The first part of this history of Allens Church was written by Mrs. George Crenshaw, which she had published some years ago in the Wesleyan Christian Advocate. She secured most of her information from a history written by Mrs. David Crenshaw who in turn had received her information from Mr. James Mabry.

"Allens Church was organized about 1790 and held its services in a log house not far from Hunters Creek near what is now the Burnett place. The graves of the earlier members may still be found there. The next building was on the present site of Negro Allens or Ellis Chapel. The leading members of the early church were the Allens, Pricketts, Quillians, and Dorsey. Nothing is known of its activities until about 1848 when, under the ministry of the Rev. H. Crawford, there was the gracious outpouring of the Spirit and many souls were added to the church. Another revival is recorded in 1871 during the pastorate of the Rev. J.H. Worley.

"Among the earlier members of the church were many fine men and women whose names should be cherished. Some of them are Joshua and Drucilla Mabry, John Ledbetter, Mary Adams, Ephriam Mabry, Mary Williams, Susan and Robert Verner, Isaac Tabor, Elizabeth Ann Morgan, and Sarah Mabry.

"In 1872 Riley Cox and E. C. Vandiver gave land for a new church building about two miles south of the second location, and the present building was erected, with the Rev. S.D. Evans as the first pastor. J.W. Crump gave the land for the cemetery. Some of the charter members of the new church were James Mabry, John Ledbetter, Quincy Adams, and Riley Cox. There were great revivals during the early years of the church, one of which was in the year 1875, under the ministry of the Rev. H.H. Mashburn. Two years later Dr. Warren T. Hunnicutt started a boys' prayer meeting which was attended regularly by most of the boys in the community. A number of these boys were converted at their prayer meetings and, as Dr. Hunnicutt says, "learned to think on their feet and to speak in public."

(This part is taken directly from Mrs. David Crenshaw's history: "About the year 1875, Miss Ash, who later became Mrs. Worley, was a great power in the church. Very often revivals would start in the prayer meetings. Rev. Doc Sewell and Rev. Parks Ledbetter—local preachers—did effective work in those days. . . . . . . About 1885 there were more than a dozen young people who would lead in prayer. Sunday School continued the year round after they were able to purchase a stove which was about 1866."

"Allens Campground was built in 1875 on the church grounds and filled a great need of that time when people were hungry for the preaching of the Word and for Christian fellowship. Camp meetings were discontinued about 1886.

[The rest of the document continues with additional historical information about the church.]
"The regular monthly preaching service has been held continuously through the years, some sixty-five preachers have served the charge since 1832.

".......the Sunday School has continued to be an influential force in the community. The enrollment now (1944) is 107. The superintendents for the past fifty years are Andy Hall, David Akin, Bob Sosby, and George Crenshaw.

"Even a brief sketch of Allens Church would be incomplete without mention of its Woman's Missionary Society which was organized at least sixty years ago. Among its earlier members were Mrs. G. L. King, Mrs. D. C. Crenshaw, Mrs. Quincy Adams, Mrs. Fannie Hunnicutt, Mrs. J. H. Sligh. For a few years the Society was discontinued, but about 1916 it was reorganized and, under the leadership of Miss Kittie Sligh, now Mrs. H. J. Chapman, and Miss Sallie Hall, became quite active again.

"The Epworth League was organized in October, 1896, and, except for a few short intervals, has continued to meet through the years.

"Because travel was not easy in the days when Allens was built, good substantial families bought land near the church. They built homes, erected family altars, and reared large Christian families. Thus the church became the center of a fine country community, one of the best in Franklin County. At that time the young people did not find it necessary to leave home as now; consequently, there was a large group of splendid young people in the community.

From these strong Christian homes eight men have gone out to preach the gospel; Dr. W. P. King, Dr. George L. King, Dr. Warren T. Hunnicutt, Rev. John Hall, Rev. Clarence Hall, Rev. Glenn LeCroy, Rev. Wilton Quillian, Rev. Joe Quillian. Miss Eva Crenshaw, Deaconess, has also gone into active Christian service in the home field. In addition to these there have gone out into other walks of life many fine men and women, such as doctors, teachers, nurses, merchants, farmers, homemakers, an honor to their church and community.

The Rev. H. A. King was the pastor on the Carnesville Charge when the above history of Allens was written. He was followed by the Rev. Charles A. Grilhe who in turn was followed by the Rev. Harry B. Free. In January of 1951, the Rev. Free was moved to Oconee Street Methodist Church, Athens. The Rev. William Fosmire came to take his place. At the present time there are more than 200 members of Allens Church and its total budget for 1950-1951 is $1,400.

Mr. John Burnett served as superintendent of the Sunday School. At present Mr. George Crenshaw is superintendent. The Sunday School enrollment is 136 and the average attendance is 80.

The following history of the new church building was written by Miss Jewell LeCroy, who has served as a most able treasurer of the finance committee which raised the money for the new building.
"During recent years much discussion had centered around the question of whether to remodel the old church building or build a new one. The issue was brought before the Church the first Sunday in December, 1950. It was voted to plan for the building of a new church near the site of the old building.

"Plans were soon underway. Under the direction of the pastor, Rev. H. E. Free, both a Building and Finance Committee were named. Mr. Dock Burnett was named chairman of the Building Committee and under his leadership the building program was soon begun.

"During April, 1950, the old church building was torn down and work began immediately on the construction of the new brick building.

"Through the cooperation of the members, former members and friends of the church the Finance Committee was able to raise much of the money needed to finance the building program.

"The church was sufficiently completed to hold the first service and the annual Home Coming the first Sunday in August, 1950.

"The building is a brick structure with an auditorium and four Sunday School rooms on the main floor and a basement containing two Sunday School rooms and a place for the meeting of the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

"Gas heat has been installed in the building, and it is hoped that in the future new pews may be placed.

"Allens has made much progress within recent years. Sunday School is increasing in attendance, a new adult class has been organized recently. The M. Y. F. is very active under the direction of Miss Florrie Hunt. The Finance Committee hopes to soon be able to report all its obligations met."

In addition to the above it might be of interest to mention that the Red Hill Schoolhouse was used for church services and Sunday School while the new building was going up. The prayer meeting sponsored by the young people met in homes during this period.

Something should be said about the present Woman's Society of Christian Service. When unification of the Methodist Church took place, the Allens Woman's Missionary Society easily became the Woman's Society of Christian Service. It has grown and expanded its services during these last few years. Several different women have served well as president. Mrs. Albert Cisson is now president. At the present time there are 26 members and for this current year the Society gave to missions the total of $35.40.

Compiled by Eva Crenshaw