

History
of the
BULLOCK'S AND STEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES
by
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November 11, 1975

Methodism
Dr. Baker, Professor

As the reader will find in this paper, both Bullock's and Stem United Methodist Churches have a great deal of history since their beginnings until the present day. It has been an enjoyable research project and it is hopeful the reader will try to envision some of the occurrences as they arose during the life and times of each Church. I feel that I have only touched briefly on the history of Bullock's and Stem United Methodist Churches, but what the reader will find in this paper are the major EVENTS AND historical facts of each Church.

The Bullock's Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1832 in Granville County, North Carolina by a group of dedicated people who were sincere in their religious beliefs and respected their God. They were men and women who were not afraid of work or hardships which faced them at various times, thus they were the kind of people who led to the establishment of a strong church. In fact, the early families of the Bullock's Church taught their children to be strong and maintain a constant faith in God. Because of this powerful spirit which existed both within the homes of the Church founders and members, and within the Church itself, generations have proudly stood up and called Bullock's Methodist Church, "Blessed."

The Bullock's Methodist Church was organized just "fifty-six years after the Declaration of Independence was signed, and forty-three years after the Constitution of the United States was written by representatives of the Thirteen Original Colonies." ¹ Mrs. Kathryn Royster, a descendant of the founders of the Bullock's Methodist Church and a present member of this Church has done much study concerning the history of her beloved Church; Mrs. Royster maintains, "this section of Southern Granville County was permanently settled between 1750-1765 by people of English and Scotch-Irish descent who migrated from Virginia and Maryland." ² The land in the Granville area appeared to be fertile enough to grow crops, yet have enough grassland to raise cattle and horses; and since the soil and climate were suitable to the early descendants, the population began to grow. And as the population grew in the Granville area, the need for spiritual enrichment also grew. To help meet some of the spiritual needs, "two acres of land, for a Methodist Church, was given by Edward Bullock, son of Micaiah Bullock, who came to

Granville County from Hanover County Virginia around 1765." ³ To go further back in history, it might be interesting to note that much of the land in Granville County was originally given as a grant by Earl of Granville after which Granville County was named.

There were five original trustees of the Bullock's Methodist Church, three of whom were brothers: Edward Bullock, Richard Bullock, and Lenonard Bullock, and also William Fleming and Clement Lyon. The deed, of which a copy is enclosed, for the land on which to build a Methodist Church was presented by Edward Bullock, who owned the land, on September 14, 1833 to the Deeds Office. Yet, the deed wasn't acknowledged as official until a November Court ruling of 1843. Despite the delay in getting the deed, "Bullock's Methodist Church was built in 1833 on a knoll of sandy soil shaded by oaks, hickories, pines and cedars near a spring of clear water." ⁴ Although the building was quite simple in construction, it represented the love, powerful spirit, and long hours of work of many faithful people as a sanctuary to God.

Once worship in the Bullock's Methodist Church got under way, it was placed in the Granville Circuit, of the Danville District in the Virginia Conference. Reverend Benjamin Kidd was the first pastor of the Bullock's Methodist Church in 1833. In 1836, when the North Carolina Conference was formed, the Granville Circuit was placed in the Raleigh District while Reverend Henry Speck was the minister. The ministers during the early years at Bullock's Methodist Church served on an average of one to three years while the church was growing in membership. It was during the pastorate of Reverend Ira T. Wyche in 1845 "that the Methodist Convention, which was in session in

This Indenture, made this *fourteenth*
Between *Edward Bulloch* of the County of *Granville*
first part, and Leonard Bulloch Edward Bulloch Richard Bulloch
Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church,

witneseth, That the said *part* *him* of the first part, for and in consideration of
lawful money of the United States of America. to him in hand paid, at and upon the
granted, bargained, sold, released, confirmed and conveyed, and by these presents do the
Trustees as aforesaid, and to their successors in office, in trust for the uses and purposes hereinafter
soever, either in law or equity, which the said *part* *him* of the first part hath in, to or upon,
ville and state aforesaid, bounded and litted as follows, to wit
line North 75 degrees east 16 Pole to a Range of
20 pole to a black oak his corner - Thence by his
on the road his corner Thence along the road
to the place of beginning, containing and litted out for *Two Acres*

ways, privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging or in any wise pertaining.
piece of land, situate, *lying and being as* *between* *and* *singular* the houses, *and*
said *Leonard Bulloch Edward Bulloch Richard Bulloch*
and their successors in office for ever, in trust that they shall erect or build, or cause to be erected or
copal Church in the United States of America, according to the Rules and Discipline which
at their General Conferences in the United States of America. And in further trust *and*
ing to the said Church, as shall from time to time be duly authorized by the General Conference of
Conferences authorized by the said General Conferences, to preach and expound God's Holy Wo
ever Defend all and singular the before mentioned and described lot or piece of land with the *rights*
office, chosen and appointed according to the statute of the state of *N. Carolina* *in*
laws or rights, and from the claim or claims of all persons whatsoever.

In Testimony whereof, *the said part* *him* of the first part

Sealed and Delivered }
in the presence of }
M. B. Dalby
R. G. ...

September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three
in the state of North Carolina and _____ (his wife) of the
William Hemming and Clement B. Low
of the County of Granville in the state of N. Carolina aforesaid, of the second part,
the sum of One dollar

sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has given
grant, bargain, sell, release, confirm and convey, with license, full and quiet enjoyment of the second part
mentioned and declared All the estate, right, title, interest, property, claim and demand what-
all and singular a certain lot or piece of land, situate, lying and being in the County of Gran

Beginning at a red oak Mullock's corner, thence by his line
thence by his line North 15 degrees east
line North 75 degrees west 16 poles to a white oak
south 15 degrees east 20 poles

of land. Together with all and singular the houses, woods,
HAVE AND TO HOLD all and singular the above mentioned and described lot or

lands, ways, waters and privileges thereto belonging, or in any wise appertaining, unto them the
William Hemming and Clement B. Low

built thereon, a house or place of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episco-
n time to time may be agreed upon and adopted by the Ministers and Preachers of the said Church,

in witness whereof, that they shall at all times for ever hereafter, permit such Ministers and Preachers, belong-
the Ministers and Preachers of the said Methodist Episcopal Church, or by the Annual

conferment therein. And the said part ~~him~~ of the first part, does by these presents, Warrant and for-
mances thereto belonging, unto them the said part ~~they~~ of the second part, and to their successors in

made and provided, from the claim or claims of ~~him~~ the said part ~~him~~ of the first part ~~him~~

Witness my hand and seal this day and year first above mentioned.

E. Bullock Seal

North Carolina

Granville County 3. November Court. A.D. 1843

The execution of the foregoing deed was duly acknowledged in open Court by Edward Bullock the maker thereof and ordered to be registered.

Witness

Jacob McGinnis Clerk

Edw. Bullock

No. 3000

W. Fleming is True

Registered in Book

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D. G. A. Hancock Clerk

Louisville, Kentucky, adopted the plan of separation in the Methodist Church and set in motion the forces that organized the Methodist Episcopal Church South." 5 Thus the Church under study became the Bullock's Methodist Episcopal Church South. Many occurrences in Methodism (just as the one mentioned) and in our country arose during the early formative years of the Church and greatly affected the Bullock's Methodist Episcopal Church; included among these occurrences was the war between the States. In 1861 many of the young men of the Bullock's Church joined the "plough boys and other groups in and around Granville County, and went away to fight the war, not knowing whether they would ever return." 6 Although many of the Bullock's Methodist Church families experienced deaths due to the war, some of the men did return to the Granville County area and it grew and prospered, and so did the Bullock's Methodist Church. Here I think a special tribute should be extended to those men who fought in the war and did not return to their families and to the church that they so loved.

In 1862 the Granville Circuit once again changed Districts and this placed Bullock's Methodist Episcopal Church South in the Washington, North Carolina District. While in the Washington District, Reverend William C. Gannon and Reverend T.W. Moore served as the ministers. Still in 1872 the Granville Circuit was again changed and placed in the Raleigh District while Reverend J.R. Griffith was the minister. And in 1884, the Granville Circuit was placed in the Durham District and remained here until 1889; during this time the following ministers served Bullock's Methodist Church: Reverend T.C. Moses, Reverend J.E. Underwood, Reverend P.L. Groom, and Reverend J.S. Nelson.

By 1870 the Bullock's Methodist Episcopal Church South had grown tremendously in membership, and it was apparent that a larger building was needed to accommodate its members. The people of the Church were so enthused over the new building project that they, and even their friends outside the Church membership, provided most of the material and labor for the new Church. There is enclosed in this paper a picture of the Church, built in 1870, which still stands today, and is still used on every first and third Sunday for Worship Services. "It was a beautiful Church constructed of heart pine, put together with wooden pegs and hand cut nails. The interior was plastered and the woodwork finished with wide hand dressed boards. The pews were also hand dressed and finished." ⁷ Three sections of pews were installed within the Church with two small rows on the left and right sides and a larger section in the middle.

Not only did the Church experience growth, but the area surrounding the Church witnessed the building of the Seaboard Railroad which ran just in front of the Church. Around 1885, "the Church smiled as progress whistled past her door. Four passenger trains and two freight trains stopped each day at the station (and telegraph office combined) in the small village a half-mile away from the Church which was (and still is known) as Hester. A Post Office existed in the community and two small stores which served a wide area." ⁸

Consequently, as the community of Hester grew, the Bullock's Methodist Church continued to grow in membership. By 1900, 175 members were listed on the membership roll. The membership body of the Church was a very close one and worked like an entire family to maintain a spiritual atmosphere for young and old alike. Naturally, the Church faced hardships and exciting

situations, yet they faced each occurrence, as it arose, together. "The preaching services at Bullock's for many years were held on each third Sunday; Sunday School each Sunday and prayer meetings on Sunday nights." 9 There was a major event which occurred for many years which seemed to be a high point for the Bullock's Methodist Church membership; "The Protracted Meeting was held the week following the third Sunday in July. The week provided well for the social life of the young ladies and men. The families were large and the week became one of fellowship and visitation. At noon time during the Sunday meeting, the tables (on the Church grounds) were loaded with a variety of foods. A Presiding Elder once made the remark that there were more pretty girls and fine horses at the Bullock's Methodist Church than any other Church in the District." 10

In 1913 the Bullock's Methodist Episcopal Church South stood proud as it became the Mother Church to the Creedmoor Methodist Episcopal Church South; some of the young married couples and a few older couples of the Bullock's Methodist Church went to Creedmoor, a growing community a few miles away, and started the Methodist Church there. As a result in 1920 the Creedmoor Circuit was formed and the Bullock's Methodist Church became part of a new circuit, no longer a Church in the original Granville Circuit. The new circuit was composed of Bullock's, Creedmoor, Banks and Grove Hill Methodist Episcopal Churches. Reverend B.H. Black was the appointed pastor to the newly formed circuit.

As far as the writer of this paper can find in his research, the Stem Methodist Episcopal Church South, the other Church under study in this

paper, was, before 1920, in the Granville Circuit along with the Bullock's Methodist Church. From 1887, during the pastorate of Reverend P.L. Groom up until the pastorate of B.H. Black in 1920 there is evidence that Bullock's and Stem Methodist Churches had the same ministers. These ministers are listed as follows:

P.L. Groom	1887
J.S. Nelson	1888-89
V.A. Sharpe	1889-93
B.C. Allred	1893-96
J.M. Rice	1897
T.J. Gattis	1898
W.H. Puckett	1899-03
J.D. Pegram	1903-06
C.W. Robinson	1906-10
M.D. Giles	1910-12
M.D. Hix	1912-16
B.H. Black	1916-20

Beyond 1920 the Bullock's and Stem Methodist Episcopal Churches were in different circuits. In 1952 the Bullock's and Stem Methodist Churches once again came together and formed their own Methodist Charge. More on this matter will be explained when the history of the Stem Methodist Episcopal Church is presented.

"During the years 1924-1925 a concrete highway was built parallel to the railroad in front of the Bullock's Methodist Church. Again the little Church saw progress as cars and trucks passed by traveling at speeds of twenty to thirty miles per hour." 11

During 1928 and under the pastorate of Reverend B.E. Stanfield the Bullock's Methodist Church experienced another surge of growth. "Sunday School rooms, a porch, and a small library were added." 12 Also during this year of 1928, light fixtures were given by Mrs. Sallie Bragg in memory of her parents Mr. and Mrs. John H. Bragg. It is also noted, that during this same year memorial windows were placed in the Church in memory of various loved ones.

Listed below are the names in whose honor the lovely windows were given:

Kate Bragg Allen	1859-1921
Lucy Caroline Jones	1858-1909
Benjamin W. Bullock	1847-1914
Mary Eliza Bullock	1850-1918
John C. Mitchell	1822
Sophia C. Mitchell	
Sidney Duncan Bragg	1855-1926
Galena Gilliom Bragg	1866-1916
John H. Bragg	1825-1900
Alice Motley Bragg	1850-1924
Edward Bullock	1773-1862
Sally Dalby Bullock	1775-1856
Katie Lee Caviness	1916-1926
Earnest L. Crews	1873-1958
Sallie B. Crews	1874-1956
Mamie B. Hester	1877-1953
B. Frank Hester	1890-1958

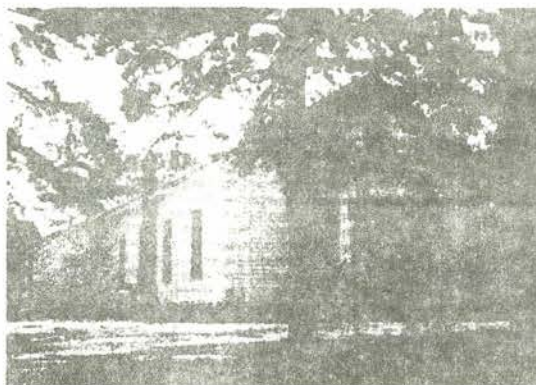
"In September 1933 the Bullock's Methodist Church celebrated its one hundreth centennial with an all day service. A large group attended and it was a day of joy and thanksgiving. Dr. Gilbert T. Rowe gave an inspiring address, 'The Catholicity of Methodism.' Dr. H.T. Plyer had the afternoon address on the subject of 'Methodism's Position on Social Problems.' " 13

On October 15, 1954 Hurricane Hazel struck in the Hester area and did a great deal of damage to the beautiful sanctuary of the Bullock's Methodist Church. The Church roof was blown off and the interior wall needed to be rebuilt. Reverend Verson Tyson was the minister at the time. An inspiring and uplifting message by Reverend Tyson combined with the undefeated spirit of the members of the Church resulted in the repairing of the Church. And although the Church was badly damaged, the worship services were held in one of the Sunday School Rooms until repairs were completed. After all repairs were made "visitors to the Church said it was one of the most beautiful of

old Churches." 14

As mentioned earlier in this paper, pictured below is the Bullock's Methodist Church which has served its members and community for 105 years. In addition, various names of ministers serving the Bullock's Methodist Church have been mentioned, but I feel it necessary to give a complete list of those men who ministered to the people of the Church since its first Worship Service in 1833. The list is as follows:

Benjamin Kidd	1833	P.L. Groom	1887
Robert O. Burton	1834	J.S. Nelson	1888-89
H.T. Weatherly	1835	V.A. Sharpe	1889-93
Henry Speck	1836-37	B.C. Allred	1893-96
Joseph Goodman	1838-39	J.M. Rice	1897
David B. Nicholson	1840	T.J. Gattis	1898
H.G. Leigh	1841	W.H. Puckett	1899-03
Thomas S. Campbell	1842	J.D. Pegram	1903-06
John Tillett	1843-44	C.W. Robinson	1906-10
Ira T. Wyche	1845	M.D. Giles	1910-12
James L. Nicholson	1846-47	M.D. Hix	1912-16
Nathan Anderson	1848	B.H. Black	1916-20
Linville Hendron	1848	V.A. Royal	1920-24
W.M. Jordan	1849	J.J. Boone	1924-25
Sidney R. Trawick	1850	B.E. Stanfield	1925-29
John D. Halstead	1855	W.L. Loy	1929-33
Peter H. Joyner	1856	K.F. Duval	1933-34
Moses J. Hunt	1856	E.D. Dodd	1934-37
John W. Floyd	1857	E.C. Durhan	1937-38
Junius P. Moore	1858	E.B. Craven	1938-42
William Harris	1859	D.D. Traynham	1942-46
Theophilus W. Moore	1860	C.S. McCoy	1946-47
Washington S. Chaffin	1861	D.M. Sharpe	1947-51
William C. Gannon	1862	W.G. Farrar	1951-52
T.W. Moore	1862	Homer Lemaster	1952-54
W.C. Cannon	1864	Vernon C. Tyson	1954-56
John Tillett	1866-69	W.E. Knight	1956-59
J.R. Griffith	1872-74	R.W. Leonard	1959-60
S.V. Hoyle	1875	T.E. Gensel	1960-63
J.E. Thompson	1876-79	J.W. Hobbs	1963
J.T. Gibbs	1880-82	Myers	1963
J.B. Martin	1883-85	W.M. Nobels	1964-67
T.C. Moses	1883-85	H.D. Watson	1967-69
J.E. Underwood	1885-87	J.A. McClung	1969-72
		D.R. Grisson	1972-76



The Bullock's United Methodist Church, as it is called today, is still a beautiful old Church. Since its beginnings, the Church has been instrumental in directing the hearts and minds of young and old alike toward God and thus bringing about a deep, sincere feeling for their Church and their fellowman. Many items have been given to the old Church and are still being given, in memory of loved ones who so faithfully served the Church in the past-which proves the Bullock's Methodist Church has been and is still a very important part of its members' lives. Of the 34 members on role today, only 20 are active. Yet it continues to pay its part of the Charge budget and continues to have Worship Services on every first and third Sunday at 11:00. And even today, although the majority of its members are senior citizens, the little membership continues to stand up with strength and proclaim its Christian love for The Bullock's United Methodist Church.

On the same Charge with the Bullock's United Methodist Church is the Stem United Methodist Church; the Stem United Methodist Church is also in Granville County, North Carolina five miles from the Bullock's United Methodist Church. The Stem United Methodist Church is located in the small Village of Stem, North Carolina. Although its membership is small today, just as Bullock's

Methodist Church, there were times when the Stem United Methodist Church was vibrating with growth and development. And even though growth in both Churches is rather limited now, the enthusiasm of the past is still quite present and the love and fellowship of working together still exists very strongly today. Just as we have followed the Bullock's United Methodist Church during its more prosperous and now somewhat declining years, let us now follow the history of the Stem United Methodist Church from its beginnings until today.

The Stem United Methodist Church is an outgrowth of the Moore's Chapel Methodist Church which originally stood about one mile south of the present Stem village on the Stem-Hester Road. George Lane Moore received a land grant from the designated government of North Carolina at that time in 1779. Later George Lane Moore deeded to his son, John Moore, 225 acres of land, and it was on a portion of this land that the Moore's Chapel Methodist Church was built. It is assumed that the Moore's Chapel Church was built between 1779 and 1814. Many seem to think that the most correct date is closer to the late 1790's; the exact date as to when the Moore's Chapel Methodist Church was built is not known as most of the Church records have been lost. It might be interesting to note that while on an expedition to establish and nurture Methodist Churches in Granville County, North Carolina, Bishop Francis Asbury and a companion Lorenzo Dow visited the Moore's Chapel Methodist Church during the early years of its growth.

The spirit of Methodism, according to the descendants of the original members of the Moore's Chapel Methodist Church, was vibrant and strong among the congregation for many years. On many occasions the congregation "would have all-day meetings, two services, with dinner on the grounds." 15

These wonderful occasions of sharing fellowship meals together at Moore's Chapel Methodist Church were quite significant since this is one of the traditions which is still observed in the Stem United Methodist Church today. Yet, sadly enough as is the case in most situations in life, and the Church is no exception, various modern ideas move in and old ideas and traditions fade away; no longer do we have church meetings which last a big part of the day, or even Sunday evening worship services.

In the late 1800's the railroad depot was established in the nearby community of Stem and rapid growth seemed to take place in the area almost over-night. While the Village of Stem was in its tremendous growing stages, there was an effort on the part of some members of the Moore's Chapel Methodist Church to move the Church to the Stem township. Yet, this effort met with a great deal of opposition. The younger members of the Moore's Chapel Methodist Church were interested in purchasing an organ for the Church and at the same time, also desired to build a new Church in the prospering Village of Stem; but "the older members were satisfied with a song leader like Mr. Flay Moore" 16 rather than singing to the music of an organ, and they wished to keep the Church in its original location. The older members maintained "that a meeting house was no place for a musical instrument",¹⁷ and that the old building was sufficient for their needs. Because of the internal struggle between young and old members, a division occurred in the Moore's Chapel Methodist Church. As a result of this division, the younger group who wanted the organ within the Church,^{AND} wished to move the Moore's Chapel Methodist Church to the Village of Stem, were instrumental in starting the new Stem Methodist Church.

Despite a determined effort on the part of those older members who remained at the Moore's Chapel Church to keep the Old Church functioning after the great loss of younger members, it had to close due to an eventual lack of attendance and support. After the Church closed, some of the older members who had remained at Moore's Chapel following the division, did decide to join the Stem Methodist Church. But there were those members of the Moore's Chapel Methodist Church who refused to join the Stem Methodist Church and affiliated themselves with the "Russellites", which are today known as the Jehovah Witnesses.

It might be interesting to note that the building material from Moore's Chapel Methodist Church is still in use today. After the Church closed, Dr. P.R. Hardee, who became the physician in the Stem Community, bought the unused Church building and much of the lumber from the old Church was used to build part of Dr. Hardee's home in the town of Stem. Even today as ancestors of the members of Moore's Chapel Methodist Church pass by the home that was built for Dr. Hardee and his family; (which is still standing and is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. C.S. Parrish) they must envision the wonderful moments of sharing together in worship and love during many of the years that the Moore's Chapel Methodist Church was in existence.

The Stem Methodist Episcopal Church South was organized in 1886. "The land for the Church was given by William Stem in whose honor the Church was named." 18 The deed enclosed indicates that the registration of the land for a "place of divine worship" 19 was made official on July 30, 1888. Among the Charter members of the Stem Methodist Church were "R.J. Stem,

State of North Carolina,
Granville County.

This deed made this 30th day
of July 1888 by N. J. Steen and
wife Mary J. Steen of Granville
County, State of North Carolina of the first
part to H. A. Steen, W. E. Steen and
O. F. Bullock as ~~board~~ Board of Trustees
and their successors in office, of
Granville County, State of North Carolina
of the second part. Witnesseth:

That said N. J. Steen and Mary J. Steen
in consideration of
dollars to them paid by said Board
of Trustees, the receipt of which is
hereby acknowledged, have
bargained and sold and by these
presents do bargain, sell and
convey to said Board of Trustees and
their successors in office, all the right
title, interest and estate of the par-
ties of the first part in and to a
lot of land in Granville County,
State of North Carolina adjoining
the lands of N. J. Steen and lying on
the West side of the Providence road
beginning at ~~the~~ between the
Residence of O. F. Bullock and
the new Railroad depot.

Beginning at a stone at Providence
road thence South 70 yards to a stone

thence west 70 yards to a stone
thence 90 yards north to a stone
thence east 70 yards to beginning

To Have and to Hold the aforesaid
lot and all privileges and appurtenances
thereto belonging, to the said Trustees,
that said premises shall be used, kept,
maintained, and disposed of, as a
place of divine worship for the
use of the ministry and membership
of the Methodist Episcopal Church,
South, subject to the discipline
usage, and ministerial appointments
of said Church, as from time to time
authorized and declared by the General
Conference of said Church, and the
Annual Conference within whose
bounds the said premises are situate
to the said Board of Trustees and their suc-
cessors in office as directed by the Constituting
Conferences of said Church to their only use
and behoof forever.

And the said W. T. Steen and wife M. J. Steen Covenant
that they are seized of said premises in fee, and
have right to convey the same in fee simple; that
the same are free and clear from all incum-
brances, and that they well warrant and defend
the said title to the same against the claims
of all persons whatsoever. In testimony whereof the
said W. T. Steen and wife M. J. Steen
have hereunto set their hands
and seals this day and year above written
W. T. Steen
M. J. Steen

D.G. Bullock, O.J. Bullock, W.E. Stem, J.H. Stem, and H.A. Stem. The building committee was composed of R.J. Stem, H.A. Stem, W.E. Stem and J.H. Stem. Timber for the building was cut from the trees on the land of Henry Webb. W.E. Stem hauled the first load of lumber to the Church site in the fall of 1886. Services were held in the sanctuary before the year ended, however, the building was not completed or dedicated until the spring of 1887.^{"20}

Just as the Bullock's Methodist Church was changed numerous times from from one district and circuit to another, so was the Stem Methodist Church. From 1886 until the conference of 1890 there is evidence that the Stem Methodist Church was in the Granville Circuit of the Durham District along with the Bullock's Methodist Church. Although through my study of the North Carolina Conference Journals and Minutes, I have been unable to find that the Stem and Bullock's Churches were in the Granville Circuit together, but they did share the same ministers during the years 1886-1920; in 1920 the Bullock's Methodist Church became a part of the Creedmoor Circuit. A complete list of the ministers of the Stem Methodist Church will be supplied later in this paper.

From 1890-1925 the Granville Circuit was placed in the Raleigh District. In 1926, with the Granville Circuit still in the Raleigh District, the Stem Methodist Church was separated from the Granville Circuit and became a part of the newly formed Stem Circuit. In this Stem Circuit three Churches existed: Stem, Calvary (some of the members called this Church Knapp-of-Reeds also), and Robert's Chapel Methodist Churches. And from 1927 until World War II the Stem Circuit was in the Durham District. It was during World War II that Robert's Chapel and Calvary Methodist Churches were removed from the Stem Circuit. During World War II it became necessary for the Army to purchase a large area

of land in North Carolina in order to maintain a military base, this land was bought in Granville County and called Camp Butner. Calvary (or Knapp-of-Reeds) and Robert's Chapel Methodist Churches were located on the land bought for the Army's use and when the Army base moved in, the two Churches were forced to close. Many of the people who attended the Calvary and Robert's Chapel Methodist Churches moved to the Stem Community, and there joined the Stem Methodist Church; yet others moved to Stem, but never again joined a Church. During World War II until 1952, the Stem Methodist Church remained on the Stem Circuit, but was associated with other Methodist Churches in the area. Stem was never strong enough to be an independent station Church because of the small membership. In 1952 a new circuit was formed, it was named Stem-Bullock's Circuit. From 1952 until the present day the two Churches have been on the same Circuit thus having the same ministers.

Although it was shifted to and from various circuits and districts several times, the Stem Methodist Church grew quite rapidly in its beginnings. It is interesting to note that just as the Church was developing, a newspaper of the time called "The Day" reported that on April 22, 1890, "the members of the Stem Methodist Church purchased a handsome organ." 21 Thus it is quite apparent that the people who helped to organize the Stem Methodist Church, after the division over an organ in the Moore's Chapel Methodist Church, were successful in obtaining a musical instrument in their new Church.

On February 8, 1891, the first Church Conference was held at the Stem Methodist Church. Reverend V.A. Sharpe was Chairman and J.H. Stem was Secretary pro-tem until J.B. Myers was elected as permanent secretary. It was during this meeting that the family of Reverend V.A. Sharpe moved their

membership to the Stem Methodist Church. Also during this meeting, R.J. Stem was elected classleader, and it was reported that the average attendance in Sunday School was recorded at 52. It was also voted by the Conference of 1891 to pay the preacher \$40.00 per month. In 1896 the pastor's salary was \$640.00 per year, and in 1922 the pastor's salary had increased to \$1,125 per year.

In the early 1920's "The Ladies Aide Society" was formed, and from its beginnings the ladies worked hard to help the Stem Methodist Church in any way possible. It was noted that this society gave plays, suppers, parties, and banquets in order to raise money for needed items in the Church. In the late 1920's the "Ladies Aide Society" raised enough money from their many projects to purchase a piano for the Church; the old organ was no longer useable. In later years this active group of women adopted the new title of "Woman's Society of Christian Service." And in recent years the title has again changed and the group is now known as the "United Methodist Women." One might add that this group of women is still very active and continues to follow the traditions and footsteps of the early "Ladies Aide Society" as they continue to do very beneficial acts for their Church.

Because of the increase in Sunday School attendance, four new Sunday School Rooms had to be added on to the rear of the existing Stem Methodist Church building in 1922. Again, projects by the "Ladies Aide Society" and other Church members were under way to help pay for the needed Sunday School Rooms. It is interesting to note that while the Stem Methodist Church was striving to pay for the newly added Sunday School Rooms, "a group of

Klu Klux Klansman entered the Worship Service one evening just as Reverend L.H. Joyner (who served the Stem Methodist Church from 1922-1926) was about to begin his service. Reverend Joyner arose and the men, who were robed in white, came forward and handed the minister a package containing fifty-one dollars, in one dollar bills which was to be applied to the bill for the new Sunday School Rooms." ²² According to Miss Carmen Stem, who is a descendant of the original Stem family, "the leader of the Klan read the Klan Creed, and in addition to the money he handed the minister a letter which said in effect, 'the Durham Klan 95 appreciated the good work the Stem Methodist Church was doing.' " ²³ After their presentation, the group of Klansman left.

On August 14, 1927 the Stem Methodist Church held its first Annual Homecoming Day Celebration; Miss Carmen Stem, who attended this celebration, maintains, "approximately 1000 people were in attendance for the great event." ²⁴ Many people in the Stem Methodist Church and community have stated on numerous occasions that the Christian fellowship, the food, the music by various quartets, and the Sermon by Reverend Belton Joyner, at this 1927 Homecoming were superb; Since that great event on August 14, 1927, the Stem Methodist Church has continued to have an annual Homecoming celebration.

Many other great events have occurred in the more recent history of the Stem Methodist Church since that great Homecoming of August 14, 1927. For example, in 1943 new pulpit furniture was added to the Church sanctuary; in 1945 the Methodist Youth Fellowship was organized and is still functioning; in 1952 the Church was remodeled; in 1973 an organ was purchased; and in 1975 the United Methodist and American Flags were dedicated. These various additions to the Church have combined to help to make the Stem Methodist Church

a very lovely one and to establish the proper atmosphere in which to experience the Worship of God. Just as in the Bullock's Methodist Church history, pictured below is the Stem United Methodist Church which has served its members and community for 89 years. In addition, various names of ministers serving the Stem Methodist Church have been mentioned, but I feel it necessary to give a complete list of those men who ministered to the people of the Church since its first Worship Service in 1886. The list is as follows:

P.L. Groom	1882-1886	H.L. Rogers	1939-1941
R.J. Nelson	1886-1890	J.A. Lindsey	1941-1942
V.A. Sharpe	1890-1894	W.B. Royals	1942-1944
B.C. Allred	1894-1898	J.K. Bostick	1944-1945
J.H. Rice	1898-1899	B.H. Dickson	1945
T.J. Gattis	1899-1900	J.A. Auman	1945-1947
W.H. Puckett	1900-1903	J.D. Murphy	1947-1948
J.D. Pegram	1903-1907	R.I. Epps	1948-1951
C.W. Robinson	1907-1910	J.R. Regan	1951-1952
M.D. Giles	1910-1912	H.L. Lemaster	1952-1954
M.D. Hix	1912-1916	V.C. Tyson	1954-1956
B.H. Black	1916-1920	W.E. Knight	1956-1959
F.B. Noblitt	1920-1922	R.W. Leonard	1959-1960
L.H. Joyner	1922-1926	T.E. Gensel	1960-1963
A.L. Stevenson	1926-1928	J.W. Hobbs	1963
J.A. Gist	1928-1931	Myers	1963
C.H. Kelly	1931-1932	W.M. Nobels	1964-1967
A.C. Thompson	1932-1933	H.D. Watson	1967-1969
J.W. Lineberger	1933-1935	J.A. McClung	1969-1972
J.F. Starnes	1935-1939	D.R. Grisson	1972-1976

In conclusion I might add that both the Bullock's and Stem United Methodist Churches have experienced the pangs of sorrows and the joys of laughter by young and old alike throughout their very historic times. But I can say, as their minister, that both the Bullock's and Stem United Methodist Churches have braved and weathered each storm of sorrow successfully and have become stronger as a result of these storms; both Churches have also reaped benefit from the experience of sharing in each other's laughter and human fellowship as is

evidenced from the warmth of Christian love which is felt upon entry into both Churches. I have been their minister for four years now, and I have cried and laughed with the membership of both Churches, and my love for them, as their love for each other, will always continue to grow. Certainly heritages of the Bullock's and Stem United Methodist Churches are rich ones which filled the members with love for their God, their Churches and their fellowmen which has been expressed and experienced generation after generation.



A worthy tribute of love to your
Church!
(A-)

FOOTNOTES

1 Kathryn Royster, interview held at Bullock's United Methodist Church, Hester, North Carolina, October 1975.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid.

6 Kathryn Royster, interview held at Bullock's United Methodist Church Hester, North Carolina, October 1975.

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.

9 Ibid.

10 Ibid.

11 Ibid.

12 Ibid.

13 Ibid.

14 Ibid.

15 Carmen Stem, interview in telephone conversation, Raleigh, North Carolina, October 1975.

16 "The Old Home Church," The Oxford Public Ledger, 20 June, 1933.

17 Ibid.

18 Carmen Stem, interview during Stem Homecoming, Stem, North Carolina, September 1975.

19 W.T. Stem, and Mary J. Stem, Deed, Stem Methodist Episcopal Church South, July 30, 1888.

20 Carmen Stem, interview during Stem Homecoming, Stem, North Carolina, September 1975.

21 "Stem News", The Day, 22 April, 1890.

22 Carmen Stem, interview during Stem Homecoming, Stem, North Carolina, September 1975.

23 Ibid.

24 Ibid.

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