Raytown Methodists from Virginia, Maryland, North and South Carolina, were "formed into Society" in the early 1800's, held their first meetings in the homes of members, and, after 1828, worshipped for some years in the old South Liberty Meeting House. This land, given by James Moore, Sr., and Mrs. Mary Shaw Pearson, was surveyed Nov. 25, 1845, deeded Dec. 17, 1845, and the first building was erected.

Disrupted by the absence of men and ministers during the War Between the States, the church was reorganized April 2, 1865. The present building was erected in 1890. Many leading Georgia Methodist ministers have served this church.

(The above, condensed from data submitted by Miss Christine D. Brown, Sharon, Ga., was sent August 3, 1956 by Mr. C. E. Gregory, Director, Georgia Historical Commission, as a transcript of the inscription for the marker to be placed at the Raytown Methodist Church.)

These are the data submitted:

Located in that part of the original Wilkes Circuit of 1786, "the cradle of Georgia Methodism" from which Bishop Francis Asbury formed the Little River Circuit at the Camden Conference in January, 1802, the Raytown Methodists from Virginia, Maryland, North and South Carolina, were "formed into Society" in the early 1800's, held their first meetings in the homes of their members, and, after 1828, worshipped for a number of years in the old South Liberty Meeting House.

The rapid growth of Methodism proved the need of a separate church, and this land, given to the Raytown Methodist Episcopal Church by James Moore, senior, and Mrs. Mary Shaw Pearson, was surveyed November 25, 1845, deeded December 17, 1845, and the first building erected. The trustees named were Bedor Proctor, George W. Flynt, Nathaniel Parham, Aaron T. Kendrick, John Wright, William C. Wright, John C. Byrd, and John Hartwell Felts. The great schism in American Methodism in 1844 had added the word "South" to the name of the church, but was not used in the deed.

Disrupted by the absence of both men and ministers in the War Between the States, services were resumed upon reorganization on April 2, 1865 of the Raytown Union Sabbath School, John H. Beall, Superintendent, and William H. Brooke, Secretary. Continuing since that time, the church has carried on its work in both the Athens and the Augusta Districts. While in the Athens District under the ministry of Rev. Robert A. Seale, pastor, and Rev. Harwell H. Parks, presiding elder, the present building was erected in 1890 and dedicated on the second Sunday in September of that same year.

Other ministers serving this church in the 1800's were Josiah Lewis, Allen Thomas, Felix Persons Brown, Miles Wesley Arnold, and Andrew Jackson Hurst known for their outstanding work in building the great rural churches of Georgia Methodism. Presiding Elders were Harwell H. Parks, James E. Evans, Jesse Boring, Simon Peter Richardson, Luke G. Johnson, William Pressley Lovelace, and John B. Robins, and the power of Hope Hull, Lovick Pierce, George F. Pierce, and many others, was part of their great tradition.

RAYTOWN METHODIST CHURCH

Again, we regret that we have not been able to establish the exact date of the establishment of the Raytown Methodist Church, but we are told that their first services were held in the old South Liberty Presbyterian Church founded in 1828.

The earliest written record available shows that before November 25, 1845, there were six Methodists in the Raytown Community already organized to transact business as a church; when, on that date, Benjamin Gregory, Surveyor, Taliaferro County, Georgia, plotted the boundaries of a two-acre lot, given, one acre each, by Mrs. Mary S. Pearson and by Mr. James Moore and wrote into his report on his survey that upon this lot "the Methodist Church is to be built." This is the same lot upon which the Raytown Methodist Church stands today and Mr. Gregory's report with plat attached is before me:

GEORGIA )
TALIAFERRO COUNTY)

The above plat is a true representation of the tract or lot of land on which the Methodist Church is to be built containing 2 Acres and is situated on the N E of Ray Town and also on the Diviend Line between Miss Percen and James Moore lands. Miss Percen give to said Church one acre and said James Moore give said Church one Acre of land Made as 2 acres above mentioned and Having such shape, form, marks, and Boundaries both Natural and Artificial as the above plat represents. Surveyed for the Church and the Trustees of it on 25 day of November 1845.

Benjamin Gregory
(Signed in same writing as the survey)

On the back appears, in Mr. Gregory's unmistakable writing, the words "Methodist Church Plat," and in an entirely different writing:


Trustees.

As any old document holds for the historian and genealogist an especial interest in the personal and family history of those whose names appear in it, an effort has been made to connect these early Raytown Methodists with the families of their many present-day descendants. The survey, of course, does not determine the church affiliation of the surveyor, but it
is interesting to learn that Mr. Benjamin Gregory was the father of James R. Gregory, who lived just inside Taliaferro County near Barnett, was a Confederate soldier, and the father of Mrs. Thomas S. Wright, of Jennings.

Mrs. Mary S. Pearson, donor of one of the two acres surveyed by Benjamin Gregory in 1845, was born in 1798 and was Mary Shaw Conn before her marriage to William P. Triplett when she was eighteen or nineteen years old. She herself was a charter member of the old South Liberty Presbyterian Church. Her son, James Monroe Triplett, was born in 1820 and was the grandfather of James Dearing Nash now (1955) the Judge of the Court of Ordinary of Taliaferro County and lives in Crawfordville, Georgia, and who furnished these data concerning her. J. M. Triplett joined the Sharon Methodist Church by vows and baptism on June 14, 1891 under the ministry of Rev. Robert A. Seale; removed by certificate in November, 1893. Mary S. Triplett's daughter, Jane Elizabeth Triplett, married John T. Holladay. After the death of William P. Triplett, Mary S. married Owens Holladay; no children, except those who died in childhood, but her husband was the brother of her son-in-law, John T. Holladay. After the death of Owens Holladay, Mary S. married Lewis C. Pearson in Nov. 1843 but was divorced from him after a few years and resumed her second husband's name, Holladay. In the U. S. census of 1850 she gave the name of Pearson; in that of 1860, Holladay. She died in 1867 and lies buried beside her son, J. M. Triplett, in the cemetery of the old Presbyterian Church near Raytown. Through the marriage of her daughter, Jane Elizabeth, to John T. Holladay, Mary Shaw (Conn) Triplett Holladay Pearson became the great-grandmother of the major part of present-day Raytown: Jane Elizabeth had a son, James Robert Holladay ("Jim Bob"), father of John Warren Holladay whom we all knew and whose widow, Nita, lives (1955) in the old home in Raytown. Jane Elizabeth also had a daughter, Mary Jane Holladay who married John B. Flynt, son of George W. Flynt, brother of Capt. Samuel J. Flynt, and father of Charles T. Flynt, Sarah Jane Flynt, and others. Charles T. Flynt, a Steward of the
Raytown Methodist Church and Superintendent of the Sunday-school for many years, married Elma Stone, daughter of Welcome Augustus and Frances Anna (Moore) Stone. Children of Charles T., and Elma (Stone) Flynt are Richard, Marguerite, Frances, and Lawrence Flynt, all of Raytown, and all married. Sarah Jane Flynt, daughter of John B., and Mary Jane (Holladay) Flynt, were married Thomas Pate and they are the parents of Leona, Cohen, William, Boyce, Mary Katherine, and Mildred (deceased), all of Raytown and Sharon.

James Moore, donor of one-half the land on which the Raytown Methodist Church stands, was the father of Owen Dawson Moore, long a Steward and Trustee of the Church. Owen D., and Mary Elizabeth (Bryant) Moore were the parents of William Richard, James L., Eulous, Della, and Thomasine, all of Raytown and all influential members of the Methodist Church, married into Methodist families, and reared their children as Methodists. The family today is represented in the Raytown Church by James Owen Moore, Superintendent of the Sunday-school, Eulous C., and their sister Mary, children of James and Mary (Cordez(sp?) Moore.

The Trustees named in the survey of the Church property, 1845:-
George W. Flynt we have identified as the father of John B. Flynt and Capt.-Samuel J. Flynt.

A(aron) T(omlinson) Kendrick was the son of Capt. Jones and Susan (Bull) Kendrick, of Wilkes County; married Eleanor Lucinda Nesbitt; removed to Alabama, lived Greenville, then Leon, Alabama where he and his wife are buried. A. T. Kendrick was the brother of William Bull Kendrick, Sharon; and of Tillman Franklin Kendrick, who lived all his life near Raytown, was a member of the Church there and as also are many of his descendants. In fact every Kendrick of this large family, wherever now scattered, is almost invariably Methodist!

William C(icer) Wright married Nancy Holladay and were the parents of Ann, William O., Elvira, Vidalia, Felix, George N., Wright. Ann married Dr. Joseph William Barnett and their children were William, Albert, Patrick, Nathaniel, Lillis V., and Nancy. All these have been devoted members of the Raytown Church and our beloved "Miss Lillis" has given valuable help in "remembering" the past for these notes. She and her brother Albert live in the old Barnett home (1955) in Raytown. William O. Wright married Frances Mershon, daughter of Joseph Enos and Mary (O'Neal) Mershon, of Columbus, Georgia, and were the parents of George F. Wright, now a minister of The Methodist Church, North Georgia Conference.
John Phelts married Mary Gresham and their home should have been made into a shrine of early Methodism in this section. With no children of their own they opened their home to the orphaned children of their friends and relatives, and it is said that thirty-two boys and girls of various ages and for differing periods of time received the blessing of this Christian home in the formative years of their lives. Invariably they were reared in the nurture of the Methodist Church and went out to establish Methodist homes of their own. At the death of his grandmother, Holly Berry (Persons) Walker, with whom he had lived from the time of his mother's (Cynthia Walker Brown) death, Felix Persons Brown went to live with John Hartwell and Mary (Gresham) Phelts and from this saintly couple learn to love the Methodist Church. The story of his long years of service as a minister of the North Georgia Conference is told in the sketch of his life.

Bedor Proctor --- I do not know of any descendants in present-day Raytown Church. He had a daughter, Emma, who married Edward O'Brien. (Catholic?)

Nathaniel Parham had son, Seaborn, father of Annie (Parham) Pittman, of Sharon. See excerpts from the old Q. C. records.

John Wright --- as far as is known he was not a member of the Raytown family of that name. Miss Lillis said he "moved away, to Pennsylvania, I think!"

John C. Byrd --- no data; probably an older member of the family whose names appear in the old Q. C. records.

We do not when the first church was built; but doubtless within a short time of the donation of the lot by Mary S. Pearson and James Moore, and perhaps the same building sold when the new church was built in 1890.
Know all men by these presents that Mary S. Pearson of the county and state aforesaid of the one part and Beder Proctor, George W. Flynt, Nathaniel Parham, Aaron T. Kendrick, John Wright, William C. Wright, John C. Byrd and John Pheits, Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church near Raytown, Taliaferro County, and state aforesaid, of the other part, Witnesseth:—that the said Mary S. Pearson does give, grant, bargain and sell unto the said Trustees, aforesaid, One Acre of Land in said county with the meets and bounds as follows: commencing at a stake corner and running north 29 degrees west six chains 34 links to stake corner thence north sixty-one degrees east one chain fifty-eight links to stake corner, thence south 29 degrees east six chains thirty-four links to stake corner thence south 61 degrees west -- chains, 58 links to the beginning corner. And I, the said Mary S. Pearson do grant, bargain, and sell unto the said named Trustees all my right, title, interest, and claim to the said tract or parcel of land situate, lying, and being in the said county and state aforesaid unto the said named Trustees; and that I, the said Mary S. will warrant and forever defend the right and title from myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, severally, jointly, and finally, by these presents unto the said named Trustees and their successors in office and as it will morefully appear by a plat on the within of its bounds. In witness whereof I, the said Mary S. Pearson do this seventeenth day of December, eighteen hundred and forty-five set my hand and affix my seal.

(Signed) Mary S. Pearson (L S)

In the presence of

John S. Durham
Augustus W. Flynt, J P.

Recorded January 6, 1846.
John T. Bristow, Clerk.
ROLL OF
RAYTOWN UNION SABBATH SCHOOL
REORGANIZED 2ND APRIL 1865-

John H. Beall, Superintendent
William H. Brooke, Secretary

Miss Ann Wright
Miss Elvira Wright
Miss Anna Beall
Miss Emma Beall
Miss Bell Brooks
Miss Charlotte Holladay
Miss Sallie Brooke
Miss Eliza Darden
Miss Missouri Darden
Miss Melissa Darden
Miss Malvina Hanes
Miss Ann Moore
Miss Maria Moore
Mrs. Elizabeth Holladay
Mrs. Rebecca Flynt
Mrs. Savannah Harper
Miss Felix Perkins (?)
Josephine Wright
Susan Beall
Anna Lewis
Victoria Lewis
Mollie Jones
Victoria Ivy
Mollie Harper
Fannie Moore
Jennie Flynt
Mary D. Davidson
Fannie Brooks
Mattie Holladay
Julia Jenkins
Susan Kirkland
Jennie Pearre
Fannie Portwood
Catherine Bell
Georgia Ann Fallin
Rebecca Fallin
Sallie Flynt
Cornelia Darden
Sallie Darden
Celestia Bell

Capt. S. J. Flynt
Mr. James M. Triplett
Mr. John T. Wright
Arthur C. Davidson
John David Beall
Samuel Flynt, Jr
John W. Flynt
Wesley Wright, Jr
Felix Wright
George Wright
Henry Portwood
John Portwood
Thomas Moore
George Moore
Fielding Hill
Frank Harper
Alexander Lewis
William Ivy
Samuel Harper
Willie Flynt
Ivy (torn)
David A. Perkins
LaFayette Perkins
Samuel Kirkland
Joseph Moore
Samuel Brooks
Henry Wright
Joshua Pearre
Noel Darden
Henry Perkins
James R. Holliday
Henry E. Beall
T. H. Beall
William Cary
Thomas Cary

Though a very interesting scrap from the pages of the past done in the form of a scroll in the beautiful writing of that day, this would have served our purpose to much greater advantage had the Secretary noted the churches to which his enrollees belonged and -- let us know which of the ladies were Mrs. and which were Miss, as he did in the beginning! Little did he dream when he penned these lines that ninety years later I would be copying them for the permanent files of our church.
Raytown Methodist Church

From the earliest Church Register available, revised 1890, but without any accompanying data, not even the name of the pastor enrolling them:

Elizabeth Holladay
Rebecca Flynt
Mary E. Moore
Mary J. Flynt
Celeta Clemmons
Hattie S. Flynt
Annie A. Barnett
Sarah R. Overton
Martha Flynt
Ruth Mershon
Elizabeth Kirkland
Fannie Woodruff
Jane Harris
Mary L. Moore
Charlotte F. Holladay
Martha Clemmons
Florence Brooke
Sarah J. Pate
Mary E. Wright
Mary Corry
Mary E. Avery
Fannie E. Hughes
Anna Moore
Gabriella Darden
Fannie R. Wright
Mollie Jones — the name Fuller added in pencil.

H. A. Gilbert
Jane S. Evans
Ann E. Clemmons
Sarah R. Pate
Nancy Bishop

Immediately following are entries of names of members enrolled by Rev. Felix P. Brown; Sept. 13, 1882, Martha Gunn, Sarah E. Moore (Barnett), Martha E. Flynt (Smith), Lillie V. Barnett; America E. Moore, and on Oct. 17, 1883, America L. Moore, and on the 18th, Martha E. Sheehan.


Willis T. Caldwell
RAYTOWN METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

John H. Beall, Superintendent, Wm. H. Brooke, Secretary, The Union School of 1865.

Capt. Samuel J. Flynt
John H. Stone
William Richard Moore
Charles T. Flynt
James Owen Moore, the present Superintendent.