A HISTORY

OF

THE NEW HOLLAND METHODIST CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION

The History Committee prayerfully sends forth this publication to each reader. We regret that the information is not more detailed concerning the early years, but few records have been discovered covering this period. The reader will also find information sparse concerning other periods for the same reason. We hope other official records will be discovered so that future editions of this church's history will be more adequate. The main source of information for this history has been the official Journal Of The North Georgia Annual Conference which covers the whole period for this local church.

THE NEW HOLLAND METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Christians of New Holland wanted a place where they could gather for divine worship services. Deciding on a name for the church was not difficult; they simply used the name of the village.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, established a Mission at New Holland, Georgia, in 1900. Thus the local congregation was part of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

The New Holland Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was—and is now—in the Gainesville District of The North Georgia Annual Conference.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and The Methodist Protestant Church united to form THE METHODIST
CHURCH, May 10, 1939. The name of the church at New Holland then officially became The New Holland Methodist Church.

However, almost from the beginning the church group was commonly referred to by many residents as "The New Holland Church." This may have been because the Methodist and Baptist congregations used the same facilities for their worship services: Worship services were conducted by the Methodist "Pastor in Charge" one Sunday and by the Baptist preacher on the next Sunday. This alternating type of service was to continue until July 1, 1951.

ORGANIZATION

In spite of one oldtimer's statement to the effect that "we have only had a church since 1951," The New Holland Methodist Church was officially organized in the year 1902. Several facts support this statement.

It is true the North Georgia Conference appointed a Pastor in Charge to begin serving New Holland on December 1, 1900. At that time Rev. A.A. Tilly was appointed to "The Myrtle Street--New Holland Charge." He had served the Myrtle Street Charge the previous year.

At the North Georgia Annual Conference, November, 1900, the New Holland work was added on to The Myrtle Street Charge as a mission work; New Holland was not officially organized as a local Methodist Church at this date.
The Rev. A.A. Tilly published a *Directory* of all the Methodist Churches located in Hall County, Georgia, in 1902. And he states in this *Directory*, "the church at New Holland has Sunday meetings and Thursday night prayer services, but the church is not officially organized; it has no roll of membership."

At that time the Charge was "The New Holland--Laurel Hill Charge." Rev. A.A. Tilly listed thirty members for The Laurel Hill Methodist Church.

While Rev. Tilly did not list any membership for The New Holland Methodist Church, the *Conference Journal* does show one hundred members for The New Holland--Laurel Hill Charge at the close of the 1901 Conference Year (November, 1902).

It may seem unusual to you to think of a congregation meeting for worship before a church was officially organized, but this is what took place. In the history of Methodism such has often been the case. The Methodist Societies did not grow into organized churches overnight in the early days of our great Methodist Church.

It then is very likely that Rev. R.O. Smith, Mr. J.S. Brownlow, and a few other interested Methodist Christians officially organized The New Holland Methodist Church during the 1901-02 Conference Year.

Such a date would square with the facts we have mentioned, that is to say, the *Directory*, published by Rev. A.A. Tilly, and the *Annual Conference Journal* really support each other: The *Directory* being published sometime before the Annual Conference met, November, 1902,
and the official church organization taking place after this organ
was issued and before the reports were published in the Journal.

LOCATION

The church has always been located in New Holland, Georgia
which is in Hall County. For the past fifty-eight years the church
has been located on Spring Street in the New Holland village.

CIRCUIT CONNECTIONS

The New Holland Methodist Church was part of a Circuit until
July 1, 1951. The brief sketches which follow contain all the in­
formation we could put our hands on concerning circuit connections.

December, 1900: The New Holland Methodist Church was on The
Myrtle Street--New Holland Charge.

December, 1901: The Charge is listed as "The New Holland--
Laurel Hill Charge." (Mr. Joe Bickers, an oldtimer around Gainesville,
believes The Laurel Hill Methodist Church was located "somewhere
beyond his home on Washington Street and the Hall County line. This
would probably place the church either on or near the Dawsonville
Highway.")

December 1902 & 1903: "New Holland Circuit" Churches other than
New Holland are not known.
December, 1904 to 1907: The Charge is listed at one time as "New Holland Mission." Then in another year it is listed as "New Holland and Mission." At present we do not know if "Mission" refers to the fact the Charge received money from the Board of Missions, which it did, or if there was a church actually named "Mission Methodist Church."

December, 1907 to 1913: "New Holland Circuit" Other churches than New Holland are not named.

December, 1913: The Candler Methodist Church was added to The New Holland Charge from The Pendergrass Circuit.

December, 1914 to 1917: The New Holland Charge is composed of New Holland, Lebanon, Candler, and Carey's Chapel. These are the only churches listed for the Charge. We do not know what happened to The Laurel Hill Methodist Church.

December, 1917 to 1925: The Lebanon and Candler Methodist Churches were taken off The New Holland Charge in 1917 and put on The Pendergrass Circuit. This left New Holland and Carey's Chapel together as a Charge.

December, 1925 to 1931: The New Holland Charge is made up of New Holland, Carey's Chapel, Antioch, and Prospect Methodist Churches.

December, 1931: The Antioch and Prospect Methodist Churches were taken from The New Holland Charge and put on The Brookton Circuit.

December, 1932: The New Holland Charge: New Holland, Carey's
Chapel, Belton, Lula, and Living Mission. During the Conference Year the name "Carco's Chapel" was officially changed to "Gainesville Mill Methodist Church."

December, 1933: New Holland Charge: New Holland, Tiger, Living Mission, Davis Chapel, Jones Chapel, and Gainesville Mill. Davis Chapel and Jones Chapel came to The New Holland Charge from The Dahlonega Circuit.

December, 1934: Living Mission Methodist Church was put on the Lula Circuit. Jones Chapel was put on the Lumpkin Circuit.

December, 1935 to July, 1951: New Holland and Gainesville Mill are the only two churches on The New Holland Charge. We do not know what took place as far as the other churches are concerned which were listed as part of The New Holland Charge at one time or another in past years.

July 1, 1951 to 1954: "New Holland Charge" is the official listing for the Charge made up of The New Holland Methodist Church.

July 1, 1954 to 1963: The Charge is listed as "Gainesville--New Holland Charge." The New Holland Methodist Church is the only church on the Charge during this time.
CHARTER MEMBERS

The following quoted material is from "A Historical Sketch, 1901-1951."

"In the late autumn of 1901 Mr. J.S. Brownlow, after harvesting his crop in White County, Georgia, sold his farm and moved his family to New Holland, Georgia. There he obtained employment with The Pacolet Manufacturing Company."

"In the early spring of 1902 Rev. R.O. Smith, Mr. J.S. Brownlow, and a few other interested Methodist Christians met in the lobby of The Holland Springs Hotel and there organized The New Holland Methodist Episcopal Church, South." ("New Holland Baptist Church was organized at a later date.")

Mr. J.S. Brownlow, later Rev. J.S. Brownlow, Mrs. J.S. Brownlow (Martha Missouri), Enoch, Walter, Fannie, Lena, and Willy all had their individual church memberships transferred from The Zion Methodist Church in White County to The New Holland Methodist Church when the local church was organized.

Another early family group which came into the New Holland Methodist Church was the family of Mr. G.B. Allison, later Rev. G.B. Allison. Mr. Allison and his family moved to New Holland about 1907. He also worked for Pacolet. We do not know where his membership was transferred from, possibly from Chattahoochee Methodist Church near Robertstown, Georgia. Some other members of his family also had their individual church memberships transferred at the same time, no doubt, but we do not have their names either.

Other families known to have been active members of The New
Holland Methodist Church before 1911, that is during the first eight to ten years, were the families of G.T. Cheek, E.A. Gillespie, and Millard Jones. Mr. G.T. Cheek and his son G.H. Cheek were members before 1906, but we do not know just what year they joined.

Mr. Millard Jones and some other members of his family transferred their memberships from The Lebanon Methodist Church to The New Holland Methodist Church about 1910. Again we do not know the names of the other family members.

CHARTER OFFICIALS

The earliest official listing of all officials is for the year 1929. We do know that Mr. G.T. Cheek was the Methodist Sunday School Superintendent as early as 1910 and that Rev. J.S. Brownlow was the Methodist Sunday School Secretary and Treasurer.


The first official record of officials we have been able to uncover for just The New Holland Methodist Church is as follows: (1929):

Stewards: A.J. Kinsey, Chairman; Miss Hattie Jones, Secretary & Treasurer; W.M. Allison, District Steward; G.H. Cheek, H.O. Thurston, Miss Jerusha Jones, Miss Bessie Willingham and J.D. Allen.
Sunday School Superintendent: Mr. G.T. Cheek
Church Lay Leader: Rev. J.S. Brownlow

SPONSORSHIP

The New Holland Methodist Church has always been under the wing of The Board of Missions of The Methodist Church and Pacolet Company. From the first the church received money from the Conference through the Board of Missions, and it is still assisted by funds from World Service.

The church is in one sense a "mission church" yet since it is unable to meet the Conference financial standards for the ministry. The Assistance from the Mission Board over sixty-three years cannot be evaluated by this committee. It is too great, too priceless.

And the same thing is true of the assistance still being received from the Pacolet Manufacturing Company. For more than sixty years Pacolet paid all operating expenses of the church. The company also provided a place of worship for the use of the local congregation. Pacolet gave additional money many times for various causes, sometimes in amounts which exceeded $2500, at a time.

Even today The Pacolet Foundation of South Carolina sends a gift of four hundred dollars a year to The Methodist Church to be used as the Pacolet Foundation directs the local church to use this gift.
PASTORS

The ministers who were appointed to the churches of early Methodism were the "Pastors in Charge." They moved to their Charge in late November or early December. At times these ministers had a local preacher laboring with them as a "Junior Pastor."

The appointments as listed in the official Annual Conference Journal follow:

1. Rev. A.A. Tilly (December, 1900). He was known as one of the finest scholars of North Georgia Methodism.

2. Rev. R.O. Smith (December, 1901).


4. Rev. S.H. Braswell (December, 1903-04).


6. Rev. Frank E. Jenkins, Sr. (December, 1906).

7. Rev. Lucien Roper (December, 1907).


10. Rev. Marvin Swilling (December, 1913).


18. Rev. Jesse Warwick, Sr. (December, 1933).
22. Rev. B.N. McHan (December, 1942).

NOTE: The end of the Conference Year was changed in 1946 to
July. The new year thus started on August 1. Later the
end of the Conference Year was changed so that the new year
started as it does now on July 1.
Recapitulation:

Total Number of Appointments...............Thirty-one.

One Year Appointments...(52%).......Sixteen.
Two Year Appointments...(13%).......Four.
Three Year Appointments..(19%).......Six.
Four Year Appointments...(13%).......Four.
Five Year Appointments..(3%).......One.

Average Length of Appointment......Two Years.

SALARIES

The New Holland Charge paid the pastor the sum of three hundred dollars for the 1901-1902 Annual Conference Year. The pastor was also paid one hundred dollars by The Mission Board.

For his labors during the 1911-12 Conference Year the pastor received two hundred fifty-six dollars, but he was raised five dollars during the 1914-15 year. He thus received two hundred sixty-one dollars for that year.

1916-17 Conference Year (Estimated):

New Holland.............$250.00
Lebanon..................150.00
Candler....................50.00
Carey's Chapel..........50.00

Of this estimated salary the pastor received a total of four hundred sixty-four dollars.
1942--43 Conference Year:

New Holland paid........... $600.00
Gainesville Mill paid..... 450.00

1951--52 Conference Year:

New Holland paid........... $1960.00

1961--62 Conference Year:

New Holland paid........... $3000.00
(Salary-$2100; "Expense"--$900)

GAINESVILLE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS
(Formerly "Presiding Elders")

1900------------------------Rev. Walker Lewis.
1901--05---------------------Rev. W.L. Pierce.
1905--09---------------------Rev. J.R. King.
1909--12---------------------Rev. L.G. Johnson.
1912--15---------------------Rev. S.R. Belk.
1927--32---------------------Rev. H.C. Emory.
1932--33---------------------Rev. B.H. Smith.
1933--37---------------------Rev. J.F. Yarbrough.
1937--41---------------------Rev. Claude Hendrick.
1941--45---------------------Rev. J. Foster Young.
1945--49------------------------Rev. McLowery Elrod.

OUTREACH

The New Holland Methodist Church has not sponsored any other Churches or Sunday Schools. Suggestions have been made from time to time concerning establishing Sunday Schools for those unable to come to the Church, but these have not been carried out.

The Church has not sent out any missionaries or deaconesses.

The New Holland Methodist Church had two members who were Local Elders in 1915; they were Rev. J.S. Brownlow and Rev. G.B. Allison. The Church also had one Local Deacon, Rev. J.M. Jones.


Mr. John E. Strickland was recommended for license to preach by the New Holland congregation during the pastorate of Rev. W.L. Fosmire. He served as a part time supply pastor for several years and then decided not to get his license renewed again. He is an active layman in the New Holland Methodist Church at present.

Mr. Phillip Fair was recommended for license to preach by the New Holland congregation during the pastorate of Rev. Ira Newton Scott. He is now serving as a part time supply pastor.
PLACES OF WORSHIP

December, 1900 to July, 1904:

The local congregation met for worship services in the lobby of The Holland Springs Hotel, which Pacolet Manufacturing Company owned, in the beginning.

Sometime in 1903, Pacolet moved two houses together in a fashion resembling the barrel of a shotgun for a place of divine worship; this center was even called "the shotgun chapel" by some folks. The church was located a few feet from what is now Highway 23, between the railroad and Limestone Creek; it was on the same side of the highway as the Pacolet Manufacturing Company is today.

July, 1904 to 1963:

The congregation began meeting in the present worship center located on Spring Street, New Holland, Georgia, in 1904.

ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY

As far as this history committee can determine, the Methodist congregation of New Holland has paid a total of three dollars for the property it now holds in trust for THE METHODIST CHURCH.

All lots and buildings used by the present congregation were donated to THE METHODIST CHURCH, "to use and hold in trust as places of worship," by The Pacolet Manufacturing Company of South Carolina.
The three dollars mentioned above was "payment" for the property.

The Church and Auditorium buildings and lots were donated in March, 1953. (The Auditorium building was sold at public auction after being approved for such sale at a Quarterly Conference during the 1959-60 Annual Conference Year.)

The Apartment building and lot were donated June 15, 1960.

"The New Holland Methodist Church has always had the use of a house for their pastor; this house was furnished by Pacolet; it was not shared with any other church and was located on Mill Street, New Holland, Georgia, until 1919.

About 1919 Pacolet built a new house at One Terrace Street; this was then provided by the Company for the Methodist Parsonage.

Rev. W.H. Venable was the first pastor to occupy this house at One Terrace Street. It is still the parsonage today.

The present parsonage and lot were donated to THE METHODIST CHURCH, December 21, 1954, by The Pacolet Manufacturing Company of South Carolina.

Present Value of Property:

In 1962 local real estate men were requested to evaluate all property being held in trust for THE METHODIST CHURCH by the local congregation. Their findings were reported to the Annual Conference:

- Church Building and Lots: $50,000
- Parsonage and Lot: 6,500
- Apartment and Lot: 5,000
The deeds have been reported in the Quarterly Conference records as containing the trust clause. They are recorded at the Hall County Courthouse, Gainesville, Georgia, in the Clerk's Office: Book 143, page 198; Book 148, page 357; and Book 219, pages 291-93.

OUTSTANDING REVIVALS

One of the biggest revivals in the history of New Holland took place in the early 1920's while Rev. W.H. Venable was pastor.


Mr. San Jones was the song leader for these services. "When they started singing during that revival, people nearly climbed the walls."

Rev. DeBardeleben must have been quite a preacher! He did not slap the pulpit to emphasize his message; he slapped the palm of his hand against the bottom of his shoe!

Brother DeBardeleben was one of the first North Georgia Methodist ministers to preach in a normal—a conversational—tone of voice; he used many illustrations in his messages.

Revival services were held in the auditorium building behind the church. Chairs had to be placed in all the aisles and still there were not enough places for people to sit.

People who couldn't get in to hear the preacher stood outside;
some even climbed up on top of nearby chicken houses so that they could see him.

And folks who heard him preach on "The Second Coming of Christ" still vividly remember this message today.

About thirty of the one hundred converts joined the local Methodist Church with eighteen of them being immersed by Rev. W. H. Venable.

The Rev. W. L. Brackman, Sr. states in his Quarterly Conference report, July, 1932, that during a revival held at New Holland Methodist Church three hundred seven people were converted and/or reclaimed. Rev. Carl Looney was the visiting preacher.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS:

Mrs. Candler Freeman says, "G.T. Cheek was when we moved here about 1907."

According to the Quarterly Conference records, Mr. G.T. Cheek served as Sunday School Superintendent until December, 1933. He was then named "Honorary Superintendent" and so remained until his death in 1936.

Mr. B. R. Turnipseed, Jr. was elected to begin serving as Sunday School Superintendent December 1, 1933, and served until August, 1947.

We do not know who served as Sunday School Superintendent during the 1947-51 period. It may possibly have been the pastor, Rev. B. W.
Mr. J.A. Webb served during the 1951-52 Conference Year.

Mr. J.A. Webb and Mr. Early Noble both served during the 1952-53 Conference Year.

Mr. Otis Kinsey was Superintendent from 1953 to 1957.

Mr. Theron Webb served for the 1957 Conference Year.

Mr. Louie Strickland was elected Sunday School Superintendent for the 1958 Annual Conference Year and served until the start of the 1961 Conference Year.

The Sunday School functioned without a Superintendent for one year and then Mr. J.B. Strickland was elected to serve for the 1962-63 Conference Year. Mr. Neal Black took over as Sunday School Superintendent January 1, 1963.

ORGANIZATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

The first Methodist Sunday School was probably organized, at least informally, about December, 1900. This conclusion is based upon the fact Rev. A.J. Tilly was appointed Pastor in Charge at that time.

For the first few years the Sunday School struggled along until it had to be reorganized, January 16, 1910. When reorganized, Mr. G.T. Cheek was Superintendent and Rev. J.S. Brownlow was Secretary and Treasurer.
The original Sunday School enrollment is not known; it could have been as much as it is today or a great deal more. What old records we have show only the total number enrolled in the union Sunday School of New Holland.

**METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT, 1910:**

**Teachers** (Some were Methodist, some Baptist):

- Miss Annie Waldrip
- Miss Ruth Waters
- Miss Bessie Willingham
- Mrs. G.B. Westnorland
- Mrs. J.E. Lawson
- Miss Annie Byers
- Miss Ola Pass
- Rev. G.T. Chandler or Rev. M.M. Riley
- Mrs. W.S. Smith
- L.R. Cooley
- Miss Lou Gilleland
- Mrs. Hilda Peckham

**FINANCIAL:** (Methodist only), 1910:

- Total Collected: $26.29
- Paid for year's literature: $22.69
- Paid on song books: 1.00
- Balance at end of year: $2.60

**1914-1915:**

- Total Collected: $95.74
- Paid for Literature: $85.18
- Sent to Sunday School Board: 4.67
- Sent to Orphans' Home: 2.50
- Balance at end of year: $3.41

**1941-42:**

- Total Received: $240.74
Missions.............................$10.00
Literature............................94.39
Easter Boxes..........................2.65
Roll Cards..............................4.62
Orphans' Home........................50.00
Meeting.................................10.00
Balance at end of year..............$65.80

("Meeting" is not explained.)

ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE, 1951-62:

1951-55:
Average Enrollment...............108
Average Attendance..............65..(60%)

1958-59:
Average Enrollment...............103
Average Attendance..............45..(44%)

1959-61:
Average Enrollment...............67
Average Attendance..............43..(64%)

1961-62:
Average Enrollment...............60
Average Attendance..............39..(65%)

WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

In 1914 there was only one WSCS on The New Holland Charge. It was probably a Charge-wide organization.

A WSCS was organized at New Holland, January 29, 1931, with Miss Olive Smallwood as President; Mrs. S.L. Patterson as Vice-
President; and Miss Hattie Jones as Secretary and Treasurer.

From this date forward the names of the Presidents have been taken from the Quarterly Conference Records of The New Holland Methodist Church.

Between the time of organization and 1941 the WSCS had an uphill road to travel; it went dead several times during this period and was revived each time.

The following are listed as Presidents after 1931:

1932, 1941 & 1942----------------------Miss Hattie Jones
1944 & 1945--------------------------Miss Janet Jones
1946-------------------------------Mrs. John G. Lupo
1951-----------------------------Mrs. Early Noble
1954-------------------------------Mrs. Lonnie Hamilton
1956-------------------------------Mrs. Bernice Webb
1958 & 1959------------------------Mrs. J.R. Childress
1960 & 1961------------------------Mrs. Loyd Kytle
1962-------------------------------Mrs. Jim Coffee

THE YOUTH WORK

Here again the official reports concerning the youth work of this church are few and far between. We have reported what we could discover.
The New Holland Methodist Church did not have an Epworth League in 1915.

The next report concerning the youth work is dated January, 1931, "The Senior Epworth League has been reorganized."

Presidents:

May, 1931--------------A.J. Kinsey
October, 1931-----------Otis Kinsey
January, 1933----------V.H. Ledford
1941--43-------------------Janet Jones
1951-52----------------Phillip Fair and Ann Ledford
(1953----A teen-club was set up by Theron Webb.)
1955--56---------------Scotty Strickland
1956--57---------------Marie Webb
1957--58---------------Phyllis McGill
1958--59---------------Larry McGill
1959--60---------------Ann Freeman and Lou Ann Rylee
1960--61---------------Lou Ann Rylee and Brenda Strickland
1961--63---------------Mark Staples

The present MYF group is small but trying to remain in an active state. We hope that future histories of this church will show an increase in the number of youth whose parents are interested in the growth of the MYF. The church has the potential.
NOTABLE OCCASIONS

Bishop John Owen Smith was present, December 10, 1961, as guest preacher at the morning service of worship and remained for dinner with the congregation.

Down through the years all day singings with dinner on the ground were a very real part of the life of The New Holland Charge. Some of the song leaders at these singings were Rev. J.S. Brownlow, Sam Jones, Gideon Jones, Arthur Kinsey, G.F. Shirloy, Asbury Jenkins and John Webb. These singings were held once each year; people came from far and near to take part and to just sit back and listen.

OTHER INFORMATION

The New Holland Stewards adopted the envelope system, April 1936.

The present membership of the church is 128. But only sixty of these folks have supported the church by attendance and/or contribution during the past fifteen years.

ADDITIONS to Membership, July, 1960—March, 1963:

By Profession of Faith---------Seven
By Transfer---------------------Eleven
By Restoration----------------Four
The WSCS has been very active during this period. The ladies have helped the pastor and his family on several occasions by having pantry showers for them. Through the Community Club Award program, the whole church helped the WSCS raise money to be used for various purposes. Another fund-raising project which the WSCS spearheaded was a barbecue. Just about all the active church members got involved in one or the other of these projects.

The church has paid Expansion Day out in full for the past two years. And last year (1961-62) the whole budget was paid in full.

Some achievements which the active membership has made are:

APARTMENT---We have not been able to do all that needs to be done on this structure. In addition to regular upkeep, painting, plumbing, etc., a new side porch has been constructed; new cement steps placed; and the landscaping of the yards begun.

PARSONAGE---A new side porch has been constructed; a linen closet built; the outside repainted; and a new roof put on. Overhead insulated.

CHURCH---All pews have been refinished. 1200 sq.ft. of hardwood flooring in place, sanded and finished. All plumbing repaired. Classroom floors sanded and refinished. Kitchen with tile floor, new water heater and a new sink with cabinet. Dining room area started. Nearly all the interior of the church repainted, except the sanctuary.

SOURCE OF MONEY: A small amount from non-members; WSCS projects; a gift from the Board of Missions; individual pledges and gifts.