



Abbreviated History

Garysburg

Methodist

Church

1962

AN ABBREVIATED HISTORY OF THE GARYSBURG METHODIST CHURCH

Prepared For Presentation Upon the Dedication
of The New Church School Building

April 15, 1962

Historical Committee

Miss Lucy A. Ellis, Chairman
Miss Inda Wyott Rhem
Mrs. Josephine Murphy Joyner
Mrs. Ellen Cooke Attkisson
Rev. Donald Lee Harris

PREFACE

This is not a complete history of the Garysburg Methodist Church; but with such a rich heritage as our church has had down through the years, we feel that on such an occasion as this at least some effort should be made to keep alive in the minds and hearts of our people the story of Methodism in Garysburg. It is impossible in such a short synopsis as this to make mention of all the dear souls who were a vital part of the life of the church. There will be many names not mentioned whose faithfulness, loyalty and devotion will remain unsung. There will be some events which to the reader would suggest more elaboration; but when taken as a whole we hope that this history links yesterday with today with simplicity and clarity.

DEED FOR LAND FOR PRESENT CHURCH BUILDING

Gary to Odom, Faison et als., Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South

"This indenture made this 13th day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty nine between Roderick B. Gary and John B. Odom, Herod Faison, Jeremiah Drew, Daniel Ellis, and Benjamin Miles, Trustees---that they shall erect and build, or cause to be erected and built thereon a house or place of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South---The said Roderick B. Gary hath hereunto set his hand.."

Signed sealed and acknowledged in
the presence of:

William H. Gray
Rev. E. P. Wilson

R. B. Gary (seal)

Registered September 8, 1849

Office of Register of Deeds
Northampton County

Book 33, Page 213

In the days shortly after the Revolutionary War a band of people had formed a Christian fellowship and called themselves Methodists. They met together in their place of worship which was then called Moore's Meeting House, sometimes referred to as Moore's Chapel. The Meeting House was across from the property of Mr. W. H. Gray, now the property of Mr. W. J. Long. Methodism was very much a reality to these early and devout people, for on three different occasions they had as guest minister the first bishop of the Methodist Church, that "Grand Prophet of the Long Road", Bishop Francis Asbury. Methodism was still in its infancy for when Bishop Asbury first preached to the people of Moore's Chapel the North Carolina Conference was barely a year old.

In his Journal Bishop Asbury makes three references of having preached at Moore's -

Volume 2, Page 178

"North Carolina- Monday- 2, 1788- Preached at Moore's in Northampton - once a poor, dead people, but now revived, and increased from eleven to sixty members."

Volume 2, Page 248 1795

"North Carolina-Wednesday- We came to Moore's; I was at a loss how to address myself to these people- it may be for the last time; it was laid on my heart to speak from our Lord's lamentation over Jerusalem. I felt awful among them."

Volume 3, Page 253

"North Carolina- Saturday 29, 1808- We came away on Monday by Rutherford Court House to G. Moore's. At Moore's Chapel on Tuesday I preached from Coloss. 2:6."

In 1905 Dr. A. J. Ellis, a long time resident and beloved physician of this vicinity, was asked to write a history of Garysburg Church. He did so and presented this history to the church on an occasion after extensive repairs had been made on the church building. We feel that it would be an injustice to delete or condense in any way this heart warming history that Dr. Ellis presented at that time and so we quote verbatim the following:

"History of the Methodist Episcopal, South in Garysburg, North Carolina" by Dr. A. J. Ellis

"I was requested by Brother Johnson, our minister here, about a week ago to give you on this occasion a short history of this Church from its beginning. In ever so long period of time, I can only give a short synopsis of the events that have occurred. I thought the best

way was to name the ministers who came upon the stage of action during this long period, and you would be able to call to mind many events that happened that I shall be compelled to leave out on account of time. I hope you will bear with me as I try to refresh your memory of some of the events that did happen.

"Away back in the past, over half century ago, there were only a few Methodist Churches in this county to the best of my recollection. Rehoboth, below Jackson, and Old Moore's Meeting House on the road in front of where Judge T. W. Mason now resides. A majority of the members of Moore's desired to move the Church to Garysburg, as this was getting to be quite a public place. Seaboard R. R. and Petersburg Road cross each other here, and we also had a public house and Post Office. The old church was sold, Major R. B. Gary, who owned the Hotel and also kept the Post Office, while not a member of the Church, was a good man and well wisher of the Church, gave the land on which the Church was built.

"Major Gary and wife; Mrs. Lockhart, General T. J. Person, Dr. B. F. Person, Mr. John M. Wood, T. J. Jarrat, Mr. John Bell, Misses Patsy and Betsy Richards, Mr. D. L. Ellis, My father, Robert A. Ellis, and some others that I can not recall built the Church at this place in 1853, I think.

"In 1856, Major Gary died and his funeral was preached by Brother Howard, who was the minister at that time in Northampton Circuit. He spoke very kindly and lovingly of the Major- said he had been a good friend to him. I remember very well he likened him to an eagle, saying the custom of this kind when loosed from his cage, was to hover around it for sometime before taking his everlasting flight, and so he felt that the Major's spirit was then hovering around the old home where he had lived and loved so long.

"Next year, 1857, was a memorable one in my life, I lost my father, and that same year I was born into the kingdom of God in this Church around these altars- and I have loved this Church ever since.

"In 1861, this Church was turned into a hospital, war having been declared between the States. At the close of the War in 1865, it was repaired and again opened as God's House. The first preacher that we had sent to us was Brother T. H. Payne. He served us in the year 1865 and 66. He was a good old soul. Then came M. S. Colona in 1867. He was a very talented young man. Then we had C. E. Hobday, a man who fought through the War. He was twice captured and suffered the horrors of hunger and thirst- thirty-six hours in prison without water. During his service in the War, he was happily converted and was sent to us in 1868.

"1869 and 70 and 71, T. D. McSparran served us faithfully. At

the 4th Quarterly Conference in 1871, I was appointed Steward of this Church. In this same year, we had a revival of religion. Thirty odd were truly and happily converted to God. We had with us Brothers Lear and E. P. Wilson. It was very hard for sinners to hold out against such preaching. One sermon of Brother Wilson's, I shall never forget, telling the sinners they were gathering up wrath against the day of wrath and at the great day they would hear the Master say, "Depart from me ye cursed." I think Brother T. W. Mason was happily converted at this same meeting. He is now a Steward and S. S. S. He has been sent as a delegate to District and General Conference.

"Brother McSparran was followed by Thomas Lear. He was rather an eccentric man, but a very learned and good man. He served us in 1872, 73, and 74.

"Then came that sweet and devoted man, B. T. Tenelle. He was a very lovable man. He remained with us two years, 1875 and 1876. He was followed by that Ambassador who was not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, T. Q. Rhodes. He was with us 1877, 78 and 79.

"In 1880, Brother W. E. Allen came to us. His name dwells in the love and hearts of his brethern and fellow workers. Thousands in our Methodism pronounce his name with affection.

"Then came C. E. Hobday again and remained with us through 1881 and 82. Shiloh Church was built. He was followed by Rev. Thomas Bayton, a good true man. He was held in high esteem by his brethern. So much that one of the younger members of this church bears his name. He served us 1883-84-85. In 1884 this Church entertained the District Conference.

"The year 1885 was another important milestone in my life. Brother Bayton married me to my present wife. During the pastorate of Brother Bayton- Garysburg Circuit was formed by connecting Pleasant Grove, Seaboard, Shiloh, Oak Grove and Garysburg. Now known as Garysburg Charge.

"Next came Brother T. O. Edwards. He was converted while a student at Ashland in a revival conducted by James A. Duncan. Dr. Duncan told him he expected to see him a minister of the Gospel. While with us he was an energetic and growing preacher. He did as much or more in training the Sunday School Children than another minister we have ever had, and all the children loved him. He served us 1887, 88, 89. He was followed by Rev. Charles Cain. He was a deep thinker, a good sermonizer- speaking strongly and deliberately. While there was not showers of roses scattered over the congregation, the Gospel was preached. He served us 1890 and 91. This last year, 1891, the Circuit was changed from the Murfreesboro District, Virginia Conference

to the Warrenton District, North Carolina Conference. Brother Cain served in the first year of this change.

"Then came from the North Carolina Conference, Brother T. S. Daily. He served us faithfully in 1892 and 1893. Then came E. T. Harrison, a faithful Soldier of the Corp. He served us 1894. 1895 and 96 we were served by Brother T. R. Tillery. He was a gifted man and a good preacher. He repaired this Church. He was a man with a big heart. He was followed by Brother J. D. Pegram. He served us faithfully and well. The last year of his ministry here, he had a glorious revival. He served us 1898 and 99. Then came Brother Fisher who served us 1900 and 1901. He was a good man. Next came Brother Fox, a young man of fine ability. He was very much beloved by the brethren of the Circuit, serving us faithfully and well 1902 and 1903, which brings us to our present minister, Brother J. G. Johnson, now serving his second year. This beautiful Church in which we are worshipping today will stand as a memorial of his faithfulness and zeal.

"There is one other minister of whom I wish to speak. One who lived in our midst as a local minister, his health having failed while an itinerant. That one is Brother John C. Garlick. He loved the Church with his whole heart especially this Church where he labored for more than thirty years without reward or hope of reward. I have served this Church in the capacity of Steward for more than thirty years and I will say there is not a more liberal people to be found anywhere. In all of these years, no minister has ever left this charge with one dollar behind in his salary from this Church and all of the contributors of this Church have been faithful and true.

"Today as I look back in the past, memory bring to mind the faces of those that are no more. Where are the host of friends who have worshipped here; all the older ones are gone to that home from which no traveler returns.

"Where is not the merry party
I remember long ago
Laughing around the Christmas fires
Brightened by its rudy glow
Or in Summer's balmy evenings
In the fields upon the hay
They are all dispersed and
Far Away, Far Away
Some have gone to lands far distant
And with strangers made their homes
Some upon the world of waters
All their lives are forced to roam
Some have gone from us forever
Longer here they may not stay

They have reached a fairer region
Far Away, Far Away.
There are still some few remaining
Who remind us of the past
But they change as all may change here
Nothing in this world can last
Years roll on and pass forever
What is coming who can say
Ere this closes may be
Far Away, Far Away.

"And now, my young friends, as I stand before you not far from the great eternity I beseech you to be true to your Mother Church." Thus ends Dr. Ellis' history.

Garysburg Methodist Church, like so many churches in the South, became deeply involved in the events of the Civil War. Dr. Ellis has already stated in his history that the church was used as a hospital and the following newspaper clipping was discovered in an old scrapbook belonging to Mrs. A. J. Ellis:

"At a meeting of the ladies of the vicinity of Garysburg, held in the Methodist E. Church August 26, 1861, for the purpose of forming an "Aid Society" for the benefit of the soldiers of N. C. Rev. J. C. Garlick was called to the chair, and Mr. R. F. Miles was appointed secretary. The meeting having been opened by prayer, the Rev. J. C. Garlick in a few appropriate and patriotic remarks explained the object of the meeting. The following preamble to the constitution was adopted: 'The ladies of this community, feeling a deep and sincere interest in the comfort of the brave soldiers who have volunteered their services in the present war in defence of their countries rights and the protection of our homes have determined to form themselves into a Society for the purpose of raising Contributions to meet their wants and alleviate their sufferings.

After the adoption of the preamble and resolutions, the following officers were elected:

Mrs. M. M. Moody - Pres.
Mrs. Frank Lockhart - 1st Vice-Pres.
Mrs. N. M. Long - 2nd Vice-Pres.
Mrs. H. S. Ellis - 3rd Vice-Pres.
Mrs. Virginia Eaton - 4th Vice-Pres.
Mrs. John J. Long - 5th Vice-Pres.
Mrs. B. F. Miles - 6th Vice-Pres.
Mrs. J. C. Garlick - Secretary
Miss Callie B. Ellis - Assistant Sec.
Miss Sallie J. Ellis - 2nd Ass't. Sec.

Mrs. S. M. Gray - Treasurer

The following ladies were appointed to solicit funds and other articles for the society:

Mrs. Dr. Johnson	Miss Emily Long
Mrs. J. G. Lockhart	Miss Sallie J. Ellis
Mrs. Col. Daniel	Miss Alice Miles
Mrs. C. D. Epps	Miss Mollie Bell
Miss Callie Johnson	Miss Maggie Bell
Miss Virginia Johnson	Miss Laura Moody
Miss Camilla Johnson	Miss Sue Johnson
Miss M. Fannie Ellis	

The Surgeons of the different hospitals in N. C. and Virginia are requested to correspond with the Secretary of the Society stating the articles most needed by the sick and wounded under their charge.

Communications must be addressed to Mrs. J. C. Garlick, Secretary or Miss C. B. Ellis, Assistant Secretary, Garysburg, N. C."

These two incidents along with the fact that there was a Confederate Army training camp at Garysburg, have involved our church not only in the joys of free religious expression in early Colonial America but also entwined it with one of America's greatest tragedies, the "War of Brothers".

In 1894 Rev. J. R. Tillary, then a minister of the Garysburg Church, established a church in what is now known as Roanoke Rapids. At that time it was a mission work which was served by the pastor of the Garysburg Church. The Roanoke Rapids Mission met in a tobacco barn for the first two of three years before it was taken off our Charge. Miss Lucy Ellis, our oldest living member, remembers having, as a child, accompanied Rev. Tillary as he went to meet this appointment from time to time. They had to cross Roanoke River on a small ferry since there was no bridge across the river at that point in those early years.

For years the Garysburg Church was an appointment supervised by the Virginia Methodist Conference. Since the year 1894 the Methodist Church had been divided. From that division sprang three different bodies; The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the Methodist Episcopal Church, North, and the Methodist Protestant Church. The Garysburg Church was in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and was in the Randolph-Macon District of the Virginia Conference. In 1890 our church became an Episcopal appointment in the North Carolina Conference and has remained in that relationship ever since.

Since 1890 the Garysburg Methodist Church has been a part of

the Randolph-Macon District, the Nottoway District, the Farmville District, the Petersburg District, the Murfreesboro District, the Warrenton District, and the Weldon District. In 1931 it became part of the Rocky Mount District and has remained so until this day.

On Wednesday, July 28, 1937 the Garysburg Cemetery Association was organized. The purpose of the Association is to provide means and personnel for maintaining, improving and beautification of the burial grounds now located at the Garysburg Methodist Church or any additions thereto.

Executive Board:

Mrs. T. D. Stephenson, President
Mrs. W. J. Long, Vice-President
Mrs. S. S. Suiter, Treasurer
Miss Mary Craig Suiter, Secretary
Dr. W. G. Suiter
W. J. Long

Mrs. T. D. Stephenson has represented the Cemetery Association in supervising the care and upkeep of the cemetery. Throughout these years our church cemetery has been as beautifully kept as the memories of those who rest there.

In 1939 the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the Methodist Episcopal, North and the Methodist Protestant Church united and became the Methodist Church. Rev. J. E. Garlington, who was at that time minister to the Spring Church Methodist Protestant Charge, became pastor of the Garysburg Church. The charge then was composed of Garysburg, Shiloh, Oak Grove, Bethany Mission, Lebanon, Pleasant Hill and Spring Church. It was hereafter called the Spring Church-Garysburg Charge.

In 1949 the church underwent extensive repairs under the leadership of Rev. Matt R. Gardner and on October 16, 1949 the church observed its hundredth anniversary.

In 1956 major repairs were necessary on the roof and steeple due to Hurricane Hazel and succeeding storms.

In 1956 stained glass memorial windows were installed in the sanctuary and front two rooms of the church. At Christmas in the same year the church became the recipient of an electric organ given by Mr. T. D. Stephenson and a beautiful altar set composed of a brass cross and brass candle holders given by the J. B. Collier family in his memory. Other gifts to our church have been altar and lectern cloths by Mrs. John Ellis; brass collection plates given in memory of Dr. Ellis by a group of friends and relatives, also additional cemetery lots

by Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Fitzhugh given in memory of Dr. A. J. Ellis; book-case by Mr. A. C. Wheeler; Baptismal Bowl by Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh Carrier; flower stands given by Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Conwell in memory of Rev. Charles B. Long, former pastor; and in honor of Mrs. Charles B. Long. On at least two different occasions the church was painted as a gift from Mr. John A. Suiter and Mr. Overton Suiter.

Today we dedicate our Church School Building, on which construction work was started March 25, 1959 and on August 30, 1959 we held our first Sunday School session in the new building. On this day, April 15, 1962, we are able to dedicate our Church School Building because of the generosity and active support given the church by its membership and friends.

Our building committee was composed of Mrs. Boyd Robinson, Mr. W. E. Conwell, Mr. J. M. Attkisson, Jr. and was spearheaded by Mr. T. D. Stephenson who gave freely of his gifts and time.

Thus we have a brief, perhaps even sketchy, history of the Garysburg Methodist Church. We pray that, in the final analysis, it will be only a brief portion of the history of our church in this community.

TEXTS OF SERMONS PREACHED IN TIMES GONE BY
By Former Pastors of The Garysburg Methodist Church*

Bishop George F. Pierce	1857	Matthew 16:24
Rev. O. L. Nelson	May 10, 1863	Psalms 119:75
		Funeral
Dr. Moore	June 7, 1863	Isaiah 2:22
Rev. Douglas Bird	June 11, 1863	Matthew 7:20
Mr. Wilson	April 16, 1865	Hosea 6:4
Rev. M. L. Colonna	February 17, 1867	Numbers 16:47-48
Rev. M. L. Colonna	May 19, 1867	Psalms 118:18-29
Rev. J. A. Reddick	August 18, 1867	Job 33:16
Rev. C. W. Cain	1890	Ecclesiastes 9:10
Rev. C. W. Cain	February 15, 1891	Genesis 5:24
Rev. C. W. Cain	March 15, 1891	Matthew 15:28
Mr. Adams	January 3, 1891	Matthew 26:41
Rev. S. D. Adams	October 31, 1891	John 8:1
Rev. S. D. Adams	November 1, 1891	John 1:41-42
Rev. T. J. Dailey	December 20, 1891	Romans 1:16
Rev. T. J. Dailey	February 7, 1892	Deuteronomy 32:31
Rev. T. J. Dailey	March 6, 1892	Revelations 2:7-10
Rev. J. A. Green	September 5, 1892	Matthew 7:13
Rev. J. R. Tillery	March 24, 1895	Luke 19:5
Rev. J. R. Tillery	July 21, 1895	Luke 19:41
Rev. J. Gibbs	January 30, 1896	Proverbs 4:23
Rev. C. W. Cain	September 2, 1896	Matthew 6:33
Rev. J. A. Green	September 9, 1897	Exodus 34

*Found in Bible belonging to Mrs. A. J. Ellis

<u>Year</u>	<u>Circuit</u>	<u>Pres. Elder</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
1842*	Northampton		James M. Lewis
1843	Northampton		Robert Scott
1844	Northampton		Isaac M. Arnold
1845	Northampton		Isaac M. Arnold
1846	Northampton		Robert A. Gregory
			John W. White
1847	Northampton		John W. White
			G. W. Trimyer
1848	Northampton		Edward P. Wilson
1849	Northampton		Edward P. Wilson
1850	Northampton		I. M. Arnold
1851	Northampton		I. M. Arnold
			R. Shane
1852	Northampton		Esmond A. Gibbs
1853	Northampton		Esmond A. Gibbs
1854	Northampton		George W. Winfree
1855	Northampton		John W. Howard
1856	Northampton		William W. Grant
1857	Northampton		William W. Grant
1858	Northampton		T. L. Williams
1859	Northampton		T. L. Williams
1860	Northampton		William S. Dalby
1861	Northampton		W. E. Allen
1862	Northampton		E. P. Wilson
1863	Northampton		E. P. Wilson
1864	Northampton		E. P. Wilson
			Thomas S. Campbell
1865	Northampton		J. H. Payne
			J. R. Finley
1866	Northampton		M. S. Colonna
1867	Northampton		M. S. Colonna
1868	Northampton		Charles E. Hobday
1869	Northampton		James E. McSparran
			William Grant
1870	Northampton		James E. McSparran
1871	Northampton		Joseph Lear
1872	Northampton		J. Lear
1873	Northampton		Benjamin F. Tennille
1874	Northampton		Benjamin F. Tennille
1875	Northampton		Benjamin F. Tennille
1876	Northampton		John Q. Rhodes
1877	Northampton		John Q. Rhodes
1878	Northampton		John Q. Rhodes
1879	Northampton		W. E. Allen
1880	Northampton	W. H. Christian	C. E. Hobday
1881	Northampton	W. H. Christian	C. E. Hobday
1882	Northampton	W. H. Christian	C. E. Hobday

*Information from Minutes of Virginia Conference from Randolph-Macon College

<u>Year</u>	<u>Presiding Elder</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>S. S. Supt.</u>
1882	J. A. Proctor*	T. J. Bayton	
1884	J. A. Proctor	T. J. Bayton	
1885	J. A. Proctor	T. J. Bayton	
1886	J. A. Proctor	T. O. Edwards	
1887	Thomas Campbell	T. O. Edwards	
1888	Thomas H. Campbell	T. C. Edwards	
1889	Thomas H. Campbell	C. W. Cain	
1890	S. D. Adams	C. W. Cain**	
1891	S. D. Adams	T. J. Dailey	
1892	S. D. Adams	T. J. Dailey	
1893	S. D. Adams	Z. T. Harrison	T. W. Mason***
1894	W. S. Black	J. R. Tillery	T. W. Mason
1895	W. S. Black	J. R. Tillery	T. W. Mason
1896	W. S. Black	J. D. Pegram	T. W. Mason
1897	J. T. Gibbs	J. D. Pegram	T. W. Mason
1898	J. E. Underwood	J. D. Pegram	T. W. Mason
1899	J. E. Underwood	G. W. Fisher	T. W. Mason
1900	J. E. Underwood	G. W. Fisher	T. W. Mason
1901	R. A. Willis	E. W. Fox	T. W. Mason
1902	R. A. Willis	E. W. Fox	T. W. Mason
1903	G. F. Smith	J. G. Johnson	T. W. Mason
1904	G. F. Smith	J. G. Johnson	T. W. Mason
1905	G. F. Smith	J. G. Johnson	T. W. Mason
1906	W. S. Rone	J. G. Johnson	T. W. Mason
1907	W. S. Rone	D. L. Earnhardt	T. W. Mason
1908	W. S. Rone	D. L. Earnhardt	T. W. Mason
1909	J. E. Underwood	E. N. Harrison	T. W. Mason
1910	J. E. Underwood	E. N. Harrison	J. E. Suiter
1911	R. E. Bumpass	E. N. Harrison	J. E. Suiter
1912	R. E. Bumpass	M. Y. Self	J. E. Suiter
1913	R. H. Willis	M. Y. Self	J. E. Suiter
1914	R. H. Willis	M. Y. Self	J. E. Suiter
1915	J. D. Bundy	M. Y. Self	J. E. Suiter
1916	J. D. Bundy	R. W. Bailey	J. E. Suiter
1917	E. M. Snipes	R. W. Bailey	J. E. Suiter
1918	E. N. Snipes	R. W. Bailey	J. E. Suiter
1919	E. N. Snipes	William Towe	J. E. Suiter
1920	E. N. Snipes	William Towe****	J. E. Suiter
1921	S. E. Mercer	William Towe	J. E. Suiter
1922	S. E. Mercer	William Towe	J. E. Suiter
1923	S. E. Mercer	C. M. Lance	J. E. Suiter
1924	S. E. Mercer	J. A. Tharpe	J. E. Suiter
1925	S. A. Cotton	B. Duke Critcher	J. E. Suiter
1926	S. A. Cotton	E. W. Downam	J. E. Suiter
1927	S. A. Cotton	O. C. Melton	J. E. Suiter

*From Duke Divinity School Library **Changed from Northampton to Garysburg Circuit ***From Garysburg Circuit Quarterly Conference Minutes ****Seaboard Circuit formed from Garysburg Circuit

<u>Year</u>	<u>Presiding Elder</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>S. S. Supt.</u>
1928	S. A. Cotton	O. C. Melton	J. E. Suiter
1929	L. B. Jones	J. T. Draper	J. B. Collier
1930	L. B. Jones	J. T. Draper	J. B. Collier
1931	L. B. Jones	J. T. Draper	J. B. Collier
1932	L. B. Jones	J. T. Draper	J. B. Collier
1933	W. C. Martin	J. T. Draper	J. B. Collier
1934	W. C. Martin	H. A. Chester	J. B. Collier
1935	J. M. Culbreth	H. A. Chester	J. B. Collier
1936	J. M. Culbreth	L. B. Pattishall	J. M. Attkisson, Sr.
1937	J. M. Culbreth	L. B. Pattishall	J. M. Attkisson, Sr.
1938	L. C. Larkin	L. E. Sawyer	J. M. Attkisson, Sr.
1939	L. C. Larkin	L. E. Sawyer	J. M. Attkisson, Sr.
1940*	L. C. Larkin**	J. E. Garlington	J. M. Attkisson, Sr.
1941	L. C. Larkin	J. E. Garlington	J. M. Attkisson, Sr.
1942	T. McM. Grant	J. E. Garlington	J. M. Attkisson, Sr.
1943	T. McM. Grant	J. E. Garlington	J. M. Attkisson, Sr.
1944	T. McM. Grant	J. E. Garlington	J. M. Attkisson, Sr.
1945	T. McM. Grant	E. C. Crawford	J. M. Attkisson, Sr.
1946	T. McM. Grant	W. N. Vaughan	Mrs. W. E. Conwell
1947	A. J. Hobbs	W. N. Vaughan	Mrs. W. E. Conwell
1948	A. J. Hobbs	M. R. Gardner	Mrs. W. E. Conwell
1949	A. J. Hobbs	M. R. Gardner	Mrs. W. E. Conwell
1950	A. J. Hobbs	M. R. Gardner	Mrs. W. E. Conwell
1951	A. J. Hobbs	M. R. Gardner	Mrs. W. E. Conwell
1952	J. F. Herbert	W. C. Feltman	Mrs. W. E. Conwell
1953	J. F. Herbert	W. C. Feltman	Mrs. W. E. Conwell
1954	J. F. Herbert	C. B. Long	Mrs. J. M. Attkisson, Jr.
1955	J. F. Herbert	C. B. Long	Mrs. J. M. Attkisson, Jr.
1956	W. C. Ball	Paul R. Maness	Mrs. J. M. Attkisson, Jr.
1957	W. C. Ball	Don L. Harris	Mrs. J. M. Attkisson, Jr.
1958	W. C. Ball	Don L. Harris	Mrs. J. M. Attkisson, Jr.
1959	W. C. Ball	Don L. Harris	Mrs. J. M. Attkisson, Jr.
1960	W. C. Ball	Don L. Harris	Mrs. J. M. Attkisson, Jr.
1961	W. C. Ball	Don L. Harris	Mrs. J. M. Attkisson, Jr.

*We became the Spring Church-Garysburg Charge

**Title was changed from Presiding Elder to District Superintendent

<u>Year</u>	<u>Conference</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Bishop</u>
1880	Virginia	Murfreesboro	Wm. M. Wightman
1881	Virginia	Murfreesboro	H. N. McTyeire
1882	Virginia	Murfreesboro	George F. Pierce
1883	Virginia	Murfreesboro	H. H. Kavanaugh
1884	Virginia	Warrenton	John C. Keener
1885	Virginia	Warrenton	John C. Keener
1886	Virginia	Warrenton	John C. Granbery
1887	Virginia	Warrenton	Joseph C. Key
1888	Virginia	Warrenton	John C. Granbery
1889	Virginia	Warrenton	A. W. Wilson
1890	North Carolina	Warrenton	John C. Keener
1891	North Carolina	Warrenton	Charles B. Galloway
1892	North Carolina	Warrenton	Wm. W. Duncan
1893	North Carolina	Warrenton	Wm. W. Duncan
1894	North Carolina	Warrenton	Alpheus W. Wilson
1895	North Carolina	Warrenton	Alpheus W. Wilson
1896	North Carolina	Warrenton	Alpheus W. Wilson
1897	North Carolina	Warrenton	Robert K. Hargrove
1898	North Carolina	Warrenton	Oscar Fitzgerald
1899	North Carolina	Warrenton	Eugene R. Hendrix
1900	North Carolina	Warrenton	Henry C. Morrison
1901	North Carolina	Warrenton	Robert R. Hargrove
1902	North Carolina	Warrenton	A. Coke Smith
1903	North Carolina	Warrenton	Warren A. Candler
1904	North Carolina	Warrenton	Warren A. Candler
1905	North Carolina	Warrenton	Alpheus W. Wilson
1906	North Carolina	Warrenton	Alpheus W. Wilson
1907	North Carolina	Warrenton	Charles B. Galloway
1908	North Carolina	Warrenton	A. W. Wilson
1909	North Carolina	Warrenton	A. W. Wilson
1910	North Carolina	Warrenton	Eugene B. Hendrix
1911	North Carolina	Warrenton	E. E. Hoss
1912	North Carolina	Warrenton	Collins Denny
1913	North Carolina	Warrenton	J. H. McCoy
1914	North Carolina	Warrenton	R. S. Waterhouse
1915	North Carolina	Warrenton	Jno. C. Kilgo
1916	North Carolina	Warrenton	Jn. C. Kilgo
1917	North Carolina	Warrenton	W. A. Candler
1918	North Carolina	Warrenton	E. V. W. Darlington
1919	North Carolina	Warrenton	E. V. W. Darlington
1920	North Carolina	Warrenton	U. B. W. Darlington
1921	North Carolina	Weldon	U. B. W. Darlington
1922	North Carolina	Weldon	Collins Denny
1923	North Carolina	Weldon	Collins Denny
1924	North Carolina	Weldon	Collins Denny
1925	North Carolina	Weldon	Collins Denny

<u>Year</u>	<u>Conference</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Bishop</u>
1926	North Carolina	Warrenton	Edwin D. Mouzon
1927	North Carolina	Warrenton	Edwin D. Mouzon
1928	North Carolina	Warrenton	Edwin D. Mouzon
1929	North Carolina	Warrenton	Edwin D. Mouzon
1930	North Carolina	Warrenton	Edwin D. Mouzon
1931	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Edwin D. Mouzon
1932	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Edwin D. Mouzon
1933	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Edwin D. Mouzon
1934	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Paul B. Kern
1935	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Paul B. Kern
1936	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Paul B. Kern
1937	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Paul B. Kern
1938	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Clare Purcell
1939	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	W. W. Peele
1940	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Clare Purcell
1941	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Clare Purcell
1942	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Clare Purcell
1943	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Clare Purcell
1944	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	W. W. Peele
1945	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	W. W. Peele
1946	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	W. W. Peele
1947	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	W. W. Peele
1948	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	W. W. Peele
1949	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	W. W. Peele
1950	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	W. W. Peele
1951	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Paul Neff Garber
1952	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Paul Neff Garber
1953	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Paul Neff Garber
1954	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Paul Neff Garber
1955	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Paul Neff Garber
1956	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Paul Neff Garber
1957	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Paul Neff Garber
1958	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Paul Neff Garber
1959	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Paul Neff Garber
1960	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Paul Neff Garber
1961	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Paul Neff Garber
1962	North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Paul Neff Garber

On behalf of the Garysburg Methodist Church, we wish to pay tribute to our Pastor, the Rev. Don Lee Harris, who has served us for the past five years. It has been truly delightful to have had him and his family in our midst during these years.

Rev. Harris has served with complete devotion to the cause of Christ and the Church and the people of the Garysburg community. His christian leadership and guidance have truly been an inspiration to us and his unflagging interest and tireless efforts have spurred us on to better and higher ideals.

We thank him for his efforts on behalf of our Church School Building. He gave us courage to start and go on to finish this building in the face of great difficulties.

We thank him for his interest, help and guidance which have made possible the writing of this historical data.

Signed:

Miss Lucy A. Ellis

Miss Inda Rhem

Mrs. H. M. Joyner

Mrs. J. M. Attkisson, Jr.

Committee on Historical Data
April 15, 1962

GARYSBURG

Garysburg first appears in the official records as a Post Office named Peeble's Town established sometime between 1818 and 1825. Peeble's Town or Tavern as some sources refer to it was located on or near the banks of the Roanoke River south of the present intersection of U. S. Highway 301 and 158. Although it cannot be taken as conclusive, a foundation and enough broken crockery to indicate a public house were found about a half mile from the river beside "the railroad cut" on the old Jackson-Weldon Road in the 1930's when a farmer prepared a field where tradition said the tavern had stood.

The name of the Post Office was changed to Blakely Depot on September 20, 1833.

There is no known reason for the change, but it may have been because the Petersburg and Roanoke Railroad changed the name or that the Post Office did. At any event the town was the southern terminus of the railroad and was probably quite prosperous.

Because it was between the railroad and the river it served as a major market for Northampton and a point of interchange for commerce. It was during the Blakely days that the Garysburg community became more socially aligned with Halifax than Northampton County.

The next major river landing below Blakely was the Town of Halifax and there must have been a good deal of interchange, for marriages between residents of the two towns were quite frequent.

Indeed it was a native of Halifax who settled in Northampton who gave Garysburgh (as it was spelled until 1892) its new name in 1838.

Roderick B. Gary became the operator of the hotel (now the Collier Place) and did well in his new home. He served Northampton County as a representative in the State House for 12 terms between 1777 and 1830.

Sometime in the 1840's. the river site was abandoned and people began settling in the present Garysburg.

It may have been that the completion of the Weldon Bridge for the railroad ended the necessity of the river location and the residents moved inland to get away from the Malaria-carrying insects.

In any event, Major Gary donated an acre of land to the Methodist Episcopal Church opposite his hotel as a new home for the congregation of Moore's Chapel located four miles east of town across the road from Longview.

The Church was completed in the 1850's and would be the only white church established in the community to this day.

During the Civil War, Garysburg was important because of the railroad. A camp was established for Confederate troops to protect it from attack. The Church was converted into a hospital and used by Confederate soldiers from North Carolina and Virginia, some of whom are buried in the churchyard.

Following the War, Garysburg was still a prosperous town. The Editor of a Petersburg, Va. paper wrote in 1881 after attending the Ellis-Coker wedding.

".....We made the Garysburg Hotel, which is one of the best country hotels in the State--our headquarters. Mr. W. T. Key is proprietor and strives to please and entertain the traveling public.Garysburg is growing and signs of improvement are apparent in many directions. It has a flourishing^{male} school under the charge of Professor Fetter, and now St. Catharine's Hall is to be removed from Jackson to this place, they will have a female school also. And when it gets the new railroad from the sound to this place, it will be quite a flourishing town."

However the new railroad from the sound crossed the existing north-south road in Weldon not Garysburg.

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, Garysburg grew to contain several general stores (mercantile), a drugstore, a bank (The Farmers and Merchants),

a saw mill, a stone and gravel company, a public school, a doctor's office, and two railroad depots. With the advent of the automobile, The Great Depression, and the completion of the U. S. 301 bridge over the Roanoke River, Garysburg went into a decline.

This brief sketch of history is taken from records and documents contained in the Estate of Miss Lucy Ann Ellis of Garysburg, N. C. whose ancestors lived in this section before Northampton County was formed.

Robert B. (Bob) Robinson, III