

A HISTORY OF GOLDSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Goldston, North Carolina

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Introduction

The history of a church involves the lives, the labors, the faith of people through the years. The following is an historical sketch, not a definitive history of the church. Because of the special importance of the Sunday School in circuit churches where church services (preaching services) were not held every Sunday, I would like to have included a list of those who were the Sunday School Superintendents through the years. A complete list of Sunday School Superintendents was not available, however. Tribute should be given to the Sunday School leaders and class members who "kept the church going" through the years. A complete list of pastors was obtained from the Journals of the North Carolina Conference. The list of pastors is included in this account to serve as reference points through the years of church history. With the necessary research done, an interesting historical account could be compiled that would give some details of the personalities, lives, and ministries of various pastors. Some of this kind of information is included in this account.

I would like to give special credit to Mr. George E. Rives for the personal history of the church that he wrote. His historical account has a special value all its own, and is irreplaceable. In this account I have noted a number of places where I have drawn from Mr. George Rives' history.

The editors of Chatham County 1771-1971 state that "Jack Goldston and Loton F. Paschal organized the first Sunday School in Goldston." (p. 243)

I would especially like to thank Mrs. Reba Cheek for her assistance, coming out of her long and active interest in the history of the church. I appreciate all who have encouraged the preparation of this account.

The preparation of a church history is never complete. Important aspects are left out; new information turns up. Corrections and additions for this account are welcomed.

Angus Cameron

According to an article about the church written by George E. Rives, "the history of the Goldston United Methodist Church properly begins with the organization of the old Corinth Church, which was organized about 1875." The deed was executed in September, 1875 by Joseph John Goldston and his wife, Eliza L. Goldston, and the trustees of the church named in the deed were as follows: William Alston Rives, Mark Bynum, J. Guthrie, Thomas Jefferson Goldston, Andrew Jackson Goldston, Joseph J. Goldston, and D.C. Elkins. "In consideration of the cause of Christianity and \$1.00 a tract of one acre and eight poles on the waters of Cedar Creek immediately on the Gulf Road, beginning on the west side of Gulf Road in D.C. Elkins' line and running nearly north with his line 14 poles, thence east 12 poles, thence nearly south 14 poles, thence west crossing the road 12 poles to the beginning." Reg. March 6, 1882.

Information handed down orally from one generation to another in the Goldston community states that either a church building or church congregation, or both, ~~was moved or~~ moved to Goldston prior to 1875 from a location several miles east of Goldston, near the present Sharp's Store. The location of the church was referred to through the years as "near the Bynum place," apparently referring to the home of Mark Bynum, on the Pittsboro Road near the Bear Creek crossing. The Map of Chatham County by Capt. N.A. Ramsey, dated 1870, has the word "Shiloh" between the M. Bynum home and the Bear Creek crossing. At this writing, nothing more is known by the compiler of this history about a church at this location.

According to George E. Rives, the church building of old Corinth was located on a one acre plot of ground directly across the railroad from where the depot stood, about 150 feet from the railroad track. The building is described by Mr. George Rives as being a plain, frame structure, without steeple or belfry, or other ornamentation, and never painted, either outside or inside. "The pulpits in those days were boxed up affairs, about waist high, with a hinged door on either side, so that when a man stood up in the pulpit, all the folks in the pew saw of him was from his waist line upward...Back in those days, when the preacher said, 'Let us pray,' a great many of the folks got down on their knees...Very few country people had buggies as the country people were very much impoverished by the terrible devastation wrought by the War Between the States. So when most of the folks went to church, or went visiting, they had to walk or go in the old farm wagon."

Life was hard, and uncertain - no more transient then than now, but the people seemed to have more awareness of the transiency of life. Following are the words of hymns from the one page of a hymnal that was kept by the mother of Mrs. Reba Cheek.

Thus far the Lord hath led me on
Thus far His power prolongs my days,
And every evening shall make known
Some fresh memorial of His grace.

Much of my time has run to waste
And I perhaps am near my home:
But He forgives my follies past,
And gives me strength for days to come.

I lay my body down to sleep
Peace is the pillow for my head;
While well-appointed angels keep
Their watchful stations round my bed.

Then when the night of death shall come
My flesh shall rest beneath the ground,
And wait Thy voice to rouse my tomb
With sweet salvation in the sound.

The day is past and gone
The evening shades appear,
O may we all remember well,
The night of death draws near!

We lay our garments by,
Upon our beds to rest;
So death will soon disrobe us all
Of what is here possest.

Lord, keep us safe this night,
Secure from all our fears.
May angels guard us while we sleep,
Till morning light appears.

And when we early rise,
And view th'unwearied sun,
May we set out to win the prize,
And after glory run.

Following is an excerpt from the history of Pleasant Hill Church, Pittsboro Circuit, Chatham County, N.C., compiled by Grace Green Tysor. She writes about family life and church life in the late 1800's.

"Practically all the young men were used in military life (in the Civil War). Many never returned from service, and those who did were physically impoverished from exposure. Many were wounded, and some lost limbs. When the war was over, the slaves were set free, money lost its value, and the great depression came. People struggled as best they could under the circumstances to provide support for their families from their farms. But it was hard for young men, who had been accustomed to slaves doing the farm labor, to take up the plow and till the soil. But the soil was the only source of support. Many of the ladies had been brought up with servants at their command and had not been required to do menial labor themselves. Their pride was hurt by the change in circumstances more than their physical welfare.

The church of course suffered much but continued to help the many struggling farmers to live closer to God and to rely upon Him from whence cometh our help. The ones who were minus limbs had the worst battle because of their physical handicaps...

These farmers lived close to God and were punctual to attend services at the church. They would hitch the horses to the farm wagon, put hay or straw in the wagon, spread quilts or blankets over that, and all the children, sometimes ten or twelve in number, would climb in. To church they would go as jolly as could be and so happy to meet and have fellowship with both God and man. Twelve or fifteen wagon loads of these people would come rolling into the church grounds on Sunday morning, and many riders would come on horses and mules. The mules would "hee haw," the donkeys would bray, and the horses would neigh to their colts, as farmers kept mother horses to raise the young. The people hitched the horses to trees and rocks. They then met in front of the church, shook hands and talked some before the services began, all exchanging different gestures of welcome. The Sunday School Superintendent always shook hands with everyone present, made visitors welcome, and greeted with a special welcome those who had been absent for any cause. One little girl was greeted thus, "Well God bless your little soul! You are here today?" She replied, "I am glad you ask a blessing on my soul! No one ever did that before!"

No one was in a hurry...Each one seemed to have plenty of time to inquire about absent neighbors and talk about God's blessings to us and the general spiritual welfare of the community.

The old church had a dividing rail down the center of the building. Men went to the left and women to the right for seats...

In those days, the church was equipped with old spittoons, as they were called, over most of the building. These spittoons were just boxes with dirt in them for people to use while dipping snuff and chewing tobacco...

Choir practice was a good custom enjoyed by all. Sometimes lunch was carried to Sunday School and practice was in the afternoon. Each third Sunday was prayer meeting day and officials took turns conducting these services after the regular school. They had experience meetings and told of their personal experience with God and man in this spiritual life.

About 1893 or later, the young people organized a society called Willing Workers. Members of this group prepared programs and did much to help in Christian work. About this same date the missionary society had classes varying from one cent to twenty-five cents. Most children belonged to the one cent class. Money was hard to secure. When we had a penny for collection and one for our society, we certainly felt we had accomplished something."

In the same historical account of Pleasant Hill Church, Catherine Johnson writes: "In the days of the Circuit Riders, people walked or rode oxcarts to church. They carried their dinner and spent the day, having Sunday School in the morning and singing in the afternoon. The literature used was the Bible, Catechism, and the old Blue Back Spelling Book."

To return now especially to the history of Corinth, and Goldston, Church, Mr. George Rives recalls hearing a Mr. Arnold from Jonesboro preach in the old Corinth Church in 1880. He recalls that the Arnolds went home with the Bynum family that day for dinner. Mr. Rives was eight years old at the time and was at the Bynum home also with his father and several brothers and sisters. While the group sat on the front porch of the Bynum residence, little Pearlie Arnold sang, "I Want to be an Angel." He recalls some of the words:

I want to be an angel, and with the angels stand,
A crown upon my forehead, a harp within my hand.

There right beside my Savior, so glorious and so bright,
I'd make the sweetest music and praise Him day and night.

I know I'm weak and sinful, but Jesus will forgive,
For many little children have gone to heaven to live.

Dear Savior, when I languish, and lay me down to die,
Oh, send a shining angel to bear me to the sky.

Mr. George Rives writes of Rev. Philip Greening, "who was here for four years, from 1882 to 1885. He was an Englishman, having been born in England and emigrated to America. He was a good man and a very good preacher. He spoke with a very noticeable British accent..." Mr. Rives recalls being in a revival meeting in old Corinth in 1886. "The preacher that year was Mr. Cutchen, and the revival preacher Rev. W.F. Thom, a Presbyterian minister who lived at Gulf." Mr. Rives writes of hearing three presiding elders preach in the old Corinth Church: E.L. Stamey, J.R. Scroggs, and Dr. J.T. Gibbs. D.C. Geddie, A.D. Betts, and W.S. Chaffin were pastors who preached in the old Corinth Church. He relates that a new building was erected in 1892, and the congregation moved from the old Corinth building into the new building in 1893. The old Corinth building was sold to Bynum and Paschall, merchants, and was used for several years as a cotton storage house. "It was sold to W.P. Kirkman about 1910, and the lumber was used in building a barn or livery stable. Some of the lumber can still be seen as weather boarding on Ozzie Oldham's barn."

Mr. George Rives, in his account, speaks of some of the families related to the church in its early years. They include the families of the original seven trustees, already named. Also, "J.B. Ausley and wife, J.F. Ausley and his wife and children, Miss Lou Ausley, J.W. McIntyre, John Phillips, T.M. Bynum and wife, L.F. Paschall and his family, T.W. Moses and wife, Mr. and Mrs. F.C. Watson, Miles Barber, Mrs. Mary Barber, T.J. Barber, and many others." He notes that it was about 1895 that Mr. C.W. Womble and his family moved to Goldston and became active members of the Goldston Church.

Following are excerpts from the daily journal kept by Rev. Washington S. Chaffin, minister of Corinth Methodist Church (later, named Goldston Methodist Church), from December 1887 to December, 1889. He lived in Jonesboro, N.C. His pastorate in Goldston was several years prior to the construction of a parsonage in Goldston. Mr. Chaffin's Journal is in the Manuscript Room of Duke University Library.

Mr. Chaffin was born in 1815 and died in 1895. He was 72 years of age when the North Carolina Annual Conference was in session at Fayetteville, N.C. on November 30, 1887. He wrote in his journal:

"Quite a cold wave progressing southward."

(Next Day) "Very cold weather. Windy but clear and sunny."

(Next Day) "Chilly but pleasant. Might be snow in the air."

December 4, 1887: In 47 years of ministry I have gone on foot many times to attend my appointments, from 4 to 13 miles - waded swamps, creeks and rivers to get to the places of meeting.

This coming year I am appointed to Deep River Circuit: Fair Promise, Wesley Chapel, Maroney's, Corinth, Mount Zion, Harper's Crossroads, Bethlehem, and Asbury - aggregate 8.

I am not informed as to the number of members or its ability to support a preacher. Yet I expect to go to the work with a cheerful faith in God and a firm reliance upon Him for help.

December 8, 1887 - Completing my house in Jonesboro. The masons are done plastering and are commencing whitewashing. Hope to have a comfortable house.

December 15, 1887 - The carpenters, masons and plasterers are done - each did some bad work - that is my judgment.

December 25, 1887 - Rev. W.B. Doub began his ministry on the Jonesboro Circuit today. His sermon was good but elicited no favorable criticism that I hear of.

December 27, 1887 - With right hard work, nearly finished my horse lot.

December 28, 1887 - Finished my horse lot.

December 31, 1887 - I started on the train to the first appointment on the Deep River Circuit, the 48th appointment I have received in the North Carolina Conference. Hope to find help and have success in the name of God.

December 31, 1887 (continued)

Went to Goldston on the train, thence to brother John J. Goldston's, where I was kindly received and generously entertained. Hope to be a blessing to this family. Bro. _____ Bynum's house was the first I entered on my circuit. His wife is a firm Methodist and so is he. They live at the depot. Corinth Church is located here. It is somewhat out of repairs but I have promise of it being repaired in the spring.

This winds up December, 1887 with all its joys and sorrows. We read the New Testament regularly in our daily family morning service, in a class of the whole family, and this morning finished the last book, Revelation, and the last verse fell to me, which is the benediction. May the whole Bible be my guide, and may I keep every precept in it, and have right to the Tree of life and enter through the gates into the city.

January 1, 1888 - This morning found me comfortable, well, and generously entertained at Bro. J.J. Goldston's on Deep River Circuit, Chatham County, whither I came on yesterday to commence my ministerial work in this conference year. My appointments today are Maroney's and Corinth. There was a heavy rainfall all the morning - did not go to Maroney's. Found only three persons at Corinth so I did not preach. James Goldston carried me to Bro. A.J. Goldston's where I remained for the night.

January 2, 1888 (Monday) - Beautiful day. Saw several friends at Goldston station. Came home...wife and Maud have bad colds. Others well.

January 4, 1888 - Weather pleasant. Stayed at home and finished a chicken house for wife.

January 5, 1888 - Well diggers commenced.

January 10, 1888 - Moved into our house on the North side of Main Street.

January 11, 1888 - Severe suffering. Throbbing, beating, pulsing pain in my head. Once in a while, keen pain in my left ear.

January 29, 1888 - Did not rest well last night. Took medicine this morning.

Went to church at night (in Jonesboro). G.D. Adams preached. Some persons slept. Others were sleepy.

(looking back over the month) On Friday, January 6, I traveled in a cold, raw wind for 20 miles. Next day I drove 10 miles through cold, crisp air. The next Monday as I started for home (22 miles) a cold, drizzly rain and east wind met me. It was severe. Arrived home at night. Much of my suffering may be attributed to my improvident conduct in endeavoring to reach my appointments.

February 3, 1888 (Friday) - Took train at 2 p.m. for Goldston. Arrived in due time and found a cordial welcome at T.W. Bynums. Generously entertained.

February 4 (Saturday) - Remained at Goldston Depot until this afternoon. When here Wm. Goldston offered to sell me one of the best mares that I ~~ever~~ saw - said she would be 12 years old next spring - proposed that I take and try her which I agreed to do.

February 5 (Sunday) - A very disagreeable day. Eddie Goldston carried me in buggy to Maronies where there was assembled a good crowd. I preached with some liberty. Thence to Corinth where I was met by another good congregation - preached and went to J.J. Goldston's.

February 6, 1888 ((Monday) - Remained at J.J. Goldstons and read and meditated a good deal. Very disagreeable weather all day. Two horses were brought for me to see. One is too large...the other right size with swollen legs and old. Beautiful form and color.

February 7, 1888 (Tuesday) - Drove Mr. William Goldston's mare to Mr. Alexander Oldham's. Dinner at Isaac Williams. At A. Oldhams at night.

February 8, 1888 (Wednesday) - Drove to C.W. Wombles for dinner and remained for the night. Very kindly entertained. My birthday - there will be but few more of them. (73rd birthday)

February 12, 1888 (Sunday) - Very, very unpleasant weather - preached at Mt. Zion and drove without food for man or beast to Harper's Cross Roads and preached again. Went to _____ Calders for the night.

February 13, 1888 (Monday) (10 B 15 RR) Drove over a very muddy road to Goldston, then took train for home.

A horse was brought to Bro. J.J. Goldstons today for me to see.

(refers to Asbury Church - was pastor there 27 years before, in 1861)

February 25, 1888 (Saturday - Big freshet on the Deep River.

February 28, 1888 (Tuesday) - Bought a horse named Maggie - sorrell - fine pacer - trotter in harness - gentle - healthy. I paid Jim Oldham \$125.00 for her.

March 2, 1888 (Friday) - Tolerable, pleasant weather. Dinner at Leander Gross, night at Thomas Goldstons. Had a pleasant ride over a muddy and hilly road and received pleasant hospitality everywhere today.

Had an opportunity to see how Maggie would stand a running, squawking, puffing, blowing engine and train. She performed well.

March 3, 1888 (Saturday) (10 B) Drove Maggie to John A. Pughs. The road today was through or over a red clay or country. It was terrible muddy. The worst I have ever seen.

March 4, 1888 (Sunday) - The weather turned very cold last night. Mighty unpleasant and cold today. Preached at Maroneys, dinner at Mrs. Moffits. Preached at Corinth. Night at John F. Ausleys. Talked until 11 p.m.

March 9, 1888 (Friday) (20m - B) Dinner at Leander Gross, night at Thomas Goldstons. Had a pleasant ride over muddy and hilly roads and received pleasant hospitalities everywhere.

March 11, 1888 (Sunday) - Cold east wind and heavy rain until 1 p.m. No one went to Maroneys...A great disappointment in this neighborhood today. Much nice starching and elegant ironing had been done by girls to show off at Maroneys. Girls had done up their bangs in paper so as to appear beautiful and lovely. The boys had blackened their shoes and fixed to oil the hair of their heads so as to charm the young maidens. Mamas had cooked splendid dinners to feast everybody upon - But O the rain!

March 12, 1888 (Monday) (22m B) Bear Creek having a freshet. Had to find a crossing on a bridge, which I did at Mark Bynums. Came by Egypt and Sandford home - found all well. Was somewhat fatigued when arrived Jonesboro about 3 p.m. Came over some muddy, hilly roads.

March 31, 1888 (Saturday) (20m B) Traveled from home in buggy to Mrs. Rives at Maronies. The roads were very muddy, rough, rocky. The Deep River was overflowing its banks. Had some trouble to get to the bridge over the river at Egypt and then had to get around some pools made by backwater. At one I went into the woods and found myself where there was no sign of humanity and had to hew my way out with my pocket knife. Passed by Sanford, Egypt, Gulf, and Goldston - reached Sister Rives at 4 o'clock p.m.

April 1, 1888 (Sunday) - Beautiful weather - preached at Maroneys - dinner at Mrs. Moffits. Preached at Corinth - night at Thomas C. Moses. Nothing unusual occurred today.

April 2, 1888 (Monday) - Dinner at Mr. Paschals - night at J.J. Goldstons. Met Rev. Oglesby at Goldston. He is going on a visit to his father in Virginia.

April 10, 1888 (Tuesday) - Planted Irish potatoes and roasting ear corn.

April 12, 1888 (Thursday) Spent the night in the Asbury neighborhood. The forest foliage is nearly mature and quite early.

April 15, 1888 (Sunday) Preached at Asbury to a very attentive congregation. Preached 75 minutes without apparent weariness to myself or to the congregation.

April 30, 1888 - Found that I will have to have new wheels put on my old buggy.

May 8, 1888 (Tuesday) - I plowed Maggie today. She works splendid to the plow.

May 11, 1888 (Friday) - Drove to Alex. Oldhams in my sulky and had a most splendid dinner: coffee, good, fried eggs, biscuits, fresh pure excellent butter, strawberry pudding, strawberries and cream, egg custard, cream custard, and some other things.

June 1, 1888 (Friday) Went on the RR to Goldston - stopped at T.W. Bynums. The earth is very full of water.

June 2, 1888 (Saturday) Remained at Goldston. Preached at Corinth - held a circuit Sunday School convention and elected delegates to the District Sunday School Convention. Dinner and night at Mr. Pascals.

June 3, 1888 (Sunday) (12-B) Preached at Corinth and gave the Communion of the Lord's Supper. Dinner at T.W. Bynums. Preached at Maroneys. Night at J.J. Goldstons. Good congregation at Corinth. Many more than could be accomodated. Good congregation at Maroneys. Cold weather - hailed last night.

June 4, 1888 (Monday) - Dinner at Mr. Pascals. Came home on the train.

June 11, 1888 (Thursday) - Hot weather. Worked in our corn all the forenoon.

July 1, 1888 (Sunday) Preached at Maroneys. Dinner at Sister Moffits. Preached at Corinth. Night at Mr. Tysors. Nothing unusual.

July 13, 1888 (Friday) Picnic at Lemon Springs. There were clouds, a little east wind, and some rain.

July 14, 1888 (Saturday) - One of the hind wheels of my buggy became fast locked. It would not turn at all. After a long and hard effort to loose it, I succeeded with the help of another man.

July 18, 1888 (Wednesday) - Another pleasant but very dry day. My corn is not wilted at all but looks green and grows well. It was plowed yesterday with a long sweep.

In July traveled by buggy 97 miles, sulkie 74 miles.

August 1, 1888 (Wednesday) The well diggers resumed work on our well. We hope to have good water and plenty of it.

August 3, 1888 (Friday) Very, very hot weather. Drove to J.W. Rays near Goldston and was kindly received. My horse suffered more from the heat than I have known her to before (crossed at the Gulf).

August 8, 1888 - Spent the night at A.J. Goldstons.

August 19, 1888 - Night at Mark Bynums. He is sick - an old man.

August 23, 1888 - Had flint rocks put into our well.

August 31, 1888 (Friday) Quite warm weather. Drove to J.F. Ausley's for dinner. Light rains about Goldston depot. Went to J.J. Goldstons for the night. Heavy rain in this place in the afternoon. The crop prospects in the neighborhood of Egypt and Goldston is the poorest I have ever seen, I think - gloomy prospect.

September 1, 1888 (Saturday) Preached to a very small congregation at Corinth. Went home with Joseph Ausley. Had a very pleasant visit at his place.

September 2, 1888 (Sunday) There were people enough at Corinth to fill the house $2\frac{1}{2}$ times. Had very little liberty while trying to preach. Left Rev. L. Phillips to preach at the 2nd service and went to Maroneys where I was met by 11 young people and 1 old person. Gave them a talk to which they gave very marked attention. Went to Mrs. Moffits for the night.

September 3, 1888 (Monday) Rainy morning - delightful rains - How glad I am! The congregation came to Corinth at 2:00 p.m. Rev. Gaston Farrar preached. Went to J.J. Goldstons for the night.

September 4 1888 (Tuesday) Preached at Corinth. Afternoon Bro. G. Farrar preached. Went to Fred Watsons for the night. Good meeting.

September 5, 1888 (Wednesday) (20 B.M.) Bro. Farrar preached at Corinth. I came home in the afternoon. All well. Have had fine rains here. No other news.

October 7, 1888 (Sunday) Preached at Corinth. Night at Mr. Pascals in Goldston.

October 19, 1888 (Friday) Preached at Asbury. Dinner at J.M. Johnsons. Night at Dr. Willie Burns.

October 20, 1888 (Saturday) Quarterly meeting at Corinth. I arrived early and found the people gathering together at the church. A good crowd came together. Rev. V.A. Sharpe P.E. present and preached. I took dinner at J.M. Bynums. Good number of official members present. I stopped for the night at Bro. J.M. Bynums, Bro. Sharpe with me.

October 24, 1888 (Sunday) Good crowd at Corinth. Love feast. Preaching. Communion of the Lord's Supper. Large communion. Dinner at J.M. Bynum's. Night at Basil G. Gilmores. Good meeting.

November 1, 1888 - To my utter astonishment I found a $7\frac{1}{2}$ hat in Jonesboro and bought it. This is the only extra large size hat of felt make and fine materials I have found in a village in 20 years. It cost me \$2.85.

November 5, 1888 (Monday) Dinner at T.W. Bynums. We spoke of a 2 acre lot of land for a parsonage at Goldston. Went to Rev. T.C. Moses, an old member of our conference. His son lives with him... He received me cordially and we had a very pleasant visit. Our acquaintance began in 1845 in Bath. I think that he is a good Christian man.

November 6, 1888 (Tuesday) Election of General Benjamin Harrison as President of the United States. Dinner at T.W. Moses. Night at A.J. Goldstons.

November 7, 1888 (Wednesday) Beautiful day. Dinner at Mrs. Moffits...night at Thomas Goldstons.

November 8, 1888 (Thursday) Dinner at Mr. Paschals. night at Wm. Johnsons. Stealing is going on about Richmond depot, so Mr. Johnson informed me.

November 10, 1888 (Saturday) Meeting for trial of Mrs. and Miss Harper for fighting with another woman at a Sunday School the first Sunday in July.

December 4, 1888 (Tuesday) Annual Conference at New Berne. Adjourned at 11½ o'clock p.m. There are many sad disappointments. I am returned to Deep River Circuit.

December 13, 1888 It rained and snowed last night. This morning everything exposed was snow mantled but it was gone before 10 a.m.

January 6, 1889 (Sunday) Preached at Corinth. Went to J.J. Goldstons for the night.

January 7, 1889 (Monday) After dinner I went to Goldston. Thence to W.F. Barbers for the night.

February 2, 1889 (Saturday) Took horse this morning for Corinth. Dinner at James Rays, night at A.J. Goldstons, whose wife is in a lingering condition.

February 3, 1889 (Sunday) Cold morning - preached at Corinth. Dinner at L.F. Paschals. Preached Maroneys. Night at John A. Pughs. Last night and this morning I had sassafras tea for supper and breakfast. Left Bro. Pugh's at 9½ a.m. and arrived home at Jonesboro at 3 p.m. The roads are in fine order. Beautiful weather.

February 11, 1889 (Monday) This morning found the earth beautifully shrouded in a complete covering of snow that fell between midnight and day break.

March 2, 1889 (Saturday) To Goldston - stopped with L.F. Paschal - no news.

March 3, 1889 (Sunday) It rained all last night and until noon today - had no congregation at Corinth - went to Bear Creek on my way to Maronys - creek past fording - stopped at A.J. Goldstons.

March 4, 1889 (Monday) Went to Joseph B. Ausleys where I remained for the night.

Genl. Benjamin Harrison inaugurated as President of the U.S.A.

March 5, 1889 (Tuesday) Took dinner at Basil Gilmores. Went to J.J. Goldstons for the night.

March 6, 1889 (Wednesday) Dinner at Wm. Johnsons near Bear Creek Church.

April 6, 1889 (Saturday) Very windy and cold this morning and it grew colder as the wind became more and more boisterous and whistling...Spent the night at the Bynums in Goldston. Just after I past the residence of (T.F.?) Ausley it took fire from a spark on the roof and soon burned the house and barn and most of the household furniture.

April 7, 1889 (Sunday) Last night was very cold. Preached at Corinth. Dinner at T.M. Bynums.

April 11, 1889 (Thursday) At home and at work in the garden. Planted Irish potatoes, having planted some two months ago which are now up - some bunch beans, some pole beans, and some beet and mustard seed.

May 2, 1889 - The Centennial of the inauguration of George Washington as President of the United States is being very generally celebrated.

May 4, 1889 (Saturday) Night at A.J. Goldstons.

May 5, 1889 (Sunday) Cold in the morning. Preached at Corinth, dinner at L.F. Paschals. Preached Maroneys. Night at J.A. Pughs.

May 6, 1889 (Monday) Came home, stopped for dinner at T.W. Moses. Heard of a bad case of shooting in Chatham but cannot remember the names of the parties.

May 9, 1889 (Thursday) I picked an oak leaf this morning that is 14 inches long and 14 inches broad. That shows an unusually early spring.

June 2, 1889 (Sunday) Preached at Corinth to a large congregation. Thence without dinner to Maroneys where Rev. T.C. Moses preached for me. Went at night to Edmond Rives.

July 6, 1889 - Went to James Goldstons for the night - young couple not long married. I preached at Corinth to a large crowd. Dinner at T.M. Bynums.

July 31, 1889 My garden is the grassiest that I ever saw - no exception - heavy rain last night.

August 4, 1889 (Sunday) Large crowd at Corinth - preached funeral of Miss Lydia A. Evans. Rev. G. Farrar preached afternoon. Night at J.J. Goldstons. Rainy afternoon and night.

August 5, 1889 (Monday) Preaching at Corinth. Rev. L.F. preached afternoon - rainy weather. Went to B.N. Gilmores for the night.

August 6, 1889 (Tuesday) Preached at Corinth. Rev. G.F. in the afternoon. Went to J.B. Ausleys for the night. Raining again.

August 7, 1889 (Wednesday) Preached at Corinth - so did Rev. G. Farrar - dinner at L. Paschals. Closed the meeting with the afternoon services. Some religious excitement today. Great crowds of people all the meeting. Went to Fred Watsons.

August 9, 1889 (Friday) Had Maggie shod all around - cost 50¢ - George Smith - his regular price for shoeing all around - he furnishes shoes, nails, and work.

August 18, 1889 - Preached at Asbury, a funeral, to a large congregation. Rev. G. Farrar preached after, and Rev. T.C. Moses exhorted on Farrar's text.

August 31, 1889 - Drove to Maroneys to commence a protracted meeting. There being no congregation, I went to Bro. J.A. Pughs for the night. Beautiful weather.

September 1, 1889 (Sunday) Preached at Maroneys to a very large congregation, more than I ever saw here before except in a camp meeting in 1859.

September 3, 1889 The parsonage committee let out the building of a Methodist Parsonage for the Deep River Circuit at Goldston. Cost, \$487.50. Specifications, 40 ft. by 16, 8 ft. passage, 2 stories 18 feet high - 16 by 30 one story, 3 chimneys, to be finished by 1st day of January, 1890.

September 4, 1889 (Wednesday) Remained at J.A. Pughs until 6 p.m. thence to W.A. Rives where at night I married Wilbur F. Moses and Miss Annie M. Rives, 36.20. Nice couple. He a son of Rev. T.C. Moses.

September 5, 1889 - came home...heard on my way home that the court house in this county was burned this morning with the county records.

September 8 (Sunday) Preached at Mt. Zion. There is a rise in the river - too deep to ford so I left Maggie and walked over to church. Preached, then gave a rambling missionary talk and took up a collection. Returned to the west side of the river and stopped with Bro. J.C. Owen.

September 10 (Tuesday) (Meeting continued at Mt. Zion) Preached at Mt. Zion, held experience meeting, went over the river to Thomas Wrenns for the night.

September 19 - Went to the mill with a little less than 2½ bushels of wheat and had returned over 100 pounds.

September 22, 1889 (Sunday) (Beginning of protracted meeting) There was a good crowd at Wesley's Chapel today, where, having no ministerial help, I preached twice. The people came with good dinners and enough for all. The ground in the grove was literally covered with dinner spreads. All were attentive to the word as preached.

October 5, 1889 (Saturday) Dinner at Mr. Paschals at Goldston, night at J.J. Goldstons. Have heard nothing of special interest today.

October 6, 1889 (Sunday) Weather been quite chilly today. Preached at Corinth, dinner at Mr. Paschals.

October 12 (Saturday) Quarterly meeting at Corinth, Rev. T.F.W. Stamey, P.E., present and preached and presided in the conference - stopped at Mr. Paschals. Nothing unusual.

October 13, 1889 (Sunday) Quarterly meeting. Large crowd. Beautiful morning. Bro. Stamey preached four times.

November 3, 1889 (Sunday) Preached at Corinth to a good congregation for a rainy day - dinner at Mr. Paschals. Drove to Maroneys. It was so late when the congregation arrived that I did not preach - went to J.A. Pughs for the night.

November 5, 1889 (Tuesday) Remained at Bro. Headens. Very sick with a great cold. Lay before the fire on a pallet all day - ate nothing.

November 7, 1889 (Thursday) Much improved.

November 27, 1889 - the N.C. Conference of the M.E. Church South convened in the Methodist Church in Greensboro

Leonidas M. Chaffin was received into full connection in the conference.

Vote on the proposal to move Trinity College to Raleigh, N.C. For removal, 140. Against, 41.

December 4, 1889 - Conference ended. I am assigned to Cape Fear Circuit.

(Washington S. Chaffin was 74 years old in 1889, when he ended his pastorate on the Deep River Circuit. He died six years later, in 1895, at 80 years of age.)

Mr. George Rives writes: "When the congregation moved from the old Corinth Church building in 1893, H.M. Jackson was the pastor of the Goldston Charge. The new church building was located on the lot purchased from Joseph J. Goldston and his wife, Jennie Goldston, and was located between the Goldston-Pittsboro Road and the Goldston Cemetery, on a lot consisting of two acres. The lot included the public school house." This building was used for preaching services until 1941 when the Memorial Chapel was completed, and the congregation moved over there for church services. Sunday School continued to be held in the old building until 1959, when the new educational building was completed.

According to the historical account written by Mr. George Rives, from 1885 until 1921 there was only one church in the town of Goldston, the Methodist Church. Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians attended church together in the Methodist Church during those years. In the early 1920's, both the Baptists and Presbyterians erected buildings for their own denominations.

The Goldston Memorial Chapel was built in 1941 by the children of Walter L. Goldston and his wife, Mrs. Vallie Gilmore Goldston, and was dedicated as a memorial to their father and mother by the family. The building was first intended to be used jointly by the Methodists, the Baptists, and the Presbyterians of the Goldston community. The Baptists preferred to continue using their own building. The Presbyterians used the Memorial Chapel for some years, and then, unable to procure a regular preacher, discontinued holding regular services. The Chapel then became a Methodist Church. A number of Presbyterians joined the Methodist congregation.

With a deed dated March 16, 1984, the Chapel property was transferred from the Chapel trustees to the trustees of Goldston United Methodist Church, and to the North Carolina United Methodist Conference. The Chapel remains a memorial to Walter Lee and Vallie Gilmore Goldston, as given by their nine children and their spouses.

The Rev. C. Wade Goldston of Rocky Mount, a retired United Methodist minister, is one of two surviving children of the couple memorialized by the Chapel. Wade Goldston has had a long and notable career as preacher, teacher, spiritual advisor, and spiritual leader.

According to Mr. George Rives' account, the preachers in the early years of the church, or some of them, lived in Mt. Vernon Springs, either in a parsonage that the church owned or a rented home. D.C. Geddie was the first preacher to live in the Goldston parsonage, in 1890. Ruth Geddie was the first child born in the Goldston parsonage. This building continued to be used as the preacher's home for about 60 years. The church erected a new parsonage in East Goldston in 1950. In 1975, this house was sold and a new parsonage was built on the site of the old church, adjacent to the Goldston Cemetery.

Mr. George Rives states that, in the 1890's, the churches on the Deep River Circuit were Asbury, Bethlehem, Corinth, Fair Promise, Carbonton, Meroney's, Jones Chapel, High Falls, and Cumnock. The Conference Journal records that in 1889 the Deep River Circuit had eight churches (names of the churches not given) with a total value of \$2,500.00 for the eight church buildings. The new parsonage at Goldston was valued at \$600. In 1889 the Deep River Circuit gained 15 members, with the total membership increasing from 555 to 570. Also, in 1889, the Deep River Mission had five churches (names not given), with a total value for the church buildings of \$540.00. In 1889 the membership of the Deep River Mission increased from 36 to 145, a gain of 109 members in one year.

The Methodist ministry has its roots and background in the circuit riders of frontier days who traveled countless miles in all kinds of weather. There was a saying in those days, during especially bad weather, "This weather is fit only for crows and Methodist circuit riders."

The 1890 Journal has the following lines in a memoir for a deceased minister:

"Through heat and cold and storm his way has lain,
He never heeded pleasures' siren strain
Telling of easier paths, nor turned aside
To pluck the flowers in meadows green and wide."

A reading of the memoirs through the years in the Conference Journals would give information about the lives and ministries of former pastors of this church - that research may yet be done by someone. For this account, I will record some recollections about Rev. A.D. Betts, who was pastor of the Deep River Circuit churches in 1890-91 (6 churches, including Corinth Church at Goldston).

"It is refreshing to be in his presence. He always carries sunshine with him."

--T.N. Ivey

"He is a man of great faith, and zeal and energy. He has prayed in more homes, probably, than any man in North Carolina. He regards any place where souls can be won for Christ a good one, and has gone cheerfully to every appointment assigned him."

--F.D. Swindell

"In it all he has had the peace of God in his heart and has been one of the happiest servants of the King."

--Rev. J.N. Cole

"He was one of the best and most devoted chaplains in the Confederate service. General Lee was so impressed...that he spoke of him as 'that model chaplain.'"

--T.B. Kingsbury

"I was his presiding elder...and as to where he should be sent (for his next pastoral appointment) I could only learn from him that he was ready to go anywhere."

--Rev. J.T. Gibbs

"He has always tried to sow seed in the byways. His horse soon learned to stop on meeting anyone. Only a minute to ask about the spiritual condition and he was gone, singing as he went."

--Rev. F.A. Bishop

"It is in the sick room, especially among the poor...this is the work he selects. He does not wait to be sent for...He is always on the alert, and where needed most, there is he to be found. Not only does he share his money, but where that is not sufficient to relieve all the needs, he supplies the deficiency with personal service. How often has he been seen with arms full of wood from a neighboring sawmill, buckets of water, etc., hastening to relieve suffering."

--N.H. Street, M.D., New Bern, N.C.

MINISTERS SERVING GOLDSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 1875-1984

(the church was Corinth Methodist Church from 1875 to 1900, Goldston Methodist Church from 1900 to 1968, Goldston United Methodist Church since 1968. The following list of ministers is taken from the Conference Journals.)

| <u>MINISTER</u> | <u>CIRCUIT</u> | <u>DISTRICT</u> | <u>NUMBER OF CHURCHES</u> | <u>YEAR</u> |
|--|----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Thomas C. Moses | Deep River | Hillsboro | unknown | 1875-76 |
| J.F. Craven T.C. Moses, Supply (dec. 1891) | DR | H | unknown | 1876-77 |
| J.F. Craven, Gaston Farrar, (dec. 1889) T.C. Moses, Sup. | DR | H | unknown | 1877-78 |
| W.M. Jordan, Gaston Farrar, T.C. Moses, Sup. | DR | H | unknown | 1878-80 |
| William Jordan, Gaston Farrar, Sup. | DR | H | unknown | 1880-81 |
| Philip Greening, (dec. 1926) T.C. Moses, Sup. (1881-83) | DR | Trinity (org. 1884) | 10 11 in 1885 | 1881-85 |
| W.T. Cutchin, T.C. Moses, Sup. | DR | T | 11 8 in 1886 | 1885-86 |
| J.D. Carpenter, T.C. Moses | DR | T | 8 | 1886-87 |
| Washington S. Chaffin (dec. 1895) | DR | T | 8 | 1887-89 |
| D.C. Geddie (dec. 1913) (first preacher to live in the Goldston parsonage) | DR | T | 9 in 1889 6 in 1890 | 1889-90 |
| A.D. Betts, (dec. 1918) T.C. Moses, Sup. | DR, | Fayetteville | 6 | 1890-91 |
| Hampton McRae Jackson (dec. 1942) (in 1893, the old Corinth Church building was abandoned and the congregation moved to the new church building adjacent to the Goldston Cemetery) | DR | F | 6 in 1891 7 in 1892 | 1891-93 |

| <u>MINISTER</u> | <u>CIRCUIT</u> | <u>DISTRICT</u> | <u>NUMBER OF CHURCHES</u> | <u>YEAR</u> |
|--|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| H.G. Stamey | Deep River | Fayetteville | 7 | 1893-96 |
| B.B. Holder | DR | F | 6 in 1896 8 in 1897 | 1896-98 |
| B.H. Black (Mr. Black's appointment to the Deep River Circuit is not listed in the Conference Journal. Mr. George Rives says that he was the pastor "for a short while" in 1898.) | DR | F | 8 | 1898 |
| J.H. Frizzelle | DR | F | 8 | 1898-1900 |
| John Compton Humble (dec. 1948) | Goldston Circuit | F | 5 in 1900 6 in 1901 | 1900-1904 |
| <p>(As related by Mr. George Rives, Rev. John Compton Humble was named for Rev. George Compton Bynum, son of Mark Bynum, an original trustee of Corinth Church. At the time of his death as age 35, George Bynum was preaching in Randolph County, one of his churches being Rehoboth Church, where the elder Mr. Humble was a member; he named three of his sons for the young minister. Each became a Methodist preacher: J.C. Humble, Hilary Bynum Humble, and George Humble.)</p> <p>(Mr. George Rives: "The name of the church was changed from Corinth to Goldston about 1900.")</p> | | | | |
| C.O. Durant (dec. 1919) | GC | F | 6 in 1904 8 in 1905-07 | 1904-07 |
| J.W. Hoyle, Sr. (dec. 1962) | GC | F | 8 | 1907-10 |
| M.D. Hix (dec. 1924) | GC | F | 8 | 1910-12 |
| M.D. Giles (dec. 1926) | GC | F | 8 | 1912-15 |
| Neill Malloy McDonald (dec. 1952) | GC | F | 8 | 1915-18 |
| R. Frank Taylor (dec. 1936) | GC | F | 8 | 1918-19 |
| E.C. Maness | GC | F | 6 | 1919-20 |
| S. Salyer | GC | F | 6 | 1920-22 |

| <u>MINISTER</u> | <u>CIRCUIT</u> | <u>DISTRICT</u> | <u>NUMBER OF CHURCHES</u> | <u>YEAR</u> |
|--|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| E.C. Sell (dec. 1930) | Goldston | Fayetteville | 6 | 1922-23 |
| H.L. Witten | G | F | 6 | 1923-25 |
| George H. Biggs (dec. 1943) | G | F | 6 | 1925-26 |
| L.M. Chaffin (dec. 1939) | G | F | 6 | 1926-30 |
| (Mr. L.M. Chaffin was the son of W.S. Chaffin who was pastor of the Deep River Circuit and Goldston church in 1887-89.) | | | | |
| (H.R. Ashmore is listed in the 1929 Conference Journal as appointed to the Goldston Circuit. There is the following footnote to the appointment: "H.R. Ashmore appointed to Goldston in 1929. A short time after Conference the appointment was changed. Chaffin remained at Goldston. Ashmore was sent to Bladen.") | | | | |
| M.D. McLamb | G | F | 6 | 1930-34 |
| (Prior to 1928, the number of churches on a circuit was listed in the Conference Journal. Beginning with the 1928 Journal, the names of the churches are listed. The 1928 Journal lists the following churches on the Goldston Circuit: Asbury, Bethlehem, Cumnock, Goldston, Meroney's, and James (sic) Chapel. The 1932 Journal lists the churches of Goldston Circuit as: Asbury, Bethlehem, Cumnock, Goldston, Meroney's, and Providence. The 1933 Journal indicates a change from 6 to 7 churches on the Goldston Circuit, as follows: Asbury, Bethlehem, Cumnock, Goldston, Meroney's, Providence, and Bray's Memorial.) | | | | |
| W.J. Underwood (dec. 1968) | G | F | 7, then 6 | 1934-44 |
| (7 churches listed for Goldston Circuit in 1934, 6 churches in 1935 - Bray's Chapel removed.) | | | | |
| In 1941, the congregation moved to the Goldston Memorial Chapel for church services.) | | | | |
| N.B. Strickland | G | F | 6 | 1944-46 |
| Grover C. Kinlaw (dec. 1963) | G | F | 6 | 1946-48 |
| Carl K. Wright (dec. 1970) | G | F | 6 | 1948-50 |
| E.G. Cowan | G | F | 6 then 4 | 1950-54 |
| (first pastor to live in East Goldston parsonage) | | | | |
| B.E. Bingham | G | Burlington | 4 then 3 | 1954-56 |
| (in 1953 the Goldston Circuit churches were Asbury, Bethlehem, Cumnock, Goldston, Meroneys and Providence. In 1954 the circuit churches were Asbury, Bethlehem, Cumnock and Goldston.) | | | | |

| <u>MINISTER</u> | <u>CIRCUIT / CHARGE</u> | <u>DISTRICT</u> | <u>NUMBER OF CHURCHES</u> | <u>YEAR</u> |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Vernon Tyson | Goldston | Burlington | 4 | 1956-58 |
| (Asbury Church was removed from the Goldston Circuit in 1955, leaving Bethlehem, Cumnock, and Goldston. Asbury Church was returned to the Goldston Circuit in 1956.) | | | | |
| J.T. Banks | G | B | 4 | 1958-60 |
| Howard Porter | G | B | 4 | 1960-61 |
| Z.V. Cowan | G | B | 4 | 1961-62 |
| C.E. Vale | G | B | 4 | 1962-66 |
| (Goldston Circuit became a part of the newly formed Sanford District in 1964.) | | | | |
| John R. Crew, Jr. | G | Sanford | 4 then 3 | 1966-68 |
| (In 1967, Cumnock Church was discontinued and the roll of members transferred to Goldston Church. Goldston Circuit was Asbury, Bethlehem, and Goldston churches.) | | | | |
| John G. Cottingham | G | S | 3 | 1969-70 |
| W.E. Worley | G | S | 3 | 1970-71 |
| James L. Summey | G | S | 3 | 1971-74 |
| E. Russell Stott | G | S | 1 | 1974-78 |
| (Goldston became a station church in 1974. The new parsonage was completed in 1975.) | | | | |
| Robert B. Storrs, Jr. | G | S | 1 | 1978-79 |
| Sam G. Dodson, Jr. | G | S | 1 | 1979-81 |
| Junius Neese Interim Minister | G | S | | 1981 |
| Angus Cameron | G | S | 1 | 1981- |