

Mount Olivet Methodist Church

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Street, Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194

Mount Olivet Methodist Church has been a land-mark of the Mechanicsburg community for a century or more. Having been moved three or four times. Three cemeteries have been used. Two have been abandoned and washed away, and would be hard to find now,

The lovely church, as it stands today shows the love and care of its members. Some of the remembered Pastors are: Rev. Ferguson, Rev. Massy, Rev. Fleetx Jones, Rev. A.S. Bird, Rev. Maddox, Rev. Ray Quick, Rev. Martin Case. There are others.

In the early years of my remembrance we had a week of two services a day, with dinner on the ground each day. It seemed that if it had not rained for weeks, so many times just as the food was spread on the tables under the big trees, the first Sunday of the Revival, a cloud would come up. Fourth Sunday in July has been the set time for ages and ages. I remember one Pastor decided he would not be bound by that tradition and he set a different time which resulted in a very poorly attended Revival. The Farmers and Homemakers prepared for that set time from the years beginning. That was their rest and revival time.

So many of our older ones have gone on, but we who are here cherish the memory of those old time Revivals, and the present cemetery is the resting place for so many of our loved ones.

Smith
The first people to settle in Mechanicsburg were farm believers in God. With all probability they met in homes and community houses to worship until July 5, 1851, Mr. Elihu Wasson deeded 2 1/2 acres of land for a church site. The name of the church was to be Mt. Olivet. Trustees at this time were Mr. Michial Wooten, Mr. J. W. Foster, Mr. Monroe Ham, Mr. J. W. Wooten, and Mr. Alexander McLeod. Some of the known charter members were Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Foster, Mr. and Mrs. William Aayers, Mrs. William T. Bell, Elizabeth M. Bell, Cornelius Bell Major and Mrs. T. R. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Martin and Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Lumbley. Pastor at this time was Reverend Alexander Campbell.

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In 1884 Mr. Mrs Lucious Taylor gave 4 acres of land for a cementary and a new church site. The new church was completed and dedicated on May 29, 1884. This was the gathering place of worship until in May 1947 Mr. & Mrs. E. H. Selby gave one and six tenths of land on the north side of the road for a new church site. It was dedicated on February 5, 1950. Bishop Marvin Franklin was ~~present~~ present for dedication also Brother and Mrs. Fleet Jones. ~~The preacher was Martin Case~~

The Church has always been active in youth and adult programs.

include the following preachers
Interesting notes. Admitted on trial, Dec. 5, 1877, John S. Hutton; December 17, 1879, Martin Anding Bell; December 16, 1885, Robert S. Gale. 1892---J. W. Ellison reported an 8-day meeting at Mount Olivet where he was assisted by G. W. Alexander and H. L. Scarbrough local preachers. Another meeting at Sartatia with one accession and a third ~~xxx~~ meeting at Anding. The later place a new church was nearing completion.

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Yazoo's early churches

Mount Olivet Methodist church

by Nina Pepper and Dot Smith

On July 5, 1851 Elihu Wasson and his wife, Sarah, deeded to Michael Hooter, J. H. Foster, Monroe Hamberlin, J. N. Hooter and Alexander McLeod, all of Yazoo County, Trustees, and their successors in Trust, for \$1.00 a parcel of land.

The wording of the deed was unusual for it read "for all the uses and purposes mentioned and declared in the form of a Deed of Settlement as contained in the Book of Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. Commence at the center of the house of worship and running due South 80 yds, thence North 100 yds., thence West 100 yds, thence South 100 yds, thence East 50 yds. this lot being near the SW corner of S $\frac{1}{2}$ of E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$. Section 9, Township 9 R 3 W, containing 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, more or less, also the right of way from the Vicksburg-Benton Road to said lot of ground at least 20 ft. wide on good and even ground, starting at a point south or Southwest of said house and running SW of the schoolhouse mound.

No doubt "Mt Olivet" was organized prior to this date for campmeetings were held and the schoolhouse mentioned was probably used. According to the 1850 census Mr. Wasson, a native of North Carolina, was a teacher. He served, also as a

Justice of the Peace and performed numerous marriages in the community.

Michael Hooter, better known as Mike Hooter, was one of the most colorful characters recorded in Mississippi Methodism. Born April 5, 1791 on the Red River in Louisiana, he spent his early years there and became proficient in farming and bear hunting; but had little opportunity to gain an education.

Sometime later he moved near Rodney, Miss. where he farmed and hunted. Many tall-tales have been passed down regarding his hunting prowess.

He married Miss Cynthia Harrison of Adams County November 10, 1810. It was while at Rodney that he joined the Methodist Church and became a leader in the congregation. After moving to near Satartia he was given a license to preach. He died Nov. 30, 1867. His brother, James N., who died in 1862, moved to Hinds County before coming to Yazoo County to live.

Numerous members of the Foster and Hamberlin families still live in the area. Archer H. Foster was married to Sarah Hamberlin in 1851. Monroe Hamberlin was bondsman with Mr. Wasson performing the rites. Catherine S. Hamberlin, listed as head of the household in 1850, had Monroe H., age 21,

planter as member. On 17 Nov. 1852 he married Miss Angeline Trotter.

The Lumbley family was long prominent at Mt. Olivet. William Washington Lumbley, who married Miss Lucy Jane Lewis 18 Dec. 1850, served as a Sunday School teacher there for over 40 years and is buried in the church cemetery. Four of his children moved to and became prominent citizens of Silver City; Mrs. J. N. Slaughter, Mrs. W. E. Campbell, Mrs. Jasper Bass and Mr. R. W. Lumbley.

Names of others long associated with the church are: Williams, Potter, Fears, Martin, Roberts, Germany, Oldham, Smithhart, Mansfield, Hancock, Taylor, Dorsy, Walker, Irwin, Bunner, Ward, Sturdivant, Isonhood, Burroughs, Woods, Lewis and Sadler.

Among the preachers who have served there are Alexander Campbell in 1873, W. W. Hurst, 1881, John S. Hutton, 1878, J. W. Ellison in 1892, and Martin Anding Bell was admitted from the charge in 1880. Local preachers were H. L. Scarborough and G. W. Alexander.

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