

Bath

BUSINESS ADDRESS
648 BROAD STREET
AUGUSTA, GA.

REV. I. T. HAWK
COUNTY EVANGELIST
SYNOD OF GEORGIA
GROVETOWN, GA.
R. F. D. 2
March 30, 1939

142956

Fields of Service
Bath
Evans
Phinizy
Lincolnton

Mrs. Hawes Cloud,
Historian Aubusta Presbyterial,
Crawfordville, Georgia.

My dear Mrs. Cloud:

Blythe, Ga
The Woman's Auxiliary of the
Bath Presbyterian Church has held regular meetings and some special meetings
during the year.

One of the features of meetings stressed was the Bible Study. This was on the book of Philippians and was led by the pastor. Encouraging interest was evident and at its conclusion an examination was held. The questions had been submitted for study a month previous. Each member was allowed to mark her own paper as the leader gave the correct answers. The president, Mrs. Hawk, had offered a prize to the highest score and two members tied. To each was given a subscription to the Presbyterian Survey. The answers showed worthy study of the book.

"City Shadows" was studied and also "Star in the East."

The Week of Prayer for Home Missions and ~~also for Foreign~~
the Week of Prayer and Selfdenial for Foreign Missions were both observed by cottage prayer meetings. An offering for Foreign Missions was received. Young people as well as adults attended these meetings, and took active part.

Our Auxiliary has adopted a Missionary Family. that of Rev. E.H. Hamilton, of Souchoufou, China. At Thanksgiving, we sent them a big box of home grown products and home canned fruits. At Christmas we sent them a five dollar check. During their stay in America, Mr. Hamilton was invited to visit our church. A service was held December 11, 1938 and his address was most helpful. The adoption of this missionary family has done more to create an interest in Foreign Missions than any thing else.

S

Our society has two girls in college at G.W.C. Millidgeville.

Every month some of our ladies send them home made cakes, candies, or some token of love. These girls had charge of the December Inspirational meeting and told of their life ~~and religious experience~~ at school, stressing the religious activities.

Our first delegate to Montreat was sent last summer. Mrs. J. Foss Fulcher was the fortunate person, and she imbibed the spirit of the conference to the full. She came back thoroughly saturated with good ideas and has talked Montreat ever since. This was a great factor in choosing her for President during the coming year. The ladies had showered her with apparel for her trip. So great was her zeal in attendance and so enthusiastic was she upon her return, that she was asked to give a report at the Group Conference at the First Church of Augusta. Only a ~~lack~~ lack of funds prevents the Auxiliary from sending another delegate this year.

These activities have helped us to increase our benevolence gifts and the gifts to the Ministers' Annuity Fund. Thornwell has received its share thru the Sunday School in which the ladies are workers. The gifts to the Annuity Fund have been made through the Church. We have paid our Contingent Fee and helped with the White Cross. Our Christian Social service philanthropy amounted to \$84.75.

Of our 30 members, 18 may be called Active Members.

Bath Presbyterian Church
Blythe, Georgia
1939

(Note which came on back of picture)

Richmond Bath Presbyterian Church - showing improved front and additional S. S. rooms. This is not a very good picture but gives some idea. Unable to pay for new lumber - labor material was secured from an old building and the work was done by the men of the church. Rev. I. T. Hawk is pastor, planned and help build these additions.



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AUGUSTA, GA.

REV. I. T. HAWK
COUNTY EVANGELIST
SYNOD OF GEORGIA
GROVETOWN, GA.
R. F. D. 2

Fields of Service
Bath
Evans
Phinizy
Lincolnton

March 18, 1940

To the Presbyterian, Augusta Presbytery.
Your Historian of the Bath Woman's Auxiliary begs leave to present the following
Annual Report:

Despite the epidemic of flu and the handicap of the severest winter that we have known in this country, the Auxiliary has attempted to carry on the year's program as far as possible.
They had a Birthday Party; observed the Week of Prayer and Selfdenial; Had a Talent Gathering that netted \$10 of which \$ 1.00 went to the Contingent Fund, \$2.00 to Presbyterian Home Missions; \$2.00 to the Ministers' Annuity Fund; and \$5.00 to our missionary in China, Rev. E.H. Hamilton.

An All-Day Study of Home Missions was held with "Chapels as our text book. Another All-Day Study of the Gospel of John was held as a review of the book that had been partly covered during the year.

Our ladies take an active part in the various organizations of the Church, the Sunday School, the Christian Endeavor, and the Vacation Bible School. They were faithful workers in the summer Revival.

The Social Service Committee has done much to help the needy in the community. They have visited the poor and the sick and the strangers and invited them to our church activities.

The society sent produce to Thorwell valued by the institution at \$13.00.

They also contributed personally to the president, Mrs. J. Foss Fulcher at the time of her loss by fire. Her house with almost entire contents was burned with no insurance upon the furniture.

Clothing, bedding, china and silverware, ~~dining room table and chairs~~, used furniture enough to get started in housekeeping,

The ladies are now working on a fund to paint and repair the church and Sunday School building.

A resident of the community asserts that the opening of the Bath Church has done much to improve the moral character of the neighborhood.

Officers have been elected for the ensuing year and larger work is contemplated.

At Christmas our church took a love offering for Ministerial Relief.

Respectfully submitted,

I. T. Hawk
Rev. I. T. Hawk, Historian.

59311
RESIDENCE,
ROUTE 2
GROVETOWN, GA.

REV. I. T. HAWK
CHURCH OFFICE
648 BROAD ST.
AUGUSTA, GA.

SPARTA GROUP OF CHURCHES
BATH
EVANS
SPARTA

March 18, 1942

Mrs. Hawes Cloud,
Historian Woman's Auxiliary,

The Bath Woman's Auxiliary has continued meeting regularly, with but one or two exceptions due to weather or sickness. Mrs. Annie Fulcher and the remaining officers have been reelected for the ensuing year.

Bible study of 1st and 2d Peter has been conducted by the pastor.

The Christian Endeavor Society has met regularly on Sunday evenings, sponsored by the Session and the Auxiliary. Old and young are members and take part in the programs. The society gave \$5.00 to Presbytery's Home Missions and agrees to give one dollar per month in the future.

The Endeavor society sustained a great loss in the death of Elder Robert M. Taylor. He took an active interest in the young people's work. He also taught a class of young people in the Sunday School. His sudden death was a great shock to us all.

The Sunday School lost a good teacher in the person of Mr. Ernest King who was forced to move on account of Camp Gordon taking his home. The coming of the camp greatly disturbed the minds of our people. At first it was planned to include the Bath Church in the Camp area but through the efforts of Mr. Thomas Perrin and Mr. Taylor, the church and a number of homes were set outside the boundaries. This saves our church for future service.

The Sunday School is fortunate in the coming of Mr. W. Bruce McCollum as a teacher in the Blythe School. There our children from Bath attend and Mr. McCollum is teaching a class of the older boys in our Sunday School. He is to be our Assistant Superintendent beginning April 1.

Our revival services were conducted this year with Dr. Robert Excell Fry as evangelist and leader of song. The people were greatly blessed and six additions were made to the membership. Since Dr. Fry resigned from the First Church of Augusta, Bath church entertained him and Mrs. Fry at supper. After the supper the Doctor gave our congregation a farewell sermon.

Our church building has been improved within the year in two respects. A porch has been added to the front and a new flue added to the former one so making it possible to heat the auditorium with two heaters. The porch floor and steps are of brick and very attractive. Mr. Thomas Perrin was the architect of the porch and gave us a valuable entrance.

We have also electric lights which were partially paid for by the Auxiliary.

Our Vacation Bible School was directed by Mrs. Edith Shipp of the Georgia Sunday School Association. While the coming of the camp agitated our minds at the time, nevertheless, we had a good attendance. \$9.00 were contributed to the Association for the services of the director.

Our church tendered a Joy Gift at Christmas of \$5.20. 7.00
We also gave Rally Day offering of \$7.00 5.00

We have a Birth Day offering in the Sunday School whenever a pupil has a birthday. This is sent to Thornwell. Added to the Thanksgiving offering amounted to \$23.00 for the orphans.

Our church also gave Dr. Fry a love offering of \$16.68

Our church would invoke the prayers of other Christians in our behalf.

Sincerely,

I. T. Hawk

Rev. I. T. Hawk, Historian, W. A. Bath Church.

62328

HISTORY OF BATH WOMAN'S AUXILIARY
For the Year ending March 31, 1943

Mrs. Hawes Coud;
Crawfordville, Ga.

The Bath Auxiliary has functioned normally in spite of war a braod and rationing at home. It was necessary, however, to limit ~~to limit~~ our work on account of the tire and gas rationing. Meetings were shifted from Monday to Sunday following the Sunday School session.

The Bible study of Luke's Gospel was carried on by the members. This means more development of the individuals. Formerly the Bible lesson was taught by the minister.

Cards have been sent to the men in service from our fellowship and the church and homes have been opened to visiting soldiers.

A Patriotic Service was held the evening of Feb. 21. The State Guards of Blythe were invited, also the American Legion. Special music was furnished by a member of the guards, a special sermon was preached by the pastor, a service flag with seven stars was dedicated with a candlelight program and an offering of \$10.05 was received toward a Defense Bond for the Church.

The outstanding work of the year has been the increase in financial offerings. The Church is striving for self-support of ~~the~~ one fourth time preacher. It looks as though the goal were near.

In the Woman's Auxiliary the finances have increased more than ~~nothing~~ within any previous year of Mrs. Annie Fulcher's presidency.

The Joy Gift was	\$8.00
Foreign Missions	5.70
Home Missions	10.00

Respectfully submitted,

I.T. Hawk
Rev. I.T. Hawk, Historian.

Augusta
64342
An Outline of the History of the Woman's Auxiliary
1943-44, of the BATH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The work at Bath has moved on under the leadership of Mrs. J.Foss Fulcher, (Mrs. Annie Fulcher) as president.

The Bible study of the assigned scripture of the Acts, was conducted, at the request of the Auxiliary, by the pastor Rev. I.T.Hawk. At its close a review was taken which showed good interest in the study. The society requested the pastor to pursue a similar method in the leadership of next year's study of **II** Corinthians.

The Missionary interest was manifested in an invitation to the Rev. E.H.Hamilton, our adopted missionary on leave from China, to hold a week of evangelistic services in the Bath Church. A fine spirit prevailed and the fellowship with our missionary was greatly enjoyed. A generous love offering was tendered Mr. Hamilton.

This Missionary interest was further manifested in a liberal contribution to the Home Mission Emergency Fund.

Further benevolent interest was manifested in a Joy Gift of \$15.00, the largest ever made by the church.

The members of the Auxiliary are sharers in the very liberal gifts to Thornwell and in the purchase of Defense Bonds. Bath has now five Bonds and is raising money for an additional \$50.00 Bond.

The Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery, donated \$100.00 to the Church that is to be doubled and used in repairing the Church.

The Church is also working toward self support having doubled the amount paid toward the pastor's salary last year and continuing to advance.

The War has been a handicap to our transportation system and has taken our young men, but the work goes on and we look forward to a happier day after the duration.

Respectfully submitted

I.T. Hawk
Rev. I.T. Hawk, Historian

AN OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY
1943-44, of the BATH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Resptfully submitted,

I.T. Hawk

Rev. I.T. Hawk, Historian.

Bath

BLYTHE, GEORGIA
MARCH 21, 1945

Blythe

Mrs. Hawes Cloud,
Historian Woman's Auxiliary,
Crawfordville, Georgia.

My dear Mrs. Cloud:

The Bath Auxilliary would report continued activity during the current year despite the handicaps of a war torn world.

The Bath Church has made notable contributions to certain benevolences, especially to Thornwell, sending in no less than \$52.00 as the culmination of Birth Day gifts in the Sunday School and the Thanksgiving offering.

The Joy Gift was also commendable, \$18.00 being sent to Dr. Boggs, which was divided 50-50 between the Congregation and the Auxilliary.

The Bath Church also has voted to become self-supporting with the church year beginning April 1. This is a great advance over the amounts contributed to the pastor's salary in 1932.

The Sunday School has supported a Chinese orphan also.

The Bible study in the Auxilliary, which included the II. Corinthian, was conducted by the pastor, at the request of the society.

The Christian Endeavor Society, has been meeting regularly every Sunday night except on rare occasions when the weather or sickness prevented. A membership in the World Christian Endeavor Society, was taken out by the society for its president, Miss Florrine Young.

A Revival meeting was held in October with the Rev. William Stewart, of Waynesboro as evangelist. A fine spirit prevailed and excellent messages were delivered. Almost every family in the congregation was visited by the pastor and the evangelist during the days with preaching services at night. Three additions were received into the membership.

Improvements on the century old church building are going on. A new roof has been installed, and the painting of the exterior is now in progress.

Many of our young men are in the armed service, thus cutting down our attendance. These were remembered at Christmas with boxes of fruit cake and nicknacks. In the providence of God, none of these men have been taken by death. Prayers are offered for them continually.

Respectfully submitted,

I. T. Hawk

Rev. I. T. Hawk, ~~Treasurer~~
Historian.

For Montreat

At Montreat

For Montreat.

BATH Church.

BLYTHE, GEORGIA
MARCH 21, 1945

67054
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Historian Woman's Auxiliary,
Crawfordville, Georgia.

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Respectfully submitted,

J. T. Hawk

Rev. I.T.Hawk, ~~Treasurer~~
Historian.

67790

BLYTHE, GEORGIA,

MARCH 12, 1946

AN OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF THE BATH CHURCH AUXILIARY FOR THE
CHURCH YEAR, 1945-1946

THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY of Bath Church has carried on this year under the leadership of Mrs. Annie Fulcher as President. The work has been handicapped by sickness and bad weather, but still has carried on. Mrs. Ira James has been elected president for the succeeding year. Mrs. Robert Byers has been chosen Historian to succeed the present one. This change was made at the request of the minister who has served as historian for more than ten years.

The Auxiliary has provided entertainment for the pastor and his wife on preaching Sundays and arranged for the care of the Evangelist, the Rev. Witherspoon Dunlap during the Revival last September.

The revival was most satisfactory and four additions were made to the church membership, three on Confession of Faith.

The Auxiliary has worked with the Sunday School in a plan to improve the interior of the church. A new carpet is in the offing. The men of the church are projecting interior painting. A new roof has replaced the leaking one and 40 new window panes have replaced broken and missing ones.

The church lost one Ruling Elder, Mr. R.J. Nickles, of Blythe. He lacked but one day of being 85 years old. Mr. J. Foss Fulcher, has been ordained to take his place. Mr. Ira James has been ordained a Deacon.

Many of our boys have returned from the armed service, and no one has been lost.

The Sunday School honored the service of Elder Harper Trowbridge with a silver service. He has served for ten years as Superintendent.

The men of the church have planted the church grounds with 2,000 pine seedlings.

Among the various benevolent causes, Thornwell holds first place with the Sunday School. With an enrollment of 52 the offering was \$40.00

After several years without Sunday School and regular preaching services, Bath began hold public worship one Sunday a month in October 1931. In the spring of 1932, a Sunday School was started with 12 in attendance. Mr. Willard Holly of the Blythe Blythe Methodist Church was the first Superintendent. He was succeeded by Mr. Harper Trowbridge, who now serves.

Mr. Trowbridge had a vision of a self supporting church. He translated his vision into action and with the cooperation of the congregation the church has assumed self support of a fourth time preaching service. This is a long step that has been taken.

Respectfully submitted,

I.T. Hawk

I.T. Hawk, Historian.

Blythe, Ga. Bath Church Auxiliary, 1945-46.

The Womans Aux. of Bath Church has carried on under the leadership of Mrs Annie Fulcher as President, Mrs Ida James has been elected for next year.

Mrs. Robert Byers has been chosen as Historian to succeed the present one, the minister who has served for ten years.

The Aux. has provided entertainment for pastor and wife and preaching days, and for the Evangelist, Rev. Witherspoon Dunlap during the revival, which was most satisfactory, with four additions to the church, three on Confession of Faith.

The Auxiliary has worked with the Sunday School in a much needed plan for the improvement of the church property.

The Church lost one ruling Elder, Mr. R. J. Nickels, of Blythe, in his 85th year. Mr. J. Foss Fulcher has been ordained to fill his place. Mr. Ira James has been ordained a Deacon.

Many of our boys have returned from armed service and not one was lost.

The Sunday School honored the service of Elder Harper with a silver service. He served as Superintendent for ten years.

The men of the church have planted the church ground with 2,000 pine seedlings.

Thornwell holds place in our benevolent causes with the Sunday School. With an enrollment of 52, \$40.00 was the offering.

Bath now holds regular preaching services once a month. In 1932 a Sunday School was started, with 12 members. Mr William Holly, of the Blythe Methodist Church was the first Supt. He was succeeded by Mr. Harper Trowbridge, who now serves. Mr. Trowbridge had a vision of a self supporting church, and with the co-operation of the congregation, the church has assumed self support for a fourth time preaching service. This is a long step that has been taken.

Respectfully submitted,

I. T. Hawl,

March 12, 1946.

Historian.

82860

Report Church Historian Bath
Church 1949. 25.

We had one addition to church.
Old man who also was baptized.
The m^r Ke's our supply pastor left
for his work in foreign fields then
Mr. E. Wellingham has filled our
pulpit since then.

We had a fine Vacation Bible
School, observed all special days.
Materially we repainted our S.D.
room and refurnished a bench.
We feel we had a good year.
But are praying for a better one
next year.

Dear Mrs. Gidon - Margaret has
been quite ill so I'm sending her
april. Do hope you are well. And I
hope to see you in April.

Love,
Dorothy

Annie F. Fitch

1956

BATH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BLYTHE, GEORGIA.

Student supply ministers
Both from Columbia Seminary

Davis Young
Wm. Larry Mac Bath

Elders

Harper Trowbridge, Blythe
J.F. Fulcher, Hephzibah
W.R. Holmes
Eugene

Deacons

Martin Giradot, Blythe
Doris James
Ira James
R.M. Taylor
James Holmes
T.M. Nickles

There has been 2 additions to the church this year, both on confession of faith; namely- Jack Baxley and Scarlett Reynolds. No dismissals.

There have been 5 baptisms- Jack Baxley, Scarlett Reynolds, and 3 children. The children were Angela Hundley, Andrew Hundley and Carol Anne Taylor. All were baptized in July, 1956.

We have no Women of the Church organization.

Mrs. J.F. Fulcher, Hephzibah, Ga.

*I copied from long hand by Mrs. Fulcher.
Mrs. Roland Hitchcock
Augusta - Macon Presbyterian
Historian.*

Clueck MDC. 1956

1955-1956

BATH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BLYTHE, GEORGIA

We have had 2 student supply pastor's, Davis Young and William
Larry MacBath, both from Columbia Seminary.

Our elders are H. Troubridge, J.F. Fulcher, W.R. Holmes and Eugene
.Our deacons are

1956

BATH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BLYTHE, GEORGIA.

Student supply ministers
Both from Columbia Seminary

Davis Young
Wm. Larry Mac Bath

Elders

Harper Trowbridge, Blythe
J.F. Fulcher, Hephzipah
W.R. Holmes
Eugene Snowbridge

Deacons

Martin Giradot, Blythe
Doris James
Ira James
R.M. Taylor
James Holmes
T.M. Nickles

There has been 2 additions to the church this year, both on confession of faith; namely- Jack Baxley and Scarlett Reynolds. No dismissals.

There have been 5 baptisms- Jack Baxley, Scarlett Reynolds, and 3 children. The children were Angela Hundley, Andrew Hundley and Carol Anne Taylor. All were baptized in July, 1956.

We have no Women of the Church organization.

Mrs. J.F. Fulcher, Hephzipah, Ga.

1958

BATH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BLYTHE, GEORGIA

" In March our Student Pastor Supply, Mr. Leroy McBath, left us so for a few months we were without a minister.

On September 1, 1958, the Reverend Gus A. Hollinghead, Lansing, North Carolina came to us for trial sermons; he was called; accepted; and so in November, he was installed, with Dr. Robert Strong preaching the sermon, Mr. R.B. Prince, an elder from Greene Street Presbyterian Church, Augusta, and the Rev. Henry Erion, Lakemont Presbyterian Church, Augusta, assisting.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Ansley joined our church.

We put new carpet on our church and new rugs and curtains in our Sunday School rooms.

We are delighted with Mr. Hollinghead. He is a wide awake man and really preaches the gospel- not what Mr. Hollinghead says, but 'Thus sayest the Lord'. He is a great help with our Women of the Church Bible Study."

Number Women 13

Number Circles 1

President	Mrs. W.A. Hundley, Jr., 1823 Courtney Dr. North Augusta, S.C.
Vice-President	Mrs. Geo. T. Barnes, 715 Riverview Dr., North Augusta, S.C.
Secretary	" " " " " "
Treasurer	Mrs. Harper Trowbridge, Blythe, Georgia
Historian	Mrs. H.P. Ashley, " "
Chairman Spiritual Growth	Mrs. W.R. Holmes, Rt. 1, Augusta, "
" Christian Ed.	Mrs. Clifford Taylor, Blythe, "
" Stewardship	Mrs. R.M. Taylor, Rt. 1, Augusta, "
" World Missions	Mrs. J.F. Fulcher, Hephzibah, "
" Church Extension	Mrs. Maggie Griener, Blythe, "
" Annuities & Relief	Mrs. James Gray, Blythe, "
" General Fund Agencies	" " " "
" Columbia Friendship Circle	Mrs. Doris G. James, " "
	Mrs. R.M. Taylor, Rt. 1, Augusta, "

(The material enclosed in " " is from a letter written by Mrs. J.F. Fulcher, Hephzibah, Georgia, to Mrs. Roland Hitchcock, Presbyterian Historian, on June 15, 1959, and copied by Mrs. Hitchcock. The slate of officers and the committee chairman were taken from the 1958 Printed Presbyterian Minutes .)

MRS. J. FOSS FULCHER
Rural Route 2, Box 319
Hephzibah, Georgia

Mrs. Roland Hitchcock.
Presbyterian Historian.
Augusta. Macon Presbytery
Synod of Georgia.

9615Z

BATH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BLYTHE , GEORGIA
1959

President	Mrs. W.A.Hundley, Jr., 1823 Courtney Dr. N. Augusta, S.C.
Vice-President & Secretary	Mrs. George Barnes , 715 Riverview Dr., N. Augusta, S.C.
Treasurer	Mrs. Harper Trowbridge, Blythe, Ga.
Historian	Mrs. H.P.Ashley, Blythe ,Ga.
	COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
Spiritual Growth	Mrs. W.R.Holmes, Rt.1, Augusta
Christian Education	Mrs. Clifford Taylor , Blythe, Augusta
Stewardship	Mrs. R.M.Taylor, Rt.1, Box 669, Augusta, Ga.
World Missions	Mrs. F.J.Fulcher, Hephzibah, Ga.
Church Extension	Mrs. Maggie Greiner, Blythe
Annuities & Relief	Mrs. James Gray, Blythe
General Fund Agencies	Mrs. Doris G. James, Blythe
Columbia Circle	Mrs. R.M.Taylor, Rt1, Augusta

Under the spiritual guidance of the Reverend Gus.W.Hollenhead there is Much evidence of truly spiritual growth. Although there have been no additions to the church more and more people have attended the morning services on Sunday.

Carpet has been put on the church floor through the gifts of the Women of the Church and railings on the church steps.

From letter from Mrs.F.J.Fulcher
Hephzibah, Ga.

Received January 22, 1960.
Mr. Roland Hitchcock
Presbyterian Historian.

1960

BATH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BLYTHE, GEORGIA
1960

Number women listed in Presbyterian Printed Minutes, 1959, is 12.
President, Mrs. W.A. Hundley, Jr., 1823 Courtney Dr., N. Augusta, S.C.
continued in office as did other officers and committee chairmen of 1959.

The following was copied from a letter from Mrs. J. Foss Fulcher of
Hephzibah, Georgia, who is main contact with Bath Women of the Church.

"The year 1960 has not seen much change in our little church.
Materially we have not seen any improvement, but under the guidance of
our minister, I do believe we are growing spiritually.

We had a wonderful Vacation Bible School, and not a work shop for bird
houses!

Our Women of the Church has met as prayer groups, study groups, and
has completed mission work as far as possible. We have given an
Easter Program with an offering. We have done the required White Cross
and given to Overseas Relief.

We are grateful to God for His many blessings."

(Mrs. J. Foss) Annie Fulcher.

Received September 24, 1960.
Mrs. Roland Nitchesech
Presbyterian Minister.

Chu

BATH, THE CHURCH, AND THE PEOPLE

Near Blythe.

information was
compiled

by

Bobbie Enfinger

BATH, THE CHURCH AND THE PEOPLE

Many feet have walked up the steps of the little white clapboard church with it's green shutters. Many souls have also worshipped at it's altar. There is a peace that enfolds one as they sit and glance around and see reminders of a by-gone day. The oil lamps that are placed on the shelves around the walls of the church look ready to be lit, even though they have been electrified for years. The hand-forged brass chandelier looms down at one. It too, is adorned with the same kind of oil lamps that are on the shelves. With a sobbering thought, one also sees that the sanctuary has, what at one time was, a slave gallery. There is also an opening for the bell rope. The bell still can be heard on occasions.

The bell sounds as clear as the clear glass panes that gives one a peak into the cemetery that lies directly behind the church. The oldness of the tombstones, (one dates back to 1816) the old iron grating and the names on the headstones reflect the by-gone days. The markers with a more recent name and date attest to the survival down through the years of the church. It is almost impossible to think of Bath as once being new, or young, for it seems that the church has always been there. Of course, it hasn't, for everything on earth has an origin, whether known or not. This is an attempt, by this writer, to put together the pieces of paper, records in Bibles, newspaper clippings, journals, legends, and other articles in a organized and yet enjoyable way. It could not have been done as easily as is being done, without the care and attention that past and present members of Bath put into retaining valuable information concerning the church and the people.

Actually, Bath began quite a number of years before an official dwelling was erected. Bath began as a church away from home. The wealthy landowners of Burke County sought out solace from the heat and malaria that raged in the summers. The springs of pure mineral water were of great comfort to the people. Richmond-Bath, as it was called, became so well loved that each visit became longer and longer. Soon it became an established community.¹

The residents, being mostly of Scot-English background, were Presbyterian. It was only natural that they would want a way to worship while away from Waynesboro. At first, the minister from the Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro would just visit the homes, but as the community grew, the need for another arrangement also grew. The congregation was first begun between the years of 1784 and 1785.²

The community of Bath (near Blythe) lies about 15 miles out of Augusta off Highway 1. It all began as a land grant of 450 acres originally to Jones Griffin. The land was later sold to Thomas Walker, who in 1799 sold the tract to Thomas Waggoner for \$270.00.³

In 1802, A Robert Watkins became the owner. From Watkins, it passed to Joesph Posner. At Posner's death, in 1818, with Governor Schley as executer of the estate, it was deeded to James Whitehead. Mr. Whitehead, a wealthy Burke County resident, took what was then called "Posner's Bath." as his summer residence.⁴

As Mr. Whitehead sought to make Bath a year round residence, so did many other families. There were eighteen families in all in the beginning. Prominent among the residents were the Whiteheads, Morrisions, Greens, Dowses, and others with less familar names. The frame houses were constructed in fine colonial style under the supervision of John Trowbridge of Massachusetts. Mr. Trowbridge was a master builder

who became highly recommended.

John Trowbridge not only brought quality in appearance, as far as the homes were concerned, but also, change. The houses of Richmond-Bath were the first houses in the south to have double windows. Mr. Trowbridge was not only pleased with the opportunity to display his exceedingly great expertise in home building, but also very pleased with the climate and the opportunities that awaited him there. It was not long before one of his brothers, William, joined him, also, brother, Frederick.⁵

As this is an attempt to compile information on Bath Presbyterian Church, and the people associated with it, it is worth-while to focus attention directed upon the Trowbridge influence of past and present days. The dedication displayed, by the family, to the church, warrants an acknowledgment. There is some doubt that the church would have survived without their perseverance. When the Trowbridge family is mentioned, it is being taken to include all family members, whether by marriage or blood relation.

The Trowbridge ancestry can be traced to Thomas Trowbridge of Exeter, England. Thomas Trowbridge married Elizabeth Marshall in Devonshire, England. The date is unsure concerning their marriage, but records show that in 1636 they migrated to the colonies, settling in New Haven, Connecticut. As the generations passed, the family moved to Massachusetts, establishing themselves as master builders. John Trowbridge was born May 3, 1817, in Newton, Massachusetts.⁶

The Trowbridge brothers were to construct 16 of the 18 homes, and the permanent building for the church. The largest of the houses had 16 rooms and the smallest had 12 rooms. The homes all reflected the unique quality associated with the Trowbridge tradition.⁷

The homes, for the most part have been destroyed by fire and the ravages of time. However, in fine tradition, the church stands. As stated earlier, the "church" itself, began much earlier, as far back as 1784.⁸ It began as an extension of the Waynesboro Church. Services were held in the homes at first, and then in a log structure. As the homes became more elaborate, and the area more reknown, a substantial building was needed, and Mr. John Trowbridge was contracted to build the church. Mr. Trowbridge's association with the church, at this point, was to continue for the next five generations which includes present day.⁹

Thus, in 1836, Bath Presbyterian Church then the first church of the Presbyterian denomination in Richmond County, had a beautiful building to worship in. Bath would have other days in the sun, but a rain would fall. Famous people would worship at her altar, the enemy would invade, and people within her gates would come and go.

The records show that S. K. Talmage, one time president of Oglethorpe University, was probably the first minister on a regular basis. In 1824, Rev. Calvin McIver began his ministry there, and he was to be followed by Reverend Lawson Clinton. Until 1843 Rev. Timothy Dwight held the pulpit. It was then that Bath had her most reknown pastor. His Name was Frank R. Goulding.¹⁰

The Reverend Frank R. Goulding was an accomplished author, inventor and theologian. He was, as stories go, the epitome of a true Southern gentleman. He greeted everyone with a smile and children loved his genial ways. He was very compassionate and empathic. So much so, that out of concern for the ladies of his parish, invented a machine that would sew, before Elias Howe. Perhaps, it seems, as the story goes, that the ladies of Bath dressed very fine in those days. Their lives were involved in great depth in yards and yards of silk, taffeta, velvet, laces and ribbons.

Hours were spent on clothes, not to mention things like, linens, quilts, coverlets, and ect. Dr. Goulding arrived at the conclusion that is a machine could make the cloth, so should a machine be able to sew garments and other things that used material. He went to work on his invention and came up with a machine that would sew seams and wouldn't rip out at the first wearing, and also saved time. However, no one would really pay attention to his machine. After all, the materials were not only costly, they were also hard to obtain. Finally, in desperation, Dr. Goulding, himself, sewed a dress for one of the servant girls. The machine became a rapid success in Bath, but due to poor timing, bad transportation, and perhaps Providence, Dr. Goulding's invention was not registered before Mr. Howe's. Dr. Goulding, one not to be discouraged, moved on to another phase of his life and began writing. 11

Some say that the book, "The Young Marooners", might have been written out of disappointment at having failed with the sewing machine registered. Whether written out of disappointment or not, it was a grand success, a credit to Dr. Goulding and Bath. 12

Also, sometime around that part of Bath's history, John Trowbridge, who had secured a tract of land about 3 miles south of Bath. He had by that married Sarah Maria Volland of Burke County. They were to have eight children.

In 1853, Dr. Goulding left Bath and was replaced by the Reverend Rufus K. Porter. Dr. Porter seemed to follow the trend that Dr. Goulding and others had set. He was very cultivated, earnest, and handsome. Also, he was eccumunical. At times he exchanged pulpits with the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Augusta, Rev. J. E. Ryerson. Rev. Porter stayed with Bath until 1867.

Revernd Porter saw Bath through the war. Bath Church was vandalized and desecrated during the year of 1862 according to legend and Mr. Walter A. Clark, in his Lost Arcadia. It seems quite possible that the Federal troops could have been at Bath, as they were in the area, and Bath was a well-to-do community with much for the taking, and with very few there to protect it from the Union Army.

It is said that the troops tried to remove the pulpit from the church. But to no avail was their effort, for the pulpit, massive and grand as it is, is virtually immovable. It is hewn from hardwood, and extends through the church floor. It has been planted several feet into the ground underneath the church floor. Only a very intense and very long lasting fire could destroy it and remove it from it's holy resting place. The erector of the building had been very efficient. So perhaps were the troops, for instead of the pulpit, they carried off the silver communion and baptismal wares.¹³

It was a time for fighting and not a time for reading and enjoying life. Maybe that is why the invaders left the lamps, books and other cherishable things behind. Some of the books, though dated in the early 1800's would not have been very important to most people. Perhaps things often become valuable simply by their association to certain people and places. Bath realized the war and so did her people.

It is interesting, perhaps, at this time to examine a letter from Almarin Trowbridge to his brother Frederick, (brothers of John and William) written from Charlestown, October 2, 1865, but had the return address of Boston. Almarin Trowbridge sympathizes with his brother:

. . . they must have been many years of severe trial and suffering, whether obliged to go into the field of battle or remain and perform other important duties. We have felt much anxiety for your safety. . . . We suppose that you must cast your lot with the

Southern People and that they might be obliged to take up arms in defense of the Southern Cause, and I would conceive that they are right in doing so, judging from their situations and standpoint . . . I hope a kind Providence may have shielded you all from the dangers to which you have been exposed, but it seems almost like hoping against hope, that you all have escaped, indeed, you cannot have escaped severe trial and if you all escaped death, it must be quite a miracle. ¹⁴

Almarin Trowbridge was right, it would have been quite a miracle, and in fact, a nephew with the name of Almarin was killed in the war. But miracles happen, things survive. Bath survived the war and continued to be a place of worship for those seeking comfort.

The years between the war and the early 70's are vague. However, we do know that activity was within the church, for there is an old letter from a member of the church vouching for Mr. John Trowbridge's abilities and character.

To the Building Committee
Ebenezzer Church
Jefferson County

Gentlemen:

This will be handed to you by Mr. John Trowbridge, architect and house carpenter.

Mr. Trowbridge may put in proposals for the church which you propose erecting-and if so, of course, you will want to know him. I have known him for thirty years and tho a northern man by birth and rearing, he early adopted the South, and this immediate locality, as his home where he married and has reared a large family in a creditable manner.

Mr. Trowbridge was an early volunteer in our ranks in the late war, where he lost his first son Almarin, a lad of eighteen and a galant soldier.

Mr. Trowbridge is a man of great Energy, of character, and of nice taste in his profession-and fully equal to the task you propose bids for. I believe if he gets the contract, that it will be mutually beneficial to you both. It may be proper for me to add that Mr. Trowbridge is himself a

member of the Presbyterian Church, in which all of his family have been reared. 15

I am, gentlemen

Very respectfully your obedient servant

signed by Thomas Nesbitt, Richmond-Bath

March 1st. 1873.

February 16, 1894, John Trowbridge died. However, the spirit that brought the young man south to seek a contract to build houses in a strange land lives on. Besides the off-spring of John, those of William also went on to enjoy days at Bath. From William came James, and from James, Harper. Harper Trowbridge will soon be 97 years old. He is present almost every Sunday at church. Only extreme illness keeps him at home. He is greatly cared for by his wife and helper through good and bad times.

The good and the bad seem to always seem to be found, but at Bath, probably, more good has been present. The turn of the century and into the twenties saw many famous people in Bath. Some would have come for the medicinal qualities that the mineral springs offered. Others would come for rest, and others for fun, but all seemed to find themselves visiting the church. Such people as the Tafts, Rockefellers, and Wilson's.

A newspaper clipping describes a Sunday afternoon at Bath Presbyterian Church that occurred sometime in the early 30's. The date is missing, but in checking with one of the people listed in the article, it seems it was 1934, probably in the fall of the year. It was a gathering arranged by the Women's Auxiliary. The president was Mrs. O. K. Brandon, and the gathering was to honor a member that had served for 60 years.

" Aunt Addie" was the name of the lady. She was the only living charter member at that time, of the "official" organization of the church.(Rev. I. T. Hawk was the pastor at that time. According to Mrs. Thelma Trowbridge Tyler, who was a young girl of 14 then, Rev. Hawk was with Bath longer than most ministers were. Rev. Hawk also ministered to the people of Grovetown at that same time. Of course, that arrangement meant the services were not always at the same time.) As for the afternoon in 1934, it seemed to be a splendid affair. Readings,solo's, and group singing were the entertainment. Afterwards, of course, refreshments. Some listed as being present were: Miss Thelma Trowbridge, Mrs. Harper Trowbridge, Mrs. Eugene Trowbridge and daughters, Viriginia and Billy Newman, Professor William Davisson and his wife, Mrs. Maria Hainey and many others. They had good crowds in those days.

Down through the years many ministers were to stand behind the massive pulit and give guidance. The names of Willingham,Miller,McBath, Churton, McLean, Peyden,Bloxham, join the ones that have already been mentioned. For any whose name was not available, we also acknowledge, for all left their mark, and all are grateful.

One April 21st,1985, Bath celebrated her 201st birthday. Also, on that same day, Bath had in her pulpit, Holley Shoaf-O'Kula, who later on in the year, on November 24th, would become the first minister to be ordained in the church in all the 201 years. Rev. Holley Shoaf-O'Kula has thus far done a very outstanding job at leading her flock. She addresses the needs of the young and old, and all in between. The past and the pres-

sent are ever present nowadays. As Harper Trowbridge is a constant reminder of the past and all the good that he and others have done, Pastor Holley is a reminder that changes are always to take place, but that the change can be good. New ways, and new ideas very often compliment the past if the change is made out of love and concern for the people, but above all, the change must glorify God, for that is the chief end of mankind. Bath is a wonderful place for glorifying God.

FOOTNOTES

1. Edith Bell Love. " Historic Bath Presbyterian Church Will Begin Homecoming This Week." Augusta Chronicle 7 August, 1958.
2. Harper Trowbridge. Interview, 5 August, 1987.
3. Ada Ramp Walden. " Historic Augusta, Area No. 65." Augusta Chronicle. 9 November, 1932.
4. Ibid
5. Trowbridge
6. Maria Trowbridge Haynie. Bath Presbyterian Church Album.
7. Edith Bell Love. " Churches Are My Beat." Augusta Chronicle. 14 August, 1957.
8. Zillah Bostick Agerton. History of the Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro, Georgia. 1960.
9. Marion R. Hempuley. Cities, Towns and Communities of Georgia. (Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1963.) p.523.
10. Lucian LaMar Knight. Georgia's Bi Centennial Memoirs and Memories. (Atlanta: author published own work, 1932) p.634
11. Ibid
12. Earl Bell. Columbia County News. (Date unknown)
14. Almarin Trowbridge. Letter to Brother Frederic. October 2, 1865.
15. Thomas Nesbitt. Letter to Building Committee. Richmond-Bath March 1, 1873.

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December 1, 1861.

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1865.

Nesbitt, Thomas. To The Building Committee. Richmond-Bath.

March 1, 1873.

Interview

Trowbridge, Harper. Mr. Trowbridge lives with his wife, Louise

Dozier Trowbridge, at Blythe, Georgia. Mr. Trowbridge is

96 years old. He will be 97 this November.

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Church of Waynesboro, Georgia. 1960.

Haynie, Maria Trowbridge. Bath Presbyterian Church Album.