

History of Wesley Chapel (Paulding Circuit)

The following article appeared in the Villa Rica, Georgia newspaper in 1891 on September 20 and was written by M. S. Williams, pastor at the time. "In 1854, W. J. Wardlaw and M. W. Arnold were on the Carrollton circuit. During the year they organized a Methodist Church, named Wesley Chapel, about three and a half miles north of (Villa Rica.) Soon after the church was organized, and during the same year, a house was built, which remained until 1890, when it was torn down, and a new one begun. The new house is now completed, and it was dedicated recently.

A short time before the church was organized, some of the Arnolds and Turners, of Middle Georgia, moved into the community, and they were among the first and most prominent members of the new church. They were Methodists before they left Middle Georgia, and as soon as they could do so built them a church of that denomination near their new homes. Among those that came from Middle Georgia to Carroll county were Asbury C. Arnold and family, James R. Turner
(over)

and family, and Thomas Turner and family. These all united with the new church.

The first trustees were Asbury C. Arnold, James R. Turner, Larkin W. Davis, Thomas Turner and family Josiah Tolbert. Asbury C. Arnold was a son of William Arnold, of the Georgia Conference, and a brother to M. W. Arnold of the North Georgia Conference.

James R. Turner was the father of William S. Turner, of the Georgia Conference. Larkin W. Davis was a brother to C. C. Davis, a popular local preacher of Atlanta. Thomas Turner, brother of James R. Turner, was a local preacher. He died before the church was completed, and was buried July 4, 1854, at the graveyard near the church, his grave being the first ever dug in the grave-yard. Many have been buried there since.

Allow a digression. Among those that sleep in the old grave-yard are "Uncle" Claiborn Russell, one of the purest and best men that ever lived in this section. He was a member

of the Georgia Conference and of the North Georgia Conference for fifty-two years. His body sleeps at Wesley Chapel, while his spirit shouts in the conference above. A grand old man was he.

Wesley Chapel has given two preachers to the itinerancy. William S. Turner joined the Georgia Conference in 1854, the year the church was organized. In 1867, he transferred to Alabama. In 1878, he located. He died at Fort Valley, Ga., March 14, 1891. He was a good man and a useful preacher.

J. T. W. Miller, a member of the West Texas Conference, and at present stationed at Llano, Texas, was converted and joined the church at Wesley Chapel.

About two miles from this church, that prince among young preachers, Dr. W. A. Candler, first saw the light of earth.

For many years Wesley Chapel stood still. At times there were symptoms of death. In the beginning of 1890, her members were few. That year the Rev. S. R. Belk was in charge (over)

of the Villa Rica circuit, and Wesley Chapel belonged to the circuit. But what was Wesley Chapel? The house was old, the members few, and the prospects gloomy. But the preacher was full of faith and the Holy Ghost. He went to work with all of his power consecrated to the service of the Lord. God blessed his efforts. A wonderful revival was the result. About sixty members joined the church. The old members took on new life. A new church must be built. The money was subscribed, the work begun, and now it is about finished. The house is 40 x 60. It is the best country church in the Rome district. On the third Sunday in September the new church was dedicated. An immense crowd was present. Rev. S. R. Belk, the popular pastor of Payne's Chapel, Atlanta, preached the sermon, and dedicated the house. The sermon was an able one and fully sustained the reputation of the preacher."

At the time of the building of the second church at Wesley Chapel,

in 1891, the only member of the original Church living and belonging to the church was Mary A. Turner, the widow of James R. Turner. Marcus C. Turner and Richard Hannah joined the year the church was organized, 1854.

Trustees of Wesley Chapel in 1891: Marcus C. Turner, Richard Hannah, Joseph R. Green, E. Thomas Camps, and John F. Smith.

Building Committee of the church in 1891: Marcus C. Turner, Richard Hannah, E. Thomas Camps, John F. Smith, and Richard P. Roberts.

Principal members in 1891: Marcus C. Turner and family; Richard Hannah and family; Joseph R. Green and family; E. Thomas Camps and family; John F. Smith and family; Id. Martin Smith and family; Samuel N. Meeks and family. Marcus C. Turner was a son of James R. Turner, one of the first members of the church.

Names of preachers on charge and presiding elders who have had charge of Wesley Chapel since its organization in 1854.

	Preachers in Charge	Presiding Elders
1854	W. J. Wardlaw	John C. Simmons
"	W. W. Arnold	"
1855	Claiborn Trussell	"
"	Peter Groover	"
1856	Thomas Boning	Samuel Anthony
1857	"	"
1858	W. W. Arnold	"
1859	John W. Brady	W. H. Evans
"	S. A. Clark	"
1860	J. W. Brady	"
1861	J. L. Lupo	J. B. Smith
1862	J. L. Lupo	"
1863	John Murphey	"
1864	"	"
1865	David Strippling	J. B. Mc Gehee
1866	W. C. Dunlap	"
1867	"	"
1868	Claiborn Trussell	L. J. Davies
1869	R. R. Johnson	G. W. Yarbrough
1870	J. N. Meyers	P. W. Keyburn
1871	"	"
1872	"	J. A. Kimbell
1873	Sanford Leak	J. F. Pierce
1874	Sanford Leak	W. F. Cook
1875	J. Chambers	W. P. Pledger
1876	F. F. Reynolds	"

1877	F. F. Reynolds	S. P. Richardson
1878	O. J. Weeks	" "
1879	O. J. Weeks	" "
1880	Britton Sanders	" "
1881	" "	W. F. Glenn
1882	O. C. Simmons	" "
1883	S. H. Braswell	J. R. Mayson
1884	" "	W. D. Anderson
1885	" "	" "
1886	J. R. Smith	" "
1887	" "	W. F. Glenn
1888	J. M. Sewell	" "
1889	" "	" "
"	J. F. Bryce Ast.	" "
1890	S. R. Belk	" "
1891	M. S. Williams	W. P. Lovejoy
1892	M. S. Williams	W. P. Lovejoy
1893	M. S. Williams	J. T. Gibson
1894	J. T. Curtis	G. W. Williams
1895	Fletcher Walton	G. W. Williams
1896	Fletcher Walton	G. W. Williams
1897	Fletcher Walton	M. J. Cofer
1898	Fletcher Walton	M. J. Cofer
1899	C. M. Verdell	J. J. Christian
1900	D. M. Edwards	J. J. Christian
1901	D. M. Edwards	W. F. Glenn
1902	M. S. Williams	W. F. Glenn

1903	M. S. Williams
1904	M. S. Williams
1905	Loy Warwick
1906	Loy Warwick
1907	J. M. Elliott
1908	J. M. Elliott
1909	D. P. Braswell
1910	D. P. Braswell
1911	D. P. Braswell
1912	D. P. Braswell
"	R. R. Tucker
"	T. A. Chambers
1913	J. J. Owen
1914	D. P. Braswell
1915	" " "
1916	J. A. Chandler
1917	Marvin Swilling
1918	Marvin Swilling & J. J. Hix
1919	Jesse W. Veatch
1920	" " "
1921	" " "
1922	A. E. Silvey
1923	A. E. Silvey
1924	T. P. Dean
1925	D. W. Hamilton
1926	D. W. Hamilton
1927	T. H. Maxwell

W. R. Foote
W. R. Foote & M. J. Cofer
S. B. Ledbetter
S. B. Ledbetter
S. B. Ledbetter
S. B. Ledbetter
Jno. S. Jenkins
Jno. S. Jenkins
Jno. S. Jenkins
W. B. Dillard
" "
" "
J. H. Eakes
W. N. Cooper
" " "
J. H. Eakes
J. R. King
J. R. King
J. R. King
" " "
W. J. Irvine
W. J. Irvine
" " "
" " "
J. P. Erwin
J. P. Erwin
J. P. Erwin

1928	D. B. Henderson	J. P. Erwin
1929	D. B. Henderson	D. L. King
1930	D. B. Henderson	D. L. King
1931	D. W. Davis	D. L. King
1932	R. W. Green	D. L. King
1933	R. W. Green	J. W. O. McKibben
1934	R. W. Green	J. W. O. McKibben
1935	G. E. Barton	J. W. O. McKibben
1936	G. E. Barton	J. W. O. McKibben
1937	J. K. Kelley	H. C. Holland
1938	J. K. Kelley	H. C. Holland
1939	J. K. Kelley	H. C. Holland
1954	Walter Jarboe	Dr. J. Henry Barton
1955	" "	"
1956	" "	"
1957	Ralph Broome	"
1958	" "	"
1959	" "	"
1960	Charles W. Barnes	R. Parks Segars
1961	" "	" "
1962	Harnie E. Bickers	" " "
"	Charles R. Thomas Ast.	" " "