



First Baptist Church
HILLSBOROUGH, NORTH CAROLINA
EST 1853

1800's Ministers

Aaron Jones, Jr.

Pastor FBC Hillsborough, 1854 -

Aaron Jones, Jr. was one of the presbytery elders who met in Hillsboro on November 19, 1853 to constitute the church. He was called as the first pastor of the church on February 26, 1854.¹ He served as pastor for only one year before moving to Mecklenburg County, VA to pastor the Clarksville Baptist Church between 1855 and 1856.²

In addition to the Hillsboro church, he also helped constitute the Lystra Baptist Church, an arm of Mt. Carmel, in November 1852.³ He was pastor of the Baptist Church in Edenton, NC prior to coming to Hillsboro. A reference in the history of the Colerain Baptist Church (organized in 1789 in Colerain, NC) indicates that ... "In 1849 a new sanctuary was built and dedicated on December 15th with Rev. Aaron Jones of Edenton preaching the Dedication Sermon."⁴ His wife, Margaret G. Jones, died on May 11, 1850 and is buried "under the church" in Edenton which is located in Chowan County, NC. Her tombstone indicates that she was born on January 24, 1811 in Guilford County, NC.⁵ She was 39 years old at the time of her death. The cause is unknown.

The last reference to Aaron Jones, Jr. in NC has him marrying a couple, John Glass and Margaret Powell, in Caswell County, NC on February 14, 1854.⁶

There is a reference to an Aaron Jones, Jr. in Mississippi in 1860. He and W. M. Farrer took charge of the *Mississippi Baptist* paper with J. T. Freeman as associate editor. In July 1860, it appears that Aaron Jones, Jr. became the sole editor to the paper. The paper went "extant" during the Civil War with the last copy dated December 11, 1862.⁷ From the September 20-22, 1862 minutes of the Simpson County Baptist Association, it is noted that ... "Under unfinished business, clerk made statement that an amount collected at the previous session of \$36.50 and sent to Elder Aaron Jones, Jr., Jackson, Miss., for the purpose of printing Testaments for the soldiers had not been accounted for, neither were the Testaments forthcoming. He was instructed to enquire after it, and make report at the next session."⁸

The final chapter of Aaron Jones' ministry is unknown to us at this time. There is no record of his birth or death that can be found by searching the Internet.

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Thomas J Lansdell
Pastor FBC Hillsborough, 1855 -

Thomas J. Lansdell was called to be pastor of the Hillsboro Baptist church on October 3, 1855 to serve one year in “A.D. 1856.” On December 2, 1855, he and his wife “H.H.” were received by letter as members of the church. On the following Thursday, he was ordained by the church “to the full work of the ministry.”¹ He delivered a sermon at the church on April 13, 1856, titled “The Christian race.”

According to a history of the Mississippi Baptist Association written in 1908:²

Lansdell was born on January, 8, 1830 in Northumberland County, Virginia. Although his formal education was limited to only two years, he began at an early age clerking in a store and taught himself to read and learn on his own. Being inquisitive, he acquired a good education and was well informed. At age twenty-two, he left his Methodist upbringing to unite with the Fairfield Baptist church organized in 1831. In 1854 he left Virginia and moved to Terrell located in Catawba County, NC. Here he taught school and was licensed to preach. In 1855 he accepted an appointment from the Board of the North Carolina Baptist Convention to preach at Tarboro, NC. While there he married Harriet Lawrence. She was a faithful companion, sharing his joys and sorrows - seven of their ten children preceded them in death. She was active in Sunday school and church work. After serving in Hillsboro, he returned to Virginia in 1856 to pastor churches at High Hills and Hebron, remaining there for three and a half years. He then moved to Louisiana to pastor churches in Cheneyville (13 years), Williamsport (1 year) and Clinton (3 years). In addition to the Clinton church, he also preached at the Jackson and Hepzibah churches from 1875 to 1878. Other churches in his charge were the Ebenezer church, Amite, Mississippi, where he served two terms as pastor for a total of seventeen years; New Providence church (16 years); Norwood, Woodland, Bethel, Union and Amite River.



THOMAS LANSELL AND WIFE.

In 1885 the death of his daughter's husband made it necessary for him to move to her home near Ebenezer church, where he spent the remainder of his life. It was there, on the 24th of February, 1909, after a long decline, he passed away at the age of seventy-nine years. His last audible prayer was: "May I soon be with the angels." Mr. Lansdell was modest and painstaking, and, withal, an excellent and useful preacher. He rests from his labors and his works follow him.

Lansdell and his wife are buried in the Ebenezer Baptist Church cemetery in Amite, Mississippi. His wife's tombstone notes that her maiden name was Harriet J. Lawrence, born in Tarboro, NC on February 19, 1830 and that she died on January 17, 1911 – two years after her husband.

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*Compiled by Reginald Carter, Historian, FBC Hillsborough
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Edward Moses Baldwin

Pastor FBC Hillsborough, 1857 -

The church's minutes record the calling of Moses Baldwin as follows: "The church proceeded to ballot for pastor. Elder Moses Baldwin was unanimously chosen pastor of this church for the year 1857. The clerk as requested to give him notice of the call and request him to accept."¹ A biographer of former pastors of Grassy Creek Baptist Church describes him in 1889 as a "minister of reconciliation" who at the time "was residing in Winton, Forsythe County, N.C., and was still actively engaged in the work of the ministry."²

According to the Grassy Creek biography, Baldwin was born in Richmond County, N.C. on December 4, 1825 - the third child and eldest son of Osborn and Mary Baldwin. He accepted Jesus and united with the church at Cedar Falls in 1845. The church's pastor, Elder William Lineberry, baptized him. On October 10, 1849, he was licensed by the church to the gospel ministry.^{2,3} In January 1850, he enrolled in Wake Forest College to study for the ministry. He graduated with distinction in June 1856. Immediately after his graduation, he was appointed Agent for the Baptist State Convention, in which capacity he labored until December when he was called to the pastorate of the church at Hillsboro. In 1856, he was ordained to the ministry by Elders Hooper, Wingate, McDowell, Brooks, Walters and Skinner. In 1858, he moved to Oxford to become the church's minister. On April 21, 1858, he married Addie L. Transou in Forsyth County, NC. She was born on September 08, 1834 in Bethania, Forsyth County, North Carolina and according to genealogic records they had three children: Frank Transou (b.1859), Sallie (b. 1861) and Nettie (b. 1871).^{4,5} The Grassy Creek Biography describes her as "a lady well qualified to aid him in the great work to which God had called him." In 1859, having resigned his care of the Oxford church, he moved into the country to take charge of a classical school but continued to pastor churches at Hester's Mt. Zion, Amis Chapel and Grassy Creek.²

In November 1861, he moved to Forsythe County to become the principal of the Academy in Bethania. In addition, he was the pastor of Union Hill church (1861-1866) in Davidson County and Enon in Yadkin County. He helped establish the Baptist church at Mocksville, the capital of Davie County. The church was formed in 1864 with ten charter members with Baldwin as their first pastor.⁶ He served there for five to six years. Others churches that he has pastured include: Mt Gilead, Bear Creek, Eaton's and Red Bank in Stokes County. Soon after end of the Civil War, he moved to East Bend, in Yadkin County to take charge of the Academy there. The school prospered and the region's interest in promoting good education benefited from his work. As an educator, Baldwin is remembered as a devoted teacher who taught "a large number free of charge, and invariably gave tuition gratuitously to all young ministers who would avail themselves of the offer." His students who went to college "usually stood high in their classes, and in the institutions which they attended" and "many of his former students, in addition to those who became intelligent farmers, have taken, and are taking a high stand in the ministry, in medicine, and in law."²

In 1880, Baldwin was "putting into successful operation the High School of the Yadkin Association of Boonville, Yadkin County, NC." He planned and promoted the High School and was put in charge of it by the brethren who supported the enterprise. Accordingly, the Grassy Creek biographer closes by stating that "Bro. Baldwin stands deservedly high as a good scholar, a good preacher, and a good educator of youth. May his useful life long be spared to labor for God and the welfare of mankind."² A census taken in 1880 indicates that the household consisted of "six in Village of Winston - Moses Baldwin 54, Adeline 45, Sallie 19, Nettie 9, Pricilla Dalton 25, black, servant and Walter Dalton, black, 5 (probably her son).⁷

No information could be found about where and when Baldwin died or his ministry after 1880. We do know that his wife died on November 9, 1897 and his son on June 24, 1928.^{4,5}

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*Compiled by Reginald Carter, Historian, FBC Hillsborough
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Dr. John Mitchell

Pastor FBC Hillsborough, 1857 - 1862

The church called John Mitchell as pastor in October 1857. He was received into full membership on September 30, 1858 and two months later was appointed as a delegate to the NC State Convention. In December 1858 he was re-elected as pastor and along with H.C. Stroud and John Cheek, was appointed to a building committee to erect a "Baptist Edifice" on the land purchased from W.G. Freeland on West King Street. The church left it up to the committee to decide if a basement should be added or not. Therefore, he was pastor when the corner stone of the new building was laid in 1860. He remained at Hillsborough until February 13, 1862 when his "letter of dismissal" was granted by the church.¹

A biography of Mitchell written in 1881 gives a brief glimpse of his stature as a Baptist minister and leader. He is described as follows:

"This gentleman, known as "the beloved disciple," was born in Bertie Co., NC, in 1829; professed faith in Christ at Wake Forest College in 1851; graduated in 1852; studied theology at Greenville, S C; was agent for the endowment of Wake Forest College in 1856-57; was pastor at Hillsborough and Greensborough; settled as pastor in Chowan Association after the war; took charge of the Asheville church in 1875; returned to Murfreesborough in 1879, where he now resides. Dr. Mitchell is a trustee of Wake Forest, and also of Chowan Female Institute, and was made a D.D. by his alma mater in 1876."²

Mitchell was the eldest child born to James S Mitchell and Mary Thomas on January 14, 1826. He had two brothers and one sister. His father was a devout Christian farmer, active in the Chowan Association, who was eulogized in the *Biblical Recorder* upon his death in October 1869. In the article, his son John Mitchell is described as being "known all over the state of NC and all a Christian minister can be."³ As an agent for Wake Forest College, Mitchell reported in 1857 that forty-five thousand dollars had been collected; leaving \$5,000 of the amount they set out to raise. The same year, he became pastor of the Hillsborough church. While pastor at Hillsborough, he preached in Greensboro as a "Missionary of the Board," and established a church with fifteen members in 1859. He served as the church's first pastor for two years. At the beginning of the Civil War, the Board was able to support only two missionaries. John Mitchell was one, for his work in Greensboro; the other was R. H. Griffith in Charlotte.⁴ He resigned his pastorates at Hillsborough and Greensboro to move back to the Chowan Association to become pastor of the Colerain Baptist Church. He served there from January 1862 to January 1867.⁵

While preacher at Murfreesboro, NC in 1870, Mitchell lived on campus at Chowan in Hope Cottage. Locals jokingly said that the cottage was called that because several of the spinsters at the college hoped to live there as his wife.⁶ In 1875, Mitchell left his home community in Bertie County for Asheville. In 1876, the mission board reported having issued commissions to nine missionaries, two of whom, Rev. John Mitchell, of Asheville, and Rev. Geo. W. Greene, of Alexander County, had declined to receive any salary.⁷

In 1885, the Baptist State Convention appointed a committee to explore building an orphanage. Although opposed by some at first, the idea grew and took shape and became an objective of the convention. The committee reported that 171 acres of land had been purchased near Thomasville and that one house, "the gift of Elder John Mitchell," had been completed; another house gifted by Mr. John Watson was soon to be finished and that a third house gifted by Mr. Noah Biggs would be built as soon as possible.⁴ Mitchell had been appointed president of the Baptist Orphanage Association the prior year. His residence at the time was listed as Powellsville, a small rural village in Bertie County. In addition to his gift, the Chowan Association gave \$1,250 in 1885 to help establish the orphanage, the first association to do so. On November 11, 1885 Mitchell, then pastor of Ahoskie Baptist Church (now First Baptist), escorted

nine-year-old Mary Presson of Hertford County 200-miles by train to her new home in Thomasville. John H. Mills, the orphanage's founder, greeted her at the home's first cottage, which came to be known as the Mitchell House.^{9,10} Mitchell not only provided the first cottage but also the first child to be admitted to the institution. November 11, 1885 is considered the beginning date for the Baptist Children Homes.

Mitchell served as Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Education of the NC Baptist State Convention in 1894.¹¹ There is no record of his ever being married. It appears he died on May 3, 1906 making him 76 years old at his death.⁶ It seems reasonable that he died and was buried in Bertie County with other family members, but this is not recorded on the Internet.

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Dr. John Lemuel Carroll
Pastor FBC Hillsborough, 1862 –

Brother J.L. Carroll was called as pastor on June 22, 1862. At the time, he was residing in Kenansville, Duplin County, NC. He was to preach one or two Sabbaths each month at his discretion. The following

year, he was reappointed pastor with a “salary of \$200 and board” for two Sundays each month. Hillsborough was to be his home “so as to be here to concert prayer meetings one night or evening in each week.”¹ He was enrolled as a student at the University of North Carolina while pastor of the church, graduating in 1863 with only seven other men because of the dwindling numbers of student enrolled during the Civil War.²

The following brief biography is from *The History of Virginia Baptist Ministers* published in 1913:

“About the middle of the eighteenth century John Carroll migrated from Kings County, Ireland. He settled in North Carolina and fought in the Revolutionary War. His great-grandson, John Lemuel Carroll, the son of John Dodson and Zilpha Carroll, was born in Duplin County, North Carolina, December 21, 1836. At the age of nine he became a member of the Beaver Dam Baptist Church, and in 1858 was licensed by this body. In 1863 he graduated at the University of North Carolina, having already been a student at Wake Forest College. Years later the University conferred on him the degree of D. D. He was ordained in the Chapel of the University, May 12, 1862. In 1865 he married Sarah G. Mitchell, of New Berne, N. C.

After teaching in the Oxford Female College and acting as agent for St. John's College, he lived at Wake Forest, where he was a trustee of Wake Forest and secretary of its Board, and in March, 1871, accepted a call to the Baptist Church, Warrenton, Virginia. His other Virginia pastorates were Lexington and Gordonsville and Orange Court-House. In 1885 he accepted a call to the Baptist Church at Asheville, North Carolina, and in 1889 organized in that city the French Broad Avenue Baptist Church, becoming its first pastor. In 1893 he became pastor at Chapel Hill, the seat of the State University, where he continued actively at work until his death, June 10, 1895.

Dr. Carroll had a magnificent body, being very tall. In Lexington he used a chair several inches higher than other chairs. He was vigorous in mind and had a remarkable memory for Scripture; his sermons were full of quotations from the Bible. He excelled in extemporaneous speaking. He was fearless and courageous in his ministry and greatly beloved and respected.”³

His marriage to Sarah G. Mitchell in 1865 produced three sons, John, Jr., Mitchell and Eugene.⁴ The University of North Carolina awarded him a Master of Arts degree in 1866 and later in 1886 bestowed upon him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.⁵ He is credited with reorganizing the Baptist church at Louisburg, constituted in 1836 under the ministry of Dr. Samuel Wait (first president of Wake Forest College, 1834 to 1845). At the time, Carroll was pastor at Maple Springs. He continued to serve as pastor at Louisburg until 1869-70.⁶ He is listed as living in Warrenton, VA in 1876.⁷ He traveled from Lexington, VA to New Berne, NC in 1881 to visit his mother-in-law, Mrs. Mitchell, “who is now aged & at the home of W. F. Roundtree.”⁸ He was back in North Carolina in 1884, preaching a sermon at the orphanage’s board meeting in Thomasville, NC.⁹ He died on June 10, 1895 making him 58 years old at the time. He is buried at the Riverside Cemetery in Asheville, NC. His wife Sarah is also buried there, dying on August 18, 1912. Her tombstone indicates she was born on Sep. 23, 1838 making her 78 years old at her death. Engraved on his tombstone are the words from Psalms 84:5: Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee, in whose heart are thy ways.¹⁰

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Norvell Winsboro Wilson
Pastor of FBC Hillsborough, 1866 -

On November 12, 1863 a committee was formed by the church to “correspond with ministering brethren for a pastor next year for two Sundays in each month.” However, it was not until December 1865 that a call was extended to Elder N.W. Wilson to preach the coming year for \$250. Wilson accepted the call and began “upon his duties on the 4th Sabbath” in January, 1866.¹ At the time, he was pastor of the Baptist Church in Chapel Hill. It appears that he served less than ten months as pastor at Hillsborough.

Why it took two years to secure a minister is understandable considering that the Civil War was coming to a dramatic end during this time. Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox on April 9, 1865 and Johnston surrendered to Sherman at Bennett’s place, just 10 miles from Hillsborough, on April 26, 1865.

The following is a shorten version of a biography written about Wilson in 1912:

Norvell Winsboro Wilson was born October 20, 1834 at Franklin, Pendleton County, WV (at the time still a part of VA). His parents, pious Methodists, named him after a well-know Methodist Bishop. He was converted at age fourteen during a camp meeting near his home and joined the Moravian church. After much soul searching, he decided to become a Baptist and was baptized, September, 1857, at Laurel Grove Church, Halifax County, Virginia. Writing about his baptism in the *Religious Herald*, a correspondent said, “I have met with few young men superior to him in intellect.” After working a year as a colporter, he was ordained at Bethany Church, Pittsylvania County, VA on August 11, 1858. His first pastorates were in Pittsylvania and Halifax Counties, VA. He also preached at the Ephesus Church, eight miles away, in Person County, NC. In 1861, he moved to Chapel Hill, NC to take charge of the Baptist Church. It was in the last year of this ministry in Chapel Hill that he also agreed to serve as pastor in Hillsborough.

His longest pastorate was at Chapel Hill and from all accounts he was admired and appreciated by the town’s academic community. In 1864, the University bestowed upon him an honorary Master of Arts degree for his excellence. He made the welcoming address when President Andrew Johnson and his cabinet came to the University’s commencement in 1865. Mrs. C. P. Spencer (author of an excellent school history of North Carolina) wrote in her denominational paper, the North Carolina *Presbyterian*, that “the Rev. Mr. Wilson, of the Baptist Church, at Chapel Hill, can make a better and more graceful

ten-minute speech than any minister I know. In fact, there is not a better or more effectual preacher anywhere — a man of spirit, sense, cultivation, and genius. I hope the Baptists are proud of him and know how to appreciate him. If they don't, then I do wish he was a Presbyterian." In a year of coming to Chapel Hill, he married Sallie F. Betts, of Black Walnut, Halifax County, VA. The ceremony was performed by Rev. William Slate on June 13, 1862.

In 1867, Wilson accepted a call to Farmville, Va., where he had, writes his wife, "two and a half years of sunshine and success. In 1870, he was called to pastor the Grace Street Church, Richmond, VA. In 1872, the honorary degree of D. D. was conferred upon him by Wake Forest College, NC. The Grace Street Church prospered during his five-year ministry. After leaving the Grace Street Church, he spent several more years preaching at meetings of churches in Virginia before moving his family to New Orleans, LA to become pastor of the Coliseum Place. In the summer and fall of 1878, yellow fever spread throughout the south, including New Orleans. A friend urged Wilson to move away from the city but he wrote: "my duty is to stay and minister to this afflicted people." First his seven children, then his wife, and finally he fell prostrate to the fever. Before becoming ill himself, he had written to a friend: "They are in God's hands, the subjects of many prayers, and I am hopeful. Of course I am worn, but well. The fourth chapter of Second Corinthians, eighth and ninth verses, describes our condition. 'We are troubled on every side, but not distressed. We are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.' I have escaped so far." All eventually recovered except Wilson who died on September 6, 1878. Upon hearing of his death, a learned professor of an eminent institution of learning, not Baptist, did not hesitate to pronounce him one of the best, if not *the* best, of the preachers whom he had heard.²

His marriage to Sarah (Sallie) Frances Betts produced seven children: Ernest, Knox, Wins, Lillie, Daisy, Kurtz and Littell.³ On April 4, 1872, Mrs. Wilson met with women from five churches to organize the Woman's Missionary Society of Richmond, serving as one of the vice-presidents of the organization.⁴ She was born in 1840 and died in 1928.⁵ The circumstance of her death and where she and her husband are buried could not be found with a search of the Internet.

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William R. Gwaltney
Pastor, FBC Hillsborough, 1867- 1872

Rev. W. R. Gwaltney presided at the November 13, 1867 church conference and was “earnestly requested to attend a pastor and deacons meeting” to be held at the Beulah Church. On March 25, 1868, he and his wife, “Sister A.E. Gwaltney” presented a letter of dismission from Cub Creek Church, Wilkes County, NC and were received as members of the church. Matters of church discipline were addressed frequently during this time with committees established to investigate “evil reports” against various members. The building committee continued to oversee completion of the building began in 1860. The church bell purchased to replace the one given to the Confederacy was sold for \$35 and the money was applied to purchase of a new one. Attempts to raise funds to purchase an organ failed. On November 3, 1870, “Brother Gwaltney tendered his resignation as pastor,” but on motion the resignation was rejected. On January 8, 1871 the church voted to call him pastor for the coming year, 1871, and to reject a proposal from Chapel Hill to share him as minister. The latter would have him move to Chapel Hill. Funds were raised for “making door to balcony.” Gwaltney moderated his last church meeting on January 4, 1872.¹

The following biography is excerpted from several sources:

William Robert Gwaltney was born near Taylorsville in Alexandria County, NC on September 9, 1835. He was the third child of Howell Gwaltney and Elsie Hendren. In all there were eleven siblings. He was licensed to preach by Pilgrim Church in 1860. He entered Wake Forest College in 1860 but left college in 1862 at the beginning of the Civil War. In 1863, he was ordained a Baptist minister by the church in Taylorsville and joined the Confederate Army. There he served as colporteur and chaplain with the 1st North Carolina Infantry Regiment in Virginia, rendering “valuable service in this important position” until General Lee surrendered at Appomattox. He reentered Wake Forest as soon as it reopened and graduated with a BA in 1868.

Gwaltney married Amelia Ellen Staley in Wilkesboro, NC on January 30, 1866. They had nine children. For the next forty years, he ministered and built churches throughout North Carolina. He served full time at churches in Taylorsville, Hillsboro, Chapel Hill, Mocksville, Winston-Salem, Raleigh, Greensboro, Wake Forest and Hickory. At Hillsboro, Mocksville, Winston-Salem, Raleigh, and Greensboro, he led in erecting new houses of worship or greatly improving the old ones. Wake Forest conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1895. His last pastorate was at Hickory. He died there on December 15, 1907.

One of his biographers describe him as a Christian gentleman of exalted character, an able preacher of the gospel, a good pastor, wise in counsel, and a leader in the various departments of denominational work. He was a Trustee of Wake Forest College, Meredith College, Thomasville Baptist Orphanage, and was a member of the various boards of the NC Baptist State Convention.^{2,3,4}

Gwaltney served as pastor of the Wake Forest Baptist Church from July, 1890 to June 1898. Charles Elisha Taylor was president of the College at this time. Gwaltney made it clear in his first sermon at Wake Forest that he was not there “to preach literature or science or politics or philosophy, but to preach Jesus Christ as Savior and teacher and comforter.” He was true to this purpose during his eight years ministry at the church. Students appreciated his warm and sincere interest in their spiritual welfare as he often visited them in their rooms.⁵

Gwaltney was seventy-two when he died in 1907. His wife, Amelia Ellen Staley, continued to live in Hickory, NC after his death. She died there on December 19, 1932. She was born on September 8, 1846 making her eighty-six years old at the time of her death. Both she and her husband are buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Hickory.

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*Compiled by Reginald Carter, Historian, FBC Hillsborough
Last Updated: March 3, 2011*

F H Jones

Pastor FBC Hillsborough, 1872 - 1873

The church met on April 27, 1872 to discuss procuring the services of “Bro. F.H. Jones” who had agreed to “supply the pulpit ... the 2nd Sabbath night in each month.” A subscription was taken and only \$29 was subscribed “being only a few members present.” Nonetheless, the church agreed to call Jones for an indefinite period. Interestingly, on October 18, 1872 the church voted to invite and pay the way for Rev. C.A. Woodson of Virginia to visit Hillsboro to explore “securing his services as pastor.” Apparently, this visit did not occur and F.H. Jones remained as pastor. In July 1873, the church learned that “Brother John M. Blackwood & wife had taken their child to the Episcopal Church and had it sprinkled according to the usage of that church.” Hearings were held and a presbytery, chaired by G.W. Purefor of Chapel Hill, was called to render judgment which is in the church minutes. The Blackwood’s considered the act a dedication service and not a baptism. Mrs. Blackwood’s letter of explanation and apology is in the church minutes.¹ Nothing is mentioned about Jones after this October event.

A search of the Internet provides little biographical information for F.H. Jones. He was pastor of First Baptist Church, Greensboro from 1867 to 1870.² At the meeting of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention in 1877, he was appointed to a committee to investigate, “If the office of an Evangelist scripturally exists? and there is a demand for such work in our State?”³ At the time, he was pastor of the Baptist church in Yanceyville, NC and according to a wedding announcement, was still there in 1885.⁴ Two additional churches list him as a former pastor. They are the Calvary Baptist Church, Reidsville, NC (1901) and the Boonville Baptist Church, Boonville, NC (1900-1903).^{5,6}

While attending North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, Azariah Graves Thompson writes a letter home on December 10, 1905 saying, “I have just come in from church. I took supper at Mr. Lowery's on 220 Martin St., with cousin Tom. He was awfully nice to me, introduced me to lots of folks. I met Old Bro. F. H. Jones. I reckon that is his name. He told me to give you his love. Then I met Maj. W. A. Graham, and lots of folks that used to know you or Papa or Grand Papa or some of our folks.”⁷ Jones may

or may not have been all that “Old” – since the author was a young man and anyone over 50 would be considered old by his standards.

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*Compiled by Reginald Carter, Historian, FBC Hillsborough
Last Updated: March 11, 2011*

Dr. William Bernard Harrell Pastor FBC Hillsborough, 1875 – 1877

On January 18, 1875 the church met and put forth “Bro. W. B. Harrell ... for pastor for the present year.” He was unanimously elected to preach “for us two Sabbaths in each month, viz, the second and fourth Sabbaths.” As moderator, he conducted a church meeting in May 1875 when a committee, appointed to determine why Sister Agnes Turner was habitually absent from church meetings, reported that she was “antimissionary in her feelings and asked that her name be stricken from the roll of membership.” On December 11, 1875, the church unanimously voted to have Harrell continue as pastor “upon the same terms as the year closed.” On March 11, 1876, Harrell and his wife moved their membership from Rose of Sharon Church, Durham to Hillsborough. On November 10, 1876 the church voted once again to retain Harrell as pastor. On Sunday, February 25, 1877, the church gathered at 2 pm at the river bank to witness Harrell baptize his daughter Annie. On December 21, 1877, Harrell asked for a letter of dismissal for himself, wife and daughter.

The following is extracted from several brief biographies:

William Bernard Harrell was born December 17, 1823, in Suffolk, VA. He was the third child of James and Martha McGuire Harrell. After graduating from Randolph-Macon College in 1844, he moved to Winton, Hertford County, NC to help his father with the family store. He had no intention of leaving the store, when his older brother, James Albert, wrote and invited him in 1846 to come to Perquimans County, NC to begin a career in medicine. After studying and apprenticing with his physician brother, Harrell attended the University of Maryland receiving his MD degree in 1849. On the advice of his brother, he set up practice in Center Hill, Chowan County, NC. It was here that he met, courted and on March 13, 1851 married Ann Judson Battle, daughter of Amos Johnston Battle, a former pastor of the First Baptist Church at Raleigh and one of the founders of Wake Forest College.

On the same day Harrell was baptized and became a Baptist; perhaps out of respect for his new father-in-law. Ann Judson Battle was born on March 08, 1834 in Nashville, TN, educated at the Chowan Baptist Female College, Murfreesboro, NC and a portrait painter and musician. Their marriage produced eleven children.^{2,3}

Harrell served as a Confederate surgeon during the Civil War. At a railroad station in Wilson, NC, in 1861, he heard a soldier praise the State on his way north to the battlefields. Harrell wrote and his wife put to music a song, *Ho, for Carolina*, that came close to becoming the official state song, sung often by North Carolinians during the War.⁴ The song begins:

*Ho! For Carolina! That's the land for me;
In her happy borders road the brave and free;
And her bright-eyed daughters, none can fairer be;
Ho! It is a land of love and sweet liberty!*

He spent most of his tour of duty at a Confederate hospital in VA.

The War changed the direction of his life. Soon after returning home, he became active in home missions. His activities as a layman resulted in a revival at Snow Hill, N. C, out of which grew a Baptist church which desired him as pastor. Before he knew it, he was in the active work of the ministry.³ According to the Branson's North Carolina Business Directory for 1866-1867 which included the names of churches and their pastors; Harrell was living in Big Lick, NC and had pastorates at three churches in Stanly County: Harmond's Grove, Mount Olive and Peasant Grove Baptist Churches.⁵ While preaching at Hillsboro, Harrell was employed by the Mount Zion Association as a part-time missionary to establish churches in Alamance County. In 1877, he was "laboring at Graham, Company Shops, Haw River Depot, and Swepson's Factory - missionary stations, two Sabbaths per month. He scarcely received enough money to pay his railroad fare to and from them."⁶

After an active ministry of forty years or more, he died in Dunn, N. C, November 25, 1906, three days after the death of his wife on November 22, 1906. They had been married fifty-five years. She was 72 and he was 83 years old at the time of their deaths. They are buried side-by-side in the Greenwood Cemetery in Dunn, NC. His tombstone reads: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord" taken from Revelation 14:13. A biographer noted that "Both of them were gifted musicians. In a number of cases the husband would compose the hymn or song and the wife the melody, and then they would sing it together."^{2,3,7}

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William Lineberry Wright
Pastor FBC Hillsborough, 1880 - 1885

On May 1, 1879 the church extended a call “to Bro. Wright of Wake Forest to take charge of this church as its pastor and the clerk to correspond with Bro. Wright on this subject.” Although Wright moderated a church conference on August 24, 1879, it was not until February 1880 that a “call for the pastoral services of Rev. W L Wright was adopted and the church clerk ordered to write him immediately and place the letter in the hands of Bro. C. Durham to be forwarded by him in connection with a similar letter call from the Graham Church.” It was also noted that Wright “entered upon his labors as pastor of the church the 4th Sabbath in May 1880.” He presented a letter from Wake Forest Church and was received into membership on June 27, 1880. A committee was established on November 23, 1882 “to raise funds to build a parsonage” and on February 19, 1885 the minutes indicate that lumber was resold and the funds were given to Wright for work done on the parsonage. In addition to the parsonage, the windows were repaired, hymnals were purchased and work on the (outdoors) Baptistry was completed. Wright offered his resignation as pastor on September 24, 1885 to “take effect after services on the 2nd Sunday in October. After remarks by the brethren expressing regrets to part with him, his resignation was accepted.”¹

William Lineberry Wright was born Aug. 31, 1849. He graduated from Wake Forest College with a BA degree in 1879.² He also attended Louisville Theological Seminary. He married Fredonia (Freddie) Pleasant who was born on July 11, 1856 in Roxboro, Person County, NC.³ The date of their marriage could not be found on the Internet. While pastor of the Hillsboro church, Wright was also pastor of Rose of Sharon in Durham and a home missionary to a newly organized church in Swepsonville. According to Proceedings of the NC Baptist State Convention, Wright was pastor of the Reidsville Baptist Church from 1885 to 1890. While there, he was instrumental in guiding Dr. Leonard G. Broughton, a physician, into the ministry. Broughton became a famous international preacher, spending two years in London prior to the First World War.⁴

In 1890, Wright returned to the area to serve as pastor at Cane Creek, Mars Hill and Mt. Hermon Baptist Churches.⁵ In 1895, he was listed as pastor of the Leigh Street Baptist Church in Richmond, VA.⁶ In 1896, he was invited to conduct a revival at Wake Forest and was noted as “a preacher of much eloquence and power.”²

Wright was only 41 years old when he died on September 28, 1900. He died in Troy, NC but his funeral was held in Reidsville, NC the next day. He was eulogized as “one of the best men to live in our midst... he endeared himself to all ... and was one of the most popular pastors the city has had.”⁷ His wife, Fredonia, died on Mar. 2, 1938 making her 82 years old at her death.³ They are both buried in the Greenview Cemetery in Reidsville, NC.

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Compiled by Reginald Carter, Historian, FBC Hillsborough
Last Updated: March 28, 2011

Christopher Columbus Newton Pastor FBC Hillsborough, 1886 –

On December 19, 1886 the church met and “On motion Bro. C C Newton was called to serve the church as pastor and we pledge him \$180.00 for year for once a month preaching.” A committee was appointed in February 1887 to have the parsonage painted and repaired. However, there is no further mention of Newton after his moderating the September 22, 1888 church conference.¹

Christopher Columbus Newton was born March 13, 1844 and grew up in New Hanover County, NC. Newton was preparing to enter Wake Forest College when the Civil War started in 1861. He joined the 61st North Carolina Infantry Regiment, Company A, organized at Wilmington, NC in August 1862. He rose to the rank of corporal and served four years until wounded in the left arm.^{2,3} After the War, he married Cornelia Herring and together they had three children; Alberta Madara Rosa, Herbert Deberier and William Cary Newton.⁴

He attended Wake Forest College; his last year there being 1870.⁵ He spent seven years, 1877 to 1884, as pastor of the Wells Chapel Baptist Church, Wallace, NC.⁶ Then he attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 1884 to 1886.⁷ In addition to being a student, Newton also served as assistant librarian at the University. During 1885, he helped the librarian, George T. Winston, reorganize and rearrange the library. He was called to the Hillsboro Baptist Church in 1886. In 1887, Newton, his wife, daughter and son (Herbert) were listed as residing on Cleveland Street in Durham, NC. At the time, he was serving as a home missionary for the Mount Zion Association and pastor of the West End Baptist Church which was undergoing construction on Chapel Hill Street.⁹

Newton continued his home missionary work in east and west Durham, NC until he was called to the foreign mission field in 1889. He, his wife and daughter, Alberta, left for Lagos, Nigeria, Africa in June 1889, arriving there in July.¹⁰ Not long after arriving, Newton spent time trying to reconcile differences

between the Ebenezer Baptist Church and the First Baptist Church in Lagos. The Ebenezer congregation had followed their native pastor, Moses Ladejo Stone, to form a new church when Stone and Rev. W. J. David, the American Foreign Missionary, had a difference of opinion over salary and furtherance of education. Through Newton's efforts, and after the departure of David, Stone rejoined the First Baptist Church, but it was years later that reunification was achieved.¹¹ While in Africa, Newton and his family took several months off to visit Liverpool, England in 1892 and returned to the States for a brief furlough in 1893; returning to Africa in December. Mrs. Newton became seriously ill with fever and died on July 9, 1894 and was buried in the Lagos cemetery. Newton became ill with the same fever and doctors decided to transfer him to a cooler climate. However, he died aboard ship and was buried 300 miles at sea on July 26, 1894.¹²

Their daughter remained on the mission field briefly and then returned home to be married. Newton's son, Cary Newton, became a missionary to China.⁶

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George W. Harmon
Pastor FBC Hillsborough, 1889 - 1890

Although the church minutes do not record his calling, the conference held on January 22, 1889 was “called to order by Pastor G. W. Harmon.” During the time that he served as pastor, the minutes indicate a number of repairs to the parsonage, baptistery and pulpit were done. Bro. Jones was appointed to sell the fence surrounding the property and there is an interesting motion made on April 25, 1889 “to sell grass on church yard.” On December 26, 1889, the church voted to “have Bro. Harmon preach for us during next year, once per month, the call was made and Bro. Harmon accepted.” Harmon presented his resignation as pastor on August 1, 1890 and it was accepted. For some reason, the church did not formally call another pastor for six years; until 1896.¹

The following profile is compiled from a brief biography written in 1923 and cemetery and genealogical records:^{2,3,4}

George W. Harmon was born in Surry County, NC on March 29, 1817. He was educated at Wake Forest College and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, when the latter institution was at Greenville, South Carolina. He married Margaret Angelina Logan who was born on June 1, 1851. She was the daughter of Judge George Washington Logan (1815 –1889), a prominent North Carolina politician from Rutherford County who served in the Confederate States Congress and the North Carolina Legislature and later as a State court judge.⁵ Margaret Angelina was 29 and Harmon 63 years old when they married in 1880. They had three children, all girls: Nannie Logan, Lula Wilson and Georgia Garnett Harmon.

One of his first pastorates was the church at Wadesboro, Anson County, NC. The church had become almost extinct, but, under his leadership it took on new life and began a course of progress. Harmon stated in 1875 that he was grateful for what had been accomplished in Wadesboro. Membership had increased from 19 to 50 and he felt encouraged and was “willing to hold on another 3 year.”⁶ While in Wadesboro he edited a religious newspaper, which had a large circulation. Rev. B. G. Covington was associated with him as editor and publisher. In 1876, he was still “laboring” as a home missionary in Wadesboro and Polkton, two thriving towns on the Carolina Central Railroad route. The Wadesboro membership had grown to 90 and they no longer needed support from the State Mission Board.⁷

His next pastorate was in Cheraw, Chesterfield County, SC, where he did a constructive work, and left the church in a prosperous condition. He is listed as an ordained minister residing in Cheraw in 1884.

After returning to North Carolina he held several pastorates including the Baptist churches in Hillsboro (1889-1890), Monroe (1891-1892) and Sandy Creek (missionary work 1894). His last work was in the Tar River Association, where he was pastor of Weldon, Gardners and Sharon churches. This pastorate commenced the first of January, 1894, and closed with his death, which occurred on January 20, 1895. He lived in Weldon, where his wife died on April 27, 1894, and not long after he, himself, passed away at age 78. They were buried in the Rutherfordton City Cemetery, Rutherford County, NC where his wife’s family lived.

Harmon’s eulogist noted that “he was an earnest, godly man, a strong preacher and a loyal Baptist. He was a cultured Christian gentleman, and a preacher of decided ability. He had occupied various important places in this State and in South Carolina.”²

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Dr. Needham Bryan Cobb
Pastor FBC Hillsborough, 1896 – 1899

On April 26, 1896, “Rev. N B Cobb was called to be pastor of this church and preached first time for us Thursday April 26, 1896.” He remained in Hillsborough until May 1899.¹

The following profile is extracted from several biographies.^{2,3}

Needham Bryan Cobb was born in Jones County, North Carolina, February 1, 1836. His parents were William Donnell Cobb and Anne Spicer Collier. He came from an aristocratic family who provided him a solid preparatory education. He was eighteen years old when he received his BA degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1854. He continued his studies there in law and received a Master's degree in 1856; the first advance degree of this type granted by the University. He taught a couple of years and then read law with Chief Justice Richmond Mumford Pearson (1805-1878) in Yadkin County. He was admitted to the bar, practiced first in Goldsboro and then moved to Greenville, Pitt County, NC to partner with General G.E.B. Singletary.



N B Cobb, 1872

He had a conversion experience at a Methodist meeting that led him to closely investigate the Bible and to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit for his life. He eventually left the Episcopal Church to become a Baptist. He was baptized in Greenville by Rev. Henry Petty on October 30, 1859 and at 23 years of age was licensed to preach. Two months later he married Martha Louisa Cobb of Pitt County on December the 27th, 1859. She was also a Baptist and became an inspiration to him during their years together. She bore him twelve children. Their earthly bond was broken when she died on March 28, 1888. About two years later, on September 3, 1891, he married Ann DeLisle (Ellen) Fennell of Sampson County. She was a devoted wife and the mother of three more of his children for a total of fifteen in all.

As a missionary for the Pamlico Baptist Association, he traveled across eastern North Carolina preaching and starting churches. On May 6, 1860, he met with Baptist in Wilson, NC to organize a church which in turn ordained him that evening. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he became Chaplain of the 14th North Carolina Regiment that was organized in June 1861 at Garysburg, NC. Cobb served as Chaplain in Lee's Army and was in charge of colportage work among Carolina Troops. He was acting chaplain of the Second Regiment at Gettysburg and throughout the Pennsylvania Campaign. From 1863 he was also General Superintendent of army colportage. In this position, Cobb attended the Tar River Baptist Association meeting in August 1863, preached a sermon and drew such a picture of the needs of the soldiers that the people wept freely, and contributed liberally to the Army Colportage fund.

After the close of the war Cobb and Dr. Hufham edited the Daily Record of Raleigh for six months, and then he became Corresponding Secretary of the Sunday School Board. He served as president of the NC Baptist State Convention for three years (1879-1881) and as one of its recording secretaries for nine sessions. He was editor of the NC Baptist Almanac (1865-1893), became a life-time member of the NC Baptist Historical Society (1893), and was appointed as the State Convention's Statistician (1895-1896). As an editor, newspaper correspondent and historian, he rendered eminent service, but his best work was as preacher and pastor. For four years he was pastor and secretary of the Board of Missions of the North Carolina State Convention. He worked tirelessly in mission fields and in destitute regions of the State. Judson College, Marion, Alabama conferred on him the honorary degree of D. D. in 1889.

Over time, he served as pastor in Goldsboro, Elizabeth City, Second Church, Portsmouth, VA and upon returning to North Carolina he served as pastor in Shelby, Lincolnton, Lilesville, Rockingham, Fayetteville, Chapel Hill, Waynesville, Morganton, Hickory, Hillsboro, and later Gardners and Sharon in the Tar River Association. In addition to his pastoral work, he taught and was president of Wayne Institute and Normal College; professor of Latin and Greek in Goldsboro Female College, and was also principal of Lilesville High School.

Cobb died on May 31, 1905. Dr. Hufham said of him, "No minister in North Carolina has served better the Baptist churches and the people of this State in his day and generation than Needham Cobb, and no man was ever less of a self-seeker. Coming to our denomination from a home of culture, and with the best intellectual equipment that our State or the South afforded in that day, he was peculiarly fitted for the organization of the Baptist churches in our towns, just when the wealth and intelligence of the country was moving into the county seat, and the Lord sent us Needham Cobb for this purpose."

Cobb and his wife, Martha Louisa and three of their children are buried at the Cedar Creek Meeting House Cemetery in Lilesville, Anson County, NC. The inscription on his tombstone reads, "Devoted minister of the gospel, teacher of youth, warm and faithful friend, and to every duty of life, responsive and true." His wife's tombstone is inscribed, "Prov. XXXI: 10-31 describes her character." Verse ten begins, "A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies."

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*Compiled by Reginald Carter, Historian, FBC Hillsborough
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Wade Dobbins Bostick
Pastor FBC Hillsborough, 1899-

Wade D. Bostic(k) was called to pastor the church on September 17, 1899 and moderated the church conference the following week on September 23, 1899. Evangelist J.T. Edmonson preached at the church on June 7, 1900 and Bro. R.P. Walker of the Bethel Baptist Church was ordained at the church on December 28, 1900.¹ J.T. Edmonson is listed as the Evangelist for Kentucky in a newspaper article written in 1902.² Why Bro. Walker was ordained at the Hillsboro church is not known. He is listed as a new pastor serving the North Henderson Church in the Tar River Association in 1902.³ On the fourth Sunday in March 1901, Bro. Frank Royal, a retired missionary from China, preached. The exact date of Bostick's resignation as pastor is not known but it had to have been prior to December 1901 when Charles Maddry was called as pastor.



Wade Dobbins Bostick was born in Rutherford County, NC on Jan. 22, 1874 to Samuel Evans and Jane Price Suttle Bostick. There were 16 children; three became missionaries to China; Wade, his older brother George Pleasant (G.P.) and their younger sister Attie Texas. G.P. served in China from 1889-1926. His first wife Bertha Belle Bryan served with him from 1889-1890 until she died there of small pox. He remarried a missionary widow, Mary Jane Thornton, and they served together from 1890-1903 when she died there of pneumonia. His third wife, Lena Gertrude Stover, served with him in China from 1907-1926. Wade served in China from 1894-1931 before and after his marriage to Flora Holloway in 1901. Attie served in China from 1900 to 1943.⁴ She arrived during the Boxer Rebellion and had to cope with many hardships ending with her captured by the Japanese in 1941 and internment for two years.⁵ Together with their spouses, it is said that the Bostick family served a total of 170 years in China.

Apparently, Bostick had returned from China to attend Wake Forest College when he met Flora Holloway, a student at nearby Meredith College in Raleigh, NC. She is listed as graduating from there in 1903. She was born in Raleigh on July 7, 1878. She married Bostick on October 23, 1901 about the time that he resigned as pastor of the Hillsboro Church.⁶ By 1905, they are listed as missionaries to China. She gave birth to two children, Wade H. (bd. August 11 1907) and Oreon H. (bd. February 23, 1911) while living in Pochow, Anhwei Province, China.⁷ A 1919 report notes that "Mr. Wade Bostick, of the Southern Baptist Mission, Pochow, Anhwei, is developing in connection with his school, particularly along the lines of garden crops and cattle."⁸ In a 1924 magazine article describing her tours of the mission field in China, Kathleen Mallory writes:

YIU HING YIEN KIANG
December 8-11.

But before sundown we reached Pochow where Mr. and Mrs. Wade Bostick hospitably opened their home to us. They live on the boy's school compound, its very well equipped dormitories, and administration building being nearly completed. Near the school

is its dairy and not very far off is its farm. These two industries help many boys to work their way through school, while they learn useful trades. As a means of increasing the stock, Mr. Bostick is trying, to sell rugs in America. These rugs are made of dog skins and are really beautiful. When five or more are sent to one address in America the rugs can be sold for about \$7 or \$10 each, thus netting about \$5 a piece for the school. Certainly I do hope that many who read these travel talks will write for five or more such rugs and sell them in their community. Once you see them you will realize how nice they are and will rejoice in this easy way of helping the boys to help themselves. Write to Mr. Wade Bostick, Pochow, Anwhel, China.⁹

So it appears that agricultural development and teaching husbandry skills were important work for Bostick. He and Flora left China in 1931. Flora died on April 17, 1934 in North Carolina. Bostick is listed as having a second wife, Estelle Perry Gough. They were married in Wake Forest on March 3, 1936.⁶ There is little information on the Internet about his life after returning from China. He died on September 24, 1944 at age 66. He is buried in the Sunset Cemetery in Shelby, Cleveland County, NC.¹⁰

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Note: The photograph of Wade Dobbins Bostick was extracted and retouched from an article in the *Bible Recorder* published on Wednesday, December 08, 1915. Pg.1. The article was accessed on March 31, 2012 at:
<http://recorder.zsr.wfu.edu/Default/Skins/WakeforestA/Client.asp?skin=WakeforestA&AW=1333247219577&AppName=2>

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