SOULE'S CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH - LUMPKIN MISSION - GAINESVILLE DISTRICT

NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE

Is located 15 miles north of Gainesville, Georgia on the old Gainesville and Dahlonega road, 1 mile north of Leathers' Ford on the Chestatee River. It is located in lower Lumpkin county in what was formerly the gold section of the Cherokee nation of Indians.

This church originated with the Indians and white settlers under missionary movement. The first building was used as church and school and was named Leathers' Ford Methodist Church. The original records are not recorded as there was no way to compile official records.

In 1820 Dr. Benjamin Morgan Smith came from Andover, Vermont, into this section. In 1830 he married and established his home at this location. His wife, being a teacher, soon was conducting a school in the church and from that date until about 1928 this church was the center of education and worship in lower Lumpkin County.

The Georgia Legislature on December 3, 1832 passed an act establishing Lumpkin County but it was 1833 before surveyors began to lay out any land lots.

The U. S. Government made a treaty with the Cherokee Indians in December of 1835. The last of the Indians left North Georgia in December of 1838.

Dr. Benjamin Morgan Smith obtained a deed to several land lots during the years of 1835 and after and the official title was put on record in Dahlonega, Georgia in 1835. The county having been established August, 1833, in this purchase Dr. Smith obtained a genuine title to the church property known as Leathers' Ford Church. There on May 2, 1840, Dr. Benjamin Morgan Smith for consideration of Love of God and Church Worship he made a warranty deed, with trust clause, to 5 acres of land to Isaac Doster, Benjamin W. Smith, William J. Rolarder, William Owenby, and William Boyd as
trustees of Leathers' Ford Church which included the old church, graveyard, and spring, and is the location on which church now stands.

A new church was built soon after this title was made and the name changed to "Soule's Chapel". It is still sound after more than a century. It is the oldest church building in Lumpkin County and the first continuous organization.

This information obtained from descendants of Dr. Benjamin Morgan Smith and documentary records, Dahlonega, Georgia.

W. H. Sosebee and Sam Martin are 1951 trustees of Soule's Chapel.

The Rev. W. H. Bowman is the present pastor.

June 22, 1951