HISTORY OF RED OAK CHURCH

After a careful and thorough search, I am convinced that the exact date of the origin of Red Oak Methodist Church cannot be definitely established. Prior to 1805, the site of the Church was still under control of the Indians. In 1803 a treaty with the Indians was made giving the white man possession of this territory extending west to the west fork of Ocmulgee River, which is known today as South River.

At this time this section was in Baldwin County, of which the County site was, and still is today, Milledgeville. In 1821 Henry County was originated and this section, extending to Alcova River, was a part of Henry County. The first recordings shown in Newton County were in 1822, which makes us assume that Newton County was originated in 1822. There is no record of any deed to Red Oak Church ever being recorded in Newton County, therefore we assume that Red Oak Church was established prior to 1822.

We think that the Church was established some time between 1805 and 1822, if so, the deed would have been recorded in Baldwin County. A search was made of the records of that County and we find that the Court house burned there in 1840, destroying all records. According to history handed down from one generation to the next, the Church grounds originally consisted of four acres, taking in the spring back of the Church.

Approximately half way between the spring and the present building, the first Church was located, which was built of red oak logs from whence the Church was named. It is thought that Lorenza Dow, on his mission to Georgia in 1803, was instrumental in organizing the Church and preached here. The oldest actual record of any date we have is on the tomb of Major Lewis Hogg, who was buried here in September 1828. There is no doubt that he was an officer of the Revolutionary War. It is a well established fact that the present building is one hundred years old. This December 4, 1948.

Recorded by

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