HISTORY

of

Mayson's M. E. Church, South

FULTON COUNTY

GEORGIA

FOUNDING 1873

CORNER OF

Mayson-Turner and Bolton Road
A HISTORY
of
MAYSON'S CHURCH
Fulton County, Georgia

Atlanta, Georgia, April 25th, 1923

This church was organized about 1860 and was a branch of the then Bethlehem Church. The negroes now have a church at Bethlehem but the former Methodist Church at that place long since ceased to exist.

The first preacher, of whom we have any record, was James T. Ainsworth, and the first presiding elder was John W. Yarbrough.

This church was destroyed by the U. S. Army, on the march of Sherman to the sea, but the seed, once planted, was not destroyed and the present church building was immediately undertaken and finally completed. There is a record of the first subscription, taken August 23, 1871 and we know that the question of rebuilding the church building was never given up but was promptly, faithfully and efficiently carried to conclusion. After the destruction of the first church building and the re-erection of the present building, services were held in the school building, just across the road from the present building then as now.

The land upon which the church is located, as well as the land upon which the school is located were both donated by James L. Mayson who then owned a plantation in this section of the County and the school, as well as the church, has become known as Mayson's.

We attach hereto a list of the male and female members of the church, as then constituted, as shown by records which have been preserved and are now in the hands of Miss Amanda J. Mayson, a daughter of James L. Mayson, and these are probably the only records in existence showing these facts.

MALE MEMBERS.
James L. Mayson, Class Leader; Philip G. Turner, Elisha Casey, Elech Wimberly, Christian Hunacher, Joseph Clarke, William C. Mayson, Smith A. Mayson, John Knight, Aaron Knight, Daniel Knight,
NEGRO MEMBERS.


FEMALE MEMBERS.


The first pastor, as stated, was James T. Ainsworth. There is no record of pastoral services during the four years of the war. After that, beginning with 1865, we are able to furnish a complete roster of pastors and this is attached hereto under the head marked Register of Pastors.

REGISTER OF PASTORS.

J. N. Meyers, 4 yrs., 1865-1868. John Shaw, 1 yr., 1890.
W. J. Wardlaw, 4 yrs., 1869-1871. W. A. Dodge, 1 yr., 1891.
J. W. Yarbrough, 1 yr., 1873. H. T. Branham, 1 yr., 1894.
L. P. Neese, 1 yr., 1875. J. N. Snow, 1897.
O. A. Thrower, 1 yr., 1876. J. H. Little, 1898-1899.
J. J. Morgan, 2 yrs., 1877-1878. W. T. Bell, 1 yr., 1900.
J. M. Owens, 2 yrs., 1892-1893.
R. S. Johnson, 1 yr., 1879. O. C. Simon, 1 yr., 1901.
L. P. Neese, 1 yr., 1881. G. W. Farr, 1 yr., 1900.
W. W. Oslin, 1 yr., 1882. M. L. Harris, 1 yr., 1891.
— — Grey, 6 months, 1883. Henry Pace, 1 yr., 1911.
Thos. Morgan, 6 months, 1888. W. S. Robertson, 1 yr., 1912.
Simeon Shaw, 2 yrs., 1887-1888. F. J. Mashburn, 1 yr., 1918.
W. T. Irvine, 1 yr., 1889.

Since 1919, the church has been supplied with students from Emory University, and Charlie Williams and O. H. Logan, and at present L. Rumble, have served the church from this University.

NEGRO MEMBERS.

Many Baker, Russell Baker, James Hooper, Hannah Wilson, James Wilson, Luther Wilson, Rhoda Wilson, Anna Wilson, Mally Mayson, Jink Mayson, Jesse Howell, Hannah Howell, Cyrus Montgomery, Jane Williams and Daniel Nelson.

In the present day of severe criticism upon the treatment of the slaves, back in the days before the war, it is somewhat remarkable to find in this church, which is entirely a white church, maintained and operated for white people, a complete roster of negro members who, apparently, were received in full faith and fellowship. Certainly, as members, they were entitled to all the rights and privileges of membership and doubtless received them.

(1823) James L. Mayson, for whom the church is named, was a very devout Christian gentleman. He came to this County from South Carolina, settled upon the banks of the Chattahoochee, when the Indians were on the other side, purchased quite a tract of land and there lived until he died, full of faith and good works.

His life and character made quite an impression upon that section of the country. In his later days, he was known as "Uncle Jimmy" by the people far and wide. He was Superintendent of the Sunday School and gave his life to the church and its cause. While subscriptions are found looking towards the erection of the new church building, you may rest assured that the first church, as well as the school building, was practically built from the operation of a sawmill, which he then ran in his place and a part of which he donated to the Lord. This church, known as Mayson's for over half a century is a monument to his character and work. On the other side of the road, opposite the church, is a school building now known as Mayson's School. This is another lasting monument to the profound feeling in the mind of James L. Mayson that the youth of the country should be educated and he practically built this school building, donated land to named trustees so that it could be perpetually maintained for the education of the young. Now, after he has long since been gathered to his fathers, this school building is growing and increasing in usefulness.

There will rarely be found, in one place, two such monuments to the memory of a departed, the church on one side of the public road and the school on the other side, both named in his honor and both the result of his efforts and consecration.

Here by this church and school still lives the youngest daughter, Miss Amanda J. Mayson, who, like the vestal virgin has stood guard over both the church and school all during the years of her life. The spirit of her father has descended into her and she has given all her life and soul to the maintenance of the church and, as far as
she could, to the successful opening, education and operation of the public school.

"The good that men do lives after them." This is undoubtedly illustrated in the facts above detailed in the efforts of James L. Mayson by founding the church and school for the service of his neighbors and the education of their young, many, many years ago.

Such lives are a constant sermon to us of the present day. They call to us "Be good and do likewise." They are appeals for better living. They are examples for the young to follow.

They are "Footprints along the sands of time."

"Footprints that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing shall take heart again."

The present membership is as follows:

J. L. Horton, Pastor
1. Miss Amanda J. Mayson
2. Maggie Watkins
3. Fannie Moore
4. W. E. Wood
5. Jack Watkins
6. C. R. Donehoo
7. Mrs. C. R. Donehoo
8. Mrs. Emma Maynard
10. J. L. Knight
11. J. M. Carroll
12. Ella L. Alsobrook
13. Ada V. Alsobrook
14. Josephine L. Bryant
15. Vanessa Perkins
16. T. J. Baker
17. H. S. Ham
18. Mrs. Fannie Baker
19. Hattie Wilmouth
20. Viola Hooper
21. Ethel Ham
22. Mrs. Mary Knight
23. W. R. Knight
24. Hope Maynard
25. Parks Wood
26. Mrs. N. A. Rutherford
27. Ora A. Oliver
28. Lenora Oliver
29. Carl Oliver
30. Ruth Oliver
31. Aquilla Baker
32. Lenord Ham
33. Mrs. Ellie Coffee
34. Paul G. Maynard
35. Mrs. Leslie Maynard
36. Lucille Maynard
37. Mrs. Alma Daniel
38. Aaron Daniel
39. Paul Daniel
40. Edward Knight
41. Lizzie May Maynard
42. Mrs. Nellie Brantley
43. Mrs. Cereta Wild
44. Rosabel Wood
45. Leonidas Baker
46. W. L. Donehoo
47. Mrs. Luzetta Donehoo
48. Mrs. Mary Baker
49. Dewey Jones
50. John W. Baird
51. Clara Perkins Trent
52. Mrs. Thelma Barton
53. Lillian Bryant
54. Arthur Rutherford
55. Emmett Maynard
56. Mrs. Azalee Hall Jones

57. Sam Willis
58. Donald Oliver
59. J. L. Warren
60. Mrs. J. L. Lowe
61. Rebbie Donehoo
62. Mrs. Hope Maynard
63. Mrs. Esther Medlin
64. James Maynard
65. Alma Turner Harmon
66. Willie Bell Turner
67. Era Turner
68. Howard Trimble
69. Mrs. Howard Trimble
70. Eva Mae Trimble
71. Louise Trimble
72. Arlene Donehoo
73. Lois Donehoo
74. B. B. Fenn
75. Mrs. B. B. Fenn
76. C. C. Cook
77. Harris Cook
78. C. N. Dodd
79. Mrs. C. N. Dodd
80. Irving Alsobrook
81. Mrs. Irving Alsobrook
82. Harry Alsobrook