ALLENS METHODIST CHURCH, EST. 1812
(Short History)

Allens Methodist Church, long a pillar of influence in the Red Hill Community, Franklin County, Georgia, had its beginning in a home where a group of Christian neighbors met in a prayer meeting to pray for a sick person. As a result of the meeting, this group of devout Christians decided to hold services regularly in a log house.

James Mabry, in his early history of Allens Church, tells us the Church was first organized in 1790. We know very little about the early Church, but we do know the site of the first Church was near Hunter's Creek adjacent to the Dock Burnette Farm. The old cemetery is still there, and graves that are marked include: John Ledbetter, died August 6, 1856; T. S. Ledbetter, died August 4, 1852; M. D. Mabry, died December, 1856; and M. A. Mabry, died 1871.

Allens Church was named for the Allen Family who were among the leading families of the Church. Some of the earliest members of the Church during the period of its humble beginnings were: members of the Dorsey, Prickett, and Quillian Families.

The second site of Allens Church was on the present site of Negro Allens or Ellis Chapel Methodist Church (colored) on Georgia Highway 106, Franklin County. We do not know the year in which the Church was removed to the second site, but in searching the old records, we found that the people were not granted any land until the lottery system of granting land was instituted in 1818.
Some of the members of the second Church were: Joshua and Drucilla Mabry; John Ledbetter; Mary Adams; Ephriam Mabry; Mary Williams; Susan and Robert Verner; Isaac Tabor; Elizabeth Ann Morgan; and Sarah Mabry.

The first records listing pulpit appointments states that the Reverend John Oliver was the pastor in 1832.

In 1872, (February 14), for and in consideration "of their desire for the advancement of the cause of Christ in the Earth", J. R. Cox and E. C. Vandiver conveyed by Warranty Deed to the Methodist Episcopal Church South (Deed Book "DB", Page 219) through its trustees, Isaac Tabor, R. Verner, James Mabry, J. P. Ledbetter, and J. R. Cox, the grounds for the third site of Allens Church, the grounds on which the present building is located, as follows:

"All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the County and State aforesaid, bounded and butted as follows, to-wit: BEGINNING on a Black Oak corner; thence North 57 East 1-3/4 chains to a pine corner; thence North 8½ chains to a pine corner; thence West 10-3/4 chains to a White Oak corner; thence 9½ chains to a Black Oak corner; thence 9½ chains to the beginning corner, containing Ten (10) Acres, more or less, butted on the East and North by lands owned by E. C. Vandiver; on the West and South by lands owned by J. R. Cox and W. W. Mitchell."

J. W. (Wes) Crump gave the land for the cemetery, and other members of the third church included James Mabry, Quincy Adams, Robert Verner, John P. Ledbetter, and J. Riley Cox. Records show that Reverend S. D. Evans was the pastor at this time.

The period of time from 1875 to 1889 saw great advancements for the Church. A Campground was built in 1875 and continued until 1889. Many great revivals were held during the early years.
of the Church, one of which was in the year 1875 under the ministry of the Reverend H. H. Mashburn. Two years later in 1877, Dr. Warren T. Hunnicutt started a boy's prayer meeting which was regularly attended by the boys in the community. A number of these boys were converted during the prayer meetings.

Sunday School has been held continuously since 1887 when a heater was purchased. Some of the Sunday School Superintendents have been: Captain J. H. Sligh; John McCay; Andy Hall; David Akin; Bob Sosby; George Crenshaw; James Andrews; and Patrick Milford.

The "Regular" monthly preaching service has been held continuously through the years on the first Sunday of each month until 1958. Since that time Church services are held on First and Third Sundays of each month.

A brief sketch of Allen's Church would not be complete without mention of the Women's Missionary Society (Now W. S. C. S.) or Women's Society of Christian Service, organized about 78 years ago. Some of the early members included Mrs. G. L. King; Mrs. D. C. Crenshaw; Mrs. Quincy Adams; Mrs. Fannie Hunnicutt; and Mrs. J. H. Sligh. For a brief interval the society was discontinued, but in 1916 it was re-organized and re-activated under the capable leadership of Mrs. H. J. (Kittie Sligh) Chapman and Miss Sallie Hall. Presently, the W. S. C. S. has an active membership with Mrs. A. V. Bailey serving as President.

The Epworth League was organized in October, 1896, and has continued down through the years on Sunday nights but for brief intervals. The Epworth League is now called the Methodist Youth
Fellowship (M. Y. F.).

Through the years many names have been added to the membership register—names of men and women who have been leaders in the Church, Community, County, and State.

The great work which has been done by this famous old church needs no finer monument than the lives of some of the leading pastors of the State who received their early church training here. Among those who have gone out to preach the gospel are: Rev. W. P. King; Dr. George L. King; Dr. Warren T. Hunnicutt; Rev. John Hall; Rev. Clarence Hall; Rev. Glenn LeCroy; Rev. Joe Quillian; Rev. Wilton Quillian; Rev. Shelton Adams, and Rev. Dean Milford. Miss Eva Crenshaw of the Allens Church has gone out into full-time Christian service as a Methodist Deaconess.

Many material improvements have been made down through the years. In 1950 a new brick Church building with adequate Sunday School rooms and a large basement Fellowship Hall was built replacing the 1872 building. In 1954 new pews replaced the old ones.

In 1955 carpeting was installed and kneeling pads were added to the altar. Chimes were installed in the Church. In 1956 an electric organ was purchased for the Church. In 1962 the Church added rest rooms, enlarged the choir area, and added new tables and other improvements to the Church kitchen. In 1963, the church was recovered with white Shingles.

Through the generosity of the late G. Edwin Brown, Franklin County Clerk of the Superior Court, a steeple was added to "his boyhood church" in 1962.
Allens Methodist Church has indeed been fortunate in having able preachers down through the years. Seventy-four men have served as pastors of our Church. We are indebted to each of these consecrated men for the leadership and contributions they have given to the Church through their ministry and their labors with the membership.

Respectfully,

s/ Florrie Hunt Ramey
s/ Miss Jewell LeCroy
s/ Mrs. Jewell H. Adams
s/ George H. Crenshaw

NOTE: Allens Methodist Church, established in 1812, celebrated its Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary) in 1962, during the pastorate of Rev. R. Garland Corley, M. G.