

SALEM METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND CEMETERY
SALEM, WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

GA
Walker
1-6

(The cemetery is located east of US Hwy 27 on E. Reed Rd at the northeast intersection of Georgia Land Lots 204,205,228 & 229 bounded on the northeast side by Town Creek.)

In 1830 the vast area of Cherokee Land in North Georgia was purchased by the Federal Government and formed into Cherokee County, Georgia. In 1832 Murray County was created from Cherokee and on December 18, 1833 Walker County was created from Murray County.

Many Cherokees called Walker County home, but White's started to move into this beautiful, virgin forested land soon after the 1832 Cherokee Lottery. On the 13th day of September, 1837, a year before the "Trail of Tears" and while the Cherokees were being herded into Fort Cumming nearby, a small band of Methodists met in an idyllic setting on a knoll, embraced by a clear, cool stream (later known as Town Creek) and chose the spot for their new church, school and cemetery. The Trustees for this group were, Wm. G. Harris, Wm. Conley, Francis Bird (1), Jesse Self and J. C. Loughridge.

COGS REFERENCE ONLY

The Trustees purchased or otherwise secured the following land:

- 13 Sept. 1837, LL 228-8th & 4th of Walker County, Georgia containing one acre and ten rods from A. C. Renfro
- 13 Oct, 1837, LL 229-8th & 4th of Walker County, Georgia containing one acre and ten rods from James Pledger
- 16 Oct, 1837, LL 204-8th & 4th , 1/2 acre (more or less) from Reuben Herndon~ Rome, Georgia.

All the above Deeds were re-recorded Sept. 22, 25 & 26, 1896. Deed Book 11, pages 336 through 344.

This persevering group of Methodists (Methodist Episcopal Church/Methodist Episcopal Church South) attended Church, worshipped, schooled their offspring and buried their dead on this sacred spot for fifty-nine (59) years even surviving the Civil War. Their membership dwindled by deaths and the founding of nearby churches; Rock Spring Methodist, Lafayette Methodist, Center Point Baptist, etc. The little church at Salem succumbed. They sold LL 228 and LL 229 to B. F. Loughridge, but never, never relinquished title to the little cemetery:

"It is expressly agreed that the graveyard, (as now fenced is reserved together with a right-of-way to said graveyard) and is to remain the right and property of said Church, (Salem). 22 September 1896.

Trustees:

- S. A. Brice
- J. Caldwell
- W. G. Conley
- H. P. Lumpkin

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

For Salem Methodist Church."

Undoubtedly the cemetery was begun shortly after the church was built and from our brief survey contained about one hundred fifty graves of which very few remain marked .

I wish this old knoll, and the sacred remains could talk and tell us of the joys, conversions, war stories, births and deaths, but they are forever silenced and history reveals very little of the facts. We know from legend, scraps of information gleaned from early copies of The Walker County Messenger, re-recorded deeds at the Walker County Court-house, and are 95% sure the following people were interred at Salem:

- Mary Self, first wife of Jesse Self. Jesse was an original Trustee of Salem
- Martha Jay Harris, daughter of Rev. David Jay.
- James Denton and wife, Lavinia Tipton Denton
- John A. Denton, son of James and Lavinia
- Thomas Jefferson Tipton, brother of Lavinia Tipton Denton
- Susannah Harris Tipton, first wife of T. J. Tipton, and mother of his children
- Henrietta Tipton, second wife of T. J. Tipton
- Rachel Jay Tipton, third wife of T. J. Tipton, and second wife of T. Odium Castleberry

T. Odium Castleberry, second husband of Rachel Jay Tipton Castleberry
 Jesse Jay, son of John Jay, and grandson of Rev. David Jay, Meth. Min.
 Rachel Charles Jay, w/o Jesse Jay Jay
 Jemima Charles Garner, mother of Rachel Charles Jay
 Rachel Morrow Jay, Mrs. John Jay, mother of Jesse Jay. 6'
 Emily A. Culbertson, wife of Wm. Jay, son of Jesse Jay. William killed at Battle of Wilderness, Virginia, CSA
 William "Billy" Culbertson, father of Emily A. Jay
 Mary Brooks Culbertson, wife of Billy Culbertson
 Adaline Jay, daughter of Wm. and Emily C. Jay
 William Culbertson, Jr. died Feb. 19, 1864
 George W. Hood, s-i-l, T. J. Tipton
 Abner J. Chastain
 Margaret Harris McAllister, daughter of Martha Jay Harris
 Rev. David Lowry

Thirteen marked graves have been located:

Mary E. Moore, d/o W. D. & Dorcas Moore, b, Nov. 30, 1855, d. 15 months
 W. D. Moore, b 10-1-1828, d 2-6-1905
 Dorcas Moore, w/o W. D. Moore, b 10-18-1834, d 8-6-1888, d/o James N. Johnson
(One specific piece of compelling evidence concerning the grave of Dorcas Moore, is that her obituary in the Aug. 8, Walker County Messenger states she was buried at the Tipton Family Plot at Salem. This denotes that Salem was the Tipton Family Plot also.)
 Alfred Jones, b 2-5-1827, d 6-20-1902
 Elizabeth Jones, w/o Alfred Jones, b 6-19-1829, d 2-25-1902
 L. D. Satterfield, hand carved rock with name only.
 Freddie Burchfield, b & d Aug 26, 1888, s/o G. W. & Sarah Moore Burchfield
 Lula Burchfield, b & d 1890, c/o G. W. & Sarah Moore Burchfield
 Charly Burchfield, b & d Sept. 2, 1891, s/o G. W. & Sarah Moore Burchfield
 Vernie Moore, b Jan 15, 1900. Lived 9 days s/o J. E. & Lula Moore
 Date only - 1860. Believed to be Rachel J H Jay, d/o James J. & Mary Culbertson Jay MCH
 J. A. Swift, 1862.
 1. Francis Bird was a Methodist Minister and the son of Rev. Thomas Bird, He is buried at Lee's Chapel Methodist, Catoosa County, Ga.
 2. Copies of the Deeds to the Salem property are available

Note: We, Jemima Reed Shirley and Vince King, on Feb. 25, 2005, exercise our right as Descendants of the JAT, Tipton, Garner, Moore and Culbertson families to begin the restoration of the Salem Burial Ground to its fenced state. Copyright 2008 by VINCE KING & JEMIMA REED SHIRLEY, all rights reserved This information may be used by libraries and genealogical societies, however commercial use of this information is strictly prohibited without prior permission. If copied this copyright notice must appear with the information.

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Alfred Jones
 Feb 5, 1827
 June 20, 1902

Son of John & Mary Jones, early settlers in the Rock Spring area of Walker County



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Elizabeth Jones
 June 19, 1829
 Feb 25, 1902

Wife of Alfred Jones

