CALHOUN FIRST METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

by T. J. Lance

The Reverend A. B. Elizer is the North Georgia Conference historian and the keeper of the records of the Minutes of the North Georgia Conference. He keeps these records housed in a building adjacent to his home in Cartersville, Georgia. Right now he is making plans to have the most important of these records microfilmed.

He and I have been over the Conference minutes for information about the Calhoun First Methodist Church. I am listing in this paper the names of the men who have served the Dalton District as presiding elders and district superintendents and all the pastors who have served the Calhoun First Methodist Church as pastors. I hope that you will file this part of the history of Calhoun First Methodist Church so that you may have it for ready reference.

The Calhoun First Church has been under the following North Georgia Conference districts: The Cherokee, the Marietta, the Rome, and the Dalton. It was in the Cherokee District when the Indians were at New Echota. The Dalton District was organized in 1871. In five more years it will be one hundred years old.

It now seems fairly well established that the Calhoun First Methodist Church has been in five different spots in the City of Calhoun: the first one on the northwest corner of Court Street at River (or Gordon) Street at what is known as the Chastain home; the second one on the northeast corner of North Wall Street at Trammell Street on the lot being occupied by the drive-in bank; the third one on or adjacent to the old church building on North Wall Street (that location is now known as the Civic Center); the fourth in the old church building (now known as the Civic Center) on North Wall Street; and the fifth the present structure at the corner of Line and College Streets. The fifth building was erected in 1950, the addition to the church school plant was built in 1966.

A reference has been made to a Methodist Church in what is now known as New Town but I cannot find any definite information that it was ever a part of the Calhoun Methodist Church.

In Calhoun at the present time there is the New Echota Methodist Church and the Nellie Peters Methodist Church and there are two negro Methodist churches in Calhoun.

The Cherokee District in the North Georgia conference was set up in 1835 and it continued as the Cherokee District until 1856. The Calhoun Church was in the Rome District in 1856.

It seems fairly well established now that the post office named in the North Georgia Conference minutes giving the address of two Methodist ministers as McGuire's Store was at the cross roads above the corner where the road turns down to Plainville on the Rome Road. Bernard Franklin, Dock Fuller and I went out to the home of Mr. Seab Whatley on the Plainville Road and he thinks the abandoned building near the corner is the location.

The following lists are from the North Georgia Conference Minutes over the years--

In the 1856 minutes, the pastor of the Calhoun Church was the Rev. R. F. Jones. In 1854 the Calhoun Church was in the Marietta District and the Rev. J. W. Payne was the presiding elder and Rev. M. D. Bond was the pastor.
In 1859 Calhoun was moved back into the Rome District. Rev. John W. Glenn was the presiding elder and Whitfield Anthony was the Calhoun pastor. The Rev. Mr. Anthony got his mail at McGuire's Store, Georgia.

The Indians were moved to Oklahoma in 1838.

Rev. Anthony Wayne was the Calhoun pastor. The post office was McGuire, Georgia. This was evidently an Indian trading post.

There were no Georgia conferences from 1861 to 1865.

In 1861 Rev. John W. Glenn was the presiding elder and lived in Cave Spring, Georgia. The pastor appointed to the Calhoun Church was the Rev. Churchill A. Crowell and he got his mail from Cassville, Georgia. In 1869 the Calhoun Church was in the Rome District and Habersham J. Adams was the presiding elder and Rev. Thomas W. Pledger was the Calhoun pastor.

In 1869 the Calhoun Church was listed as "pastor to be supplied". In 1869 the Rev. W. P. Harrison was the presiding elder.

In 1870 Habersham Adams was the presiding elder and the Rev. Thomas Pledger was the pastor.

In 1871 the Rev. H. H. Parks was the presiding elder and the Rev. J. M. Barnas was the Calhoun pastor.

In the year 1871 the Dalton District was formed in the North Georgia Conference and William J. Scott was the presiding elder and the Rev. T. M. Pledger the Calhoun pastor.

In 1872 William J. Scott was the presiding elder and the Rev. John Robinson was the Calhoun pastor.

In 1874 Dalton District presiding elder was the Rev. R. W. Bigham and the Calhoun pastor was the Rev. P. C. Reynolds.

In 1877 the Dalton District presiding elder was the Rev. A. M. Thigpen and the Calhoun pastor the Rev. A. W. Williams.

In 1878 the Dalton District presiding elder was the Rev. A. M. Thigpen and the Calhoun pastor was the Rev. M. L. Underwood.

In 1879 the presiding elder of the Dalton District was the Rev. W. A. Parks and the Rev. M. L. Underwood was the Calhoun pastor.

In 1880 the Dalton District presiding elder was the Rev. W. A. Parks and the Calhoun pastor was the Rev. N. Z. Glenn.

In 1881 the Dalton District presiding elder was Rev. J. F. Mixon and the Calhoun pastor was the Rev. B. E. L. Timmons.

In 1882 the Dalton District was the same as 1881.

In 1883 the Dalton District presiding elder was the Rev. J. F. Mixon and the Rev. J. A. Rosser was the Calhoun pastor.

In 1884 the Rev. W. F. Quillian was the Dalton District presiding elder and the Rev. G. W. Thomas was the Calhoun pastor.
In 1885 Rev. W. F. Quillian was the Dalton District presiding elder and the Rev. G. W. Thomas was the Calhoun pastor.

In 1886 the Rev. W. F. Quillian was the Dalton District presiding elder and the Rev. R. R. Johnson was the Calhoun pastor.

In 1887 the Rev. John M. Lowery was the Dalton District presiding elder and the Rev. R. R. Johnson was the Calhoun pastor.

In 1888 Rev. John M. Lowery was the Dalton District presiding elder and the Rev. Simeon Shaw the Calhoun pastor.

In 1889 A. G. Worley was the presiding elder of the Dalton District and the Rev. Lovick P. Winter was the Calhoun pastor.

In 1890 the Rev. J. B. Robins was the presiding elder and the Rev. Lovick P. Winter was pastor of the Calhoun Church.

In 1891 The Rev. W. C. Dunlap was the presiding elder and the Rev. W. T. Hamby was the pastor.

In 1892 the Rev. H. J. Adams was the presiding elder and the Rev. W. T. Hamby was the pastor.

In 1893 H. J. Adams was the presiding elder and Rev. W. T. Hamby the pastor.

In 1894 the Rev. H. J. Adams was the presiding elder and B. H. Trammel was the Calhoun pastor.

In 1895 Rev. H. J. Adams was the presiding elder and the Rev. Clayton Quillian was the Calhoun pastor.

In 1896 the Rev. A. W. Williams was the presiding elder and Clayton Quillian was the Calhoun pastor.

In 1897 Rev. A. W. Williams was the presiding elder and Rev. M. S. Williams was the Calhoun pastor.

In 1898 the Rev. A. W. Williams was the presiding elder and Rev. S. A. Harris was the Calhoun pastor. (This is Pierce Harris's father and Pierce was two years old when his father was sent to the Calhoun Church. I wonder if Pierce got some of his stories around Calhoun at the age of two.)

In 1899 B. P. Allen was the presiding elder and S. A. Harris was the pastor.

In 1900 the Rev. B. P. Allen was the Dalton District presiding elder and Rev. J. W. Hunt was sent at the Calhoun pastor.

Beginning with 1901 the presiding elder of the Dalton District was the Rev. B. P. Allen and the Calhoun pastor was the Rev. J. C. Atkinson; 1902 the presiding elder of the Dalton District was the Rev. Ford McRae and he remained the presiding elder through 1904 and the Calhoun pastor for 1902 was still the Rev. J. C. Atkinson. The Calhoun pastor for 1903 was the Rev. Jeff Davis and the Calhoun pastor for 1904 and 1905 was the Rev. G. D. Stone.

The District presiding elder for the next four years was the Rev. W. P. Lovejoy and the pastor of the Calhoun Church was the Rev. Frank Quillian and he remained
the pastor through 1909. T. J. Christian was listed as the presiding elder for
only one year and that was 1910. The Rev. J. D. Turner is listed as the pastor
of the Calhoun Church in 1910. The Rev. W. T. Irvin was the presiding elder 1911,
1912, 1913, 1914 and the pastor of the Calhoun Church for 1911, 1912, 1913 is
listed as Edward G. Mackay. The pastor of the Calhoun Church in 1914 was the Rev.
Walter S. Branham. The presiding elder for the next four years was the Rev. S. B.
Ledbetter and coming as pastor in 1915 was the Rev. C. M. Lipham who stayed for
two years and was followed by the Rev. J. M. Radford who stayed two years. Following
the Rev. Mr. Ledbetter as presiding elder was the Rev. John F. Yarbrough who stayed
on the district four years through 1921. The pastor of the Calhoun Church in 1919
was the Rev. T. J. Branson and he stayed 1920, 1921 and was followed by the Rev.
E. D. Hale who stayed as pastor 1922, 1923, 1924 and following the Rev. Mr. Yarbrough
as the presiding elder of the Dalton District was the Rev. S. A. Harris who stayed
through 1925.

The Rev. Frank Quillian came as presiding elder in 1926 and stayed on the district
through 1929. Following the Rev. Mr. Hale as the pastor of the Calhoun Church was
the Rev. J. T. Eakes and he stayed 1925, 1926, and 1927. The Rev. Mr. Eakes was
followed by the Rev. S. D. Cherry who stayed four years as pastor through 1931.
The Rev. Frank Quillian was followed by the Rev. J. R. Turner as presiding elder
and he was the district presiding elder through 1933. Following S. D. Cherry as
pastor was the Rev. R. L. Cleckler who stayed three years through 1933. Following
S. D. Cherry as pastor was the Rev. J. T. Eakes and he stayed through 1935. Coming to the Calhoun Church in 1936 was the Rev. J. Herman Allison and he stayed through 1936 and 1937. The Rev. J. S. Thrailkill
was appointed presiding elder in 1938 and the Rev. W. H. Gardner was the Calhoun
pastor. The Rev. Mr. Gardner stayed as pastor through 1941 and the Rev. Mr.
Thrailkill was now the District Superintendent of the Methodist Church. The Title
was changed in 1939. The Rev. C. M. Lipham was the District Superintendent in 1941
and he stayed on the district six years until 1946. The pastor succeeding Mr.
Gardner was the Rev. R. L. Armour who stayed 1942 and 1943. He was succeeded by
the Rev. Y. A. Oliver who stayed through 1947.

Following J. R. Turner as presiding elder in 1934 was the Rev. A. M. Pierce and he
stayed on the district four years through 1937. In 1934 the Rev. G. F. Venable was
the pastor and he stayed through 1935. Coming to the Calhoun Church in 1936 was the
Rev. J. Herman Allison and he stayed through 1936 and 1937. The Rev. J. S. Thrailkill
was appointed presiding elder in 1938 and the Rev. W. H. Gardner was the Calhoun
pastor. The Rev. Mr. Gardner stayed as pastor through 1941 and the Rev. Mr.
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the Rev. Y. A. Oliver who stayed through 1947.

The Rev. Mr. Lipham was succeeded as District Superintendent by the Rev. N. P.
Manning who stayed through 1950. The Rev. C. W. Fruit came as pastor of the Calhoun
Methodist Church 1948, 1949, and 1950. He was following by the Rev. G. M. Acre
who served two years, 1951 and 1952. The Rev. N. P. Manning was followed as Dist.
the Rev. Mr. Acre and was the pastor 1953, 54, 55, and 56. He was followed by the
Rev. A. B. Elizer who was the pastor 1957, 1958, 1959, and 1960.

The Rev. Mr. Stratton was followed by the Rev. W. H. Gardner as District Supt. and
he served 1955, 1956, 1957, and 1958 and was followed by the Rev. E. D. Rudisill
1959, 1960, 1961. The Rev. Mr. Rudisill was followed by the Rev. W. A. Tyson, Jr.
who is now in the office of the District Superintendent. Following the Rev. A. B.
Elizer as the pastor was the Rev. Robert E. Bridges who came as the pastor in 1961
and stayed through a part of 1966. He was followed by the Rev. W. Mack Tribble, Jr.
who came to us from the Acworth Methodist Church.

Some notes on the history items just read:

The Rev. J. B. Robinson who was the presiding elder of the Dalton District in
1894 was elected presiding of Young Harris College in that same year and served
as presiding of Young Harris College until 1899 when Joe Sharp was elected president of the College. Sharp was president of the Fairmount Methodist College at the time he was elected to go to Young Harris College.

As has already been mentioned, the father of Pierce Harris was pastor of the Calhoun Church for two years and Pierce was two or three years of age at the time. Pierce was born in Rome, Georgia September 21, 1895. You and I know that Pierce Harris made an outstanding Methodist minister. His father was minister of the Calhoun Church 1898.

The Rev. M. L. Underwood who is mentioned as one of the Calhoun pastors was the father of the well-known federal judge of that name for so many years in Atlanta, Ga.

The Quillian who was one of the Dalton District presiding elders belonged to the well-known Georgia family of that name. W. F. Quillian was at one time president of Wesleyan College. The Rev. Frank Quillian was a member of the Young Harris Board of Trustees when I became president of Young Harris College. Hubert Quillian became president of LaGrange College. There is a member of the Quillian family who is president of Randolph Macon Woman's College at the present time.

That McGuire's Store was once the post office address of the Calhoun ministers is interesting information.

I have not been able to ascertain that if the pastor named Bond is in any way related to Bill Bond of Calhoun, Georgia now.

The term "Presiding Elder" was changed in 1939 to that of "District Superintendent". The maximum number of years a district superintendent could serve was six years. The Dalton District since 1939 has had one superintendent to serve six years and that superintendent was the Rev. C. M. Lipham. The retired in Dalton and was there when he died. The name of the Rev. Harry Lee Wood does not appear among the pastors of the Calhoun Church in the North Georgia Minutes, but he came to this Calhoun Church following the Rev. W. H. Gardner and became sick soon after he came and was replaced by the Rev. Robert Armour.

The Rev. Edward G. Mackay was the Calhoun pastor for three years. He is the father of the Congressman James Mackay representing the Atlanta District. Mrs. Edward G. Mackay is still living and is in the Wesley Woods Home.

The Rev. J. Tillman Eakes was the pastor of the Calhoun Methodist Church 1925, 1926, and 1927. When he superannuated he and Mrs. Eakes came to Calhoun to live and he spent his last days in Calhoun. Mrs. Eakes moved to Atlanta.

The Rev. A. M. Pierce was the Calhoun pastor for four years. In his later years he became the Conference Historian, the post now occupied by the Rev. A. B. Elizer of Cartersville. The first entry in the Minutes of the North Georgia Conference about the Calhoun Church is for the year 1854 when the Rev. M. D. Bond was assigned as pastor of the Calhoun Methodist Church.

The completion of the new Church School Annex is another big step in the history of the Calhoun Methodist Church. It will be ready for occupancy sometime soon now. It has cost in the neighborhood of $140,000.00 and is being paid for with bonds bought by the members and friends of the Church. The Rev. Willie Mack Tribble, Jr. is the pastor and Bert Lance is the Chairman of the Official Board and George Chambers is the Church School Superintendent.

Signed

[Signature]

Thomas Jack Lance