
BAPTIST MINISTERIAL DIRECTORY, p. 548

Geo. W. Lasher, Ed.
Bethel, N. C.
April 15, 1892.

Dear Bro. Cullom,

I will try to give you my experience in getting an education. I was born the 11th of August 1858. At the time of my birth my father was in good circumstances, not rich, but had a plenty of the necessaries of life. The horrors of the late war fell heavily upon us, after Gen. Lee's surrender, both the Southern and Northern armies came through our section and to our home like hungry wolves. What they could not eat up they carried away. We were left in very great distress, but kind friends came to our rescue, and we escaped the trying ordeal of starvation. The demoralizing effects of the war upon our section of country was very great. Schools and churches were almost forgotten. Even when the noble instincts of our best people began to assert themselves they were too poor to keep a school going more than two or three months during the year. My father generally sent me to these schools. The rest of the time I worked on the farm.

In 1878, in a meeting conducted by Rev. A. D. Blackwood at Samaria Baptist Church, I made a profession of faith during the meeting and joined the church. (That was the first meeting after the church was built.) Almost immediately after joining the church I felt like the Lord had something for me to do. I soon began to take part in religious services, whenever I had an opportunity. The thought of preaching the Gospel soon impressed itself irresistibly upon my mind. I felt "woe is me if I preach not the Gospel", but the thought would come to me, how can I preach when I am so ignorant? I did not see how I could go to school. My oldest brother who had taken an active part in helping support the family, was taken sick and died. Soon after the death of my brother, my father was taken sick, and after a protracted illness of two years he died. My youngest brother was an invalid all his life. My brother Thomas, who was then young and without experience was the only help to support our mother, sister and afflicted brother. I spent several years before going off to school.
frequently in tears, and at time almost in despair. I finally succeeded in
arranging affairs at home so as to spend the most of the day in school at
Raleigh, spending a few hours each day seeing after the farm. This I did
one year, and then went to Wake Forest. When I first went to Wake Forest I
went home once a month to give my brother instructions about carrying on the
business there. I spent my vacations working on the farm and in meetings.
I did not complete my college course as I wanted to do. My eyes became very
weak by excessive study. I came very near losing my eyes, and on that account
I was compelled to drop Latin and Greek before I completed them. The follow­
ing is copied from a catalogue of Wake Forest: Graduates in English, F. L.
Merritt, W. S. Olin, __ J. R. Pace, H. S. Pickett, S. D. Swaim and others. It
was a great cross to me to give up completing my education, but I was compelled
to do it or lose my eyes. I left W. F. in debt, but I have succeeded in paying
off a part of it, and the other part I hope to meet in the near future. I was
aided by the Education Board while at college. At first I used all that was
allowed me by the Board, and towards the last only a part. Starting to school
without money and having to help support an afflicted family is no easy road
to travel. I have seen many a day without a cent of money during my school
days.

Notwithstanding all my up and downs, I have been greatly blessed. The
Lord has given me many souls as a reward of my labors. Dear brother, you are
at perfect liberty to use anything I have written to help any poor boy.

Dear Brother, I expect to have to leave this section in a few months,
as my salary is not sufficient to support us. This is a destitute section.
Pitt county has a population of nearly 26000 souls, and there are less than
300 missionary Baptists in the county. I would not think of leaving this
destitute section if I were able to support my wife and myself. The State
Mission Board is doing almost nothing for this section, and they don't even
pay what they promise. They say they will pay us when they get the money. We missionaries can't live on promises. I have been thinking of locating in Franklin or Granville County. If you can assist me in getting a field of labor in those counties or elsewhere I will be very thankful to you for your assistance.

I trust the Lord will abundantly bless you in your labor for him.

Yours truly.

J. R. Pace
Brother Pace was born near Raleigh, in Wake County, North Carolina, August 11th, 1858. He joined the church in his twentieth year, and at once went to work in Sunday Schools and prayer meetings. He soon felt called to preach and also felt called to prepare himself for the gospel ministry.

He attended the common schools near his home and went to Fray and Morrison High Schools in Raleigh. From 1884 through 1888, he studied at Wake Forest College. While in college he preached to nearby churches and continued to serve these churches for two years after leaving college.

The Executive Committee of the Tar River Association employed him to hold meetings near Scotland Neck, and then induced him to become missionary pastor at Bethel in Pitt County, where he remained two years. While at Bethel he held meetings in Edgecombe County, near Whitakers, which resulted in the organization of Gethsemane and Ebenezer churches. He then moved to Whitakers to work in Edgecombe and Nash Counties and spent five years on this field. He labored in the Tar River Association and his work was greatly blessed.

The state of his health required him to seek a higher climate. He moved to Oxford, and, his health improving, he spent thirteen years in Granville County, in pastoral and evangelistic work. Large numbers were brought to Christ during these years, and many joined the churches.

He then moved to Charlotte, and was pastor of Chadwick Church for two years. His labors were greatly blessed in this field. He then served Long Island and two other churches for one year with gracious results.

At present (1921) he is living at Ridgecrest, and his services in that section have not been in vain.

from A History of the Tar River Baptist Association 1830-1921 by Thomas J. Taylor, pp. 298-299.
October 13th, 1886, Rev. J. R. Pace was ordained pastor of Oak Grove Church at Rolesville, Presbytery, Elders W. Royall, W. B. Royall, M. L. Rickman. Sermon by W. Royall, charge by W. B. Royall, prayer by N. P. Stalling.

CENTRAL BAPT. ASSOC. MINUTES, 1887, p. 5
We noticed by our exchanges last week that our good friend, Rev. J. R. Pace, of Ridgecrest, had finished his work on earth, and had been called to the home on high. Brother Pace spent most of his ministerial life within the bounds of the Flat River Association, making his home in Oxford. It was there the writer first learned to know him. He was an earnest, courageous, energetic pastor who loved his Lord and his brethren. He was loyal to the Truth and an ardent supporter of all our denominational enterprises. On account of ill health he retired from the pastorate some years ago and made his home in Ridgecrest. He leaves a devoted wife who was a sharer of his joys and sorrows through many years, and who sympathized with him in his work for the Lord. She was a real helpmeet. To this faithful servant of God the heart goes out in tender sympathy. Brother Pace was buried in the cemetery at Durham, funeral being conducted by Dr. W. R. Cullom of Wake Forest, and Rev. George T. Watkins, pastor of Grace Church, Durham. Both these brethren were lifelong friends of Brother Pace.

BIBLICAL RECORDER, July 29, 1925, p. 2.
A GROUP OF MINISTERIAL STUDENTS IN WAKE FOREST
COLLEGE, 1886-1892

When I was finishing my work as a student at Wake Forest in 1892 it occurred to me that I should like to have some little account of the lives of the young ministers who had been associated with me during my college course. Accordingly, I wrote a letter to each one of these young ministers requesting that he give me such an account of himself. Most of them responded and their letters were copied in this book. The book is now turned over to our Wake Forest College Library as a contribution toward our Baptist collection.

Wake Forest, N.C.
March 21, 1931

FROM THE WILLIS RICHARD CULLOM PAPERS
PGMS 26 BOX 19 FOLDER 1604
Dear Mrs. Gullom,

I will try to give you any experience in getting an education.

I was born the 11th of August 1856. At the time of my birth my father was in good circumstances, not rich, but held a plenty of the necessaries of life. The horrors of the late war fell heavily upon us. After Gen. Lee surrendered, both the Southern and Northern armies came through our section and to our home like hungry wolves. That they could not eat us they carried away. We were left in our great distress. Sick and friendless, came to our rescue, and we escaped the trying ordeal of starvation. The demoralizing effects of the war upon our section of country had only great. Schools and churches were blotted out. Even when the noble instincts of our best people began to assert themselves they were too poor to keep a school going more than two or three months during the year. My father generally sent one or three schools. The rest of the time I worked on the farm.

In 1876, at a meeting conducted by Rev. A. D. Blackwood at Samaria Baptist church, I made a profession of faith during the meeting and joined the church. That was the first meeting after the church was built. Almost immediately after joining the church I felt like the Lord had something for me to do. I soon began to take part in religious services, whenever I had an opportunity. The thought of preaching the Gospel soon impressed itself irresistibly upon me mind. I felt "now is one if I preach not the Gospel," but the thought would come to me, how can I preach when I am so ignorant? I did not see how I could go to school. My oldest brother who had taken an active part in helping support the family was taken sick and died.
Some after the death of my brother, my father was taken sick, and after a protracted illness of five years he died. My youngest brother was an invalid all his life. My brother Thomas, who was then young and without experience was my only help to support our mother, sister and afflicted brother. I spent several years before going off to school frequently in stores, and at times almost in despair. I finally succeeded in arranging affairs at home so as to attend the medical school at Raleigh, spending a few hours each day seeing after the farm. This I did one year and then went to Hake Forest. Then I first went to Hake Forest and spent some once a month and then two other months. I got no brothers' instructions about carrying on the business there, I spent my vacations working on the farm and in meetings. I did not complete my college course as I wanted to do. My eyes became very weak by excessive study. I came very near losing my eyes and on that account I was compelled to stop Latin and Greek before I completed them. The following is copied from a catalogue of Hake Forest: Graduates in English, T. E. Merrill, G. S. Olive, J. F. Pace, A. J. Pickrell, A. S. Smith and others. It was a great cross to me to give up completing my education, but I was compelled to do it on loss my eyes. I left $200 in debt but I have succeeded in paying off a part of it and the other part I hope to pay in the near future. I was aided by the Education Board while at college. At first I asked all that was allowed me by the Board, and towards the last only a part. Starting school without money and having to help support an afflicted family is no easy road to travel. I have seen many a day without a cent of money during my school days. Never considering all my ups and downs, I have been greatly blessed. The Lord has given me many
souls as a reward of my labors. Dear brother, you
are at perfect liberty to use anything I have gotten
to help any poor boy.
Dear brother, I expect to have to leave this section
in a few months, as my salary is not sufficient to
support us. This is a destitute section. But county
has a population of nearly 26,000 souls, and there
are less than 300 Missionary Baptists in the county.
I would not think of leaving this destitute section
if I were able to support my wife and myself.
The State Mission Board is doing almost nothing
for this section, and they don’t even pay what they
promise. They say they will pay us when they get
the money. The Missionaries can’t live on prohibition.
I have been thinking of locating in Franklin or
Granville county. If you can assist me in getting
a field of labor in these counties or elsewhere I will
be very thankful to you for your assistance.
I trust the Lord will abundantly bless you in your
labors for Him.

Yours truly,

J. N. Pace.
Appendix 19 Continued ----

REV. J. R. PACE
Our Fourth Pastor - 1887-1888

Rev. J. R. Pace was born near Raleigh, North Carolina, on August 11, 1858. Rev. Pace attended Wake Forest College at Wake Forest, North Carolina. He married Fannie Lawrence in 1890. He served several churches in the Raleigh Baptist Association. Rev. Pace moved to Ridgecrest in the western part of North Carolina in 1921. He lived there until his death on July 13, 1925.

REV. OLIVER LARKIN STRINGFIELD
Our Fifth Pastor - 1889

Rev. O. L. Stringfield was born at Moore's Creek in Pender County, North Carolina, on May 9, 1851. He graduated from Wake Forest College and was the founder of the Wakefield Academy. He was pastor of several churches before becoming Financial Agent for Meredith College. He retired in Wendell, North Carolina, and died in 1930 after being hit by a train while walking near his home.

REV. W. M. SORRELL
Our Sixth Pastor - 1890-1891

No records available.

REV. J. L. COTTINGHAM
Our Seventh Pastor - 1892

Rev. J. L. Cottingham was born October 7, 1862. His ministry lasted only seven or eight years as he was stricken with Malaria Fever while conducting a revival meeting in Tatum, South Carolina. He died October 8, 1892.
NAME
Els J. R. Pace

Aug. 11, 1858
b.
July 13, 1926

b.
d.

Married
Jennie Lawrence 1880

Wake Co.

b. d.

W.h.C. '83 - 1888

Ancestry

b. d.

Ord. Oct. 85 Rolesville

Ancestry

Tar River 1872

See Taylor's Tar River p. 298

Oxford 1900

WF Alumni Catalogue

Pastor, Bethel (Pitt Co.); 1881-

Chadwick (Charlotte); Long Island

Flat River Association