



CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY

Gallatin Church of Christ

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Issue 13

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The Green Street Church Building Era (1870-1914)

The year 1870 is significant for our history: it marks the purchase of our first church building, and it gives a more tangible point from which to construct our people-history. In what follows, I present names of people who were or may have been church members during this era. These names come from a variety of sources—deed records, church record books, and other history texts.

1868: J. T. **Draper**¹

1870: From the 1870 building transaction, we know that the following people, as trustees, were members of our church: R. A. **Bennett**, B. F. **Jameson**, W. G. **Swindle**, B. W. **Hall**, Johnson **Hardin**, Hiram **Moore**, Milton **Poston**, and John **Hurley**.

1878: Mrs. Bell **Shoulders**, baptized by J. L. Sewell²

1880: Susie M. **Anderson**, baptized by J. M. Kidwell³

1880: From the 1887 history of Tennessee published by Goodspeed Publishing, we find a “John **Fry**” listed as an alderman in 1880.⁴ There are a “Jno. Fry” and “Mrs. Jno. Fry” listed in our 1917 directory, along with other Frys in our *Record of Members* book(s).

(The population of Gallatin in 1880 was 1,938.⁵)

1881: Mrs. R. M. **Howell**⁶; Mrs. Nettie **Rash**, baptized by T. J. Barnes⁷

1882: Mrs. Lena **Maddox**, baptized by Phillip Harsh⁸

¹ *Record of Members* book “2” (as I designate it) on file at Gallatin Church of Christ office. In these record books, the date given is the date of “admission.” In some cases, it is clear that admission to the Church as a whole is intended. Thus, the dates may not indicate a year of admission to our congregation. Other cases do seem to suggest admission to our congregation. In either case, and at the very least, these record books establish ties that people had with this congregation at one point.

² *Record of Members* 2. The Sewells were leaders in Churches of Christ in middle Tennessee.

³ *Ibid.* Kidwell preached some in this area—specifically Hartsville and Old Union. E. A. Elam would write a biography of Kidwell from Gallatin in 1893.

⁴ *History of Tennessee, From the Earliest Time to the Present; Together with an Historical and a Biographical Sketch of the Counties of Sumner, Smith, Macon, and Trousdale, Besides a Valuable Fund of Notes, Original Observations, Reminiscences, Etc., Etc.* (Nashville: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1887), p. 818.

⁵ Goodspeed, *History*, pp. 817-818.

⁶ *Record of Members* book “1” on file at Gallatin Church of Christ office. Mrs. Howell’s residence is listed as Dawson Springs, KY. It is not clear whether 1881 was a date of general Church admission (i.e., baptism that happened in Gallatin), or specific admission to Gallatin Christian Church.

⁷ *Record of Members* 2.

⁸ *Ibid.*

1883: Gro (?) William **Carpenter**, baptized by E. A. Elam⁹

(Also in 1883: On January 15, 1883, Harold LeRoy Olmstead was born on a farm in Kansas.¹⁰)

1886: Mrs. Martha E. **McConnell**, baptized by “Jas. Kidwell”¹¹

1887: Correlating names from Goodspeed’s 1887 history with names from our 1917 directory, I suggest that the following people likely worshiped in our Green Street building¹²: James W. **Bullock** and family; Dr. Robert T. and Mrs. Nettie **Bush**; some **Chenaults**, I imagine¹³; D. A. **Rascoe**, his wife, Amanda, and their children, Willie and Hettie; and J. N. **Turner** and wife Pattie. In addition, our church records indicate the following people admitted in 1887: Mrs. Zula **Cothran**, baptized by “Bro. Alsup”¹⁴; and Mrs. J. T. **Draper**.¹⁵

1890: Mrs. Jno. R. **Harris**, baptized by “Bro. Taylor”¹⁶

1891: From the 1891 purchase of adjoining land, we know of the following trustees: Jo. D. **Martin**, E. T. **Bush**, J. W. C. **Bryant**,¹⁷ and W. A. **Bush**.¹⁸

1891: Mrs. Lucy T. **Dorris**, added by baptism¹⁹; Mrs. Jamie (?) Harris **Read**, baptized by T. B. Larrimore²⁰; Nancy Martin **Timberman**, baptized by T. B. Larrimore²¹

1893: Nettie (?) Rutledge **Henley**, baptized by Bro. Larrimore²²

1893: In the September 28(?), 1893, issue of the *Gospel Advocate*, the “Church at Gallatin, Tenn., by E. A. **Elam**” appears in the “Enrollment” list. It is known that Elam preached for our church around this time period. He may have been our preacher when he submitted our church’s name for this list 1893. In addition, brother Elam was personally acquainted with T. B. Larimore, who is noted above to have baptized at least three people on roll with Gallatin Christian Church.²³

(To be continued in issue 14)

⁹ Ibid. I can’t tell if “Gro” is right or not. “E. A. Elam” = Edwin Alexander Elam (1855-1929). Elam worked as a preacher in our area—and for our church. Not sure of the exact dates. See also the “1893” entry. I am presently researching on Elam and will include more about him in a future issue. As for the present entry, I do not know if the 1883 baptism of Carpenter happened while Elam was visiting for a meeting, or if Elam was already preaching for Gallatin regularly in 1883.

¹⁰ Florence (Olmstead) Collins, *The Glory of the Imperfect*, vii, 117, 119; also Sarah Zoe Olmstead Alley, *Biography of Harold LeRoy Olmstead*, compiled by Roxie Olmstead (Alley ca. 1962, R. Olmstead 1996), 1.

¹¹ Ibid. “Jas. Kidwell” is likely the same as “J. M. Kidwell” above (“1880” entry and footnote 3).

¹² Some of this is repeat material from issue 11, but I re-present it now for the purposes at hand.

¹³ Though I’m not sure which ones. “Waller Chenault” and “Mrs. Waller Chenault” are in our 1917 directory. Given the many Chenaults who were members of the Christian Church in Sumner County, I imagine at least some of them were members of Gallatin Christian Church during this era.

¹⁴ *Record of Members 2*. I don’t know who Brother Alsup was.

¹⁵ Ibid. See “1868” entry for Mrs. Draper’s husband.

¹⁶ Ibid. I do not know who Brother Taylor was.

¹⁷ In issue 12, I left out the “C.” in “J. W. C. Bryant.”

¹⁸ “W. A. Bush” = Willis A. Bush. A “W. A. Bush” was an elder of the Sylvan Church (later Old Union) in 1845. Also in 1845, a “W. A. B.” of Gallatin sent an obituary notice to Fanning’s *Christian Review*. In 1857, Willis Bush was acknowledged as a leader of Sylvan Church by Tolbert Fanning in an issue of *Gospel Advocate*, pp. 217-221. The 1845/1857 W. A. Bush of Sylvan Church may be related to the 1891 W. A. Bush, elder and trustee of Gallatin Christian Church. (The 1857 *Advocate* suggests that the Willis Bush it mentioned had died—lit. was “no more.”)

¹⁹ *Record of Members 2*.

²⁰ Ibid. The letter between “J” and “mie” is unclear. I take the name as “Jamie.” “Larrimore” may be misspelled; I believe it should be spelled “Larimore.”

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid. The second “e” in “Nettie” could be read as an “s”—in which case, “Nettis.”

²³ Elam worked with Larimore at Mars Hill Bible College in 1879.