HISTORY
OF
OLD CAMP METHODIST CHURCH
CARROLLTON GEORGIA
HISTORY OF OLD CAMP METHODIST CHURCH
NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE
ESTABLISHED 1852

Miss Laura Haygood Turner
(Historian)
January 1951

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As historian of Old Camp Methodist Church (elected by the 2nd Quarterly Conference of the Carrollton Circuit, Rome District, North Georgia Methodist Conference, held at Old Camp Church on December 17, 1951) I, Laura Haygood Turner, in January 1951, do here put into writing the most important facts obtainable of the above mentioned church, and history thereof.

All available records have been searched, which in itself has been an enlightening and fascinating work. Much information has been handed down by word of mouth. Also, much has been obtained from partial histories written by my father, the late James H. Turner, on two occasions. Much of his information was from memory and from that learned from older members and from descendants of charter members. His father, Horton S. Turner, became a member of this church in 1868.

Other information has been gained from old Quarterly Conference and Church records, and our church registers. The original church register, or list of charter members, has been lost.

Other missing records are all Quarterly Conference records up to 1883, and from 1890 to 1895, when the following preachers were serving this church: H. L. Edmondson, W. E. Tarpley, J. S. L. Sappington (first time) and C. C. O'Neal. Records are also missing for the years 1915 to 1918 when W. O. McMullan and C. T. Ivey served the Carrollton Circuit. Also, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Quarterly Conference record of the year of 1926, when B. N. McHan was pastor. Records of the years 1931 through 1938 are also missing. Pastors during that time were R. I. Johnson 1931 and 1932, W. B. Hughes 1933, 1934 and 1935, B. C. Matteson 1936, 1937 and 1938.

There is no printed history in pamphlet form.

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DEDICATION

The history of Old Camp Methodist Church attached herewith is dedicated to my father, the late James H. Turner, and my grandfather, the late Horton S. Turner, both of whom were members of this church. Also, to my mother, Leila Carter Turner, who is still living, and who has been an ardent supporter of this church since coming into this church in 1893, when she was married to my father. Also, to my sainted grandmother, the late Martha Patillo Turner, who was a member here.

This history is also dedicated to all of those who were first inspired, by their desire for a place to worship God, to organize and begin worshipping on this spot, which has become sacred to so many.

Also, I would dedicate this history to all the deceased and present members, who have by their love for the Divine Master, their prayers, sacrifices and perseverance built and maintained this place of worship for 99 years. Also, I would include all of the many faithful pastors who have served our Lord by serving in this church.

Included in this dedication, I would like to name those who have gone into the traveling ministry from this church. They are: Robert Timmons, who entered the Alabama Conference, Lane, Holmes and Dock Timmons, who entered the North Georgia Conference, Clifton Freeman, who entered this conference and Paul Augustus Turner, who is now a member of the North Georgia Methodist Conference and at present stationed at First Church, Dalton, Ga. I would also include my uncle, Will Patillo Turner, who in 1890, went to Japan as a missionary, serving there for 22 years until his death in 1912.

Finally, I would dedicate this history to those who have preserved the records for these many years and to all who have given information to the present historian.

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OLD CAMP METHODIST CHURCH is so named because it was originally a camp meeting ground as well as a church. The arbor, under which the people worshipped, was made of brush and there was a log church house. It is not known under what circumstances, nor when the church was actually organized. Neither is it known who the first pastor was that served this church. The first pastor of whom we have any authentic record was W. C. Dunlap, who was serving the church in 1866. It is not known when the first Sunday School was organized, nor who might have been the first superintendent. Pastors and Superintendents are listed on other pages herewith; pages 11 and 13.

The PROPERTY where the church stands was owned by the late Thomas and Elizabeth Espey before being donated to the church. Mr. and Mrs. Espey are buried in the church yard cemetery, with a marble tablet or monument indicating that they gave the property to the church in 1852. The deed, which has long since been lost, is recorded at the Carroll County Court House in Carrollton, Georgia, in Book G., Page 246.

Handed down by word of mouth from generation to generation, it is known that the Camp Meeting Ground first consisted of 20 acres, given by Thomas and Elizabeth Espey, but that if it ceased to be used as a camp meeting ground, that 15 acres should revert to the owners and 5 acres be kept for the church ground and cemetery.

The recorded deed, which was made by Elizabeth Espey, on February 7, 1852, in consideration of the sum of $5.00, describes the spring, known as Meeting House and Camp Ground Spring, and all waterways and buildings, as part of the property being deeded to the trustees of the church for the use of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.
"DESCRIPTION of the location of the church property is that it is located in the 10th District of Carroll County, State of Georgia. It is also stated therein that there are five acres of the property; beginning at the North East corner of lot of land #71 at a Red Oak Tree, East to a Post Oak Tree, North to a Post Oak Tree, West to a Post Oak Tree, to the beginning."

The deed contains a Trust Clause. Trustees to whom deed was made in 1852 were John Bonner, William Timmons, B. F. Crockett, Tobe S. Bird, and Anderson Mize. Witnesses were Stephen T. Grainger and William S. Foster.

The property is completely surrounded by property of the A. Grice Estate. Mr. Larry Grice, who lives on the estate, states that the deed as made to his father, the late A. Grice, states that 5 acres in the lot of land #71 belongs to the Methodist Church.

The LOCATION of this property is four miles west of Carrollton, Georgia, County Seat of Carroll County, on U.S. Highway #78, which is a paved highway and is the lower route of U.S. Highway #78. The church is about 200 yards south of Highway #78 on a soiled road. At the intersection of the church road and the highway there is a metal sign, visible at night, which reads, "OLD CAMP METHODIST CHURCH", "Established 1852." The church is visible for one mile East on the highway, and it faces the East.

CHAPTER 2....LAST CAMP MEETING.

The LAST CAMP MEETING held at this place was in September 1866, with W. C. Dunlap as the pastor of the Circuit. This was printed in the Carroll County Times in 1941 by the late Editor J. J. Thomasson, who stated that he attended that last camp meeting. This was also the year in which the North Georgia Conference was established.

In the summer of 1867 a camp meeting place was established at Shiloh (now also known as Burwell, on account of the Post Office being
SO NAMED), and thus the church of which history is given herewith became known as "OLD CAMP GROUND". Before that time it was known as "Meeting House and Camp Ground". In more recent years, this church has become known merely as "Old Camp", and all conference records in recent years are thus written. Rev. William Timmons, a Local Preacher, and one of the Charter Members of Old Camp, and one of the trustees to whom the property was deeded in 1852, preached the first sermon at Shiloh Camp Meeting in 1867.

CHAPTER 3...CHARTER MEMBERS AND DESCENDANTS.

The original Church Register has been lost for many many years. However, in 1946, Mr. J. A. Roberson, who as a boy helped to build the first arbor at Shiloh, told the writer of this history, that some of the charter members were as follows: John Bonner, William Timmons, Tobe S. Bird and Anderson Mize. These names appear as trustees of the church property in the deed which was made by Elizabeth Espey on February 7, 1852. This is the only deed that we know anything about, and one of the witnesses to the deed, William S. Foster, was a charter member.

At the present time of January 1951, as this history is being written, the Fifth generation of descendants of William S. Foster hold membership in Old Camp Church. They are J. D./and Josephine Foster Meeks, children of Dillard and Inus Williamson Foster, who was son of Charlie Foster, who was the son of Bud Foster, who was the son of William S. Foster.

Another family that can boast five generations of membership in Old Camp is the Bonner family. Louise, Mary, Paul R.,Jr., and J. E. Bonner, children of Paul R./Sr. and Emma Dee North Bonner, who is the son of Charlie A. Bonner, who is the son of John Milton Bonner, who was the son of John Bonner, who was a local preacher and one of the original trustees.
HISTORY OF OLD CAMP METHODIST CHURCH

CHAPTER 4...HISTORY WRITTEN 1934.

James H. Turner, father of the writer of this present history, wrote a partial history of Old Camp in 1934. He, with his father, the late Horton S. Turner, mother, Martha Patillo Turner, brothers, Charles P. Turner (Father of Rev. Paul A. Turner, now in the North Georgia Conference), Will P. Turner and sisters, Lizzie, Fannie and Anna, came to this community and to this church from Troup County in 1868. My father, and others who also remembered, stated that the first church house was of log construction with a 15 ft. section back of the pulpit partitioned off for the negro slaves, who came to church with their masters. There was no separate church for them. My father stated that his first recollection of the old church was when his parents had him baptized there in 1870, when he was three years of age.

There was a school house on the property, which remained there until sometime after 1874. It is not known how much longer. School was taught there by Miss Lizzie Turner, aunt of the present historian. My father and his brothers attended this school. All of his family became members of Old Camp. The school building was later moved to another location and finally abolished.

CHAPTER 5...SECOND CHURCH BUILDING

As stated, the first church house was of logs. The second one was a frame building with a partition about waist high running down the center, separating the sections for men and women. It was erected in 1876.

In 1886, at the 4th Q.C., the trustees of Old Camp Church made a statement of owning a framed church building, unceiled, which would seat about 300 or 500, and 5 acres of land. Deed recorded in Clerks office.
HISTORY OF OLD CAMP METHODIST CHURCH.

I well remember that second church house and the old hand made pews, which were fairly comfortable. However, I can remember that one of my aunts padded a section of one of the pews for her special place to sit in church.

The first two buildings were lighted with tallow candles and later oil lamps. There were little brass lamps hung against the side walls and large hanging lamps for the central part of the church in the second building. The evening services were announced to begin at "early candle light".

The cost of neither of the first two church houses is known. The first one was in front of where the present building stands and the second one was behind where the present church stands.

The second church building was torn down in 1907 or 1908 and sold to the community school and used in building the school house now known as the Tallapoosa Community School, which is about 1/2 mile from the church.

CHAPTER 6...PRESENT CHURCH BUILDING.

The present church house, which is of planed lumber within and without, was erected in 1907, while H. M. Strozier was pastor of the Carrollton Circuit, and S. B. Ledbetter was Presiding Elder of the Rome District. Supervisor of the construction of this building was Mr. W. P. Stone, who with his family moved to this community from Villa Rica, and placed their membership here in 1904. Mr. Stone was a forceful leader in this church from 1905, when he became Sunday School Superintendent, until his sudden death in April 11, 1916. He was S.S. Supt. continuously from 1905 until his death, and when interest would lag in the Sunday School he would ride around visiting members to renew interest. His wife, 

so

Mrs. Minnie D. Stone was a worker in the church, and also was his daughter, Bernie, who taught the young people for a number of years.
Cost of the 1907 structure is not known, but the church members and friends in the community did the building, as shown in Q.C. records. The Q.C. records also show that weekly prayer meetings were being held at that time, which no doubt was a great help in arousing enough interest to undertake the building. The outside of this church is weatherboard, painted white, and the inside is ceiled with lumber, painted a pale gray. There is a steeple with bell inside (that does not ring). The seats were bought from the old opera house in Carrollton, shortly after the church was built. The seating capacity is about 200.

This building was first lighted by oil lamps, then gasoline Alladin type hanging lamps, and now by electricity, which was first installed about 1937. It was first heated by a wood burning heater, then by a coal heater, and now by Butane Gas, which was installed in November 1947 at a cost of $443.13. The actual labor of installing the first electrical equipment was done by B. C. Matteson, who was pastor at that time.

The front steps are of brick, and were built in 1944 as a memorial to the late James H. Turner, who was a member of this church from 1880 until his death on July 19, 1943. He served in all the official places in the church during his life time and was always faithful, never wavering in his Christian life and practices. His special interest was the Sunday School and sometimes when others wanted to go into "Winter Quarters", as they would say, he insisted that the Sunday School be kept "evergreen". His last request was that a cement step be placed at the church, bearing the inscription, "KEEP UP THE SUNDAY SCHOOL". This inscription is carved in a marble tablet inserted in a riser of the brick steps. Also carved in the marble are the words, "Last Request of James H. Turner, Member Old Camp 1880-1943."
CHAPTER 7...SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNEX.

In the Spring of 1949, five Sunday School Rooms were annexed to the main church building, during the pastorate of Clarence L. Harris (Supply). He is attending school at West Georgia and at the same time serving as pastor of the Carrollton Circuit, and is preparing to be admitted to the North Georgia Conference. These rooms are built across the back of the church and are entered through the church and through two outside doors. There is a good sized hallway running the full length of the annex. The present value of church with annex is $10,000.

The lumber for framing was sawed from trees cut from the church grounds. Almost all of the labor has been done by the men of the church, with some friends assisting. The outside of the annex is finished in asbestos white shingles and the inside walls are of sheetrock. Each room has a Butane Gas Heater and it is lighted by electricity. Cash expended for the building and heating of the annex was $1507.41. The rooms are not completely finished but have been in use since September of 1949.

Chairs for the smallest children were donated by Portwood Furniture Company. The First Methodist Church in Carrollton donated to us some old pews. Folding metal chairs were secured in December 1950 for the Sunday School rooms.

CHAPTER 8...FINANCING THE ANNEX.

Money for improvements made during the past three years has been raised in various ways. Personal contributions from members, former members, friends have, of course, been made. The Calloway Foundation Fund in LaGrange, Georgia, contributed $50.00 and we received $250.00 from the Church Extension Fund, as a gift. Many dinners, suppers, barbecues, rummage sales, quiltings, etc. have raised considerable money.
The Women's Society of Christian Service has sponsored many projects for raising money and sold a number of articles.

The Young People have picked cotton, sponsored a box supper and entertainment, collected and sold papers and magazines to a paper mill, and assisted in many of the other projects.

Plans are continuing and funds being raised for further building and furnishing improvements.

At this writing in January 1951, a fund raising campaign is in progress for securing a new piano.
CHAPTER 9—CEMETERY

There is a large cemetery at this church. It has been in use since 1851, as shown on one old stone that is crudely carved by hand showing name and date.

This cemetery is maintained mainly by contributions received on our Annual Home Coming Day, which is always on the Third Sunday in May. The offering on that day is set aside for cleaning and maintaining the cemetery.

The Third Sunday in May 1952 will probably be the date on which we will celebrate our Centennial.

The church property extends a considerable distance beyond the present bounds of the cemetery, but at present is not in condition for burial purposes.

The late Mr. A. Grice, whose property surrounds the church property, for many years directed the burial placements in the cemetery. He was not a member of this church. Since Mr. Grice's death, his son, Larry Grice, directed the burial work for many years. He is not a member of this church. Until about ten years ago, the cleaning of the cemetery was done by interested volunteer workers, but in recent years it has been necessary to hire the work done. The late H. N. Reagin, who joined the church here in 1881, supervised the cleaning and fund raising for a number of years until his death in 1946. Mr. J. A. Pyron member of this church, is now chairman of the cemetery fund and superintendent of the care of the cemetery. There is a committee to assist in raising funds.

It is known from Annual Conference records that the North Georgia Conference was organized in 1866, but I have been unable to locate any Quarterly Conference records for this charge any further back than 1883.

In the history written by James H. Turner in 1934, he stated that he remembered Rev. A. C. Reese and Rev. David Stripling, for whom Stripling Chapel is named. According to Old Camp Church Register, these two men must have served prior to 1880, as all pastors are listed on our church register from 1880 until 1951. Also it is known that James L. Lupo, who served this work in some capacity, 1861 to 1862. He was the grandfather of John G. Lupo, who was pastor of the Carrollton Circuit, of which Old Camp is a part, in 1939 and 1940.

Also, there was a Rev. W. C. Dunlap, who was pastor of this church in 1866 (the same year that the N. Ga. Conf. was organized). In 1941 Editor J. J. Thomasson printed in the Carroll County Times that he attended the last camp meeting held at Old Camp in 1866, at which time W. C. Dunlap was the pastor of the circuit.

Old Camp Church records show that in 1880 G. C. Andrews and W. H. Speer were pastors of this church. My father, James H. Turner, stated that W. H. Speer was pastor here when he joined the church in 1880.

Thus, the continuous record of pastors dates from 1880 until 1951, and the list is attached as Chapter 11.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PASTOR</th>
<th>SERVICE YEARS</th>
<th>P.E. OR D. S.</th>
<th>BISHOP</th>
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<td>James L. Lupo</td>
<td>1861-62</td>
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<td>W. C. Dunlap</td>
<td>1866</td>
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<td>A. C. Reese</td>
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<td>David Stripling</td>
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<td>G. C. Andrews and</td>
<td>1880</td>
<td></td>
<td>W. H. LaPrade</td>
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<td>W. H. Speer</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. J. Hughes and</td>
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<td>F. D. Cantrell</td>
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<td>M. W. Arnold and</td>
<td>1883-84</td>
<td>W. H. LaPrade</td>
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<td>Willie Arnold</td>
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<td>Jere Reese</td>
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<td>1899-1900</td>
<td>T. J. Christian</td>
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<td>S. B. Ledbetter</td>
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<td>John S. Jenkins</td>
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<td>John S. Jenkins</td>
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<td>B. C. Matteson</td>
<td>1936-38</td>
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<td>John G. Lupo</td>
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<td>1941-43</td>
<td>W. H. LaPrade, Jr.</td>
<td>Arthur J. Moore</td>
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<td>George T. Shell</td>
<td>1944-45</td>
<td>B. Frank Pimm</td>
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<td>J. Arthur Griffies</td>
<td>1946-48</td>
<td>Pimm and Wills M. Jones</td>
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<td>Clarence L. Harris</td>
<td>1949-51</td>
<td>Jones and Delma L. Hagood</td>
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CHAPTER 12....CONTRIBUTION TO MINISTERIAL PROFESSION

Two of the first trustees of this church were local preachers. They were John Bonner and W.J.C.(William) Timmons.

Four sons of Rev. Timmons became preachers. Robert Timmons entered the Alabama Conference. Lane, Dock and Holmes entered the North Georgia Conference.

Will Patillo Turner, son of H. S. Turner(an early member) became a missionary to Japan. He went out in 1890 and, with the exception of two furloughs of one year each, spent in America, he remained there in Japan until his sudden death in 1912.

Clifton Freeman was recommended for license to preach for one year at the 4th Quarterly Conference, September 14, 1895. He went from this church into the North Georgia Conference, but is now retired.

Paul Agustus Turner, son of Charles Patillo Turner, and grandson of Horton S. Turner(father and grandfather both former members of Old Camp) entered the North Georgia Conference in 1925. He has served as District Superintendent of the Griffin District for four years, and is now in 1951 stationed at First Methodist Church, Dalton, Ga.
CHAPTER 13.....SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS.

It is not known when the first Sunday School was organized, nor who was the first superintendent. The Quarterly Conference of the pastor on May 15, 1886 stated that there were five Sunday Schools on the Charge, and Old Camp was one of them, as it was one of the five churches. The first S.S. Supt. that is recorded in Q.C. record was in 1886 and was H. S. Turner, grandfather of the present historian.

Superintendents and years of service are listed below:

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<tr>
<th>Superintendents</th>
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<td>H. S. Turner</td>
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<td>H. B. Heagaer</td>
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<td>H. S. Turner</td>
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<td>J. M. Bonner</td>
<td>1895 and 1896</td>
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<td>B. A. Sharp</td>
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<td>James H. Turner</td>
<td>1898</td>
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<td>W. S. Bonner</td>
<td>1899 and 1900</td>
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<td>Henry C. Strickland</td>
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<td>James H. Turner</td>
<td>1902</td>
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<td>D. E. Martin</td>
<td>1903 and 1904</td>
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<td>W. P. Stone</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1917 and 1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luther Talley</td>
<td>1919 and 1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Ruben Baxter</td>
<td>1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul B. Alexander</td>
<td>1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. M. Garrett</td>
<td>1923 and 1924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. R. Foster</td>
<td>1925, 1926, 1927, 1928 and 1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesley Ballard</td>
<td>1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul B. Alexander</td>
<td>1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. W. Strickland</td>
<td>1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul B. Alexander</td>
<td>1933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horace R. Cook</td>
<td>1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forrest Brigman</td>
<td>1940, 1941, 1942 until he left in February for military service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cecil Cosper</td>
<td>Completed 1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. W. Nations</td>
<td>1943, 1944, 1945, 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul B. Alexander</td>
<td>1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. W. Nations, Asst.</td>
<td>1948, 1949, 1950, 1951... (He seldom misses a church service of any kind)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 14. ... PRESENT SUNDAY SCHOOL OR CHURCH SCHOOL.

At this present date of January 1951, the Sunday School or Church School is well organized with four superintendents, six classes with teachers and assistants, an M.Y.F and an Adult Evening Fellowship. The Board of Education was organized last September, prior to the beginning of the Church School Year. The Board of Education and Workers Conference hold monthly sessions during the week before preaehing day. This being a four point charge, the pastor only preaches here one Sunday in the month.

There are two adult classes with a total enrollment of 55. One class is of older adults, both men and women. The other class is of younger adults, both men and women. The younger adult class holds a monthly business and social session. Enrollment in the other classes is 57. There is a secretary-treasurer, who makes written monthly reports to the Board. The Church School assumes two thirds of the Conference Benevolences and raises this through Fourth Sunday World Service offerings. Each Fourth Sunday, programs for the opening worship of Sunday School are given to emphasize this work. We have also raised our obligations for the Advance for Christ through the Sunday School, and our last payment on the Superannuate Endowment Fund was raised through the same channel. Amount raised during last conference year by the Sunday School was $317.67 and $315.64 paid out through the same.

PRESENT CHURCH SCHOOL OFFICIALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Superintendent</th>
<th>A. W. Nations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supt. of Adult Division</td>
<td>Miss Laura H. Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supt. of Youth Division</td>
<td>Mrs. Grady H. Gilbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supt. of Children's Division</td>
<td>Mrs. J. A. Pyron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher, Older Adults</td>
<td>Mr. Bob Harry (Not a member of this church)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher, Younger Adults</td>
<td>Mrs. R. L. Kemp, Asst., Mrs. Bill Jackson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher, Sr. Young People</td>
<td>Leonard E. Crawford, James Scott, Asst., Mrs. L. E. Crawford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher, Intermediates</td>
<td>M. M. Beavers, Asst., Mrs. Paul Bonner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher, Juniors</td>
<td>Mrs. Dalton Beavers, Asst., Mrs. L. E. Crawford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher, Beginner-Primary</td>
<td>Mrs. J. A. Pyron, Asst., Mrs. M.M. Beavers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary-Treasurer</td>
<td>Miss Laura H. Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asst. Secretary-Treas.</td>
<td>Miss Sue Parker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot;</td>
<td>Luther Nations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 15. EVENING FELLOWSHIP GROUPS.

The Epworth League was first organized in 1933, when W. B. Hughes was pastor of Old Camp. Prior to that time there had been a very active Young Peoples Prayer Meeting that met on Sunday nights at the church for several years. After a number of years, the young people grew up and the League was disbanded.

In 1947 the Methodist Youth Fellowship was organized during a revival meeting. Two men from the First Methodist Church in Carrollton assisted greatly in this organizational work. They were Sgt. Jimmie Carel and J. Carl Williamson. Rev. J. Arthur Griffies was doing the preaching in this revival, as he was the pastor. Mrs. Grady H. Gilbert was named superintendent of the M.Y.F and Louise Bonner as president. She remained president until July 1950, when Barbara Beavers became president.

An Adult Fellowship Group began meeting on Sunday nights in March 1950. It is not formally organized as a Fellowship, but there is an average attendance of adults of about 14. Two or more members are appointed from Sunday to Sunday to select and present a topic for discussion. The meetings are conducted in the form of a round table or forum. This has proven to be an interesting service. It is presided over, either by the general superintendent or the adult division superintendent.

Many church problems, projects and the like are partially worked out by this group of adults on Sunday nights. One project of this group is to take worship services into the homes of shut in members or neighbors.

At present the adults and youth are working on the visitation evangelism program plans.
CHAPTER 16... CHURCH OFFICIALS 1883 to 1950.
(Names are listed only one time, even though they may have served in several official places and for a number of years.)

W. J. C. Timmons
John Bonner
W. S. Bonner
H. N. Timmons
M. R. Russell
Bennett Bonner
H. S. Turner
H. B. Reagin
J. M. Bonner
D. E. Martin
B. A. Sharp
J. H. Turner
J. R. Foster
A. W. Duke
Clifford Freeman
W. B. North
J. F. Foster
Chas. P. Turner
W. M. Hall
H. H. Strickland
B. F. Barrett
V. B. McWhorter
W. P. Stone
W. T. Fielder
W. R. Foster
H. N. Reagin
K. S. Beavers
T. Smith Bonner
H. F. Wynn
Paul Alexander
Reuben Baxter
J. L. Strickland
Paul A. Turner
Ralph J. Turner
Mrs. Belle Merrell
Neil Turner
W. Sellie North
W. W. Beavers
Mrs. J. M. Garrett
Mrs. C. P. Turner
W. A. Knight
J. M. Garrett
W. E. North
Mrs. Minnie D. Stone

Paul Bonner
Mrs. W. W. Beavers
Mrs. J. A. Pyron
Laura Turner
Fred Jackson
A. W. Nations
M. M. Beavers
Dillard Foster
Mrs. Paul Bonner
L. A. Cosper
Horace Griffith
Grady H. Gilbert
J. A. Pyron
Mrs. Amos Nixon
Dalton Beavers

Officials for 1951 listed on page 17.
CHAPTER 16 Continued...

CHURCH OFFICIALS OF 1951.

Pastor............................Clarence L. Harris

( Paul R. Bonner, Sr.
( A. W. Nations
( M. M. Beavers
( Dillard Foster
( J. A. Pyron

Stewards.............
( Paul R. Bonner, Sr.
( M. M. Beavers
( Dillard Foster
( J. A. Pyron

Junior Stewards....
( Grady H. Gilbert
( Horace Griffith

Honorary Steward...
( W. R. Foster

( Paul R. Bonner, Sr.
( Dalton Beavers
( Roy L. Kemp
( J. E. Parker
( Horace Griffith

Circuit Parsonage
( Paul R. Bonner, Sr.
Trustees.............
( Dalton Beavers

Golden Cross Director...Mrs. M. M. Beavers

Board of Missions ( Mrs. W. W. Beavers
( Committee....... ( Mrs. J. A. Pyron
( Mrs. Paul R. Bonner, Sr.

Auditor.............. Roy L. Kemp

Pastoral Relations
Committee.......... Miss Laura H. Turner

Historian.......... Miss Laura H. Turner

Church Treasurer... Paul R. Bonner, Sr.

Church Secretary... Miss Laura H. Turner

Cemetery Fund
Treasurer........... J. A. Pyron
The first record of any organized missionary society is that from 1906 to 1913 the Sunday School was organized into missionary society groups.

Then, in 1914, there was a Woman's Missionary Society, but there is no record of the leaders. The children were also organized into a Children's Missionary Society with Mrs. Minnie D. Stone as their leader.

The next record of a Woman's Missionary Society in Old Camp was in 1926, with Mrs. C. P. Turner (Mother of Rev. Paul A. Turner) as the president. After a few years the society ceased to function. B. N. McHan was the pastor when this society was formed.

On November 7, 1947, under the leadership of Miss Bert Winter, North Georgia Conference Worker, the Women's Society of Christian Rev. J. Arthur Griffies was the pastor. Service was organized in Old Camp. Mrs. Avery Jackson has been president since the new society was formed. At present, January 1951, there are 31 on roll, with an average attendance of about 16. Several from near by Baptist Churches are members of our group.

The Society is very active, taking part in most of the Conference plans and in doing much local work. Much of the fund raising for building improvements during the past three years has been sponsored by this group of women. The W.S.C.S. takes the responsibility of presenting worship programs at Sunday School on each Fourth Sunday to emphasize the World Service Offering. A committee in the Society plans for the flowers for the church for all occasions.

This W.S.C.S., working with the other three on the Carrollton Circuit, sponsor improvements for the Circuit Parsonage.

PRESENT OFFICERS: Record attached as supplement to Chapter 17, Page 18 A.
1951
PRESENT OFFICERS OF W.S.C.S:

Mrs. Avery Jackson
Mrs. Robert McGuire
Mrs. R. L. Kemp
Mrs. Grady H. Gilbert
Mrs. Paul R. Bonner
Mrs. W. W. Beavers
Mrs. J. A. Pyron
Mrs. C. L. Harris
Prior to 1866, this historian, Laura H. Turner, has not been able to determine how the conferences were bounded or separated, but I do know from Annual Conference records that the North Georgia Conference of Methodist Churches was organized in 1866, and that a Mr. Pierce was the Bishop of this conference in 1867. Although we do have some information concerning a few preachers prior to 1883, we have no Quarterly Conference records prior to that time that can be found. All pastors are listed in Chapter 11, Page 11 of this history.

The first Q.C. records that I have been able to locate is of March 10, 1883. This record shows that Old Camp Ground, Bowdon, Shiloh, Midway, MtZion, Smyrna and Stripling Churches formed the Bowdon Charge in the LaGrange District of the North Georgia Conference. W. H. LaPrade was the Presiding Elder and M. W. Arnold was the Preacher in Charge. At the June Q.C. that same year, it was recorded that there was one student at Emory College; namely, W.P. Turner. Later, records show that he went to Japan as a missionary in 1890. During 1883 license to exhort was renewed to H.N.Timmons. He later became a member of the North Georgia Conference. During that same year of 1883, W. B. Arnold, son of M. W. Arnold, was serving with his father as assistant pastor of the Bowdon Charge, and that same year made application for admission to the North Georgia Conference.

In 1884 and 1885 I can find no record of what charge Old Camp was placed in, as the Q.C. record of Bowdon Charge does not list Old Camp for these two years. Some other churches were left off that charge those same years, also. However, our church record lists our pastors for those two years as Jere Reese, P.C. and W. H. LaPrade, P.E. in 1884 and W. W. Braswell, P.C. and J. F. Mixon, P.E. in 1885.

In 1886 Q.C. records again list Old Camp as being on the Bowdon
CHAPTER 18 ..Continued...

Charge, which was still in the LaGrange District. During that year of 1886 Old Camp, Midway, Shiloh, Bowdon and Paynes Chappel formed the Charge. J. N. Myers was P.C. and J. F. Mixon was P.E.

Beginning the year 1895 the Carrollton District was formed and of course Bowdon Charge was in that district. Old Camp, Shiloh, Bowdon, Stripling and Midway were the churches that formed the Bowdon Charge that year. C. C. O'Neal was P. C. and A. W. Williams was P.E.

At the 4th Q.C. in 1895 Clifford Freeman was recommended by Old Camp for license to exhort for one year. Later he entered North Georgia Conference.

In 1896, the Carrollton Circuit was formed with Old Camp, Stripling, Smyrna and Concord forming the circuit. We were, of course in the Carrollton District with W. T. Irvine, P.C. and A. W. Williams, P.E.

The Carrollton District was discontinued after 1900 and the Carrollton Circuit was returned to the LaGrange District, and remained there until 1903, when we were placed in the Rome District. This arrangement is still in force in this year of 1951. However, the churches forming the Carrollton Circuit have changed several times with the exception of Old Camp and Stripling remaining on this circuit since it was first formed in 1896. ***See last paragraph this page.

In July 1947 the date of Annual Conference was changed from being held in November to July. It was held in July 1948. Then, in 1949 and 1950 it was held in June.

***Old Camp, Stripling, Smyrna and New Hope have formed the Carrollton Circuit from July 1948 to the present time of 1951.
CHAPTER 19. CIRCUIT PARSONAGE.

The Third Q.C. record of 1898 shows that two men from each church on the Carrollton Circuit were appointed to investigate the matter of a parsonage. The churches on the Carrollton Circuit at that time were Old Camp, Concord, Smyrna, Stripling and County Line.

A Circuit Parsonage was built in 1902, when B. H. Trammel was the pastor. It was valued at $1200. It is now valued at $6000. or more.

In 1919 some repairing and refurnishing was done.

Of course much improvement has been done from time to time. When W. B. Hughes was the pastor in 1933, 1934 and 1935, it caught fire one year and much repair to roof, etc. had to be done. During those years the Hughes family did a great deal of refinishing work on the inside of the parsonage. During 1946 it was painted inside and outside and a new roof put on. The J. A. Griffies family did a great deal of the work at that time, as he was pastor.

In 1949, during the time that Clarence L. Harris has been the pastor, the house has been underpined and new brick steps built. At the present time kitchen cabinets are in the process of being built and a Youngstown kitchen sink has been installed this month of 1951.

Funds for the kitchen improvements have been raised by the W.S.C. S. of the four churches on the Circuit, which are Old Camp, Stripling, Smyrna and New Hope.

The Circuit Parsonage is located at 9 Coleman Street in Carrollton, Georgia, and is in a very nice residential section.
It is not known how many charter members there were, but the present membership is 154.

It is not known what the church contributed in finances during the early years of the church. At times it appears that the pastor's salaries and other conference obligations were not met. Always, the salaries were too small, and in the rural churches they are still too small. I am unable to determine how much might have been paid for any one full year in the early days. Contributions for the conference year of 1950 were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pastor</td>
<td>$340.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benevolences and World Svc.</td>
<td>72.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Q.C. Obligations</td>
<td>87.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superannuate Endowment Fund.</td>
<td>32.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This church has not sponsored any other church organization. We do maintain a few Home Department members of the Sunday School. Sunday School receipts and disbursements are listed elsewhere for 1950.

It has been interesting to note the reports of the various pastors from 1883 to 1951. Sometimes there is a note of triumph and sometimes of despondency over the spiritual state of the church. Some years many were added to the membership roll. Sometimes the preachers were enthusiastic and hopeful.

In the earlier days of the church many infant baptisms were recorded but for quite a number of years very few have been recorded, and to my knowledge very few have been baptized.
HISTORY OF OLD CAMP METHODIST CHURCH

CHAPTER 20...Continued......

One infant was baptized in the church in 1947 and one in 1950.

Due to the fact that Paul A. Turner is now a member of the North Georgia Conference, I would like to enter this item at this point:

"Second Quarterly Conference, April 6, 1901 Carrollton Circuit, LaGrange Dist., North Georgia Conference. Held at Concord Church. (Old Camp was part of Circuit)

Report by pastor, T. P. Graham was that during the quarter he had administered the ordinance of Baptism to Paul Augustus Turner, infant child of Charles P. and Ollie B. Turner."

From the records, the weather has always affected greatly the attendance in the rural churches and hindered pastoral visiting. Some of the records show that lack of stoves in churches in the earlier years prevented holding Sunday School during the winter months. Of course, in more recent years the churches are more comfortably heated and attendance is better for most services. However, the business sessions and prayer meetings are attended by only a few of the members and officials. Many of the records show that very few officials attended the Quarterly Conferences in earlier years, as well as later years.
Many great revivals of spiritual uplift have blessed this church, but I cannot name many of them. The most memorable one in the minds of many who are still living was the one in 1905, when W. O. Butler was pastor here for one year and took in 44 members.

I can remember the time during revival meetings, when the men of the church would hold prayer services in the grove and the women would hold a service in the church before the evening preaching service.

Several times, many years ago, were fortunate in having Mr. Ellie McNeil, who was a blind music teacher at the Academy for Blind in Macon, Georgia, to play the piano and sing for our revival meetings. He was an uncle of H. A. McNeil, who is now a member of the North Georgia Conference and also of Paul A. Turner, of the North Georgia Conference.

Rev. R. A. Edmondson, now a retired member of the North Georgia Conference, has done the preaching during revival meetings here several times. Paul Turner has one year done the preaching for revival. Rev. J. K. Kelley, of the North Georgia Conference, has preached here for two revivals. Many others in the North Georgia Conference and from elsewhere have assisted in revivals.

During the revival of 1947, while J. Arthur Griffies was the pastor, the Methodist Youth Fellowship was organized. Sgt. Jimmie Carel, of Carrollton First Methodist Church, led the singing for this revival and also led it for the two following years, assisted one year by his brother, Truman Carel, another army man from Columbus, Ga. Sgt. Carel and J. Carl Williamson, of Carrollton First Methodist Church, assisted in organizing the MYF and have aided greatly in many activities of our church.
During the summer of 1950, our pastor, Rev. Clarence L. Harris, invited upon the request of some of the members, a Baptist retired minister, Rev. Hardigree, of Redan, Georgia, to assist in the preaching for the revival. Mr. L. E. Crawford, one of our present members, who has made application for license to preach, led the singing. We had a very fine revival. At night, prior to the preaching services, the ladies and the men met in separate Sunday School rooms for prayer services.

During the time that W. O. McMullan was pastor of this church, either in 1915 or 1916, the Rev. A. M. Pierce assisted him in a revival meeting. This historian remembers his preaching at this church. Rev. Pierce was at that time pastor of First Methodist Church in Carrollton, and is now secretary of the Historical Society of the North Georgia Methodist Conference.
1. We have often been fortunate in having the pastors of First Methodist Church in Carrollton to visit our church and assist in many ways. Rev. J. W. Segars, the present pastor of Carrollton First Church in this year of 1951, has shown very special interest and aid to our present pastor, Rev. Clarence L. Harris, and has invited him several times to hold morning services for him at First Church in Carrollton. A number of other Carrollton men and women have aided our pastors and our church, through their financial assistance and otherwise, through a number of years. Since our present pastor, Clarence L. Harris, is in school at West Georgia College, the assistance of these men has meant much to him, and to the whole Carrollton Circuit.

2. On preaching day in November 1950, Old Camp gave a Thanksgiving Shower of home produce and other foods to Rev. and Mrs. Harris in token of our love and appreciation for them and the fine work they are doing on the Carrollton Circuit. Since Brother Harris is still on the Supply List of the North Georgia Conference, his membership is in Old Camp Church. On Brother Harris' birthday, which was the Third Sunday in January, 1951, Old Camp gave him a cash love offering. Mrs. Harris is a great help in all the projects undertaken by the churches on the Carrollton Circuit.

3. One time when Rev. R. A. Edmondson visited Old Camp and preached his sermon in behalf of the superannuate preachers fund, he went home with one of the members for dinner. While he was sitting on the porch a little boy of five in the home brought out his savings bank and told Brother Edmondson that he wanted to help the old preachers.

4. Rev. J. S. L. Sappington was pastor here in 1893 and 94 and again in 1899 and 1900.
4. Rev. W. T. Irvine (Uncle of President I. S. Ingram of West Georgia College) was pastor of this church in 1887, then again in 1896 and 1897. Then in 1920 to 1924, he was Presiding Elder of the Rome District, of which this church is a part.

5. Home Coming and Memorial Day services are held at Old Camp each Third Sunday in May, having been begun under the leadership of Rev. B. N. McHan in 1926. Each year, in our service, we remember our former pastors who have passed away during the year. During the war in 1944, a special service was held in honor of our members who were in the armed service. Both U.S. and Christian Flags were used in the service. We had thirteen stars on our service flag during World War II, but not a single gold star had to be placed thereon. Neither did we have a gold star in World War I. We were grateful, but I am sorry to say that many of the returned veterans have not shown much interest in church attendance.

6. Rev. J. N. Myers, who was pastor here in 1886 and 1887, could be heard for a mile when he was preaching.

7. We had one pastor whose small children played around in the pulpit while he preached.

8. Reception for Rev. W. B. Hughes at the parsonage, when he came to this Carrollton Circuit, was the most outstanding of any that can be remembered. However, he was late in arriving, as his car broke down on the way. He was given a reception by the Epworth League of Old Camp just before he left this work. The Young People loved him because it was under his leadership that the first League was organized.

9. During our revival last summer, we spent the day at the church and invited a former pastor, Rev. George T. Shell and family, who had just moved to the Roopville Charge. At that time we celebrated the
Tenth Anniversary of the W.S.C.S. with Stripling Chappel as the visiting Society.

10. The oldest person in our church is 93 years old and she still comes to church services occasionally when the weather is favorable. B. She is Mrs. Mattie North. She came into Old Camp by certificate in 1881, but in 1888 moved her membership to Stripling until 1913, when she returned to Old Camp by certificate. Her husband was the late O.E. North. All their children became members of Old Camp. Several of her children and grandchildren are still members of this church, and some of the very active ones. She is still interested in the church activities and makes financial contributions.

11. There have been many fine Christian Women and Men, who have supported Old Camp by their presence, prayers, talents and finances; also there have been many good Sunday School teachers and other workers in various places in the church, whose names are not listed. Time and space will not permit me to mention all of these that I would like to mention.

12. Last Easter in 1950, a Communion Service was held in this church on Friday night, with Rev. Donald Gray, of Lithia Springs Methodist Church, assisting in the service and preaching the sermon.

13. Many other interesting stories could be told, but this will end my recording of history unless some history of earlier days is uncovered at a later date and added as a supplement. It is my prayer that this church may continue for another hundred years.

THE END.

Laura H. Turner, Historian
January 1951