HISTORY
of
OWL ROCK METHODIST CHURCH
During the period 1820-23 there came into existence a new faction or party in the Methodist Church known as the Mutual Rights Party, who contended for the mutual rights of the ministry and laity against the Episcopacy or control of the church by Bishops. Richmond Barge became a supporter of this new faction, which afterwards became known as the Methodist Protestant Church. It is said that on one occasion, during a meeting at Mt. Gilead Church, an opportunity was given to all members of the church to declare themselves either for or against this new faction, that a line was drawn upon the ground in the church yard across which all dissenters might go over to the new faction, the faithful members of Mount Gilead to remain. Richmond Barge and family crossed over the line. Other families also crossed over, whose names have not been recorded. Richmond Barge, with his negro slaves had built a house of worship near his home, on a lot he had given for that purpose, which was used as a mission branch of Mount Gilead Church, hence we see that Owl Rock Church came from the original membership of Mt. Gilead Church. In 1829, when the split came between the Methodist Episcopal and the Methodist Protestant Churches, Richmond Barge rolled the little log house which he had built, off the lot where it stood, and moved it near the present site of Owl Rock Church, and organized what was known as the Owl Rock Methodist Protestant Church. He was an officer and Superintendent of the Sunday School until his death, which occurred many years later. He left a large family, notably among them being John, Edward, Richmond and Jacob. The Barge history was furnished by J. J. Barge, grandson of Richmond. There are many living heirs of Richmond Barge, who are still active in Owl Rock Church.

From 1829 to 1847 there is no account of the activities of Owl Rock Church. However in the year of 1847, Robert McWilliams settled in this community and soon thereafter gave the site for a new building, to be used as a school and church. This building was erected near the "Owl Rock," to the rear of the present church. There are many living heirs of Robert McWilliams, who are still active in the church to-day.

The present sanctuary was built around the year 1871, with the members of the church doing the actual building. A roll of membership during this period is not available, since the church was not a member of conference and no official record was retained.

The front of the Church with the two steeples, as of to-day, was added in 1907. This addition made the Church more attractive from the outside, as well as providing a vestibule and two small rooms to be used by the Sunday school.

During this period and until 1918, the following ministers are known to have served as pastors for Owl Rock Church. Though this may not be a complete record, we have information that:

Rev. Bob McInary
Rev. C. E. McDaniel
Re. J. R. Anderson
Dr. J. M. Radford
Rev. Tillman
Following their entrance into the conference, Owl Rock organized
the Women's Missionary Society with these seven charter members,
Mrs. J. L. Suber
Mrs. J. J. Campbell, Sr.
Mrs. Bunice Luck
Mrs. J. P. Campbell
Mrs. J. L. Campbell
Mrs. Nell Wilson
Mrs. Farish Campbell

The Ministers of Owl Rock Church, since uniting with The Methodist
Episcopal Church South are the following:
1918-1920 L. W. Neff
1921-1922 J. F. Sparks
1922-23 R. P. Etheridge
1923-27 J. V. Jones
1928 J. V. Jones
1929-32 A. E. Silvey
1933 A. D. Roughtlin

Journal of 1933
"Dissolve Ben Hill Circuit and made Ben Hill and Mt. Zion
Charge and Mount Gilead and Owl Rock Charge".
1934 A. D. Roughtlin
1935-36 R. E. Hays
1937 Wilbur Wilson
1938 J. A. Gray
1939 E. F. Martin
1940-48 W. M. Hunton
1947 W. W. Byington

"Owl Rock Established as a station being removed from Mt. Gilead
Owl Rock Charge.
1943-1949 Jack Speer
1950 Donald B. Mason

In the spring of 1947, the church was painted inside and out,
a modern gas heating system was installed, and plans were started for
the addition of the Sunday School Plant; members and friends in
the community donating the logs for the lumber used to build this
addition.

In the year of 1949 the Sunday School plant was built, the
church underpinned, a new Altar built, Two Pulpit Chairs were given
by Mrs. W. M. Sutliff, of Ben Hill, Memory of her mother and father
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Campbell. The altar pad was made by Mrs. Foster
Prather, and presented by WSCS to the church.

The cross over the pulpit was presented to the church, by the
Suber family in memory of mother and father, Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Suber.

In the year of 1949, Jim Campbell started operating a Sunday
School bus route, which had helped to bring the Sunday School
attendance to an over flow of the new addition.

In the year 1950, a nursery was added, with members and friends
donating materials and furnishings; the work was done by our Pastor
Donald B. Mason, and members of the church. Also a concrete slab
was poured along the side of the church to keep water from entering
the nursery.

Dedication of Church School Building conducted by Dr. W. Rembert
Sisson, District Superintendent Atlanta-East District, May 20, 1951.

The preceding information was compiled and is respectfully
submitted for the permanent records of Owl Rocks Methodist Church.

I. J. Greene Jr. and Mrs. J. J. Greene Jr.