

Doctor¹ Floyd Clark Timmons

A profile of Floyd Timmons written by his father William Timmons for the appendix to William Timmons' "Life Book," the full text of which is available at http://www.steen-frost.org/Pub/Docs/Timmons_files/1873_Life_Book.pdf.

Doctor Floyd Clarke Timmons ... was born in Corinth, Heard County the 11th day of April 1847 about six o'clock on Sabbath evening, Dr. Larkin Floyd officiating, for which he never charged me anything. He was missionary Baptist of a [benal] kind or species of Baptist. He [Doctor Floyd Clark] was baptized by Samuel Lain, a local Methodist preacher at Emory Chapel 1848.

He weighed eight pounds—was a very healthy boy till about 2 years old, he then become subject to croup—he had a severe attack of that dangerous [condition]. We gave him Lobelia—which caused him to throw off the Phleme—and he was soon well. He then was attacked with flux in about one year afterwards—he had an attack of worms, [which] threw him into fits & then flux. I soon relieved him of flux by giving him one teaspoonful of slippery elm bark finely pulverized and made into [mucilage] by adding sweet milk or tepid water or brandy. For his age 2 drops Laudanum into one portion and as soon as it would pass off give him another. With a little toddy warm make up any good spirits and clothes wrung out of hot spirits & placed on his bowels, as hot as the patient can bear it. It never fails—if the patient is not dying.

About this time I concluded to change my residence, so I bought land in Carroll and moved the latter part of Dec. 1849. He became healthy and inclined to love a book. When he was about 5 years old I sent his oldest brother to school about 3 ³/₄ miles from home. The road was posted—he wanted to go with his brother as a spectator. I let him with these restrictions, if he was troublesome in school he should not go any more.

So he went and during the day the teacher Pascal Grow, a pious [gentleman] of the Presbyterian order, paid some attention to him as he was very bland in his practices and he asked the teacher for a book so he let him have one. That day he learned to spell in two letters. So he went another day & on & on for some time. The teacher sent word to me to let him go regular—that it should not cost me anything, only to come to town & preach for them—his folks. I done so for about a year.

One day he seemed to apply himself very close to his book. His teacher thought it would injure him so he told him to [put] down his book & go out & rest a while. He refused to do so, saying he wanted to “get his lesson first.” After a while he called him to take his book to him. He readily obeyed. He took his book and laid it away in his desk. So he retired about 15 or 20 minutes, returned to his teacher and called for his book. He gave it to him. So he soon mastered his lesson he went about 3 months and stood head in his Dictionary class.

¹ The name “doctor” is not a (medical) title, but appears to be an homage to Dr. Larkin Floyd who oversaw the baby's delivery without any charge. Handwritten drafts often make the spelling appear to be “Docton,” but the reference to Dr. Floyd seems more conclusive.

The next year school opened [and] he wished to go. It was too far for one of his size & age to go by himself, but he started and said everybody know him & he had to go along the public road. Any person met him "it was howdy Docky" so he knew nobody would hurt him.

At a camp meeting at the Espey campground him and his older Brother joined the church at the funeral of their brother Norman at about the age of ten years. Nothing very important till after the war. A protracted meeting was on hand in the fall of 1865. (This was New Hope.) At this meeting he felt the great necessity of the witness of the Spirit upon his heart so as to give him boldness to work at that meeting with sinners and mourners. At this meeting he obtained it and went to work with success.

At this meeting he was so energized that he would [go] a little from home. He went to a camp-meeting at the place called Sims campground—the leader of the meeting wished him to conclude—he modestly refused—but yielded finally—stood in the Altar and addressed the congregation with some good effect. Next morning—he went in to the stand with the preacher & addressed the young people with a great deal of Pathos. Many came forward for Prayer. He was after this more frequently addressing the people.

Now he must have more learning. So he made his arrangements to go to school to Rev. A.C. Reese at Carrollton 5 miles. No money, nor books. I told him I would feed him. I let him have about 2 acres of land to cultivate. This he planted with cotton seed—cultivated & walked 5 miles to school, lost but 2 lessons the whole year, made \$42.50 on his cotton.

He wanted to teach, made his arrangements to take a school in Wilkinson County where his brother Benson was preaching. So [he] left his horse for him to ride. 150 miles—his brother went by rail—he was to start on the 17th morning. He was ready, saddled his horse a very dark cloud came up & stopped that. He did not get on his trip that next morning, left very soon—went by Carrollton to shun some deep creeks—with only 25 cents in his pocket & but few clothes & they coarse. He called on Rev. J. M. Blalock to loan him \$5, which he done.

Some person told him that there was a letter in Office for him. He called for it and found it to be from another Thomas who had been assigned to the Putnam Circuit, requesting him to come immediately. He had arranged for him to teach privately 3 students at a one hundred dollars apiece and board. He arrived there the 3rd day and secured the place and [carried] the horse of his other brother Benson, returned and took charge of the school. Succeeded finely.

Mr. James Wright, his employer, moved to Oxford to school his children and proposed to carry him through the college & wait on him till he could make the money. He tried it one year. Brother Wright succeeded badly in his crop by reason of a long drought. He [thereby] was compelled to quit college or make another friend—Through the kindness of some friends the name of Mr. John Winfield was introduced to him. He visited him, made arrangements and so he passed through the college with the title of A.B.

While at college was licensed to preach—when he wound up his Collegiate course he took a fine high school in Monroe Walton County 1875 made about \$8.00. Last meeting of the N. Georgia Annual Conference was read into the traveling connection & was appointed to the Monroe Circuit around his school which has 5 appointments. He will attend to his school & preaching also.