Reverend Felix Persons Brown.

From The Wesleyan Christian Advocate, November 12, 1909.

Rev. Felix Persons Brown was the son of Washington Hardaway and Cynthia Walker Brown, and was born in Warren County, Georgia, November 11, 1832. He died at his home in Sharen, Georgia, October 3, 1909.

On November 24, 1859 he and Miss Susan Levelace Kendrick were married, and she survives him. He leaves two children, Dr. Lawrence Ruffin Brown, Sharen, Georgia, and Mrs. Eugene A. Moore, Atlanta, Georgia.

He was a Christian for at least sixty-three years, having been converted at Fountain Camp Ground, and joined Prospect Church as early as fourteen years of age. He was licensed to preach at Raytown in 1860, his first sermon being preached at old Mount Gilead Camp Ground, about four miles from Warren, from the text "Prepare to meet thy God;" Bishop Pierce being present. He joined the Georgia Conference in 1869, and, with the exception of two years, in which he was located, he continued uninterrupted in the active work till his superannuation in November, 1902.

His mother died when he was two years old, and his maternal grandmother assumed charge of him till he was ten years of age. (Error. He was fourteen years of age. CDB.) She dying, he then fell into the hands of two generous-hearted people, Mr. and Mrs. John Hartwell Felts, who were interested in and reared many orphan children, who reared and educated him. Their home, at Reynoldsville, was ever afterward his home till they passed away from earth. He leaves one brother, Edward Norphlet Brown, of Hunts-boro, Alabama, now over eighty years of age. (Two other brothers, Thomas Marion Brown and Lawrence Augustus Brown died before he did).

He was graduated at the State University at Athens in 1856 and from that time till 1863 taught school in the immediate section in which he was reared. In 1867, in company with Rev. C. L. Smith, he moved to Cartersville, Georgia, to enterprise a school where he taught till the close of 1868, when he went back to Raytown. It was at this church that he assisted Rev. Thomas A. Seals in a remarkable meeting which occurred that year. He was generally recognized as an efficient teacher, careful and thorough, kind yet firm. Some are now living who attended school where he taught. It was his invariable custom to open his school with prayer.

Brother Brown was a man of deep piety, fully consecrated to God, enjoying constant communion with his Lord, noted for his praying habits, a constant and devoted reader of God's word. He never doubted his conversion and was not contented to live without the abiding witness of the Spirit. In 1884 he became very much interested in the Wesleyan doctrine of entire sanctification, and while on his charge at Greens-town, one night while in his room, after much prayer, he definitely entered into the experience of perfect love. To this old Wesleyan doctrine he held fast until his death, enjoying this gracious experience and exhibiting it in his life. His daily habit of searching his heart made him much more severe in his judgment upon himself than was the judgment of his closest friends. Ever conscientious about his private religious duties, he kept in constant touch with God. Always careful to serve God in righteousness and holiness all his days, he did not fall into the error of supposing that the whole of religion was found in the statement that only as one served his fellow-man did he serve God. His religion first of all was a personal matter between himself and his Maker, nor was he ever at all satisfied only as he knew how he stood with God.

Intellectually he was no weak preacher. His mind was naturally strong...
and had been cultivated by close and patient study, for he had unusual advantages in his earlier years for one who lived in that day. He often studied deep questions. As recently as the past spring, while Rev. H. C. Morrison was holding a meeting at Saint Paul's Church, Atlanta, he was moved to a close line of thought on the subject, "Who made the devil?"

He was a much stronger preacher than was thought. His best preaching was not done at large meetings in the presence of other ministers, but rather on the charges he served at the regular country churches. Here he was at his best. He was thorough in his pulpit preparation, his rule being to make careful and analytical notes before delivering any sermon and sometimes writing out his entire sermon. An examination of his many notes is both interesting and suggestive. His example in this respect is worthy of being copied by young preachers in learning how to preach.

There was nothing of looseness about his management of churches which he served. He was business-like and kept a careful record of visits and laborers. Nor did he cease studying texts and preparing sermons after he retired from the active work. For many years he had attended Fountain Camp Meeting whenever possible; and this year, while looking ahead to that annual gathering of Methodists, he prepared a sermon which he greatly desired to preach, but was prevented from doing so by his great feebleness.

Doctrinally he was thoroughly sound, after the old orthodox style, in full accord with Methodist teachings, nor had he any prepossession to stray off after any "new theology; neither did he take any stock in the so-called "new interpretations" of the Gospels. The old theology was good enough for him, tried and tested as it was by years gone by, nor did he have any apology to offer for so doing.

His outward life was always above reproach. No breath of suspicion ever tarnished it, nor did he ever forfeit the confidence of the people in him. Clean and unblemished, of strict integrity, scrupulously honest and conscientious to a fault, those who observed him could not but have faith in his religion. Where he was best known, there the people had the strongest confidence in his religious integrity, for there his light shone brightest. In and about Sharon, where he lived and died, his name is as eminently venerated, and his influence will abide for years to come.

Most cheerfully he went to the charges to which he was assigned, though many of them were quite unremitting. He was glad of a place to work for his Master. Definitely called to the ministry, he was never happier than in the itinerant work, which gave him opportunity to speak the Word of God to men. This holy employment was his joy, for it was no cross for him to preach. It was no small trial to him when it became necessary to be superannuated, deprived as he would be of preaching as often as he had done for so many years; but his strong common sense asserted itself, and his simple faith in God came into play, and he soon adjusted himself to his new Conference relation, preaching whenever occasion offered, and was happy in his retirement.

During the past few months, Brother Brown had thought and talked much about celebrating his golden wedding on November 24th, next, and had anticipated great pleasure in having with them at that time many of the preachers as it would have occurred immediately upon the adjournment of this Conference and in the immediate neighborhood of Saint Paul's Church. But God ordered it otherwise. He is far happier in celebrating his advent into that heaven for which he lived so long and about which he so often sang.
With glad expectations he also had been looking forward to the coming
conference when he would again enjoy the happy privilege of sitting in the
conference room with his brethren and watching the progress of the busi-
ness. But he enjoys a gathering in the the good world to which this Confer-
ence is but small in comparison, for he not only sits down with Abraham
and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of God, but he also enjoys sweet con-
verse with that large number of this body who have gone on before him.

For the past few years Brother Brown's health had been gradually failing,
but he was fully able to go where he desired and attend to business. But
when the beginning of the end came, his decline was very rapid till he
ceased to live on earth. During the early part of this year he had set his
heart upon once more attending Fountain Camp Meeting, a place ever dear
to his heart, and, though not by any means strong in body, he was present
when the meeting opened. It was while there he felt the first signs of a
paralytic stroke, which but indicated the end was in sight. So rapidly did
this disease progress that he was altogether unable to preach. He was, how-
ever, able to stand in the pulpit, supported by Rev. Elam Dempsey, when he
made a touching talk and a great wave of emotion swept over the audience.
The service was closed by all present shaking hands with him. It was his
last visit to that consecrated spot of ground. He left for home, to go back
no more. He was brought back to Sharon, where he took his bed, from which
he never arose.

Fully realizing his critical condition, he felt the end was drawing near,
and talked as calmly about it as if it were an everyday journey. He named
these when he desired to take part in his funeral. Several times, while
lying on his bed, he would break out, with feeble voice, in sacred song.
One time he sang distinctly, "I'm Happy In Jesus Alone," and at another
time he sang, "Washed In The Blood Of The Lamb." Death had no terror for
him. For this he had lived, and for it he had been prepared, and, in peace,
he waited to change worlds.

His going away on the Sabbath afternoon was as quiet and peaceful as the
evening vespers. While the people of God were returning from church, the
silver cord was loosed and soul and body parted, and this old servant's
redeemed spirit went to live with the angels in heaven. He had at last
achieved the goal; he was at home; he was at rest in the kingdom of God.

What a glorious Sabbath was that when, after so many years of laboring and
struggling, he was at last inside the pearly gates. How many things had he
to talk about as he greeted former friends and old Conference comrades
who had preceded him to that godly land, with whom he had labored in other
days!

During his first appointment in the Conference, on the Hanceck Circuit,
Rev. Thomas R. Pierce, son of Rev. James L. Pierce and nephew of Bishop
Pierce, was his junior pastor. It is a striking coincidence that these two
preachers began their Conference history the same year, and both died with-
in a month, Brother Pierce having passed away in Denton, Texas, only a few
weeks before the going away of Brother Brown.

The whole village of Sharon turned out to his funeral to do him honor, all
the stores being closed. The services were conducted in a very simple man-
ner by Rev. Clement G. Cary, Rev. H. J. Ellis, and Rev. A. G. Davidson, the
latter a life-long friend and father of his son's wife.

We may well record as an appropriate epitaph over this godly man the words
of John in Revelation:—"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; Yea, say-
eth the Spirit, from henceforth; that they may rest from their labors, and
and their works do follow them!" - Clement C. Cary. (Intimate friend and beloved associate in the North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church).


Appointments:-
Taliaferre Mission, 1870.
Thomsen Circuit, 1871.
Admitted into full connection at Athens, Ga., Dec. 1871.
Hanceck Circuit, 1872, 1873, and 1874.
Applying Circuit, 1875.
Warren Circuit, 1876 and 1877.
Putnam Circuit, 1878.
Winterville Circuit, 1879.
Rutledge Circuit, 1880.
Dekalb Circuit, 1881.
Hanceck Circuit, 1882.
Barnett Circuit, 1883.
Grevetown and Belair Mission, 1884.
Hanceck Circuit, 1885.
Zebulon Circuit, 1886.
Balbin Circuit, 1887.
Located, Dec. 1887.
Re-admitted, Dec. 1889.
Palmre Circuit, 1890.
Memmaw Circuit, 1891.
Fulte Circuit, 1892, 1893.
Messena Circuit, 1894, 1895, 1896.
Lincoln ton Circuit, 1897.
Supernumerary, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900.
Effective, 1900.
Crawfordville and Sharen, 1900, 1901.
Superannuated, 1901.

AGED MINISTER
CRITICALLY ILL
Sharen, Ga., Sept. 30. - The many friends of Rev. F. P. Brown throughout Georgia will regret to learn that he is critically ill at his home in Sharen. He was attended while attending Fountain Camp Meeting September 1/ At one time there was considerable hope of his recovery, but another attack has dissipated all hope.
Mr. Brown is 78 years old and has been a Methodist minister since 1860 and a member of the North Georgia Conference since 1869. He was graduated from the University of Georgia with honors in 1856. He represented the Nineteenth Senatorial District in the Georgia State Senate in 1865 to 1867. Aside from his ministerial duties, he has engaged largely in educational enterprises. Associated with Dr. O. L. Smith, he established a high school in Cartersville in 1867 and he has taught at various places in Georgia at other times. Besides these activities, he has engaged largely in agricultural pursuits. At one time he was the owner of the largest plantation in McDuffie county.
REV. FELIX P. BROWN
DIES AT SHARON, GA.

WAS METHODIST MINISTER FOR FIFTY YEARS.

Special to the Chronicle.
Sharon, Ga., Oct. 5. - Rev. Felix Persons Brown, an old and honored superannuated minister of the North Georgia Conference, died Sunday afternoon at his home here. Some weeks ago, while at Fountain Camp meeting, he experienced a stroke of paralysis, which grew on him until he succumbed to the disease.

He has been a Christian for over fifty-three years, a minister for fifty years, and intended celebrating his golden wedding November 24th, next. He was born November 11, 1832 and married, November 24, 1859, Miss Susan Levelace Kendrick, of Sharen, Ga.

He served several charges adjacent to Augusta and has been an intimate Methodist preacher since 1869.

His devoted wife survives him, besides two children, Dr. Lawrence R. Brown, of Sharen, Ga., and Mrs. Eugene A. Moore, of Atlanta; and ten grand-children.

The funeral took place at Sharen Monday afternoon with the following preachers officiating: Rev. Clement C. Cary, Rev. Henry J. Ellis, Rev. Arthur Chase Davidson, and Rev. W. B. Bessant.

----- Augusta Chronicle, Oct. 6(?), 1909.

REV. FELIX BROWN DEAD;
FUNERAL AT SHARON, GA.

One of Oldest Members of North Georgia Conference Dies Sunday Morning.

Sharon, Ga., Oct. 4. - Rev. F. F. Brown, after two weeks illness, died yesterday afternoon at his home in Sharon. He had been in the ministry of the North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church over fifty years, having charges in various sections of the state. He was an honor graduate of the University of Georgia in the class of 1856, in the active years of his life, he was interested in education, being one of the founders of the high school at Cartersville, Ga., and teacher in other sections of the state.

He leaves a widow and one son, Dr. L. R. Brown, of this place, and a daughter, Mrs. E. A. Moore, of Atlanta.

Atlanta Constitution.

REV. FELIX BROWN DIES.
FUNERAL SERVICES AT SHARON, GA.; THIS MORNING

Word was received in Atlanta yesterday of the death of Rev. Felix P. Brown a superannuated Methodist minister attached to the North Georgia Conference, whose death occurred Sunday afternoon at his home in Sharon, Ga. This word was received by his son-in-law, Eugene A. Moore, a prominent member of the Wesley Memorial Church of this city.

The funeral services will be conducted this morning and Rev. Clement C. Cary of Atlanta will officiate.
Mr. Brown had been a Methodist minister since 1860 and was one of the best known ministers, as well as among the oldest in point of service, attached to this conference. He had been superannuated for some years. He was about 76 years old. His death followed an attack of paralysis.

---------- Atlanta Newspaper Clipping. Oct. 4, 1909.----------