

Church  
History

1977 - ~~Atkins~~ <sup>Atkins - Elberton</sup>  
Stinchcomb Methodist Church  
Downman Charge - Elbert County

by Mrs. John Roberts.

Stinchcomb church is almost as old as Methodism itself, being established Dec. 31, 1794, less than <sup>163 yrs</sup> twenty years after the birth of the nation.

The original building was a log structure with slave quarters and survived Sherman's march to the sea. The land was donated by a Mr. Stinchcomb for whom the church was named. The deed shows the lot to be a three-acre square with a path leading to and including a large spring.

The present building was

erected in 1876 during horseback days. The large porch roof was for the benefit of the ladies who wished to park their saddles during a rain.

The lighting facilities have progressed from candles and oil lamps to modern electric fixtures.

No marriages have occurred in the church in its history, but many romances have been fostered there.

In the early church religious fervor reached a high pitch and people literally "shouted and sang" praises <sup>to</sup> their Maker and Savior, while babies reposed on "pallets" between benches. People knelt to pray.

A long list of great men of God have served the church

as pastor, displaying exemplary courage, faith and patience in the inevitable "trials and tribulations" of a struggling rural church.

Many notables attended the church as "preacher's children", including Dr. Chas. L. Allen, Rev. L. F. Huckaby, and many, many others. Numerous pastors and their wives have left namesakes as well as good influences in the community.

At present (1951) all organizations of the church are functioning - the Sunday School, MYF and WSCA. \$600.00 was spent this year on restoration and repairs of the building.

Services in Stinchcomb have been virtually continuous since its establishment 157 years ago. The faith of our fathers gives pride in the past, inspiration for the present and challenge to the future.

Mrs. John Roberts  
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