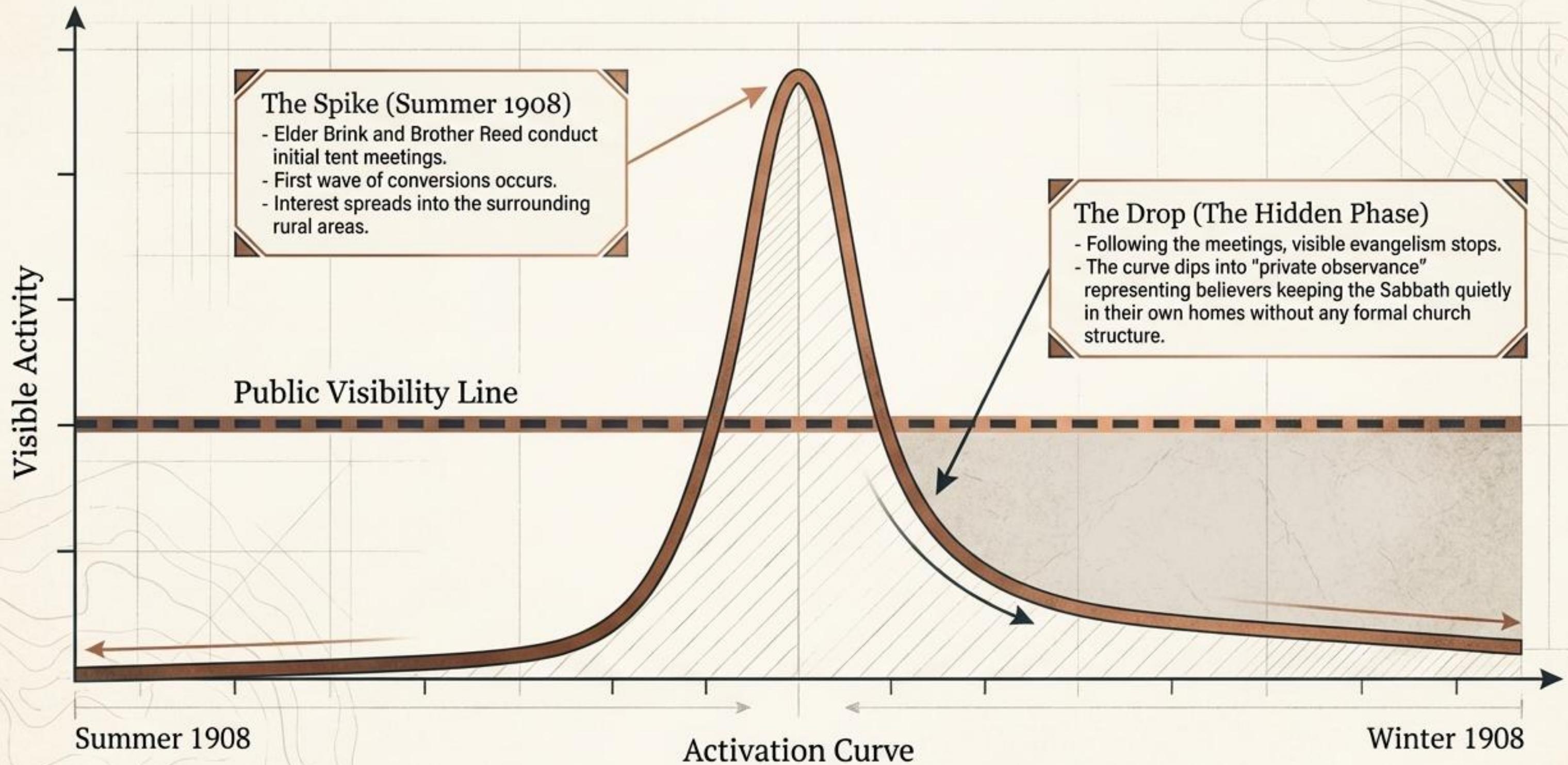


# The Origin of the Sonoma SDA Church

A story of grassroots faithfulness and  
high-level strategy converging in 1909.

# Evangelistic Ignition



# The Convergence Event

## Sonoma

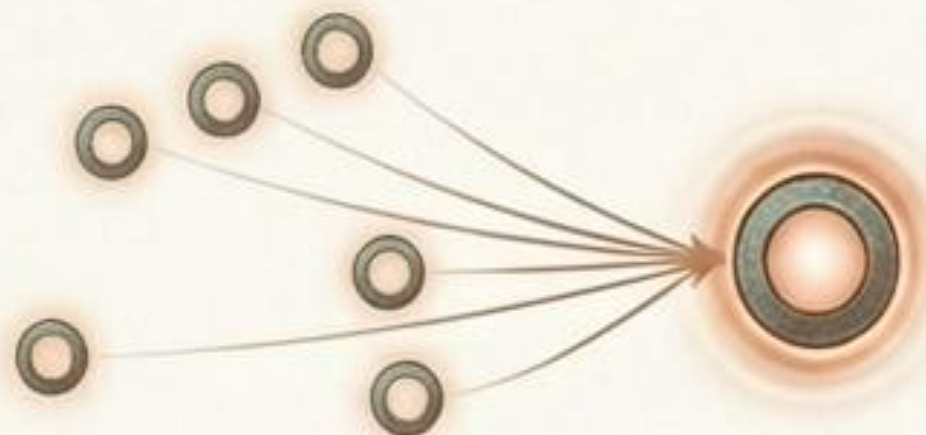
Sabbath, April 3, a Sabbath-school was organized at Sonoma at the Cripples' Home, near the Buena Vista station. Twenty-three members were present at the time of the organization.

The officers elected for the present term are as follows: W. T. T. Vaughan, superintendent; A. R. Hazelton, assistant superintendent; Ada Ritz, secretary and treasurer.

After the Sabbath-school a sister from Sonoma called who had been keeping the Sabbath quietly in her home since the tent meetings held there by Elder Brink and Brother Reed last summer. She was pleased to know there were other Sabbath-keepers living so near, and said that she would attend the meetings whenever she could; but, as the rest of her family were not in sympathy with her, she might not be able to come regularly.

There is also a family living about four miles out from Sonoma who became interested last summer during the tent meetings, and are keeping the Sabbath. They were not present last Sabbath, but as soon as they learned that a Sabbath-school had been organized, they sent word that they would attend hereafter if they

**Date & Location:** April 3, 1909 –  
Cripples' Home near Buena Vista station.



**The Roster:** 23 original members.  
W. T. Vaughan (Superintendent),  
A. R. Hazelton (Associate), Ada  
Ritz (Secretary/Treasurer).

**The Catalyst:** Previously isolated  
believers discover each other. The  
rural family commits to "walk the  
entire distance" to attend.

developing a greater interest in the hearts  
of other individuals who were interested  
during the tent meetings last summer,  
and that the little company may be joined  
by many from the surrounding neighbor-  
hood.

S. N. Haskell.

**The Validation:** The architect of  
Adventist systems personally observes  
and validates this local birth.

# The Haskell Validation

**That Stephen N. Haskell reported the birth of the Sonoma church is a mark of immense historical weight. This was the architect who shaped how the entire church organizes and moves globally. He did not miss Sonoma.**

He saw this group and effectively declared:  
"This belongs to the story."

Sonoma did not begin on the invisible margins of Adventism.  
It began under the direct observation of the movement's chief architect.

# PACIFIC UNION RECORDER

"Then They that Feared the Lord Spake Often One to Another."  
Mountain View, Cal., April 15, 1909

Vol. 8

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## Sonoma

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We trust that this little beginning of

4

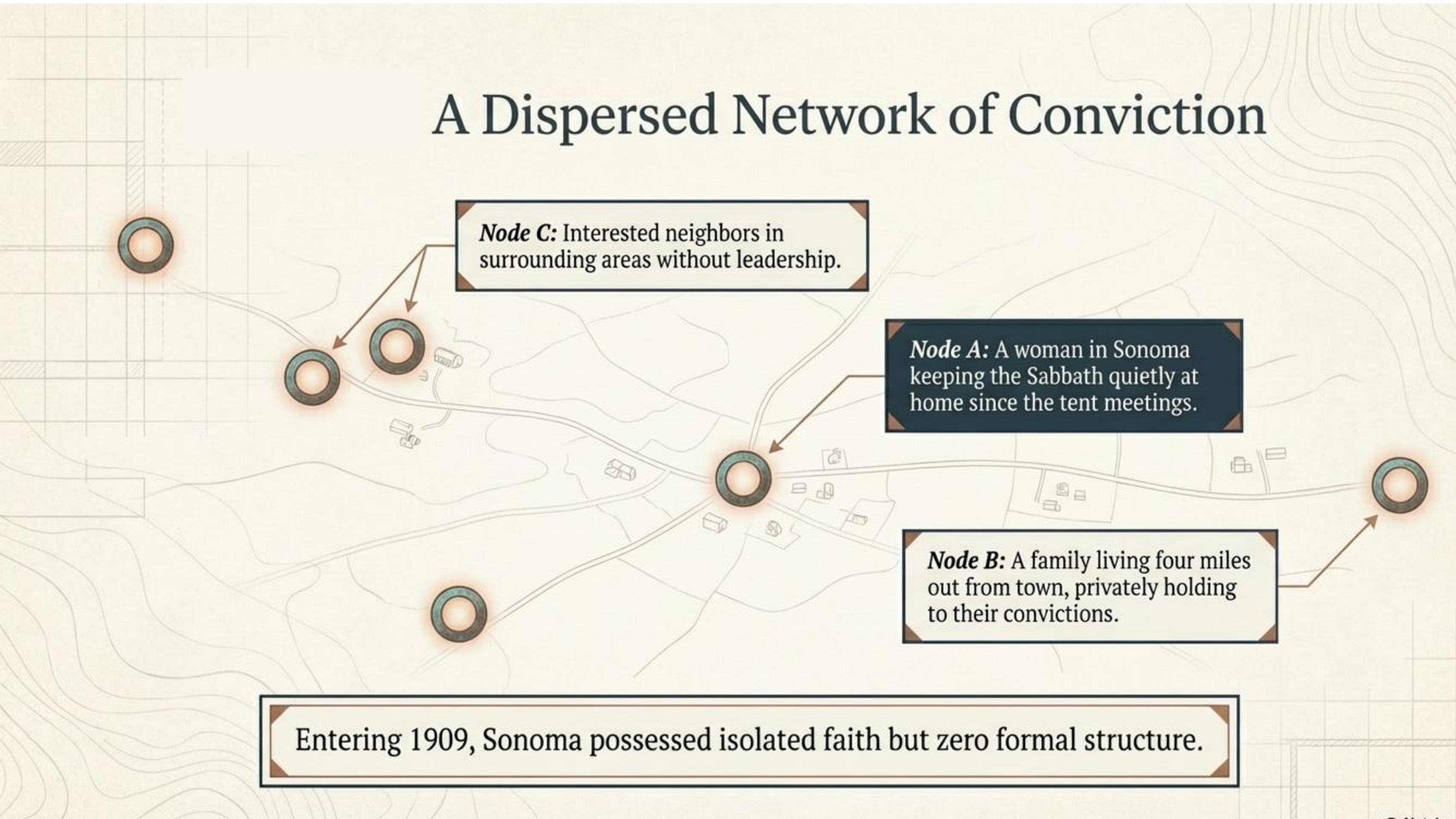
P A

developing a greater interest in the hearts of other individuals who were interested during the tent meetings last summer, and that the little company may be joined by many from the surrounding neighborhood.

S. N. Haskell.

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# A Dispersed Network of Conviction




**Node C:** Interested neighbors in surrounding areas without leadership.

**Node A:** A woman in Sonoma keeping the Sabbath quietly at home since the tent meetings.

**Node B:** A family living four miles out from town, privately holding to their convictions.

Entering 1909, Sonoma possessed isolated faith but zero formal structure.


January 1, 1909 


Portions of this letter are published in [1MR 332-333](#); [5MR 111](#). 

Mrs. J. Gotzian

Madison, Tennessee 

Dear Sister Gotzian: 

I have read your letter, and I thank you for your interest. I desired very much to be at the meeting at Nashville, but I felt that I could not attend this meeting and go to Washington as well. [24LtMs, Lt 2, 1909, par. 1](#) 

I have just had to hire fifteen hundred dollars from the bank in order to relieve Elder Haskell in a situation that was forced upon him. It related to a business transaction connected with the Buena Vista property. A lot containing over seventeen acres of land, situated next to the school property, one of our worker was thinking of purchasing for the purpose of establishing a **cripples**' home, but was not willing to pay more than fifteen hundred dollars for it. The land could not be secured for less than two thousand. After the purchase was made, Brother Vaughan felt that he could not pay more than fifteen hundred dollars, and so the property was left on Elder Haskell's hands. We felt that we could not let this piece of land go back into the hands of unbelievers, and Elder Haskell asked me if I would not buy it. I consented to do this, and the place is now in my name. To do this I have hired fifteen hundred dollars from the bank at eight per cent. Now Elder Haskell's mind will be relieved, and he will not need to worry any longer. We do not know for what this piece of land will be used. It would make a splendid site for a church, but that matter can be decided later. [24LtMs, Lt 2, 1909, par. 2](#) 

# Securing the Physical Anchor

No.	NAMES OF GRANTEE		NAMES OF GRANTORS	DATE OF DEED			WHEN RECORDED			WHERE RECORDED	
				Month	Day	Year	Month	Day	Year	Book	Page
1	Watson	G. R.									
0		Elsie A.	G. R. Harrison wife	July	30	1910	Aug	1	1910	264	334
	Whitten	Z. D. Jr.	Summer Home Realty Co.	"	"	"	"	3	"	265	317
4	Wallman	Annie S.	Arthur Batts	May	16	"	"	9	"	264	364
	"	"	John M. Gaw, et al	June	11	"	"	"	"	265	361
1	Williams	James E.	L. Porter	Aug	"	"	"	11	"	264	375
8	Ward	Annie	J. B. Bartlett, et al	June	10	"	"	"	"	266	119
0	Walton	F. N.	"	"	"	"	"	15	"	"	139
6	Wagner	Ida	George J. Wagner	Feb	24	1902	"	"	"	265	400
7	Williamson	James E.	J. L. Cummings wife	Aug	17	1910	"	17	"	264	395
4	Woodard	Minnie W.	Anna Hooper	"	"	"	"	"	"	264	397
5	Warden	Russell H.	J. B. Bartlett, et al	"	10	"	"	18	"	266	146
9	Wahraftig	Sarna R.	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	147
2	"	Moses S.	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	148
13	Winter	Annie B.	Bernhardt H. Winter	Feb.	20	1908	"	29	"	264	429
15	Wallace	Benoite	Anal Savings Bank	Aug	29	1910	"	31	"	265	479
13	"	"	Elizabeth B. Edgeworth wife	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	480
15	Williams	Olive A.	Et of Daniel J. Dousfield, dec?	Dece	10	"	Sept	1	"	265	489

**Date:** September 2, 1908

**The Intervention:** Ellen G. White personally purchases a 17-acre parcel from A. J. Breazile.

**The Location:** Situated directly adjacent to the massive Buena Vista estate.

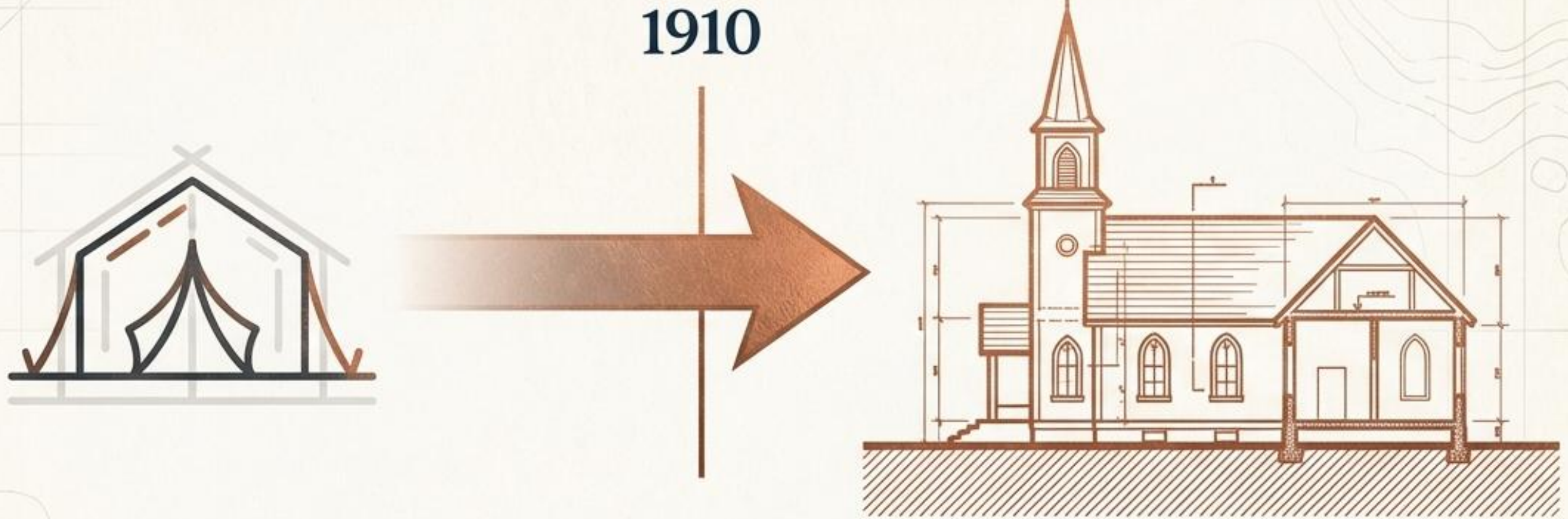
**The Strategy:** This purchase was designed to prevent the land from leaving Adventist control, ensuring a physical anchor for future activity regardless of broader institutional plans.

White W. G. A. J. Breazile

Sept. 2 " " 3 " " 449

2	White	W. G.	A. J. Breazile	Sept	2	"	"	3	"	"	449
15	Winks	Mrs. Mary A.	Bert W. Napps	May	7	"	"	6	"	267	158
17	Watson	Mary J.	Jessie H. Cobb	Aug	25	"	"	"	"	"	170

# Physical Consolidation (1910)



The early gatherings transition out of their temporary location into a dedicated physical structure.

**The Crucial Link:** This new building was constructed directly upon the land tied to Ellen G. White's 1908 purchase, cementing the geographic continuity of the congregation.

# Securing the Physical Anchor



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White | W. G. | A. J. Breazile | Sept. 2 | . | . | 3 | . | 11 | 1908

# Securing the Physical Anchor



# Layers 7 & 8: Maturation to Full Church Status

**NORTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA**  
 G. W. Wolfe, Pves. S. Donaldson, Sec.  
 Box 465. Santa Rosa, Cal.

**Twenty-five-cent-a-week and Tithe Statement for N. W. Cal. Conference, Jan. to Aug., 1918**

Church	25c Fndd	Av. or wcon.	Tithe
Arcata . . . .	\$ 184.80	.1884	\$ 425.75
Blue Lake..	38.97	.1854	69.31
Calistoga ..	53.73	.0896	244.97
Conference .	1318.08	1.1187	605.00
Bureka ...	437.87	.1326	1287.36
Perndale ..	64.05	.2639	376.65
Port Bragg	266.85	.3949	278.92
Portuna ...	56.83	.1167	790.13
Healdsburg	635.01	.1182	1226.07
Lakeport ..	92.39	.2423	140.70
McKinieville	67.45	.0873	82.70
Napa .....	2897.01	.7600	2407.09
P. U. C. ..	1970.00	.3060	4509.90
Potahuma ..	42.06	.1033	49.19
Popperwood.	70.08	.1603	69.25
Petrolia ..	73.25	.1004	130.33
Sanitacium.	1933.04	.1873	8349.07
San Rafael .	112.09	.2694	297.44
Santa Rosa	902.23	.2190	641.00
Sonoma ....	322.32	.3170	1790.07
Sirriota ....	322.37	.3879	508.93
Vocerville	60.00	.2994	125.03
Vallejo ....	784.23	.3709	2292.03
Willits ...	78.28	.1505	149.38
Sabbath. Schools			
Covelo ....	13.05	.0289	
Porestville .	51.19	.0809	
Fruitland ..	7.90	.0207	
Guerneville ..	51.30	.4008	
Kenwood ..	54.16	.2605	
Oakville ...	49.25	.35.51	
	\$13118.57	.2788	\$27008.37
Tithe for 1917 .....			20111.00
Tithe net increase .....			\$ 7847.47

S. Donaldson,  
 Treas. N. W. Cal. Conference.

God bless the good-natured, for they  
 bless everybody else—Beecher.

## 1909–1917 (The Company Phase)

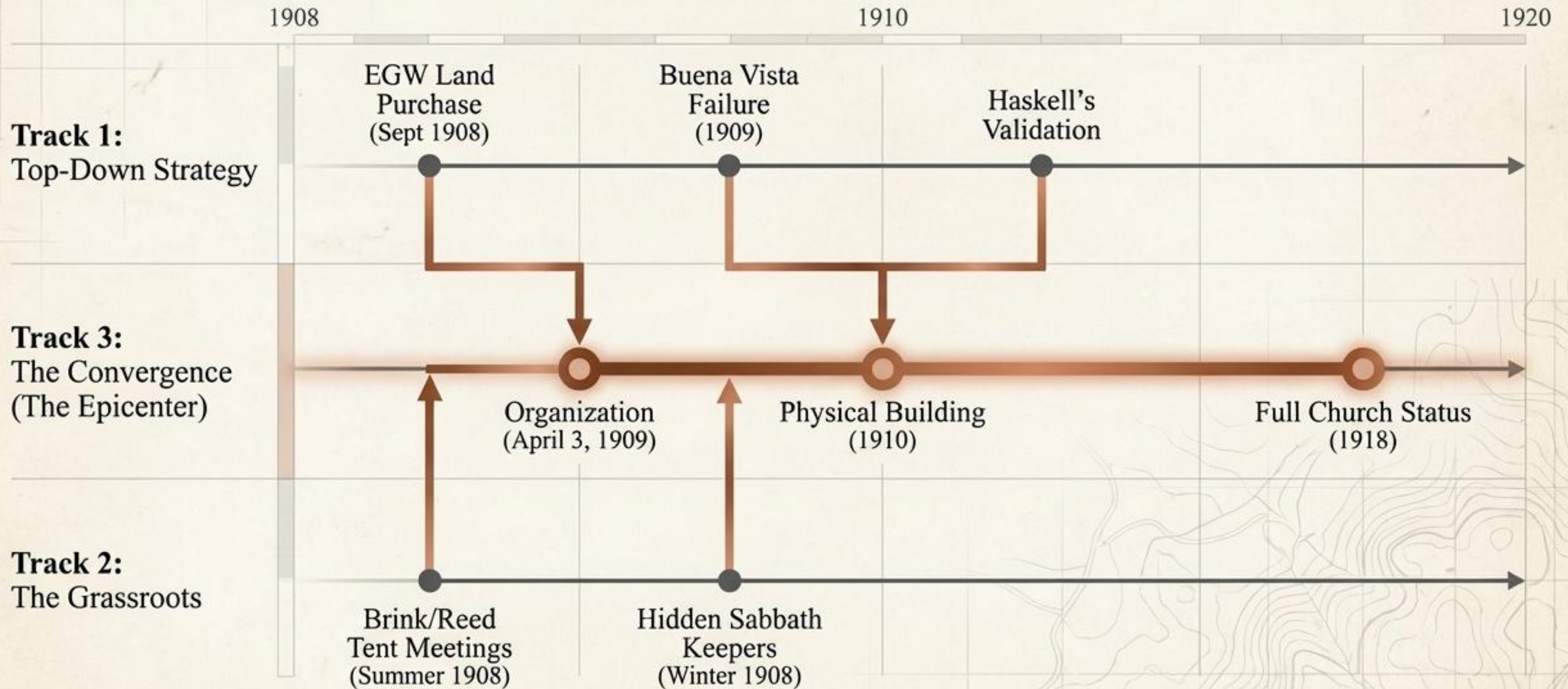
Eight years of slow, rural, dispersed growth. Kept the "company" classification.

## 1918 (Formal Recognition)

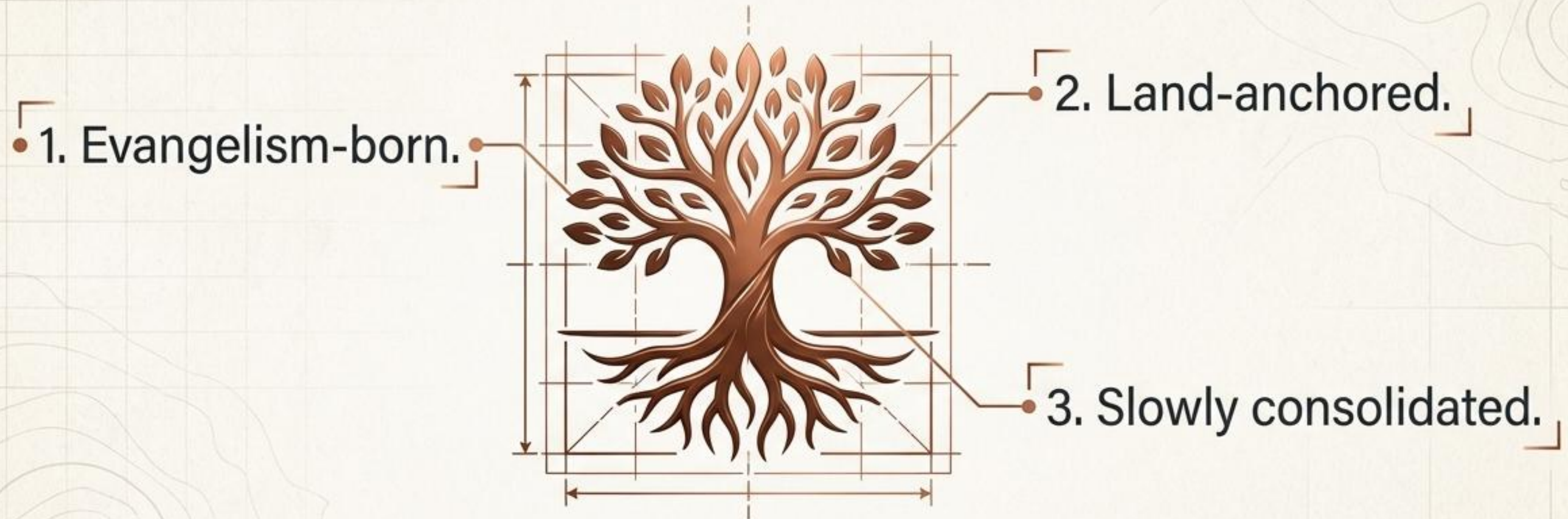
The group officially appears in tithe reports, offering tables, and conference systems, indicating its evolution into a fully recognized church with ~100 members.

**Bottom Line: By 1920, the organic company had fully integrated into the conference's multi-church district pastoral system.**

# The Complete Structural Origin Map



# Identity, Not Just History



The Sonoma Seventh-day Adventist Church holds direct, physical ties to the pioneers of the movement. It survived when institutions failed because it was built exactly as the architects intended: as a living, self-replicating system of belief.

# Archival Sources & References

	Pacific Union Recorder, Vol. 8, No. 37 (April 15, 1909) – S.N. Haskell Report.
	Northwestern California Conference Tithe Statement (Jan-Aug 1918).
	Property Deeds & Historical Records: A.J. Breazile to E.G. White (Sept 1908).
	Biographical Records of Stephen N. Haskell and early Pacific church expansion.

Compiled to preserve the foundational history and structural origin of the Sonoma SDA Church.