The church was originally known as the Methodist Church of Sugar Valley. At the time the building was first built it had two stories. The church services were held on the first floor, and the Order of the Knights of Jericho, a temperance organization, had its Lodge Hall and held meetings on the upper floor. This latter organization was a fraternal order and not necessarily directly connected with the church.

The name "Old" Sugar Valley Methodist Church was applied in 1928 to designate the difference between the original church and the New Sugar Valley Methodist Church. In the year 1928 a group of members of the Old Church decided to separate themselves from the old church and form a new church in the area near the railroad that was building up, and forming the center of the community of Sugar Valley.

As near as can be determined the Old Methodist Church was organized in or shortly before the year 1856. Our reason for this assumption is based on a statement in the original deed which was made out on the 10th day of January 1857, and recorded in the Gordon County, Georgia Court House March 19, 1857.

"That for divers good causes and considerations, the said Joshua Daniel have given granted and bequeathed unto the aforesaid Trustees, jointly and severally for Church and Lodge privileges three acres of land, situate, lying and being in Sugar Valley, County and State aforesaid, under and around the building known as the Methodist Church and Hall of the Knights of Jericho, "etc."
The fact that the deed very plainly says, "under and around the building known as the Methodist Church" indicates very clearly that a building existed, at the time the deed was made out, as well as a church and a lodge. The deed being dated January 10, 1857 would of necessity indicate that the organization of the Church body took place in 1856 or shortly before. The exact date of the formal organization of the Church body will have to remain as an estimate until such time as further facts are produced.

The Church building is located in the Southwest section of Sugar Valley, Gordon County, Georgia, on the old Dalton-Rome Road, which runs on the west side of Baugh Mountain.

It was down this road that the Union Forces traveled on their way to Atlanta, in the war between the States. General Hood was carried by here after he was shot.

The community of Sugar Valley is about 1½ miles away, and Calhoun is located about 7 miles to the east.

In as much as there is no record of the original organization of the church, its charter members or officiary, we will have to pass over this phase of the life of the church and merely say that the names are known only to God, and that he in his mercy is grateful to those great souls for establishing his work in this community, which has been the bulwark against evil for so long.

I would like to add a personal note at this point. It is quite evident to me that all through the more than 100 years of the existence of this church, there have been many Saints of God as preachers, members, and friends of this organization.
some of them now rest in marked and unmarked graves in the ceme-
tery at the rear of the old church. It has been through their
efforts and sacrifices, and the Grace of God that the word of
God is taught and preached there today as it was on its found-
ing day. God has preserved this church of his for greater work
in his service in the future.

The following is a list of names of families, prominent in
the community of Sugar Valley at the time of the Founding of the
Church. This list is not complete, but is the best we can do at
this time. Many other families came later.

The Baugh Family
S. Simpson Family
Tyre H. Harris Family
Grig A. Harris Family
C. Gober Family
The Groover Family
The Whittle Family
The Stagg Family
The Wright Family
The McNeely Family
The Stansberry Family
The Tweedell Family

Sugar Valley is a rural community in the hills of North
West Georgia. One hundred years ago, without good roads,
bridges, and other forms of modern communication it was even
more of a self-sustaining rural community than it is today.
It used to be that folks traveled to church in the family carriage over rough dirt roads or just plain walked, in many cases, for miles to get to church. The church, and in this case the Knights of Jericho Lodge, were the center of the community life. It is true that neighbors visited each other frequently, but the one time of the week when one dressed in his or her best was Sunday. Getting together at the church, where the word of God was preached in its simple truth, had enduring effects on these folks. It taught them the word of God, and reverence for him. They also met friends and relatives from other parts of the community. Girls met boys and happy families were formed. All of this, under the influence of the church.

Contact with the outside world was rather restricted, in comparison with today, and all attention, outside of the home was centered in the church. It was the rule rather than the exception to have the sanctuary filled and folks standing on the outside unable to get in.

These folks lived by the bible, and brought up their families in the way of the Lord. It is significant to note that there has been no recorded crime, divorce or major act of violence among any member of this church, from its origin to date. Truly an example of the effectiveness of the preaching of the Gospel.

In 1928 a group of members of the Methodist Church of Sugar Valley felt that the Old Church should be moved to the center of the community. It was a long distance that they had to travel over dirt roads to get to church every Sunday and this problem was amplified in bad weather. The balance of the congregation
felt that the Old Church should continue its service in its original place. This finally led to a separation of the congregation with part of them leaving and forming what is now known as the New Methodist Church. The Old Methodist church should rightfully be called the First Methodist Church, as it is the parent church, and the New Church is really its branch.

Both churches are now members of the same charge, and share the same Pastor. All Methodist Church activities that can be shared are now shared alike.

Prior to 1926 the Old Church was part of the Tilton Charge.

The oldest records of the church that can be found, as of this writing, start at 1871, and even these are incomplete and may possibly at times be unreliable. From 1856-1870 no records.

**Pastors of the Old Sugar Valley Church**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>T.J. Simmons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>W.J. Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1872</td>
<td>D.J. Weems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1872</td>
<td>G.C. Rankin</td>
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<tr>
<td>1873</td>
<td>T.J. Simmons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1874</td>
<td>W.R. Foot, Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1875</td>
<td>D.J. Myric</td>
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<td>T.J. Simmons</td>
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<tr>
<td>1876</td>
<td>H.M. Quillian</td>
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<tr>
<td>1877</td>
<td>J.S. Harkin</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1879</td>
<td>No record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>M.J. Figor</td>
</tr>
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<td>1881</td>
<td>M. H. Edwards</td>
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<tr>
<td>1885</td>
<td>No record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886</td>
<td>E.T. Kendrick</td>
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<td>1887</td>
<td>E.T. Kendrick</td>
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<td>1888</td>
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<td>1889</td>
<td>J.F. Tyson</td>
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<tr>
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<td>T.J. Simmons</td>
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<td>1892</td>
<td>P. Murdoux</td>
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<tr>
<td>1893</td>
<td>H.S. Bugg</td>
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<tr>
<td>1893</td>
<td>J.F. Tyson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894</td>
<td>A. Lester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1895 H. S. Bugg 1923 J.T. Richardson
1896 No record 1924 Supplied
1897 No record 1925 J.R. Potut
1898 No record 1927 W.F. Walden
1899 No record 1930 S.A. Dailey
1900 J. Lee Allgood 1933 H. O. Green
1901 L.E. Allgood 1934 R.L. Johnson
1902 R.E. Bradley 1935 G. T. Sorrells
1903 to No record 1937 W.F. Dailey
1907 1938 M. H. Smith
1908 E. A. Shields 1939 A. S. Ulm
1909 D.P. Johnston 1940 R. J. Donaldson
1911 M.A. Parsons 1941 W. A. Lamar
1912 Nelson Hinesley 1943 E. Bartenfeld
1915 J.A. Griffies 1945 H. B. Landrum
1916 No record 1946 Frank Ellison
1917 V.B. Harrison 1948 Vernon Windom
1919 M.F. Hayes 1949 M. L. Bartley
1920 J.W. Lee 1950 G. Schroerlucke
1921 Frank Green 1951 C. A. Kinsey
1922 R.M. Jones 1956 Paul Fry
1927 1957 C. Driggers

The present church building, as it stands today is in effect the original building, however, it has been repaired and reworked several time, so actually there is very little of the original
material left in the building.

The original building was two stories high. The first floor was for church use, and the upper floor was for meetings of the members of the Knights of Jericho, a temperance organization. Today the church is used exclusively for a church, and the area formerly occupied by the Lodge is now cris-crossed with beams to support the new roof. The organization of the Knights of Jericho has disappeared completely, and no trace or knowledge of it can be found.

In 1952 gas heat was installed to replace the old "Pot Belly" wood stove. Then in 1955 the entire roof was replaced, from the plates up. A wind storm in 1954 nearly took the roof off the Old Church, and damaged the rafters and beams so badly, that a complete new roof was needed.

In 1950 the stone foundation was put around the building. New stone steps were added in the front and at the two side doors. Also a large double front door was added.

At the present time (1957) a new parsonage is being built, and it should be completed in early 1958. The idea and the fund raising campaign was started during the ministry of Rev. Paul Fry. The building is a six room dwelling with all modern conveniences. It is made of steel and cement and should serve many pastors and their families of the Sugar Valley charge. The materials, after all discounts, cost about $1500.00 and all labor was contributed free of charge. Most of the credit for building the parsonage goes to Mr. J. Nelson. All the repairs to the church, improvements, and the parsonage have been paid for thru public contribution.
No mortgages were entered into. I should add that the new parsonage is located on a plot of land adjoining the New Methodist Church.

Mr. Ottis Moore is chairman of the building committee.

The Old Cemetery is located at the rear of the Old Methodist Church in a beautiful picturesque setting on the side of Baugh Mountain. This is located on the original site of land deeded to the church by Joshua Daniel, January 10, 1857. This is an old and historic site.

STATE OF GEORGIA
GORDON COUNTY

THIS INDENTURE made this the 10th day of January, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-seven between Joshua Daniel of the one part and James G. Gaines, L. D. Cole and Wm. H. Black, as trustees of the Methodist Church, and the said James Gaines, L. D. Cole, as Trustees of Sugar Valley Lodge Knights of Jericho of the other part, all of the County and State aforesaid, Witnesseth: that the divers good causes and considerations the said Joshua hath given granted and bequeathed unto the aforesaid Trustees jointly and severally for Church and Lodge privilege, three acres of land, situate, lying and being in Sugar Valley, County and State aforesaid, under and around the building known as the Methodist Church and Hall of Knights of Jericho, and which is now jointly occupied and used as a Church and Lodge of Knights Of Jericho.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same as Trustees aforesaid from him the said Joshua, his heirs and assigns to long as there is a regular constituted church or a Lodge of Knights Of Jericho kept
up on said premises. And be it more expressly understood by all whom it may concern that said land has been given with the best of motives jointly and severally for the purposes aforesaid, and that neither party is at any time hereafter to set up exclusive privilege to the exclusion of the other under the penalty of a forfeiture of all right, title, interest or privilege which they may have to said premises.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF the said Joshua Daniel has hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal the day and year above written, in the presence of:

(Signed) Joshua Daniel (L.S.)
(Signed) J. H. Harber
(Signed) John Malone, J.P.

Recorded March 19, 1857
(Signed) A. B. Echols, C.S.C.

There have been many great revivals at the Old Church, and many souls were saved for Christ, However, Mr. H. E. Harbour tells of the time when he attended one of the revivals. The congregation became so excited that the floor caved in. No one was hurt, and the men got together the next day, repaired the damage and the revival continued.

Most of the time during the life of the church there has been a Sunday School. The records of this phase of the church activity are almost non existant. However, we have learned that there were
about 100 members at one time. Today the average attendance is about 30. Some of the superintendents are as follows:

Jud Malone
Lee Cooley
Nathan Mabry
J. P. Gevin
Wiley Quillian
A. G. Harris
Bill West (present)

Other Activities of the Church

Mid-week prayer meeting was held for many many years, but has been discontinued for about the past fifteen years.

At one time there was an organization active in the church known as the Genisis Bee, however, this organization does not exist now.

Recently, (1957) a Methodist Youth Fellowship organization was started by Mrs. D. Hall. There are now 20 members and the church is looking for great results from this young group of its future member and officials.

November 15, 1957

By- Mary James Harris (Trustee)