

A Short History of Methodism in Bamberg.

By M. W. Brabham

In gathering the facts which I have embodied in the following paragraphs, I admit in the beginning that I had two motives. The first and foremost was to find out these things for my own satisfaction.

the earthquake. Thus it seems that the calamities emphasize the popularity or need, or what ever else you may choose to call it.

So with the forgoing given for what it may be worth, I shall give as briefly as possible some facts and figures regarding our church and our Sunday-school.

But to revert back to another line of thought so that another phase of the history may be followed. When our circuit was first formed it was composed of Trinity (this church), Buford's Bridge, or as it was known, Mizpah, Andrews Chapel, moved in 1855 to what is known as Pleasant Hill, and Zion.

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.

Salaries. 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 running idea of what has been done in that direction.

Who was our first minister? That certainly must be of interest to all of us. An old fashioned, circuit-riding, 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.

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.

But to take up a matter which of necessity will have to be more condensed 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 secure a complete record of the Sabbath school that we would find it filled full of interest to each one of us.

with statistics gathered from the minutes and from other books searched by the writer. All of us doubtless remember the recent superintendents of the school, but to go back as far as possible will bring to mind some forgotten names, fond memories of whom perhaps lie dormant in the minds of many.

The first Sunday-school in Bamberg was certainly established before the 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 believed to have taken place about 1869 when the late T. C. Rouis was the leader of what was then a union school, this being the only one in the village and attended by all denominations alike.

As Mr. Dibble says Mr. Adams was his successor and he served for several years. Mr. H. C. Folk served the school for two or perhaps three years. Mr. Folk was followed by W. G. Sease, Capt. Geo. Bamberg served in 1887 and 1888.

Table No. 1. Presiding Elder District Salary. 1858 H. A. C. Walker W. P. Mouzon Charleston (not given) 1859 Geo. W. M. Creighton W. P. Mouzon " " " " 1860 Wm. Cook W. P. Mouzon " " " " 1861 Wm. Crook W. P. Mouzon " " " " 1862 Thos. Raysor F. A. Mood " " " " 1863 Thos. Raysor F. A. Mood " " " " 1864 A. J. Stokes Thos. Raysor " " " " 1865 A. J. Stokes Thos. Raysor " " " " 1866 Chas. Wilson Thos. Raysor Blackville " " " " 1867 Chas. Wilson F. A. Mood Charleston " " " " 1868 Chas. Wilson D. J. Simmons Bamberg " " " " 1869 Thos. Raysor D. J. Simmons " " " " 1870 Thos. Raysor D. J. Simmons " " " " 1871 Thos. Raysor F. M. Kennedy " " " " 1872 Thos. Raysor W. P. Mouzon Charleston " " " " 1873 Paul F. Kistler W. P. Mouzon " (not given) " " " " 1874 Paul F. Kistler W. P. Mouzon " (not given) " " " " 1875 Paul F. Kistler T. E. Wannamaker " \$ 900.00 " " " " 1876 Paul F. Kistler T. E. Wannamaker " " " " 1877 W. P. Mouzon T. E. Wannamaker " " " " 1878 W. P. Mouzon T. E. Wannamaker " " " " 1879 W. P. Mouzon T. E. Wannamaker " " " " 1880 T. E. Wannamaker W. P. Mouzon " " " " 1881 T. E. Wannamaker W. P. Mouzon " " " " 1882 T. E. Wannamaker W. P. Mouzon " " " " 1883 F. Auld W. P. Mouzon " " " " 1884 F. Auld Thos. Raysor Orangeburg " " " " 1885 T. E. Morris Thos. Raysor " " " " 1886 T. E. Morris Thos. Raysor " " " " 1887 C. B. Smith T. J. Clyde " " " " 1888 C. B. Smith T. J. Clyde " " " " 1889 J. L. Stokes T. J. Clyde " " " " 1890 J. L. Stokes T. J. Clyde " " " " 1891 J. L. Stokes J. W. Dickson " " " " 1892 O. A. Darby J. W. Dickson " " " " 1893 J. W. Elkins J. W. Dickson " " " " 1894 J. W. Elkins J. W. Dickson " " " " 1895 S. P. H. Elwell John Owen " " " " 1896 S. P. H. Elwell John Owen " " " " 1897 T. C. Odell John Owen " " " " 1898 T. C. Odell John Owen " " " " 1899 T. C. Odell H. B. Browne " " " " 1900 M. W. Hook H. B. Browne " " " " 1901 M. W. Hook H. B. Browne " " " " 1902 M. W. Hook Marion Dargan " " " " 1903 M. W. Hook Marion Dargan " " " " 1904 M. W. Hook Marion Dargan " " " " 1905 W. T. Duncan Marion Dargan " " " " 1906 Peter Stokes Marion Dargan " " " " 1907 Peter Stokes J. W. Kilgo " " " " 1908 Thos. G. Herbert C. B. Smith " " " " 1909 Thos. G. Herbert C. B. Smith " " " "

Table No. 2. No. of Schools Officers and Teachers Pupils. 1859 5 33 86 1860 4 14 76 1861 4 12 48 1862 1 8 27 1866 1 8 27 1867 1 10 45 1868 3 12 45 1869 2 10 50 1870 3 3 115 1871 2 10 100 1872 3 12 90 1873 4 17 105 1874 4 31 142 1875 2 52 240 1876 3 26 90 1877 2 20 96 1878 1 11 52 1879 1 11 70 1880 1 17 85 1881 1 17 85 1882 1 15 100 1883 1 18 146 1884 1 20 100 1885 1 26 110 1886 2 20 200 1887 2 25 200 1888 4 45 209 1889 1 23 120 1890 1 25 133 1891 3 44 255 1892 1 25 150 1893 1 30 180 1894 1 28 196 1895 1 32 217 1896 1 28 165 1897 1 25 168 1898 1 20 165 1899 1 24 181 1900 1 24 181 1901 1 24 181

the summer of 1908 when he left Bamberg and was succeeded by the writer. It is possible that I shall try at another time to make this phase of the Sunday-school history more complete, giving something in detail about the leaders, and about some of the very faithful teachers and officers who have served us.

Amount raised. Year 1895 \$78.06 1896 56.67 1897 66.31 1898 47.61 1899 56.44 1900 66.80 1901 65.05 1902 57.69 1903 94.00 1904 139.32 1905 94.04 1906 66.74 1907 104.59 1908 145.68 1909 204.00

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.

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 statistics for Trinity alone are given.

Before the war—G. Y. Patrick, J. 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, Geo. P. Bamberg, W. A. Riley, L. N. Bellinger, W. R. Capers, W. E. Willis, Otis Brabham, H. G. Sheridan, M. W. Brabham.

1902 2 25 178 1903 31 254 Mill chapel 290 1904 1 28 210 1905 2 23 255 1906 1 16 225 1907 2 32 272 1908 1 22 (C. F. S. not open) 184

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