The Woodstock Church is the youngest church of the Woodstock Charge, and it might be said it was born on the wing of progress. The church was organized in 1888 after the Marietta and Northern Railroad was built from Marietta to Canton, through territory of what was then the post office of Woodstock, on a stage coach route. Woodstock soon grew into a thriving village.

The church building is located west of the highway in the center of town, was completed and first used for service April 13, 1889, with M. S. Williams, preacher in charge, and Rev. W. F. White, presiding Elder.

A history of the church life of Woodstock would not be complete without a record of the pioneer families and ministers of the Woodstock Baptist and Presbyterian Churches. The newly organized Methodist Church worshiped in the Baptist Church house until a Methodist Church home could be built. Down through the years the fellowship and cooperation of the three Woodstock churches has been a united force for the cause of Christ. The blood of all three creeds of the Woodstock churches runs through the veins of this historian.

The first available records found were in Conference Journals 1876-1879, the years the North Georgia Conference was getting organized. The Cherokee Mission was then in the South Carolina Conference, Gainesville, District, Canton Circuit. 1889 record showed Woodstock Church organized and in the Woodstock Circuit, in the North Atlanta District.

Charter members were: Mr. & Mrs. John P. Boring and children - Maude Boring Goskin, Dr. James Boring, Mrs. Lula Boring Dean, Villa Boring Benson, Alma Boring Perkinson, John and Dave.
Mrs. Nancy Haney and children - David Haney, Maggie Haney (Mrs. John McAfee), Miss Carrie Haney, Jannie Haney (Mrs. Jess Millwood).
Rev. Robert Ithamer Johnson.
John H. Johnston, founder and president of the J. H. Johnston Company since 1888 and the Bank of Woodstock founded in 1905, played a vital part in the early growth and development of southern Cherokee County. Mr. Johnston was a charter member of Woodstock Methodist Church and gave generously of his time and means to the organization and promotion of it. The doors of his and Mrs. Johnston's home were ever open to ministers, church workers, and friends. He served as Board Chairman, Steward, Trustee, Sunday School Superintendent and Teacher practically all of his life. He was followed in the above duties by his son, Smith L. Johnson, Sr., who wore his father's mantle with a distinction of loyalty and love. He too gave of his time and means to his church. Smith L., Sr., served forty years as Sunday School Superintendent and many years as Conference Lay Leader. He was elected a delegate to the General Conference six consecutive times. His purpose was - "The service of Christ is the BUSINESS of my life.
The will of Christ is the LAW of my life.
The presence of Christ is the JOY of my life.
The glory of Christ is the CROWN of my life".

Another son, the late Hugh Lee Johnston, gave valiant service as Sunday School Superintendent and as a Local Supply Minister. Miss Carrie Haney served as Sunday School Superintendent. J. M. Latham and Joseph B. Hawkins were Stewards and Sunday School Superintendents. Sam R. Dawson, has served as Steward, Trustee, and Sunday School Teacher. Mrs. Sam R. Dawson, "Miss Georgia", with her wit and ability as a leader, gave far-reaching service in both the W. S. C. S. and the children's work.

Pierce Butler Latimer, Sr., was known far and near, for the inspiration he imparted to others in his singing of gospel hymns. Mrs. P. B. Latimer, Sr., was a noted treble singer. Their sons - Will, Tom, Pierce B. Jr., Harry. Their daughters - Mary Lou (Mrs. Ford McRee), Grace (Mrs. W. L. Dupree), Martha (Mrs. Emmett Carpenter) - were also singers of note.

Woodstock Church is built on approximately 3/4 acre of land, valued at time of construction at $3,600.00. Parsonage for circuit was built on 1 1/2 acres of land facing Main Street in 1889. H. M. Strozier was Preacher in charge. Parsonage was a gift of Thomas D. Evans and built by W. L. Dupree. Deeds for both church and parsonage contain Trust Clause and are recorded in Clerk of Court's Office of Cherokee County, Canton, Georgia, in Book C. C. of Deeds on Page 322 and kept in vault of J. H. Johnston Co. Value of church and parsonage is approximately $3,750.00. The parsonage was burned in 1921 while G. W. Gober was preacher in charge, was rebuilt in 1922, A. P. Watkins, preacher in charge, by John Hillhouse and Sam R. Dawson.
Woodstock has kept pace with the times of modernizing their church for comfort and efficiency. Rev. W. P. King preached and took collection to do the first church improvement in 1924. Sunday School rooms and basement were added and outside walls brick veneered. Bishop Warren D. Candler preached and dedicated the church in August 1924. Electric lights were installed in church in 1925. An Esty organ, a memorial to Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Johnston, by their children, was put in church in 1947. The Esty organ was replaced by a new Wurlitzer organ in April 1956. The new organ is also a memorial to Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Johnston and the late Smith L. Johnston, Sr.

The church was remodeled in 1953. Kitchen, rest rooms and running water were put in church. Miller Barnes of "Finch and Barnes", Atlanta architects, redesigned the building and was in charge of the work. The new furniture for church pulpit was a memorial to the late Smith L. Johnston, Sr., from Mrs. Johnston and her children, Smith L. Jr., Harold, Richard, and William Johnston. Sacramental Service was given by Sam R. Dawson and children, James L. Dawson and Sarah Dawson Parr, as memorial to wife and mother, Mrs. Sam R. Dawson. Pulpit Bible was given as memorial to the late Hugh Lee Johnston by Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hull of Acworth. Baptismal Service was given as memorial to the late Hugh Lee Johnston, Sr. by wife and children, Lt. Colonel Hugh Lee Johnston, Jr., Air Force Pentagon, Washington, D. C., Misses Jane and Patricia Johnston, Mrs. Jane Jones, Robert, Joe and Lynn Johnston. Choir Robes were a gift from Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Green as a memorial to their late daughter, lovely Hazle Amanda Green. A monetary gift to be known as the "Hazle A. Green Memorial, to be used in the field of missions was established by the West Atlanta District Woman's Society of Christian Service. Lights, running water, and bath room were put in parsonage in 1939, Rev. W. F. Lunsford was pastor in charge. Gas heat was installed in parsonage in 1954, Rev. G. Ross Freeman pastor.

Harry Sellers is Superintendent of Woodstock Sunday School. The enrollment is 104 with the following classes: "Smith L. Johnston Bible Class", Mrs. Albert Poor, Teacher and Mrs. Charles Hendrix, Assistant Teacher, both give a challenging leadership; "Senior Young People's Class", Lloyd Hampton, trained in religious education is teacher; Wesley Fellowship Class, Miss Martha Johnson teacher and outstanding for spiritual leadership; "Intermediate Class", Mrs. Evelyn Whitmire Chambers, consecrated and thorough in her work; "Junior Class", Jane Johnston, teacher, versatile and faithful youth worker; "Primary Boys, V. T. Ingram, teacher, holds the interest of his group as he brings Bible truths to them; "Primary Girls", Patricia Hubbard, teacher, and holds attention of her class; "Kindergarten", Ruth Williams (Mrs. Bernard Pyle) gifted in working with children; "Nursery", Jane Howard, kind and gentle with little children.
Union Bible Schools were first held by Rev. Stephen J. Sloop at the Presbyterian Church in 1934, 1935, and 1936. The Methodist and Baptist gladly joined in and the schools were so successful that all churches were soon having their own large schools. Even Little River and Bascomb, the country churches of the Woodstock Charge, have good enrollments and splendid schools.

There was a Parsonage Aid Society in the eighteen and nineties. The Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Woodstock Episcopal Church, South, was organized June 15, 1906 by Rev. Olin King. The constitution was read and adopted. The following were the ten charter members: Mrs. H. N. Kemp, Mrs. J. W. Latham (Life Member), Mrs. W. L. Dupree (Life Member), Mrs. T. E. Datimer, Mrs. O. W. Johnson, Mrs. J. E. Wright, Mrs. Olin King, Mrs. W. S. Kelley, Mrs. J. E. Johnston, Miss Florine Dial (Mrs. Smith Johnston, Sr.). Mrs. W. L. Dupree was elected president, and Mrs. J. M. Latham, Secretary and Treasurer. The society has gone steadily forward always paying pledge and meeting all obligations. Present active members of Woodstock W. S. C. S.; Mrs. Albert Poor, President, (Life Member), Mrs. Edgar Poor, Secretary (Life Member), Mrs. W. L. Dupree (Life Member), Mrs. Smith Johnston, Vice-President (Life Member), Mrs. Vernon Green, Secretary Missionary Education (Life Member), Miss Ires Dobbs, Promotion Secretary (Life Member), Mrs. Charles Hendrix, Mrs. V. T. Ingram, Christian Social Relations Local Church Activities, Mrs. Fanny Hunter, Flowers & Cards, Mrs. Gordon Williams, Literature and Publications, Mrs. Arch McCluskey, Jr., Youth Work, Mrs. Ray McCluskey, Spiritual Life, Mrs. Tom Hardman, Secretary, Mrs. Gilbert Brooks, Mrs. Arth Bate, Miss Millie Anglin, Mrs. Armada Reeves, Parsonage Committee. Late dearly beloved members and Mrs. Edna McCleskey Haney, Mrs. Ford McRee (Life Member), Mrs. Sam R. Dawson (Life Member), Mrs. J. H. Johnston, Mrs. Nancy Kemp, Mrs. P. B. Latimer, Sr.

On March 14, 1944, Mrs. Smith L. Johnston, Sr., invited Miss Bert Winter, a Methodist Deaconess, Mrs. V. B. Hamrick, and Mrs. Vernon T. Ingram, Sr. and a group of young business girls to her home for supper. The purpose being to perfect the organization of a Wesleyan Service Guild. Miss Winter led a beautiful devotional and outlined the rules and regulations of the Guild work and served as Chairman for the election of officers, as follows: President, Marie Moorhead, Vice-President, Martha Johnson, Recording Secretary, Evelyn Whitmire, Corresponding Secretary, Elizabeth Morris, Treasurer, Jane Johnston. The committee chairmen were selected. Miss Winter then directed some enjoyable games. The Guild started out with ten charter members, paying a pledge of $20.00 per year and clothing a child at the Decatur Orphan's Home. In 1955 and 1956 they had 23 members and paid over $400.00 pledge and projects they subscribed to. Mrs. Smith Johnston, Sr., has always been W. S. G. Counselor. Guild Officers for 1956-1957 are: President, Miss Jessie Chapman, Vice-President, Miss Ethel Thomas, Secretary, Mrs. Glenn Medley, Treasurer, Mrs. Rachel Chandler, Promotion Secretary, Miss Sara Lee King, Spiritual Life, Miss Martha Johnson, Missionary Education, Mrs. Evelyn Whitmire Chambers, Christian Social Relations and Local Church Activities, Mrs. Bernard Pyle, Membership, Mrs. Martha Freeman, Publicity, Mary Zell Padget, Recreation, Pat Johnston, Parsonage, Mrs. Louise Poor, Flowers, Mrs. Ruth Hubbard, Cards, Mrs. Mary Sellers, Status of Women, Jane Johnston, Mrs. Hardy DeLay.
One of the outstanding factors of the Woodstock Methodist Church through the years, has been the role the young people have played in its development and growth. Dear to the hearts of every one was the Epworth League, which was the stepping-stone to the Methodist Youth Fellowship. That was organized in 1936. Harold Johnston was the first President and Sara Dawson Parr was the first Counselor, and served until she married and moved away. Mrs. Parr was succeeded by Miss Martha Johnson, who served for approximately 20 years with a matchless leadership. Mr. & Mrs. Arch McClesky are the present President and Counselor. The Youth Fellowship is active in all work of the church, programs, pioneered in organizing Sub-District for youth and Christian Adventure Camps. Each year a good number go to Camp Glisson. A number of leaders of our church today are indebted to Methodist Youth Fellowship for training they have received through it.

The children's work was organized in 1934 by Mrs. Georgia C. Dawson, who served efficiently until ill health forced her to resign. She was succeeded by Miss Ruth Williams who gave matchless service for approximately ten years and was followed by Mrs. Lloyd Hampton, trained in Religious Education and a tireless worker. By the constructive service and loyalty of the leaders through the years, great strides have been made in the Children's Work, and it is felt that in the near future adequate facilities will be provided for the growth of this department. Growing out of the above work, a Children's Circle, named for the late Mrs. Mary McRee, under the auspices of the W. S. C. S, was organized and is now known as the Additional Session. This too provided excellent training for our children. A number of our church leaders today are indebted to youth fellowship for their training.

Professional men and teachers from the Woodstock Church: James Newton Barnes, Civil Engineer; Miller Barnes, member of firm of Finch and Barnes Architects, Atlanta; Pierce Latimer, banker and business man of Marietta; Joseph E. Johnston, State Senator and bank President; Smith Johnston, Jr. business man; T. E. Latimer, Marietta Attorney; Jack H. Johnston, Tampa, Fla. Attorney; Hugh Lee Johnston, Jr., Lt. Col. Air Force Pentagon, Washington, D. C.; James L. Dawson, retired business man; Rev. Ithamer Johnson; Dr. James Boring, Canton, Ga; Katherine Haney (Mrs. Dewey Switzer); Mary Lee Haney (Mrs. Leon Howell); Elizabeth Haney (Mrs. Daniel Clemens); Florine Dial (Mrs. Smith Johnston, Sr.). Sarah Frances Dial (Mrs. Spear Ramsey); Laurel Hardman (Mrs. Lloyd Hampton); Louise Lathem (music) Mrs. Henry Hicks, Valdosta; Grace McRee (Mrs. Leon Spear); singer, Gainesville; Louise Dobbs, singer, New York; Mrs. Vernon Green, Mrs. Philip Kemp, Jr., Mrs. Albert Poor, Sara Dawson (Mrs George Parr); Mrs. Charles Hendrix; Mrs. Wylie Dobbs, Jr.; Mrs. Thomas Hardman; Eleanor Hendrix (Mrs. Hugh Cunningham), Mary Alice Dupree (Mrs. Frank Tigner); Elizabeth Dupree (Mrs. Paul Osborn)
Myriam Dupree (Mrs. Paul Dobson); Myrla Dupree (Mrs. Terry Strozier); Nellie Scott Latimer (Mrs. Charles Sowell); Mary Latimer (Mrs. Edward Megathlin); Andy Johnston, an able Bible scholar.

At the end of the 1956 Conference year, Woodstock Church will again take another forward step. The Quarterly Conference held at Woodstock, April 29th, passed a resolution making Woodstock a station church and Little River and Bascomb a charge. This will be carried out at the Methodist Annual Conference when it meets in Athens, Ga., June 19, 1956.

A history of the church life of Woodstock would not be complete without a record of the pioneer families and ministers of the Woodstock Baptist and Presbyterian Churches.

The newly organized Methodist church worshiped in the Baptist Church house until a Methodist Church home could be built. Down through the years the fellowship and cooperation of the three Woodstock Churches has been a united force for the cause of Christ. The blood of all three creeds of the Woodstock Churches run through the veins of this historian.


Woodstock Charge has had able pastors, who have given forceful spiritual leadership. We have loved them and been helped by their service. Our present pastor, Rev. and Mrs. John B. Ward, are doing a fine job of service and very much loved and appreciated.

The physical properties of the churches of the Woodstock Circuit reflect a witnessing for Christ that is rendering a real service to the kingdom of God. My relation as historian has been a gratifying experience. The one outstanding practice in the churches seems to be giving every member a job so as to help them feel that they are a part of the church organization, that the church to which they belong is theirs and in Woodstock Circuit, it is paying off.
"The Woodstock Methodist Church possesses a shining light in the form of a Christian character, none other than Martha Johnson, we liken her unto the biblical character of Ruth as we think of her following her Godly grandparents, Rev. & Mrs. R. I. Johnson.

In her field of church activities, she has performed many duties. Some of these are young adult Sunday School class teacher, counselor of the young people of church and sub-district counselor, past president of Wesleyan Service Guild and choir member.

The Martha we know possesses a vocabulary comparable to Webster, with the exception of the word 'No' - which she never uses or seems to know the meaning. Never too tired, never too busy, never too indifferent but that Martha can always help if the occasion arises, or the person appears in the need of counseling. No greater joy could be experienced than to live the life of Martha so beautifully exemplified in the poem of Sam Walter Foss - 'Let me live beside the road and be a friend to man'. (Written by Mrs. Hugh Lee Johnston, Sr.)

Rev. Robert Ithamar Johnson

Robert Ithamar Johnson was born May 4, 1870. He was licensed to preach July 1907; ordained deacon by Bishop McCoy, November 24, 1912; ordained elder by Bishop Candler, Nov. 26, and into full connection November 1928. For 26 years he served pastorates in the North Georgia Conference until his sudden death at Sugar Valley, Georgia, December 21, 1934. Funeral services were held at Woodstock Methodist Church, his childhood church and of which he was a charter member until he entered the full time ministry. Rev. George L. King writes of R. I. Johnson as follows in the Memoirs of Annual Conference, 1935: "He that winneth souls is wise". R. I. Johnson was one of the wise men of his generation. He was not wise in the methods of the seminary, he was not learned after the fashion of the schools, but he was an efficient and fruitful winner of souls.

He heard the Master say, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" and he took him seriously. Having been denied the privilege of academic training in his youth, he would not be denied the privilege of preaching the Gospel of Grace.

His fellowship with Christ, his confidence in the power of the Spirit, and his persuasive power in presenting Christ to others placed him among the great and gifted sons of God.

Tender in the home, true in his friendship, loyal to his church, he was a pastor to the children of men. The devoted Methodist circuit rider is at home and it is my opinion that he feels at home in any group of saints in that celestial city.
"O City dreamed in early youth!
O city loved till day was late!
No braver pilgrim of the Truth
Has ever entered through thy shining gate".

R. I. Johnson was the son of Rev. William Jefferson Johnson. He served in many capacities the churches of the Woodstock Circuit.

Hazel Amanda Green

At this time it is fitting that we pay tribute to a loyal member and outstanding leader of this group. Hazel Amanda Green, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Green, whose span of life was from January 10, 1943 to January 5, 1956. Hazel joined the Woodstock Methodist Church at an early age and was supremely happy in her active service of it. She was president of the Intermediate Fellowship Group at the time of her untimely death and was doing a magnificent work. Only God knows and time will tell the influence for good this one life so shortly lived, yet so nobly, will bring. Hazel was an excellent student and received the Good Citizenship Award in the sixth grade.

"The Soul of a Child"

"The soul of the child is the loveliest flower,
That grows in the garden of God,
It climbs from weakness to knowledge and power
To the sky from the clay and the sod.
To beauty and sweetness it grown under care,
Neglected 'tis ragged and wild.
'Tis a plant that is tender and wonderously rare
The sweet wistful soul of a child.
Be tender, O gardner and give it its share
Of moisture, of warmth, and of light
And let it not lack for painstaking care,
To protect it from frost and from blight.
A glad day shall come when its bloom shall unfold
It will seem that an angel has smiled,
Reflecting a beauty and sweetness untold,
In the sensitive soul of a child,
In the breast of a bulb is a promise of spring
In the little blue egg is a bird that will sing,
In the soul of the seed is the hope of the sod
In the soul of a child is the kingdom of God."
The life of the ambassadors of the Kingdom of God was not easy in the days of young America. We have been awed as we traced the presence of God's Almighty Hand guiding and helping at each new step of the long and uncharted road.

America is really God's own creation. May His creative hand always guide and bless our efforts. We are thankful to all our predecessors whose gift of life and possessions made this heritage not only possible but full beyond any one person's dreams.

The spiritual zeal with which all pastors made their plans for revival meetings was indeed impressive. Some results were as follows:
(This excludes records of approximately twenty years which were destroyed in a parsonage fire.)

Rev. H. M. Strozier - 1889

The progress of the church has been most gratifying the past few months. There has been a general quickening of the membership and many have been converted and added to the church. Rev. E. M. Stanton was with us at Woodstock for fifteen days during July in a tent meeting. The church was anxious for a revival and joined in heartily with the preacher and other workers. The result of the meeting was the revival of the church and the conversion of quite a number out of the church. The meeting at Bascomb followed the Woodstock meeting. It has rarely been my privilege to attend a meeting where the evidence of the Spirit's pressure was so plain.

Many of the Woodstock members went from Woodstock to the Bascomb meeting, so there was no time spent building up. Many had been seeking religion at Woodstock who were converted at Bascomb. The Bascomb
meeting in a large measure was a continuation of the good work at Woodstock.

Our meeting at Woodstock reached many of the Little River people. One of the most encouraging features of the meeting was the action taken by the young people. Since the Woodstock meeting, the boys of the town and community have kept up a weekly prayer meeting.

The Little River Camp Meeting was interesting and profitable. The attendance was large and the attention good. Brothers J. W. Quillian, J. N. Snow, W. F. Robinson and R. W. Rodgers did the preaching. We expect a harvest for good from the seed sowing of these brethren. The people are greatly encouraged from the result of the meetings.

Not the least of the good things which a kind providence has given, we are glad to report a splendid new pastorage in the process of erection. This was the gift of Thomas D. Evans. The Woodstock Charge was the first man to stay on for three years.

Rev. M. S. Williams was very happy for his Woodstock flock when their church home could first be used for service on April 13, 1889.

Rev. W. F. Colley - 1891

Rev. Colley spoke of personal responsibility of church members, but was grateful to God that there was no unusual conduct among church members during the Christmas Holidays.

Rev. W. O. Butler - 1896 (3rd Quarterly Report)

Rev. P. L. Stanton, Sunday School agent and General W. M. Philips of Marietta did good service at Little River Camp Ground in helping promote Sunday School Rallies. Rev. W. S. William of the State Association promoted rallies at Woodstock on the fourth of July that will be of lasting good in arousing interest and increased attendance.

One protracted meeting has been held. The Woodstock Church has enjoyed a season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.
presence of the Spirit has been felt and it is said to have been the
greatest meeting in the history of the Church. There were many con-
versions and the church was lifted to a higher plane.

4th Quarterly Report - 1896

We have had good meetings at all churches. Some have been penta-
costal and episcopal in character and results. With a feeling of sincere
gratitude to God for the revival power that has rested upon the churches
during this quarter, we present this the Fourth Quarterly Report.

The Sixes Meeting in August was one of great power and is said
to have been the greatest revival meeting in that community in the
past ten years. There were bright and happy conversions and recla-
mations. The meeting at Lebanon was also of great interest and profit.
There was not a church building in the community that was adequate for
the crowds that eagerly came. Trouble in the Church was buried and
great joy was felt on that account. Sixty nine members were added to
the churches. Much was done in the conversion of souls and reclamation
of back-siders. Much remains to be done in the extension of the King-
dom in the matter of self denial and cross bearing religion.

Rev. H. C. Emory - 1908

Rev. Emory was especially interested in instructing the children
in his term on the Woodstock circuit.

Rev. George L. King - 1914

Rev. King reported in 1914 that we have just closed a most gracious
meeting at Ebenezer with 16 members added to the church.
Rev. George P. Carey - 1931

We have just closed a very gracious union tent meeting at Woodstock. Rev. Joe Thrailkill did most of the preaching but the presiding Elder Rev. Marvin Williams preached four times while Rev. Thrailkill was ill. This meeting was spoken of as one of the greatest meetings ever to be held in Woodstock. A Baptist member thought the town to be in the best spiritual condition in 30 years.


We have had our revival at Little River Church. It was the best revival the pastor was ever in. Twenty four new members were received into the church. Woodstock, Bascomb and Ebeneser all had gracious revivals and large additions to church memberships. The pastor knows every church on the charge is in a healthy spiritual condition. The year has been a pleasant one.

Rev. Strozier was the first man to remain on the Woodstock Charge for three years.

Rev. W. S. Robinson and many other ministers spoke of the need of a revival of religion in our midst to overcome the indifference of the people.

Rev. L. L. Burch coveted the sympathetic support and earnest prayers of all of God's people in the extension of His Kingdom.

Reverends G. F. Cantrell, Oscar Green, Burch Fannin, Ross Freeman, and Robert Vaughn gave valiant service to the Woodstock Charge as pastors.

At the meeting of the North Georgia Annual Conference in Athens, Ga. on June 17, 1936 Woodstock Church was made a station work, with Rev. John B. Ward as pastor. Bascomb and Little River Churches were made a Charge
with Rev. Dowain McKiou as pastor.

The tread of the footsteps of the past is ended and we look forward to the future of Little River, Bascomb and Woodstock Methodist Churches with faith and confidence.

"AMERICA"

"God has been good to men. He gave His only Son their souls to save, And then he made a second gift.

He gave America to men--

Here....
God sowed seed of nobler thought; Here to the land we love to claim, The pioneers of freedom came;

Here has been cradled all that's best In every human mind and breast.

Soul-shackled serfs of king and czar Have journeyed here and toiled and sung And talked of freedom to their young, And God above has smiled to see This precious work of liberty,

Man's liberty is not to die! America is standing by!

Builted and fashioned out of truth, Sinewed by Him with splendid youth.

For this, America began: To make a brotherhood of men."

Edgar Guest

Iris C. Dobbs
Historian
Daughter of the late Cicero Chappell and Sarah Dupree Dobbs