## A Short History of Methodism in Bamberg.

By M. W. Brabham

whether or not it is ever written. But to our own selves we owe it to preserve what we now have in books and in memories of those who have the history may be followed. When Dibble was made superintendent of been living here for many years, so our circuit was first formed it was the Methodist Sunday-school and he that those who come after us may composed of Trinity (this church), served for seven or eight years in know what has been the history of Buford's Bridge, or as it was known, that capacity. In a letter from M-Methodism as relating to their own Mizpah, Andrews Chapel, moved in Dibble relative to this subject he

figures regarding our church and our

Sunday-school.

make out, this neighborhood was em- the distinction of having served Bamknown as the old Edisto circuit. But | called by some "Denny," who served in 1834 it was incorporated in the old Walterboro circuit, with part of it in old Barnwell circuit, it being year in which this place gave the likely that more of this section adjoining Bamberg was incorporated district seems to have been unable to zon and Mrs. Dibble, my wife." in Barnwell circuit, for Dr. Chreitzberg mentions Binnaker's camp again found ourselves in Charleston his successor and he served for sevground as a part of Barnwell.. In district in 1872, there to remain unspeaking of this old camp meeting til the present Orangeburg district place Dr. Chreitzberg mentions it as was formed and in 1884 Bamberg the gathering place of thousands who were delighted by the gospel as given to them by such men as H. N. Mc-Tyiere, afterwards bishop, and of Salaries. Joseph Moore and Reddick Pierce.

But to come down to the point where we realize that the earth is firm under our feet and that we are not dealing longer in surmises or conjectures, but with facts, we reach 1853 when according to good authority Major W. Seaborn Bamberg, for whom this place was named two years after the founding of the church, decided that he would urge the establishment of a church here. So in 1853 the lot which is now this was the assessment for several used as "Restland Cemetery" was years. The minutes of the annual puchased for \$75.00 by Major Bam-conferences being arranged differberg, Dr. Raysor, and Mr. J. J. afterwards erected. And it must be borne in mind that it was the general the foregoing amounts were listed business nanagement of the Methodist church which caused Major Bam- 1879 we are able to find what each berg to offer the building to the one of the churches of the circuit Methodists, for as he is said to have paid towards the pastor's remarked, he liked the manner in which the Methodists took care of a charge which was not able to care for itself. Major Bamberg was not at that time a member of our church. In a few years afterwards the first Bamberg circuit was formed, and in the annual conference of 1857 our first pastor was assigned to come to Bamberg. The parsonage was soon erected and was located on what is now known in Bamberg as Bridge street, being just at a point where Mr. Fred W. Free lives at present. This building was later destroyed by

Who was our first minister? That certainly must be of interest to all of us. An old fashioned, circuitriding, class-leading gentleman who came direct to this country from old Ireland, the late Reverend Hugh A. C. Walker, who died in 1886 after having served for over a half a century as a pastor in the Master's cause. Mr. Walker was followed in 1859 by Rev. Geo. W. M. Greighton, and he in '60 and '61 by Rev. William Crook. We can connect the name of this pastor with the present time by referring to a grand-son who taught in our Fitting School several years ago and who is now a minister himself, Reverend William Crook Owen. The four years thus covered by these three pastors, were served by a presiding elder who to this date holds the record for long service given to the people of this community, that was my grand father, Rev. William Pledger Mouzon. Just at this point it might be of interest to state that Mr. Mouzon served this people for fifteen years, twelve of which he was presiding elder and the other three as pastor of this circuit: I desire to incorporate one or two facts relative to this man which are of especial interest to the writer, and which I trust may not be otherwise to others. In looking up the statistics which are being given herehe served as trustee of that institution from 1862 to 1880; he served thirteen of which was spent on districts, and the balance of which was divided among circuits, poor charges as the world reckons such things, the same view point. The pastors who were located here while the civil war was in progress were Dr. Thos. Raysor and Dr. A. J. Stokes, each having been here for two years. The heart aches and the suffering which these men of God must have been called upon to console, must have been many, but the after lives of these men, make us feel that they were true-hearted and whole-hearted going through the list at this point, we will pass on until the dark days "Uncle Paul" Kistler is a name familiar to the old generations, as well as many of the younger people, for anyone can tell you some-

In gathering the facts which I | the earthquake. Thus it seems that have embodied in the following para- the calamities emphasize the popugraphs, I admit in the beginning that larity or need, or what ever else you I had two motives. The first and may choose to call it. When the foremost was to find out these name of Rev. J. L. Stokes, now at things for my own satisfaction. The North Augusta, is reached, the recolsecond was that they might be put lection of the writer comes to his aid. in such order that others who might Dr. Stokes's son, Marion, afterwards be interested in such things might known as a college mate, was injured not have to make as much effort to by a falling piece of scantling when find them out as I have been required Mr. R. L. Risher's present home was to make. I believe that every com-munity has within its borders at is 1891, Rev. Thos. Leitch held a some time or other some people who revival service here, and that same take a pride in keeping up with what boy Marion united with the church has transpired within their midst. It and he is now serving his Maker as is nothing strange that a history of a missionary in far off Korea. In leader of what was then a union the Methodism of Bamberg and vi- 1895 the beloved Dr. Elwell came school, this being the only one in cinity should be written; it is no and stayed two years. Well do I re- the village and attended by all degreat matter to the outside world member the first of those two years because of personal sorrow.

But to revert back to another line M. Kennedy, who served the other let the hustling circuit go, for we circuit was changed to that district

The matter of salaries paid to the pastors might be of interest, but as this will appear more fully in the table appended, I will only give a ter by the name of Mr. "Texas" Bellrunning idea of what has been done in that direction. The first record of salary appears in 1869 when Dr. Raysor was pastor; the circuit composed of the four churches, paid Dr. Raysor \$503.11. The following year it was increased to \$600.00. In 1875 Rev. P. F. Kistler received \$900, and ently so often, the matter of salaries The building was soon is of necessity given in a different manner some years. To illustrate all together for the circuit, but in Trinity contributed about \$350.00 each year from that year until 1888 when Bamberg and Buford's Bridge were made into a circuit by themselves. The salary then paid jointly was \$665. In 1893 Bamberg circuit was composed of Trinity, Mizpah, and Oakland, a small church over the river. In 1894 Trinity alone paid \$765. In 1896 Bamberg was raised to the degree of a station and we paid our first pastor for station work \$800.00. In 1902 we increased the amount to \$900. In 1906 to \$1,-000.00 and in 1908 Bamberg station paid \$1,200.00, which is the present salary of the pastor.

We have had three church buildings and two parsonages for the Methodists of Bamberg. The church originally built in 1853, mentioned in the beginning, the one built about 1883 on the spot where Mr. J. H. Cope's residence now stands, and in 1904 the present handsome structure in which we worship.

To summarize somewhat before going to the matter of the Sundayschool. There have been only fourteen presiding elders to serve this work, this giving each an average service here of about three years and seven months, but it must be remembered that one man served twelve years and another six. There have been twenty-one pastors, each serving an average of two years and about five months. We have had four ministers who have been returned to us for four years, one of these, Dr. Raysor, having served six years altogether; he served a two year term and then after an interval of six years was returned for a full four years term. There have been four ministers who have stayed three years. There have been ten pastors who have stayed two years each, this being made to include Dr. Raysor's two year term and counting the present pastor's term as two years. This leaves only four who have with, I discovered that Mr. Mouzon stayed but one year. Of the minisserved one year, that of 1871, as ters who have served this charge both financial agent of Wofford College; in the capacity of pastor and presiding elder we have had four. We have had three pastors who bore the as a preacher for forty-six years, same surname. There is only one pastor or presiding elder who ever served this work who is buried here, that being Mr. Mouzon. There has never been a death of a pastor in and desirable places reckoned from Bamberg while he was serving this charge. There is one minister yet living who served this work as long ago as 1880, this one being Dr. T. E. Wannamaker, of Orangeburg, from whom the writer recently had the pleasure of a letter in regard to the subject matter herein.

The Sunday-School.

But to take up a matter which of necessity will have to be more conin the great times of need. Without densed than the foregoing, we will look into something about the Sunday-school. We may verily believe that with the establishment of our church that the Sunday-school had something to do, and therefore it is likely that if it were possible to thing about him. He must have secure a complete record of the Sab-been heart and soul with the "boys bath school that we would find it bath school that we would find it of '76" for ask any one of that time, filled full of interest to each one of and they say yes "Uncle Paul" Kist- us. But as the minutes do not give ler was there. Then we place an- any names relative to the Sabbathus. But as the minutes do not give other milestone at 1886, and all the school, we will have to content ourfolks remember that Rev. T. E. Mor- selves with what we have been able ris was here. That was the year of to gather from various sources, and | 1901

minutes and from other books Bamberg and was succeeded by the searched by the writer. All of us writer. doubtless remember the recent supermind some forgotten names, fond plete, giving something in detail mant in the minds of many.

The first Sunday-school in Bamthe civil war broke out. Some of the ante-bellum superintendents were Mr. G. Y. Patrick, father of Mrs. Brickle of this place; J. J. Barnes, father of Mrs. Emma Bamberg, and Mr. W. S. Miley, father of Mr. Shelly Miley, of Olar.

After the war passed, the re-establishing of the Sabbath-school is beieved to have taken place about 1869 when the late T. C. Rouis was the nominations alike. The school was held in the old Methodist church. Mr. Hansford D. Stewart followed of thought so that another phase of Mr. Rouis. In 1871 Mr. Andrew C. 1885 to what is known as Pleasant says: "I was in charge of Trinity So with the forgoing given for Hill, and Zion. We were then in school from the latter part of 1871, what it may be worth. I shall give as Charleston district. Things remained September I think, to the year before briefly as possible some facts and thus until 1866 when the districts moving from Bamberg, about eight were changed and Bamberg circuit years in all. Bro. Charles D. C was in Blackville district. This did Adams was my successor, and I think not continue longer than the one served the school until the time of Methodism in South Carolina," we year, for in 1867 Charleston district his death. During my administrafind what will cover the history of again found our people nestling with- tion the school varied in size, I think this entire section for many years in its borders. Bamberg district ap- from 40 to 60 members. We had previous to the establishing of a pears in the minutes for the year some faithful workers. I recall church in our own immediate com- 1868 and so continues until 1872. among them Hansford D. Stewart, As far as we are able to The two presiding elders who have Charles D. C. Adams, Capt. Geo. Y. Patrick, Geo. A. Simmons, Leland braced for many years in what is berg district are Rev. D. J. Simmons, Rivers, who resided at Midway, L. N. Bellinger, Misses Carrie and Laura three of the four years and Rev. F. Bamberg, Miss Minnie Hartzog, afterwards Mrs. Copeland, Mrs. Gussie Adams, Mrs. F. M. Bamberg, Mrs. H. district name. But the old mother J. Brabham, and Miss Mamie Mou-

> eral years. Mr. H. C. Folk served the school for two or perhaps three Mr. Folk was followed by W. G. Sease. Capt. Geo. Bamberg served in 1887 and 1888. He was served three years, bringing his adinger, gave efficient service. Mr. W. R. Capers followed Mr. Bellinger and remained as superintendent until he left Bamberg, which was some time in 1895. Prof. W. E. Willis, who was in the Carlisle Fitting School about this time, was then made leader. He was followed in 1900 by Mr. Geo. P. Bamberg, W. A. Riley, L. N. Otis Brabham. The rest is very recent history. Mr. H. G. Sheridan Willis, Otis Brabham, H. G. Sheridan, was superintendent from 1902 until M. W. Brabham.

As Mr. Dibble says Mr. Adams was

Presiding Elder Pastor District W. P. Mouzon H. A. C. Walker Charleston (not given) Geo. W. M. Creighton W. P. Mouzon W. P. Mouzon Wm. Cook 1860 W. P. Mouzon Wm. Crook F. A. Mood Thos. Raysor F. A. Mood Thos. Rayson A. J. Stokes Thos. Raysor 1864 A. J. Stokes Chas. Wilson Thos. Raysor 1865 Thos. Raysor Blackville 1866 Chas. F. A. Mood Chas Wilson Charleston 1867 Chas Wilson D. J. Simmons Bamberg 1868 \$ 503.11 Thos Raysor D. J. Simmons 1869 Thos. Raysor D. J. Simmons 600.00 1870 F. M. Kennedy 700.00 Raysor 1871 Thos. W. P. Mouzon Charleston Thos. Raysor Paul F. Kistler Paul F. Kistler W. P. Mouzon (not given) 1873 W. P. Mouzon given) (not 1874 W. P. Mouzon 900.00 Paul F. Kistler 1875 Wannamaker 900.00 Paul F. Kistler T. T. E. T. E. W. P. Mouzon Wannamaker 900.00 Wannamaker 900.00 W. P. Mouzon 1878 W. P. Mouzon Wannamaker 337.50 1879 Wannamaker W. P. Mouzon 1880 T. E. 337.50 Wannamaker W. P. Mouzon 337.50 Wannamaker W. P. Mouzon T. E. F. Auld F. Auld W. P. Mouzon 1883 354.70 Thos. Raysor Orangeburg 355.00 1884 T. E. Morris Thos. Raysor 355.00 1885 Thos. Raysor 350.00 T. E. Morris 1886 C. B. Smith Clyde 355.00 1887 J. Clyde C. B. Smith 1888 T. J. Clyde 665.00 J. L. Stokes 1889 T. J. Clyde J. W. Dickson 1890 J. L. Stokes 480.00 1891 J. L. Stokes J. W. Dickson O. A. Darby 499.28 W. Elkins J. W. Dickson 763.88 1893 J. W. Dickson 765.00 J. W. Elkins 1894 John Owen 1895 S. P. H. Elwell 1896 S. P. H. Elwell John Owen John Owen 1897 T. C. Odell C. Odell John Owen T. 1898 H. B. Browne C. Odell 1899 H. B. Browne T. C. Odell 1900 H. B. Browne 850.00 1901 W. Hook W. Hook H. B. Browne 900.00 Marion Dargan 1903 Hook W. Hook Marion Dargan 1904 M. Marion Dargan 1905 W. T. Duncan Marion Dargan Peter Stokes 1906 Peter Stokes J. W. Kilgo 1,000.00 1907 C. B. Smith 1,200.00 Thos. G. Herbert 1908 C. B. Smith Thos. G. Herbert 1,200.00 1909

with statistics gathered from the the summer of 1908 when he left

1905

1908

It is possible that I shall try at intendents of the school, but to go another time to make this phase of back as far as possible will bring to the Sunday-school history more commemories of whom perhaps lie dor- about the leaders, and about some of the very faithful teachers and officers who have served us. But for the berg was certainly established before present we will pass on and look at the finances of the school briefly. The present treasurer, Mr. W. D. Rhoad, has been in that position for over fifteen years. Mr. Rhoad has week by week deposited the money raised by the school in one of our banks and from the books of that institution I have gathered the following statistics. Let me say here in explanation that some odd amounts were raised for missions and other special offerings during some of these years which it was not possible to include herewith. But for the past three years all amounts raised are

included. Amount raised. Year 1895 \$78.06 1896 56.67 1897 66.31 1898 56.44 1900 66.80 1901 65.0594.00 1904 139.32 1905 1906 1907 104.59 1908 1909

This makes an even total of \$1. 343.00 reported, and when the special amounts not included are taken into consideration, the total will certainly amount to more than \$1,500, or an average of one hundred dollars per year. The fact that our school is now raising considerably above this average leads me to the conclusion that we are doing better and that we are realizing that our school should not lag in the race for spreading the gospel of glad tidings.

By referring to table No. 2 we may see that the number of officers and teachers has been rapidly increased. As in the other table i. e. No. 1, we are forced to include some statistics in total with the other charges on the circuit, but where possible the followed by Capt. W. A. Riley, who statistics for Trinity alone are given. So with the foregoing words, ministration down through 1891. In which I trust will prove of some value 1892 and 1893 Mr. L. N. Bellinger, to all of us as information, I close whom a great many of us know bet- this brief history of Methodism in Bamberg, and append hereto the tables already referred to.

Sunday-School Superintendents. Before the war-G. Y. Patrick, J.

Barnes, W. S. Miley. After the war-T. C. Rouis, Hansford D. Stewart, A. C. Dibble, C. D. C. Adams, H. C. Folk, W. G. Sease,

Table No. 1. Salary 700.00 357.75 665.00 800.00 885.00 850.00 800.00 825.00 825.00 825.00 900.00 900.00 911.00 1,000.00

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