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TALLULAH FALLS METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

SECTION ONE--Present Church History obtained from public documents and church records.

SECTION TWO--Previous Methodist Work obtained from oldest citizens of community.

HISTORIAN--W. H. Bowman, present pastor.

Tallulah Falls Methodist Church is located in Habersham County, Georgia, at Tallulah Falls, on school road, near Rabun County line, 500 feet south of U. S. Highway 23 and Georgia 441. The Methodist were holding services in an Episcopal Church and running a Union Sunday School until 1920 at which time Roy Etheridge, Methodist Pastor from Clayton, Georgia, came and organized the Church.

The Charter Members were--

Walter Hunnicutt	Wallace Ledbetter
Thelma Hunnicutt	Levis Seaborn
(Miss) Leila Hunnicutt	Wiley Pitts
(Mrs.) J. R. Taylor	(Mrs.) Willie Harvey
(Mrs.) Nell Osigian	(Mrs.) Joanna Atkins
(Mrs.) A. I. Ledbetter	(Mr. & Mrs.) T. B. Hicks
Cleo Ledbetter	(Dr. & Mrs.) Littlejohn
Henry Ledbetter	(Mr. & Mrs.) Demorest
	Hunnicutt

The Trustees were--

Wiley Pitts	Walter Hunnicutt	T. B. Hicks
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Mrs. B. A. Young Cartledge because of love for the South Methodist Church North Georgia Conference with Trust Clause, made deed to lot for church to the Trustees which is recorded in Public Records of Habersham County, Georgia, at Clarkesville, Georgia, in public records book Y. Y. page 84, on November 21, 1912. Also another from Joseph M. Cartledge made deed valued at \$1000.00 which is additional land to Wiley Pitts, T. B. Hicks, and Walter Hunnicutt, Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, Tallulah Falls, Georgia, is recorded in Habersham County, Georgia in

public records book A-9, page 125 on October 11, 1921, this deed has trust clause.

Tallulah Falls Methodist Church was built by its own initiative. Roe Mauldin was Secretary and Treasurer of the building committee. Mrs. A. L. Ledbetter and Mr. G. F. Smith were members of the building committee. The blue prints were drawn up by Mr. Griss of Atlanta and Mountain City, Georgia. The supervision was under the Pastor, Roy Etheridge. The Church stands on the land lot mentioned previously. It is clay tile veneer construction with a beautiful auditorium that seats 250 with two Sunday School rooms that can be opened seating 100.

Miss A. C. Davis, Principal, Tallulah Falls School gave the first \$100.00, Mrs. A. L. Ledbetter matched it. Calvo Lee, G. F. Smith, J. E. Harvey, Walter Hunnicutt, and many others were contributors. Georgia Power Company gave the church pews, Congressman Thomas Bell donated the bell, Mrs. Northcutt gave the first Bible, T. B. Hicks presented the first piano. The Church was started in 1922 and the first services were held in 1923.

Mrs. Walter Hunnicutt was the first Sunday School Superintendent which was at that time a Union Sunday School and was until 1937. He served from 1920 until his death in 1931. James Taylor 1931--1932. J. D. Chandler 1932--1942 until his death. Alex Davis 1942 until present 1953.

Sunday School Secretary and Treasurer, H. B. Ledbetter 1920--1937. There followed Keys Bowman, Jr., Tom Moss, and James Turpen until 1953.

The W. S. C. S. was organized under the direction of Miss Bert Winter at the Willard House in 1927. 18 ladies were present. Mrs. Fred Smith was elected president, serving in that capacity have been Mrs. B. I. Thornton, three years, Mrs. B. I. Scott one year, and Mrs. C. T. Hardeman to date. Mrs. Hardeman is chours director and her daughter, Patricia, is pianist. Other pianists have been--Ruth Ledbetter, Sarah Fincher, Mrs. S. G. Burgess.

In 1935 beneath the Church was excavated and rooms for classes, youth work, and socials were built. Supervising and donating time and money to this were K. N. Slayton, J. D. Chandler, Dr. C. T. Hardeman, J. W. Boker, S. C. Ayers, and H. B. Ledbetter.

Rev. Keys Bowman, Jr. is the Church's first Ministerial student, receiving his B. D. degree at Emory University in the Spring 1953.

The present pastor is Rev. W. H. Bowman. Former pastors are--Roy Etheridge 1920-1925

Nichols 1925-1926

E. B. Doster, Jr. 1926-1928

Bill Chappell 1928-1929

Calvin Smith & D. C. Patterson 1929-1931

G. M. Spivey 1931-1934

Hoke Sewell 1934-1936
 A. A. Phillips 1936-1940
 B. C. Matterson 1940-1942
 V. O. Gentry 1942-1946
 Arthur Chamblee 1946-1949
 James Oakley 1949-1950
 Sam Coker 1950-1952
 W. H. Bowman 1952-1953

The parsonage is owned by the Charge.

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SECTION TWO : METHODIST BEGININGS AT TALLULAH FALLS, Ga.

Tallulah Falls began as a resort section, many hotels being developed and maintained until destroyed by fire 1920-1923. One hotel saved and a new motel is now in operation.

The earliest Christian worship at Tallulah Falls was by the Methodist ministers. Notably Billy Wood, a methodist held a revival in the Cliff Hall of the hotel 1880-1882. Preaching was done on lawns of hotels and at homes of citizens until 1884 the Methodist established Powell Chapel, which was used a Church and School for the Community for a number of years. Methodist ministers preaching at Powell Chapel were Wood- Powell- George Gary from 1894 to 1900 live here in the Garson House and held regular services. Later Baptist minister came and Union services was held.

In 1918 A. P. Watkins a Methodist with two other preachers came and ran a series of evangelistic meetings in a Lodge Hall and received a number of Methodist members. This group moved preaching service to the Episcopal Church and soon there developed a union church school which continued until 1923 the Methodist moved in their new and present Church.

In September 25, 1924 the Methodist sold Powell Chapel to the Baptist Church. The deed is recorded at Clayton Georgia public record Book D 2 Page 242.