

Update of Biographical Sketches
Included in Liberty Chapel/Inman UMC History

1-8-1998 update for Biography Section

- 1----Hightower Family: William Hightower (1773-1845) & Amelia Fann (1770-1840-50), James Calhoun Hightower (1813-1891) & Manervia Ann Armstrong (1813-1889) by John L. McLucas, Sr. and S. J. Overstreet.
- 2----Elisha Hill (1777-1856) & Martha Patsy Stubbs (1784-1829) by S. J. Overstreet, John Story (1811-1868) & Mary Hill by Mary Harper, John Hill (1812-1884) by S. J. Overstreet
- 3----McLucas: From Scotland to Georgia: Archibald McLucas (1799-1841), Andrew McLucas (1827-28--1863), Rev. Daniel McLucas (1832-1899) & Rebecca Ann Chambers (1828-1908), Archibald McLucas (1856-1903) & Sarah Jane Lunsford (1858-1925), Hon. Daniel Allen McLucas (1835-1900) & Charlotte S. Hightower (1840-1918) by John L. McLucas, Sr., John McLucas, Jr., and S. J. Overstreet
- 4----Joseph Sanders Chambers (1799-1858) & Frances Asbury Stinchcomb (1802-1894) by Sadie Burdett Chambers
- 5----Rev. William W. Steagall (1804-1884) by Judy Ray
- 6----The Dorman Family: Rev. Alfred Dorman (1804-1876), Rev. Hiram Dorman (1805-1894) by John Lynch
- 7----Rev. Elias Wells Story (1807-1888) by Mary Harper; addendum by S. J. Overstreet
- 8----Harp & Minter Families by Jim and Richard Minter
- 9----Rev. Mozee Harp (1819-1874) & Sarah Hill (1820-1909) by John L. McLucas, Sr., and S. J. Overstreet
- ✓ 10----Rev. John William Mills (1819-1874) & Sarah Elizabeth Chambers (1823-1840) by Chandler Eavenson
- 11----Rev. Bogan Mask (1821-1898) & Mary Frances Chambers (1825-1912) by Jennifer B. Daniel; Rev. Ruth Shaw (1927) by Ruth Baird Shaw
- 12----Thomas F. Luncford (1824-1888) & Martha Rachel Hill (1822-1890), by Griffin A. Luncford and S. J. Overstreet
- 13----The Lambs of Fayette County Georgia: John M. Lamb (1828-1864) & Martha Chambers (1830-1913) by R. Gene Lamb
- 14----Quintus C. Grice (1830-1915) & Sarah C. Gray (1838-1899) by S. J. Overstreet
- 15----James Absalom Chambers (1833-1905) & Mary Ann Dorman (1824-1908) by Sadie Burdett Chambers
- 16----Joseph Newton Banks, Jr. (1839-1919) & Nancy Missouri Mitchell (1843-1940), Alexander Gardner Banks (1882-1970) & Lula Effie McLucas (1881-1946), Sara Nancy Banks Overstreet (b. 1913), Memories of Lennie Banks Proux and Sara Banks Overstreet, by S. J. Overstreet and Graceann Overstreet Rogers
- 17----John A. Nash (1839-1915) by S. J. Overstreet
- 18----The Welden's in Inman: Elijah Burrell Welden, M.D. (1844-1922) & Mary Frances Harp (1856-1924); John A. Nash (1839-1915) & Ora Annie Welden (1842-1913), by S. J. Overstreet
- 19----Rev. N. E. McBrayer (1849-1938) by Robert McBrayer
- 20----John Lee McLucas (1866-1906) & Louisa Dora Nash (1868-1952) and Family, by John L. McLucas, Sr.
- 21----The Walter Lee Burch (1886-1967) Family, by Mary Jean Burch, submitted by Eva Hardin
- 22----Andrew Carl Welden (1886-1922) & Letitia Belle Mullins (1899-1947) by Tish S. Judy
- 24----Frank Reeves (1918) by himself
- 25----Ware Callaway (1918) by himself
- 26----Biographical sketch by Rev. W. Dan Overstreet
- 27----Biographical sketch by Rev./Dr. Donald A. Harp, Jr.
- 28----Biographical sketch by Rev. Gary M. Parrish



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Jan. 1998

Please enter the attached report in the family file for the

Chambers Family Sarah E. Chambers Mills

This article is part of an overall project to document the history of Liberty Chapel / Inman United Methodist Church in Fayette County Georgia. Any further information would be appreciated.

Inman United Methodist Church
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Fayette County Deed Book C, Page 152 deed dated Oct. 10, 1832; recorded May 29, 1834. Lot 242, 4th Dist. Grantor--Daniel R. Thomas; Grantees--Trustees of Liberty Chapel, Elisha Hill (for whom Hill's Bridge Road is named), Giles Newton, William Chambers, Jas. Cummins, Sr., John Bateman, Elias Story, and Jas. Cummins, Jr. Witnesses: John N. Hightower, Elizabeth Hightower, Hiram Dorman, J.P., Joseph Lamberth, Clerk.

By 1849 the second deed for the church was registered at the courthouse. A log church was built by members across Hill's Bridge Road from the established community cemetery--about a half mile West of the Flint River. The deed reads as follows: Fayette County Deed Book F, p. 299, dated Feb. 18, 1849, recorded Sept. 18, 1849. Lot 246, 4th District. Grantor--Roland Stubbs; Grantees--Trustees of Liberty Chapel, Elisha Hill, James Hightower, Moeze Harp, and Thomas Turner. When the church moved and this lot was sold in 1884, the Trustees were E. B. Welden, J. C. Hightower, T. W. Ballard, and D. McLucas (Deed book O, page 168).

When the church held revivals or other special events, a temporary brush arbor was built to accommodate a larger crowd. A brush arbor was a frame of logs with branches laid over the top to provide shade. A summer revival worked into the local schedule fairly well, because revivals were held in the heat of summer when the crops had been planted and were growing and the farm families could take some time out of the fields before harvest. This was called "laying by time."

The local population grew quickly, so that there was a need for a larger permanent structure for regular church services. A new white wooden church was built to the West side of the cemetery before the War Between the States. The members cut the lumber and built the church. Some of our senior members still recall attending this church.

By 1891, Liberty Chapel was separated from the Fayette Circuit and was on a much smaller circuit. The assigned pastor changed every year or two. In a deed dated 1917 (Book Q, page 509), the Trustees were listed as E. B. Weldon, W. F. Jones, W. E. M. Harp, J. T. Burch, and H. M. Tarpley. The church was first called Inman Methodist when it moved to the fourth building in about 1920. A new wooden church was built on John Street about a half mile from the cemetery, located closer to the business district. By that time Inman had several stores, a Post Office, a school, a cotton gin, and a train depot with daily service.

As the wooden church began to need repairs and modern conveniences, the congregation decided to build a new brick church in 1966. This current church faces Hill's Bridge Road and is scheduled for expansion.

At this time Inman United Methodist Church is a station assignment in the LaGrange District of the North Georgia Conference. An ordained pastor assigned by the conference preaches every Sunday. Three ordained United Methodist pastors came from our congregation--Rev. Dan Overstreet, Dr. Don Harp, and Rev. Gary Parrish. The school and cotton gin have closed and there is only one store still operating. The old depot still stands and is undergoing renovation. The church is still an active community establishment! Membership has increased, and a preschool educational program has been established. The music department is under the leadership of professionals. There are two separate restrooms in the church, as well as Sunday School rooms. There is a part-time secretary, a computer, and a FAX machine, and a Web Page! With a proud eye on our past, we have a vision for our future!!!

At this time a church history is almost complete--including about 250 typed pages of church and community records, along with family histories. If you would like to add your information, or see a copy of the document, please notify the church office: S. J. Overstreet (Church Historian) or Dr. David Campbell (Pastor), Inman United Methodist Church, 153 Hill's Bridge Road, Fayetteville, GA, 30215, 770-461-2123. E-mail us at InmanUMC@aol.com. Visit our new Web Page is at <http://members.aol.com/inmanumc/index.html>.

TO: Charge Conference Nov. 1997

FROM: S. J. (I'll mail the disk with this article)

RE: Report for Charge Conference from Church Historian

At this time the Inman Methodist/Liberty Chapel history of our first century of service in this community is almost complete. The history is about 250 typed pages long, and is divided into 4 sections: 1) Church Records--researched materials, early pastors, membership rolls, church conference ledgers, deeds, misc.; 2) Biographies of early members and their families--about 25 families represented, with articles written by a number of descendants; 3) Genealogy Section for major families represented on our early rolls from John McLucas, Sr.'s database (the family tree goes straight up anyway!); and 4) Updated Cemetery Census 1997. At this time the Church Historian would like to thank those many members and non-members who have contributed to this effort. Research for this project has been a rewarding experience as our church has such a rich history. If you would like to look over the latest print-out, or if you would volunteer to proof-read a section to eliminate any typos or errors, please see S. J. Overstreet. This history is shaping up to be a good source of church, community, and family documentation preserved for future generations.

A History of Inman, Fayette County, GA

Liberty Chapel/Inman United Methodist

by S. J. Overstreet, Church Historian--1997

The history of the Inman community and the local United Methodist church are as old as Fayette County. Fayette County was formed in 1821 following the Treaty of Indian Springs. At first, the land where Inman is now located was in the edge of Henry County. Within a few months the line between Fayette and Henry was redrawn and Fayette got the land where we are now located. Much later (1858) Clayton County was formed out of Henry and Fayette, and at that time the land on the East side of the Flint River (about a mile from our church) went into Clayton. During our early history, the land on both sides of the Flint River was Fayette County.

When the land here was first opened to settlers, the Methodist Church assigned circuit riding preachers to the new territory. There was a determined effort to build membership among African-Americans and Native Americans as well as settlers of European descent. Early Methodist congregations tended to start out meeting in private homes. When the congregation grew, they might build a little church on donated land. The South Carolina conference would send a preacher who would travel from one church to another on horseback, and would preach on whatever day of the week he arrived in the community. These "Circuit Riders" would sleep in the homes of parishioners. At first this church was part of the Yellow River Circuit along with the remainder of Fayette County, as well as Walton, Newton, and Henry Counties. The circuit eventually became part of a circuit covering much less area as the population became more dense. The earliest records of this church are found in the private journal of Rev. Isaac Boring, who came about once a month in 1832 to the church known then as Liberty Chapel.

This congregation registered an official deed with Fayette County in 1832, and the deed described the acre about a half mile East of the Flint River. This land is located on what is now the Woolsey/Hampton road at the dead-end of Panhandle Road. The deed pointed out that a church was already located on the land. The early trustees as per the deed were local land-owners, and some of their families are still in the community today. The deed is registered in the oldest courthouse records as follows:

was in the attack on Powhass Hook, NY, and afterwards was in the militia service at Gates defeat near Camden. He was awarded a pension of \$80.00 per year, after his death the pension was awarded to his widow Keronhappuck.

John McMullan (McMullen, McMullin) was born ca 1740 in Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland, the son of Patrick Joseph McMullan and Mary Sinclair. John's older brothers, Andrew, Francis, Sinclair, Patrick and Daniel went to Dublin to work in the shipbuilding industry, John following them there when he was age 18. Around 1760 John was employed on a sailing vessel bound for America, landed at Norfolk, and settled in Orange Co., VA. He first married Theodosia Beasley by whom he had 5 children, 3 of whom later moved to Georgia. John served in the Revolution, enlisting in 1777 in the 7th VA Regiment, composed mostly of Irish volunteers. A daughter later stated that John was a tailor by trade and made the first military suit worn by General Washington after he became Commander-in-Chief.

John McMullan married 2nd to Elizabeth Stowers, daughter of Mark Stowers and Hannah Briant of Orange Co., VA and moved to Elbert Co. in 1797. Their 10 children were Nail, Jeremiah, Lewis, Thomas, Fielding, Nancy, Sinclair, Elizabeth, Daniel and Lavinia. Jeremiah died in Henry Co., Fielding, Daniel and Lavinia (Mrs. Archibald D. Smith) died in Jonesboro, as did John's widow Elizabeth who remarried 1839 in Elbert Co. to John Prather.

John McMullan signed his Will on 6 Dec 1817, probated 6 Jan 1818, both Elbert Co., in which he named his son Nail McMullan and son-in-law James Mills as executors. Descendants of Nancy McMullan and husband James Mills have named their children as follows:

1. Martha C. Mills, married 22 Jan 1829 Fayette Co. to William Watson. www.georgiapioneers.com
2. Elizabeth Mills, married 28 Nov 1838 Henry Co. to John Wood.
3. John William Mills, born 2 April 1819 in Elbert Co., GA., died 6 Jul 1874 in Shelby Co., TX, married ca 1840 to Sarah Elizabeth Chambers, daughter of Joseph S. Chambers and Frances Stinchcomb.
4. Viney Mills, married 28 Jul 1841 to Josephine McNeer (or McKneess) of Kentucky.
5. Mary Mills, married Riley Kinard.
6. Nancy Mills, married 1 Dec 1855 to Wash Wyatt.
7. James H. Mills, married 4 Mar 1856 to Nancy Parlee Newton, is said he died 1863 in Civil War in Arkansas and buried there.

John William Mills (1819-1874) and Sarah Elizabeth Chambers had one child, a son James Joseph Moses Mills, born on 4 Jan 1841. Sarah died 11 days later of septic fever and John William later married 2nd on 1 Jun 1847 at Albany, GA to Martha Elvira "Ellie" Ferguson (1828-1913) of Florida. John and Ellie were shown in the 1850 census of Gadsden Co., FL living next door to his parents James and Nancy McMullan Mills. Nancy was last known to have been living with a son or grandson in Panola Co., TX. John William Mills and his son by Sarah Chambers, James Joseph Moses Mills, were both Methodist ministers.

Nancy Mills Watkins of Austin, TX, a descendant of John William and James Joseph Moses Mills, furnished a transcript of the writings of Mary Elizabeth "Mamie" Mills Elrod of Texas, daughter of James Joseph Moses Mills, written on 12 Jan 1938 and in which she gives an account of the life of her father:

Mr. Harp was married Dec. 16, 1876, to Miss Mary Ida, daughter of Edward O. and Sophronia (Glass) North, natives of what is now Clayton county, Ga. To them the following children were born: William E. M., born Oct. 3, 1877; James, deceased, born Aug. 3, 1879; John Fearn, deceased, born Oct. 15, 1881; Harry, born Nov. 7, 1884; Andrew Russell, born Nov. 11, 1886; May Ida, born Jan. 25, 1889; Ray, born May 9, 1901; Hugh, born Nov. 15, 1903.

At the time of this writing, Miss Mae Harp—daughter of W. N. T. Harp—is the oldest living member of the McMullan-Harp family. She was born January 25, 1889, and resides in Fayetteville, GA. She was 108 years old on her birthday in 1997. She has been a lifelong active member of this congregation, having been entered on the Church Roll on July 29, 1908 by pastor J. W. Bailey.

***See Elisha Hill family in Genealogy Section

***See Rev. Mozec Harp family in Genealogy Section

***See Richard Henry Minter family in Genealogy Section

***See Dr. Elijah Burrell Welden family in Genealogy Section

Rev. John William Mills (1819-1874) & Sarah Elizabeth Chambers (1823-1840)

by Chandler Eavenson, Santee-Nacoochee, GA
Mills--McMullan--Chambers

My GGG Grandfather Moses Mills (ca 1747-1833) married 8 Dec 1787 Charlotte Co., VA to Keronhappuck Rather, daughter of James and Lucy Rather. They moved to Elbert Co., GA ca 1790 and sometimes after 1819 moved to Fayette Co., GA. His Will signed there on 23 Mar 1831 names wife and children William, James and Martha C. Phipps. He died in Fayette Co. 2 Jul 1833. Children:

1. William Mills born 5 Sep 1788, died 18 Oct 1860 in Elbert Co., married there 12 Dec 1815 to Nancy Brown, daughter of Edward and Lucy Brown. One of their 9 children was Maria Louisa Mills (1830-1885) who married 1845 Elbert Co. to Edwin Kinnebrew Fortson (1827-1898). Maria and Edwin moved to and died in Clayton Co., GA.
2. James Mills, born 5 Oct 1790, married 24 Sep 1812 Elbert Co. to Nancy McMullan, daughter of the Irish immigrant John McMullan and 2nd wife Elizabeth Stowers. James and Nancy moved to Fayette Co. (see more later).
3. Martha "Patsy" Clabourn Mills, born 1 Oct 1797, married 22 Oct 1819 Elbert Co. to Richard Phipps. They also moved to Fayette Co. Keronhappuck Rather Mills is believed to have lived with them after her husband Moses died in 1833. Martha and Richard Phipps were in the 1850 census of Fayette Co. with a son Richard still at home.

Moses Mills signed an affidavit for pension before the Inferior Court of Fayette Co. on 3 Sep 1832 in which he stated he was 85 years old, had enlisted 1776 in Halifax Co., VA where he was a resident, served 3 years before discharge in 1779, was in the 14th Regiment of the VA line, marched by way of Baltimore to Philadelphia and joined General Washington at Valley Forge, was in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth Courthouse, was at the taking of a fort at Kings Ferry on the York River,

2. Mary Elizabeth "Mamie" Mills, born 10 Feb 1867 Jonesboro., Clayton Co., GA, married 22 Oct 1890 in Starrville, Smith Co., TX to Lawrence B. Elrod. Children were Lawrence Colley, Laura Ethel Blanche, Lawrence Lucille and Paul Donthit, all born in Brushy Creek, TX except Paul who was born in Rush, Cherokee Co., TX.
3. Georgia Irene Mills, born 20 Jul 1869 in GA, died 24 Oct 1915, married 1887 to Benjamin Franklin Gaines. Children were Clarence, Alton Mills, Frankie Alvie, Anna Mamie, Katherine, Pauline and Leura.
4. Robert Owens Mills, born 1870 in GA, died in Martinsville, Nacogdoches Co., TX in Aug 1882.
5. James Walter Mills, born 15 Feb 1875 in Bennavista, Shelby Co., TX, married 1897 to Katie Vernon. Children were Maurine and Walter Hillis.
6. Lovick Jefferson Mills, born 1877 or 78 in Carthage, RX, died before age 2 and buried there.
7. Anna Blanche Mills, born 1880 near Carthage, RX, died 1893, buried Olive Branch Cemetery, Anderson Co., TX.
8. Alice Douglas Mills, born 11 Jun 1887 at Brushy Creek, TX, married Dec 1902 to O. B. Rogers. Children were Mary Christine, Hazel Rebecca, Moses Mills and Jack Broyles.

The grandfather of Sarah Elizabeth Chambers Mills was Absolom Stinchcomb who came to Elbert Co. ca 1790 from Amherst Co., VA and was one of the organizers of the Stinchcomb United Methodist Church of Elbert Co. which celebrated it's 200th anniversary in 1994.

Moses Mills and wife Keronhappuck were listed as members of Vans Creek Baptist Church in Elbert Co. and his son William Mills, my ancestor, served for some years as the clerk of Falling Creek Baptist Church in Elbert Co., even though James Mills and wife Nancy McMullan and www.georgiapioneers.com and husband Richard Phipps, and their families, were apparently all Methodists.

Sources:

Elbert and Fayette Co. records.
Booklet of McMullan Family Reunion, 1996, Hartwell, GA.
Sally Mills Watkins, Austin, RX and D. Herschel Mills, Dallas, Fortson Family History by John W. Boyd.

Rev. Bogan Mask (1821-1898)

& Mary Frances Chambers (1825-1912)

submitted by Jennifer B. Daniel, Roswell, GA, great-great granddaughter (Information taken from oral history as well as research done by Jennifer B. Daniel and relatives Amil and Joy Mask, Roger Mask, Sadie Chambers Burdett and Frances Henrietta Bingham Krechel)-1997

Bogan Mask and his wife, Mary Frances Chambers, were among some of the earliest settlers of Inman, Georgia. Bogan was a circuit riding preacher who served the community well. He was primarily a farmer by trade, and he and Mary raised a family of seven children. Descendants of this couple continue to live in the area today.

Bogan Mask, the progenitor of the Mask family of Fayette and surrounding counties, was born in Anson County, North Carolina on October 27, 1821. He was the son of Silas W. Mask (b. about 1787 in North Carolina;

"He [James Joseph Moses Mills] married when 19 years old to Rebecca Anna Stephens in 1860. He entered the Civil War at age 21, joining the Calvary under Gen. Wheeler. He came to Texas in 1870/71, joined the old E. Texas Conference in 1873, and served faithfully until his superannuation in 1914. He died in Palestine, TX on 4 Jan 1929, his 88th birthday. Like his father, he loved to fish and hunt, and I remember how he used to bring in squirrel and quail, and go driving and bring in deer. He enjoyed fishing to the end of his life, was a most successful one but never used rod and reel. He was always kind and gentle, loved to tell a good Irish joke, and always had a good supply with which he kept us all roaring with laughter.

His ministry was largely in rural districts, sometimes his circuits would have eight preaching points, and riding on horseback he often swam creeks and rode through dangers, both seen and unseen, to make his appointments or get home. He served in Shelby, Panola, Nacogdoches, Anderson, Trinity, Henderson and Cherokee counties, never having a salary above \$600. How he managed was to rent a small farm. We had no parsonages until I was 16 years old. He raised a garden and fed for his horses, and occasionally a wealthy brother or sister [actually a half-brother or sister] would contribute a few yards of gingham or calico, which my mother's clever fingers converted into dresses and shirts. He had a hard time making 'tongue and buckle meet' but never faltered in trying to do his best to serve the Church faithfully and well."

Mamie Mills Elrod also wrote about the life of her grandfather John William Mills, as follows:

"Grandpa had one son by his first wife, James Joseph Moses [Mills], and his mother died with septic fever when he was 11 days old. He was reared by his grandpa and grandma Chambers. He (grandpa Chambers) was a local preacher and lived to be old. Grandpa, John William was married again to Ellie Ferguson of Key West, FL and to them were born the following children: Georgia, Salie, Mollie, Gussie, John William, Robert, Nannie Lou, Minnie Lee and Ellie. All of them married and had families here in Texas....

Grandpa was a member of the North Georgia and Florida Conferences, prominent as a delegate to the General Conference, and occupied other places of leadership and responsibility in the Church. He transferred to Texas and joined the old East Texas Conference in 1868 or 1869, and had charge of organized S.S. work in the conference when he died....He lived near Center, Shelby Co., and is buried in old Mt. Zion cemetery....He was a Mason and a man with a trained mind. He was a great hunter and fisherman. He loved horticulture, had one of the finest apple orchards in East Texas, and did all the grafting himself. That apple orchard is one of my earliest memories and I can almost smell the June apples yet."

The children of Rev. James Joseph Moses Mills (son of John William Mills and Sarah Elizabeth Chambers) were listed by Mamie Mills Elrod as follows:

1. John William Mills, born in GA 12 Mar 1862, married Sarah John Elrod in Jan., 1888 or 89. Children Hubert Lawrence, Edgar Moses, John William, Sarah Evelyn, Annie Lee, Samuel Elrod, Coy Walter and Charles.