



Photo courtesy of: Kenneth Thomson

# CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY

Gallatin Church of Christ

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I have not found evidence of a charter date or charter members of our church. The earliest concrete evidence of our church is the purchase of land and a building in 1870. I have presented evidence of Christian-Church activity in Gallatin and Sumner County before 1870—especially names of Gallatin people in Christian-Church journals of the 1820s-1850s. These names could bridge a gap. For now, I turn our attention to our first building.

## Our 1870 Building

1832: On August 13, 1832, commissioners of Gallatin's Cumberland Presbyterian Church bought Gallatin Lot Number 13 from James Douglas for \$75.00 "for the purpose of building a church."<sup>1</sup> This was the first church building in Gallatin devoted to a single denomination.

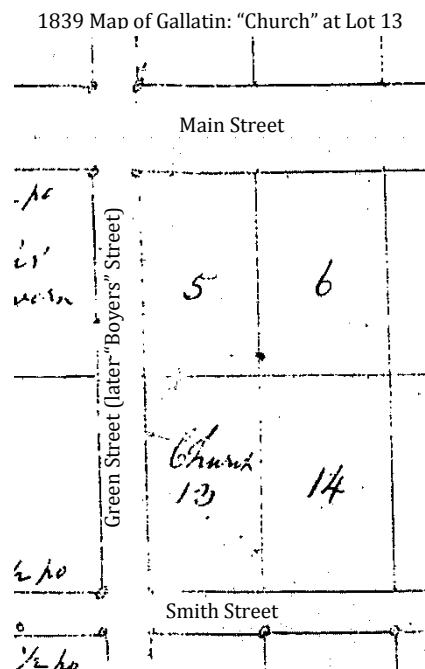
1839: A map of Gallatin (pictured to the right) notated this "Church" on Lot 13.<sup>2</sup>

1841: On January 20, 1841, the trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church sold the south half of Lot 13 to Daniel McAulay for \$50.00.<sup>3</sup>

1854: In April 1854, the commissioners of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church sold its portion (the north half) of Lot 13 to William Wright for \$500.00.<sup>4</sup> William Wright used the building as a woolen mill.

(1858-1860: First Baptist Church organized in 1858, was given Lot 5 by a member, and dedicated its building in July 1860.)<sup>5</sup>

1870: On April 4, 1870, William Wright sold his lot and building to the trustees of "the Christian Church of Gallatin"—R. A. **Bennett**, B. F. **Jameson**, W. G. **Swindle**, B. W. **Hall**, Johnson **Hardin**, Hiram **Moore**, Milton **Poston**, and John **Hurley**. The sell price was



<sup>1</sup> Deed Book 13, p. 192. (Special thanks to Kenneth Thomson for copies of deed book pages pertinent to the research contained herein.) The Cumberland Presbyterian commissioners were (best I can tell) "Jno. McLoIn(?), William Chapman, Daniel Gaffaman(?), James McLoIn(?), M. Anderson, Jno. Parson, and Robert W. Guthrie."

<sup>2</sup> I have a print copy of the map available for viewing. This clip only shows the pertinent section of town.

<sup>3</sup> The trustees were, best I can read, "Jas. L. McKoin (?), John McLin (?), and John Parsons." From Deed Book 17, pp. 479-480.

<sup>4</sup> Deed Book 26, pp. 58-59. From my copy of the deed book page, I cannot tell, but this transaction may have been part of a (legal?) settlement between the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and William Wright.

<sup>5</sup> Walter T. Durham, *Old Sumner*, pp. 464-465.

\$1,500.00—\$300.00 of which was donated to the Christian Church (by Wright?), \$600.00 paid in cash, and \$600.00 of which was an unpaid balance due by February 1, 1871, at which time the title and deed would be transferred.<sup>6</sup> The woolen factory was now a church building again, bordered by First Baptist on the north (Lot 5), the Calgy blacksmith shop on the south (south half of Lot 13), Green Street on the west, and Howard Female Institute on the east.



1871: On July 18, 1871, a portion of the balance was still unpaid to the Wright family,<sup>7</sup> leaving a lien on the property. In chancery court on September 30, 1871, it was judged that “there is still due and unpaid on said note the sum of \$358.43 which is a lien upon the house and lot above described.” (See next.)

1874: Payment of the outstanding balance on the church note, plus interest, was recorded in June. (I am unclear whether it was paid in 1871 and recorded in 1874, or paid and recorded in 1874.)

1878: The Christian Church appears on the 1878 map of downtown Gallatin.

1891: On April 6, 1891, Maggie Calgy (mother)<sup>8</sup> and Daniel Calgy (son)<sup>9</sup> sold the south half of Lot 13 to the trustees of the Christian Church of Gallatin—Jo. D. **Martin**, E. T. **Bush**, and J. W. **Bryant**—for \$300.00. Only the land was sold; “the brick, stone, and other material in the house or old blacksmith shop on said lot” were not.<sup>10</sup> In 1841, this half-lot of land had been sold to Daniel McAulay by the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Also on April 6, 1891, the Christian Church sold (part of? all of?) Lot 14 to Howard Lodge No. 13.



(1914: Gallatin Christian Church/ Church of Christ finished its new building on Main Street and held the first worship service in October 1914.)

1920: The elders and trustees of the Christian Church sold the Green Street building to Howard Lodge No. 13 (Independent Order of Odd Fellows). The elders/trustees at this time for this transaction were J. T. **Baskerville**, W. H. **Denney**, J. E. **Gaines**, and A. K. **Fox**.<sup>11</sup> The deed was not so registered until July 1926. The church building was converted into a gym for use by the Howard Female Institute.

<sup>6</sup> This information I gathered from Deed Book 41, pages 101-103 (year of deed book notes: 1891).

<sup>7</sup> By this time, William Wright had passed away.

<sup>8</sup> Maggie was the widow of William Calgy.

<sup>9</sup> Daniel Calgy is called the “infant child” of William and Maggie Calgy.

<sup>10</sup> Deed Book 41, pp. 94-96. An additional part of this transaction reads: “And we do further covenant and agree, and bind ourselves in the sum of Six hundred Dollars, unto the said [Page 95] Trustees, their successors, and assigns, to have by proper proceedings and decrees in the proper Court, the interest, title and estate of William Dan’l Calgy, the infant child of the said Wm. Calgy dec’d and Maggie Calgy, in and to said lot divested out of him and vested in said Trustees, their successors or assigns, at our own costs, charge and expense, and without cost, charge, or expense to said Trustees, as soon as practicable.” I am not clear on the meaning of this part.

<sup>11</sup> Deed Book 95, pp. 446-447.