

A
HISTORY
OF THE

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CARY, NORTH CAROLINA

1871 - 1978

FORWARD

It is not our intention to try, in any way, to surpass the beautiful story of our church's "beginning" written by Miss Irma Ellis in 1955. She was a wonderful storyteller and had known many of the oldest members of the church and their families.

We only hope to preserve dates and facts about our church, found through much research, from the organization of same until the present date. And, in doing so, perhaps it will inspire others to continue this history in the future.

The writing of such history and all the facts to be researched in this undertaking could not have been done by one person alone. So now I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the encouragement and assistance of the following people: Mr. Bill Keener, Miss Elva Templeton, Mr. Frank Grill (N. C. Conference Council of Ministries), Mrs. Jane Fairbetter, Mrs. Myrtle Metz, and Mr. C. R. Capps.

There have been times when no amount of research has uncovered true facts about certain properties of our church - such as the second tract of land given to this church (listed under Church Property) and the origin of the big pulpit bible (purchase or donation and date of same). However, the writing of this history has been, not a task, but more a work of love for me. And it is hoped it will be accepted as same.

Margaret L. Sherwood
January 12, 1977

PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED
 FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 GARY, NORTH CAROLINA

J. T. Harris	1870-1871
A. R. Raven	1872-1873
T. B. Reeks	1874-1875
J. E. Thompson	1875-1876
W. M. Jordan	1877-1878
J. B. Bobbitt	1879-1880
B. B. Culbreth	1880-1881
J. B. Bobbtt	1882-1885
J. B. Martin	1886-1887
W. S. Davis	1888-1890
P. L. Herman	1891-1892
B. C. Allred	1893-1894
J. W. Jenkins	1895-1898
A. L. Ormond	1899-1902
G. B. Starling	1903-1906
J. D. Pegram	1907-1909
G. W. Fisher	1909-1913
B. P. Robinson	1913-1917
G. W. Starling	1917-1918
C. R. Ross	1918-1919
V. A. Royall	1919-1920
D. N. Caviness	1920-1924
W. C. Ball	1924-1928
F. B. Joyner	1928-1932
J. L. Midgette	1932-1934
B. F. Boone	1934-1938
H. B. Baum	1938-1942
E. M. Hall	1942-1944
R. S. Harrison	1944-1947
J. D. Robinson	1947-1950
B. O. Merritt	1950-1954
B. L. Davidson	1954-1959
H. B. Lewis	1959-1964
J. D. Young	1964- Interim
T. J. Barrett	1964-1969
W. M. Howard, Jr.	1969-1971
J. G. White, Jr.	1971-1975
W. S. Burns, Associate Pastor	1973-1975
R. C. Mooney, Jr.	1975-1978
T. M. Faggart	1978-
J. Alex Maulsby, III, Associate Pastor	1980-

Church Properties

The first property the Methodists of Cary acquired is the lot on which the sanctuary now stands. On April 11, 1871 Stebbins Warner and Sabrina Warner of New York sold the lot to the church for the token sum of "one dollar", with the stipulation that "a church building must be built by December 1, 1872 or \$50.00 must be paid". The amount of \$50.00 was quite a sum of money in those days so we can assume a building was constructed by that date. This lot was formerly owned by A. F. Page and deeded to the Warners on December 17, 1868.

The second lot sold to the church on April 15, 1880 for "one dollar" by Stebbins Warner and Sabrina Warner was "one-half acre from the corner of A. F. Pages Factory lot on Academy Street to S. P. Waldo's corner". No information has been found on the location of this lot or what disposal was made of it. It is interesting to note that this deed states that, if this lot is ever used for anything other than church property, it will return to heirs of Stebbins Warner and Sabrina Warner.

The third lot bought on September 1, 1887 for \$500.00 from W. T. Dorsett and Oliva Dorsett of Alamance County was "one acre adjoining land of Rufus Henry Jones to the Northeast corner of Soloman Pool home lot". This lot fronted on Academy Street and here the first parsonage was built. Later the lot was divided and one is presently the home of Mrs. Henry Adams, the second the home of Mr. and Mrs. Louis T. Hill. (R. H. Jones was a prominent citizen of Cary and his home was located where the new Cary Public Library is being constructed. Solomon Pool was the first president of the University of North Carolina when it was reopened after the Civil War. When he left the University he settled in Cary and taught in the Cary Academy. His property was on the corner of Academy Street and Dry Avenue.)

On September 16, 1940 Alice Waldo Rood sold to the Methodist Church for "one dollar" the lot on Waldo Street where the Fellowship Hall now stands.

The next lot was sold to the church for \$10.00 by the heirs of Alice Waldo Rood on August 1, 1957. On this lot the church built the Children's Building and Dobbins Playground.

The lot on which the Church Cabin now stands was sold to the church on April 26, 1962 by William D. McMurray and Barbara D. McMurray and H. Waldo Rood and Mary M. Rood.

On June 8, 1973 the church purchased a house and lot at 121 Waldo Street from C. D. Mills and Edna Mills. This is now rental property.

On September 6, 1974 the church purchased a house and lot at 127 Waldo Street, on the corner of Waldo and Walker Streets, from John M. Sherwood and Margaret L. Sherwood. This is now rental property.

Merritt Building - Constructed in 1952

Fellowship Hall - Constructed in 1957 and Sanctuary renovated same year

Children's Building - Constructed in 1967

Renovation of church offices, class rooms, and new library - 1974

The cabin is one of the most interesting buildings owned by the Church. First constructed for the church around 1933 as a W.P.A. Project, it was located on the lot where the Fellowship Hall now stands. The logs had been donated from the land of Mr. R. S. Curtis, and it was built by Mr. Byrum, Mr. Midgette, and Mr. Poplin.

Soon the Men's Bible Class started using it as a classroom. When it came time to build Fellowship Hall, the Men's Class had the cabin moved to the lot where the Children's Building is presently located. Soon after this, plans were made for the Children's Building so something had to be done with the cabin. This little building had become so much a part of the men of the church that they could not give it up. Again, it was moved to its present location and was renovated.

Name of Church:

First named Methodist Episcopal, South

In 1939 changed to Methodist Church

1968 it was changed to United Methodist Church

"Somewhere about 1845 or 1846 the late Pharis Yates purchased of the estate of Kimbrough Jones a tract of land and built a small frame dwelling on an elevation not far distant from where the road running from Raleigh westward divides - one division leading on to Haywood and Pittsboro and the other turning to the Northwest and extending on to Hillsboro. Mr. Yates' residence was about eight miles west of Raleigh. After residing there a few years Mr. Yates sold this land to the late A. F. Page, who afterwards was to become the 'Lumber King' of North Carolina. Mr. Page established a saw mill here, and the N. C. R.R. having been built, a side track was laid and the place was known as 'Page's Siding'. A stage ran from this place to Pittsboro, and travelers stopping here were entertained by Mr. Page, he having enlarged the residence built by Mr. Yates."

"In time Mr. Page opened a store and this store house and his dwelling were the only two houses here at the outbreak of the Civil War. At the close of the war the Chatham Railroad, which was begun during the war, was completed to Sanford and 'Page's Siding' became the Town of Cary, and a provision inserted in the town charter forbidding the sale of spirituous liquors in the corporate limits". (The Farmers Journal, June 12, 1913, p. 8, Editor, Dr. J. M. Templeton).

But let us go back to the year 1780. In that year Bishop Francis Asbury wrote in his diary that he had visited the plantation of Colonel Tingnall Jones. The Jones house was located where the town of Morrisville is now. It might be possible that Bishop Asbury could have visited this area in order to help organize a Methodist church. It is said that he returned in the early 1800s and held services in Asbury Chapel.

"At Asbury the preacher's stand was about two-thirds away from the front door. The Negroes sat back of the stand. The parson would preach first to one side and then to the other. When the people arrived they stood around outside and visited until the parson went in and 'raised a hymn'. Then all went in and 'jined' in the singing. As they had no musical instruments and no hymn books 'just one for the parson'; he would read one phrase and then they would all sing, and then another and so on through the whole song. Then it was time for the scripture and sermon, which lasted from one to four hours." (Miss Irma Ellis' History of Church, 1955).

Asbury Church was located about three miles from Cary on the north side of the railroad. About four years ago the church property was rediscovered, it being hidden back in the woods, and is almost opposite Ephesus Baptist Church. Nothing exists now on the land except a few grave-stones and memories of a faithful and God-fearing congregation. This property now is owned by Mr. Earl F. Kasdorf of Cary.

It is interesting to note that the birthday of the town of Cary and the birthday of the First United Methodist Church coincide, a charter being granted Cary on April 3, 1871 and a deed being transferred on April 11, 1871 by Stebbins Warner and Sabrina Warner of New York to R. H. Jones, et al, "one dollar", with the stipulation that "a church building must be built by December 1, 1871 or \$50.00 must be paid". (Wake County deed. Registered Nov. 20, 1908. This lot was 80' by 100' and faced on College Street (now named Academy Street), and is the site of

the present sanctuary. At that time the church was built of wood from A. F. Page's sawmill. It is thought that the church building was started in 1871 or 1872 but must have been completed much later as the Reverend B. B. Culbreth returned to Cary to preach the dedication sermon on the first Sunday in August, 1884. (Miss Irma Ellis' History of Church, 1955). The steeple of this church was about as tall as the building itself and in it was hung the bell which we use today. This bell was at one time owned by Greensboro College. After the college burned in 1863 the bell was salvaged and given to Cary Methodists. Miss Elva Templeton says that until a few years back, when a person died the bell was tolled one toll for each year of the deceased's age.

In those years hog's hair was mixed in the plaster that was used to construct walls and it is thought that this is the reason the plastered walls of the sanctuary have held up so well with so few cracks. The windows are the same they have been all these years. Of course, over the years the stained glass windows have been donated by faithful members in memory of loved ones. The stained glass window above the front door in the narthex should be noted. This was donated by the Epworth League (name of the youth organization in years past).

When the church building was first constructed in 1871 it was much smaller than it is now. On entering the front door you would have found a classroom on the left side. The room on the right was used mainly as a library. In the center of the church was a wood stove which was the only source of heat during the cold winter days when sermons lasted a good portion of the day. Oil lamps hung from the ceiling. It was the duty of the young people to clean these lamps each Saturday.

In the early 1890s an organization named Helping Hands, composed of eleven little girls, held an ice cream party in the yard of R. N. Jones on Academy Street. There were few ice cream freezers in Cary at that time, and the ice was brought from Raleigh by Captain H. P. Guess and dropped off the train as he passed through. The party was a big success, the ice cream being sold for ten cents per saucer, and later they found that they had made \$11.00. Mr. J. W. Crowder took this money to H. Marlers Jewelry Store in Raleigh and brought back the clock that hung in the sanctuary until it was remodeled in 1957. This same clock now hangs in the church office ticking away the hours as the life of the church goes on.

Of course preaching could not be held at the Cary church each Sunday as the church was only one part of the Cary Circuit. The minister traveled by horse and buggy (or wagon) taking turns attending each of the churches on this circuit. The following is a list of churches in the Cary Circuit at that time and a bit of information on each:

Asbury - 3 miles east of Cary on Hillsborough Road. Thought to have disbanded In 1870.

Apex - Corner of Chatham Street and Hughes Street in Apex, N. C. Founded in 1870 according to a printed history; earliest deed August 3, 1872, on Raleigh-Augusta R.R., sold April 5, 1883. Present site - November 20, 1917.

Beulah - Founded about 1890 and named Beulah Church according to a church deed. Earliest deed May 24, 1890. Name changed to Garner Methodist Church on November 25, 1893. Located on Highway 70 in Garner, N. C.

Cary - Founded in 1871. Earliest deed listed is April 11, 1871.

Ebenezah - 6020 Rock Quarry Road, south of Raleigh, earliest deed was May 21, 1840 according to a printed history.

Hollands - On County Road 1010 near the intersection with County Road 1006, six miles south of Garner. Founded in 1812 according to a printed history. Earliest deed March 4, 1861 for land whereon the church then stood; called Little Red Meeting House, built in 1812, became Hollands by 1857 when a new church was built.

Marvin - Organized April 29, 1894. Ministers B. C. Alfred, 1894, J. W. Jenkins, 1895-1898, A. L. Ormond, 1902. (Cary Methodist Register of Members, 1887-1902. No knowledge of location or any other information.)

Macedonia- 5501 Holly Springs Road, west of Raleigh; founded in 1855 according to a church historian. Earliest deed March 28, 1855, Book 20, Page 797, Wake County.

Mount Zion- Earliest registration of members in 1837, Cary Circuit. (Cary Membership Register, 1835-1884). (Note from pastor, B. B. Culbreth, November 1, 1880 stating members transferred to other circuits.)

Recently a discovery was made in our church of membership registration journals, which had been misplaced for years. The most valuable find was of church memberships from the first years of this Church's history. In fact, the first registrations were dated in the years 1835, 1840, 1853, and 1871. It is thought that these persons had moved their memberships from other churches to our church when it was first organized. They evidently wanted their memberships included in the first rolls, but wished the original dates of joining listed.

Among these was listed Alfred D. Jones, Consul General to Hong Kong, who died in 1892 on a return trip to America. He was the son of Rufus Henry Jones and Nancy Ann Jones.

The first person named in this journal who actually joined the Cary church was James B. Jordah, by profession of faith, and the minister was Alex R. Raven.

In many instances it is noted when members left the church. The following are some of the reasons:

- Removed by certificate.
- Removed without certificate.
- Expelled April 8, 1878.
- Stricken off by order of Church Conference.
- Died in the faith.
- Gone to the Baptists.
- Died suddenly July 3rd. She was ready.
- Expelled for drunkenness.

The members of the church were expected to behave themselves. For such things as card playing, drunkenness, dancing, failure to provide for the preachers salary, and upkeep of the church, they could be expelled.

In this same book is a letter written to "Brother Reid" and signed by W. S. Davis in January 17, 1891. In it he related that "notwithstanding the shape of the cotton crop of last year, we are encouraged in the beginning to hope for good results". He goes on to relate "on Thursday night of Christmas week our Missionary Society at Cary held a meeting and \$10.00 was raised to make Mrs. Baker of Greensboro, who organized the society years ago, a life member. Mrs. R. H. Jones was also made a life member by her sons". He goes on to report a good "pounding" at the parsonage for which he is very grateful. This journal is filled with bits of bookkeeping and various reports on the churches in the Cary Circuit. Also, there are bits of sermons.

The following is a list of journals of membership and Quarterly Conference Records found at this time;

Register of Church Memberships	1835-1884
Register of Church Memberships	1887-1902
Register of Church Memberships	1910-1920
Register of Church Memberships	1929-1939
Budgets and Collections	1945
Library Circulation Records	1898-1912
Sunday School Record Book	1907-1908
Quarterly Conference Records	1883-1896
Quarterly Conference Records	1887-1890
Quarterly Conference Records	1891-1894
Quarterly Conference Records	1895-1898
Quarterly Conference Records	1921-1924

The Quarterly Conference Records are especially interesting as they reflect the way of life in the early years. The ministers' reports on conditions of the churches and Sunday schools are very revealing. The winters were severe and it was difficult to make the rounds of the various charges, although the spirit of the people was uplifting.

In one report in 1892 the Reverend P. L. Herman stated that "The young men come from other counties, and even other states, to seek wives in the Cary circuit, and they generally find them. The spiritual condition of the female membership is very good, hence their fame, not only for beauty and accomplishment, but best of all for deep piety. So may it ever be".

Financial reports told of collections from each church on the Cary Circuit each quarter. A very good one at the time listed the total sum of \$134.25, with Cary contributing \$67.75. This was on May 14, 1892. Cary has come a long way since that time. Of course, during those years money was very scarce and the church building was very plainly furnished. However, it was not lacking in spirit and warmth.

There comes a time when all churches must be enlarged and repairs made. Such was the case with our church in 1922. "By August 1923 the annex was complete. Providing basement, dining room, kitchen, furnace, and fuel rooms. First floor: Pastor's study, choir loft, two class rooms and toilet. Second floor: five class rooms and library. With the new portion all brick veneered, the original church just did not look right. With the faithful men and women, work was carried forward. The building was re-roofed, the original steeple removed, a modern tower constructed, and the entire building brick veneered at the cost of about \$6,000.00. The annex cost \$9,000.00. Here work was halted until additional funds could be obtained.

Then the inside work on the auditorium was done - consisting of a new ceiling, finishing the carpentry work, cleaning and refinishing the pews, painting the walls, carpeting the floor, securing memorial windows for all windows, and securing an interior decorator from Richmond, Virginia to decorate the ceiling. The ladies, with big pots of boiling lye, cleaned all the old paint from the Cary-made pews of heart pine, and had Walter King refinish them. Thanks to pastors D. N. Caviness and W. C. Ball with the generous help of the members and many kind friends." (Miss Irma Ellis' History of Church, 1955)

The ladies of the church have always been real workers, not to be outdone by the men. As early as 1916 "The Methodist Church Circle composed of eleven women had a booth at the fair and cleared \$13.32. From 1916 to 1919 they bought carpet for the church, helped pay for wiring for the church and parsonage, paid for \$100.00 worth of furniture for the parsonage, and bought hymn books." (Miss Irma Ellis' History of Church)

In 1924 the ladies secured a loan of \$3,000.00 from Building and Loan and had a new parsonage built at 318 Academy Street, next door to the original parsonage (Mr. Alt Pleasants was the builder). This house remained the home of our ministers until the present parsonage was built on Harrison Avenue. At that time the property at 318 Academy Street was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Louis T. Hill.

The Women's Missionary Society was started in the Cary Methodist Episcopal Church before 1891 as mentioned in a letter written by Reverend W. S. Davis on a page of the first Church Membership Register. This organization was first named Methodist Women's Missionary Society. Later the name was changed to Women's Society of Christian Service. In 1972 the name was again changed and is now United Methodist Women. No matter what title it carries, this organization has been, from the first years of the church, a dedicated group of women.

On November 1, 1948, a number of professional women in the church met at the home of Reverend J. D. Robinson and organized the Wesleyan Service Guild, which was geared to meet the needs of the working woman as a missionary society. Charter members were as follows:

Meroe Stone	Potential Members -
Virginia Jones	Mrs. McConnahay
Isobell Britt	Mrs. Martin
Bertha Daniel (Chairman)	Mrs. Pansy Gates
	Mrs. David Guy
	Miss Dorothy Dickinson

Through the years the Guild has served the church in so many ways. Their chief moneymaking efforts have been in selling pansy plants each November, and with these funds they have accomplished many worthwhile deeds, establishment of a small church library. Shelves were built (most of them are still in use in the present library) and carpeting laid. Books were collected and catalogued. Then a tea was held on the afternoon of May 16, 1965, at which time the Guild presented the new library to the church.

In 1972 the Wesleyan Service Guild became a part of the United Methodist Women and is now known as the Wesleyan Circle.

The Youth of the church was first organized as the Epworth League. Later it became the Methodist Youth Fellowship. This organization has always been an active, hardworking group of young people and the church is fortunate to have so many faithful members.

The church had grown so much in membership by 1957 under the ministry of Reverend Barney Davidson that it was necessary to make renovations. The sanctuary was enlarged and redecorated. In making this change there was some difficulty in matching the beautiful ceiling. After much searching Mr. R. O. Heater found the material to match and work was finished in this area, with everything freshly painted and polished. A fine fellowship hall and kitchen were added to the church. It is unbelievable to think of the number of church entertainments and socials held in this hall and the number of delicious meals that have been served there.

The thought of food brings to our attention the fair booth that the church has operated at the North Carolina State Fair for many years. It started with a very small booth and has grown into a thriving business during State Fair Week. These funds have contributed to the purchase of a new organ and many other worthwhile endeavors, such as helping to enlarge church facilities, etc. It is the real reason why so many people in the church have given so much of their time and efforts to this enterprise. Through such work as this in the church the members find the real meaning of love and closeness to one another. From the organization of this church to the present time we will find that this is what has held the congregation together, this thing of working together for a common cause. This is what makes a great church.

The year 1971 was very eventful for Cary and was the cause for much celebration. There were two particular reasons to remember at that time. First of all the Town of Gary had reached the venerable age of one hundred years. Secondly, the Methodists of Gary proudly proclaimed the one hundredth birthday of the First United Methodist Church. The little wooden church increased in size and the congregation had multiplied. It was time to celebrate the many hard years and work that had gone into this wonderful old church. The entire week had been filled with many parties and a pageant commemorating the town's birthday, but when Sunday arrived quite a few people donned the costumes of the early years and attended church services to thank God for the many wonderful years of the past.

In 1975 it became necessary that something be done about the church organ. It had faithfully served the congregation for many years, but the time had come to replace it as it was beyond repair. A campaign was started to raise the necessary funds, with many people contributing in memory of loved ones and in honor of friends or relatives. The women of the church held a "Christmas in July" Bazaar, selling handmade Christmas gifts and baked goods. A sizable amount of the proceeds was contributed to the organ fund. There were many ways in which this money was raised. Finally the total sum was paid, and on Sunday, November 7, 1976, during church services, the new organ was officially presented. The choir, directed by Mrs. Glenda Fleshman, and accompanied by Miss Mary Elizabeth Bradley, organist, presented an inspiring program. That same afternoon Miss Bradley performed with a recital which beautifully demonstrated this new organ. Another milestone had been reached in our church.

This history would not be complete without mention of some of the names of the first families who saw the beginning of the Cary Methodist Church. Many of their descendants live in Cary and continue to support the church. A few of the first prominent members are listed below:

Allison Frank Page	(founder of Cary and first mayor)
Walter Hines Page	(Ambassador to Great Britain during World War I)
Robert N. Page	(U. S. Congressman)
Rufus H. Jones	
Sarah C. Jones	
Alfred D. Jones	(Ambassador to Hong Kong)
W. N. Sorrell	
A. H. Merritt	
H. D. Holland	
John Guess	
Alex R. Raven	(First Minister of this church)
Dr. S. P. Waldo	(Granddaughters - Mrs. Nell Young and Mrs. Alice Batts, and Grandson, Mr. Waldo Rood live in Cary)
Andrew Pleasants	
Eliza Pleasants	(On her death in 1906 left money for church to buy a silver pitcher and goblet, for communion. Everyone drank from same goblet. Since then her descendants have added to communion set when needed)
Alf Pleasants	(Married Alice Cook. Second wife was Ida Cook. Fifteen children in all, and all of them are good church workers)
Dr. J. M. Templeton	(Daughter, Elva Templeton, still lives in Cary)

There were many other notable families in this church. However, time and space do not allow mentioning them. Inasmuch as these fine families have contributed so much to the origin of this wonderful church, and the years between have added new families, which have brought so much hope and faith and enlarged the physical growth of the church, there is no way to imagine the far-reaching influence this church will have in this community in the future. It is something every member should realize and be proud of. Most of all, we should give thanks to God for directing and guiding us in the building of, not only a fine church, but also a worshipful congregation.

OLD CARY, 1900-1910 By Elva Templeton
Miss Templeton was born May 3, 1898

My first memories were living in the house of my parents behind the Academy where the elementary school is today (Kildaire Farm Road). Across the street was a beautiful house in which Mary Whitaker lived. Her first husband was a son of Nathaniel Jones (White Plains). On the corner of what is now Walnut and Kildaire Farm Road lived John Breeze. Across Walnut Street and down were the Bennett, Barbe, and Hurst homes.

Most roads back then were not named and were just country lanes. Going south of the Academy on what is now Pleasants Avenue lived Euva Martin and her children. The next lane to the right led to Hillcrest Cemetery some 350 yards. Midway on the right was a one-room black school, and next was a large church and the foundation is still visible today. The teacher of the school was Miss Ada Ruffin whose father and mother, Shade and Mellie Ruffin, lived in a house still standing today on the right just past Shirley Drive (white house) on Kildaire Farm Road. Before you get to their home and across the lane lived Charlie Passmore. Later a Mr. Austin lived there who owned a buggy and children would 'steal' a ride on the back of the buggy going down town.

Going further south you came to a lane (Cornwall Road). Going west and on the left lived a number of families as shown on the-map.

About 400 yards down this lane and on the left lived Alf Pleasants where many of Cary's lifelong residents, such as former Sheriff Robert Pleasants and others of this large family, were born and raised. Past them and on the right side 200 yards is a black cemetery. The first grave on the right is Jennie Beckwith. Her husband, John, was the janitor for the Academy and later High School. Going east on Cornwall lane and about 400 yards was a Masonic Lodge (black) and several families shown on the map lived along that road that ended up crossing Byrum road and into the Macedonia road. Going east on Macedonia Road two miles was the White Plains Mansion -- the home of Nathaniel Jones. The cemetery for this family was in the woods or fields then behind the house 1/2 mile.

The only named streets and roads were Cedar Street, Academy Street, Q. Whipple Street, Raleigh and Macedonia Roads. The rest were just lanes that were identified by the people who lived on them. The area where present day Shirley Drive cuts through and the Presbyterian Retirement Center (Glenaire) is planned was a large farm owned by Charlie Holleman.

SCHOOLS:

Cary Academy's principal was Prof. Middleton. The top floor of the Academy was occupied by boys who came from nearby communities & boarded. The boarding girls had a dormitory located just north of the First Baptist Church adjoining Marvin Jone's home. On campus were tennis courts and a baseball field on southeast corner of the campus. Men in the community played baseball each Saturday afternoon.

In 1907 the Academy became the first Public High School of N. C. Professor Dry was the principal. Students were required to go to Chapel. There were no electric bells. Uncle John Beckwith, janitor, rang the bells for the changing of classes. My parents, Dr. and Mrs. Templeton, lived in rear of the Academy and High School. At night one could see boys in pajamas helping themselves to our pears and next day chicken feathers were scattered about the playground and we had a few chickens missing. The rooms were heated by pot bellied stoves. On-west side of building was the music room where piano lessons were given. Later a boys' dorm was built on the east side and a girls' dorm on the west side. At the south end of the main building was a kitchen and dining room.

Older young people went downtown to meet the trains -- late P.M., and strolled to the cemetery or walked through the woods.

There were four literary societies for high school students. Boys—Calhoun, Clay. Girls--Lowell and Irving. These societies had public debates once a year. The people of Cary attended. There were music recitals, recitation contests, etc. Plays and various entertainment were held throughout the year.

The closing of school, or better known as Commencement, was a great event. The trunk of the trees were whitewashed. Also, a picnic on the south end of the school yard was held. The men dug a trench under our buggy shed to barbeque pigs. It was a great occasion for the community.

In the community the older students played tennis, croquet, or baseball.

The younger children played games such as hide-and-seek, Hail over, Skin the cat, Marbles, Stealing bases, Hop Scotch, Jump the rope.

BUSINESSES:

The railroads, Seaboard and Southern, were always a vital part of old Cary. The Walker Hotel is evidence of this and was a focal point of activity. Both railroads had depots and the Southern came in from Durham and the Seaboard from Apex and points south. The two tracks came together and ran parallel to each other toward Raleigh. These two passenger trains raced out from Raleigh to Cary in the late afternoon. They stopped in Cary coming and going to Raleigh. One could easily travel to Raleigh by one of these trains at 9 A.M., 12 A.M., or 6 P.M. A bell was rung on the front porch of the Walker Hotel at lunch time for anyone on the train who desired to eat. East of the Depot was Fetner -- a tower where the trains could get water. A lumber mill was located on the Southern side just east of the Walker Hotel.

There were many stores and a number within walking distance, as the map indicates. The store owned by the Gray Bros., located where the Fidelity Bank is, had a variety of products. One could buy a stick of candy for 1¢. Groceries were delivered free to your home. Other stores offered the same. There was a shoe shop in the heart of town and the Waldo Drug Store near the end of the block and a dairy a short distance further on. Back then you needed a blacksmith or Bob Harrison's wagon & buggy shop (repairs, etc.). The town pump was across from the shoe

shop and was looked after by Bill (Jones) Pump. People largely had their own gardens and orchards were nearby. The post office was centrally located as were the churches. And for the ladies there was the Scott Store where notions, thread, ribbons, etc. were sold. Mrs. Scott trimmed hats for the ladies.

DOCTORS:

Dr. S. P. Waldo and my father, Dr. James M. Templeton, served Cary and the surrounding community. My father practiced for 45 years. If he made a sick call he went into their home (office calls almost unheard of). He went in the middle of the day or night. People came knocking at the door or hollering for the doctor. He went by buggy or horseback rain or snow. Often he let his horse find his way through woods to the main road. He always went back to see how his patient was getting on after dismissing him -- often spent the night in a very sick person's home. Charges were \$1.50 a visit if one could pay -- if not, O.K. Sometimes vegetables were given by former patients. He had many black patients as well as friends. We children did like the huge watermelons given by patients.

CHURCHES:

The Baptist and Methodist members of each church attended both churches since services were on alternate Sundays at each church. The Methodist Church was moved into Cary the year Cary Charter was established -- 1871. The Methodist Church was moved from across the railroads almost opposite present day Ephesus Baptist Church. All that remains of the Asbury church is a cemetery. John Taylor rang the bell at the Methodist Church and when a person died he rang it slow -- a stroke for each year of a deceased person's age. In the churches the entertainment was candy pulling, hay rides, ice cream suppers in someone's yard and picnics. The Baptist and Methodist went on wagons to Pullen Park each summer for the day. There we rode on the merry-go-round or ferris wheel. Of course there was the picnic dinner.

Central to the life of old Cary were the churches, the railroads with the Walker Hotel, and the Academy and High School.

And that is the way I remember old Cary.

Elva Templeton