



# CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY

Gallatin Church of Christ

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## Lloyd Smith White and Gallatin (1899-1905)

The activity of L. S. White in Gallatin:

1899: L. S. and Mrs. Florence White are listed as received into our church on January 1 by commendation. To my knowledge, this marks the beginning of L. S. White's ministry with our church.<sup>1</sup>

1902: In a February 1902 financial report and letter to the congregation, "L. S. White, Evangelist," appears among the officers of "the Church of Christ, at Gallatin."<sup>2</sup>

1903: In the *Gospel Advocate*, evangelist M. L. Moore wrote: "On the fourth Lord's day in September Brother L. S. White began a protracted meeting with the church of Christ worshipping at Gallatin, Tenn.<sup>3</sup> On the following Monday I joined him in the meeting, leading the song service at night and preaching during the day; Brother J. L. Hill,<sup>4</sup> of Gallatin, led the song service during the day; Brother White preached at night and did the baptizing. A good interest was manifested throughout the meeting, which continued for seventeen days and resulted in seventeen additions and one restoration.

"I want to say, also, that the brethren of Gallatin had Brother White to hold a meeting at a point a few miles out of town, which resulted in twenty-three additions; and there have been four additions at the regular services during the year. So, as a direct result of the efforts of that congregation, forty-five souls have been brought into the kingdom during this year. Those brethren do not boast of their work, nor did any of them suggest that I write of it; but I mention it hoping that it will cause some careless congregations to wake up to a realization of their duty. May the Lord help us out of selfishness and keep us from criticising [sic] others unless we are doing something ourselves.

"At Gallatin my home was with Brother L. S. White,<sup>5</sup> and it is a great blessing to be in such a home. A home where Jesus dwells is ever a blessing to those who come in touch therewith.



<sup>1</sup> *Record of Members* book 1.

<sup>2</sup> Hard copy of financial letter at Sumner County Archives. Digital copy available with Daniel Gordon. Also, I note "Church of Christ" because this is one of the early written evidences of "Church of Christ" used for our church. In the 1800s especially, "Church of Christ" and "Christian Church" were interchangeable. "Christian Church" seems to have been more common for our church in the late-1800s. So, then, in 1902, the author of the financial letter identified our church as a "Church of Christ." Was this intended as a distinction from "Christian Church"? A few years after this, "Church of Christ" will be used in this way.

<sup>3</sup> Note the use of "church of Christ" again.

<sup>4</sup> J. Larry Hill and his wife are listed in *Record of Members* book 1.

<sup>5</sup> I have not yet learned where L. S. and Florence White lived while in Gallatin.

“The many kindnesses shown to me by the brethren at Gallatin will never be forgotten. I feel that I am now strengthened by the earnest prayers of God’s children there. May the Lord bless them in their earnest and loyal service to him. M. L. MOORE

“Oakland, Ky.”<sup>6</sup>

1904: In January, a “Ramsey, Mrs. R. W. Sr.(?) (Louise Swaney)” was baptized by L. S. White, with a notation of “Old Red Brick Church.”<sup>7</sup> In July, a “Mrs. A. E. Glover” died, and her services were handled by L. S. White.”<sup>8</sup>



It’s also worth noting that, in July 1904, “Robt. Boll,” preacher of Portland Avenue Church of Christ in Louisville, conducted the services for a “Miss Belle Glover.”<sup>9</sup> This reveals at least some connection of Brother Boll to both Gallatin and L. S. White in 1904. Brother Boll will later become a good friend to H. L. Olmstead, and Brother Boll will recommend Brother White for a debate in 1907/1908.



(L. S. White pictured left, R. H. Boll pictured right.)<sup>10</sup>

As in 1903, so in 1904 we find M. L. Moore writing to the *Gospel Advocate*: “On the first Lord’s day in September Brother L. S. White began a protracted meeting with the church of Christ<sup>11</sup> worshiping at Gallatin, Tenn. On the day following I joined them . . . . As a result of the meeting, ten souls were added to the saved. . . .

“The church at Gallatin has had about two months’ protracted meeting work done, including the home meeting. The interest in the home meeting was greatly augmented by the meetings held at schoolhouses before this meeting began. Brother White held all these meetings, in which there were about thirty-five additions. This, taken with the result of the home meeting, makes about forty-five additions as a direct result of preaching done by the church at Gallatin.

“I am truly thankful to our Havenly [sic] Father that the spirit of sounding out the word is to be found in the hearts of these brethren, and I earnestly pray that this spirit may continue to grow in their hearts. I trust that in humility others may emulate the example of these people, for they certainly follow the Lord’s way.

“Brother Cowden, a teacher in the training school, and Brother Hill, a preacher living at Gallatin, helped us much in song and prayer. I am glad to know them.

“M. L. MOORE.”<sup>12</sup>

1905: Another meeting is reported to the *Gospel Advocate*, this time by L. S. White himself.<sup>13</sup> On December 25, “L. S. W.” officiated the wedding of Miss Nannie Jackson to Frank Seay.<sup>14</sup> We also find Brother White removed with commendation to Dallas, TX, for ministry there.

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<sup>6</sup> M. L. Moore, “A Good Meeting at Gallatin, Tenn.,” in *Gospel Advocate* (1903): 718.

<sup>7</sup> *Record of Members* book 2.

<sup>8</sup> Book 1.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* Presumably, this was a funeral service, though the note is unclear.

<sup>10</sup> Boll’s picture copied from <http://www.therestorationmovement.com/boll,rh.htm>.

<sup>11</sup> Note again the use of “church of Christ.”

<sup>12</sup> M. L. Moore, “Work of the Church at Gallatin, Tenn.,” in *Gospel Advocate* (1904): 637.

<sup>13</sup> I will share his report in my next issue.

<sup>14</sup> Book 1.