

Gleaves Influence in the Early Local Tennessee Churches

Researched by Fran G. Nichols

Rutland Baptist Church¹

References of the early influence of Gleaves families in middle Tennessee are found at Rutland Baptist Church of Christ, which was later called Rutland Baptist Church. It was established in 1821 as a mission. The membership gradually died out and in the 1990s the remaining younger members joined Mt. Juliet 1st Baptist Church (Wilson County, TN).



Early membership rolls contain the following Gleaves' names:

| Surname | First | Second | Year Joined | Other information | Relationship |
|---------|--------|-----------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Gleaves | Felix | R. | 1844 | | Son of Thomas Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Michal | Micah Ann | 1875 | Dismissed 4 Mar 1875 | Daughter of Guy Gleaves |
| Gleaves | R. | T. | 1881 | Possible B. T. Jr. | Son of Ben T. Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Willie | | 1896 | Wm Jasper Gleaves | Son of Ben T. Gleaves |
| Gleaves | B. T. | | 1904 | Benjamin Trigg | Son of Guy Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Julie | | 1904 | (Gadsey) | Wife of Ben T. Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Hattie | | 1904 | | Daughter of Ben T. Gleaves |

New Hope Baptist Church²

New Hope Baptist Church in East Davidson County began in 1846. The church was a mission of McCroy Creek Baptist Church. It is believed to have

¹ Rutland Baptist Church Minutes, Unpublished

² History of New Hope Baptist Church, Hilda Barnes, 1996 , Private printing

started because the Stones River flooded every spring preventing people from attending church, which was on the west side of the river. The river flooded large areas of land every spring until the Percy Priest Dam was opened in 1968.

Gleaves among the 30 charter members listed in the original minutes: Jas. R. Gleaves, Thomas Gleaves, Robert Gleaves, John R. Gleaves, Edmond Gleaves and Eliza Gleaves. Although the wives of these men are not listed in the first minutes as Charter members, they are listed along with their daughters in a later membership roll.

In 1871, James T. Gleaves, son of Absalom Gleaves, donated one half acre of land to combine with land donated by Wm. E. Hagar to New Hope Baptist Church. James T. Gleaves was never a member but a number of the charter members were his relatives. The present day church is still located on this land.

GLEAVES' NAMES ON MEMBERSHIP ROLL 1846 – 1875

| Surname | First | Second | Yr. Joined | Other Information | Gleaves relationship |
|---------|-----------|-------------|------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Gleaves | Edward | (Edmon) | 1846 | | Son of James R. Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Eliza | | 1846 | Mrs. Jas R. Gleaves; maiden name: Wood | Wife of James R. Gleaves |
| Gleaves | James | R. | 1846 | | Son of Thomas Gleaves |
| Gleaves | John | R. | 1846 | Ex. 1858; | Son of James R. Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Richard | | 1846 | AKA : William C. Gleaves | Son of James R. Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Robert | | 1846 | Robert Hughes Gleaves | Son of James R. Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Thomas | | 1846 | Thomas W. Gleaves | Son of James R. Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Elizabeth | A. | 1851 | Mrs. C. T. Jenkins | Daughter of James R. Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Martha | Ann VA | 1851 | wife of Henry Thomas Jenkins | Daughter of James R. Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Mary | T. (Terrel) | 1851 | | Wife of Robert Hughes Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Tennessee | M. | 1851 | (Jenkins) | Daughter of James R. Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Indiana | | 1854 | Clements | Daughter of James R. Gleaves |
| Gleaves | James | F. | 1854 | James Franklin | Son of James R. Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Marina | Ann | 1854 | Maiden name: Coppage | Wife of Edmond Gleaves |

| Surname | First | Second | Yr. Joined | Other Information | Gleaves relationship |
|---------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Gleaves | Ann | P. | 1856 | | Wife of John Robert Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Missouri | J. | 1858 | Ex. 12/1858 Mrs. D. R. Humble | Daughter of James R. Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Anretta | | 1861 | Anna Retta | Daughter of Robert H. & Mary Terrell Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Louisiana | | 1861 | Mrs. D. R. Humble | Daughter of James R. Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Margret | | 1861 | Maiden name: Adams? | Possible Daughter of Guy Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Ann | Liza | 1868 | Maiden name: Saunders | Wife of William Edward Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Robert | G. | 1868 | Ex. - Restored | Son of Robert Hughes Gleaves |
| Gleaves | William | A. | 1868 | Ex. | Grandson of Michael & Rachel Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Mary | T. | 1869 | | Daughter of William A. Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Emma | Jane | 1873 | | Daughter of Edmond Floyd Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Malissy | | 1873 | **Ex, 11/1873; (Mrs. Jack Talford) | Daughter of William Carroll Gleaves |
| Gleaves | R.J. | (Or R.I.) | 1874 | | Unknown |

GLEAVES' NAMES ON MEMBERSHIP ROLL 1877 - 1883

| Surname | First | Second | Yr. Joined | Other Information | Gleaves relationship |
|---------|--------|--------|------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Gleaves | Addie | B. | 1877 | Adeline Bell Gleaves | Daughter of Edmond Floyd Gleaves |
| Gleaves | M. | E. | 1877 | Marine E. | Daughter of Edmond Floyd Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Edward | D. | 1880 | | Son of Edmond Floyd Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Joseph | L. | 1880 | | Son of Edmond Floyd Gleaves |

**** Malissa Gleaves probably excluded because she was pregnant out of wed lock. Gave Birth in July 1872 to Katie Gleaves**

"EXCLUDED" could have meant:

1. a long absence
2. a member's request for removal

3. joined a church of another faith
4. profane language
5. guilty of partying or dancing
6. other personal activities or indiscretions (excessive use of ardent spirits)
7. failure to appear before the church (to answer a charge)
8. moving away from the community

(April 1860: "if any member shall move to another part of the country and remain without a letter from church for 6 months, church shall consider such member excluded from her fellowship")

Baker's Grove Baptist Church³

As settlements grew in population, local churches sponsored outreach churches by sending charter members and assisting financially until the new church was self-supporting. Baker's Grove Baptist Church, which was 3.7 miles east of New Hope, started with 26 charter members in 1884. At least 16 or more were former members of New Hope. Early members were James R. Gleaves by baptism Sept 1890. He was dismissed by letter May 1897; George Durward Gleaves – baptized 1899; Mary F. Gleaves – By constitution Feb 10, 1884; Mary A. Gleaves by Petition – March 15, 1884.

Baker's Grove was forced to move when the Percy Priest Dam was built. The previous land now belongs to the U.S. Corp of Engineers. Church is still in existence about a mile from original spot.

Mt. Juliet Church of Christ⁴ (Wilson County, Tennessee)

Although no one is sure of the exact date of this church's beginning, the deed for the original plot was signed in 1899. But all estimates place the beginning

³ Minutes of Bakers Grove Baptist Church as transcribed from the first Minute book. 10 Feb 1884 – 11 May 1919; Transcribed by Vivian Eakes Hull, 2009, Unpublished.

⁴ Mt. Juliet Church of Christ; West Wilson Neighbors, private printing, 1986 and Church History on Internet.

several years earlier. Apparently the people were not very prompt in recording transactions and in their efforts to be unworldly had no secretary or church clerk.

The church probably had its beginning in 1891 or 1892. A copy of the "Mt. Juliet Messenger" dated August 15, 1944, contains articles by Sister R. V. Cawthon and Brother J. N. Carver listing the date as 1891.

Annie Grigg said the building of the Mt. Juliet Church came about in this way. "Her father, J. W. Grigg, and Mrs. Annie Gleaves were riding horseback from church one Sunday when Brother Grigg said, "Why don't we build a church here in Mt. Juliet?" Sister Anne, wife of Jesse Gleaves, said, "We will give the little thicket down by the creek if you will raise the money." So the little thicket became the location not only for that first church, but for at least two other houses of worship, for that little half acre plot is almost directly in front of our present building where the new auditorium is located.

In all probability, it will continue to serve as a location for a Church of Christ for years to come. The language of the Gleaves deed written by Brother J. W. Grigg says, "J. H. Gleaves and wife, to the Church at Mt. Juliet, for and in consideration of the deep abiding interest we feel in the cause of Christ and the great love we bear the Church of Christ at Mt. Juliet, we, Jesse H. Gleaves and wife, Annie Gleaves, do transfer and convey to said Church of Christ at Mt. Juliet, Tennessee forever the boundaries follow one-half acre more or less. The above remains in full force and effect only so long as said property ceases to be used it shall revert to Jesse H. Gleaves, his wife and heirs." Brother Jonah Carver said the deed was not recorded until 1899 when the Gleaves sold out and moved to Texas.

It is not known who built this first house of worship. It was a one-room structure about 25 by 45 feet, weather-boarded, painted white, with double doors in the front and a single door in the rear. There were four tall narrow windows on each side and there was a flue for a stove in the middle of the building. It was built on stone pillars, as few buildings had solid foundations in that day.



Church records (1925) show Mrs. Jessie Harrison Gleaves, a Charter member as the only Gleaves attending this church. However, early written

records were not kept and it seems logical that at least her children would have attended with her.

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church⁵

Pleasant Grove was formed out of a consolidation of Alford's Camp Ground and Murray's Chapel. The present sanctuary, a one room frame structure was erected in 1870. One of the Trustees in Trust was Thomas Harvey Gleaves. This original building is still in use with some modern improvements such as electricity and running water. It is located in Mt Juliet, Wilson County, TN and continues to use the original alter.

Early Gleaves Members include the following:

| Surname | First | Second | Year joined | Other information | Gleaves Relationship |
|---------|----------|--------|-------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Gleaves | Thomas | Harvey | 1870 | Trustee -signed Deed | Son of John G. Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Marilla | | 1884 | (Marietta); Maiden Name: Strickenoff | Daughter of Thomas Wood Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Charity | M. | 1884 | | Daughter of Thomas Wood Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Almedia | | 1894 | by Confession | Daughter of John Thomas Gleaves |
| Gleaves | John | T. | 1894 | by Confession | Son of Thomas Wood Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Mattie | Lois | 1916 | Maiden Name: Jenkins | Wife of Leo Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Will | | 1920 | | Son of John Thomas Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Florence | Jane | 8/5/1907 | | Unknown |
| Gleaves | Kelly | Leroy | 9/1/1912 | | Son of John Thomas Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Claude | R. | 8/15/1916 | By Confession | Son of John Thomas Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Augusta | Lane | 8/24/1917 | | Wife of Chester Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Demmie | | 9/1/1918 | Maiden Name: Lane | Wife of Kelly Gleaves |

⁵ Pleasant Grove Church Minutes; unpublished.

| Surname | First | Second | Year joined | Other information | Gleaves Relationship |
|---------|---------|--------|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Gleaves | Chester | | 8/1/1937 | | Son of Benjamin Franklin Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Jean | | 7/1/1944 | (Jean Austin Burnes Gleaves) | Unknown |
| Gleaves | Dan | | 4/13/1957 | Daniel Bass | Son of Joseph Harvey Gleaves |
| Gleaves | Ruth | | 4/13/1957 | Daughter of Benjamin F. Gleaves | Wife of Dan Bass Gleaves |

Goodlettsville Cumberland Presbyterian Church⁶

This church in northeast Davidson County, TN was established in 1843. It was an outgrowth of the great Revival meeting during 1799 in Kentucky and Tennessee. It was organized near Mansker's Creek and was originally known as Mansker Creek Congregation. In January 1848, the church moved to the present location. The present edifice was built in 1902. The congregation has remained active for more than 160 years.

The "Register of Infant Baptisms" list four children of George & Fannie Gleaves. Mattie Hamblin Gleaves, Mary Dean Gleaves, Wallace Ambrose Gleaves and Lizzie Josephene Gleaves were baptized 13 Nov 1881.

Wallace Gleaves was appointed as usher 02 Jul 1900. He is believed to be the Wallace Ambrose Gleaves listed with his sisters in 1881.

Under Marriages George W. Gleaves to Fannie Hamblin is dated 6 Jun 1872. Mrs. G. W. Gleaves (Fannie Hamblin) is listed as a member of the Woman's Home and Foreign Mission Society in 1887.

⁶ The History of the Goodlettsville Cumberland Presbyterian Church; Private Printing 1843 – 1946; p. 57