



CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY

Gallatin Church of Christ

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The Green Street Church Building Era (1870-1914)

Correction from issue 13: The “W. A. Bush” at the 1891 entry (and footnote 18) is “William” A. Bush, not “Willis” A. Bush. A Willis A. Bush, as noted, was an elder of the Sylvan Church and died in 1856. Moreover, his son, Willis, Jr., died in 1860. William A. Bush (1821-1902) was an elder of Gallatin Christian Church in 1891.¹ Thanks to Kenneth Thomson for his help on this.

1870: Last issue mentioned B. F. Jameson, one of the eight trustees who helped purchase our Green Street building. He is pictured to the right.

1893: Edwin Alexander **Elam** (bottom left) notes payments he received from our church in September, October, and December for preaching.² In a September 1893 issue of *Gospel Advocate*, we find “Church of Gallatin, Tenn.” enrolled “by E. A. Elam.” Elam seems to have alternated preaching during this time between our church and Union church (later “Old Union”).³ On October 2, he purchased a 70’ x 177’ lot on the south side of Winchester Street,⁴ then bought an adjacent 10’ x 177’ lot on October 17 from a church member,⁵ and built a house on the lot in 1894, pictured to the right. (Picture taken in 1968.)



1894: Jno. R. **Harris**, baptized by E. A. Elam⁶; Elam seems to have preached at least once every month this year for Gallatin Christian Church.⁷



1895: Floy C. **Coles**⁸; and Mrs. W. G. **Satterfield**, baptized by E. G. Sewell⁹; Elam preached at

¹ William was son of Dr. Thacker V. Bush. William’s brother, Robert, was a member of our church, too.

² Ledger book of E. A. Elam, kept at his Lebanon, TN, house—now owned and cared for by his granddaughter, Jane Elam Hundley.

³ Elam baptized someone on our roll books as early as 1883, perhaps when he travelled here for a meeting. He also noted in his journals two meetings he held at Union in 1887. In other words, he was familiar with Union church, and presumably our church, before preaching for us in 1893.

⁴ Deed Book 42, p. 453.

⁵ Deed Book 42, p. 482. He bought this parcel from Mrs. Amanda M **Rascoe**, who was a member of the Christian Church; see issue 13.

⁶ *Record of Members* book 2.

⁷ Elam ledger book.

⁸ *Record of Members* 2.

Gallatin in January, February, March, May, June, August, and September.¹⁰

1896: Elam preached various Sundays at Gallatin September through December. In August, Elam preached a meeting at Dry Fork at the home of Joe **Frakes**, who is in our record book(s).¹¹ In September, M. C. Kurfees conducted a meeting with our church. In December, Elam officiated the marriage of a Mr. Singleton of Missouri(?) to Miss Andrew **Frakes** “of our congregation, Gallatin.”¹²

1897: Elam preached various Sundays at Gallatin January through June, once in August, held a meeting in October (to which ministers of other denominations were invited¹³), and preached one Sunday in December.¹⁴ On October 26, he and his wife Mary sold their Gallatin house on Winchester Street.¹⁵ I have not yet learned where they moved to, and whether this was the end of their regular ministry with Gallatin. It seems so. (The first Sunday of 1898, Elam preached in Lebanon.¹⁶)

1898: J. E. **Gaines**¹⁷

(1898: Gertrude Brown **Bate**?: In 1898, Gertrude Brown married Humphrey Bate, Jr. She was a member of the Christian Church. She died in 1909.¹⁸ Her father, Charles H. Brown, and her children, Nell and Edna Bate, are all listed in our records books. It is likely that Gertrude was a member of our church during this era.)



1899: J. Z. (?) **Beck**¹⁹; Harris **Brown**, Mrs. Jas. B. Brown, Mrs. Sallie Brown²⁰; Miss Lizzie **Gourley** by baptism; J. M. **Goostree**, Mrs. E. F. Goostree, Florence Goostree, Bessie Goostree, and Myrtle Goostree—all Goostrees admitted by baptism²¹; William **Love** by baptism,²² Mrs. E. L. Love, Mrs. S. W. Love, Anna L. Love, Miss Katie Love by baptism, Miss Sallie Love by baptism; Miss Martha **Parish** by baptism; and **L. S. White** (L. S. = Lloyd Smith) and Mrs. Florence White (Lloyd’s wife?), received by commendation on January 1, seemingly to begin serving as our preacher.²³ He, like Elam before him, preached for us in our Green Street building and hosted meetings to reach others.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Elam ledger book.

¹¹ Journal book “7” of E. A. Elam.

¹² Journal book 7, p. 22.

¹³ Elam, “Did Not Co-operate,” in *Gospel Advocate* (Nov. 18, 1897): 726.

¹⁴ Elam journal book 7, p. 55.

¹⁵ Deed Book 45, p. 240.

¹⁶ Elam journal book 7, p. 59. This journal book ends after this entry that mentions preaching in Lebanon. See also the 1899 entry above on L. S. White, a preacher whose ministry with us seems to have begun in 1899.

¹⁷ *Record of Members* 2.

¹⁸ Will Thomas Hale and Dixon Lanier Merritt, *A History of Tennessee and Tennesseans: The Leaders and Representative Men in Commerce, Industry and Modern Activities*, vol. 5 (Chicago/ New York: Lewis Publishing Company: 1913), 1361-1362. Available for browsing at <http://books.google.com>.

¹⁹ *Record of Members* 1 for this and the rest in the 1899 list.

²⁰ Though these three share the same last name, it is unclear to me their relation, if any.

²¹ Again, same last name, but relationship(s) to each other unclear.

²² But residence in Chicago.

²³ He would serve as our preacher until January 1, 1905, at which time the record book has him removed from Gallatin by commendation for Dallas, TX, to preach for a church there. Additional evidence of Smith’s work in Gallatin (1899-1905) will be shared. A biography of his is available at <http://www.therestorationmovement.com/white,ls.htm>—from which site the 1899 portrait above is taken.