History of Mt. Carmel Methodist Church
Senoia Circuit - Griffin District
March 1953

Carmel celebrated its centennial in 1941, but probably it was organized in the year 1840, after a prayer meeting had been conducted in the community over a period of time.

There have been three church buildings, all standing on the same spot. However, the second building faced in a different direction. The Quarterly Conference report of the Pastor of the Senoia charge Nov. 12, 1878 in regard to church buildings includes that of Mt. Carmel as follows: "Mt. Carmel is a frame building, ceiled, has a stove, will seat 200 people, value $500, title is good and recorded. The trustees at that time were E.M. Favors, J.M. Caldwell, J.J. Caldwell, and W.R. Pope. The present building was erected in 1890 and was probably dedicated by Simon Peter Richardson. J.M. Bowden was pastor.

Some of the church records were destroyed by fire and most of these notes were taken from the Senoia charge Quarterly Conference records, some scattering Sunday School records and memory of Lucius Caldwell and Mrs. J.C. Elmore. Mrs. Elmore is the oldest living member of the church and recalls that the first church building had wooden shutters on the windows. We presume that there were no gladd windows. Possibly the building was log.

The Quarterly Conference record of the Senoia Circuit 1871-79 records Mt. Carmel as one of the seven (eight one year) churches. However, on May 16, 1871 the minutes record that a committee had been appointed to visit the Palmetta quarterly conference to secure the record books of the Cowetta Circuit, (they failed to get these records and moved to purchase a new book). We presume that Mt. Carmel had previously been with other churches and not on the Cowetta circuit. The list of pastors for the church is different from that of the Senoia Charge which also indicates another charge (name unknown). Evidently it was with another charge at other times for the name of J.T. Richardson is listed as the pastor who received approximately a dozen persons into the church in 1882-83. He was never pastor of Senoia circuit.

The Senoia circuit has itself twice been placed in the LaGrange District.

The third Quarterly Conference for the Senoia Circuit met at Mt. Carmel August 19, 1871. J.H. Adams, Presiding Elder in the chair. F.W. Baggarly was pastor. Eighteen officials, including four local preachers were present. The name of seven local preachers and six class leaders were palled and their characters examined and passed. The license of four local preachers were renewed.


Fourth Quarterly Conference at Mt. Gilead, Nov. 3, 1877. F.O. Favors was elected Superintendent of Sunday School at Mt. Carmel. L. Rush was pastor.
This same Quarterly Conference has reports of eight churches, Senoia, Haralson, Mt. Carmel, Cokes, Gilead, Bethel, Union, and Tranquil. They paid $792.73 for all causes. There were nine local preachers, 86 additions to the churches, 280 volumes in libraries, 150 periodicals, (Sunday School) and lesson papers.

The official roll of Mt. Carmel church in 1899 was as follows: J.W. Caldwell, J.H. Reed, F.M. Hill, Stewards; J.W. Caldwell, J.H. Reed, J.J. Caldwell, Trustees; J.C. Elmore, S.S. Supt.; E.W. Conally, church secretary (also trustee) class leaders, W.M. Caldwell, Alex Caldwell, G.O. Powledge. On Feb. 18 of that year J.C. Elmore was elected Superintendent of the Sunday School to take the place of Wilbur Caldwell, resigned. The Quarterly Conference of July 10, 1920 has a resolution on the death of J.C. Elmore. He was not at that time Superintendent but had served for fifteen or twenty years. The list of superintendents include F.O. Favors, R.M. North, Wilbur Caldwell, J.C. Elmore and H.L. Brandenburg and H.D. Caldwell who holds that office at present. (Continuously since 1922)

The list of pastors, while not identical with Senoia Circuit, may be found in the history of Senoia church which is attaches to this paper.

Some families in the church through the years have been and are, Caldwell, Edge, Pope, Brandenburg, Reed, Andrews, Williams, Jones, North, Gresham (Favors (F.M. Favors joined the conference and went to Texas to preach), Robinson, Temple, James, McGahee, Argrove, Booker, Camp, Crook, Cavander, Horne, Johnson, Leech, McCullough, Powledge, Towns, Reid, Calhoun, Sears, Heath, Bunn, Waldrop, Callaway, Atkinson, Conally, Slaughter, Langford, Hogg, Bowen, Goodwin, Maddox, Reynolds, Self, Burton, Story, Whittle, Dickson, Howard.

Tom Gresham, a member of this church joined the Conference.

Some notes from Sunday School Records.

Some Sunday School teachers in the 1880's were: R.M. North (also S.S. Superintendent), A.P. Camp, R.W. Jones, J.W. Conally, Maggie Hogg, Miss Iva McGahee.


Intermediate class in 1891. (Mrs. S.S. Caldwell, teacher) Bell Reid, Ascha Caldwell, Julia Heath, Sadie Graham, Wilbur Caldwell, Johnnie Reid, De Reid.

"Infant" class 1891. Theodore Caldwell, Mary Caldwell, Flenry Graham, Olin Jones, John Albert Maddox, Fintcher James, Sims James.
Pastor's reports of the old days included volumes in the libraries. Carmel had a library of about 200 books. The librarian's record book of which Lucius Caldwell was custodian has some entries of interest. Some of those who read books were: C.W. Conally, Dollie North, Willie Graham, Johnny North, Lucius Caldwell (read "Mark Stedham" Sept 22, 1899), Ida Spence, Mattie Roberts, Achsa Caldwell (read "Golden Bracelets" Oct. 27, 1899).

Some books in the library at that time were: A Ride on Horseback, Above Rubies, Child Martyr, Golden Bracelets, Pilgrim's Progress, Peter the Apprentice, the Boy's Victory, the Odd Hour, The Old Sea Captain, Quaint Characters, The Poor Clerk, Little Nellie.

The membership roll at present contains thirty one who might be considered resident members and almost that many names of those who have moved away without taking their membership with them.

The present official roll is: Stewards, H. Delos Caldwell (also Supt. of Sunday School) (and Trustee), James Caldwell, Albert Caldwell, Carter Caldwell, Frank Pope. The Trustees of church property are: H.D. Caldwell, T.R. Caldwell, Frank Pope. Mrs. H.D. Caldwell is Treasurer of the church. Miss Achsa Caldwell is Communion Steward.

Notes collected and arranged by;

Sam A. Dailey, Pastor.