

By Miss Laura Pickett

Union Church

High Ridge - Bullock County

The first record of Union Church begins - "A Journal of the Church at Union Meeting House Ala."

Constituted with six members the 18th of April, 1835 by Elders John Barnett and Peter Hughs. Presbytery on the Principles of the Regular Baptist Faith & Order.

The first six persons to organized the church were:

Brothers viz-

Frederick Pickett
Alfred Tilory
James Murry
Anderson Medlock

Sisters viz-

Elizabeth Tilory
Sarah Mitchell

Elder Peter Hughs was elected as the first Minister - Frederick Pickett was the first Deacon -*.

From 1835 until today, the Pickett family has been a mainstay of the church. Deacon Frederick Pickett led church councils for many years. Today, 1961 Miss Laure Pickett, his grand daughter is the sole remaining member of Union Church. Miss Laure is guardian of all church records. She lives with her sister, Miss Mary Pickett, in High Ridge - address Fitzpatrick. (Because of the close connection of the Pickett family to Union Church, it seems well to pause to review the early Pickett family History - See on another sheet.)

Frederick Pickett came to Pike County, now Bullock (a portion of Pike County) from Dublin County, N. C. in 1832-33. Joined Union Church by letter from Baptist Church of Christ, Meadow Meeting House, Dublin Co., N. C. Died April 13th, 1866.

Other early members of Union Church are recorded below:

Hugh F. Pickett, ordained as Baptist preacher Oct. 1858 and unanimously chosen pastor of Union Church 1859 - resigned 1861 to enter Confederate Army and died in service May 17th, 1862.

Andrew Jackson Pickett, son of Frederick Pickett, joined Union Church Sept. 4th, 1863 and was a member until his death Aug. 25th, 1911, serving for many years as Deacon or Clerk.

Alfred & Elizabeth Tilory by letter from Baptist Church of Christ Fellowship of Pike County, Ala. Dismissed from Union Church by letter 1837.

James Murry by letter from Baptist Church of Christ, Meadow Meeting House, Dublin, N. C. Dismissed by letter July, 1840.

Anderson Medlock from Pike County, Ala. - Mount Zenie(?).

Sarah Mitchell by letter from Fellowship Church, Pike County, Ala.

James and Mary Andrews by letter from Muddy Creek Church, Dublin, N. C. (County).

Mary Stubbs by letter from church called Salem, in Marlborough District of South Carolina.

After elder Hughs some of the members were:

R. Toler	R. F. Missledine
Z. Nix	M. V. Gibson
W. C. Hays	James A. Mills
W. J. Pouncey	J. W. McLeod

The last minister was Henry Dean.

In 1902 after much discussion on Predestination and Associations, 17 members withdrew from Union Church to form Concord Church at China Grove, Ala. (about five miles from Union Church)

Membership count for Union Church was:

1857	33 members
1896	71 members
1904	46 members
1921	7 members
1961	1 member

The last meeting held at the Union Church was 1925.

Church property consisted of five acres, more or less. Was purchased from J. H. Crowder, the deeds show this purchase to be true, for Fifteen (\$15.00) dollars in 1891. Mr. Crowder had previously acquired this land from James M. Hughes or Hughs.

The first church was of logs. This building, as well as the second, was on the same side of road as the cemetery. Today's building is across the road from the cemetery.

The building Committee for the third building (standing today) was composed of H. J. Matthews, Fred Burk, W. W. Costen and Andrew J. Pickett - date 1889.

This third building stands today, kept in good condition and repair by descendants of members of Union Church.

It is surrounded by pines and nearby is the old spring, so necessary in days of early settlement.

The church cemetery is very large, with many graves. This suggests that it was used as a community cemetery. Many have been buried there who were not members of Union Church (which includes my grandfather and grandmother and children, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Baker Collins. They lived near Union Church and this church was convenient to them)

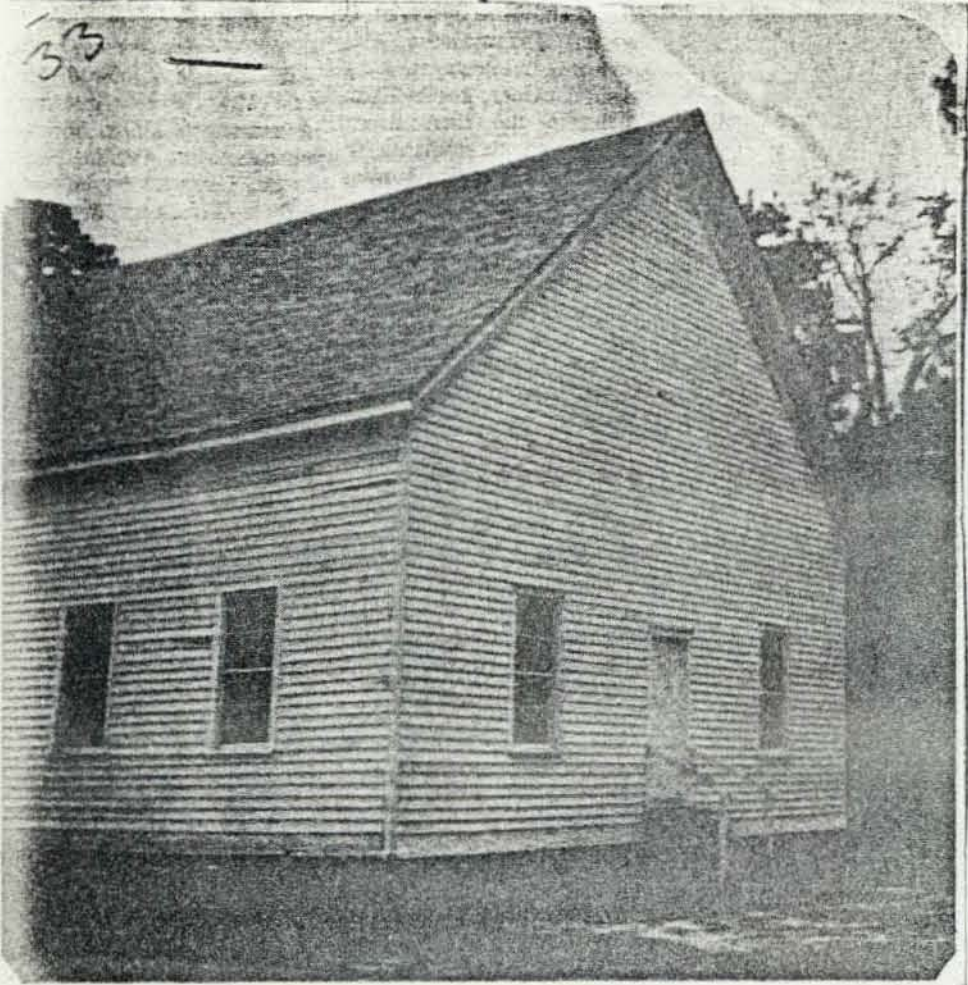


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OLD UNION CHURCH

Old Union Church Added To Register

The Alabama Historical Commission has added Old Union Church to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage, the Union Springs Herald was informed today.

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director of Alabama Historical Commission informed Mrs. R.T. Burks, Secretary of Old Union Homecoming Congregation, who lives in Troy, Ala., that the old church had been added to the Alabama Register of old landmarks.

Copies of the letter to Mrs. Burks were also sent to The Herald and to Atty. Louis Rutland, Mrs. Cecil McCall and to the Hon. R.J. Green.

There has been much interest generated by members of the Old Union Homecoming Congregation in preserving the old church for historical reasons. Other historical landmarks which should be preserved in the county are the old Chunn-enuggee Gardens on the Peachburg road, the old Bullock County Jail and

many old homes in the county.

Although many other small cities have shown great interest in listing their old landmarks with the Historical Commission and in preserving them for tourist and future generations, little interest has been shown by people in Bullock County.

The letter to Mrs. Burks from W. Warner Floyd of the Alabama Historical Commission follows:
Mrs. R.T. Burks, Secretary
Old Union
Homecoming Congregation
600 Elm Street
Troy, Alabama 36081

Dear Mrs. Burks:

The Alabama Historical Commission is pleased to inform you that the Old Union Church has been favorably reviewed and added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage on August 14, 1975. The Alabama Register is a prestigious listing of historic, architectural and archaeolog-

ical landmarks. These selected Alabama landmarks are worthy of both recognition and restoration. The Alabama Historical Commission appreciates your interest in Alabama's historic preservation program.

Sincerely,
W. Warner Floyd