History Of Cartecay Methodist Church
R. R. 2 Ellijay, Georgia
Ellijay, Georgia

The First Cartecay Methodist Church, (South) was organized and built in August 1834. The deed for the church property was signed July 20, 1844 by John Lewis in the presence of William B. Lamb and W. M. Matthews, J.P., for use as long as the house and land was used as a place of worship. The trustees at that time were Lewis D. Ellington, John Addington, Robert Smith, David Henderson and Peter Gamon. Later, in 1859 Barnett Wilson gave two acres of land for the present church and cemetery. This deed was signed by Barnett Wilson, October 25, 1859. The old church property went back to the heirs and was later owned by Rev. William Ellington, his son, Lewis Duvall Ellington and grandsons, L. M. and W. A. Simmons. Rev. William Ellington later gave the property for the Ellijay Methodist Church and cemetery.

Incidentally, Rev. William Ellington was ordained by Bishop Asbury in the early years on September 16, 1805, before coming to Georgia. The ordination papers are in the Wesleyan collection at Southern Methodist University at Dallas, Texas. He was the first Methodist preacher at Cartecay and in Gilmer County.

The first Cartecay cemetery was close by the church which joins the now, W. A. Simmons' property. The first tombstone in the old cemetery has the name of Wible dated 1834. Some native stones are older and unmarked. A brush arbor was used long before the church was built -- thus dating the worship earlier than 1834.

A few years ago in the 1940's before W. A. Simmons' death in 1960, at the age of 99, he deeded the old cemetery property to the present Cartecay Church.

The first Sunday School at Cartecay Church was organized April 20, 1851 and on October 9, 1853 the Constitution for a Sabbath School at Cartecay Methodist Church (South) Cartecay, Ga., was drawn up with officers and teachers as follows: Lewis Duvall Ellington, William Adolphus Simmons, Sr., Daniel E. Slagle, Barnett Wilson, H. R. Wilson, Joseph McClure, Mrs. Jane E. Tabor, and Mrs. Mary E. Simmons.

The present Church was built in 1859 out of virgin pine timber-hand hewn and planed. The pews, altar and pulpit are of solid pieces of wide pine planks, one and one half inches thick, fastened together with dove tailing and mortised with wooden pegs. The floor, ceiling and walls are of the hand hewn wide planks. Frank E. Haigler, a member of the church later refinished all the wood used in the church sanctuary in a buff color leaving the grain of the wood showing through the soft finish.

The church was divided after the Civil War and men of the Cartecay Church, (South), took their shot guns and spent the nights in
the church to protect it against their enemies who had deserted
their church for the Northern branch.

Slaves had no church of their own. They attended this church.
They sat on the back pews and worshipped with their masters.
They are buried in the cemetery by the church.

The building is well preserved and stands as it was built in
1859 with the exception of Sunday School rooms which were added
in 1948. Regular church and Sunday School services have been
held all through the years.

The church is now heated by large Butane gas heaters -- replac-
ing the wood stoves.

The large Pulpit Bible which was given to the church, February
3, 1861 by Mrs. Jane E. Tabor, is in good condition and is still
in use for services. Mrs. Tabor taught the Bible class for
children for fifty years. Rev. Royce Linton took his text from
this Bible in February 1961 on its one hundred year of service.

The church organ which was bought by the members of the church
in the early years is not in use but is still in the church.
A piano which was later given by Mrs. Bula Tabor Martin is used
now.

The Head of Christ painting, with lighting affect, was presented
to the church by the grand children of W. A. Simmons in 1958.

The Communion Service and Collection plates which were given
to the church in the 1930's by the J. S. Hudson family, in
memory of Mrs. Harriet Tabor Hudson, is another possession
of the church.

The green nylon carpet on the floors of the church was presented
to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Joe E. McCutchen, Sr.

The building and the church grounds are beautifully kept. The
graves have been leveled and the entire grounds sodded with
evergreen grass, all of which stands as a monument to all those
who sacrificed for a good cause and have gone to their reward.

Rev. Osa Patrick is pastor of the church. Frank Pettit is
Supt. of the Sunday School. Mrs. U. S. Worley is Counselor
for the MYF. Mrs. Elsie Gillam is President of the WSCS. Rickey
Prince is president of the MYF.

Former Supts. of the Sunday School were L. M. Simmons, W. B.
James and E. H. Osborn.

Ministers who served this church in the early years were:
Rev. William Ellington, Rev. John W. Guillian, Rev. Bethel
Hughes, Rev. A. J. Hutchinson, Rev. M. L. Underwood, Dr. John
Watkins, Rev. C. A. Janieson, Rev. W. O. Butler, Rev. A.D.
Bishop Warren Candler preached in Gatesy Methodist Church when a young man of 21 years while he was Presiding Elder of the Dahlonega Circuit.

Among the trustees and stewards of the church who served for many years were: J. S. Hudson, William A. Simmons, L. M. Simmons, Dr. N. S. Goss, W. B. James, B. H. Osborn, J. L. Holden, and J. L. Dunn.


A recent improvement made at the church is the seats have been upholstered making the seats very comfortable.