

Welcome

The Vesta Church of Christ is one of the oldest churches in Wilson County, dating back to 1850. This photo album/scrapbook depicts much of the history of the Vesta Church. We hope you enjoy these photos and memories.

We would welcome others who might have photos and/or memories they would like to share. Please send that information to s.whittle1@tds.net.



Earliest known photo of the church.—This was the building built in 1936 after a storm blew the previous building away.



This is the Vesta Church of Christ as it is today (2015)



Sunday Morning Pre-School Class



Wednesday Night Bible Study

We meet at 5:30 each Wednesday night beginning with a fellowship meal followed by a Bible Study. We are currently studying Jesus' life on earth. We will complete this study in the next few weeks, and will begin a new study after that.



Katherine McCrary, our oldest active member is 91 years old and a great student of the Bible.



Mrs. Pauline Sanders, Oldest Living Member of the Vesta Church of Christ *(August 2015)*

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The oldest living member at Vesta is Mrs. Pauline Sanders, who was born in 1920, and attended Vesta all her life. The last few years, she has been a shut in and unable to attend church services. However, she can tell you lots of history about Vesta and its people.

Mrs. Pauline was born in a little house not far from the church and attended school nearby though the 8th grade. Her parents were Will and Dean Periell, and she had one brother who died at age 17 with malaria—he was a diabetic and they were unable to treat the malaria because of the diabetes. She married Douglas Sanders, son of Tom Lee Sanders, who you can read more about in the History section. Douglas was a truck driver hauling coal. Mrs. Pauline worked for H. G. Hills; quit to take care of her mother; and then worked for Tucker Sausage for several years before she retired. They did not have any children.

When asked, “what was her earliest memory of the Vesta Church of Christ?”, she thought for a moment and then said it was when a billy goat was after her when she was walking to school, and she ran into the back door of the church building and waited until the goat left. That tells you one thing about the people “back then”—they did not lock their homes nor the church building.



When asked what she remembered about some of the preachers, she related this story about Darrell Duncan. She said he went home with her every Sunday for lunch, and as soon as they finished eating, Darrell would go lay down on the bed and go to sleep for the rest of the afternoon. He told her to make sure he didn’t oversleep so he could get ready to go back to church for the evening services. She said she only remembered one time having to wake him up!!!



These photos were made at Darrell Duncan's going away dinner on April 5, 1998.



Others who have served as Minister at Vesta



Bill McConnell was the minister in the mid 1960s.



Hugh Trigg was the minister in the early 1970s.



Among the members and former members who helped restore the Vesta Church of Christ and keep its doors from closing are, from left, Juanita Barrett, Brenda Blessing, Emma Harris, Rosine Young, Danielle Anderson, Bob Lannom, Kay Smith, Bobby Walker, Katherine McCrary and Eddie McCrary. *Submitted*



These former Ministers at Vesta attended the Homecoming Sunday when the newly renovated building was completed: (left to right) Jimmy Atwood, Taylor, Darrell Duncan, and Buddy Neal.

In reading the History of the Vesta Church, one family name stands out—

The Lannom Family. (We first read about **Nathan Lannom** donating the land on Vesta Road in 1884 on which to build the church/school after their previous building was destroyed by fire.)

Nathan Lannom was the grandfather of Robert Lannom and Earl Lannom who was a pillar of the church at Vesta during the latter half of the 20th Century and the early part of the 21st Century. Mr. Earl never had any children other than three step children after marrying Carrie Sanders Harris in 1985.



Earl "Unk" Lannom

The last funeral held at the Vesta Church of Christ was Mr. Earl Lannom. He is buried at the Lannom Cemetery which is on Vesta Road a short distance north of the church building. Many many past members of the Vesta Church are buried at this cemetery. Mrs. Pauline Sanders said the Lannom Cemetery was originally the Vesta Community Cemetery.

In Loving Memory
Earl "Unk" Lannom

Born
Friday June 16, 1916

Died
Tuesday January 15, 2008

Services
Vesta Church Of Christ
January 18, 2008
12:00 PM

Officiant
Bro. Jim Minor
Bobby Lannom

Concluding Service
Lannom Cemetery
Lebanon, Tennessee

Arrangements By
Partlow Funeral Chapel
Lebanon, Tennessee

Following are some memories of Mr. Earl Lannom from members and former members of the Vesta Church:

Brenda Blessing - Before the fellowship hall was added, Brenda remembers Earl Lannom bringing a long flat bed trailer to the church and parking it under a big tree; then a fellowship meal would be held with all the food on the trailer.

Gail Lane—I do have a story about Vesta that I would like to share. It is about Mr. Earl Lannom. Mr. Earl was a devote Christian man. And a sweeter person I have never known. Whenever he led the prayer for the congregation he would get down on one knee. It was a very touching experience to see that sincere man humble himself like that before God. Since the first time I saw him pray in that manner I took his example and applied it to my daily life. Whenever I want to feel exceptionally close to God, I get down on my knees. I owe this to Mr. Earl Lannom and I will be forever grateful to him for sharing that experience with me. It has helped me through many dark times.

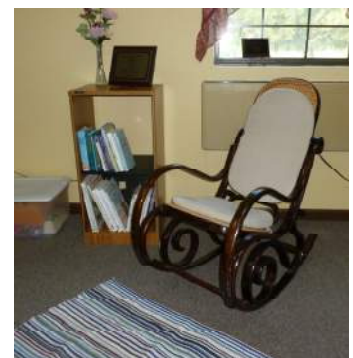
Jackie Lannom Speight—My most vivid memories are the prayers of Mr. Earl Lannom. We just called him Mr. Earl. He led prayer just about every Sunday morning, on his knees. I remember dinner on the ground—Wagons loaded with fresh homemade food.

Another branch of the Lannom Family was Demps Lannom, the grandfather of Bobby Lannom. Mr. Demps was one of the individuals who went to Red Boiling Springs to purchase lumber and helped build the church building in 1936 after the previous one was blown away by a storm.

Bobby is suppose to send me some pictures to go here.



When Mrs. Louise Lannom (mother of Bobby Lannom) passed away, several books were donated in her memory. A mini Library has been set up honoring her for her many good works in the Church.



Bobby Lannom—*He remembers his grandmother sitting in the amen corner on the right with Mrs. Meddy McCreary, Ma's mother-in-law, Alice Jones, my uncle Will Sanders, Mrs. Eldridge Lannom, mother of Patsy Lannom, and others.*

My mother, Louise Comer Lannom, was the one who made the sheets for the preachers who conducted meetings there. She took their information and printed it on a big white sheet, which they used as a visual aid to their sermons. She was very creative and somewhat of an artist who even drew some stuff on there to make it interesting. That was high tech back then.

My granddad, Demps Lannom, along with other men actually built the current building (main auditorium) I believe in the late 30's. They purchased the lumber from the Jones sawmill in Red Boiling Springs for \$250.

The McCrary Family has been a big part of the Vesta Church since the early 1900s. (The next three pages are photos of members of the McCrary Family at various events. In the older photos, notice the construction details of the building.)



Brenda's Dad, Bob McCrary, walks her down the aisle

Brenda McCrary
Wedding
June 1967



This was a very large wedding for such a small church. Note the inside walls which are painted planks.

The photo just to the left is Brenda and her Mom and was made at the house next door where Brenda got dressed.



Reception



Receiving line was outside in front of the building.





Nanny (Meddie McCrary) and Jill, Bonnie Sue, and Kaffie McCrary



Meddie McCrary (Bob McCrary's Mom)

Katherine McCrary—*She remembers the first time she was ever at Vesta. She and Bob had come from Harriman???? where they were living to visit his Mom (Meddie McCrary). When they got there, his Mom was getting ready to go clean the church for the funeral of Carrie Hudson Sanders (Carrie Sanders Harris Lannom's Mom), and Katherine went with her to help. Shortly thereafter, Bob and Katherine moved back to the Vesta Community and started going to Vesta regularly in 1945.*

Another prominent family in the early days of the Vesta Church was the Sanders Family.

(The following six pages are pictures of members of the Sanders' Family.)



Those in this photo overlap with the Lannom Family mentioned previously in this scrapbook. These are left to right: Irve Sanders, Houston Sanders, Demps Lannom, Harriett Sanders, Pearl Sanders Lannom, Allie Sanders, Tom Lee Sanders, Pa _____, Annie Walden, and Grannie



Seven daughters of Irve Sanders left to right: Fannie, Alice, Annie Pearl, Norine, Carrie, Hallie, and Janelle (faded out)

Carol Harris and Paul Thomas Wedding - June 4, 1966

(Note the old individual seats; seats flipped up.)



Kay Harris and Gaylon Smith

Wedding Reception at Vesta

June 21, 1968

(Their wedding was held at the Gladeville Church of Christ with the reception at Vesta.)



**Carrie Sanders Harris and
Earl Lannom Wedding
August 1985**



**Mrs. Carrie's
Family**

**Geric Smith
Wedding
July 2007**

(Geric is the third generation of the Sanders Family to have their wedding at Vesta. Geric Smith, his Aunt Carol Harris Thomas, and his grandmother, Carrie Sanders Harris Lannom.)



Sanders Family Reunion Held at Vesta



**Irve and Carrie Sanders'
Nine Children**



**The entire
Sanders Family
who were present
for the photo.**

**Grandchildren of Irve
and Carrie Sanders**



Paul and Alice Sanders Jones had a strong presence at the Vesta Church of Christ for many years in the late 1900s and into the 21st Century.



Paul and Alice Sanders Jones celebrating their 50th Anniversary with their daughter, Barbara, and her husband, Jimmy Burns.

(This photo was not made at Vesta.)

Kay Smith's Memories — Kay remembers going to church at Vesta when it was only the one room with heat provided by a pot belly stove – often there were only 4 people there on a Sunday night. She also remembers teaching a class in the room on the left where the bathrooms are currently when she was a teenager.

Kay remembers Tom Lee Sanders' (son of Irve Sanders) wife, Kate, preparing the Lord's Supper each week for many years. Mrs. Sanders made the bread and scored it herself.

Four children of _____ died of whooping cough within a few weeks of each other and are buried at Lannom Cemetery with one tombstone with a child's name on each side. (want picture)

(Kay Smith is the granddaughter of Irve and Carrie Hudson Sanders; and daughter of Bryan Harris and Carrie Sanders Harris Lannom.)

In Mrs. **Carrie Harris Lannom's** "The Historical Sketch of the Church at Vesta" prepared in 1986, Mrs. Carrie mentioned some memories of her early childhood days at Vesta. These are: #1 "I remember old Uncle Barney Murphy taking care of the Lord's table with a long, white beard down to his waist that he had grown through the years."

#2 "I will never forget Aunt Sissie Lannom walking (to church) across the fields south of this building. She was faithful to the end with her neat, long dress to her shoe tops, her pocket book on one arm and a walking cane on the other. She would always sit down front on the left side outside seat next to the aisle. Her favorite song was No 82 in our old books, "Who at the Door is Standing". (She was Wayne Lannom and Bettie Butler's grandmother.)



**Mr. Claude Cox
took care of
most maintenance
problems
at the church
during the
latter part of
the 1900s.**



Does anyone know any of these people???? This is Kathryn McCrary's picture, and she and Brenda tentatively identified those numbered as follows: 1. Fritz Cox; 2. Barbara Jones; 3. Paul Jones; 4. Will Sanders; and 5. Claude Cox. They were not real sure about these. Can YOU identify any of them????

Additional Memories

Following are memories of various members and former members of events and of people who went to church at Vesta.

Emma C. Harris—Mrs. Emma C. said one of her most memorable stories was in 2010 when the church had planned a fish fry for one Saturday night as a *Thank You* to all who had worked on the renovations of the church building. Several came early to prepare the food and to get set up for the meal. It started raining really hard and a tornado warning was issued. The ladies got really scared and they got in the baptistry, which did not have any water in it, because they thought that was the best place to be. (I've been told the following were in the baptistry: Mrs. Emma C., Katheryn McCrary, Bobby and Brenda Lannom, and some people cooking the fish from Hartsville Pike Church of Christ. Mrs. Emma C. said it was pretty crowded. I also heard Brenda Jones was there, but she wouldn't get in the baptistry.) No one other than the ones already at church when it started raining came, and they had lots of food prepared with no one to eat it. There was a report of a tornado in the Vesta Community. Several had trouble getting home that night because most of the roads around Vesta were flooded. Mrs. Emma C. said the next day everywhere you looked it was flooded. (*This was the BIG flood when Opry Mills was flooded and a lot of other areas particularly in the Donelson/Hermitage area*).

Brenda Jones - Brenda remembers when she was a teenager (early to mid 1960s), they had 12-15 in the Teen Class. (This was a fairly large group for such a small congregation.) She remembers doing fun stuff like skating and going on hayrides, as well as some service projects like cleaning and refinishing the old desks which had been donated to Vesta by the Walter Hill Church of Christ and _____. Tommy Russell was the preacher at that time, and he worked a lot with the teenagers.

Katheryn McCrary remembers before the classrooms were built, there were curtains put up in the corners of the auditorium for use as children's classes. She said that Mrs. Pearl Lannom (Bobby's mother) was an extremely good teacher for the children. Others she remembers teaching the children's classes were: Carrie Harris, Earl Lannom, Bobby Lannom, and Katheryn herself.