By Iris Dobbs

DAUGHTER OF CICERO CHAPPELL AND SARAH DUPREE DOBBS

Little River Charge
John Wesley said that the second Methodist Society ever organized in the world, was in Savannah, Georgia. We may safely say that Methodism, so far as her doctrines are concerned, was born in Georgia, for here it was, that he who gave them form, defended and propagated them, broke the shackles of churchly tradition, giving to the world the Wesleyan truths, that had so mighty an influence. The prisons and poor houses of England were full and a colony not for paupers and criminals, but for those who might become so without help was decided upon by some philanthropic Londoners. King George the Second granted them as Trustees all of the land from the Savannah west to the Mississippi River, and James Oglethorpe, afterward General Oglethorpe, came across the sea with a small body of emigrants and two clergymen, Dr. Henry Herbert and a Lutheran.

The field was a hard one and these men soon became dissatisfied and returned to England. General Oglethorpe made a voyage to England for new emigrants and was told of a fellow at Christ College, Oxford, England, that would meet all of his demands. John Wesley, strict and careful in his conduct and exacting in his demands of others, had refused the rectorship of his father's parish, but in answer to General Oglethorpe's appeal, John Wesley and his younger brother, Charles, accepted the call as ministers to the new colony, landing in Savannah, February 8, 1736. The voyage of four months of sea travel with Moravian and Sallsburgher immigrants brought contacts of untold value to Wesley.

After laying the foundation of Methodism in Georgia, the Wesleys returned to England and were followed as ministers to the new colony by George Whitefield, one of the most eloquent evangelistic preacher the Methodist Church has ever known, and very much loved by the colonists. Benjamin Ingram, Delamonte, and Winter were also ministers to the young Georgia colony.

The above is something of the background of the early history of Methodism and how it came to Georgia.

In the early years of Methodism in Cherokee County, there were periods of time when there were no church gatherings. This was probably due in part to measures of safety. There was conflict with the Indians, War Between the States, and Reconstruction Days, but the knowledge of the sustaining love of Christ and the joy of religious freedom lived on in the hearts of the colonists, and at a favorable time, the churches functioned normally again.

Rev. Joseph Pharr, born 1796, died 1858 - Ordained to preach by Bishop Soul 1826 - buried in Little River Cemetery, with this inscription on his headstone: "He was a faithful watchman, and God's obedient child" - was one of Little River's church's first preachers. The organization of Little River, the mother church of Woodstock Circuit, dates back to the first roots of Methodism in Cherokee County.
The first official record of Cherokee Mission in 1832 from George C. Smith, Jr.'s "History of Georgia Methodism". From the first obtainable record, 1879, Little River was then in South Carolina Conference, Gainesville District, and Canton Charge. J. F. Mixon, Presiding Elder and E. K. Akin, Preacher in charge. Rev. L. G. Marlin, Cherokee County Historian, records Little River and Sixes, a former Indian settlement and Bascomb as being organized churches in 1830. Sixes was the first to have a regular preaching appointment.

The original Little River hewn log church building was located down on Little River near Evan's Bridge. No landmark of the old building is left, but the nine unmarked graves in a nearby pine grove are known to be some of the Evans family, who were members of the church. Nobody knows why the congregation decided to move the church, but in 1839, W. Posey Winn made a deed to Nelson Dickerson, Israel Evans, and H. A. Durham, Trustees of Little River Methodist Church, and their successors in office for (12) twelve acres of land on the old Alabama Road, about a mile from the original site. The first building on this site was also of logs and was used for school purposes too. Fifteen years later, in 1854, James T. Gault led the congregation in erecting a new frame building of hand-dressed North Georgia pine at a cost of $300.00. This is the same building that we are now worshipping in. J. Posey Winn was the great-grandfather of the late Smith Johnston, Sr., a prominent Methodist Layman.

The church cemetery is also located on the church property. In the last half of the eighteenth century and in the first part of the nineteenth, transportation was slow. Many camp meetings were organized in that period to revive spiritual fires. During the time for which we have but little in the way of record, the members doubtless urged on by neighboring congregations decided to build an arbor and start a camp meeting. A splendid tabernacle was built in the flat between the church and cemetery and for many many years great crowds thronged the grounds during the camp meeting week. An indication of its success is seen in the fact that there were approximately 40 tenting families, some of other denominations. Amazing spiritual power was generated in the sunrise prayer meetings and four preaching services daily, at 8 and 11 AM and 3 and 7 PM. Some of the best ministers of the North Georgia Conference were on hand to do the preaching. Many souls were saved and new members added to the church rolls.

Another distinctive influence in the life of Little River Community was the academy located just off the church property at TRICKHAM. John Attaway, a sister and brother, and P. D. Wheeling outstanding scholars of their day were instructors. They were thorough in their work that created an intellectual and cultural environment in the community, and the church greatly benefitted therefrom.

The church has been extremely active throughout its long history. Such men as Parks Hardman, J. T. Dickerson, J. M. Attaway, Cicero Chappell Dobbs, Pierce Butler Letimer, Joseph Brown Mesteller, George Washington Hames, Thomas Naaman Hardman, Claude Barnes, and last but not least, Charlie C. Wheeler, who is rounding out his 36th year,
he has served as Superintendent of Sunday School of Little River and it has grown under his well-trained active leadership. Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Wheeler have been a source of great inspiration in carrying out the full program of the church.

The early churches found it very difficult to keep Sabbath Schools going through the winter season with the country thinly settled, cold, wet weather, sickness and but little in the way of transportation. However, they would reorganize and take a new start with spring. Many pastors spoke of lack of teachers in the early years.

There was an active Epworth League organized in 1926, enrolling practically all of the young people of the church. An M.Y.F. was organized under the new church program and is doing a magnificent work of training the youth of the church. Mrs. Frank McClesky is the present Adult Counselor and Lee McClesky is President.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service was organized in January 1934, with the following officers: President, Mrs. Eames Rusk; Vice-President, Mrs. Paul Rusk; Treasurer, Mrs. W. H. Rusk; Local Treasurer, Mrs. Mark Childers, Mrs. H. M. Coffin; Secretary, Mrs. Charlie Wheeler; Bible Study, Mrs. W. H. Long, Mrs. Mae Dunn; World Outlook, Mrs. Harry Hames; Spiritual Life, Mrs. Ras Sims; Mission Study, Mrs. Charles Hendrix; Publicity, Mrs. Grady Stell; Christian Social Relations and Local Church Activities, Mrs. Glen Hames; Program Committee, Mrs. Luther Hames, Mrs. Cash Sims, Miss Mamie Coffin. Mrs. Bronson Jamerson is the present President.

The following improvements have added much to the comfort and efficiency of carrying on the church program: Sunday School rooms in 1934 with L. L. Burch, Pastor; electric lights in 1935 with W. F. Lunsford, Pastor; new comfortable pews in August 1949 and gas heat in October 1949 with Burch Fannin, Pastor; a handsome church Cable piano was installed in 1952 with Ross G. Freeman, Pastor; the new Fellowship building was erected on church property in 1954 by the Young Adult Class with Robert Vaughn, Pastor in charge.

Little River observes Homecoming Day the 4th Sunday in July with a guest speaker and a basket dinner.

The industry of the territory around Little River Church has been almost completely changed in the last 12 years. The stupendous task of fighting the boll weevil menace caused farmers to go into the broiler raising business and they are finding a much more lucrative means of livelihood in it.
W. Posey Winn, Doner of Church Property
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas D. Evans
Mr. & Mrs. Parks Hardman
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Dickerson
Mr. & Mrs. William S. Foster
Mr. & Mrs. Colman Hanes
Mr. & Mrs. P. E. Latimer, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Lawson H. Petree
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Dial, Sr.

Patterson Saye
Perry Mason Dobbs,
Vesta M. Dobbs

Mr. & Mrs. James T. Gault
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas N. Hardman
Mr. & Mrs. E. Marion Dobbs
Mr. & Mrs. Cicero C. Dobbs
Mr. & Mrs. W. Posy Dobbs
Mr. & Mrs. J. Newton Barnes, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Richard H. Long
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R. Long

James M. Rusk
Rev. & Mrs. Charlie Speck

H. K. Petree, Mr. & Mrs. H. K. Petree
Jackson W. Edwards

Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Hames
Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Wigley
Mrs. Chessie Long
Mr. & Mrs. G. W. Sims
Mr. & Mrs. W. N. A. Jamerson

Elizabeth Jamerson
Loring Jamerson

Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Byrd
C. M. McClure
L. F. Burtz
Samuel R. McCleskey, Sr.

John P. Boring
Dave W. Dobbs
J. M. Dobbs
Rayson Dobbs
Wade Dobbs
Amos Dobbs

William J. Johnson
J. W. McCollum
Harrison Latimer
Mr. & Mrs. W. P. Dobbs
E. P. Paden
Jeff D. Dobbs
Wylie Dobbs, Sr.

John Dobbs
T. H. Harris
W. W. Hawkins
D. H. Payne
John M. Attaway
John Petree
Bob Petree

W. O. Rusk
Ruth (Dobbs) Rusk
Iillie (Dobbs) Rusk
Perry M. Dobbs, Jr.
Emmett C. Dobbs
Willis O. Dobbs
Chebbie Dobbs
Iris Dobbs
Dollie Gault
Kitty Gault
James Gault, Jr.
Harry Latimer
W. D. Latimer
John R. Dickerson
Mr. & Mrs. Claud Barnes, Sr.
Thomas Latimer
Earl Benson
Evans Benson
Pierce E. Latimer, Jr.
Durell Dickerson
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Brannon
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Latham
Samantha Dupree
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Barrett
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Mosteller, Sr.
Avarilla Dobbs
Sallie Dobbs
William C. Dial, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Dupree
Carrie Dickerson (Gober)
Mary (Latimer) McRee
Minnie Petree
Mr. & Mrs. Marion Hames
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Hames
Ophelia Wiley
Laura (Dial) Lovingood
Leila Brannon
Hettie Brannon
Alma Brannon
Odesa Brannon
Roy Brannon
Edna R. Benson
James Dickerson
Leslie Hardman
Nettie Hardman
Mr. & Mrs. Parks Hardman
Paul Hardman
Leona Hardman
Tommie Hardman
Armathine Fowler
Cecil Fowler
Willard Fowler
Flora Fowler
Jerome Fowler
Eugene Dobbs
Ophelia Dobbs
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Kemp
Mr. & Mrs. William Neese, Sr.
Alice (Wiley) Dobbs
Joe Latham
Phillip Kemp & Mrs. Phillip Kemp
Gladys (Long) Self
Willard Rusk
Ernest Rusk
Willie Agnes (Dunn) Daniel
Charlie Wheeler
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Wheeler
Estelle Wheeler
Ben Rusk
James N. Barnes
Sara (Kemp) Mabery
Mr. & Mrs. John Purser
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Keheley
Mr. & Mrs. W. M. Keheley
Mr. & Mrs. J. R. McCleskey
Mr. & Mrs. Frank McCleskey
Virginia McCleskey & Mrs. Ellyn McCleskey
Mr. & Mrs. Harold McCleskey
Mrs. Hally McCleskey
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Dunn
Glenn Dunn
Gladys Dunn
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Rusk
Mr. & Mrs. Will Stell
Mr. & Mrs. Grady Stell
Mr. & Mrs. G. C. Epps
Earl Long
Missouria Wingfield
Will Long
Tom Long
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Hames
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Hames
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Hames
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Hames
Leon Hames
Sara (Blue) Hames
Mr. & Mrs. J. J. Kemp
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Carpenter
Mr. & Mrs. Doyle Hames
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Childress
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Childress
Ralph Long
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Long
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rusk
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Holbert
Mr. & Mrs. Parks Sims
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Stell
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Goddard
Leola Wheeler
Ras Sims, Jr.
Carlton Hendrix
Dorothy (Hames) Cox

Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Hartsfield
Bobby Hartsfield
Virginia Hames
Ernestine (Rusk) Roberts
Louise (Self) Reece
Harold Self
Gail McCleskey
Evelyn (Neese) Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Goddard
Lee McCleskey
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hames
Rachel (Neese) Chandler
Pat Kemp
Billy Wheeler

Mrs. Bronson Jamerson
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Keheley
Martha (Latimer) Carpenter
Mrs. Ethel Whithearst
Mr. & Mrs. P. A. Thornton
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Hampton
Mr. & Mrs. Luke Higgins
Mrs. Mae Dunn
Mary Dobbs
Ben Dobbs
Ruth Long
Leila Hames
Jimmie Hames
Mr. & Mrs. Luther Hames
Mr. & Mrs. Olin Hames
Dewey Hames
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Hames
Irene Hames
Albert Hames
Howard Hames
Robert Hames
Ralph Mosteller
Mamie Mosteller
Crisp Mosteller
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Neese
Mr. & Mrs. George Neese
J. B. Mosteller, Jr.
Floree (Shockley) Dobbs
Lula Shockley
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Dobbs
Ruby (Hames) Smith
George Hames
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Bearden
Margaret Petree
Mr. & Mrs. Ras Sims
Mr. & Mrs. Cash Sims
Mr. & Mrs. Talmage Anglin
Miles Byrd
Margaret (Sims) Kennedy
Dock Neese
Billy Paul Rusk
In the early years all churches of the Circuit did not average paying $100 per quarter. Cents. But there was a quantity of good country food furnished.
Little River Professional Men and Teachers:

Rev. Charles Speck
Rev. John Dickerson, Oklahoma
Willis Dobbs, Executive in field of insurance
Parks Hardman
Ben Dobbs, Business men in the field of insurance
Thomas Hardman
Dr. Pierce Kemp, M.D., Macon
Dr. Ralph Mosteller, M.D.
Dr. James Gault, M.D., Atlanta
James Newton Barnes, Civil Engineer
E. O. Dobbs, State Senator and Barnesville, Ga. attorney
J. B. Mosteller, Jr., Civil Engineer
Iris Dobbs, Teacher and fourteen years as Secretary of W.S.C.S work in Atlanta West District

In the early days of Methodism in Georgia when one minister sometimes served twenty-eight churches, the Local Preachers and Class Leaders really did a heroic and far-reaching work.

Local Preachers               Class Leaders

W. S. Foster                  J. T. Dickerson
Wm. W. Hawkins               D. H. Payne
N. J. Garrison               A. M. Evans
Billy Johnson                 Dr. Harrison Latimer
Thomas Chatten                Coleman Horne
Levi F. Burtz                 Parks Hardman
D. B. Reed                   J. H. Harris
C. D. McCurley               Joseph Mackey
J. W. McCollum               J. M. Dobbs
W. A. Betsel                  Henry Martin
                                  J. H. Hancock
                                  T. N. Hardman
                                  G. W. Hames

Sunday A. M., June 12, 1955

Little River Sunday School Enrollment - 124
Banncom Sunday School Enrollment - 136
Woodstock Sunday School Enrollment - 102

Little River Church has 175 Members.

Little River Sunday School Classes and Teachers

Adult Class - Mrs. Bronson Jamerson, W. Q. Rusk, Mrs. Charlie Wheeler
Young Adult - Mrs. Byron Long, J. W. Keheley, Mrs. Harrell McCleskey
Young People - Carl Hames
Intermediate - Paul Rusk
Junior - Mrs. Paul Rusk
Primary - Mrs. E. L. Rusk
Kindergarten - Mrs. W. H. Rusk
Little River Members who Married Methodist Ministers

Louise Latimer (1st wife) Dr. W. D. Anderson
Leila (2nd wife) Dr. W. D. Anderson
Louise Anderson. Dr. Fred Montflet
Kate Latimer Harris Dr. J. F. Nixon
Ella Latimer - Dr. J. M. Lowry
Mary Lou Latimer - Dr. Fred McCleary
Stella Fleming - Rev. Fred McCleary

Outstanding Speakers

Hon. J. T. Lance
Rev. Marvin Dickerson
Rev. P. A. Kellett
Bishops Warren D. and Ada A. Candler's father and mother
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel C. Candler
were married standing on the
large flat rock in Sixes
Church Yard.

Hon. Samuel C. Candler was
elected Sheriff of Cherokee Co.
Jan. 10, 1934, and to the
State Legislature in 1935.
Little River has 175 enrolled church members.

The Little River Vacation Bible School was held, beginning June 11th with an enrollment of 69.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cemetery</td>
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<td>$100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Fellowship Building</td>
<td>$3752.67</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total of the above is $5448.03

The Fellowship Building has been paid for and will be dedicated Homecoming Day, July 22, 1956.
MEMOIRS

WHEREAS, God in his infinite wisdom has called from the church below to the church above, the spirit of our saintly brother, Coleman Hames, who for sixty years was a member of the M.E. Church South and for forty years a member of the Little River Church, North Atlanta District, and who in this long life of Christian service and fidelity to the church, illustrated and exemplified the highest and noblest type of Christian citizenship, therefore be it resolved at this Quarterly Conference:

1st, that in the death of Bro. Hames the church has lost one of its brightest, best, and noblest members, a man who by his upright walk, faithful attendance upon the ordinances of the church, was a pillow of righteousness, and whose noble life has been and will be in inspiration to all who are fortunate in knowing him.

2nd, that these expressions of our appreciation be inscribed upon these Q.C. records, and a copy submitted to the family of the deceased.

(Copied from the Q.C. records of the 4th Quarterly Conference, Woodstock Circuit, 1897.)

A TRIBUTÉ TO WILLIAM S. FOSTER

"My father, Rev. William S. Foster, died in Jonesville, S.C., June 14, 1896, at the home of Mr. J. B. Foster, in his 80th year. For more than 40 years he was citizen of Cherokee County, Ga. He was converted and joined the Methodist Church in 1842. In business and in social life, in church and in state, at home and abroad, he was a loyal and consistent Christian. He was an indulgent father, a devoted husband and a kind neighbor. He had no disease, but seemed to be worn out with the hard fought battles of life.

The closing days of his life were calm; no pain racked him, but like a tired child he sweetly slept his last days. We feel that our father has gone to be with the Savior, and the many loved ones gone before, and we hope that we can meet him when the toils of this life are over. We miss thee, dear father, and a few more years we hope that we can meet thee on the shining shore where partings are no more". Written by his daughter, Mrs. Ophelia Harris, June 25, 1896, Jonesville, S.C. (Copied from minutes Q.C. Woodstock Circuit, 1896.)

MEMOIRS

Rev. William Jefferson Johnson was born in Union District, South Carolina, September 30, 1832; died Oct. 6, 1896, aged 64 years. In 1855 married Miss Mary Carmichael. He was converted the same year and joined Methodist Church at Little River Campground. Licensed to short before the war, and served in the Confederate Army. He became a licensed preacher and ordained Deacon in 1874 by Bishop Wightman, and Elder in 1893 by Bishop Hagood.
Brother Johnson was a man who held the confidence of the people and was a preacher of ability. He delighted in the study of Theology and possessed a mind well stored with the doctrines of Methodism. He was loyal to his church and a safe adviser of his itinerant brethren. He rendered good service as a preacher and worker in the Lord’s vineyard in this county for many years.

In his last sickness there were intervals when his mind was beclouded and befogged by disease, but a short while before his death he embraced his loved ones and asked them to meet him in the glory world. His end was peaceful and he went to death as an infant falls to sleep on its mother’s breast. May we so live as to meet him in the inheritance of "the saints in light". W. O. Butler, P.C.

(Memoirs of the Woodstock Circuit, 1896.)

Rev. William Washington Hawkins was born in Macon County, N.C., March 5, 1835; died August 13, 1896, aged 61 years. Converted in 1852 at Hickory Flat Campground and in 1854 married Miss Sisily Haney. He was licensed to preach in 1876, and was ordained a deacon in 1883 by Bishop Pierce. Bro Hawkins labored for the upbuilding of the Lord’s Kingdom and seldom refused to suspend when called on to fill the pulpit. His temperament being fervid, his sermons were earnest, sympathetic and emotional. He not only tried to build up Christ’s Kingdom, but advocated the right of the common people and feared not to defend their cause on public platforms and in private walks of life. He was a lover of his country, his fellowmen, and his God.

His last sickness was short-prostrated on Saturday, he breathed his last on Thursday following. Our county has lost a good citizen, his family and affectionate husband and father, and our church a zealous advocate and the common people a true and tried friend.

Our brethren Johnson and Hawkins labored in the ministry together many years in this county and helped to lay the foundations upon which the Methodist Church rests today, and the success of our church is in a measure due to their zeal and labors in her behalf. May their mantles fall on some of our young men who will rise up to take the vacant places in the great army of the Lord, and press the battle they so nobly sustained.

W. O. Butler, P.C.

(Memoirs of the Woodstock Circuit, 1896.)
IN MEMORIAM

It is vastly more important that one lives well than that they live long.—The subject of this sketch did both.

On Wednesday evening as the twilight shadows had lengthened into darkness the soul of Mrs. Nettie Hardman Long whose span of life was from August 7, 1885 to February 8, 1956, slipped quietly away to her heavenly home.

Nettie Hardman and William H. Long were married December 12, 1912. Mr. Long passed to his reward January 28, 1950.

Two children were born to them, son, Ralph Naman Long, Eastman, Georgia. Children, Bennett Long, William Hardman Long, Cynthia Ann Long. Daughter, Hazel Long Hanes, Woodstock, Georgia. Children, Carl Hanes, Jr., Donna Sue Hanes. Mrs. Long is also survived by two sisters, Mrs. Oscar Smith, Atlanta and Mrs. Charlie Wheeler, Woodstock.

Two brothers, W. Parks Hardman, Atlanta and Thos. T. Hardman, Woodstock.

Mrs. Long's greatgrandfather, Naman Hardman born in 1776 was one of the devout charter laymen of the early American Methodist Church. Grandfather Parks Hardman was a deeply spiritual class leader of the pioneer days of Little River Methodist Church dating back to 1830.

The home of Thos. Naman and Louella Wells Hardman, parents of Mrs. Long was established on the teachings of the Golden Rule. They were consecrated members of Little River Church and active in all phases of church work. The christian influence in their daily lives gave their children a rich investment in the Kingdom of God. It was in Mrs. Long's home and church that her life found its truest expression. She joined St. James Methodist Church in Atlanta at the age of 14. She later moved to Cherokee County and transferred her membership to Little River Methodist Church where she was a constant member and loyal Sunday School teacher for fifty years. She was a charter member of the Little River W.S.C.S.

The christian influence that permeated her girlhood girded her with that strength and beauty which characterized all of the relationships of her mature womanhood. She was a loyal companion, loving mother, kind neighbor, a true friend to young and old, and a patient sufferer in her long illness.

Many will recall with pleasure and prophet the hospitality accorded them in the tent maintained by the Hardman family during the years that Little River Camp Ground was a vital force in the religious life of Cherokee County.

OURS FRIEKS

I cannot think of them as dead,
Who walk with me no more,
Along the path of life I tread,
They have but gone before.

The father's house is隐瞒ed fair
Beyond my vision dim,
All souls are his, and here and there
Are living unto him.
And still their silent ministry
Within my heart hath peace
As when on earth they walked with me
And met me face to face.

Their lives are made forever mine
What they to me have been,
Hath left henceforth its seal and sign
Engraved deep within
Mine are they by all ownership,
For time, nor death can free
For God hath given to love to keep
Its own eternally

Iris Dobbs——