

HISTORY OF LOWELL METHODIST CHURCH.

Roopville Ch.

More than one effort was made to organize a Methodist Church at Lowell. But, not until Rev. W. A. Woodruff, then pastor of the Roopville Circuit, made the attempt in 1919, was the effort successful. During his first year as pastor of that circuit, he began surveying the situation and laying the groundwork for such an organization. He found a rather weak Christian Church at Lowell, where J. T. Cowart, a Congregational Methodist, was superintending a Community Sunday School. There was a Missionary Baptist Church about a mile and a half to the north-west of Lowell, and a Congregational Methodist Church two or three miles in the opposite direction.

During the summer of 1919 Rev. Woodruff succeeded in getting about twenty charter members, as follows: E. T. Boughtman, Mrs. E. T. Boughtman, R. J. Chappell, Mrs. R. J. Chappell, Mrs. Sallie Duncan, Mrs. Tempie Duncan, Mrs. Lula Hollingsworth, Mrs. Bertie L. Long, Mrs. Lizzie McElroy, Mrs. Maggie Smith, Miss Leila Smith, R. T. Spearman, Mrs. R. T. Spearman, Miss Etta Spearman, Mrs. Eula Spence, Mrs. Vera Stanley, Rev. A.H. Thompson, A. H. Thompson, Jr. J.S. Williamson, and Mrs. J. S. Williamson. During the last days of August 1919, a large tent was erected about where the church now stands and a revival meeting begun. As to the results; On Sept. 10, 1919, forty-five members were received into the church on profession of faith, two by vows, and seventeen by certificate, bringing the total membership of the new church to eighty-four.

The first trustees were: J. T. Cowart, R. J. Chappell, R. T.

Spearman, A. H. Thompson, and J. S. Williamson. On Sept. 6, 1919, the first land was purchased for a church building. The deeds read as follows: Georgia: Carroll County:

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That J. A. Jackson, and his wife, of Carroll County, in the State of Georgia, in consideration of the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars, cash, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, sold and released, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, release, and convey unto, J. T. Cowart, R. J. Chappell, J. S. Williamson, A.H. Thompson, and R. T. Spearman, as trustees of the Lowell Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of the Village of Lowell, and their successors in office, as from time to time appointed according to laws and usages of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, or under and pursuant to the laws of the State, all of the tract of land situated in Carroll County, and the State of Georgia, and described as follows: To Wit: A lot in the fourth land district and being a part of land lot No. 99 and more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of the Christian Church lot (rock corner) on the McIntosh Road, running thence a southerly direction along said Church lot line one hundred feet, Thence N87E 100 feet, then northeasterly direction 100 feet to McIntosh Road, thence S88W 100 feet to the point of beginning, containing nearly one quarter acre.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said premises above described, together with all and singular rights, members, hereditaments, and appurtenances to the same belongings, or in any wise incident or apper-

taining, unto the said trustees and their successors and assigns forever. IN TRUST. that said premises shall be used, kept, maintained, and disposed of as a place of divine worship for the use of ministers and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South: subject to the usage, discipline, and ministerial appointment of said Church, as fromtime to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church, and by the Annual Conference within whose bounds the said premises are, or may hereafter be situated. Whenever it shall become necessary or may be deemed expedient by the proper authorities of the said Church, to sell or otherwise dispose of the said bargained premises, or any part thereof, they may, and are hereby empowered, to sell or otherwise dispose of and convey the same by and through the said trustees and their successors, under and pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of the Discipline of the said Methodist Episcopal Church, South, then and at that time in force, fully discharged of all limitations, uses, trusts herein imposed, and the grantee or purchaser shall in no event be responsible or liable for the application or reinvestment of the proceeds of said sale.

The said grantor does hereby bind himself, heirs, executors, and administrators to warrent and forever defend, all and singular, the said premises unto the said trustees of the Lowell Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of the Village of Lowell, their successors and assigns, against every person whomsoever, lawfully claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof. And the said grantor

and his wife, the said J. A. Jackson, does hereby waive and relinquish all right of dower and homestead in the said premises. In testimony whereof the said grantors have hereunto set their hands and seals, this 6th day of September 1919.

W. A Woodruff.

J. A. Jackson.

John R. Spence

This deed was recorded in Deed Book LL, page 312, in the office of the Clerk Superior Court, Carroll County, Ga., on September 23, 1919 by J. W. Stone, Clerk.

On Sept. 25, 1919, a similar tract of land, and lying alongside the first, was purchased by the trustees, from W. L. Nix, for \$650. The deeds to this tract are identical in wording as that of the first, save in the discription of the property. So, I am omitting all except that part. To Wit: A part of lot No. ninety-nine, in the 4th land district, discribed as follows: Beginning at the N.E. corner of Methodist Church lot on the McIntosh Road, and running a southerly direction along line of church lot one hundred feet, thence N87E one hundred feet to rock corner, thence in a northerly direction 100 feet to rock corner on McIntosh Road, thence S87W to starting point. being tract No. 2 of the Arnold survey of Lowell farm. This deed was signed by W. L. Nix, and witnessed by J. L. Folds and J. T. Norman, J.P., on the 25th day of September 1919. It was recorded in Deed Book LL, page 313, in the office of the Clerk Superior Court, Carroll County Ga., on Oct. 6, 1919, by J. W. Stone, Clerk.

Immediately thereafter J. T. Cowart began sawing the lumber for the church building, at his sawmill, which was then located down in the Whooping Creek Community, near the steel bridge on what is now State Highway NO. 5. Clarence L. Jackson, of Edwardsville, Ala., was employed as foreman to erect the building which was done mostly by free labor from in and about Lowell. The architectural drawings were prepared by Jackson, with suggestions from Rev. Woodruff. The building was started as early in the fall of 1919, as the lumber was available. In the meanwhile, preaching services were being held in the Christian Church.

This building was a wooden structure 60 x 40, and 18 feet from floor to ceiling. It had high gables with a steeple on the front, the top of which, was more than fifty feet high. The building ran north and south, with the front to the north, and the pulpit in the south. There was a large balcony in the north end of the building over a vestibule. You entered the building by a large double-door, into the vestibule, and from thence into the sanctuary by two single doors standing equi-distant from the side and the center, and at the end of an aisle which ran to the pulpit. There was another door on the east side of the building. The windows were tall, reported to be about nine feet high. They had double sashes in them.

The building was completed in the early spring of 1920, and its dedication was a gala day for the community. Prof. Joseph A. Sharp, President of Young Harris College, was invited to preach,

and lead in the dedication exercises. It is not certain now what month this took place, but all are agreed that it was in the spring or early summer of 1920. So, it is safe to say it was on regular preaching day in either April or May of that year. Prof. Sharp used as his text, Isaiah 55 : 1. His sermon was up to his high standard of preaching, and the dedication was a solemn service. After services Prof. Sharp went to the J. T. Cowart home for dinner, while Rev. Woodruff and family ate at the home of Mrs. Lula Hollingsworth. Later, Prof. Sharp arrived at the Hollingsworth home where arrangements were made to start him on his homeward journey. Thus ended that occasion. A new church had come of age and was on its way.

During these two years of Rev. Woodruff's pastorate, J. R. King was his Presiding Elder. He served one more year, 1921, with W. T. Irvine as Presiding Elder. Then, W. P. Carmichel served one year under Irvine. For the year 1923 B. S. Fleming was appointed, but failed to serve for some reason, and O. J. Withrow arrived on the scene in his stead, serving that year only. From there on the the preachers and presiding elders who have served the church, are as follows:

Preacher	Year	Presiding Elder.
Z. V. Hawks	1924	W. T. Irvine
B. W. Kilpatrick	1925	J. P. Erwin
B. W. Kilpatrick	1926	J. P. Erwin
B. W. Kilpatrick	1927	J. P. Erwin
W. L. Brackman	1928	J. P. Erwin
W. L. Brackman	1929	George L. King
I. J. Lovern	1930	George L. King
I. J. Lovern	1931	George L. King

Preacher	Year	Presiding Elder
J. W. Coffman	1932	George L. King.
J. W. Coffman	1933	J.W.O. McKibben.
H. D. Maxey	1934	J.W.O. McKibben
H. D. Maxey	1935	J.W.O. McKibben
R. C. Owen	1936	J.W.O. McKibben

R. C. Owen was re-appointed, but a few weeks after conference a preacher died making some changes in appointments necessary, so Owens was moved away and E. H. Blackburn took his place.

E. H. Blackburn	1937	H. C. Holland
E. H. Blackburn	1938	H. C. Holland

The unification of the three largest branches of Methodism was accomplished this year and the term Presiding Elder was changed to District Superintendent.

E. H. Blackburn	1939	H. C. Holland
E. H. Blackburn	1940	H. C. Holland

This year the charge was changed from the Rome District to the LaGrange District.

J. K. Brown	1941	George L. King
J. K. Brown	1942	George L. King
J. K. Brown	1943	George L. King

J. K. Brown was called to the Armed Services as a Chaplain and B. W. Carlton was sent to serve the year 1944, but was an unhealthy man and his work at Emory plus the work of serving a charge proved to much for him. So he gave up the charge after a few months and Glenn Miller, also a student at Emory, was sent to take his place. W. M. Twiggs was District Supt. that year.

Glenn Miller	1945	W. M. Twiggs
Glenn Miller	1946	W. M. Twiggs
George Chambers	1947	W. M. Twiggs

It was voted at the 1946 conference to hold the Annual Conference in the summer, so George Chambers served until July of 1947. From then on preachers served from summer until summer.

Roy Clark	1947-1948	W. M. Twiggs
Roy Clark	1948-1949	W. M. Twiggs
Gilbert Steadham	1949-1950	Joe S. Thrailkill
G. T. Shell	1950-1951	Joe S. Thrailkill

The Sunday School, later to be known as the Lowell Methodist Church School, was really organized in the Christian Church back in 1918, by Prof. J. W. Harrison, who was teaching school at Lowell, but who was a member of Shiloh, at Burwell. The next year he was succeeded as Superintendant, by J. T. Cowart, who was in that office at the time the Methodist Church was organized, and for several years following. Others who have served in that capacity are: Willie Rowe, R. T. Spearman, Homer Robison, L. A. Rook, L. S. Williamson, and Larry Staples, who is now filling that office well. He is perhaps the youngest Supt. the school has ever had. I am told that he was received into the church one morning, and appointed Supt. that night.

The organization once known as the Woman's Missionary Society but is now the Woman's Society of Christian Service, has had a checkered record at Lowell, as is true of most country churches. There are but few records at hand, but those who are known to have served as President, of said Society, are: Mrs. J. P. Duncan, Mrs. Ola Mae Duncan, Miss Opal Cowart (now Mr. McWhorter) and Mrs. Grady Pyron, who is now serving efficiently in that office.

The Epworth League, more recently known as the Methodist Youth Fellowship, has not been continuous, but usually efficient when it was active. Those who have been responsible for that efficiency, serving as president of the organization are: Miss Vera Cowart (Mrs. Pyron) Raymon Rooks, Miss Opal Cowart (Mrs. McWhorter) Myrle Williams, Jimmie Pyron, and Evelyn Cowart, now in office.

The Quarterly Conference Records now at hand, name the following persons, as having served as Steward, or Trustee, or both, down through the years: but is must offer said list as incomplete, since all the records are not available. STEWARDS: J. T. Cowart; A. H. Thompson, J. S. Williamson, G. R. Duncan, W. G. Cowart, F.W. Nickleson, L. M. Dean, Eucl Cowart, Larkin Staples, J. P. Duncan, O. L. Duncan, W. H. Chappell, Grady Baughtman, and Paul Duncan. TRUSTEES: J. T. Cowart, R. J. Chappell, R. T. Spearman, A. H. Thompson, J. S. Williamson, W. H. Chappell, F. W. Nickleson, J. P. Duncan, O. L. Duncan, John Hollinsworth, and probably others.

Those who have gone out from this church as ministers, are: Luther G. Cowart, who joined the North Georgia Conference, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, on trial, in 1921, and was admitted in full connection, in 1923. He is now serving the Fairmount Circuit. William Powell Rowe, who joined the North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, on trial, in 1932, and was received in full connection, in 1934. He is now serving the New Echota Charge. W. G. Cowart, Jr., was liscened to preach at the last District Conference, held at New Hope on the Palmetto Charge, Jan. 9, 1951, and is now a local preachr in this church. He expects to enter the conference as a full-time Methodist preacher as soon as he has finished his educational work. He is now the newly elected Vice-President of the Carølson Sub-District of the Youth Fellowship, and his sister, Miss Evelyn Cowart, is the new Sacretary of the same organization.

While Rev. W. M. Twiggs was the District Supt. of the LaGrange District he advocated the erection of nice, modern church buildings in the place of the old, rickety ones then in existence. Along with many others, Lowell came in for a new building. So, at the second Quarterly Conference, for the year 1945, held at Lowell, Apr. 15th, while Glenn Miller was pastor, the following Building Committee was appointed: Adell Spence, G. T. Lyle, Larkin Staples, Grady Baughtman, and R. T. Spearman. After some study, and discussion, it was decided to take down the old building carefully, and use as much of the timber as possible, in the new building. Only such material as hardwood flooring, sheetrock for the inside, roofing, and paint, has to be bought.

The construction was by labor available in and about Lowell, with W. M. Twiggs, directing. Some of the labor was donated, while some was paid for. The Lyle brothers, Grady and Claude, was usually put in the lead in the actual work of building. The new building occupies the same location as the old one. In fact, it rests on the original pillars on the west side and north end, but, as this building is smaller, the pillars on the other side and end had to be re-located to conform to the size of the building. It is a rectangular building with three classrooms across the back, or south end of the building, which extends a little beyond the width of the auditorium on each side. You enter at the front of the auditorium through one double door, into an aisle running to the altar, with a section of pews on each side of the aisle. There is another outside door from the classroom in the southeast corner of the building.

At a Quarterly Conference held at Lowell, June 15, 1947, Rev. W. M. Twiggs made the following report, which was compiled by Mrs. J. P. Duncan, Treas:

Amount spent for labor - - - - -	\$1759.35
Building material, including paint - -	<u>1145.42</u>
Total:	\$2904.77
Money on hand for paint- - - - -	35.00
Scrap lumber sold to Mr. Dean- - - - -	130.00
Six pews sold to Roopville- - - - -	<u>30.00</u>
Total money on hand:	\$215.00
Mrs. J. P. Duncan, Treas.	

He further said that memorial windows would cost \$100 each and that he hoped all eight in the auditorium would be memorial windows. It was later decided to install said windows, to be paid for by the relatives of those persons being so honored. They were installed and dedicated to the following persons:

Rev. Walter M. Twiggs, District Supt. 1943--1949.

James A. Dean, 1910--1938.

Wade H. Chappell, 1884--1947.

Joseph T. Cowart, 1873, and Mrs. Armanda Smith Cowart, 1975--

Mrs. Euls B. Spence, 1974--1920.

Joseph A. Duncan, 1857--1928, and Sallie Moore Duncan, 1863--

Bob Lightburn, and Marjorie Lightburn, both still living.

Wendell Lloyd Nix, 1923--1944.

New pews were installed on the plan that each family in the church be responsible for one or more pews. Rev. W. M. Twiggs gave a beautiful oak, altar set, consisting of a Communion table, pulpit, and two pulpit chairs, all matching.

By that time the people began to feel they had about reached the limit of their giving, so, at the second Quarterly Conference for 1948, held at Welcome, Jan. 3, 1948, the trustees of Lowell were empowered to apply for a donation, a loan, or both, from the General Board of Church Extension. A request for a donation was made and a gift of \$ was granted.

In a letter from Bro. Twiggs, written May 30, 1951, regarding this history, he said material, labor, etc, for this building cost about \$4500, and that the pews and pulpit furnishings cost about \$1000, but that there were other expenses for which he was not responsible, and could not estimate the value. That extra expenditure must have included, piano, classroom furnishings, etc.

The last Quarterly Conference for 1948-1949. was held at Lowell, May 15, 1949. The pastor, Roy Clark, was to have filled another preaching engagement in June, before going to Annual Conference, but he was in a serious automobile wreck, which sent him to the hospital, and ended his work at Lowell. In the hurry getting things ready for Annual Conference, which would end Bro. Twiggs' tenure of office as District Supt., a dedication service was arranged, the date of which I cannot be exact, but the letter already referred to, Twiggs, says that it was right at the close of the Annual Conference; that he preached to a house filled to overflowing, and dedicated the church at the close of the service, and that it was a great occasion. Gilbert Stewardham came as new pastor.

OFFICIALS

BISHOP: Bishop Arthur J. Moore, Bishop of Atlanta Area
 DISTRICT SUPT. Rev. Joe S. Thrailkill, LaGrange District.
 PASTOR: Rev. Geo. Thos. Shell, Roopville Circuit.

STEWARDS: J. T. Cowart, Honorary Steward
 W. Guy Cowart,
 Grady Baughtman
 O. L. Duncan, Chairman,
 J. P. Duncan
 Paul Duncan
 Larkin Staples, Treas.
 J. Sid Williamson, Honorary Steward.

TRUSTEES: J. T. Cowart
 O. L. Duncan, Chairman
 J. P. Duncan, Parsonage Trustee
 John Hollingsworth

CHURCH SCHOOL OFFICIALS:

General Supt. Larry Staples
 Sect.-Treas. Miss Evelyn Cowart
 Teachers; Adults; O. L. Duncan
 Youth; Mrs. Buran Baughtman
 Juniors: Mrs. J. P. Duncan
 Children: Mrs. O. L. Duncan

WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE:

President: Mrs. J. P. Duncan
 Vice Pres. Mrs. Buran Baughtman
 Sec-Treas: Mrs. Grady Baughtman
 Recording Sect. Mrs. O. L. Duncan
 Sect. of Youth and Children combined:
 Mrs. Grady Pyron
 Secretary of Spiritual Life:
 Mrs. J. T. Cowart

METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

President: W. G. Cowart, Jr.
 Vice Pres. Miss Jewell Music
 Sect. Treas. Miss Phyllis Duncan
 Adult Counselor: Mrs. Grady Baughtman
 Asst. Mrs. Grady Pyron
 W. G. Cowart, Sr.,

CHURCH BUDGET FOR THE CONFERENCE YEAR 1950-51.

Pastor's Salary - - - - -	\$750.00
District Supt. - - - - -	75.00
Episcopal Fund - - - - -	13.00
Conference Claimants - - - - -	90.00
District Work - - - - -	15.00
World Service - - - - -	100.00
Suplimentary Salary - - - - -	15.00
Total;	<u>\$1043.00</u>

Total raised by the Church School: _____

Total raised by the W.S.C.S. _____

Total raised by Methodist Youth Fel- _____

Incidentals and other purposes _____

Grand Total for Year: _____

COMPILED BY REV. G. T. SHELL, Pastor.