

**History Of Roswell Methodist Church**

**Miss Sallie Kimball, Historian  
May 12, 1941**

Just north of Roswell there stands now two large stones which mark the door steps of the first log Methodist church.

Rev. Sampler, one of the ministers who preached in the old log church, requested that he be buried at the back of the pulpit of this old church. He and his wife were buried as near as the graves could be made to the pulpit. When the church was moved the stones which were used as steps to the church were used as markers to the two graves.

The above information was given by the late Henry E. Bush, a grandson of Rev. Sampler.

The following history was written by Golson M. Hook.

"Mount Carmel Church became known to the writer in the early spring of the year 1849. The church house was at that date an ordinary framed wood building, occupying a plat of ground now in the midst of the cemetery. At some earlier period when the church was first organized the house of worship was built of logs. This church was known to some of the members as late as 1836. In 1858 a sum of money for building a new church was subscribed. The plat of ground upon which the present brick church now stands was donated by Hon. Barrington King, president of Roswell Manufacturing Company. A building committee was appointed of which Dr. W. P. Parker was chairman. The walls of the church were built in July of 1859 and a roof was placed upon it but not entirely finished. Some temporary seats and a pulpit were made and it was then used as a place of worship.

"In 1864 a large portion of the Federal army occupied Roswell doing much damage to the town. The Methodist Church lost its seats and the corner stone was broken into and the contents taken out. Some years afterward the corner stone was relaid and the breach amended by the Masonic fraternity of Roswell. Some other work was done and the house continued to be used as the place of worship. In 1877, during the pastorate of Brother Eli Smith, a storm blew the back gable and a portion of the roof off.

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"A meeting was called by the pastor Brother Smith, at which meeting it was ascertained that it would cost some five or six hundred dollars to do the necessary repairs and some unfinished work. A proposition of Brother Asa Bush as to how we should reach said sum of money was adopted and it was further agreed upon that Messrs. Gunter and Crowley, with others, should do the work, which was to have the gable refit, a new roof put on and some flooring refit and ceiled overhead. Said work was creditably finished in a short period of time.

"Rev. D. L. Anderson succeeded Brother Smith and in 1878, through Brother Anderson the church obtained its chandeliers and Communion Service.

"Then followed Rev. M. J. Cofer and during his pastorate in 1879 the bell and clock were procured and put in place. It was Rev. Cofer who performed the first wedding ceremony in the first brick church, when Rev. J. B. Allen and Miss Mattie Dempsey were married in that church.

"Next followed as pastor Rev. G. W. Thomas in 1880. Next in order came Dr. J. J. Morgan in 1881. During his pastorate the chancel and aisles of the church were first carpeted. At this time Roswell held District Conference. Then came Rev. W. P. Smith who served as pastor three years, 1882-1883-1884.

"In 1885 Rev. W. L. Wooten was pastor. Rev. S. H. Braswell served us in 1886. In 1887 and 1888 Rev. W. G. Hanson served the church. Roswell at this time entertained the district conference. In 1889 the Annual Conference sent to Roswell, Rev. D. D. Cox, whose health soon failed and the church was served the remainder of the year by Rev. C. M. Verdell. In 1890 the church at Roswell was connected with the Alpharetta circuit and we were given two preachers, Rev. T. J. Edwards and Rev. S. H. Braswell. During the year the work was severed and Rev. S. H. Braswell was continued at Roswell. In 1891 Brother Braswell was returned to the work.

"In 1892 the Conference sent Rev. T. R. McCarty, who served one year. The Annual Conference next sent Brother J. A. Sewell who served in 1893. Next came Rev. J. M. Fowler who served during the year 1894. The next pastor sent us by the Conference was Rev. H. M. Strozier who served as pastor for three years, 1895-1896-1897.

"Next came Rev. John G. Logan who also served for three years, 1898-1899-1900, during which time money was raised and the church was recovered, the ceiling overhead papered and the windows readjusted and otherwise greatly improved in looks. Brother Marion Hembree and the pastor Rev. J. G. Logan deserve praise for doing and leading in having done said repairs in so creditable a manner. The M. E. Church at Roswell had long been without a parsonage. During Brother Logan's pastorate a house was purchased and improved for that purpose.

"The Annual Conference next sent to Roswell Rev. R. C. Cleckler who served as pastor in 1901 and was returned for 1902 and has well nigh served said year in his able and efficient manner."

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"In 1868, D. S. Arnold sold to the Methodist people of Roswell the plot of ground now used for a cemetery, for a consideration of forty dollars. The trustees at that time were D. S. Arnold, John T. Paden, Simon Frasier, J. A. Gunter and R. S. Paden."

(The above was written by Golson M. Hook. A copy of this was placed in the corner stone of the new Methodist Episcopal Church at Roswell, Georgia.)

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Mr. Golson M. Hook began his writings back in 1858 and continues until 1902, a total of forty-four years. We began with 1903 and come to 1941 which is thirty-eight years, making a written history of eighty-two years, with tradition going back still farther. We hope some one will keep this up for coming generations.

Rev. Loy Warwick, preacher in charge,	1903-04
Rev. J. T. Davis, " " "	1905
Rev. G. P. Gary, " " "	1906
Rev. John Stipe, " " "	1907
Rev. Lee Allgood, " " "	1908-09
Rev. Walter Dillard, Presiding Elder	1909-10
Rev. J. L. Hall, preacher in charge	1910
Rev. Joel T. Davis, Presiding Elder	1911
Rev. Walter Millican, preacher in charge	1911
Rev. W. H. Cooper, Presiding Elder	1912-13-14-15

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Rev. B. H. Greene, Preacher in charge	1912-13
Rev. J. A. Quillian, " " "	1914
Rev. W. O. Butler, " " "	1915
Rev. J. P. Erwin, Presiding Elder	1916-17-18-19
Rev. J. W. Culpepper, Preacher in charge	1916-17-18

It was Bro. Culpepper who succeeded in selling the brick church formerly mentioned, which has changed hands several times, but at this time, 1941, is owned by Mr. Hill of Gainesville, Georgia and used for the Bay Way Laundry. Rev. Culpepper in his three years here did some good foundation work for the present church.

Rev. V. B. Hamrick, preacher in charge, 1919  
 During his stay here he preached in the school house.

Rev. S. R. England was Presiding Elder in 1920-21-22-23  
 Rev. C. L. Middlebrooks, preacher in charge, 1920-21-22.

He preached in the school house the first year he was here, and began planning for the new church building. Mr. C. C. Foster, Sr. and Mr. S. Y. Stribling, Sr. bought a lot just South of Ramsy Alley, which extended from the alley to Dr. Power's line. They offered to give the lot for the church and parsonage, but some objected to the lot. Then Mrs. V. L. Williams and her sister, Miss Sallie Kimbell bought a lot on the opposite side of the street, part of the Heath property joining Great Oaks, and gave it for the church and parsonage. They accepted this lot and when the deed was to be made there was no church to hold conference in and they met in the Williams and Kimbell living room, which before that time has been dedicated to the Lord for His service. After securing a lot that all were satisfied with Mr. Middlebrooks, appointed a building committee of five men, Mr. W. H. Maxwell, Mr. C. C. Foster, Sr., Mr. A. Motz, Sr., Mr. C. C. Otwell and Mr. H. I. Weaver. When the building was ready for laying the corner stone they opened the corner stone of the old church and took the contents and placed with the other things in the new corner stone. All the windows in the main auditorium, except two, were donated in honor of some loved one. Mr. J. H. Waller, who was an active layman of this church for a long time, had the pulpit we are now using in our church made and gave it to the first brick church. We are also using the same bell that they used. We did use the same pews until 1931. When we got some new pews we gave the old ones to Ebenezer, one of the churches on this charge.

When the church was completed, Dr. Franklin N. Parker ✓ preached the dedicatory sermon. Rev. C. L. Middlebrooks, his wife and Charles, Jr. was the first family to live in the new parsonage. 1922 was Rev. Middlebrooks last year.

Rev. W. D. Spence, Preacher in charge	1923-24
Rev. H. H. Jones, Presiding Elder	1924-25-26-27
Rev. L. G. Marlin, Preacher in charge	1925-26
Rev. R. M. Dixon was sent here in 1927.	

He contracted a severe cold shortly after his arrival and died in the parsonage here about March. His son, S. H. Dixon was sent here to fill out his father's year.

Rev. Nath Thompson was Presiding Elder	1928-29
Rev. J. W. Stephens, preacher in charge	1928-29-30
Rev. J. R. Jordan, " " "	1931
Rev. Marvin Williams, Presiding Elder	1930-31-32-33
Rev. J. W. Segars, preacher in charge	1932-33-34-35
Rev. W. M. Jones, Presiding Elder	1934-35-36
Rev. W. O. Lindsey, preacher in charge	1936
Rev. Augustus Ernest, Presiding Elder	1937-38-39-40
Rev. W. F. Lunsford, preacher in charge	1937
Rev. R. P. Segars, " " "	1938-39-40

The years 1939 and 1940 brought many changes in Methodist history. The uniting Conference met in April 1939 in Kansas City, Missouri and accomplished there what had been talked of for some time, the reuniting of the Northern and Southern Methodist Churches, which had been severed over the slave question since the Civil War. In the latter part of April, 1939 the Northern, the Southern and the Protestant Methodist had a uniting conference which brought a number of changes. The Presiding Elder is now called District Superintendent. The Woman's Missionary Society is now called the Woman's Society of Christian Service. The Districts have been changed. Roswell has for years been in the Marietta District, but now the Marietta District is no more. The Atlanta District has been divided in the East Atlanta and the West Atlanta District. Roswell is in the East and Marietta in the West Atlanta District.

Rev. R. P. Segars is now serving his third year.

Rev. E. G. Mackey is serving his first year as District Superintendent.

The W. F. Lunsford Bible Class, of which Mrs. R. A. Carruth is teacher, has started a fund for the Sunday School Annex. There was a sum of twenty-five dollars raised for this purpose by the Missionary Society which has been held since 1938 when Mrs. W. H. Maxwell was president of the Society. Other members are responding beautifully to this much needed enterprise.

Back in the early settling of Roswell, the Paden family was a prominent family in the Methodist church. Mr. John T. Paden was a local preacher here. He had two sons who were local preachers, Robt. S. Paden and his brother Elijah P. Paden. Mr. J. T. Paden's light is still shining in the Methodist church here. One of his granddaughters, Mrs. Ada Lyon, wife of Dr. G. T. Lyon, and his great-granddaughter, Mrs. C. C. Foster, Jr., a daughter of Mrs. Lyon, are both teaching in the Roswell Sunday School. Miss Bertha McDerment, another great-granddaughter of John T. Paden is also teaching in the same school in 1941.

This is not all of J. T. Paden's descendants who have record in Sunday School. He has a great-grandson, Otis Gunter Ball, son of his granddaughter, Mrs. B. C. Ball, who has been church school secretary since 1915. He was just a boy when elected and has been faithful twenty-six years and is still secretary. Otis Ball has a son, Billy Ball, who is fourteen years old and hasn't missed being in Sunday School a Sunday since he was a year and a half old. J. T. Paden has two other granddaughters here who have substantial Methodist families, Mrs. Minnie McDerment and Mrs. H. I. Weaver. Their mother, who married Nat Sherman was a daughter of John T. Paden. Mr. H. I. Weaver, husband of Mamie Sherman Weaver, has been Church School Superintendent in this church between twenty-five and thirty years and is still superintendent.

We have had two preachers from this church in the North Georgia Conference, Mr. G. W. Farr who was a son of Mr. Samuel Farr and wife Jane Farr, and a brother of Mrs. C. C. Otwell, one of our dependable members at this time. Mr. Farr served a number of years in the Conference.

Mr. O. P. McDerment was a local preacher here for a while. Later he went in conference as a supply for several years. He married Alice Paden, granddaughter of J. T. Paden.

One of our local preachers that we all miss so much was G. Robert Kirk. He was licensed to preach in 1891 and was always ready to do his part in every interest of the church. He died November 23, 1939.

There are many dear and precious ones that have gone to their reward and some still living that we would like to mention in this history, but space will not allow and we are confining our writing as much as possible to the clergymen and their descendants.

Historian.

### Ten Years of Progress

In Miss Sallie's history of the Roswell Methodist Church she expressed the desire that her work be brought up to date from time to time. Since there is no church historian I will undertake to set forth some of the accomplishments of the past ten years. Her history ended during the ministry of Rev. R. P. Segars.

I have a letter from Brother Segars relating some of the high points of his ministry at Roswell. He writes:

"My four years (1939-1942) at Roswell were among my happiest years of service in the Methodist ministry. At that time Roswell Church was a full time appointment with three afternoon appointments; namely, Sharon, Mt. Zion, and Ebenezer. Extensive improvements were made on each church on the charge? (He then lists those of the other churches)...

"At Roswell the exterior of the church was painted and a sign erected in front of the church. It was during these years that the church became keenly conscious of their need for additional church school facilities. So a building fund drive was launched with encouraging results. Ground was graded for a new annex and plans drawn for the building, but work was halted by the government due to the war and a shortage of materials needed. We rejoice with the people of Roswell Methodist Church for having recently completed their long-awaited-for annex.

"The most outstanding phase of our work was in the field of evangelism. People came into the church in large numbers and found their place in the church in its various departments of activities to the building of the Kingdom of God."

In the years Brother Segars was at Roswell he received 81 members into the church on profession of faith and 46 by certificate. The Society of Christian Service of some 60 members raised \$740 for local work and more than \$500 for the conference work. The church schools had an enrollment of about 200. The pastor's salary advanced from \$1355 to \$1710. A total of approximately \$16,000 was raised in these four years.

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At the conference of 1942 R. E. Lyle was appointed to Roswell. He has this to write of his ministry here:

"It was during the years that I served Roswell that part of the building fund was raised, which resulted later in the Church School Annex.

"It was my privilege to be at Roswell during three of the war years. Many prayers were offered in those years, and a light was kept burning in the church at all times reminding us of those in service. Much of my time was spent in ministering to the service men and their families.

"There was a very active Sunday school, the Woman's Society of Christian Service and the Wesleyan Service Guild were unusually good and the young people had an active Youth Fellowship.

"Many were added to the church and advance was made in the finances of the church during those years."

Under the leadership of brother Lyle for three years the church received 26 on confession of faith and 168 by certificate. The missionary organizations retained a membership averaging about 65 members. They contributed \$369 to local work and sent the conference treasurer more than \$475. The pastor's salary advanced from \$1700 to \$2010. A total of more than \$13,000 was raised in these years for all causes of the church.

A letter is on file in the church records which summarizes the work of Rev. H. A. McNeil. We quote it in full:

"Arrived at Roswell, November 29, 1945; cordially and graciously received by a committee of the ladies of the church who had prepared a wonderful supper for the new preacher and family. Started the work with the church services Sunday, December 2, 1945.

"At that time the Charge consisted of four churches: Roswell, Ebenezer, Sharon, Mt. Zion. Roswell was a full time church each of the others having one church service each month, Sunday afternoon. The pastor's salary was \$2,000. Roswell was paying \$1,800 of this and the other three churches together the other two hundred. With the new year Roswell raised the salary two hundred dollars making a total of \$2,200.

"In January and February we raised a fund of approximately \$1,500. This was used to pay for remodeling the Church furnace at Roswell, the work having been done in the past year, to refinish the inside of the Roswell Church and repaint the outside of the parsonage. During this year also, the ladies of the W.S.C.S. bought for the parsonage an electric water heater which was installed by the preacher. The cost was slightly over a hundred dollars.

"During the year Mrs. R. A. Smith, Norrell Lassiter, W. E. Gentry, Jerry Lassiter were received by Profession of Faith and seventeen others were received by Certificate and restoration to the church rolls. Dr. H. B. Duling served as assistant pastor.

"Beginning with the next Conference year, December 1, 1947, the pastor's salary was increased to \$2,400, Roswell paying \$2,100 the other churches \$300. The pastor served all the churches through the year without assistance. Plans for the Church School Annex were begun. The Young Adult Sunday School Class was organized and grew to a membership of over thirty from a beginning of four.

"During the year the Parsonage sitting room was redecorated and the stone wall erected across the front of the parsonage and church lots.

"Received by Profession during the year: Ralph Fouts, Mrs. Irving Stone (from Catholic church), Carolyn Gentry, Barbara Kirk, Dianne Jackson, Norma Fields, June Coleman, Everett Gentry, Jr., Bobbie Westbrooks, Corrine Clement, W. E. Gentry, Jr., Everett Gentry, Sr., Mrs. Everett Gentry, Edwin Coker, Jack Dempsey. Five were received by Certificate and otherwise.

"The year 1947-48 began in July. During the year plans were perfected for the building of the Annex and construction was started, Roswell was separated from the other three churches which became part of the new Ebenezer Circuit. Roswell raised the salary to \$2,400. Of course with each of these salary increases the remaining items of the budget were increased accordingly.

"The following were received by Profession of Faith: Ora Coleman, Sarah Butler, Jane Strickland, Geraldine Smith, Linda Bowen, Edna McGahee, Joyce Coleman, George Coker, Jackie McGahee, Eleanor Drake, Miss Ether Bearden, L. M. Bearden, Miss Maye Howell, Mrs. Behre Gardner. (Mrs. Gardner and Ora Coleman had joined the church previously but their names had never been placed on the roll.) Fifteen members were received by certificate etc. Another room of the parsonage was redecorated.

"In the year 1948-49, the Sunday School Annex was completed and put into use along with the rooms added in the church basement when the basement was remodeled. More than \$9,000 was contributed in cash for this project and the material, labor and other services rendered free of charge along with the large discounts given on almost every item of material purchased, gave us a Sunday School plant valued conservatively at \$20,000. All of this was paid for except \$1,600.

"During this year Rev. Lewis Davis was employed as Director of the M.Y.F. at a salary of \$300. Another bedroom and the bathroom of the parsonage was redecorated and the landscaping of the parsonage and church yards was planned and begun just before Conference.

"At the last meeting of the Board of Stewards a motion was passed to increase the pastor's salary for the new year to \$3,000.

"The following were received by Profession: Jane Yarborough, D. H. Brantley (Baptist) Sarah Christler. Nine were received by certificate."

In summary the conference journal records the following facts regarding the pastorate of brother McNeil: 67 received ~~of~~ Confession, 48 by Certificate. The W.S.C.S. and Wesleyan Service Guild of 75 members raised \$536 for local work and \$533 for conference causes. The salary advanced from \$2,000 to \$2,400 with the loss of three afternoon appointments. A total of more than \$41,500 was expended in these four years.

It is difficult for a minister to appraise his own work. We live too close to its heart to judge its effect and to be able to evaluate its worth. This has been two years of Spiritual growth for the minister and his family (wife and four daughters). To say we have been happy and conscious of the love of our people is to minimize the facts. We are aware of the limitations of the years but we are also conscious of the progress made by the church.

The figures are not large as compared with past accomplishments, but they do show steady progress and healthy growth. Much of what was written in the "History of Methodism in Roswell" does not need repeating here. By the end of the conference year we will report for the past two years at least 22 on profession of faith and 19 by certificate.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guild with some 70 members will have raised more than \$1,000 for local work and have sent the conference treasurers about \$475 for other causes. The Church School has maintained steady progress with more than 225 enrolled. The pastor's salary has been \$3,000 for these two years. Approximately \$17,500 will have been raised in two years when this year has been finished. The conference journals will show that for these two years all askings for conference causes have been fully paid including a total of \$720 for Superannuation Endowment and some \$185 each year on advance specials and Week of Dedication. A program of missionary education has been effectively presented and its effect is evident.

A summary of the figures appearing in the conference journal will give us an index of the progress of the past 13 years: A total of 196 received on Confession of Faith and from other denominations; 281 by certificate. The work of some 65 women each year has netted a total of more than \$2,500 for local work and \$2,000 for conference causes. More than \$3,500 has been spent for general and conference benevolences. The pastor's salary has advanced from \$1,350 to \$3,000. And a grand total of approximately \$89,000 raised in these years.

More members than are now on the roll (381) have been received in the past 13 years - 477. If it were not for the constant shift in population during these war years the church would have made better progress. As the area around Atlanta develops we can be assured that the church will increase in membership and ministry. The future challenges our best consecrated service that we fail not God or man.

*A. G. Bryant*

### HISTORICAL FACTS

In addition to other historical data recorded in the church history or given elsewhere these are worth remembering:

The old communion set of two silver goblets and plates were given by Col. William Eric Fowler (a relative of the Padens) in New York. He gave a memorial window for the choir loft in memory of his mother, Emma Paden Fowler.

The other window in the choir loft was a gift of the church school, Brother H. I. Weaver was at this time church school superintendent, a position that he filled with honor for more than 25 years. He is in 1951 the only living member of the building committee for the church.

The other memorial windows are gifts as follows:

- (1) Donated by Mrs. Rebecca Farr in memory of her husband, Samuel J. Farr and son, Rev. Givens W. Farr.
- (2) In memory of William O. Bowden, Sr. 1875-1941 (Gift by family).
- (3) In memory of Edwin R. Coker (donated by family).
- (4) Dr. R. J. Power and Family (personal donation).
- (5) H. I. Weaver & Family (personal donation).
- (6) In memory of Sloan Y. Stribling 1848-1920 (Donated by family).
- (7) Golson M. Hook : Gabriella A. Hook  
 1829-1904                      1836-1891  
 (Donated by Prof. W. H. Maxwell)  
 Luther T. Hook : Minnie Hook Maxwell  
 1866-1913                      1873-1907
- (8) In loving remembrance of  
 Joel A. Gunter and Jemima Paden Gunter  
 (donated by family).

- (9) In Memory of  
Henry McNeely and Mary McNeely  
(donated by family).
- (10) In loving memory of  
Rev. Robert Sinclair Paden  
and  
Samantha Tippins Paden  
(Donated by family).
- (11) Kimbell and Williams  
(Personal donation)
- (12) In memory of  
John J. Carpenter  
1837-1918  
(donated by family).

The brick church on Alpharetta Street was sold to Mr. C. B. Dorris in 1920 for the sum of \$2,000.

The Hymn Record Board was given by Mrs. H. E. Bush in memory of her husband.

The Baptismal Cup was given by Mrs. L. L. Lyon in memory of her husband.

The collection plates were given by Mrs. Inez Campbell.

The Communion Table was given by Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Ball.

Mr. J. H. "Pony" Waller made and gave the pulpit which was also used in the old church.

Mr. Joel A. Gunter made the book case and table now used in the annex, this too was used in the old church. (Mr. Gunter is the father of Mrs. B. S. Ball.)

In 1868 D. S. Arnold sold to the Methodist people the plot of ground now used for a cemetery for the sum of \$40.00. The trustees at that time were D. S. Arnold, John T. Paden, Simon Frasier, J. A. Gunter, and R. S. Paden.

The new pulpit Bible was presented by Thomas E. Rogers in memory of his wife Sara Gunter Rogers on May 25, 1951.

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## History of the Woman's Society of Christian Service

By - Mary Carruth - Mrs. J. W. Rainwater,  
Mrs. G. T. Lyon

In March, 1878 the first foreign missionary society of the Roswell Methodist Church was organized by Miss Sue Thomas assisted by the pastor, the Rev. M. J. Cofer. This society functioned only a short time. In 1884 it was reorganized by Mrs. Manget after an appeal at Alpharetta District Meeting. This organization did not function continuously, but some of the members kept in touch with the work and paid their dues. Mrs. Emily Bush, wife of Asa Bush, was the president and Miss Nallie Hook Smith was the vice president. The ladies pieced a crazy quilt, and sold it to the highest bidder for \$15.00 as one way of raising money. Miss Mary Hook was present at the organization of the society, and is the author of part of this data.

On March 11, 1899 the organization meeting of the present Society was held. Mrs. J. G. Logan, wife of the pastor, was elected president; Miss Clarinda E. Norton was the treasurer, and Mrs. Elizabeth Paden was the agent for "Our Home", later called "The Missionary Voice", now "World Outlook". Although we have no complete list of charter members, among them were Mrs. J. A. Reed, Mrs. Bert Faulkner, Mrs. Jemima Paden Gunter, Mrs. S. Y. Stribling, Sr., Mrs. Samantha Paden, Mrs. J. R. Kirk, Mrs. S. J. Farr, Mrs. Sophie Ball, Mrs. H. I. Weaver, Miss Mary Hook, Mrs. B. C. Ball, Mrs. Eva Sherman Giles, and Mrs. G. T. Lyon. Mrs. C. C. Otwell, Mrs. W. C. Jackson, and Mrs. Eva Farr joined the Adult Society with their mothers since there was no children's organization. Of the charter members, only four are still living: Mrs. J. G. Logan and Mrs. Eva S. Giles who live out of town; Mrs. G. T. Lyon and Mrs. B. C. Ball who live here in Roswell. Mrs. Ball is the only member of the Society who has lived here and worked continuously through fifty-one years. She has a record no other member can have.

We who have joined later feel it a blessing to have known and worked with these good women. There are a number of the descendants of some of the charter members working in our church and society today even down to the fifth generation. We have traced the lines of some of the members, and want to include this information in our history.

Mrs. Jemima Paden Gunter  
Mrs. B. C. Ball  
Otis and Cora Ball  
Billy Ball

Mrs. J. R. Kirk  
Mrs. W. C. Jackson  
Willie Pearl and Ralph Jackson  
Dianne and Elaine Jackson

Mrs. Samantha Paden  
Mrs. G. T. Lyon  
Mrs. C. C. Foster, Jr.  
Claire and Charles Foster, III

Mrs. Bert Faulkner  
Mrs. C. G. Webb and Mrs. Eva Farr  
Garnett Webb  
Charles Webb

Mrs. S. Y. Stribling, Sr.  
Mrs. J. H. Foster, Sr.  
Neel and Joseph Foster, Jr. and  
Evelyn Foster Brower  
Joseph, III, Richard and Jane  
Foster

Mrs. H. I. Weaver  
Rogers Weaver  
Rogers Weaver, Jr.

Mary Katherine Brower

Mrs. S. J. Farr  
Mrs. C. C. Otwell  
Mrs. Lena Mae Cowart and  
L. G. Otwell  
Mary Cowart Weaver and  
Mary Ann Otwell  
Rogers Weaver, Jr.

Mrs. Emily Bush  
Mr. Henry Bush  
Caroline Bush Coker and  
Harriett Bush Bowen  
Carol, Mary Len and  
Bill Coker  
Linda and David Bowen

There are miscellaneous facts about this early group which might be of historical interest. The younger charter members were carried by their mothers and joined the Adult Society. They received much useful information and instruction which have helped them go into different parts of the world and be a blessing to others. Five of these women married Methodist ministers and one married a Baptist minister. Mrs. Logan, the president, was not content to have only an adult group, so she later organized a Junior Society. She took Eva Sherman, now Mrs. Leslie Giles of Kennesaw, as the first Junior delegate from our church to the Annual Conference in Elberton. Inez McDerment Campbell was made the first life member of the Junior Society.

There was no parsonage when this Society first began its work. The ladies immediately started planning for one. In November, 1899 they bought a house valued at \$350.00. In May, 1900 it was valued at \$700.00 due to repairs, and in 1920, it was sold for \$3000.00. The money was used in building our present parsonage.

Although they were not charter members, there have never been any more faithful workers in the Society than Mrs. V. L. Williams and Miss Sallie Kimball. Mrs. Williams was known as "Miss Sue", but she is remembered as Martha in the home, since she prepared more meals for ministers and other friends than can be counted, and her car was always at the disposal of everyone connected with church work.

"Miss Sallie" served as president several times totaling in all sixteen years. She was sent as delegate to the district conference more times than anyone else. In 1910 at the district meeting in Rome, she had the honor of sitting at the round table discussion on the merger of the Home and Foreign Mission Work, and cast her vote for it. "Miss Sallie" was the only member having a Gold Seal Certificate. She received this for completing twelve mission study books. When she couldn't get up a class, she bought her book, studied it at home by herself, filled in the examination papers, and mailed them in. The business meetings of the Society were held at the home of "Miss Sallie" and "Miss Sue" in the room they dedicated to their Lord. Their home was a place of welcome for everyone, and one room was reserved as the "Preacher's room". On entering this home one felt the sacredness of it, knowing our Heavenly Father was always there. These two women save the ground on which our church and parsonage now stand.

The District Conference has been held in Roswell three times: in 1905 when Mrs. B. T. Frey was District Secretary, in 1912 when Mrs. Fannie Hutcherson was District Secretary, and in 1923 when Mrs. L. M. Autrey was District Secretary.

The name of our Society is inscribed in the book of Remembrance at Searritt College. This signifies that we gave a generous donation toward the building of this school.

After the merger of the Northern and Southern Methodist Churches, the Missionary Societies were asked to reorganize and we were given a new name, the Woman's Society of Christian Service. We organized on September 9, 1940 with 56 charter members, and were given a charter of which we are very proud.

We can't close our history without paying tribute to those we loved and lost in recent years: two were charter members, Mrs. H. I. Weaver and Miss Mary Hook; others were devoted, active, members; Mrs. R. J. Power, Mrs. W. H. Gardner, Mrs. V. L. Williams, Mrs. A. C. Martin, Mrs. Minnie McDerment, and Miss Sallie Kimball.

The following ladies have served as presidents of the Society: Mrs. J. G. Logan, Mrs. R. C. Cleckler, Mrs. Loy Warwick, Mrs. J. T. Davis, Mrs. Lee Allgood, Mrs. J. L. Hall, Miss Sallie Kimball, Mrs. G. T. Lyon, Mrs. B. C. Ball, Mrs. H. E. Bush, Mrs. H. P. Carpenter, Mrs. J. L. Rainwater, Mrs. W. H. Maxwell, Mrs. C. P. Vaughan, Mrs. C. C. Foster, Jr., and Mrs. R. A. Carruth.

We have nine life members in the Adult Society: Mrs. Inez Campbell, Mrs. J. L. Rainwater, Miss Neel Foster, Mrs. B. C. Ball, Mrs. V. L. Williams, Mrs. G. T. Lyon, Miss Sallie Kimball, Mrs. C. P. Vaughan, and Mrs. C. C. Foster, Jr.

There are the following life members from the Junior Society: Billy Ball, Jim Hugh Segars, Carolyn Bowen, Betty Reeves, Charles Foster, III, Donald Segars, and Barbara Ann Kirk.

The present Society is made up of two circles the Exa Gardner Circle and the Sallie Kimball Circle, named for two of our late beloved members, as well as the Wesleyan Service Guild. We have enrolled a total of 160 members in our fifty-one years of service and have raised approximately \$13,067.00.

While reading this outline of the history of the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the Roswell Methodist Church, let's not forget its spiritual builders.

#### History of the Wesleyan Service Guild

For some time, there was a need felt by the young working women of Roswell to enlarge their part in church work. In January, 1935, under the leadership of Mrs. L. B. Plant and Mrs. J. W. Segars, a new circle of the Woman's Missionary Society was organized to fill this need. It was named the Fourth Wheel and there were twenty charter members. The officers were as follows: chairman, Willie Pearl Jackson; co-chairman, Pearl Porter Bowen; secretary, Alda Roberts Lyon; treasurer, Maurine Darby Butler.

In September, 1940, with the merger of the Northern and Southern Churches, a reorganization took place, and the name of the circle was changed to the Wesleyan Service Guild. The Guild has functioned actively since that time. There has been a total enrollment of sixty members in the sixteen years and eight of the present group are charter members.

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**Laying of Cornerstone of New Roswell Methodist Church  
(Excerpt from The Cobb County Times, May 1921)**

The laying of the cornerstone of the new building of the Roswell Methodist church on Tuesday afternoon was marked by a very impressive ceremony, and a large crowd of people took part in the service.

The exercises were formally opened by the presiding elder, S. R. England. Immediately following the prayer of invocation, the entire congregation joined in the singing of "How Firm a Foundation". After the song followed a prayer, and the reading of an appropriate scripture by the pastor, C. L. Middlebrooks. Mr. Middlebrooks then read a brief history of the church, and its activities from the founding to the present day. Next following the song: "When I Can Read My Titles Clear" by the congregation. A short talk was then made by Rev. S. R. England, and a duet was sung by an evangelist and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. C. L. Law.

After the service the ceremony of laying the cornerstone was turned over to the Masonic lodge, No. 165, of Roswell, and was presided over by the Worshipful Grand Master of Georgia, Rev. C. L. Bass. ✓

The exercises were brought to a close by the singing of "All Hail The Power Of Jesus Name" by the congregation, after which followed a few remarks by Grand Master Bass and the prayer of the benediction by the Chaplain of the Masonic Lodge.

The church history as read by the Rev. Middlebrooks, is as follows:

Mount Carmel church was organized in the early part of the eighteenth century, occupying an old log structure located somewhere about the center of the Methodist cemetery. In 1849 the old log house was superceded by an ordinary frame wood building occupying the same plat of ground.

In 1858 a sum of money for building a new church was subscribed, the plat of ground upon which the old brick church now stands was donated by Hon. Barrington King, president of the Roswell Manufacturing Company. A building committee was appointed of which W. T. Parker was chairman and the walls of the church were completed and roof placed upon it July 4th, 1859 temporary seats and a pulpit were constructed and it was then used as a place of worship. ✓

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In 1864 a large portion of the Federal Army occupied Roswell, doing much damage to the town in common. The Methodist church lost its seats and the corner stone was broken into and contents taken out. In 1871 the cornerstone was relaid and the breach amended by the Masonic fraternity and some other work done, the house was again used as a place of worship. In 1877 during the pastorate of Rev. Eli Smith a storm blew the back gable and roof off, a meeting was called by the pastor at which meeting it was ascertained that it would cost some five or six hundred dollars to repair the damage and complete the unfinished work. The proposition of raising the money was in the hands of Brother Asa Bush. The plans having been adopted it was further agreed that Messrs. Gunter and Crowley, with others, should do the work -- that is rebuild gable, put on new roof, refit flooring and ceil it overhead. Said work was finished in a reasonable period of time.

Rev. D. C. Anderson succeeded Rev. Eli Smith and in 1878, through the work of Brother Anderson, the church obtained the chandeliers and communion service. Then followed Rev. M. J. Cofer; during his pastorate in 1879, the bell and clock were secured and put in place, next followed as pastor, Rev. Y. W. Thomas in 1880; then Dr. J. J. Morgan in 1881; the chancel and isles of the church were completed at that date. The first District Conference was held at Roswell. The following annual conference sent Rev. W. P. Smith, who served as pastor three years, 1882, 1883, and 1884. Rev. W. D. Wooten served in 1885; S. H. Braswell in 1886; W. Z. Hanson in 1887 and 1888; under his pastorates seats were built and the painting was done on the church. Again in 1888 the Roswell Methodist church entertained the District Conference. In 1889 the Annual Conference sent to Roswell Rev. D. D. Cox, whose health failed and the church was served the remaining part of the year by Rev. C. M. Verdell. In 1890 the church at Roswell was placed on the Alpharetta Circuit, the preacher in charge being T. J. Edwards and S. H. Braswell. In 1891 the work was served by Brother Braswell following him in 1892 Rev. T. R. McCarty. The next Annual Conference sent Rev. H. M. Strozier who served 1895, 1896, and 1897. Following him Rev. Jno. Y. Logan who served in 1898, 1899, and 1900, during which time money was raised, the church recovered, ceiling papered and the windows readjusted. During Bro. Logan's pastorate a parsonage was purchased and necessary improvements made. In 1901 and 1902 Rev. R. C. Cleckler served in an efficient manner.

Since that time Rev. Loy Warwick, J. P. Davis, Geo. Gary, J. W. Stipe, J. L. Allgood, J. L. Hall, Walter Millican, B. H. Greene, J. A. Quillian, W. O. Butler, W. J. Culpepper, Verner B. Hamrick and C. L. Middlebrooks have served. In the construction of the present new church much credit should be given W. J. Culpepper, who secured through his own, and the efforts of the committee, subscriptions for the church.

CHURCH ROLL

Abernathy, Walter  
     Mrs. Walter  
     May  
     Reid  
     Walter Earl  
 Ackel, Mrs. K. A.  
 Adams, Mrs. Silvey  
 Arnold, Marion  
 Ballew, Mrs. Louie  
 Ball, Otis G.  
 Ball, Mrs. Otis G.  
 Ball, B. C.  
 Ball, Mrs. B. C.  
 Ball, Miss Cora  
 Barrett, Mary  
 Barrow, D. B.  
     Mrs. D.B.  
 Bearden, L. M.  
 Bearden, Miss Ether  
 Bottoms, Mrs. Clara  
 Bottoms, Miss Gussie  
 Bowden, Mrs. W. O. Sr.  
 Bowden, W. O. Jr.  
 Bowden, Mrs. W. O. Jr.  
 Bowen, Mrs. Harriett  
 Bowen, Linda  
 Bowen, Mrs. W. W.  
     Clinton  
     Christine  
 Brantley, D. H.  
 Brantley, Herbert C.  
 Braswell, James  
 Braswell, Loy  
     Mrs. Loy  
 Broadwell, Hugh  
 Broadwell, Leo  
     Broadwell, Mrs. Talmadge  
 Broadwell, Mrs. York  
 Broome, Mrs. W. E.

Brower, Mrs. Evelyn  
 Brown, L. T.  
 Brown, Mrs. L. T.  
 Bush, Asa  
 Butler, Mrs. Jessie  
 Butler, Sarah  
 Campbell, Franklin  
 Campbell, Mrs. Inez  
 Carruth, R. A.  
 Carruth, Mrs. R. A.  
 Carruth, Mary  
 Carruth, Pierce  
 Clark, Alice Lenore  
 Clement, Esther Corrine  
 Clement, Mrs. George  
 Clement, Mrs. Jimmie  
 Christler, Dora  
 Clower, Rev. Carl  
 Clower, Mrs. Carl  
 Coker, Linn  
 Coker, Mrs. Linn  
 Coker, Carol  
 Coker, Loy  
 Coker, Mary  
 Coker, Robert  
 Coker, Hugh  
 Coker, Mrs. Hugh  
 Coker, Edwin  
 Coker, George  
 Coker, W. E.  
 Coker, Clifford  
 Coleman, Arthur  
 Coleman, Mrs. Arthur  
 Coleman, Carol Jean  
 Coleman, Hubert  
 Coleman, Mrs. Annie  
 Coleman, Joan Marie  
 Coleman, Ora  
 Coleman, Quentin

Coleman, Mrs. T. V. Sr.  
 T. V. Coleman, Jr.  
 Coleman, Mrs. T. V. Jr.  
 Coleman, Mrs. Harry  
 Coleman, Mrs. Ernest  
 Coleman, Linda  
 Coleman, Mrs. Willie  
 Coleman, Joyce  
 Coleman, June  
 Coleman, Marjorie  
 Coleman, Betty  
 Conner, S. V.  
 Cook, Mrs. Rochelle Otwell  
 Cooper, J. B.  
 Cooper, Mrs. J. B.  
 Cooper, James W.  
     Mrs. James W.  
 Cooper, Edward  
     Mrs. Edward  
 Cowart, Aubrey J.  
 Cowart, Mrs. Aubrey J.  
 Cowart, Mrs. Elsie M.S.  
 Cowart, Mrs. O. J.  
 Dempsey, Alene  
 Dempsey, Mrs. R. J.  
 Dempsey, Sylvia  
 Dempsey, Ralph  
 Dempsey, Robert M.  
 Dempsey, Jack  
     Mrs. Jack  
 Dickerson, Mrs. J. J.  
     Dora Neal  
     Ola Mae  
 Dorris, Joe L.  
 Dorris, Mrs. Joe L.  
 Drake, Ernest  
 Drake, Mrs. Ernest  
 Drake, Mary Eva  
 Drake, Eleanor  
 Drake, John  
 Drake, Mrs. John  
 Erwin, Talmadge  
 Erwin, Mrs. Talmadge  
 Erwin, Gladys  
 Erwin, Mrs. W. G.  
 Erwin, Douglas  
 Erwin, Mrs. Oma  
 Ezzard, Dr. T. M.  
 Ezzard, T. M. Jr.

Farr, Mrs. Eva  
 Farr, Edgar  
 Fields, Norma  
 Foster, Mrs. C. C. Sr.  
 Foster, C. C. Jr.  
 Foster, Mrs. C. C. Jr.  
 Foster, C. C. III  
 Foster, Joseph  
 Foster, Mrs. Joseph  
 Foster, Neal  
 Gardner, Mrs. Andy  
 Gardner, Charlie  
     Elizabeth  
 Garrit, Mrs. Luther  
 Gentry, W. E. Jr.  
 Gentry, W. E. Jr., Mrs.  
 Gentry, William Emory  
 Gentry, Carolyn  
 Gentry, Katherine Neal  
 Gentry, Horace  
 Gentry, Sarah Bell  
 Gentry, Everett Eugene, Jr.  
 Gentry, Angus  
 Gentry, ~~Horace~~ Linda  
 Gloer, Mrs. Ruby  
 Glover, Teasley  
 Glover, W. M.  
 Greenway, Aubrey  
 Greenway, Frances Webb  
 Groover, Mrs. Wynelle  
 Harmon, Mrs. Letha Kirk  
 Hawkins, Albert Grady  
 Hembree, Mrs. Sam F.  
 Hembree, Sam F.  
 Hill, C. A.  
 Hill, Mrs. C. A.  
 Hill, Harold  
 Hill, Martha  
 Hill, Foster  
 Hill, Pierce  
 Howell, Young  
 Howell, Mrs. Young  
 Howell, Sue  
 Howell, Miss Mae  
 Hughes, Mrs. C. W.  
 Hughes, Evelyn  
 Hughes, Laura  
 Hughes, Sara  
 Jackson, Mrs. Ralph

Jackson, Dianne  
Jackson, Patsy  
Jackson, Mrs. W. C.  
Jackson, Willie Pearl  
Jackson, Sam  
    Effie  
Jackson, Eugene  
    Calvin  
Jett, Mrs. Holbert W.  
Jett, Mrs. Beatrice  
Johnson, D. B.  
Johnson, Mrs. D. B.  
Johnson, Ray  
Kelley, Mrs. E. Bush  
Kirk, Forrest  
Kirk, Mrs. Forrest  
Kirk, Barbara Ann  
Kirk, Ralph H.  
Kirk, G. R. Jr.  
    Mrs. Annie  
    Gus. F.  
    Herbert  
Kleine, Arnold  
Kleine, Mrs. Arnold  
Kleine, Doris  
Kleine, Marie  
Lane, Mrs. Mary  
Lane, Elizabeth  
Lane, Paul  
Lane, Mrs. Paul  
Lane, Jack  
Langston, Mrs. Gladys  
Langston, Ann  
Langston, Wilma  
Lee, J. W.  
Lee, Mrs. J. W.  
Lester, Yvonne  
Lowry, Joe R.  
Lowry, Mrs. Joe R.  
Lowry, Dorothy Reid  
Lowry, Claude  
Little, Mrs. Irene Otwell  
Lumry, T. W.  
Lumry, Mrs. T. W.  
Lumry, James Raymond  
Lyon, Mrs. G. T.  
Lyon, Dr. Archie  
Lyon, Dr. Harry

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Mansell, Mrs. Walton  
Marshall, Mrs. S. W.  
Martin, Dorothy Webb  
Martin, Joe  
Martin, Mrs. W. H.  
Maxwell, Mrs. Bobbie  
Maxwell, J. T.  
Maxwell, Clarence  
    Mrs. Clarence  
McDermott, Miss Bertha  
McGahee, Mrs. Tim  
McGahee, Marjorie  
McGahee, Edna  
McGahee, Jackie  
Moss, Mrs. Guy  
Mosteller, J. Angus  
Mosteller, Mrs. J. Angus  
Mosteller, Mrs. J. F.  
Mosteller, Mrs. C. F.  
    (Johnnie)  
Mosteller, J. W.  
Newton, Charles  
Newton, Mrs. Charles  
Nesbitt, Miss Lizzie  
Nesbitt, Miss Annie  
Norton, Mrs. L. B.  
    J. L.  
    Dan  
    Jack  
    Ruth  
O'Bryant, Mrs. H. G.  
O'Bryant, Dorothy  
O'Bryant, Martha  
O'Bryant, Annette  
Oliver, Mrs. Carl  
    Wayne  
    Alice Jean  
    Archie  
Oliver, J. A.  
Otwell, L. G.  
Otwell, Mrs. C. C.  
Otwell, Paul  
    Mrs. Paul  
Owens, Jessie  
Pelfry, Mrs. Chessie  
Pelfry, Harry  
Pelfry, Mrs. Harry  
Pelfry, Robert

Pendergrast, Mrs. Annie Mae  
 Pharis, Mrs. Mary Jim  
 Pinkerton, Mrs. Harry  
 Polatty, George  
 Powell, H. V.  
     Mrs. H. V.  
     Larry  
 Power, George  
 Preston, J. A.  
     Mrs. J. A.  
 Pruitt, Mrs. Cliff  
 Rainey, Mrs. J. A.  
     Katherine  
 Rainey, Miss Flossie  
     Miss Odessa  
 Rainwater, J. L.  
 Rainwater, Mrs. J. L.  
 Rainwater, Robert  
     Virginia  
 Reeves, Mrs. Sarah Plant  
                     Betty  
                     Sarah  
 Reeves, Alice Dean  
 Reid, Alva L.  
 Reid, Mrs. Alva L.  
 Reid, Alva W.  
 Reid, Bonna  
 Rowe, Elder  
     Mrs. Elder  
 Rucker, Ford  
 Rucker, Mrs. Ford  
 Rucker, L. L.  
 Rucker, Mrs. L. L.  
 Rucker, Harry  
     Mrs. Harry  
 Rucker, Mrs. Marvin  
 Seay, W. Alex  
 Seay, Mrs. Alex  
 Seay, James  
 Seay, Mrs. James  
 Sewell, Mrs. Geo. Hughes  
 Sims, Miss Beuna  
 Smith, Jessie Rucker  
 Smith, Mrs. Herbert  
 Smith, Farrell,  
 Smith, Geraldine  
 Smith, Otis  
 Smith, R. A.  
 Smith, Mrs. R. A.

Smith, Rachel  
 Smith, Mardelle  
 Stone, Irwin  
 Stone, Mrs. Irwin  
 Stone, Mrs. W. S.  
 Stone, Mrs. Nellie  
 Coker, Mrs. Loy  
 Stribling, Hugh Y. Jr.  
 Stribling, Mrs. Hugh Y. Sr  
 Strickland, Alvin J.  
 Strickland, Mrs. Alvin J.  
 Strickland, Billy  
 Strickland, Jane  
 Strickland, Mrs. John  
 Strickland, Mrs. Robert  
 Sutton, Mrs. J. Thomas  
 Thomas, Harry  
 Thomas, Mrs. Harry  
 Thomas, Ara P.  
 Tolbert, Ben  
 Tribble, Mrs. W. H.  
 Vaughn, Mrs. Louise M.  
 Vaughn, Mrs. C. P.  
 Vaughn, C. W.  
 Vaughn, James  
 Ward, Fred F.  
 Ward, Mrs. Fred F.  
 Waters, Mrs. Luna  
 Weaver, H. I.  
 Weaver, Rodgers  
 Weaver, Rodgers, Jr.  
 Weaver, Mrs. Rodgers  
 Webb, Mrs. C. Guy  
 Webb, C. Guy  
 Webb, J. Garnett  
 Webb, Mrs. J. Garnett  
 Webb, Mrs. Gober  
 Wells, Mrs. Sibyl  
 Westbrooks, Mrs. Henry L.  
 Westbrooks, Bobby  
 Westbrooks, Mrs. J. D.  
 Whitaker, Carolyn C.  
 White, Mrs. Wendell  
 Whitley, Mrs. Charles  
 Whitley, Betty Ann  
 Woods, Mrs. Annie  
 Wooten, Mrs. Hassie B.  
 Yarborough, Jane  
 Yarborough, Mrs. H. W.  
 Yarborough, Lawrence