

ATLANTA, GA
MAY 18, 1977

DEAR MR WITHERS

THANKS FOR BEING SO PROMPT IN
FURNISHING PICTURES AND INFORMATION
PERTAINING TO THE EVINS FAMILY.

I LIKEWISE ENJOYED OUR CONVERSATION
SUNDAY NIGHT. MAYBE THE TWO OF US
CAN DIG UP SOME ADDITIONAL INFO.
OF MUTUAL INTEREST

I AM ENCLOSING SEVERAL COPIES
OF INFORMATION I HAVE THAT SHOULD
BE OF INTEREST TO YOU.

PAGE ONE WAS PREPARED BY MY
GRANDMOTHER, CAROLINE EVINS MARTIN
WHO WAS ONE OF THE DAUGHTERS OF
JUSTINIAN AND MATTIE POLK EVINS.

JUSTINIAN EVINS AS WE DISCUSSED SUNDAY
NIGHT WAS ONE OF THE SONS OF MITCHEL
EVINS WHO ~~AS~~ I UNDERSTAND IT WAS
YOUR FATHER'S, MOTHER'S, MOTHER'S BROTHER.
WHICH ACCORDING TO MY FIGURING PUTS YOU
ONE GENERATION CLOSER TO NANCY & JACK THAN ME.
(OVER)

A CENTURY IN NORTH DEKALB

THE STORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHAMBLEE,
1875-1975

A Century In North Dekalb ^{note + card} seems to be in conflict with other records. MUCH RESEARCH
must be done to verify it, ^{information on} these pages

from DHS index card file

p 3, 4, 9, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 29, 192, 193

SUBJECT FILE:

Civil War

Evins
Justinian

DeKalb Silver Grays

from DHS index card file

Ord. Court Records
Folder CR-5
Junior's Receipts

EVINS,
Justinian

from DHS index card file

1895

Justinian m. Martha POLK,

EVINS, JUSTINEAN

Co. G, Cobb's Legion. Enlisted May 1862, Atlanta, Ga.
Discharged May 1865, Greensboro, N. C. Address as of
Jan. 1, 1906, Chamblee, Ga. DEKALB COUNTY TAX DIGEST
FOR 1906. Ga. Dept. of Archives and History.

from DHS index csrd file

Evan, Mitchel

Whitfield 557 1860 census

Not from DHS index card file
information taken from Index to 1860 Census of Georgia

Evins,
Justinian

1894

Folder CR-J

Jury Receipts
from DHS index card file

Evins, Justinian

Co. Regiment Enlisted
6 Cobbs Legion May 1865 Greensboro

Post office
Chamblee

from index card file DHS

List of 1st-Comp. Soldier Living
in Okla. Co 1924
" " " " Dist.

Evins, Justinian

votes PA 1902

862

farmer

from index card file DHS

Cross Keys Dist.

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE TO JUROR—The Foose & Davies Co., Atlanta

No. 94

GEORGIA, DEKALB COUNTY,

CLERK'S OFFICE SUPERIOR COURT.

I Certify, That

Petit

Juror

of the County

Term, 1895,

of the Superior Court

of said County, for which service he is entitled to

Eight

Dollars.

The County Treasurer will pay the sum of the funds raised for that purpose.

Given under my hand and official signature this the

29

day of

August 1895

Board Commissioners,
DeKalb County.

W. H. Dunning

Clerk

EXAM
CAN

EVINS,
Justinian

NOTE: Some of the information listed about
Justinian Evins in the book, The Story of the First
Baptist Church of Chamblee appears to be in conflict with
other records. IT REQUIRES MORE RESEARCH.

the legislature appropriated \$1 million for its capitol building. Coca Cola was first bottled in 1886, and in 1888 Fort McPherson was established.

Against this backdrop of growth and change the members of the Corinth Baptist Church voted in October of 1885 to move their church to Roswell Junction. The reason for the move was not recorded. Perhaps the building was inadequate or the land unsatisfactory. Although it was customary, the church had failed to establish a cemetery at its first building site, and this may have been part of the reason they decided to move. However, it was February, 1889 before J. E. Elliot and deacons and officers of the Corinth Baptist Church with "\$40.00 in hand," recorded the deed at the DeKalb Courthouse.

The deed described the land as the "Southwest corner of a white oak tree running 440' to the property line of the Steward Estate, south 227', west 91' to Peachtree Road, south along Peachtree Road to starting point, containing two acres." The record, witnessed by J. E. Elliot, J. F. Covington and Justinian Evins, also noted that this location was originally Henry County.

Tradition places the dedication of the new church building in December of 1891, but the church minutes record the dedication on the fifth Sunday of July, 1892. The new building was a small white frame structure surrounded by oak, maple and pine. It had two front entrances—one for women and one for men. Andrew Jackson Goss was the pastor at the time of the move and spoke at the dedication service. He was a graduate of Mercer University in Macon. During his ministry he also served Peachtree Baptist Church, Atlanta; Norcross Baptist Church; and later Gordon Street Baptist Church, Atlanta. The Peachtree Church building had been severely damaged by Federal troops during the war. Goss challenged the people to rebuild the same site (Briarcliff and LaVista Roads). "The Lord needs a church. He has planted the trees, man must cut and build." He also served as pastor of Rainbow Park (formerly Kirkwood) Baptist Church, where in 1888 a resolution concerning the importance of an educational ministry was introduced. . . "feeling the vital need and the fact that one beloved and consecrated brother, A. J. Goss, both

desires and deserves a better preparation for the successful prosecution of his work . . . we earnestly ask the members of our churches to contribute enough to enable Brother Goss to make good the deficiency in his education."

Corinth Baptist Church business meetings were conducted on Saturdays usually once a month, in conjunction with the worship services. During these business meetings committees were formed, matters voted on, new members accepted, and cases of absent or delinquent members were taken up.

The first recorded business meeting of the church took place in October of 1889. Fifty-four members were present, eighteen men and thirty-six women. During this meeting the church elected three deacons: J. W. Spinks, W. S. Carroll, and R. F. Watkins; Justinian Evins, church clerk; and voted to call B. B. Sargent as pastor.

Sargent was born in Anderson, South Carolina on December 18, 1846. He married in March of 1882 and had nine children. He served as pastor of Corinth Baptist Church on two separate occasions: first from 1889 until 1892, and then again from 1902 until 1906. Like several of the church's early pastors, Sargent was a circuit preacher who served a number of churches in his area. He lived at Ocee, Georgia, where he organized the Cross Plains Baptist Church in 1881. Besides Corinth, Sargent also preached at the Norcross, Tucker, Lilburn, Bethel and Antioch (Warthen) churches. He died in 1932 and was buried in Warthen, Georgia.

A layman who played an important role in the early history of Corinth Baptist Church was Justinian Evins. His family came from Gwinnett county in the early 1820's, obtaining their land from the Creek Indians.

Justinian was born October 15, 1843 and when he was sixteen he enlisted in the Confederate Army along with his father and brother. As a scout, he served in the Seventh Forces under General Stonewall Jackson. He spent time in Virginia and after the war stayed a while longer to see the country. Years later he served as a delegate at the first Confederate Veterans Conference in Washington, D. C.

While Justinian was in Virginia, a family named Polk moved

from Jackson County into a large house located at what in 1975 was the corner of Ashford-Dunwoody and Peachtree Roads. This house was used as Sherman's headquarters during the Battle of Atlanta.

The Polk's had a daughter named Martha, who married Justinian in 1867. For a while they lived at the Ashford-Dunwoody house and later moved into their own home on what was to be Osborne Road. Justinian had 100 acres of land which he farmed. His main trade was carpentry, and he travelled quite extensively throughout the area building homes. He also built the first Cross Keys School on his own land. After his seven daughters were grown, he divided his land between them. Both Justinian and his wife were active in their community. Justinian was a Justice of the Peace for the Cross Keys district for forty years, while Martha was the local postmistress.

Before joining Corinth, the Evins attended both Nancy Creek and Providence Baptist churches. Justinian wasted no time becoming an active member of Corinth. During the same meeting that he was accepted as a member, he was elected the church clerk. He was also a deacon, served for a time as Sunday School superintendent, and for many years was clerk for the Roswell Association, the association to which Corinth belonged.

Because it was not only convenient, but also because the church during this time played such an important role in all aspects of the lives of its congregation, many churches bought land for cemeteries adjacent to the building. The church then provided burial plots for its members free of charge. Corinth Baptist Church bought the land for its cemetery from J. E. Elliott in May, 1892.

Many churches at this time enforced very strict rules of attendance at services and business meetings. In February of 1893 Corinth appointed a committee to contact absentees and notify them that they would have to give a reason for their absence. The penalty for missing just one gathering without a sufficient reason was generally loss of membership. Membership could be reinstated only with a public confession during a later business meeting.

In September, 1893, T. T. Twitty was called by Corinth to be

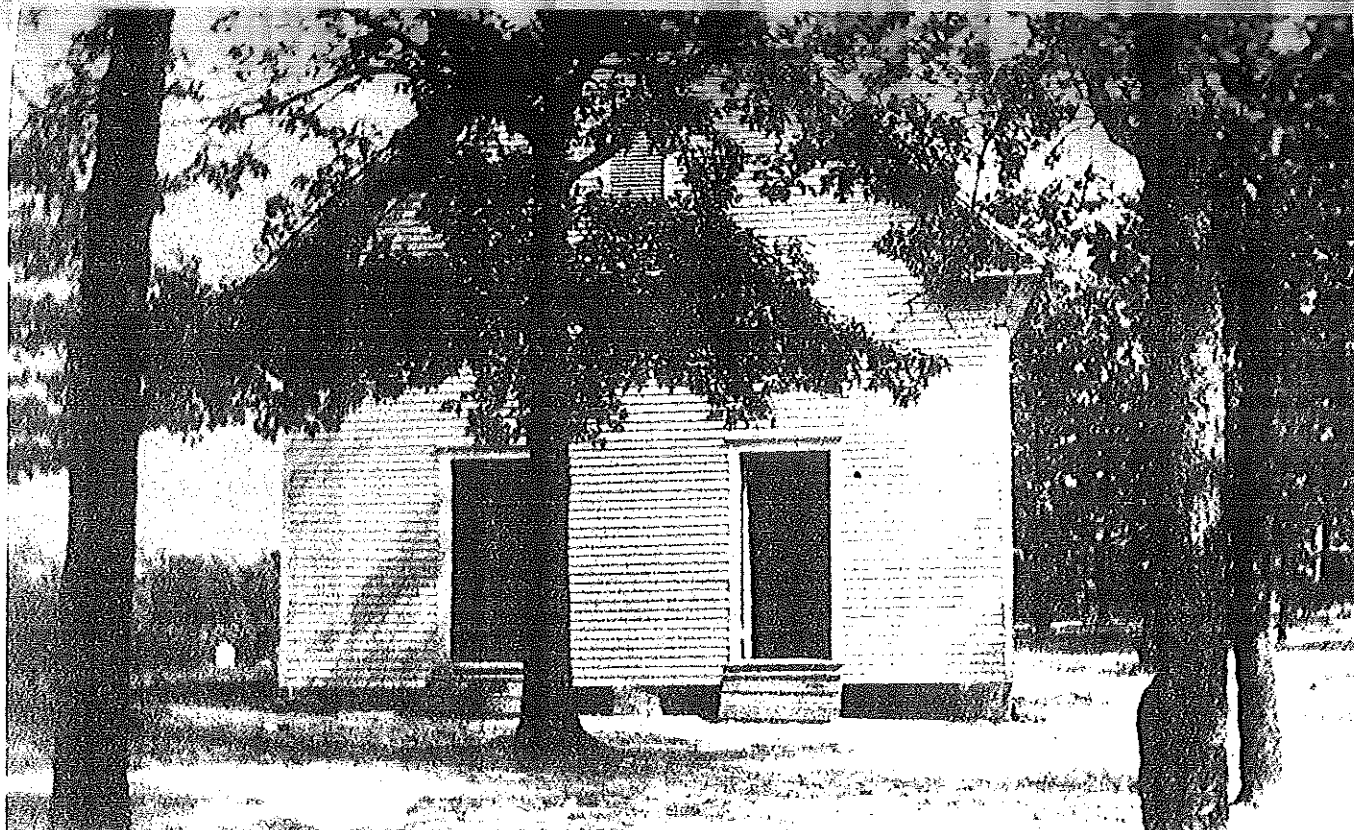


Photo courtesy of Grace Sheffield

CORINTH BAPTIST CHURCH

The original structure was built in 1891. Note the tombstone on the left and horse and buggy in the right background. Photo taken in 1914.