

## **Dover's Chapel**

**Location:** Vertical Files at B.S. Ricks Memorial Library  
of the Yazoo Library Association | 310 N. Main  
Street, Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194

# Yazoo's early churches

## Dover's Chapel

Established as a Union Church in 1854, the Dover church was used by Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian congregations, with each denomination having a Sunday each month.

Dover's Chapel is first listed in the pastoral charges of the Mississippi Annual Conference in 1872. It is said that the original building was a two story one and that the upper floor housed the Masonic Lodge. It stood until the mid 1930's when it was replaced by a brick veneer building.

On May 16, 1845 one acre in the W $\frac{1}{2}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$ . Section 20, Township 10, Range 1 West was deeded. On April 19th 1873 an additional deed listed W.R. Smith, A.M. Hicks, Charles Langford, and Joe O. Mobley as trustees.

The Dover Cemetery, which is some distance from the present church, has within its boundaries the markers bearing the names of families long prominent in the area. First burials date from 1856, with a great number in the 1870's.

A small marker, inscribed

Marion, Son of Rev. F.M. and M.E. Featherstun, might signify that the pastor served the Dover Church as well as the Methodist Church at Fletchers Chapel. Rev. Francis M. Featherstun was born in Tennessee in 1827. He married Miss Elizabeth Rundell in June 1848 and they were the parents of ten children, two of whom became Methodist preachers. He died in 1891.

The Rev. William E. Holliday, born April 29, 1813, joined the Methodist Church in 1832, preached 25 years and died on September 20, 1858, age 46 years, four months and 21 days.

A record of the native states of the settlers in the area is found on these gravestones. Dr. Samuel Dixon Robertson, born in Fairfield District, S.C. Oct. 24, 1837, died at Anding, Miss. Sept. 26, 1910. Dr. William I. Helm, born in King George County, Va. July 4, 1794, died at his residence near Dover, Feb. 27, 1870. Seaborn Collins, born in Richmond Co. Georgia Jan. 22, 1796, died Aug. 2, 1868. The daughter of Michael Hooter, S.L. Rosenberg, born Nov. 21, 1819, died July 22, 1912.

Y.H.S. Shipp, born Jan. 1, 1804, died Oct. 19, 1877 was a member of Dover Lodge No. 197, F & AM.

The patriotism of the Dover people is shown in the number of markers of soldiers in several wars. Robert F. Sandidge, Benjamin F. Sandidge, O.H. Brumfield, John Brumfield, Asbury G. Barksdale, and Forrester Barrier served in the Confederate States Army. Nathan Ray, William G. Birkhead, John D. Myers, Jep Strong Jr., Arthur Johnson, William Nelson Burton, Ethel Lamar Burton, John S. Parker and Capt. William Barksdale Bradshaw served in later conflicts.

Numbered among the preachers who served the charge were Richard Abbey, F.M. Featherstun, and John Lusk. Rev. Martin Anding Bell of the nearby Scotland community probably filled the pulpit here during his years as a Methodist minister.

**Bibliography:** Land Records, Yazoo Co. Deed Bk. QQ page 767. Methodism in the Miss. Conference, Jones Dover Cemetery Records