Redwine Methodist Church, located in Ray's District in the Southwestern part of Hart County, was organized perhaps over a century ago, approximately 1789.

It was back in the early days when church houses were improvised log cabins. The first was located several hundred yards west of the present church and at which location there is an old abandoned graveyard where many of the pioneers and first members of the church are buried. Major Nathaniel Durkee, an official in the war of the Revolution was buried in the old graveyard.

The second was also a log building located not far from the present church.

The third was a frame building erected in 1878. Rev. A. G. Worley, presiding elder, preached the dedication sermon.

The fourth and present church is a framed building and in every way a very respectable and up to date country church house. This last was erected in 1906. Rev. W. A. Maxwell was pastor and Rev. John Mashburn preached the dedication sermon.

The present membership is one hundred forty eight (148).

The church was on the Hartwell Circuit for a number of years. We have no record of what circuit it belonged to before it was
placed on the Hartwell Circuit. Later it was placed on the Royston Circuit and is now on the Canon Charge. Canon Charge has two (2) pastors at present and the assistant, Rev. C. S. Coogler was assigned to Redwine Church.

The Church was named for Rev. William Redwine, who was an early settler and perhaps the first preacher or pastor.

Mr. John M. Bowers, editor of the Canon Echo, in May 1906 wrote this article:

Our grandmother, who was born in seventeen hundred, somewhere in the eighties, went to this old church near 125 years ago to hear Lorenzo Dow preach. The church at that time was a little pine pole house, and stood over near the old graveyard. Dow was a peculiar fellow anyway he was taken. He would send his appointments on a year ahead and would be there promptly on the hour. On this notable occasion, the people gathered at the little pine pole church from many miles around, forming a large concourse of people. Promptly at the hour appointed, there suddenly appeared at the door a little long haired dusty and way worn stranger who peeped in at the door and turned away. There was a large fallen chestnut tree legged upon some of its large limbs near the church house. To this the stranger went and mounted upon its inclined trunk. He pretty soon selected a place on the fallen trunk and fell astride it and began to sing lustily. This was a signal to the waiting and expectant throng, who soon gathered around this strange
and clownish preacher. He sang, he prayed, he preached. Sometimes he was astride the log, sometimes he sat sideways and sometimes he was standing on the log. When this strange preacher got through with his exercise he disappeared as soon as he appeared.

In 1887, Rev. Lundy Howard Harris was sent by the North Georgia Conference to the Royston Circuit as his first charge.

In February of that year he married Miss Corra White of Elbert County, who became one of the most noted of present day novelist. The present place in Elbert County where she was reared has been marked appropriately in recognition of her nation wide fame as a writer. Mrs. Corra wrote one book, "The Circuit Riders' Wife" and another entitled, "My Book and Heart," and in the two (2) she gives a complete record of the Redwine Church period. In the two (2) books mentioned and others that she wrote she laid many of the scenes at Redwine in the church yard, in the church and among the people. A movie was made from the book, "A Circuit Riders' Wife".

The Cunningham family played a large part in the erection of the present church. A memorial window was given to Redwine Church by the Cunninghams.

In the past few years four (4) new Sunday School rooms have been added and furnished, the inside of the church sheetrocked and painted, the outside sided with asbestos shingles and installed gas furnaces. The lawn and cemetery have also been improved.

This information was compiled by Vivian Peggs - President W. S. C. S.