The Red Oak Methodist Church of Williamson Georgia, was organized in 1823, that makes it 127 years old. It was first located not far from where the present structure now stands. In exchange for the first site, Isaac B. Williamson deeded 1/2 acre of land and at the same time, Gills Driver deeded 2 acres of land to the same two trustees, William M. Simmons and Benjamin F. Harper. The Church was called Red Oak because a large red oak tree was a land mark, mentioned in the deed.

The first preacher was Andrew Hamell and the first and only member, recorded that year was, Frances Allen. We have no record of the first "Class Leaders" but in 1872, the class leaders were F.G. Hunt, A.S. Allen and H.E. Williamson. The duties of these men were to look after the spiritual welfare of the church members and also see after the poor and report to the Quarterly Conference.

Up until 1866, Red Oak Church was on the Barnesville - Zebulon Circuit. About twenty eight years ago, it was moved to Griffin circuit, now Red Oak with two other churches make the Williamson circuit and the parsonage is located in Williamson.

We have had seven men called into ministry from this church. In 1857 Gus Williamson joined the North Ga. conference, in 1858, Robert Williamson joined the South Ga. Conference, both were sons of Isaac B. Williamson. James D. Freeman joined the Conference in 1857, John W. Simmons in 1859, M.H. Driver and Charles Huckaby in 1867. In 1916, Azalee Ridley was preparing to become a minister and went into "service" as a Chaplain in the first World War, but passed away before completing his studies.

In 1866, R.A. Seals, who was pastor, reported to Conference that he had ridden 200 miles on horseback, preached twenty five times, delivered thirty exultations, made twenty five pastoral visits, baptized eight persons. As for the support of the Church, he said, "I have received 50 pounds bacon, about 5 pounds lard, 6 bu. corn and One Dollar in money". In 1949 & 50 our Pastor the Rev. W.B. Hughes received 900 Dollars in money, from Red Oak.

In 1866, a Domestic mission committee was appointed and they collected $10.45 and $8.25 was subscribed, this was the first mention of missions and was a forerunner of the Woman's Missionary Society, which we have had off and on these many years. At present, it is known as the Woman's Society of Christian Service. There was also an Epworth League, now called Youth's Fellowship.

The present church was built around 1856 or 1857. It was repainted and reroofed and an altar channel built in 1889. The Vestibule, Steeple, and a Bell was added in 1902.

In 1925, Red Oak, assisted by friends of the other churches, entertained the District Conference, a two day session, a large undertaking at that time. One hundred and fifty delegates were registered.

In 1940 Red Oak had begun to grow so much, it was decided to have Services twice a month, instead of one heretofore.

Under the leadership of our pastor Rev. C.B. Drake, in 1946, the church was remodeled. Five Sunday School rooms were added and a new heating system has been installed. There is an enrollment of about One hundred and twenty five members.

During the three wars, since the civil, our church has been represented on the field of honor, some gave their lives. Red Oak church has always stood for the right in our community and has been a force for good these many years.

Rev. W.B. Hughes, P.C.

Mrs. L.D. Wheless is a great-granddaughter of Isaac B. Williamson and grand-daughter of David E. Douglas. (See Picture.)