Margaret Moran Sittle**, remembers as a child that they would visit the Bethesda Boys Home every summer as part of their vacation. As a young man, Ernest Moran moved to Ludowici and started an iron foundry. He was an experienced journeyman iron molder. After his marriage to Kate Way, he became part of the large Way family. He joined Elim Baptist Church and was called to be a deacon of the church. Brother Ernest and Kate had the following children: **Gwendolyn Dealma Moran Chambless** (1915-1948), **Ernest Moran, Jr.** (1921-2003) and **Margaret Benieta Moran Sittle**. They raised their children in Elim church.

Their daughter, Margaret, remembers that she, Gwen, and Ernest attended Sunday School taught by Mrs. Viola Mobley. Mr. Ervin Mobley led the singing in the church.

Sister Kate was a very effective WMU leader. She coordinated and sponsored the circle meetings and socials where the ladies studied about missionary work and raised the donations needed for the missionary work. Her daughter, Margaret, remembers Kate as being a very lovable lady. Margaret remembers times in church when her father would get the urge to lead the singing in the church. Brother Ernest taught Sunday School and would always start the class by leading the singing. If one happened to be little late to Brother Ernest's class, one could hear his deep baritone voice from down the road.

In 1936, the Moran's donated the windows for the church building. Windows were a big change from the shutters.

Their youngest daughter, **Margaret Benieta Moran**, married **Eureka "Ricky" Von Sittle** (1917-1987). Ricky Sittle was a career Navy serviceman. Sister Margaret is a retired school teacher who taught exceptional children. She served in many ministries within the church throughout the sixties, seventies, and eighties. She directed Christmas plays, worked in Vacation Bible School, and served as clerk for the church. She also participated in the WMU Circle meetings. Today, Sister Margaret continues to be an inspiration to the fellowship as a prayer warrior, mentor and source of stories about the rich heritage of Elim Baptist Church.



Kathy, Von, Margaret, Ricky, & Novella Sittle

Sister Margaret and Brother Ricky's children are **Katherine Marlene Sittle** (1952-1991), **Novella Benieta Sittle** and **Eureka Von Sittle, Jr.**

Katherine Marlene Sittle (1952-1991) was an inspiration to everyone who knew her and of her bravery in facing the diagnosis of leukemia.

BENJAMIN GORDON WAY (1892-1980)

& 1st Ida Lee Taylor;

2nd Francis "Fannie" Janette Curtis (1896-1975)



Benjamin Gordon Way
(June 28, 1892 - December 26, 1980)

Sister Sallie's great grandson, **Benjamin Gordon Way** (1892-1980), the son of **William Byron "B" Way** (1858-1934) and **Alice Theodora Devereau Way**, the grandson of **John E. Way** (1832-1922) and **Margaret Robinson Fennel Way** (1834-1913), was a member of Elim Baptist Church most of his life. Brother B. G. was one of the first locomotive engineers in the area running the West-South Spur from the brick/tile factory in Ludowici to the distribution points. The brick/tile factory shut down at the start of WWI. Brother B.G. became an accomplished tradesman in plumbing and electricity. He followed the tradition of using his craftsman skills for the maintenance of the church as began by **Gideon Alonzo McGowan** (1814-1856) who gave the lumber and helped with the construction of the first building on the site of the brush arbor. Brother B. G. contributed his skills as needed by the church. Brother B. G. obtained the former schoolhouse building from the Elim community for use by the church for the Sunday school rooms.

Benjamin Gordon Way (1892-1980) and his first wife, **Ida Lee Taylor** raised their children in the church.

Their daughter, **Marion Elizabeth Way** (1916-1980) married **James Willis Middleton** (1911-1990).

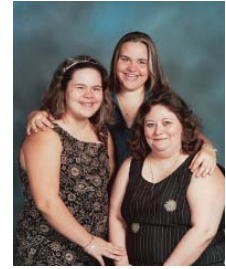


Marion Elizabeth Way Middleton (1916-1980)
James Willis Middleton (1911-1990)
Picture Taken in 1960's



Rev. Shirley Way Middleton
Ordained in 1954

Shirley Way Middleton, son of **Marion Elizabeth Way** (1916-1980) and **James Willis Middleton** (1911-1990), was called to preach the gospel and was licensed to preach in 1954. Brother Shirley and his first wife, **Emmie "Sue" Morris Middleton** raised their children at Elim Baptist Church.



Sister Sue and her daughter, **Cynthia Joye Middleton Eikleberry** and her daughters, **Amber** and **Aimee**, are active members of the church today. They all serve in the music ministry apart of the church choir with their beautiful singing voices. Sister Sue taught a Sunday school class for several years.



James Shelby Middleton (1988)
(1939-1993)

James Shelby Middleton (1939-1993), son of **Marion Elizabeth Way** (1916-1980) and **James Willis Middleton** (1911-1990), and his wife, **Marilyn Joann Mosley Middleton**, were members of Elim Baptist Church. Brother Shelby led the music ministry at Elim for several years. Brother Shelby was an inspiration to the fellowship in his fight against cancer. One of his favorite songs was "*Because He Lives.*" Brother Shelby also contributed his skills as a heating/air-conditioning craftsman in the maintenance of Elim Baptist Church. He had wit and a great sense of humor.

Brother Shelby and Sister Marilyn's daughter, **Tammie Joann Middleton Edwards Fleeger** and her husband, **Tony Fleeger** are active members and dedicated workers of Elim Baptist Church in several ministries. They are raising their four children, **Beth**, **Billy**, **Tyler** and **Shelby** at Elim Baptist Church. Their children are active members of the youth groups.



Ida Marelle Middleton Burgess

Sister Marion and Brother James' daughter, **Ida Marelle Middleton** married **William "Bill" Austin Burgess** (1921-2002). Their son, **James Reginald Burgess**, is presently the music director at Elim Baptist Church, and a talented soloist and writer. His book entitled, *Georgia Boys*, published in May 2005, was written as a tribute to the heroism of his father.

Brother Reggie and his wife, **Lisa Johnson Burgess**, also work with the children of the church. Brother Reggie works with the children's hand bell choir and they are both leaders in the AWANA ministry. Brother Reggie and Lisa have two children, **Caroline** and **Austin**. They are involved in the children and youth groups and Caroline is a member of the choir.



Latrelle Middleton Wells

Sister Marion and Brother James' daughter, **Latrelle Middleton** married **Russell Wells**. They are both active members of Elim Baptist Church.





Frances Jeanette Curtis Way
(1896-1975)

Benjamin Gordon Way (1892-1980) and his second wife, **Francis "Fannie" Janette Curtis** (1896-1975), had a number of children who were raised in Elim Baptist Church. Sister Fannie supported the church fellowship by her prayers and service. Her dedication and prayers were vitally needed during the years of World War II with so many local men in the military service, the economic problems of wartime shortages and other home front challenges.

Brother B. G. and Sister Fannie's son, **Clyde Garrison Way**, served on the Destroyer DD808 Buckley during World War II. Brother Clyde is the oldest World War II veteran attending Elim Baptist church today.

He is a senior member of Elim Baptist Church and has contributed a number of stories of the earlier church members. As a child Clyde watched the oxen move the old school building to site of the old church building. He assisted Edgar L. Howard (1883-1956), master carpenter, plane the cypress board for benches for the Sunday School room. Brother Clyde's wife, **Phyllis Gardner Park Way**, has worked many years in Women Missionary Union (WMU) and in other ministries within the church. Sister Phyllis established the Elim Baptist Church Library and served several years as a Sunday School Teacher. Brother Clyde taught Sunday School and served as one of the trustees of the Elim Baptist church. Brother Clyde and Sister Phyllis served on numerous committees for the church over the years.



Brother B. G. and Sister Fannie's son, **James B. "Jim" Way**, is an educator, composer, and playwright. Among other works, he wrote and produced a musical tribute to the founder of Berry College, entitled "*Martha*" with the proceeds to go to a scholarship fund.

Brother B. G. and Sister Fannie's daughter, **Mary Elizabeth "Libby" Way**, married **Joseph Herman Bishop Jr.**, the son of Joseph Herman Bishop, who was a pastor of Elim Baptist Church. Libby was a youth of the church during the war years.

MAGGIE LEE WAY GASKIN (1901-1986)

& Charlie T. Gaskin (1890-1979)

Sister Sallie's great granddaughter, **Maggie Lee Way Gaskin** (1901-1986), the daughter of **William Byron "B" Way** (1858-1934) and **Alice Theodora Devereau Way**, the granddaughter of **John E. Way** (1832-1922) and **Margaret Robinson Fennel Way** (1834-1913), married Charlie T. Gaskin on June 10, 1918. Their son, Carl Oswald Gaskin (1919-1994), married Maxine Smith, daughter of Dowse and Carrie Lee Smith (Dowse Smith is the son of Milton Madison Smith, the grandson of James Madison Smith who was the brother of Charter Members – Eleanor (Smith) Hodges, Nancy (Smith) McGowan, & Sarah (Smith) Foster). Their son, **Dwayne Gaskin** is an active member of Elim Baptist Church.



Charles T. Gaskin (1890-1979)
Maggie Lee Way Gaskin (1901-1986)
On the Occasion of their 50th Anniversary
Picture Taken in 1968

JOHN E. WAY (1832-1922)
& Margaret C. Robinson Fennell Way (1834-1913)

- their son -

BENJAMIN A. WAY (1864-1930)
& Mattie McCroan (1873-1950)



Mattie (McCroan) Way
1873-1950
wife of
Ben A. Way

Sister Sallie's grandson, **Benjamin A. Way** (1864-1930), son of **John E. Way** (1832-1922) and **Margaret Robinson Fennell Way** (1834-1913), as a child was raised in Elim Church. He became an Attorney.

His son, **Edgar Peyton Way** (1896-1943) was a well-known businessman in the three county area. His grandson, **Raleigh Sheppard Way**, is a current member of Elim Baptist Church. Brother Raleigh and his wife, **Delilah Collinsworth Way** are active members in the church.

