As one travels the length and breadth of our beloved country there will be found many churches that have the name "Liberty", and each one has given to our nation many useful Christian citizens.

The Liberty Church that has a special significance for me is located in Jackson County a few miles north of Hoschton, Georgia.

The year 1843 marks the beginning of this place of worship. The original building was a crude log cabin that was used for a meeting house, serving as School House and other forms of Civic and Religious worship. During the early years it was in a way non denominational. All people regardless of religious belief gathered here for spiritual stimulation. It served the community as the house of God.

The day came when there was a need and desire for a better building and a more organized church. In 1873 a group of these people decided to organize and build a Methodist Church to meet the needs of the growing community which would have the name New Liberty. Mr. Jasper Thompson who was an outstanding progressive citizen deeded to this courageous group one acre of land on which to erect the building. Later his son Jasper N. Thompson Jr., gave four acres more to the church.

The charter members were Martha Sawyer Cronic, Simeon Harrison and wife Sarah Jane Smith Cronic; James Anderson and wife Elizabeth Cronic McDaniel; William Simpson and wife Margaret Cronic Pike; Margaret Josephine Titshaw Firkle; Anderson Harrison and wife Mary Ann Cronic Titshaw. The first regular pastor to serve New Liberty Church was the Reverend M.N. Bakes. In the year 1879 the following names were added to the list of members. Frances S. Cronic; Charles Jewett Cronic; Lewis Cronic; Washington Ambrose Cronic; John A. Cronic; W.C. Roberts; Sarah Smith Cronic; General Marion Smith and John Anderson D. Titshaw who served as the first Secretary to the church. Rev. B.F. Rutherford was pastor at this time.

Many, many years of active service were seen in the new church. Increased membership combined with activities and interest continued until it became one of the strongest Methodist Churches in this section of Georgia.

So often in life a seemingly calamity or catastrophe proves only to be a blessing. In 1910 a wind storm damaged the church to the extent that much re-
pair was necessary. The members realized that a larger more modern building was needed. Instead of repairing the damaged building, plans were made to wreck the old one and a new church was erected on the same site.

Since its beginning New Liberty has been the place of worship and has given the community religious education which has stimulated spiritual growth that has been evident in every phase of living. Through it, strength and fortitude to combat the battles of life has been realized. The influence reaches to the remotest distances of the universe, for sons who received their spiritual training in youth have given the battlefields in the far away areas.

Those of us who share in this great "Heritage" have much for which to be thankful. To have ancestors that have for generations lived close to christianity is indeed a blessing which cannot be valued too highly.

And nestled close beside this church are the remains of many loved ones that have given christian service through its influence. The memory of those who have preceded us are shadowed by great admiration and respect. It is only natural that we love this sanctuary which has given hope, and inspiration and fulfillment of the divine through the years.

May 4, 1951.