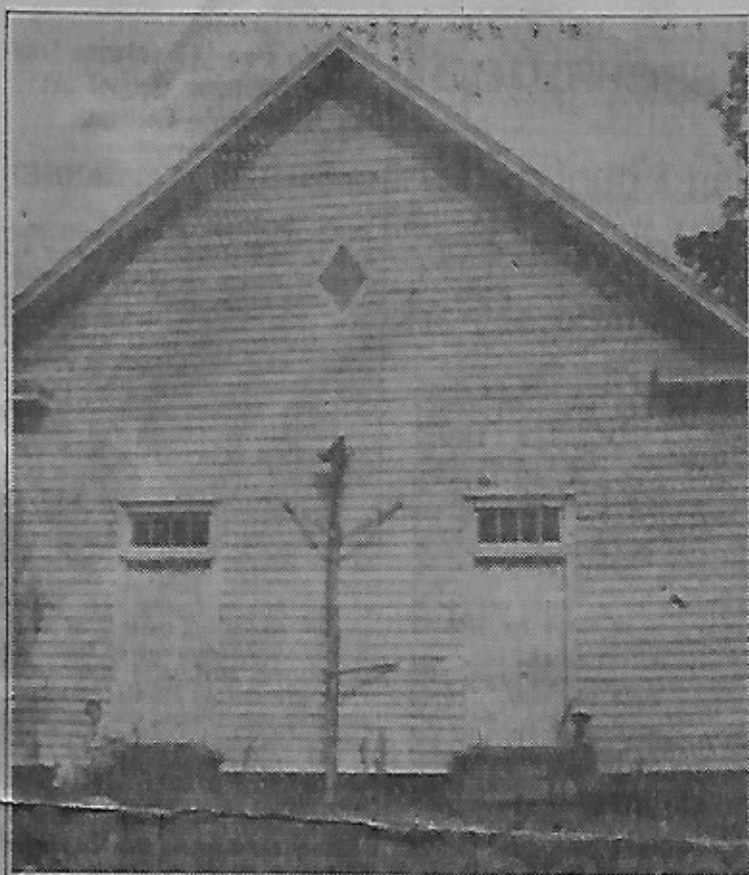


MOUNT EBAL CHURCH

It Is the Mother of All Methodist Protestant Churches
In Randolph and Davidson Counties



The following sketch of Mount Ebal church in Randolph county was read at a homecoming service held at the church a week ago. It was prepared by a committee composed of W. M. Sexton, Blanche Thompson and G. B. Sexton. Mount Ebal is the oldest Methodist Protestant church in Randolph or Davidson counties.

Mount Ebal church is the mother church of all the other Methodist Protestant churches within the boundaries of Davidson and Randolph counties.

Before a permanent church was built, services were held for a short time in a nearby log school building, located on the G. B. Sexton farm. The first church being erected on the present site approximately in the year 1872. This first church was built of logs, all the labor on the building being donated; all the labor was done by loyal church members, and all material used being made and erected by members.

In a short time after the church was built, an harbor was erected for the purpose of accommodating the vast crowds that attended the annual protracted meetings. This is said to have been the first harbor for services of this kind, to have been built in this county.

From 1873, for many years thereafter, a camp meeting was held in September of each year; people coming from many cities and counties for the annual series of services. At this time there were 22 families who occupied these tents for the 10 days, or more, services.

The harbor and part of the tents remained standing until about the year 1924.

The first services held in the old log building, was a dedication service, the pastor being at that time Rev. Jack Loftin, who was the first pastor of the church. While Rev. Mr. Loftin was pastor, the first Sunday school was organized, and has continued from that time until about four years ago. This within itself is a notable record for any church to make.

The charter members of the church, all of whom have gone to their heavenly reward, were as follows:

"Uncle" Billy Sexton and wife, Mr. and Mrs. William Morris, "Uncle" Richard and "Aunt" Emile Cranford, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Sexton, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Morris, "Bill" Gibson and wife, James C. Morris and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Lin Cranford, "Uncle" Jim Sexton and wife, "Uncle" Lewis Moore, "Uncle" Walsh Harris and wife.

In the year 1883 the old log church was torn down, and the present church was erected, which was 51 years ago. Mr. Alfred Thompson, father of Rev. Walter Thompson, supervised the building of the present church. The church was dedicated about the year 1871 or '72. The pastor at that time being Rev. A. W. Lineberry.

In the year 1873 a cemetery was started. The first person to be buried was Jane Sexton, who was buried December 23, 1873. She died at a very young age. The present cemetery continued to grow until the past few years, since when very few have been buried here, the last one being buried in 1932. This was Willie Hughes, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Riley Hughes.

Mount Ebal for a number of years belonged to the Davidson circuit, sev-

eral years ago becoming a part of the Denton charge.

Below we have collected a list as accurately as we were able to learn of the pastors who have served this circuit:

Rev. Jack Loftin, Rev. A. W. Lineberry, Rev. Mr. Lewallen, Rev. A. M. Modlin, Rev. W. C. Hammer, Rev. Joe Dunn, Rev. Mr. McCulloch, Rev. Mr. Bunch, Rev. J. A. Ledbetter, Rev. R. H. Willis, Rev. D. A. Highfill, Rev. J. W. Hulin, who served for 13 years; Rev. W. F. Kennett, Rev. George Reynolds, Rev. D. A. Braswell, Rev. F. G. Loudermilk, Rev. J. B. Trogdon, Rev. B. M. Williams, Rev. J. E. Carroll, Rev. T. Glenn Madison, Rev. M. C. Henderson, Rev. P. A. Bingham, Rev. Robert Short and the present pastor, Rev. J. T. Bowman.