MEMORIES "OLD" METHODIST CHURCH
Sugar Valley, Ga.

Church located in the center of the original village of Sugar Valley which was burned by the Federals during the Civil War. South of the Church, two large two-story houses stood. One was the home of Colonel Gordon, the other of Isaac Bates. In one of the houses, a cigar factory was operated in the center of the house, people lived on each side. There was a saloon.

Once, the boys slipped upstairs and tried on the uniforms of the Knights of Jericho. The upper floor was reached by a ladder.


Stewards in 1871 were: James A. Tweedell, Churchwell Moore, James W. Brown and Samuel A. Harris.

Contributions in 1870's: 50¢ to $3.00. None of the men gave under $1.00. Average for women was 50¢ or 75¢. Mary Durch gave $2.50 and Olivia Woodruff gave $5.00.

May 6th - a Sunday School of 26 scholars was organized. Sunday School never "went into winter quarters."

1878. Elizabeth Coley and L.J. McEntire - females, had gone to the Baptist. 1893 - J.B. Freeman and W.F. Harrow did likewise. 1883 - no report from the church - no report from the class leaders - no report from the preacher, nothing doing from the Sunday School, nothing doing from the stewards, assessments not made and nothing done for the poor. However, mission duties were done and literature partially read.

Charges were brought against four of the Brethren for drinking and two sisters for dancing and a case made against Brother James Stansbury for playing the fiddle in a ballroom. He confessed his wrongs and said he wanted to live a better life. Two girls were charged with going to parties.
1894: Class Leaders - Bros. Malone, Harris, Edge and Tweedell had been inactive. Leaders felt that more good could be done if parents accompanied their children to Sunday School.

1895: Church Assessment - $85.00. Weather bad so Pastor Bugg could not visit but spent his time studying.

1882: Fifty persons were baptized after a revival at Sugar Valley.

December 31, 1891. Brilliant wedding at the Methodist Church which was beautifully decorated. Mr. John F. Harris and Miss Martha Cooley were married with Rev. Mark Matthews performing the ceremony. The groom came in with Mr. Charley Herrington and the bride with her sister, Miss Georgia Cooley. Other attendants were: Mr. John Cooley and Miss May Harris, Mr. Lee Cooley and Miss Maggie Thornton. The wedding party returned to the home of the bride's Mother, Mrs. Cooley, where a sumptuous repast was served.

1904: During a revival, the people became so enthused that the church floor fell in.

SUGAR VALLEY "OLD" METHODIST CHURCH
Pastors and Presiding Elders

Rev. A.W.H. Tweedell, resident of the community, was active in the church from the beginning.

1871: Pastors - J.D. Simmons, D.J. Weems, W.R. Foote
Presiding Elder - Rev. N.J. Scott & Rev. J.D. Myric

Presiding Elder - R.W. Bingham

1873: Pastor - R.E. Bradley
Presiding Elder - R.W. Bingham

1875: Pastor - A.D. Pendleton

1876: Pastor - A.M. Sprayberry
Presiding Elder - H.H. Quillian

1877-1878: Pastors - James S. Harkins, P.L. Stanton
Presiding Elder - A.W. Thigpen

1880: Pastor - E.A. Shields

1894: Pastors - D.P. Johnston, R.M. Jones


Other Names: M.H. Parks, Presiding Elder.

W.F. Walden, Pastor in 1928.

Chas. Driggers in 1960 (New Church & Old Church).