

1972 Augusta Dist

HISTORY
of
CRAWFORDVILLE CHARGE

1951

~~Barnett Church~~

Crawfordville Church

Crawfordville Charge

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CRAWFORDVILLE METHODIST CHURCH.

The Crawfordville Methodist Church has a history that is replete with interesting and historic events. It begins with the time of the creation of Taliaferro County. The County was created December, 1825. The first Superior Court was held in July, 1826. The Crawfordville section was a portion off of Wilkes County. It was sparsely settled. There were no public schools. Illiteracy was extant. Paradoxically, there are evidences that at the same time there existed learning to a high degree and cultural advancement. The first permanent courthouse was erected in 1828. It was a substantial two story brick building and structurally attractive. There were leaders of high types, and the common run of people desired good government and religious surroundings. The diffusion of knowledge was left largely to spellbinders, and to zealous religious adherents. The circuit rider of the Methodist played a large part. With this background the history begins.

THE FIRST DEED. On April 4th, 1828, James, Executor, et.al. made a deed to Benjamin F.H. Lindsey, Trustee, for the Methodist Episcopal Church, Crawfordville, In that deed, they refer to the "Methodist Society", at Crawfordville. A second time in the same, "in trust for the "Methodist Society", at Crawfordville. The word, "Society", still used, as begun by John Wesley. The lot was used but but a few years. It was South of the public square. It will be referred to again hereinafter.

THE SECOND DEED. From Stephens Ellington, dated 28th day of March 1828 to Williamson Bird, John G. Roberts, Nolan R. Lewis, Benjamin F.H. Lindsey, John W. Jordan and William Little, Trustees for the Methodist Episcopal Church. The lot herein conveyed adjoined the lot in the previous deed. Likewise it was only used for a short time. Probably six or seven years. Williamson Bird, herein mentioned played a large part in the history.

THE THIRD DEED. From Henry Shorter to John W. Jordan, Williamson Bird, Senr., as Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Crawfordville, Georgia, dated April 26th, 1833, conveying lot No. 30 of the Town of Crawfordville. The word, "Society" is not used in this deed. The name was gradually changing from "Society" to Church.

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Presently, this Deed will be again referred to.

THE FOURTH DEED. From Edmon Jordan, dated the 21st day of October, 1835, to Rev. Williamson Bird, William Peek, Esq., James Reynolds, Isaac Hart and Edmon Jordan, to build a Methodist Episcopal Church, containing two acres, more or less. Without doubt this tract was in the 607th or 608th Dist., and was for another Church, but is incorporated herein because it carries the name of Williamson Bird, and shows that he was a Methodist preacher. He stays in the limelight for this reason, and also for the reason that he was the vendor to Alexander Hamilton Stephens, the "Great Commoner", in a deed to what is known as "Liberty Hall".

Now reverting to the **THIRD DEED.** From its execution until about 1870, the Church known as "Bird's Chapel" was located on this lot. Through the ante bellum and the post bellum days. At times the light of the Church burned very dimly, and even it failed to flicker at one time.

A striking event in its existence came in the ante bellum period. The Georgia Railroad was constructed. It was necessary to grant a right of way for the main line through the Church lot.

GRANT TO THE GEORGIA RAILROAD. In DEED Book B PAGE, 114, the Church executed a Right of Way. Dated May 27th, 1836. In this grant it is set forth, "whereon the Methodist Church stands".

With the exception of Bird, the Trustees are but of record knowledge. They and their families have been lost in the passing of the years. From mouth to mouth, from collateral relations, and from the fact that Bird was the vendor to Stephens, Bird's life and family are still known in the history of the Town. It is believed, of course, that the name, "Bird's Chapel", was in his honor.

THE FIFTH DEED. On the 29th day of May, 1875, Alexander Hamilton Stephens to Isaac Kent, William F. Holden, George W. Farmer, and William H. Brooke, as Trustees of Bird's Chapel, conveying a lot forthw "use and worship of a Society, attached to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South".

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A second time in the deed, it was referred to as the, "Methodist Society". He expressed the consideration as, "the sum of Five dollars, but mostly with a view of advancing the wishes and interests of the said, and the erection of Bird's Chapel, as a house of worship, to which sacred cause it has been dedicated". A third time, that if at any time hereafter said Methodist Society shall be dissolved, the building or house of worship as aforesaid, shall from any cause cease to be used for the purpose, then in that case, all the right, title and interest shall revert to him, the said Alexander H. Stephens. In 1910, the lot reverted to the privy in his estate, the Stephens Monumental Association.

The building was a neat, well constructed and commodious church. An itinerant painter came through town. He had the hand of a master. To the rear of the pulpit, across the back, he painted an open bible. Across it were the words, "HOLY BIBLE". Above it the word, "FAITH". This painting lingers in the memories of those who attended as children. All have passed the meridian of life. Mr. Ralph W. Golucke, Clerk of the Superior Court who furnished the record information herein, and who attended the Sunday School says, "Every church should have such a painting". It left an irradicable impression on the minds of the children.

THE SIXTH DEED. On Sept. 2nd, 1911, C.H. & R.W. Golucke conveyed by deed a lot to the Southwest of the Courthouse, whereon Mr. J.B. Bird now resides. This was a convenient spot for the Church. By strenuous efforts the small congregation succeeded in erecting an attractive building. The congregation felt that it has accomplished a financial feat. Then came the dedication. All felt happy. But, it was ill fated. A cyclone of destructive power hit Crawfordville, on the 18th day of July, 1918. It destroyed this Church, and also the Presbyterian, completely, though they were in different sections of town. Some said that it was the devil's works, and that the Baptist Church, which was unhammed, was giving him no trouble. Up to 1896, the Presbyterians had used the Methodist Church for their services. In a cycle, the Presbyterians and the Methodists again used the same building for worship, temporarily-the Court house

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PROPERTY FOR TAXATION
County
District
Address
THE SEVENTH DEED. On June 1st, 1920, the City of Crawfordville conveyed by deed to the Church the lot upon which the present Church now stands. The consideration expressed Five Hundred Dollars.

Building operations were started in the boom period of World War I. Rev. O.B. Taxley was Pastor. Approximately \$3000.00 was obtained from a parsonage, long owned by the Church, sold to Mrs. Leila B. Lyle. Approximately \$10 000, additional was raised by donations. When the economic collapse of that year came, the indebtedness was about \$1300.00. It tried men's souls to pay this, and keep up the other expenses of the Church. There were threats of suits. Mr. J. Hart Sibley, Sibley was the chief creditor. To his memory, it can be said that he was patient and considerate. Finally all debts were paid.

PARSONAGE. On March 28th, 1949, a parsonage with all modern appointments was dedicated. It is convenient and attractive, located on the Church grounds. New furniture throughout. An initial donation of \$3000.00 was made by Mr. J.H. Bowen in memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H.I. Bowen, who were members.

A PUBLISHED ACCOUNT. In the Advocate-Democrat, local paper, of the issue of February 21st, 1891, appeared from the hand of an old citizen, though mentally active, a sketch of the Church, which embodied information, otherwise lost in the passing of the years. It reads:

"In 1826, The handful of Methodists built a small Church near where Mr. Joe Farmer lives, but it proved inconvenient to get to and from, and it was moved away over to the lot now owned by Mr. Troupe. Here it remained for some years, but the few Methodist families living near by had moved away, settling elsewhere, and so few remained that services were discontinued, and finally the building was sold to a farmer living out in the country, and he tore it down and moved it away. In 1876, a young Methodist minister Allen Thomas, whom shortly before had left Emory College, full of youthful hopes and his heart glowing with holy

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zeal, formed the resolution of establishing a M.E. Church at Crawfordville. The land was given him by Hon. Alex H. Stephens, and the Church was built on the corner of the park fronting Liberty Hall."

A RESUME.

The lot embraced in DEED THREE is now the home of Miss. Fannie Lou Anderson. This was the original Bird's tract. Many quaint and saintly characters have been members of this Church. In 1867, C. Bergstrom, a young Swede, who had served in the army of Gustav located in Crawfordville, and joined the Church, and lived a loyal Methodist until his death at the age of 87. His speech badly mixed with Scandinavian and English often provoked unrestrained laughter. He was elected Sunday School Superintendent, and ran across the wordx, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego." After two trials of pronouncing the words, he gave up in despair. All former residents, who attended the Sunday School, invariably refer to him. Mr. Hezekiah Richardson, who attended the Sunday School more than sixty years, is at this time on a visit here and at once recalled his memory of Brother Bergstrom.

~~REVEREND~~ Mr. W.F. Holden, prominent citizen, Trustee and loyal Methodist, more than sixty years ago, as his last act gave to the preacher's salary. He was stricken and died in a few hours. Let it not be considered an ill omen. Countless millions have joined that "mysterious caravan" that moves on to that *mysterious realm* from which no traveller has yet returned, who made no donations.

In all the years of its history, peace and harmony has prevailed.

Of great interest in the Church now is the promising future of Rem B. Edwards, in his seventeenth year

who has made known his intentions of entering the Methodist ministry after completion of High School and College studies. He preached on the night of the third Sunday in this month, June, 1951, to a large congregation. All were in high praise of the sermon, and it was called, "wonderful". He promises to be, so far as is known, the first minister from this Church.

Rev. C. B. Drake is the Pastor.

Troy H. Vickers is the School Superintendent.

He has held this post since the fall of 1936. He holds the post from year to year with perfect unison and accord of the congregation.

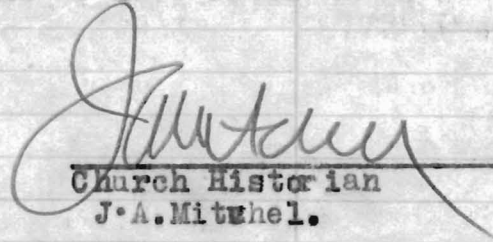
The Board of Stewards consists of A. J. Harper, President, Troy H. Vickers, Hayes Chew, Otto Kay, L. E. Credelle, J. H. Wilson, W. T. Bedgood, W. B. Jones, and J. A. Mitchell. and John Beazley Sisson.

The 1950-1951 Assessments have been paid in full.

The Superannuate Endowment Pledge has been liquidated. Financial and memberships showings are now at their peaks.

The Church has approximately one hundred members.

"Their good works do live after them."


Church Historian
J. A. Mitchell.

Crawfordville, Ga.
June 21st, 1951.

ATTESTATION

I solemnly swear that there has been no change in the statements made on the application for homestead and/or personal property exemption as to the value of the property listed and that I have occupied such home and/or owned such personal property continuously since exemption was granted. Exemption is requested for 1950. Exemption No. Homestead

Personal

Approved this _____ day of _____ 1951.

Claimant

Total market value Real Estate Returned Above

List Each Piece of Property Separately

Value of City or Town Property