
Grady County Historical Society – Churches

Bold Springs United Methodist Church

For this and additional works see: <https://vtext.valdosta.edu/xmlui/handle/10428/6878>

Recommended Citation:

Bold Springs United Methodist Church. Box 1, Folder 1, Document 5, Grady County Historical Society, *Grady County Historical Society – Churches Collection*. Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections.

This item is from the Grady County Historical Society. It is part of the *Grady Historical Society – Churches Collection* digitized by the Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections. If you have any questions or concerns contact archives@valdosta.edu or <https://gradyhistory.org/gchs/>

July 23, 1965

MEMO TO RSR, JR.

I have what is your changed draft of Bold Springs Baptist and Methodist Churches.

I suggest you look at the seventh line of the first paragraph and see if you should put the word "Cairo" ahead of the word "community." In the first sentence you mentioned the Bold Springs Methodist Church and in second sentence again mentioned Bold Springs and it could be some would think the Bold Springs was in the community where two stores and a barroom where.

I know when I first read it I thought maybe there was another little country community but I realized there wasnt, quickly, but somepeople not as familiar as I am, might. In fact, in the next line after that word "community" might read better to say "and the Cairo Church was then in the Bold Springs circuit."

Disregard this if you think it's all right.

JBR

Re: Churches

Sunday
July 11, 1965

Dear Julien:

Bold Springs Churches

So far as the book is concerned, my interest in these 2 churches is two-fold:

1st. Bold Springs Methodist Church as the mother church of Cairo Methodist Church. This is stated in the history of Cairo Methodist as filed in the Library and Dr. Walker also so said. The church building when Dr. Walker joined it was new and the second building. The first was a log house. But we are not interested in the buildings; just the fact that it was the mother church.

2nd. Bold Springs Baptist Church was the one that ordained Robert H. Harris as a preacher, and not Cairo Baptist. Papa is positive about this, and we also have a letter from Mrs. Burt, daughter of Dr. Harris, confirming that fact. And LaGrange, Ga., was his first pastorate. He was never pastor at Cairo before he returned there about 1906.

A copy of that sketch I sent you I think is enough to say about these two Bold Springs churches.

I will be looking for copy of that Christian Index article you asked Mrs. Allen to make and send me.

Yours,

11-23-1906 or 5

Cairo Messenger

Essee here, under the main subject of R.H. Harris in Cairo, we will tell about his ordination -

Wrote to mention Cairo

Bold Springs Baptist and Methodist Churches

Dr. William A. Walker was born in 1866 and died in 1952. The "Cairo Messenger" reported a reminiscent speech he made to the Cairo Messenger in May 1952, in which he said he joined the Bold Springs Methodist Church in 1885, at which time the meetings were held in a newly constructed church building. Prior to that time meetings were held in a log building, but he did not say and we do not know when the Bold Springs Church was organized and constituted. He remembered that in those days the community had two stores and a bar room, and this Church was then in the Bold Springs Circuit, the name being changed to Cairo Circuit some time after the Cairo Methodist Church was constituted. We know that Bold Springs was mother church of the Cairo Church.

We also know that at this time, and prior thereto, there was a Bold Springs Baptist Church and this Church ordained Robert H. Harris as a Baptist Minister about 1875-78 at which time he was a school teacher in Cairo. Bold Springs was in the 17th District of Thomas [now Grady] County, near Barnett's Creek and a short distance north of the old Thomasville to Bainbridge stage road.



~~_____~~
1865

We also know that at this time, and prior thereto, there was a Bold Springs Baptist Church. Robert H. Harris, while a school teacher in Cairo, was ordained a Baptist minister in 1878 and Bold Springs was his first pastorate. During the same period, 1878 through 1880, he was also pastor of the Long Branch Baptist Church. Bold Springs was in the 17th District of Thomas [now Grady] County, near Barnett's Creek and a short distance north of the old Thomasville to Bainbridge stage road.

This corrects previous erroneous statement that R.H. Harris was ordained by Bold Springs Church -

only reason for mentioning these two churches is that Bold Springs Methodist was mother of Cairo Methodist and Bold Springs Baptist was first pastorate (along with Long Branch) of R.H. Harris -

JBR: Evidently RSR, Jr. got this from my memo about Dr. Walker's talk in the Bold Springs community. As I remember it, the impression I got from Dr. Walker's talk was that the community of Bold Springs itself did consist of two stores and a barroom.

MCA

This was an article clipped from Cairo Messenger of Dr. Walker's talk at a Kiwanis Club meeting at Bold Springs in which he told of stopping there 77 years earlier, or when he was a small boy.

RRR maybe there was the stores & barroom at Bold Springs. if so the way you base it is ok

Bold Springs Baptist and Methodist Churches.

Dr. William A. Walker was born in 1866 and died in 1958. The "Cairo Messenger" reported a reminiscent speech he made to the Cairo Kiwanis Club in May 1952, in which ^{he said} he joined the Bold Springs Methodist Church in 1875, at which time the meetings were held in a newly ^{constructed} ~~built~~ church building. Prior to that time meetings were held in a log building, but he did not say and we do not know when the Bold Springs Church was organized and constituted. He remembered that in those days the community had two stores and a barroom; and this church was then in the Bold Springs Circuit, the name being changed to Cairo Circuit some time after the Cairo Methodist Church was constituted. We know that Bold Springs was mother church of the Cairo Church.

We also know that at this time, and prior thereto, there was a Bold Springs Baptist Church and this church ordained Robert H. Harris as a Baptist Minister about 1875-76 at which time he was a school teacher in Cairo. Bold Springs was in the 17th District of Thomas [now Grody] County, ~~a short distance north of~~ near Barnett's Creek and a short distance north of the old Thomasville to Bainbridge stage road.

Rev. P. C. Harris, Capt. E. A. Vaulandingham,
J. H. Hayes, Tom Brown, and others.

An incomplete History of Cairo Methodist
Church is on file in Rosdubery Memorial
Library and it contains much valuable
information but it does not give names
of the first Board of Stewards. Tom Brown,
affectionately known as "Uncle Tom" (who was
overseer of farms of Dr. S. D. Rosdubery) is
named as the first male superintendent
of the Sunday School. For a number of
years thereafter William Powell was the
superintendent, and his half-brother Benj.
H. Powell was for many years a Sunday School
teacher. ~~In 1875~~, William Powell and
J. Byron Wight ~~are~~ were recorded as Lay
Preachers and Trustees

Winton 1894,

Cairo Methodist Church

The first church established in what is now Cairo, and the first to have a meeting house of its own, was the Cairo Methodist Church which was organized in 1867, the same year the railroad was built from Thomasville to Bainbridge. That was three years before the Town of Cairo was incorporated as a municipality. In 1873 they erected the first church building in the town, a wooden building painted white, located at the corner of South Broad ^{St.} and Ochlocknee St. (now named S.W. 3rd Ave.), which has ever since been the site of this Church.

Mrs. D.W. Wilmat (wife of Dr. Wilmat), her sister, Miss Lizzie Everett (later Mrs. W. J. Dickey), and a widow, Mrs. Julia Hall (mother of Jim Hall), are credited with starting the movement to organize this church, and the first services were held in the home of Mrs. Hall until the first church building was erected in 1873. The first school house was immediately south of the church property and the home of Mrs. Julia Hall was immediately south of the school building. Working with these good women in organizing the church were: William Powell (2nd Mayor of Cairo), Stephen A. Chester and his son W.A. Chester, Benj. F. (Doc) Powell,

Bold Springs Baptist and Methodist Churches.

Dr. William A. Walker was born in 1866 and died in 1958. The "Cairo Messenger" reported a reminiscent speech he made to the Cairo Kiwanis Club in May 1952, in which he said he joined the Bold Springs Methodist Church in 1875, at which time the meetings were held in a newly constructed church building. Prior to that time meetings were held in a log building, but he did not say and we do not know when the Bold Springs Church was organized and constituted. He remembered that in those days the community had two stores and a barroom; and this Church was then in the Bold Springs Circuit, the name being changed to Cairo Circuit some time after the Cairo Methodist Church was constituted. We know that Bold Springs was mother church of the Cairo Church.

We also know that at this time, and prior thereto, there was a Bold Springs Baptist Church and this Church ordained Robert H. Harris as a Baptist Minister about 1875-76 at which time he was a school teacher in Cairo. Bold Springs was in the 17th District of Thomas [now Grady] County, near Barnett's Creek and a short distance north of the old Thomasville to Bainbridge stage road.

[Signature]
JUL 8 - 1965

*Ch the Index
Christian
attest of 11-23-06
in Messenger*

Bold Springs Baptist and Methodist Churches.

Dr. William A. Walker was born in 1866 and died in 1958. The "Cairo Messenger" reported a reminiscent speech he made to the Cairo Kiwanis Club in May 1952, in which he said he joined the Bold Springs Methodist Church in 1875, at which time the meetings were held in a newly constructed church building. Prior to that time meetings were held in a log building, but he did not say and we do not know when the Bold Springs Church was organized and constituted. He remembered that in those days the community had two stores and a barroom; and this Church was then in the Bold Springs Circuit, the name being changed to Cairo Circuit some time after the Cairo Methodist Church was constituted. We know that Bold Springs was mother church of the Cairo Church.

We also know that at this time, and prior thereto, there was a Bold Springs Baptist Church and this Church ordained Robert H. Harris as a Baptist Minister about 1875-77 at which time he was a school teacher in Cairo. Bold Springs was in the 17th District of Thomas [now Grady] County, near Barnett's Creek and a short distance north of the old Thomasville to Bainbridge stage road.

~~_____~~

~~_____~~
JUL 21 1965

We also know that at this time, and prior thereto, there was a Bold Springs Baptist Church. Robert H. Harris, while a school teacher in Cairo, was ordained a Baptist minister in 1878 and Bold Springs was his first pastorate. During the same period, 1878 through 1880, he was also pastor of the Long Branch Baptist Church. Bold Springs was in the 17th District of Thomas [now Grady] County, near Barnett's Creek and a short distance north of the old Thomasville to Bainbridge stage road.

=====

JUL 21 1965

see p. 5 at

History Of Bold Springs United Methodist Church

This is the seventh in a series of articles about United Methodist Churches in Grady County which are being published in connection with the Bi-Centennial Celebration of Methodism in America.

Last week's article was about Friendship United Methodist Church in Cairo, the youngest Methodist congregation in the county. This week, we feature Bold Springs United Methodist Church, the county's oldest.

Bold Springs' story began in 1863 when Robert B. McCord moved from Walton County, Georgia to what was then Thomas County, bringing with him, along with his family and a few slaves, his love for his church.

According to information passed down from the original McCord to his youngest son who was 18 months old at the time of the move, and recorded by a grandson, once the elder McCord got settled on his new land he began a search for a Methodist Church site in the neighborhood.

Both the son, Howard McCord and grandson, J. D. McCord became ministers.

The McCord family story about those early Bold Springs years relates that a site was found near a good spring on the J. T. Drew property about two miles east of the McCord home, the chosen site of about four acres being deeded by the Drews for a church.

Mr. McCord called a neighborhood meeting which resulted in a community effort in the building of a log church which he named, with the permission of his neighbors, Bold Springs Methodist Church, the name of his old church in Walton County.

A little later the group built "a very neat log parsonage" on fifty acres deeded by Mr. McCord and the first minister to occupy it was Rev. P. C. Harris.

Another early pastor was Rev. J. T. Ainsworth, father of Bishop Ainsworth.

Those early Bold Springs ministers also served the small Cairo Methodist Church one Sunday in each month.

In 1876 Rev. H. C. Fentress came to occupy the Bold Springs parsonage, a pastor the McCords' remembered as "young and full of spirit."

Church services were held on both Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m. at Bold Springs and Rev. Fentress attracted large crowds to all services.

The young minister suggested at one Saturday service that a revival be held but received no support from his congregation because of time needed in the fields, according to the McCords' recollection.

Fentress suggested praying about it until the Sunday service and at that time announced without further consultation that the revival would begin the following

Monday with services daily at eleven o'clock in the morning and at "early candlelight."

Five young people answered the "altar call" that first night and the three young men, Robert McCord, Jesse Aldredge, and Charles A. Jackson, later became ministers. Jackson served in the South Georgia Conference for 61 years.

By 1888 Bold Springs Methodist Church had approximately 400 members, some of them leaving later to organize the Ochlocknee, Pierce Chapel and Woodland churches.

Like many rural churches, Bold Springs has seen its congregation reduced in size since the peak of the late 19th century and early 20th

century, however it has continued to be a very vital part of the community which surrounds it in the eastern part of the county and that part of Thomas County just across Barnetts Creek.

In the 1930s, under the wing of Miss Bessie Miller, a field worker for the South Georgia Conference, the congregation built a community house for use by the church and the community.

The WSCS raised money to complete the building and porches, the bathroom and plumbing was donated by Mr. Morris Miller and the kitchen cabinet work was done by Mr. Gull Drew.

During the ministry of Rev. Danny Shepherd in the late 1960s Bold Springs had a very active youth program, a period of time in the church's history now fondly remembered by many adults.

The WSCS disbanded in 1965 but was reorganized in 1982 as the United Methodist Women.

For many years the ladies of the Bold Springs Congregation raised funds by serving meals to the Cairo Kiwanis Club and the Farmers Mutual Exchange.

The present church building built around the original log cabin church, has been modernized and improved

over the years through efforts of the congregation and other friends of the church.

Bold Springs United Methodist Church, now in its 120th years, has 58 members and is a member of the Cairo Circuit.

Its current pastor is Rev. James D. Aycock and both church services and Sunday School are held each Sunday morning.

Annual Barrett, Dollar And Willis Family Reunion Sept. 16

The annual Barrett-Dollar and Willis family reunion will be held Sunday, September 16 at the Agri-Center in Cairo, Ga. All relatives and friends are cordially invited to attend. Bring tea and picnic lunch to be spread at 1 o'clock.



FOR MANY GENERATIONS BOLD SPRINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH has stood as the religious and community center of a large section in the eastern part of Grady County. It continues to be a very vital part of Methodism in Grady County. (Photo by Hugh Gandy)

BAINBRIDGE JUNIOR COLLEGE FALL QUARTER CAREER COURSES

Day and Evening Starting Soon In

- Accounting
- Automotive Mechanics
- Bookkeeping (Evening)
- Data Processing
- Drafting (Evening)
- Electrical
- Heating and Air Conditioning (Evening)
- Marketing and Management
- Masonry (Evening)
- Nurses Assistant (Evening)
- Secretarial Science
- Welding

TEST DATES

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

SEPT. 10 CPP 9:00 A.M. RM 274 6:00 P.M. RM 274
SEPT. 13 CPP 9:00 A.M. RM 266 6:00 P.M. RM 266

DEGREE PROGRAMS

SEPT. 10 BSE 9:00 A.M. RM 268 6:00 P.M. RM 268
SEPT. 13 SAT 9:00 A.M. RM 268 6:00 P.M. RM 268

REGISTRATION

Returning Students:

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. & 6-8 p.m. on Sept. 17

New Students:

Orientation 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and from 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

Registration 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. and from 6:45 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 18

For more information call the Admissions Office at 246-7941

BAINBRIDGE JUNIOR COLLEGE Fall Quarter Registration

SEPTEMBER 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 1984



MORE LOCAL



Submitted photo

Miriam Flynt Powell, chapter president; Fran Martin Passmore, state chairman Marking and Preservation of Historic Sites; Rebecca Miller Rostron, chaplain of the Georgia Society; Rosemary Lee Henderson, chapter registrar and state chairman, History Scholarship and Carol Ann Morrison, state chairman Heraldry and Coats of Arms (back row).

Bold Springs church gains Colonial Dames designation

Staff report

Bold Springs United Methodist Church Designated an historic site by the John Lee of Nansemond Chapter, Colonial Dames 17th Century.

The Bold Springs United Methodist Church in Grady County was designated an historic site by the National Society Colonial Dames 17th Century and the local John Lee of Nansemond Chapter at a historic marker dedication on Oct. 3. The occasion was, also, "Homecoming Day" for the church. A bountiful "southern dinner" was served in the Community Center after the program.

Everyone was welcomed by Jack Drew Sr., who asked for audience participation by giving stories about their long association with the church. Many mentioned stories of several generations and that they met their mate at the church. It was remembered that at least seven former members became Methodist ministers. Marjorie Ragan, Marilyn Williams (a chapter member), Runnel Myers, Linda Drew Johnson and Jack Drew gave interesting stories.

A brief worship service was conducted by the Lay Pastor, Tammy Fin-

cannon, which included special music by Alice Parish who provided a piano prelude and music for singing. Aubrey Walden sang "My Temporary Home." Kyle Parker sang "Amazing Grace," and asked the audience to join in.

Miriam Flynt Powell, president of the John Lee of Nansemond Chapter, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. She thanked the church members for supporting the effort of the Society to mark the church.

She introduced Fran Martin Passmore, State Chairman, Marking and Preservation of Historical Sites. The chairman explained that the first of seven objects of the Society is "to aid in the preservation of records and historical sites of our country," the chapters search out worthy historical sites in their communities to be designated with a marker. The history of the site has to be approved by a national committee.

Rosemary Lee Henderson, organizer of the chapter in January 2007 and first president, first recognized Bold Springs United Methodist Church as a possible site for the chapter to designate for a historical mark-

er after learning the history of the church from Joan Drew. She had formerly served as State Chairman for Historical Preservation and as State Historian.

Joan Miller Drew, Historian of the Chapter and a member of the church, gave a history of the church.

The church was established in 1863 by Robert B. McCord, but burned and the present church was built in 1874. The story handed down is that McCord came to what was Thomas County and now Grady County from Walton County to buy land to grow cotton.

A ceremony was held to unveil the bronze plaque that reads: Bold Springs United Methodist Church. Built in 1874. The church is known as The Mother Church of Methodism in Grady County.

Marked by the John Lee of Nansemond Chapter, National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century, Oct. 3. The ceremony was preceded by a dedication prayer given by Rebecca Miller Rostron, Chaplain of the State Society.

The marker was unveiled by the trustees of the church: Al Ward, Cecil Stewart, Graham Myers, Jack Drew Sr., J.P. Atkinson and Ron Parish.