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Hayes Letter

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June 23, 1965

MEMO TO RSR, JR.

Miss Myrtle has gotten some good information on the Cairo Methodist Church, and I will send you her copy.

Uncle Bob likely remembers the Fentress, Ousley, Arnold, etc. In fact, I have heard Mamma speak of Ousley and they have been in our home many times.

I have an idea Uncle Bob will enjoy reading this.

I believe this will answer every question you ask in your June 21st memo, or all that's available from this good source, and of course if they couldn't get it when they wrote the history of the church, I don't expect it's available.

JBR

Dictated not read

20 J.B.R. Sr. and Mrs. Myrtle Allen -
JUN 26 1965

The accompanying information is splendid.

Papa remembers practically all of Preachers, starting with the elder Ainsworth, and thinks Ousley and the younger Ainsworth were later Presiding Elders (in a Methodist circuit).

He says the first church was a white painted wooden structure, very plain, but he doesn't remember it with arched windows and arched doors. He says that the Presbyterian Church was the only one with any special architectural design or beautification. But that is immaterial as I do not intend to particularly describe it.

B. F. Powell and Benjamin Franklin Powell was one and the same person, a half-brother of William Powell and called "Dock" Powell. He, too, was a S.S. teacher of R.S.R.Sr.

Of course Mrs. D.W. Wilmot was wife of Dr. Wilmot, himself a Baptist. "Uncle Tom Brown" (overseer of Dr. Roddenbery farms) lived "on the hill" (northeast Cairo) and, rain or shine, hot or freezing, the whole family walked to church every time there was meeting.

Except for the fact I would like to know for certain that W. A. Chester (son of Stephen A.) was an early S.S. Supt., we now have all information we need on Cairo Methodist Church (the first in the village of Cairo). W. A. Chester (later moved to Whigham) was one of early Aldermen and was Town Clerk of Cairo. W.B.R.Sr., named him as one of the outstanding leaders in earliest days of Cairo.

J. H. Hayes who helped start the church was Justice of the Peace and built the first two-story building in Cairo, immediately south of railroad on east side of S. Broad St.

Papa does not remember initials of Watts but says there were two of them, called "Bull" Watts and "Stud" Watts. "Bull" Watts had a fine bull, and "Stud" Watts had a stud horse, for which they charged for services.

Thanks,