A HISTORICAL SKETCH OF WESLEY CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH
LA FAYETTE, GEORGIA

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BY:
Mrs. John G. Veach
The earliest history of Wesley Chapel is lost in Antiquity. After much research, many questions and answers, the following data has been assembled.

One John McDonald, an itinerant Methodist preacher came to Walker County, Cane Creek District some time after 1838. He located on present Highway No. 27, half way between Trion and LaFayette. He acquired a farm, (presently owned by Mrs. P. W. Harris and R. C. Junkins.) Since there was no methodist church nearer than LaFayette, Mr. McDonald set about to build a church. It was a log building, a few feet south of present church and faced west. The public road was between the church and cemetery, which Mr. McDonald later established. The church was the usual log cabin style, with two very narrow front doors. The preacher despised hoop skirts and made the doors narrow to discourage the ladies from wearing hoops.

Mr. McDonald was the first preacher in the log church and apparently preached there until he moved to Naomi community east of LaFayette. That might have been about 1870. Rev. Tom Edwards was last preacher in the log church. Some other preachers were Reverends E Lupo, Timmons, Odum and Christian.

The new and present church was built about 1884-1885. During the years the McDonald farm was acquired by Overton Harris and Jeremiah Burns. Mr. Harris getting the north half of the farm. The membership of the church acquired an acre of land from Mr. Harris for "consideration of $1.00". The deed was made August 7, 1885 and recorded in LaFayette Court House, March 14, 1887, Deed Book 2, page 465. The deed contains Trust Clause. The first trustees were H. L. Duncan, W. L. Sprayberry, J. A. Wilson, Jeremiah Burns, and Overton Harris.

The logs for the new church were both donated and purchased, and had to be hauled to Waterville to a saw mill. The early families were the Poes, Bakers Murrays, Partains, Lowerys, T
Thomas, Parkers and some others. The first preacher in the new church was the Reverend Ballenger. During the years, the following list is partially correct, Reverends Thomas, Bonds, Quillan, Verdell, Collie, Wiggins, Crawley, Harrison, Sprayberry, Ward, Neal, Giett, Rumble, Ray, Stephenson, Hunton, Carl Jackson, Norris King, Tom Crosby and the present preacher is Charles C. Hendrix.

The church has been a part of several circuits including Trion, Summerville, Chelsea, Sublime, Rock Springs and LaFayette. In late years, a brick foundation has been built, opaque windows installed, painting both inside and outside and a new full floor put down.

The parsonage is located at 906 South Chattanooga Street, LaFayette.

The Sunday School has been functioning from 1900, or earlier. The late Mr. W. L. Lowery was instrumental in keeping the interest alive for many years.

The salary paid the early preachers was about $75 per year. Present salary is $400. The missionary money was quite low, present conference claims amount to $82. Since the earliest register cannot be found, it is impossible to give exact figures and names in all cases.

We are largely indebted to the late Mr. W. C. Bums and the late Mr. W. F. Lowery for their remembrances about Wesley Chapel, which the writer compiled in 1933.