

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

History of the M. E. Church,
South, of Ghent, Ky.,
1826-1938

By Josie Brown North

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The old Methodist Church where our forefathers worshipped- Where the former Ghent Bank building stands- was one large brick room. The benches were homemade and painted, and placed far enough apart so that the congregation could kneel. Its walls were worn and battered by the finger of time. Coal oil lamps shed a flickering uncertain light over the church. The bell swung on the outside and was rung by the preacher or one of the members. There was no musical instrument, the preacher read verse by verse of some old hymn while the congregation sang it. The preacher held four charges in his circuit; the parsonage being located at Warsaw- the other three were: Drury Chapel Marvin Chapel and Ghent. The preacher generally brought his family and visited several days at a time. The Presiding Elder preached both Saturday and Sunday. Protracted meetings lasted from two to three weeks, the church building being crowded- Hitching racks were full with horse, buggy wagon and surry. The very best talent was engaged.

The old records were preserved by my father, but many have been lost. As my father and grandfather were a part of the history of the early church, I must refer to them in my sketch.

In 1826, we had received by Profession Josiah W. Whitaker, Peter Taylor. In 1850 by E. J. Baird. Some of the names familiar to the old pioneer church were- Montgomery, Lowery, Brown, Delmaza, Kirk patric, Hoggins, Gaines, Kleesattle, Bairds, Stout, Sartes, Harper, Patterson, Wayland, Fothergill, Sanders and Ect. Preachers in charge from 1869 to 1883 were E. L. Southgate-1869; L. O. Shaw 1881-1882; J. N. Current 1884; J. C. Crow 1883-84, W. T. Rowland 1871-74. Again 1884 1888 Rev. Joe Rand, Rev. Welburn Hiner and Doctor Stairs preached in the old church- but records are lost.

My grandfather gaines was born in 1811. aHe was a member of the Tennessee, Arkansas, and K ntucky Conferences. He lived a while in Ghent and preached. The following is copied from the "Holston Methos# Vol. V.:" " There a lways the eloquence of profound conviction and growth of religious rervor lighting all his discourses which won the hearts of his hearers. He had a great gift of exhortation and eloquee well nigh irresistible. Thousands were converted to God under his min istry. At one revival six hundred were converted and five hundred add ed to the church. To show faith in prayer an incident was told of one of his congregations. The country had a distressing drouth (Bro. Gaine who was preaching in one of our rural churches was asked to pray for rain) They told that he sought God's help in a powerful appeal. Soon after clouds began to appear and they had one or the severest storms of the season with a mighty downpour. The next time some of the good sisters saw Bro. Gaines, they said" Bro. Gainses the next time you pray for rain; please do not pray quite so hard".

Soon after the old church was sold, the membership became small Mr. Bascom Baird was Sunday School Supt., they met in the Masonic Hal and the college Building, having preaching there. Most of the members became discouraged, conference claims unpaid, and the Conference was about to take the church over and transfer it to the Warsaw circuit.

Dr. N.C. Brown saved it from this calamity- by going to its mem- bers and pleading for help and support. About this time the Schirmer family came into the church and with hearty cooperation all indebtine ness was paid. How surprised when the report from Ghent was called for-Dr. "Rown sttod in his dignified modest way and reported" All Cla paid in full." This was a proud day for methodism . The Schirmers will tell you that it was thru Dr. Brown' influence that the old stock of Schirmers came into the Methodist church, They were stanch and earnest and their goods works are going on.

J. H. Stevenson, S. L. Howard, and R. O. Williams were directors of the Ghent Bank. Mr. Bascom Baird, President. The old Methodist Church building was sold to them Jan. 8, 1889 for \$750. Then with the money on hand they started a fund to build a new church building. The contract was given out and MR. Fred Kipping of Carrollton received the contract. The new building was completed in 1889, the sermon by Dr. Robert Hiner—a power in that day—He preached in the town lot now the U. D. C. Park where a basket dinner was served. The indebtedness was paid then all went to the new building where it was dedicated.

Mr. John Wesley Hoggins left \$500 to be used for a parsonage. Mr. Sam Montgomery left the church \$1000 We have a pipe organ which was given by the Carrollton Methodist church. The cost of moving and repairs was \$250, but for the untiring effort of Mrs Elisabeth Froman McKinley we would not have gotten this organ. Mrs Josie Brown North was organist when the new building was erected and served many years. Then Mrs. Mariam Drikell Mrs. Nina Brightwell Owens, Mrs. Elisabeth Froman McKinley and the present organist is Mrs. Margaret Schirmer and Mrs Nort assistant.

The S. S. Supts. were : Mr. Bascom Baird, Mr. Vernon Driskell, Mr. Carey Driskell and Mr. George Montgomery. They served many years in this capacity faithful and well. Miss Henrietta Schirmer served for several years. After her marriage she moved to Carrollton and Prof. Cannon was chosen for the office, but moved away shortly afterwards and Miss Margaret Schirmer was elected in 1937.

We have a nice parsonage build while Rev. -- Chriswell was the pastor 1916-17. The lot was bought from Mrs. Ruth Lowery Sebree."

At this point, Mrs. North gives the names of the pastors who have served since the building of the present church building. It may have been that Ghent was early connected with Carrollton. Bro. South was appointed to Carrollton in 1869. We give a few names of Carrollton

LIST OF PASTORS SERVING THE GHENT METHODIST CHURCH.

N.B. A Conference year extends from Sept 1st to Sept. 1st of next year.

	NAME	Dist	Charge and churches.
1869	E. L. Southgate	Cov.	Carrollton
1870	S. R. Hymen		Warsaw - J. G. Godley - Cur - Shel. D
1871	T. B. Cook		"
1872	W. T. Rowland		
1873	H. R. Coleman		"
1874	J. H. Young		"
1875	" " "		"
1876	George Froh		
1877	" " "		
1878	S. W. Speer		
1879	" " "		
1880	L. B. Shaw S.W. speer		
1881	" " "		
1882	J. N. current		
1883	" " "		
1884	W. T. Rowland-J. N. Current, Sup'y		
1885	" " "		
1886	" " "		
1887	" " "		
1888	T. F. Taliferro		
1889	" " "		Present church Building dedicated.
1890	W. M. Britt		
1891	T. W. Barker		
1892	" " "		
1893	Wm. Shoemith		
1894	" " "		
1895	" " "		
1896	Robert Hiner		
1897	W. W. Green		
1898	" " "	Covington	Warsaw-Ghent-Drury-Marvin
1899	" " "	"	" " " "
1900	E. K. Means	"	Ghent Charge: Ghent- Marvin
1901	E. E. Holmes	"	" " " "
1902	W. T. Rowland E E Holmes	"	" " " "
1903	M. Lee	Frankfort	" " " "
1904	J. M. Mathews	"	" " " "
1905	" " "	"	Ghent-Marvin-Prestonville-Hopewell
1906	W. T. Rowland	B	" " " "
1907	" " "	"	" " " "
1908	W. K. McClure	"	Ghent a Worthville
1909	" " "	"	Ghent-Marvin-Deanes
1910	T. W. Barker	"	Warsaw- Ghent-Drury- Stone Lick
1911	" " "	"	" " " "
1912	W. D. Welburn	"	" " " "
1913	" " "	"	" " " "
1914	" " "	"	" " " "
1915	W. R. Johnson	"	" " " "
1916	R. M. Chriswell	"	Ghent-Drury- Prestonville
1917	" " "	"	" " " "
1918	L. B. Simpson	"	" " " "
1919	Enos Waggoner	"	" " " "
1920	" " "	Covington	" " " "
1921	P. C. LONG	"	" " Hopewell
1922	" " "	"	Ghent- Drury Chapel-Prestonville
1923	M. P. McClure	"	" " " "
1924	C. M. Whitaker	"	" " " "
1925	" " "	"	" " " "

Second Page Ghent Appointments

Ghent - Drury - Preslinville

1926 L C DeArmond
1927- L. C. DeArmond
1928- " " "
1929- " " "
1930- J. E. Catron
1931- G. W. Hoffman
1932- " " " Sybl. Dist.
1933- E. B. Rayburn " "
1934- J. K. Hicks Cov. Dist.
1935- B " "
1936- " " "
1937- E. C. Watts
1938- " " " "
1939- " " "
1940 " " "
1941 L. A. Garriott
1942 " " "
1943 To be supplied (J. W. Gilbert) Frankfort Dist.
1944 J. W. Gilbert
1945 " " " Gent-Drury
1946 To be supplied
1947 H. H. Whitaker, supply
1948 R. L. Cowherd, supply
1949 J. F. Arnold
1950 John Wheary, supply