

Pastoral History Summaries (1882-1922)
Book of Records, no.1 of the Church of God
Goldsboro, York Co., PA
Transcribed by Luke Broersma, Apr. 2021
Goldsboro Historical Association

The following are written church summaries from pastors during their time of service, located in the first section of the Book of Records, no 1. The transcription is verbatim, including some misspellings. Punctuation is not verbatim, and paragraphs have been inserted in some places for easier reading. There are a few words either too faded or too difficult to decipher from the handwriting.

The entries written are mostly basic information, including when the pastors started and ended their rotation, any special events they held, and if those resulted in conversions. Some entries include the total number of sermons given during a pastoral rotation, and a few other statistics. The pastors served on the East York Circuit, which included the churches of Goldsboro, Smoketown, Yocumtown and Newberrytown.

Some of the more interesting entries include the remodelling of Smoketown church in 1892, the purchasing of a parsonage on York Street approximately 1886, the building of a new parsonage in 1909, and the razing and rebuilding of the Goldsboro church in 1914. Rev. Sturgen wrote about the deaths of some prominent members of the church during his time. Another interesting entry included facts about a pastor who was assigned to the circuit in 1890, but refused to move to the post so he had to resign his appointment.

The first entry is from 1885 (summarizing 1882-1885) and the last entry is from 1922.

The following pastors have entries:

William John Grissinger (1882-1885)
Cyrus Isaac Behney (1885-1887)
Orvill E. Houston (1887-1890)
Hanson Etzler Reeve (1890-1893)
William J. Schaner (1893-1896)
William John Grissinger (1898-1901)
Cyrus Isaac Behney (1908-1910)
Winfield Scott Sturgen (1910-1919)
George W. Harper (1920-1922)

Transcription

Goldsboro York County Pa. April 1st, AD 1885

Inasmuch as none of the previous pastors has not given a word of history, and there has not been a history of the Church of God in Goldsboro, or of the East York charge written in this Book of Records, I, therefore, cannot intelligently write one. But, I will give a brief sketch of the two and a half years of my ministry with this dear people. But we trust that all succeeding pastors will try to follow the instructions given on the preceding pages.

In October AD 1882 at the eldership which was held in Mount Joy Lancaster County, PA., It was the judgement of that body that I should be the pastor of the East York Circuit. In obedience to the powers that be, on Oct. 28th, 1882, I at once packed my goods and moved on the field, and was very kindly received by the Churches. During the winter we held protracted meetings at all of the points, but with little or no success. But as time passed on the tie that binds hearts together became stronger and stronger. So during the winter of AD 1883 we held another meeting with this church specially for the salvation of precious souls, which resulted in five conversions, but no accessions to the church. But I continued to labor on, by the grace of God until our union became more strong. On the 15th day of February 1885, we commenced another special effort, this meeting resulted in the conversion of seven (7) precious souls, and sic (6) united with the church in fellowship. And on March 29th seven were baptized in the river. This ends two and a half years of labor spent with this dear people.

-W.J. Grissinger

Historical Record

I took charge of this church in connection with the churches of the East-York Circuit, by the appointment of the East Penna Eldership, April 1st, 1885. I served the charge for two years and seven months. During my time I preached once every two weeks. The congregations were good, especially in the evenings. In the winter of 1885, a special meeting was held, but no visible success attended the efforts. Church work moved on pleasantly until the winter of 1887, at which time another special meeting was held with the church. This effort was a very pleasing success; the church was greatly received, fifty-one professed faith in Christ, twelve were fellowshipped, and eleven were baptized. Out of this revival grew a young peoples meeting, organized by the pastor, which is held every sabbath at 2 PM. The regular prayer meeting held on Wednesday evening is well attended and is interesting. With the church is connected a large Sunday school. During my pastorate a large parsonage was bought by the circuit, located on York Avenue, Goldsboro, PA. The parsonage is also paid for. During my term the church did not suffer any by deaths, but somewhat by removals. November 1st, 1887 ceased my work on the East York charge. Elder O.E. Huston succeeded me. May God's blessing be upon him and the work.

-C.I. Behney

Goldsboro Pa Nov 1st 1888. Elder O.E. Houston

I took charge of the East York by the appointment of the East Penna Elder Ship being Elder Behney's successor found the work in a good condition. Prayer meetings well attended and very spiritual young peoples meeting very interesting. We held our first meeting with the church at Goldsboro commencing January 19th, 1888. The meeting continued for four weeks and two days at which meeting four made the good profession of faith in Christ. We closed the meeting with an ordinance meeting and received seven into church fellow ship.

During the year 1890 during my pastorate we repaired the Bethel to the cost being \$570.88. Of this amount I collected by personal subscription \$445.88 and I must say that this was a very easy task indeed. The brethren and friends of Goldsboro always contribute very liberal of their means to the [...] of the cause of Christ. I never lived any place that I liked as well as Goldsboro. These three years of my pastorate have been years of [peace?] to me. I am now appointed to Plainfield circuit so I must leave but I do it very reluctantly. Elder Nichodemus is my successor. May God bless him in his work and labor of love and may he be instrumental in [healing?] in the churches.

-Elder Orvill E. Houston, Nov 1890

Goldsboro. York Co. Pa. August 28th, 1891

In the historical record above made by Elder Orvill E. Houston, it will be seen that by appointment of the East Pennsylvania Eldership of the Church of God, which assembles in annual session at Mechanicsburg PA, in October 1890, Elder F.L. Nicodemus was appointed to the pastorate of the East-York Circuit. He however refused to move to the charge, on which account the members of the churches objected to the creation of a pastoral relation between the churches and Elder Nicodemus. Elder Nicodemus was therefore induced to resign his appointment to said field, which vacancy was filled by the standing committee of the Eldership by appointing Elder H.E. Reeve of Steelton, to the same to take effect immediately or as soon thereafter as practicable. Arrangements were made accordingly, and in the month of December 1890, on the 24th day, thereof we moved to Goldsboro, and were kindly received and hospitably entertained at the home of our esteemed sister in Christ, Rebecca Williams. We soon felt that we were among friends whose generous sympathies and cooperation in the glorious cause of the Master we very much appreciate.

We found the work of the charge in a fair condition. Two of the Bethels had been remodeled and presented a neat and attractive appearance. Our first protracted meeting was held at Yocumtown at which several persons professed conversion. We next made an effort at Goldsboro. At this meeting five persons professed faith in Christ. The third revival effort was held at Newberry with two conversions. Several were received into church fellowship. Thus ended our winter work which we trust redounded to the glory of God and the everlasting welfare of souls.

-H.E. Reeve, Pastor

Goldsboro Pa. Nov 3d 1893

Closing the third year of my pastoral work on the East York Circuit, I desire to record the results as follows. Preached four hundred and five sermons. Attended one hundred and twenty seven sessions of Sunday School. Attended eighty seven Wednesday evening prayer meetings. Preached forty four funerals. Performed eight marriage ceremonies. Baptized eleven persons in the Susquehanna river.

The church and people of Goldsboro have promptly and generously contributed of their substance for the support of the pastor. We received as a salary and donations from the entire charge above twelve hundred dollars.

The Bethel at Smoketown was remodeled and greatly improved at a cost of above five hundred dollars all of which was promptly paid. It was re-opened for worship on Sunday Feb 14th 1892. The morning sermon was preached by Eld. J. W. Deshong of Harrisburg. The evening sermon was delivered by Eld. O.E. Huston of Lisburn.

We have become very much attached to many of the members of the E.Y. Circuit and feel sorry to go away. We are appointed to the Saxton Circuit in Bedford Co. Our goods are nearly ready for shipment. Elder W.J. Schaner, my successor, is expected soon to begin his work here. We pray that the blessing of the Lord may be upon the efforts of both pastor and members. Peace and harmony prevail in Zion for which we are profoundly grateful

-H.E. Reeve, Pastor

[No Title]

By appointment of the E. Pa. Eldership in session at Shippensburg, I took charge of the East York Circuit Nov. 1893. Immediately after arriving here I arranged to preach in Goldsboro once each Lord's Day, which arrangement has been continued during the three years. Special evangelistic services were held each year. The first year fifteen persons professed conversion. The second year none. The third three. For statistical report see "Pastoral and Statistical Record." A Young Peoples' Society of Christian Endeavor has been organized and is in a flourishing condition. The time spent here although involving considerable labor passed very pleasantly. I preached 485 sermons, 47 of which were funeral sermons, married fifteen couples. That the Lord may bless the work on this East York Circuit is my prayer.

-W.J. Schaner, Pastor

Goldsboro York Co., Pa Oct 31st 1899

By appointment of the East Pennsylvania Eldership, which was held at Saxton Pa, I was assigned to the East York Circuit; accordingly, on the first of November AD 1898, I took charge, moving into the same house that I had vacated April 1st 1885, after serving the charge so pleasantly for a term of two years and six months. Many were the changes during my above absence of thirteen years and seven months. I found many seats empty in the churches of the charge. Many who were then active in church work, seem to think they are too old to do work longer, and some of them have absented themselves from the sanctuary, and have hung their harps upon the willow, their voices are heard no more in the services. Again those who were

mere babes in the world when we left the field are now in the front ranks. Thanks be to God he still has his workers and we have still had those who stand by God's unworthy servant.

During the winter we were made to rejoice on account of souls being brought to Christ. I have preached 160 sermons during the year; preached 11 funeral sermons, married 7 couples, received 14 into church fellowship, baptized 11 believers. And for the above work received a salary of \$400 and enjoy the friendship and esteem of the brotherhood and the people in general.

And by appointment of the Eldership which convened at Washington Borough I was re-appointed to the East York Circuit for another year; this was the twenty fourth Eldership it was my privilege to attend, but the present Eldership I was only permitted to attend two days on account of my son Clarence R. We will enter upon another year's work, with a renewed effort

-W.J. Grissinger

Goldsboro Pa. Oct 31st 1901

By appointment of the Eldership I was appointed for the third year which closes this day. The two last years were very pleasant years, the work moved on pleasantly and peace and harmony prevailed through out the charge. I was not able to visit the membership as I would liked to have done, yet notwithstanding the congregations were good except at Smoketown.

We had good revival meetings all around. During the three years of my pastorate on the charge there were 71 conversions, and 44 accessions, and 40 baptisms. I preached during the three years 610 sermons, officiated at 49 funerals, married 22 couples. We have now been blessed with the privilege of serving the people on the East York Circuit five and one half years, and have come to love this dear people; they have given us their substance the sum of \$1200 in salary for three year services.

We feel loath to leave but the time comes in the providence of God that the best of friends must part, but we hope and pray that we shall all meet in Heaven where there will be no separation.

The Eldership convened in Mt Carmel Northumberland Co Pa. and I was appointed by the city of York, York County Pa; and Elder G.R. Gano of Indiana was appointed by the Eldership to be my successor. As we leave this field our prayer is that our dear brother shall find the people as kind as it has been our lot to share. May God's blessing rest upon both pastor and people, and the love of Christ and the comforting influence of the Holy Spirit rest upon each and all. Amen

-W.J. Grissinger

Goldsboro, Pa., Oct. 31, 1910

By appointment of the Eldership I took charge of Goldsboro Station Nov 1, 1908 and served the charge for two years. During this pastorate there were some conversions and baptisms as the record shows. It was hoped that more would be reached, as earnest effort was made to reach others among the many that are still unsaved in the town. Most of the converts are from the Sunday School. May they all remain faithful and become greatly useful in God's service.

During my pastorate the old parsonage was sold for \$750, of this amount \$130 some dollars was paid the appointments of the circuit as their part of the contributions toward it's purchase. The balance was used as part payment toward the building of the new parsonage, which was built during my pastorate. The new parsonage cost between \$2600 and \$2700 dollars, not including donated labor etc. All is paid for excepting \$800. Toward this amount there is provided \$210. The Ladies Aid Society, which was organized during the pastorate gave \$200 with the church until Nov. 8, 1910, when I moved to my new appointment, Enhaut PA. May the blessing of God richly rest upon my successor

-C.I. Behney

Goldsboro Pa, Nov. 1, 1911

By action of the E. Pa. Eldership in session at Altoona Pa. I became pastor of the Goldsboro Church Nov. 1, 1910. I found the people here sociable and congenial to work with. There were but four men in the church. There was a debt of \$800 on the new parsonage. The house of worship was in need of repair but the brethren thought the above mentioned debt should be paid first. Which under existing circumstance was a wise view. We paid \$448 on debt. \$66.91 for incidentals at parsonage making a total of \$506.91 paid on the parsonage.

Several were converted to Christ and united with the church. The men's Bible class of which the pastor was teacher was built from 19 to 52 members.

Nov 1, 1912

During this year we made the last payment of \$420 dollars on the parsonage and lifted the mortgage. The members of the church and people of the town deserve great credit for their liberality. They are not wealthy people so their giving in many instance meant a sacrifice.

Nov 1, 1913

Things are moving along quietly. We took steps looking towards the building of a new Bethel. On Jan. 29th by motion of Bro. A.S. Wolfe the church council voted to either rebuild or remodel. On Feb 26th by motion of Bro. Wolfe and seconded by Bro. C.E. Bair they decided to make preparation for building.

Oct 31, 1918

As the reader will notice five years have elapsed since the last entry. In 1914 the church razed the old Bethel that had served them for fifty seven years and built on the same site a modern stone structure at the cost of \$10,500. This was a deep plunge for so few people but in this [writing?] the debt has been reduced to \$4,900.

The Eldership met with us in Oct. 1915.

Bro. C.E. Bair, a member of the Eldership and for many years an Elder of the Church passed from this world into the great beyond a few weeks prior to the meeting of the Eldership. Rev. Geo. Sigler, [D.D.?] was chosen to preside over the session of the Eldership. He passed from this world into the great beyond during the sessions of the body. He spoke to the men's Bible class Sunday morning and made the opening prayer in the preaching service. While eating his midday meal at the home of Bro. [M.I?] Bare he was overcome with a stroke of paralysis He never regained consciousness until his life ended the following day. There were

present at the table Bro. [Rollin Small...?] and wife [Roaring Springer?] and Bro. Bare, wife, and daughter Charlotte. I have taken a little time and space to speak of them in detail for Bro. Sigler was serving the Eldership as speaker for the third time. He was closing his sixty third year in the active ministry.

March 2, 1917 Bro. E.R. Walton, who had served the church many years as Deacon and Treas. passed from this life. And Nov 14, 1917 Bro. [D.H.?] Good who had served several years as Elder passed from this life. Thus in the eight years of our pastorate we have conducted funeral services for three [affi...s?] who have ranked high in the esteem of the community as well as the church.

[different pen and handwriting] This closes the life of Brother W.S. Sturgen who so faithfully served the church for nine years. He has gone to his reward and his works do follow him. The church passed through many battles and difficulties and very trying times and Brother Sturgen was always true to his calling, and they by the Lord's help and his leadership have come off victorious with the church as a blessed gift to the town and community.

In the year 1920 when the Eldership met at Penbrook Pa. I was appointed to Goldsboro. I found the church in very good shape. There was a debt of over \$3000 on the Bethel. During my two years with them we were glad to know that every dollar of the debt was paid. In the year 1921 we buried Bro. William J. [Bauvick?] who had been a deacon in the church and a very able teacher in the Sunday school. We trust that we filled the plan and purpose of being sent to the church and we pray God's richest blessing upon the church and people.

-George W. Harper, Pastor Oct. 31 1922