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METHODISM AT GOLT'S STATION.

BY REV. C. K. MORRIS.

In this section of country, Methodist prayer meetings were first held in the house of Brother Joseph Merridith, who lived on a small farm situated in what was then called Maryland forest, in a much out of the way place, the only way of reaching it from the outside world being by rough winding wagon roads These meetings were commenced in 1843 or '44, under the leadership of Brother Nathaniel Meginnis, a licensed exhorter, who for many years lived on his farm near Massey's cross roads, once in a great while, Bro. Meginnis could find a Methodist preacher who was willing to go and preach to these neglected people who were thirsting for the water of life.

Revs. John Lednum and Joshua Humphries, were the pioneers of Methodism in that forest. Religious meetings were held at Bro. Merridith's house until his death, which occured in 1846. The meetings were then discontinued for a few years, until Bro. John D. Vansant, came in possession of the little forest farm, when the house was again opened for religious services. In the summer of 1851, a Sunday School was organized with William Morris as Superintendent, and Mrs. S. W. Boyer, and Mrs. W. A. Brice as assistants. Mrs. Dr. T. G. Wroth, Mrs. E. T. Wroth and Mrs. D. C. Blackison, of the Protestant Episcopal Church at Massey's, also took a very active part in the Sunday School work and rendered very efficient service as teachers. As the people in that section were uneducated and some distance from a public school, Mrs. E. T. Wroth made a proposition to the Sunday School that they would build a house for church and school purposes, free for all denominations; the proposition being favorable, (without consulting the preachers of Millington circuit, Revs. G. W. Lybrand and C. L. Steinman who occasionally preached for them,) arrangements were entered into for the erection of such a house, when Rev. C. L. Steinman objected to building a union church, thought it should be a one denomination church and as the Methodist's started the enterprise and had been preaching there for sometime it should be a Methodist Church, so there it ended.

Sunday School was continued during summer months at Bro. Vansant's for several years. In August 1861, two local preachers, Revs. Samuel Webb and James H. Rich procured a large canvas tent, pitched it in a beautiful grove at Bro. Vansant's gate where they held meetings for two weeks, several were converted and class was formed with Bro. Vansant as leader and superintendent of the Sunday School. At the conference of 1862, Delaney's Chapel, an appointment on Smyrna Circuit was set off as a Mission with Rev. Samuel Webb as pastor, Vansant's was one of the appoinments. In August 1864, Bro. Webb had a large board tent erected in the grove and calling Bro. Rich to his assistance they held meetings in it for two or three months with good results. Arrangements were then entered into the second time for a church and school building, with Rev. Samuel Webb, William Morris and John D. Vansant as building committee, a plan was drawn for the house and work commenced.

The timber necessary for the frame was kindly donated by those owning woodland near and those who had no money to give went into the woods hewed the frame and hauled it to the grove where the house was to be built. The logs for shingle laths were cut and hauled out of the swamps on fast land ready to go to the saw mill, the board was purchased and delivered on the ground. At the conference of 1865 Bro. Webb, having served three years on this charge was removed. His successor Rev. David A. Price, took no stock in church building, so the responsibility fell upon the other two, who determined after they were through with their corn planting to proceed with the building. Just at that time one of the committee William Morris, was removed by death. Bro. Vansant being left alone with no one to assist him, gave up the enterprise and there it ended a second time. Those who had given the frame hauled it home and made use of it, the board was sold for a trifle and proceeds applied to the M. E. Church at Sassafras.

In 1866 Bro. Vansant removed from his farm and the tenant refused to let the society worship there, so it went down. In 1868 C. K. Morris was appointed to Delaney's and Massey's, in the winter of 1869 he called the people together in the neighborhood of Vansant's to make the third attempt to build a house for church and school purposes. The woodland owners were again waited upon and gave us what timber we might need, the same hewers of wood soon had another frame ready for the carpenter, who immediately went to work and by spring had a building 16x20 ft. raised to the square. That was as far as we could go without money and of that we had none so we were compelled to rest there for awhile. In the summer of 1869 the pastor with his wife organized a Sunday School in the frame work using the sleepers for seats. We soon had some forty pupils in the school. The M. E. and M. P. Schools of Sassafras kindly furnishing us with books and papers. In 1870 we reorganized our school in the frame and on the 28th of August held a bush meeting in the grove. Rev. E. B. Newnam, pastor of Millington Circuit preached for us in the afternoon and at the close of the sermon he asked for a collection towards completing the building we had commenced, giving five dollars himself to start the ball in motion, $50 was raised in cash. The next day we went to Capt. Andrew Woodall's and expected that amount for inch boards which we used for weather boarding and which was sufficient to enclose the house and put in the window frames; we were still without roof or floor. In 1871 finding we could get no further with our enterprise we resolved to lay the matter before the County School Board and ask them to help us out of our difficulties; accordingly we met the board at their office in Chestertown, presented our communication, stated the facts in the case, told them what we had done, how far we had gone, had exhausted our means and could proceed no further, that the children were growing up in ignorance and that a school was really needed in that community. So they resolved to organize a school appointed C. K. Morris as teacher, with instructions if a room could be secured to commence at once, he opened a room in his house and on the 8th day of May 1871, a school was organized with twenty pupils. The board appointed a committee of three viz., C. J. Scott, J. P. Ireland and R. S. Griffith to lay out a school district, examine the unfinished building and make an estimate of what it would cost to finish it.

The boundaries of the district are as follows: Beginning at the cold well on the public road from Sassafras to Smyrna and running thence through the forest south with Mason and Dixon's line to the public road from Masseys to Smyrna, then west with the public road to the edge of the forest, then north with the forest to the place of beginning. In

(Continued On Sixth Page.)

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