History of Alley's Chapel M.E. Church
Habersham Charge

This Church is located in Habersham County, three and one half miles from Clarksville, on the Burton Highway.

Back in the year 1829, there were not many people living in this community. There were a few families who were all God-fearing people and saw the need of a church building. They got together and built a little log school house with a stick and dirt chimney. The writer remembers it froze and went to school in it. It was built on the land owned by William W. Alley and was known as Alley's School House. The first school was taught by a man named Burgess Smith, who was a local Methodist preacher but afterward joined the Conference.

William W. Alley moved him from North Carolina and settled him in one of his houses. In September 1829, he began his first school.
but little money in those days. The patrons paid him in corn, wheat, rye, molasses, syrup, and anything he could use.

The patrons and builders of the house were William W. Alley, James Brooks, Jordon McAffee, J. Hugh Starrett, Dr. Durall, Phillip Brooks Benjamin Jones, and others,

Guns Dick for a Church or place of Worship. Any denomination had the right to worship in the house.

I will mention some noted men who went to school in that old building, General William Phillips, who was a Brigadier General in the War Between the States, Col. Charles Phillips, his brother, who was a Colonel in the same war, Dr. James P. Phillips, who was a noted physician, and many other noted men.

One of the first Dunker schools, if not the first, the organized in the County, was in the early thirties by General William Phillips and Jordon McAffee.

In 1869, there was a protracted meeting, what you
night came a Union meeting. There were two preachers, a Baptist, James Farrand; a Methodist, Col. Farrett McMillan. If you remember McMillan was elected to Congress, having come over Benjamin Hill, that died before Congress met. At the close of the meeting, the doors of the church were open. All who wanted to join the Baptist gave their hand to Farrand, and the Methodist gave their hand to McMillan. There were quite a number. The ones who joined the Methodist Church thought they were strong enough to organize a church and in 1870 they began the work. They went into the woods and hewed most of the framing and built a little church and it was dedicated in the latter part of 1870.

Dr. James P. Phillips donated an acre of land. J. E. Eddison gave an acre, and still later there was an acre bought by the church.

The charter members were James M. Ramsey and wife.
W. & F. Purdy and wife, James M. Brooks, John Kinney, Jordan McAfee and wife, John Jones, and others. I can't recall.

Among the first Pastors I remember which was in the sixties were Rev. Bray, Rev. Lewis, Rev. Drury, Rev. Edwards. The first preachers and elders I remember were Rev. Rush, Rev. Worley, and Rev. Baker.

In 1909 we built a new church on the same original lot. It is a nice building, painted inside and out, covered with metal, and have electric lights. The present church and land is valued at $4500. The deeds are on record and contain the Trust Clause.

There have been many revivals under the leadership of the following pastors: Milton Davis, Jordan Edwards, Stigler Simmons, Balsley and others. The first Sunday School was organized in 1870, with J. M. Hamby as Superintendent, with around twenty-five
members. The Literature was
the Bible and the Blue Black
Speaks.
We now have a regular
Sunday School with a small
membership but faithful.
Present membership is twenty-
eight. Church membership around 30.
The present pastor is Rev.
Sam Cohn, Jr., present S. S. Dpt.
is J. E. Allen. The Church has
paid everything in full for
this year.
All the facts Concerning
the early Church are from
memory as I am 81 years old
and lived through all of it,
or rather a large part of it.
W. H. Allen
Historian.