PROGRAM
— AND —
HISTORY
— OF —
Salem Camp Ground
Annual Meeting
August 7th - 14th, 1959
Open Friday Night Before Second Sunday
In August Each Year
"Founded 1828"
FOR RESERVATIONS WIRE
MR. AND MRS. J. T. JAYNES
Route 2
Covington, Ga.
Brief History of Salem Camp Ground

CAMP MEETING was first held at Salem in 1828. There were signs of old tents on Honey Creek near the residence of Mr. Robert Hollingsworth, but we have no authentic history of campmeeting having been held there. Prior to 1828 campmeeting was held at Ebenezer, three miles south of Conyers, for two or three years. After 1828 campmeeting was held on Bear Creek, near Covington, for three or four years. It was then moved back to Salem where it has been held continuously since, except for four years during the Civil War. The ground was first rented for $10.00 or $15.00 per year, for five or six years. Then sixty acres were purchased from David Crawford. The present stand was built in 1854 by Moses and Slider Presnel, contractors. The ground west of the road on which the spring is located, five acres, was donated in 1836 or 1838 by Green B. Turner. This five acres included part of the present cemetery. The church originally stood on this ground and was afterwards moved on the camp ground exactly west of the present stand. The lot for the Church was donated by David Crawford.

At the time the camp ground was established, there were, of course, no railroads and people came in wagons from long distances to attend the meetings. In those days many farmers who had to travel to Augusta to sell their cotton and do their marketing, came to the campmeeting in their wagons, using their wagon sheets as tents. Campmeeting was so well attended that they had double rows of tents. At one time the tents were nearly all destroyed by fire. The campmeeting has always been well attended by Christians of other denominations, especially Presbyterians and Missionary Baptists. Many of the outstanding preachers of the Methodist church have preached at Salem, among them may be named Dr. Alexander Means, Bishops James O. Andrew, George F. Pierce, Atticus G. Hagood, Dr. Lovick Pierce, and many others of more modern times, including Bishops James E. Dickey and the beloved Warren A. Candler.

Salem Camp Ground is now interdenominational and is a great meeting place for the Decatur-Oxford District and the Presbyterian and Baptists and other Christian denominations are cooperating with the Methodist in making it a permanent institution for good in Middle Georgia. It is owned and controlled by a Board of Trustees, members of all faiths.