Dear Rev. Hayes:

We think your efforts in compiling the various Methodist Church histories is a commendable project. In regard to your request, here is a brief resume' of Alley's Chapel Methodist Church near Clarkesville, Georgia as compiled from the notes of my Grandfather, the late William Hamlin Alley.

"In 1828, there were few people living in this area. This was the year William Alley, migrating from North Carolina, bought a piece of land on the Soque River and built a house. Seeing the need for a school in the community, he and other citizens built a little one room log school building on his land. It was known as Alley's School House and in 1829, the first school was taught here by a man named Burgess Smith who became a local Methodist preacher and later joined the Conference. Mr. Smith was moved from North Carolina by William Alley and provided a house for him. Alley's School House was used also as a place of public worship by the people of the community. Any denomination was allowed to worship in it and during the summers many revivals were held at this location. William Alley had helped establish the Clarkesville Methodist Church and it was always his desire to build a church at the Alley School House location but he died before seeing his dream come true. One of the First Sunday Schools to be organized in Habersham County was in the Alley School House in the 1830's. The men who started the Sunday School were General William Phillips, a noted Brigadier General in the War Between the States and Jordan McAfee. In 1869 there was a union meeting during a revival in which many people were converted. There were two preachers present: James Jarrard, a Baptist, and Col. Garnet McMillan, a Methodist. At the close of the meeting those wishing to organize a church went forward to give their hand to the preachers. There were more Methodists than Baptists and in this manner decided to build a Methodist Church. Work began in 1870 with dedication in the latter part of that year. The charter members remembering the lifelong goal of William Alley in desiring a church for his community called their new church, Alley's Chapel. Br. James P. Phillips gave an acre of land in 1871. Later, N. Ebbison gave an acfe, and still later the church bought an acre."
The charter members were: Mr. and Mrs. James M. Ramsey, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Purdy, James M. Brooks, John Kinsey, John Jones, and Mr. and Mrs. Jordan McAfee. The first pastors were: Rev. Gray, Rev. Lewis, Rev. Smith and Rev. Edwards. The first trustees were Jordan McAfee, James Jones, Robert McClure, John Jones, James Brooks and James M. Ramsey. The first presiding elders were: Rev. Rush, Rev. Worley and Rev. Baxter. In 1909, the present white frame building was erected on the original lots three and one-half miles from Clarkesville on the Burton Highway."

Respectfully submitted,

Harrison Alley, Church Historian

W.F. Alley

Freeman Alley, Lay Leader