

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE

Nomination Form

For office use only - Date added:

RECEIVED
DEC 19 2000

1. Name Harmony Methodist Church

historic

and/or common

Ala. Historical Commission

2. Location Section 5, Township 22N, Range 25E (northwest corner of the southwest

street & number Deed Book 11, pp 579-580 quadrant of Chambers County, AL)

city, town LaFayette ---vicinity of

state Alabama county Chambers zip

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Nell M. Phillips Phone number (334) 644-4404

street & number 311 South 11th. Avenue

city, town Lanett ---vicinity of zip 36863

5. Floor plan & site plan. Use space below to sketch floor plan and site plan or attach additional sheet.

6. Description (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date moved _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.

The church is a one room structure with three doors, two on the front (originally, one was for male churchgoers and the other for female). The third door is located on the right side of the building. The roof is in very poor condition, having been abandoned and neglected for many years. To preserve the remaining roof and to protect the building from further deterioration, large sheets of polyurathene have been carefully placed over the roof.

The left wall is leaning and several of the pillars supporting the foundation appear unstable. Several sections of the ceiling are falling down from water and wind damage.

The underlying foundation itself appears to be in good condition. It is constructed of full trees flattened with an ax or other primitive tools and placed on pillars of field rock stacked together. The windows appear to be handblown glass, and most are still intact. The original shutters were found under the church and are still in fair condition.

7. Significance (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

Period	Areas of Significance-Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

1833 Day's Camp Ground

Specific dates 1845 Harmony **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph).

Harmony Methodist Church built in the third decade of the nineteenth century, was one of the oldest churches in east Alabama. It is an excellent example of typical church structure of that period. It was a beloved place of worship and an important meeting place for this rural agricultural community. Much of the community life centered around this church and its activities. U.S.Senator Claude Pepper grew up in this community, and although he was a Baptist, he frequently visited this church for worship as many of his relatives were members. It had a very loyal and dedicated membership until changes in community life and a shift in population caused the North Alabama Methodist Conference to discontinue services in this area. It is through the work of loyal and dedicated ancestors of these original church members that this effort to preserve this wonderful, old building is being attempted. It is our hope that the spirit of Harmony Church and its significance continue ... "First, Take Hold. Second, Hold On. Third, Nerer Turn Loose!"

The building is in serious need of restoration due to the deteriorated state in which it now stands. The roof is presently covered with polyeurothane in an emergency attempt to prevent further rapid erosion. Estimates are presently being received from contractors for placing braces and other similar supports to the foundation of the church, as it is rapidly leaning to one side. The two biggest threats that the church currently faces are time and the elements.

The past owners of the building are James M. Hill, Abner Webb, and Jesse Fitzpatrick (The Methodist Church). The deed is currently in the name of Nell M. Phillips who purchased the building from the Methodist Church.

8. Major Bibliographical References

Keener Barnes
Property Deeds
Judge of Probate of Chambers County

9. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acres (the building is approximately 1500 sq. ft.)
Quadrangle name _____

Enclose map showing location of property. (city or county map, state highway department map, or USGS map)

10. Form Prepared By

name/title	Jan Moncus	334-644-5957 (w)
organization		date 11-12-00
street & number	2000 10th. Street S.W.	telephone (334) 644-2819 (h)
city or town	Lanett	state AL zip 36863

11. Please submit color slides of the property with this form.

Color slides are essential to the review process.

12. Please return *ALABAMA REGISTER* form and documentation to:

Alabama Register Coordinator
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900



- MAPS
- DRIVING DIRECTIONS
- TRAFFIC
- YELLOW & WHITE PAGES
- TRAVEL GUIDE
- CITY GUIDE

- Topographic Map Options
- Printer-Friendly Page
- E-mail Map
- New Search

Topographic Map Search Result

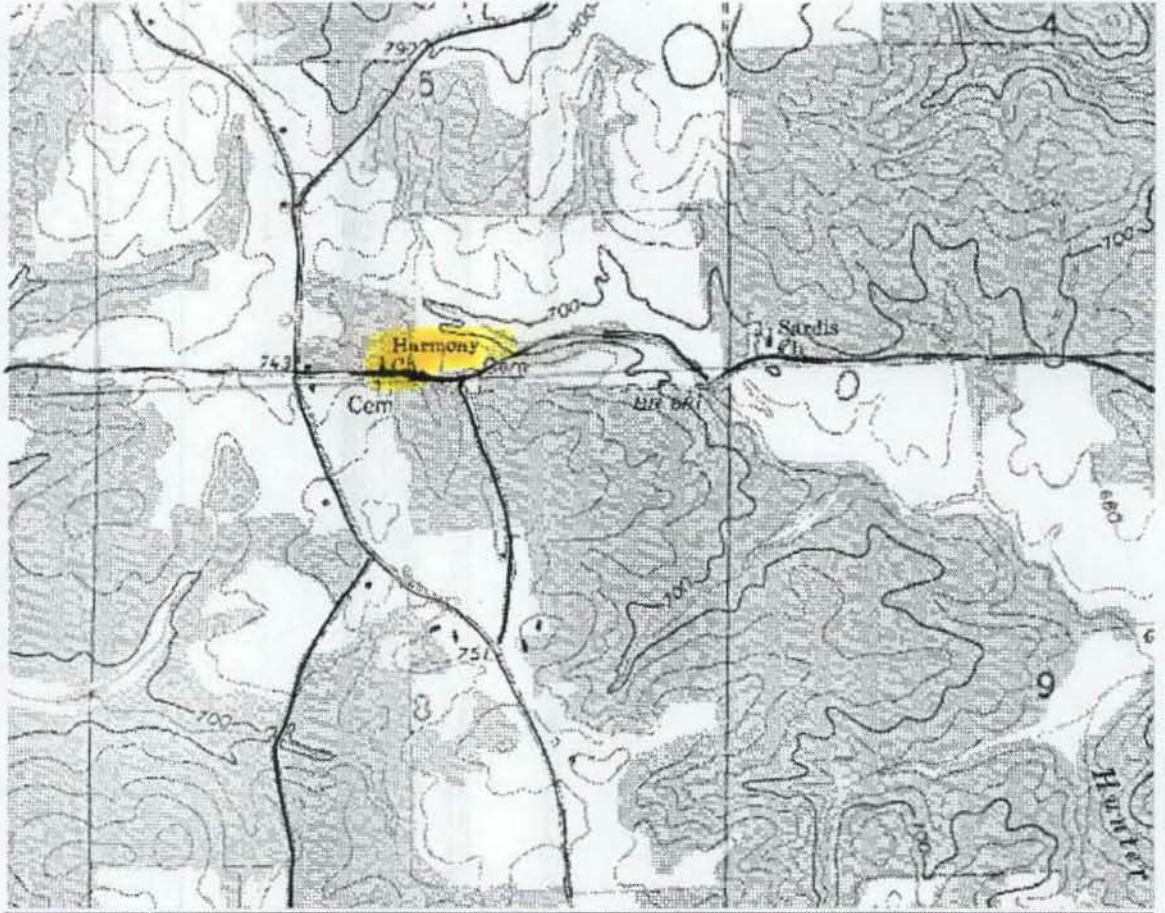
HE

Dudleyville, Alabama
 Latitude/Longitude: 32.9144 / -85.5564



- Related Links
- What is a Topographic Map?
- Reading Topographic Maps

Map Legend



PANNING

0 500 1000 1500 2000 meters

0 0.5 1.0 miles

ZOOMING

Zoom Out [Slider] Zoom In

MAP S

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HARMONY METHODIST CHURCH
County Road 51
Lafayette vic., Chambers County

OWNER:

Nell M. Phillips
311 South 11th Avenue
Lanett, AL 36863
334-644-4404

CONTACT:

Jan Moncus
2000 10th Street SW
Lanett, AL 36863
334-644-2819 (h)
334-644-5957 (w)

Claire Caldwell
1140 Mountain Spring Road
Wadley, AL 36276
256-395-2564

SUMMARY:

The Harmony Methodist Church congregation was organized around 1833 in the Sardis area of western Chambers County, between Dudleyville and Dadeville, and originally was known as the Day's Camp Ground. An early cemetery, located approximately one-quarter-mile east of the present church building remains at the site of the campground. Sometime between 1837 and 1845, the organization became known as Harmony Church, and the congregation was later documented as one of the earliest Methodist churches in East Alabama (Hurst and Tanner). A later cemetery is situated across County Road 51 from the church, but neither of the two burial grounds is included in the nomination. (McLendon family graves were moved from the original cemetery to the new location, possibly around 1950). [Local church historians believe that the present building might date to the early congregation, but extant materials more likely yield a construction date from the late-nineteenth century.] Local documentation also holds that the building was used as a school for many years, until consolidation led to the transfer of students to the Ridge Grove School (date unknown). Though currently deteriorated and threatened by neglect, the church depicts a good example of a front-gabled weatherboard vernacular religious building. Former church members have begun restoration and currently are seeking non-profit ownership status in order to preserve and maintain the structure.

Located on two acres set aside in an 1854 deed referring to the site "on which the Methodist Church now stands," the extant building contains elements of or occupies the site of the earlier structure. It faces south and rests on a stone pier foundation supporting large hewn sills. The single room rectangular structure contains a front-facing gabled roof, originally wood-shingled and now temporarily stabilized with plastic. [Original weatherboard siding] is in fairly good condition, and the sills and walls have been recently stabilized. Gable end returns provide minimal decoration and concrete steps flanked by concrete-capped cement block abutments provide access to separated two-paneled doors (apparently replacement). The double entrance is reflective of the early tradition of providing separate doorways for men and women. Windows are 4/4 double hung wood sashes, located along each side wall, three on the east and four on the west, with a side entrance door in place of a fourth window on the east facade. Windows and doors are capped with a slightly pedimented decorative cap from the Victorian period. Significant water damage has occurred on the interior due to the roof deterioration, particularly along the west wall, but has been very recently restored. Interior materials include narrow tongue-and-groove flooring covering original wide boards. Walls are plaster with wide base and wainscot. The ceiling is wide board and batten, apparently covering original narrow beaded tongue and groove. Original furnishings are lost.

Around 1981-83, the congregation dwindled to such a small number that the Methodist Conference relinquished ownership. Several local families have contributed to the upkeep of the building, and current ownership is held by Nell M. Phillips. Former members have generated sufficient interest in the church to seek non-profit status, and an ownership transfer is currently underway. The group plans to restore the building to its original condition for use as a community center and a Fifth-Sunday meeting house. Work has also begun on clearing and maintenance of the two associated cemeteries.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Harmony Methodist Church is eligible for listing on the Alabama Register under Criterion C in the area of architecture. Dating from the mid-late- nineteenth century, it depicts an increasingly rare example of a front-gabled vernacular religious building. Together with the two associated cemeteries, it remains as earliest extant evidence of a Methodist congregation that dates to the settlement period of the state. It is also believed to have served the community as a school during the late-19th and early-20th centuries. Services were held in the church until the congregation died out in the early 1980s and the building was abandoned. For many years it suffered from neglect and deterioration, but former church members have begun efforts to restore and reuse this historic building.

January 24, 2001

Dear Ms. Moore,

Enclosed please find History of Harmony Church and cementery.
It will take time to get slides of the cementery. When I receive
your form I will get the information to you in more detail as soon as possible.

We very much appreciate the assistance of all of you concerning this
project. Thank You!

Sincerely Yours,
Claire B. Caldwell
Claire Bishop Caldwell

Chambers County, Alabama
 Deed Book 11, pp 579-580

Hill & Webb to Fitzpatrick

Know all men by these presents that we James M. Hill and Abner Webb of the County of Chambers and State of Alabama for and in consideration of the sum of Fourteen Hundred and ninety three dollars and 46/100 to us in hand paid by Jesse Fitzpatrick of the State and County aforesaid the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge do give, grant, bargain sell in fee off and confirm unto the said Jesse Fitzpatrick and to his heirs and assigns all that tract or parcel of land situate in the County of Chambers and State aforesaid known as the North East quarter of Section Eight (8) in Township twenty two (22) of Range twenty five (25) also the south west quarter of Section five (5) in Township twenty two (22) of range twenty five (25) the whole containing three Hundred and Eighteen acres more or less two acres being reserved in the south East Corner of the East quarter section above described on which the Methodist Church now stands it being for the use of said Church and for no other purpose.

To have and to hold the aforesaid Granted premises to the said Jesse Fitzpatrick his heirs and assigns, that we are lawfully seized in fee of the above Granted premises that they are free from all Incumbrances that we have a good right to Sell and Convey the Same to the said Jesse Fitzpatrick his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful Claims and demands of all persons in witness whereof we the said James M. Hill and Abner Webb have here unto set our hands and Seals this the Tenth day of August in the year of our lord one thousand Eight Hundred and forty. Signed Sealed and delivered in presents of

E.H. Mobley
 G.D. Beasley JP

James M. Hill [SEAL]
 Abner Webb [SEAL]

The State of Alabama } I, Samuel Pearson, Judge of Probate for the County and State
 Chambers County } aforesaid hereby certify that E.H. Mobley, a subscribing witness to the foregoing convey. and known to me, appeared before me this day, and being sworn states that James M. Hill and Abner Webb, the grantors in the conveyance voluntarily executed the same in his presence, and in the presence of the other subscribing witness on the day the same being date that he attested the same in the presence of the grantors and of the other witness and that such other witness subscribed his name as a witness in his presence.

Given under my hand, this 15 day of March A.D. 1854.

Samuel Pearson
 Judge of Probate

Filed in Office for Record, March 15th, 1854; & Recorded April 4th, 1854 in Record of Deeds V No 11, Page 579.

Samuel Pearson
 Judge of Probate

HARMONY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH & CEMETERY
Chambers County, Alabama

Harmony United Methodist Church is located in Section 5, Township 22N, Range 25E in the northwest corner of the southwest quadrant of Chambers County, Alabama. The church building, now abandoned but still intact, is located about one mile east of County Line Baptist Church, cross county road 17. The newer cemetery is across the road from the old church building. The church and old cemetery are shown as #44 on the attached map. The McClendon family purchased the church building some years ago to keep it from being torn down. Several McClendon ancestors are buried in the old cemetery.

Old Harmony Cemetery lies in Section 8, about one-quarter mile east of the church building, toward the Sardis Church. The old cemetery is on the same side of the road as the church building.

Without good directions, the old cemetery is easily missed from the road. It is not maintained regularly and thus becomes very overgrown. I visited the area in June 1999 with several cousins and, after finding the church; we drove right by the old cemetery without ever having seen it.

Mrs. Claire Caldwell of Wadley, Alabama, is a descendant of Isaac and Ruth Mobley Barnes through their son Jethro Mobley Barnes. Cousin Claire grew up in the area and knew where the cemetery is located. Later in the summer of 1999, Claire hired a ~~couple~~ ^{Man with his} men to clear the cemetery of the tall weeds and brush that obscured it. With that done, she then invited Cousin Julia Stone of Atlanta, Georgia, to visit the cemetery with her and to photograph our ancestors' graves.

Julia Stone made the photographs that follow. I am indebted to Julia and to Claire Caldwell for their kind, caring attention to our family's history.

David Eldridge Barnes
South Burlington, Vermont
14 February 2000

History Of Harmony Methodist Church Goes Back Over 100 Years; Reviewed By Former Pastor

By Rev. Henry M. Hurst
Former Pastor, Retired
Athens, Alabama

One begins to write the history of a life, a church, or anything of worth, he soon finds he has a real job on his hands. In the first place, data is difficult to collect and get it in chronological order. Especially, in the case of a church, which, as has Harmony, shifted from one charge to another. So I may not be correct in this matter, as it began as Day's Camp Ground, in the early days of the third decade of the 19th century. So if there are any errors, in any way, just remember that your former pastor has done the best he could.

According to Dr. Anson West's History of Alabama Methodism, published in 1893, the LaFayette Circuit extended over a large scope of territory. That was in 1833. Most of it extended down into what is now the Alabama Conference. We find that the third Quarterly Conference of 1837, was held at Oakbowery Camp Ground, September 25th.

Ebenezer Hearn was Presiding Elder, and Rev. John Hunter was the pastor. The following constituted the Official Board: John B. Chappell, Local Elder; Evan G. Richards, Local Deacon; Wm. Menfee (sic), John R. Starr, and Johnathan Morris, Local Preachers. Robert Brown, John R. Gilbert, and William Roberts, Exhorters. David Boren, Nathaniel Grady, and George Menfee, Stewards. John Trammell, Gidcon Rix, Jesse Garret, Wm. W. Harper, Lemuel Jackson, John R. Page, Elijah C. Hunter and Wm. R. Miller, Class Leaders. Nathaniel Grady was secretary of the Conference and Recording Steward.

The appointments on the circuit that day were: LaFayette, Oakbowery, Kemp's, McGills, Clements, Piney Grove, Allen's, Pisgah, Bonners, (Sweet Home I think), Fredonia, Mt. Zion, (Penton), Grears, Tallassee, Mt. Jefferson, Cusseta, Eady's, Webb's (later Emory Chapel I suppose), and Day's Camp Ground (Harmony).

A pastor in that day filled his saddle bags and would be gone a month, preaching day and night, announcements being made ahead. I shall not attempt to use so many names, but the idea in this instance is to let you (sic) the form of organization. You will recognize some in this list who were forebears of some who carried on in later years.

On October 15, 1838, Quarterly Conference for LaFayette Circuit was held at Day's Camp Ground (Harmony). That Day a boy of twelve united with the church, and later was licensed to exhort. George R. W. Smith. The next year he was licensed to preach. At the age of 19 he joined the Alabama Conference, serving successfully the following appointments: Tombecbee Circuit; Coosa Circuit; Pensacola, Appalachicola. In an effort to build a church at the latter, he was stricken ill and died, April 16, 1843. This young man had unusual talents, and had he lived would have attained high distinction.

Dr. West explains the exact location of Day's Camp Ground as follows: "Day's Camp Ground was near the line of Tallapoosa and Chambers Counties and just east of the present town of Dudleyville". It is of record that a Camp Meeting was held there as early as September 25, 1837. In the middle of October, 1838, at what was the time of the annual Camp Meeting, there were present, Ebenezer Hearn, Presiding Elder, W. C. Robinson, Pastor, Thos. H. Capers, McCarter Oliver, Samuel C. Daily, J. R. Starr, Green Cousins, J. R. Gilbert; Wm. Menfee, who were local preachers on the circuit.

Ethelbert S. Smith, a brother of the boy preacher wonder, George R. W. Smith, was pressing his way to the altar. He was only 10 years of age. As he passed by McCarter Oliver, he laid his hand on the

boys head and said "God bless this little boy!" Dr. West records that he was instantly endued with divine grace, renewed in his nature. He lived to a ripe age as a member of a Texas Conference.

Another interesting but sad incident occurred at Day's Camp Ground, when Thos. P. C. Selman, who had dropped out of the service asked to be readmitted to the ministry. After assuring the Quarterly Conference that he was sincere, he served for a while and again dropped out. Dr. West in telling the story, closes with these words, "Some men are uncertain."

Another like case was that of J. H. Laney, then on trial in the Alabama Conference. He was appointed Junior Preacher on the LaFayette Circuit. He was discontinued at the close of the year, charged with discrepancy, a mild way of expressing it. There were three specifications: 1. In regard to having borrowed a cloak from Joel Hurt. (Evidently did not return it.) 2. Swapping horses with Joel Hurt. 3. In regard to entering business with J. A. Hurst. Now, the latter was my grandfather, a local preacher, and a charter member of the Fredonia Church. He operated a general store and was the first post master at Fredonia. But the rule was for pastors in that day, they were to give themselves wholly to the ministry, giving no time to anything else. Rather, "root hog or die."

Dr. West in his closing words concerning the LaFayette Circuit, rather reflects on the judgment of men who were granted license to preach. He said some were good men, but were disqualified for the itinerancy because of their environments.

In the last full paragraph on page 511 of Dr. West's History, it is recorded that John S. Sappington was licensed to preach at a Quarterly Conference held for LaFayette Circuit at Harmony Church, December 6, 1845. That is the first we find of Day's Camp Ground being called Harmony.

Out of the bounds of the charge of which Harmony was a part, great preachers and laymen have gone out to bless the world. Daniel Duncan was licensed to preach at Harmony, who was one of the great spiritual leaders in the North Alabama Conference until he passed away in Birmingham, October 28, 1891. Dr. T. G. Slaughter, though a native of Georgia, was a product of the LaFayette Circuit. It is said that Sam P. Jones who was born at Oakbowery heard Dr. Slaughter in his childhood, and patterned his style after him. He became the most unique evangelist of the nineteenth century.

Harmony has often shifted from the Oakbowery Circuit to LaFayette, so that it is difficult to list the preachers who have served there. I know that Oakbowery, when I could first remember, was with Waverly. But here's a list as best I can name them from 1904 till the present date:

R. M. Archibald, J. C. Craig, O. L. Millican, C. W. Seale, Henry M. Hurst, B. F. Miller, W. M. Wade, Edward Fulmer, Edley D. Totherow, L. P. Thornburg, R. Stallings, O. W. Barber, W. H. Elrod, T. E. Weaver, J. H. Hearn, R. W. Sides, A. W. O'Bryant, S. Lemond, J. E. Black, W. G. Gaston, J. H. Roberts, _____ Martin, V. W. _____, J. T. Speer, H. D. Hawkins, W. W. Crew, Roy Baugh, Ralph Jolly, and S. E. Paulk. I have missed some, but I have lost some of the Journals of North Alabama Conference. (Note: The blanks above represent text that is obscured. D.E.B.)

When I was on the Oakbowery Circuit, I always looked forward to the meeting day at Harmony. **What a loyal Membership. I am risking calling the names of families who were among the ones at Harmony Church: The Barnes, the Fallins, the McClendons, the Yanceys, the Dunseiths, the Lees.**

Now there were others I am sure, but memory fails a fellow after 42 years. If I failed to call the names of any, I venture I would know you if I should meet you. I love all the people of Harmony community, not only of Harmony, but of all faiths in that neck of the woods.

That you are not strong, numerically, as you were in the days long gone, I admonish you, **DO NOT GIVE UP.** Do not be governed by shifting population. The Negro preacher gave the outline of his sermon on "Final Perseverance of the Saints." Here it is. May it be the spirit of Harmony Church. "First, Take Hold. Second, Hold On. Third, Never Turn Loose."

The battle is the Lords. You are his soldiers.

I have more years in this world behind me, than before me. Pray for your old pastor as I face the sunset.

End of transcript.

October 26, 1971

The Methodist Christian Advocate

North Alabama Conference
COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Dr. Ralph M. Tanner, Chairman

Keener Barnes¹, Director

Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham, Alabama 35204

Harmony Methodist Church, 1833. Mrs. C. W. Waites, of Birmingham has sent us a history of one of the oldest churches in East Alabama, near LaFayette, and at that time known as Day's Camp on the LaFayette Circuit. The history was published by one of the former pastors, the late Henry M. Hurst, who states that most of the circuit at that time extended into what is now the Alabama-West Florida Conference. Anson West's History of Methodism in Alabama, states that Ebenezer Hearn was the presiding elder and the Rev. John Hunter was the pastor at the beginning of the church. The third quarterly conference in 1837 mentions the names of the officials of the circuit. They were: John B. Chappell, local elder; Evan G. Richards, local deacon; William Menifee, John R. Starr, Jonathan Morris, local preachers; Robert Brown, John R. Gilbert, William Roberts, exhorters; David Boren, Nathaniel Grady, George Menifee, stewards; John Trammell, Gideon Rix, Jesse Garrett, William W. Harper, Lemuel Jackson, John R. Page, Elijah G. Hunter, William R. Miller, class leaders. Nathaniel Grady was secretary and recording steward of the quarterly conference held Sept. 25, 1837.

It was during the early part of 1900 that the father and mother of the writer presented him for infant baptism at the age of eleven months during the pastorate of the Rev. J. C. Craig. Until I left to enter Birmingham-Southern College I was associated with _____ the fine people of this Harmony Methodist Church. (Note: The blank lines represent text that was cut off in photocopying. D.E.B.)

The pastors in those early days would fill their saddle bags and would be gone a month preaching over the large circuit as announcements were made ahead where and when services would be held. On Oct. 15, 1838 while the quarterly conference was held at Harmony a boy of twelve years old united with the Church and later was licensed to preach. He was George R. W. Smith, and at the age of 19 he was transferred to the Alabama Conference, where he served the Tombechee Circuit, Coosa Circuit, Pensacola, Appalachicola. In an effort to build a church at the latter, he became ill and died April 16, 1843.

Anson Wells tells of a camp meeting held at Harmony in 1838 when Ethelbert S. Smith, a brother of the boy preacher wonder, George R. W. Smith, was pressing his way to the altar. He was only 10 years old. As he passed by McCarter Oliver, he laid his hand on the boy's head and said, "God bless this little boy." West records that he was "instantly endued with divine grace, renewed in his nature." He lived to a ripe age as a member of a Texas Conference.

From the bounds of this circuit went great preachers as mentioned in the history of this church. At Harmony on Dec. 6, 1845, John S. Sappington was licensed to preach. Also Daniel Duncan was licensed to preach at the Harmony Church and was considered one of the great spiritual leaders of the North Alabama Conference until his death in Birmingham on Oct. 28, 1891. Dr. T. G. Slaughter, though a native of Georgia, was a product of the LaFayette Circuit, which Harmony was a part of. This history points out that Sam P. Jones, who was born at Oak Bowery, heard Dr. Slaughter preach in his childhood and patterned his style after him. He became the most unique evangelist of the 19th century.

Looking back to the community life in this rural section centered around the Harmony United Methodist Church, as it is today, memories of dedicated and persevering families come to light. The late **Dr. Bennett T. Waites** often visited the church and preached in revivals there, as he had a sister living next to the church. Then there were the families of the McClendons, Barnes, Yancey, Dunseith, Harris, Lee, Fallin, Johnson, Sharpe, Howard, Hunt, Miss Annie M. Williamson. These loyal families of Harmony

through their sincerity and dedication carried the load in this cotton producing community, always loyal to the Church and its mission.

End of transcript

Note:

1. Henry Keener Barnes, son of Charlie Nathaniel Barnes and Mary Will Trimble. Grandson of Isaac Russell Barnes and Frances Elizabeth Lovelace. Great grandson of James V. Barnes and Elizabeth M. Sewell. Great great grandson of Isaac V. Barnes and Ruth Mobley.

Isaac Russell Barnes, Frances Elizabeth Lovelace Barnes, Isaac V. Barnes and Ruth Mobley Barnes are all buried in the old cemetery ¼ mile east of Harmony Church.

SOURCE:

Mr. Guy Hubbs, Archivist, Birmingham-Southern College Library, provided these two articles.