

# Across The Savannah A Chapel and a School The Historic Sweet Easy

By TOM POLAND  
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Smith Chapel found me Sunday. Though it's on Smith Chapel Road and sounds like a no brainer, directions for my first attempt led me astray. That day I turned left when I should have turned right. This time fine gravestones on my left told me I was in the right place.

At first I failed to see the church in pines for it's camouflaged. Pine straw tan, faux asphalt brick covers it. Through pines and cedars the aged black church materializes. That old shingle-like fake brick siding became popular in the 1930s so my guess is the 1911 building got modern, for a while. Now it's making its last stand where cotton fields overlooked a free-running Savannah River. Floating cotton bales down river to Augusta took place somewhere down the steep hillside east of the chapel/school. Thus did the children of slaves come to know this church.

Now I've seen more than a few homemade cement tombstones with nail-scratched sentiment in them. Not so at Smith Chapel. The stones here are regal and there's a



In Smith Chapel's cemetery I spied my first ever cluster of silver flowers, fake, of course, but I took it as a sign my work was on course.



The stones at Smith Chapel are regal.

reason for that. Two former slaves in Arkansas founded a fraternal organization, the Mosaic Templars of America, which originally provided members illness, death, and burial insurance when such things were unavailable to blacks. The Templars also provided a Vermont marble marker. On Webster Murray's stone you'll see the Templar's insignia. At its base you'll see the name C.E. Bush. Chester E. Bush was the son of one of the Arkansas founders.

I grew up in Lincoln County studying US and Georgia history but local history didn't get much attention. No one ever mentioned this historic black church that also served as a school. I found some information on it in a website, Historic Rural Churches of Georgia.

"The little structure, located deep in the pine forests of Lincoln County, that you see here looks like an abandoned relic of the past that will not be with us much longer. But it has significant historical importance that is worthy of some discussion. This little one-room building was once a church and a school in the early 20th century. We have tried to find some information about it but the only thing we found were the following three lines in a Lincoln County History book: 'Smith Chapel School, known as "Sweet Easy," was once an active school for the black community.' The sign over the door shows a 'going-to-church' scene on the left and a 'classroom' scene on the right. It has fallen into disuse and disrepair today."

Disrepair is right. As I pulled back some screen wire on the rear window a flapping of wings commenced and a buzzard flew out a side window. It's March. My best bet is she has a nest in the building. Across the cemetery, monuments leaned and several had toppled over. Old churches and their collapsing cemeteries drive home something

fundamental. We are sojourners just passing through. I'll not get into the hereafter and everlasting life. That's for sermons and men of the cloth, but venture onto the grounds of an abandoned church and you'll often get a lonely feeling like you won't exist much longer.

I didn't feel lonely at Smith Chapel. Felt peaceful as I walked through the cemetery and noted recent burials but what struck me were the names. Beautiful names like Florida, Dellar, and Simion. I saw too surnames such as Williams, Lane, and Cunningham.

I looked at the sign over the chapel door. I'd wager Leonard Jones did the artwork. Certainly it's his style. And then one last thing grabbed me. I've been writing a story of floral accents and themes that needs real silver flowers and leaves. They're rare in nature but Artemisia, dusty miller, honeywort, and cotton lavender give us silver blooms and/or

leaves. In Smith Chapel's cemetery I spied my first ever cluster of silver flowers, fake, of course, but I took it as a sign my work was on course.

I left Smith Chapel knowing I'll return. For best of all I like the love-

ly headstones like Florida's which leans like the Tower of Pisa. Florida died in 1918 at the age of 37. Might she have succumbed to the Spanish flu pandemic? Yes her stone leans but it has an open Bible of marble

atop it. I'd like to place a red rose in her Bible of white marble and shoot it in black and white ... maybe give it a silver tint. Commemoration, inspiration, and recollection all in one fell swoop.



Smith Chapel found me Sunday. Though it's on Smith Chapel Road and sounds like a no brainer, directions for my first attempt led me astray. (Photos by Tom Poland).

## Legals continued

**Corrected Notice**  
**Petition for Letters of Administration**  
John Thomas Smith has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the estate of Robert Lee Smith, deceased, of said county. The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond and grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the court by 4/16/2021. All pleadings/objections must be signed under oath before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be held at a later date.

Judge Lee D. Moss  
P.O. Box 205  
Lincolnton, GA 30817  
706-359-5528  
3 25 4p

**Notice to Debtors and Creditors**  
All persons indebted to the Estate of Wilma Burke Harper, deceased, are hereby notified to make payment of same to the undersigned and all persons having a claim against said estate are notified to make claim to the undersigned or be barred from participation in said estate. Deadline for accepting any claim is April 1, 2021.

Judge Lee D. Moss  
By: Debbie Pruett  
P.O. Box 205  
Lincolnton, GA 30817  
3 18 4p

**Notice to Debtors and Creditors**  
All persons indebted to the Estate of Reuben Jackson Crook, deceased, are hereby notified to make payment of same to the undersigned and all persons having a claim against said estate are notified to make claim to the undersigned or be barred from participation in said estate. Deadline for accepting any claim is April 1, 2021.

Judge Lee D. Moss  
By: Debbie Pruett  
P.O. Box 205  
Lincolnton, GA 30817  
3 18 4p

FAMILY COURT FOR THE  
STATE OF DELAWARE  
NOTICE OF FAMILY COURT  
DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT

**CUSTODY ACTION**  
TO: Margaret Hamby, DOB: 02/02/1975 Respondent  
FROM: Kelly Fehrenbach, DIVISION OF FAMILY SERVICES  
Minor Male, DOB: 2/10/10

A hearing has been scheduled at Family Court, 22 The Circle, Georgetown, Delaware, on April 6, 2021, at 9am

If you do not appear at the hearing, the Court may grant custody of your child(ren) to the Division of Family Services without your appearance.

IF YOU WISH TO BE REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY IN THIS MATTER BUT CANNOT AFFORD ONE, YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO HAVE THE COURT APPOINT AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU FOR FREE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CONFIDENTIAL CLERK AT FAMILY COURT, (302) 855-7469.

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

All creditors of the Estate of LARRY CARLTON RICE, late of Lincoln County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned, according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

This 1st day of March, 2021.  
Michelle Hammond,  
Administrator  
603 Garrett Road  
Clarks Hill, SC 29821  
Cheryl L. Gracey  
Dallas & Gracey Law Firm  
P.O. Box 1150  
Thomson, Georgia 30824  
3 11 4c

STATE OF GEORGIA  
LINCOLN COUNTY  
**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

All persons having claims against MARSHA MICHELLE NORMAN and her estate are required to present the same to the undersigned, properly itemized and proven, within the time required by law. Any and all persons indebted to said deceased, or his estate, are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 10th day of March 2021.  
MALITA ANESIA JONES Executor  
Chadwick D. Medlin  
P.O. Box 3225  
Evans, GA 30809  
Estate of: MARSHA MICHELLE NORMAN  
3 18 4c

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| <p><b>2020-18 CHEVY COLORADO 4DR CREW LT</b><br/>#18339, FACTORY WARRANTY, LOW MILES, LEATHER, 6 CYLINDER ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$24,750</b></p>                   | <p><b>2021-20 DODGE CHALLENGER SXT</b><br/>#220866A, GO MANGO ORANGE, 11,000 MILES, NOW ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$22,591</b></p>  | <p><b>2014 CHEVY SONIC 4 DOOR</b><br/>AUTOMATIC, AIR CONDITIONING, POWER WINDOWS &amp; LOCKS, TILT, CRUISE, ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$5,999</b></p>                           | <p><b>2020-17 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING</b><br/>#18345, L PACKAGE, FACTORY CERTIFIED WARRANTY, HEATED/COOLED LEATHER, NAVI ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$18,190</b></p> | <p><b>2021-19 GRAND CARAVANS R/T'S, TOWN COUNTRY'S</b><br/>#18350, ALL POWER, 7 PASSENGER, DUAL AIR CONDITIONING, STO &amp; GO, ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$16,790</b></p> |
| <p><b>2021 JEEP COMPASS SPORT</b><br/>#220275A, 600 MILES, NON SMOKER, LIKE NEW, AUTO, A/C, PAWL, TILT, CRUISE, ALLOYS, NOW ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$18,951</b></p> | <p><b>2021-18 CHALLENGERS TA'S, R/T'S</b><br/>#220992A, LEATHER, SUNROOF, NAVI, CHROME WHEELS, 5.7 HEMI V8, FACTORY WARRANTY, 6CYL, LOW MILES, ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$20,990</b></p> | <p><b>2021-20 PACIFICA TOURING L PLUS</b><br/>#221055A, HEATED LEATHER, 14,000 MILES, NAVIGATION, FACTORY DVD, FACTORY WARRANTY, NOW ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$29,926</b></p> | <p><b>2021-14 CHRYSLER 300 S PACK</b><br/>HEATED LEATHER, SUNROOF, NAVI, CHROME WHEELS, WARRANTY, ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$15,858</b></p>                          | <p><b>2021-17 JEEP WRANGLER 4DR, UNLIMITED 4X4'S</b><br/>#221298A, SAHARA'S, SPORTS, LEATHER, NAVI, HARD &amp; SOFT TOP, ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$26,950</b></p>        |
| <p><b>2014 FORD F-150 CREW CAB XLT FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CREW CAB, NOW ON SALE</b></p> <p><b>\$18,994</b></p>  | <p><b>2021-13 DODGE JOURNEY R/T'S, CROSSROAD'S</b><br/>#2201068A, 3RD SEAT, DUAL A/C, GAS SAVER, FACTORY CERTIFIED, ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$9,992</b></p>                             | <p><b>2021-19 JEEP WRANGLER 4X4 4DR UNLIMITEDS</b><br/>#18351, HARDTOPS, SAHARA'S, SPORTS, FAC. WARRANTY, NOW ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$33,590</b></p>                        | <p><b>2021-16 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW XLT'S</b><br/>#18358, AUTOMATIC, AIR CONDITIONING, POWER WINDOWS &amp; LOCKS, WARRANTY, ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$24,545</b></p> | <p><b>2021-19 CHEVY SUBURBAN LS</b><br/>3RD SEAT, 20,000 MILES, ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$40,955</b></p>   |
| <p><b>2021-17 JEEP COMPASS, TRAILHAWKS, CHEROKEES</b><br/>#220980A, LEATHER, NAVI, SUNROOF, ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$13,955</b></p>                                 | <p><b>LEXUS 350 ES</b><br/>#18356, LEATHER INTERIOR, 26,000 MILES, WARRANTY, ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$25,590</b></p>   | <p><b>2016 NISSAN TITAN XD CREW 4X4</b><br/>PLATINUM EDITION, NOW ON SALE</p> <p><b>\$26,480</b></p>   | <p><b>2020-16 NISSAN FRONTIER CREW 4DR</b><br/>#220789A, LOW MILES, WARRANTY, CREW CAB, NOW ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$17,390</b></p>                                | <p><b>2020 TOYOTA SUPRA</b><br/>LOW MILES, PREMIUM PACKAGE</p> <p><b>ON SALE</b></p>  |
| <p><b>2021-16 RAM 1500 CREWS, 4X4'S LARAMIES, 4Y'S, LONGHORNS, BIGHORNS</b><br/>#220985A, CUMMINS DIESEL, 5.7 HEMI'S, ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$19,492</b></p>       | <p><b>2017 INFINITI Q50 PREMIUM 3.0T</b><br/>#221372A, SUNDAY, LOW MILES, HOT &amp; COOLED LEATHER, ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$22,990</b></p>  | <p><b>2021-15 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 4 DOOR 5.3 V-8 LT</b><br/>#18357, LOW MILES, PAWL, TILT, CRUISE, HEATED LEATHER, NOW ON SALE</p> <p><b>\$27,890</b></p>                   | <p><b>2021-18 DURANGO GTS, RT'S</b><br/>#221313A, HEATED LEATHER, DVD, 3RD ROW SEATING, ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$26,920</b></p>                                    | <p><b>2021-17 BIGHORN LONGHORN RAM 4X4'S, 2X4'S HEMI V-8'S</b><br/>#221230A, 6.4'S, LEATHER, NAVI, LOW MILES, WARRANTY, ON SALE FROM</p> <p><b>\$29,990</b></p>         |

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