

## Hall County history

# Important historical data found in church minutes

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Genealogical records, migration patterns and history are recorded in musty church minutes of some of the early churches of Hall County. Many times pioneer settlers procrastinated and failed to get land deeds, wills, settlement of estates recorded at the courthouse, but they did attend church. Church membership was important to them. When the family moved from community to community, or from state to state, the church membership was transferred and was so recorded.

Early church records are of such historic value that historians and Archives are constantly seeking these minutes so that they might be microfilmed and preserved for future generations. They record the way of life, the joys, sorrows, some marriages, and even the sins of the people. It is most tragic that many of these important records have been lost and destroyed by man's carelessness or by fires.

### Hopewell

Hopewell Baptist Church, off Candler Road, was organized 1808, 10 years before the creation of Hall County. However, the earliest church minutes cannot be found. The records date back to 1825. Recently, all available minute books were carried to the State Archives in Atlanta where each page of each book was laminated, and

the books were rebound in heavy-duty binding. Most important, however, all the records are now on microfilm at the Archives. Other Hall County church minutes on microfilm are Concord, Cool Springs, Harmony Hall, and Oak Grove. There is no charge for laminating or microfilming. There is a nominal fee for rebinding, the same as charged the Archives.

Extracts from early records of Hopewell Church:

"April 9, 1825...church met, conference opened as usual. Brother Isam Histly came forward with a letter of dismission and was received into our (our) union. The black woman belonging to Jesse Lott came forward a second hearing, was received into our union...a complaint against Christiana Crawford for non-attendance..."

"September...sister Jemima Histly came by letter from the Walnut Church. She had letter but has either lost same or misplaced it. She was received on testimony of brethren Rives and Majors..."

"January, 1826...came for-

ward and confessed he had drank too much...brother James... (illegible) confessed he had used profane language..."

"August, 1850...received letter of dismission from Cabin Creek Church for Catharine Rouse which was Reed...Tuesday Nancy Williams came with a letter of dismission from Manicks Hill Church, Moor County, N.C....Aresina Merret and Anselm Manon Bell received by experience."

"Wednesday...Elender Thompson came with letter from Macedonia Church, Bute County, Georgia..."

"September 21...Zachariah Hudgins, Margret Hudgins and Sintha Morgan came forward."

"April 1861...Polly Sexton and Sarah A. Sexton came with letter of dismission from Academy Church, Jackson County...June, Sister Marthie Rouse came with letter of dismission from Zion Church, Jackson County..."

"July, 1861...Joined by experience, Sister Tanner...B.H. Carter came, with letter from Mountain Home Church, Polk County, Georgia..."

### Civil War Records

Some Civil War records are found in the Hopewell Minutes:

"Saturday, 25th of January 1862. There was a motion and it carried for the clerk to record all of the brethren names in this book who have died in Virginia also record all the members names that have died and may have died commencing from last association."

"Whereas God in his all wise Providence has removed from this world to a world of Spirits, our brethren A.P. Vandiver, Robbert Pdsen (Paxson) and W.R. Bell all who went as volunteers to Virginia and died there except Vandiver who returned home and lived a short time. We have therefore resolved to set apart Friday before our next meeting for Prayer to God for army and soldiers and on Sunday we have services in memory of our departed brethren. H.B. Cobb, A.W. Bell and W.R. Howington have been appointed as a committee to invite Ministers and notify relatives and friends of the meeting. J. Barber, Clerk."

"August 24, 1862. Manen Bell died in Richmond the 18th day of May 1862. David H. Sailors died in Chattanooga, Tenn. the 20th July 1862. William J. Hemphill was shot in Richmond the 28th of June, 1862."

"Saturday- September 27th, 1862...Thomas C. Brober died at Clinton Tenn. 25th August, 1862."