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A HISTORY  
OF  
PINE LOG METHODIST CHURCH

BY  
Charles C. Hendrix

1957

## INTRODUCTION

Most of the research for this history was done by Joe Mahan, a history professor of the University of Georgia. He is a native of Pine Log and has a keen interest in the development of this church.

Mrs. J. A. Dorroh provided information about the former pastors as well as several incidents.

The main task of this writer has been to compile the facts delivered by others and attempt to connect them in proper order. Thanks is here given for the help received and apologies to my collaborators for my lack of style in presenting this story.

Charles C. Hendrix

White, Georgia

June 15, 1957



Pine Log Methodist Church is located at Pine Log, Georgia, a little village in the northwestern part of Bartow County. It is a few yards west of U. S. Highway 411 and faces south on Georgia Road 140. The natural beauty of the countryside provides a lovely setting for this sanctuary.

Pine Log Methodist Church was founded between the years 1833-1837. It was organized by a group of Methodist families who had migrated into the Pine Log valley following the opening for settlement of the Cherokee Section of Georgia. The county of Cass (now Bartow) was created by an Act of the General Assembly of Georgia in December 1832. The previous year the entire Cherokee nation had been designated by legislative action as the County of Cherokee and the surveying of the area into 40 and 160 acre lots had begun. The section of the Cherokee Territory which includes the Pine Log area was surveyed in late 1832 and early 1833. Families had begun occupying the new homesteads by the spring of 1833.

The families who organized the Pine Log Church came principally from eastern Georgia (Elbert and Gwinnett Counties) and the neighboring Pendleton and Anderson Counties in South Carolina. These families included Colonel Lindsey Johnson, ~~James~~ James Upshaw (and sons-in-law) Martin Maxwell, Levi Pearce, \_\_\_\_\_ Dymart and Vincent and sons John James Upshaw and Thomas Upshaw), Valentine Smith, \_\_\_\_\_ Barton, the Gordons, the Brawners, and the Kings.

The church building was originally a log structure, situated a few feet almost due west of the present building. It was used both as a church and a school by these people.

The earliest existing records of the Pine Log Church consist of small Sunday School catechisms and one Sunday School roll. And on the roll it says, "Pine Log Methodist Sunday School-1837".

The church building was built on land donated by Colonel Lindsey Johnson. The record of this original deed was destroyed when the courthouse at Cassville was burned by the Union Army in 1864. It was in 1866 that Colonel Johnson gave a second deed replacing the one that was burned. He made it revertible specifying that only services of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South should be held on the ground. About 1936 Colonel Matt Johnson, a descendant of Colonel Lindsey Johnson, gave a straight warranty deed eliminating the revertible clause.

The present structure was erected in 1842. The building was "ultra" plain. It was built of handplaned and hand-hewed timbers carefully mortised together through the labor of the ones of the community and their slaves. There is an old legend that the glass for the windows and the hardware was hauled by wagon from Augusta. This is likely true since Atlanta did not exist. For several years after this building was completed, the original log structure remained in use as a community school. During these early years and until the Civil War the Pine Log Church was on the Cassville Circuit. The Cassville Methodist Church was organized in 1836. So if the Pine Log Church existed earlier, it was served by some local pastor.

In the decades of the 1840's and 1850's, the membership included the Bradfords and the Reynolds. The church had a strong membership. This brings us to the Civil War. There have been no noteworthy events since except the remodeling in the 1930's and adding the concrete porch in 1940.

The church grounds were used for a drill field for the Confederate volunteers in 1861 by the 23rd Georgia Regiment. The church building was being reroofed at the time. This helps verify the date of the church since the shingles would last about 20 years.

The people were very conservative in their religious views. They would not have an organ until the 1880's. Even then, it almost caused



a schism. In fact, some members stayed away for a while.

The Pine Log Campground is located on the grounds with the church. This has helped the church in its evangelism. Many great revivals have been experienced since its beginnings about 1850. More facts about the campground are told in another writing which is being sent to the North Georgia Conference Historical Society.

One of the most famous and interesting incidents ever to happen at the Pine Log Church had to do with evangelism and bringing a great revival. It was the famous "earthquake" prayer by the Reverend J. M. Sullivan. Apparently, the people had become very indifferent about the Lord's work. Brother Sullivan prayed about this problem on Sunday evening, August 31, 1886. A marble marker commemorating this event was placed in front of the church in 1951. The inscription on the marker tells the story as follows: "On this site, August 31, 1886 Reverend J. M. Sullivan prayed this prayer: 'Lord, if it takes it to move the hearts of these people, shake the grounds on which this old building stands.' Before the conclusion of Rev. Sullivan's prayer the grounds were violently shaken by a sudden earthquake." The tremor was felt at least one-half mile from the church. Most of the people present fell to their knees and begged for mercy. This was a stirring experience that revived the people. Within two years they had built the present tabernacle to replace the original one which had burned during the Civil War. Several people now living attest to the truth of the occurrence. Some of them were present; others heard it directly from their parents and neighbors.

Pine Log has sent a number of men into the ministry of the church. The Rev. T. B. Stanford was one of the preachers who went out from this church. Also the following preachers have gone from here: J. Hamby Barton, Sr., Eugene Barton, Barrett Barton and J. Hamby Barton, Jr.. At present all the above Bartons are members of the North Georgia Annual Conference. Perhaps there are others. In addition to these ministers,

outstanding laymen have entered the fields of education, business and the professions.

Some notable occasions have occurred and famous people have visited this church. A few are mentioned below: Corra Harris attended Pine Log, contributed, entertained visiting ministers for camp meeting, and wrote articles concerning it. She was the famous author of "A Circuit Rider's Wife" and several other books. Her home was near by.

Dr. W. H. Felton preached there. His wife became the first woman senator in the United States.

The Rev. A. J. Showalter sang at a service there about 1888. He announced that he was going to sing a new song which he had composed. It was the first time it was sung in public. The name of the song was "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms". (This note came from Mrs. R. E. Adair and Mrs. J. A. Dorroh.).

The Sunday School at Pine Log is known to be at least one hundred twenty years old. There is a mention of it in 1837. But little else is known about it. The present enrollment is 85 in departments as follows: Children 22; youth 14; and adults 40. Mr. Carl Johnson is the Superintendent

The Woman's Missionary Society was active as least as early as 1910. Lundy Howard Harris, in a letter to his wife, makes reference to a conference of the Woman's Missionary Society at Pine Log in that year. The present Woman's Society of Christian Service has twenty members and contributed \$135.00 to the work of the church last year. Mrs. Bill Vaughan is the president now.

Last year the church contributed for all causes a total of \$2501.60. The use of this money was as follows: \$1316.53 for ministerial support and \$486.25 for all benevolences. The present membership is 146.

The church once owned a parsonage in Pine Log. Now it owns a parsonage jointly with the White Church. It is located at White, Georgia, constructed of stone and with its furnishings is valued at \$9,500.00.



This was erected about 1947-48 because the one in use before had been destroyed by fire. The land was donated and the building finished for about half its present value.

Pine Log has been on various charges. It was first on the Cassville Circuit. Then following the War Between the States, all of Bartow County was made a Charge and named the Manassas Circuit. There were twelve preaching places. During the years 1866 and 1867 it was served by General Clement A. Evans, D. D.. He had served in the Confederate Army, then answered the call to preach (a call he had known for two years) His first appointment was the Manassas Circuit. He later described these as his most fruitful years. Pine Log was once head of the circuit. But at various times, it was on the Adairville Charge, the Kingston Charge and the Fairmount Charge. In recent years it has been on the White Charge. White and Pine Log each became half-stations in July 1956. Pine Log is a strong church and shows promise of excellent continued service to God's Kingdom.

Given below is a list of pastors and district superintendents. Unfortunately, the list is not complete, nor can we be absolutely sure of its accuracy, but it is the best we could do with the available records and limited time.

(See next page)

PASTORS

|                               |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| John W. Glenn                 | 1859            |
| John W. Tally                 | 1860            |
| Daniel Jackson Myrick         | 1861-62         |
| William C. Dunlap             | 1865            |
| Clement A. Evans              | 1866            |
| W. F. Rivers                  | 1867            |
| William C. Dunlap             | 1868            |
| W. T. Hamilton                | 1869            |
| R. H. Jon                     | 1870            |
| L. A. Reynolds                | 1871, 71, 73    |
| J. J. Singleton               | 1874            |
| E. B. Reece                   | 1882            |
| M. H. Edwards                 | 1883            |
| J. L. Linn                    | 1884            |
| M. H. Edwards                 | 1885            |
| J. N. Sullivan                | 1886-87         |
| W. T. Hamby                   | 1888-89-90      |
| W. T. Hamilton                | 1891            |
| E. M. Stanton                 | 1892            |
| S. Leake                      | 1893            |
| B. H. Trammell                | 1894            |
| J. N. Myers                   | 1895            |
| T. E. Davenport               | 1896            |
| J. A. Shast & P. L. Stanton   | 1897            |
| W. E. Arnold                  | 1898            |
| A. H. S. Bugg & J. S. Rawls   | 1900-01-02      |
| George W. Tumlin              | 1903-04         |
| F. R. Seaborn                 | 1905-06         |
| James T. Lowe & T. L. Rutland | 1907            |
| John Henry Bailey             | 1908 (4 months) |
| B. P. Reed                    | 1908-09         |
| Marvin Swilling               | 1910            |
| L. B. Hughes                  | 1911            |
| George W. Hamilton            | 1912-13         |
| J. W. Gober                   | 1914-15         |
| W. C. Fox                     | 1916-17         |
| J. S. Hill                    | 1918            |
| Newton A. Parsons             | 1919-20         |
| James Willis Stephens         | 1921-22         |
| J. T. Pendley                 | 1923-24-25      |
| Marvin Cisero Allen           | 1926-27-28      |
| Hosea G. Garrett              | 1929-30         |
| J. L. Varner                  | 1931-32-33      |
| Carson Bennett McKenzie       | 1934-35-36      |
| John Kenneth Brown            | 1937-38         |
| Alexander E. Silvey           | 1939            |
| Ernest Dixie Carlock          | 1940-41         |
| Mancel Morris Brackman        | 1942-43-44-45   |
| Paul Henry Stokes             | 1946            |
| William Powell Rowe           | 1947            |
| C. M. Rogers                  | 1948-49         |
| James Holmes                  | 1949            |
| Oscar H. Hudgins              | 1950-51-52      |
| John Frazier                  | 1953-54-Jan. 56 |
| Hendrix, Charles C.           | Jan. 56-57      |

(The following men are believed  
to have been pastors of Pine  
Log at some time:

H. M. Strozler

Hanes Walton Morris)



## PRESIDING ELDERS AND DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS:

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| J. W. Yarbrough          | 1859                |
| John W. Glenn            | 1860-61             |
| B. Arbogast              | 1865-66             |
| A. G. Haygood            | 1867-68             |
| W. P. Harrison           | 1869                |
| H. C. Adams              | 1870                |
| W. J. Scott              | 1871-72             |
| R. W. Bingham            | 1873-74             |
| W. A. Parks              | 1879-80-81          |
| J. F. Nixon              | 1882-83-84          |
| William F. Quillian      | 1884-85-86          |
| Ambrose Gaines Worley    | 1890                |
| John Bradley Robins      | 1891                |
| H. J. Adams              | 1893                |
| Amicus W. Williams       | 1896-97-98          |
| B. P. Allen              | 1899-1900-01-02     |
| Ford McRee               | 1903-04-05-06       |
| William Pressley Lovejoy | 1907-08-09-         |
| T. J. Christian          | 1910                |
| W. T. Irvine             | 1911-12-13-14       |
| Sam Ledbetter            | 1915-16-17-18       |
| John W. Yarbrough        | April 1919-20-21    |
| S. A. Harris             | 1922-23-24-25       |
| Frank Quillian           | 1926-27-28-29       |
| J. R. Turner             | 1930-31-32-33       |
| A. M. Pierce             | 1934-35-36-37       |
| Joe S. Thrailkill        | 1937-38-39-40       |
| Charles M. Lipham        | 1941-42-43-44-45-46 |
| N. P. Manning            | 1947-48-49-50       |
| H. C. Stratton           | 1951-52-53-54       |
| William H. Gardner       | 1955-56-            |

Former Pastors with Dates Continued

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| J. L. Varner          | 1931-33      |
| C. B. McKenzie        | 1934-36      |
| J. K. Brown           | 1937-38      |
| A. E. Silvey          | 1939         |
| E. D. Carlock         | 1940-41      |
| M. M. Brackman        | 1942-45      |
| P. H. Stokes          | 1946         |
| W. P. Rowe            | 1947         |
| C. M. Rogers          | 1948-49      |
| James M. Holmes       | 1949         |
| O. H. Hudgins         | 1950-52      |
| John Frazier          | 1953-56      |
| Charles C. Hendrix    | Jan. 1956-57 |
| Harold Fuller         | 1957-60      |
| Robert Sabo           | 1961-62      |
| J. R. Baxter          | 1963-67      |
| Donald Butler         | 1968-69      |
| Allen A. Phillips Jr. | 1970-71      |
| Lonnie Dunbar         | 1972-        |