



A Journey Back: Historic Oak Grove
United Methodist Church
Northampton County, North Carolina

by Beverley Vincent Pierpoint

Then and Now



1930's Oak Grove Church Families



2006 Oak Grove Homecoming

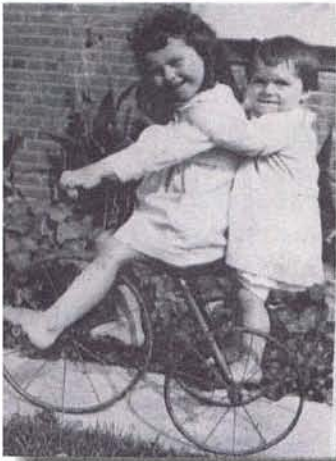
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Dedication

To my aunt, Virginia Belle Vincent Bunn who introduced me to Oak Grove Church when I was four years old. Who took me, every year of my life, on a pilgrimage to Oak Grove Cemetery to clean the family grave site. Who let me run and play in the white, sandy soil that was once the road and lectured me on keeping the family alive through photos and writings when she was not here.

To my father, John Fletcher Vincent, Jr. (Jack) who took me on weekend excursions to Northampton County: to his home place, to his cousin William Vincent's grape arbors, to the rocks of the Roanoke River and the cotton fields and farms that dotted the landscape. My father gave me an appreciation for the land and the people and the way of life of those who lived in Northampton County in the early 20th century.



*Ding and Dad
1919*

My father died in 1984 before I could acknowledge his gifts. Aunt Virginia (We called her "Ding.") passed on in 2001. It was at this time that I began the process of gathering records and data. Now I am the most senior member of my family and extended family. Perhaps through this process I will be able to connect to others and find the missing links.

Beverly Vincent Pierpoint
Beverley Vincent Pierpoint

From Methodist Episcopal to United Methodist

“The Methodist Episcopal Church, sometimes referred to as the M.E. Church, officially began at the Baltimore Christmas Conference in 1784. Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke were the first bishops. Circuit riders, many of whom were laymen, traveled by horseback to preach the gospel and establish churches until there was scarcely any crossroad community in the United States without a Methodist presence.

The earliest forms of Methodism were not originally referred to as a “connexion” because members were expected to seek the sacraments in the Church of England or Anglican Church. By the 1770s, however, they had their own chapels. In addition to salaried circuit riders (who were paid just over one-quarter what salaried Congregationalist ministers earned at the time), there were also unsalaried local ministers who held full-time jobs outside the church, class leaders who conducted weekly small groups where members were mutually accountable for their practice of Christian piety, and stewards who often undertook administrative duties.

The earliest Episcopal Methodists in North America were often drawn from the middle-class trades, women were more numerous among members than men, and adherents outnumbered official members by as many as five-to-one. Adherents, unlike members, were not publicly accountable for their Christian life and therefore did not usually attend weekly class meetings. Meetings and services were often characterized by extremely emotional and demonstrative styles of worship that were often condemned by contemporary Congregationalists. It was also very common for exhortations - testimonials and personal conversion narratives distinguishable from sermons because exhorters did not “take a text” from the Bible - to be publicly delivered by both women and slaves. Some of the earliest class leaders were also women.

The church split over the question of slavery in 1844 with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South being formed in southern states. Slave Henry Bibb was particularly virulent in his confrontations of churchmen who served as slave masters through letters he sent to Episcopal Methodist church members. Bibb called on them to confront their pasts and account for their dual roles as slave owner and religious persons. Several of Bibb’s letters appear in John W. Blassingame’s volume, “Slave Testimony,” (LSU Press).

In the late 1840s, separate Conferences were formed for German-speaking members of the Methodist Episcopal Church who were not members of the Evangelical United Brethren (EUB). Among these was the St. Louis German Conference, which in 1925 was assimilated into the surrounding English-speaking conferences, including the Illinois Conference. In 1939 the northern and southern branches, together with the Methodist Protestant Church, united to form The Methodist Church.

In 1968 the Methodist Church united with the Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) church, created by German-speaking Methodists, to form the United Methodist Church.”

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methodist_Episcopal_Church



The Beginning of Methodism in Northampton County

Before churches were built in the county, ministers and laymen traveled the countryside on horseback staying in private homes and preaching the Gospel to anyone they could reach. Their main goal was to establish churches. Because their route encompassed a circuit or geographical area in which one or more churches were located, they were referred to as circuit riders. Today we call these circuits, charges.

The first churches in America were Methodist Episcopal churches and closely tied to the Church of England and the Anglican church. Between 1763 and 1775 Devereux Jarratt, an Anglican minister from Virginia and a forerunner of Methodism, frequently visited Northampton County. By 1778 through his efforts, the Roanoke Methodist Circuit had been established. Upon visiting the county in 1788, Bishop Thomas Asbury said, “the Methodists of Northampton County were known to have God and Christ in their hearts.” By the beginning of the 19th century meeting houses and camp meetings became the desired method of teaching the “remission of sin.” Camp meetings lasted several days and carriages and wagons often met riverboats to take passengers inland for these revivals.

The first Methodist Meeting House in Northampton County was Concord near Seaboard. In 1783 Howell Myrick of Brunswick County, Virginia transferred land to Matthew Myrick, Nathaniel Mason, Henry King and John Moore. Myrick and Mason were from Brunswick County, Virginia. King and Moore from Northampton County. By 1793 covenants were signed to build a church. A memorandum dated June 5, 1793 specified that the preachers who use the house may use it only so long as they “expound the word of God and teach the doctrines contained in John Wesley’s notes on the New Testament and his four volumes of sermons.”

The second Methodist Church in Northampton County was Rehoboth Chapel. Eliphas Lewis gave the land to the church in 1798. The land was then deeded to the first trustees: Richard Whitaker, William Brewer, Absolam Grant, William Grant and Matthew Griffin. The first chapel was a simple structure without paint or plaster. The chapel was organized by Richard Whitaker and was rebuilt in 1857. That same year the name chapel changed to church. Rehoboth Church stands today.

The third Methodist Church in Northampton County was Pinner’s near Rich Square. Two versions of who donated the land exist. One version says Joseph Pinner gave the land to build this church that bears his name. The other version says that the land was donated by Jeremiah Carter, whose plantation adjoined the church property. The original church was located at the junction of Eaglestown, a community east of Rich Square, and highway 258. This church was built before 1820 but the exact date is not known. Pinner’s was officially closed in 1971. Today the church is maintained as an historic church of the North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church.

The fourth Methodist Church in Northampton County was Oak Grove and is the subject of this book. David H. Clements gave the land for the original church in 1821. The deeds for Oak Grove Church are found within these pages and contain the names of many families who are still living in the area.

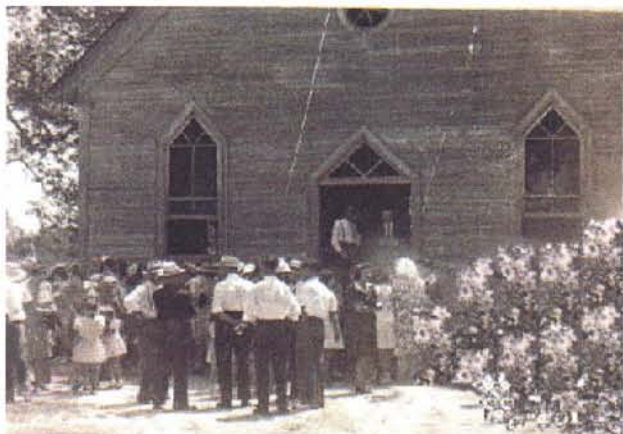
Source: *Footprints in Northampton*, Northampton Bicentennial Committee, 1976, pp. 7, 9, 115.

Oak Grove United Methodist Church is one of the historic churches of the North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church. Located in Northampton County in the Stancell community, the church is one-tenth mile from the North Carolina-Virginia line. The physical address is: Highway 1212, at the intersection with Cherry Tree Rd., NC 1211.

The church was founded in 1821 when one acre of land was deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Church by David H. Clements of Northampton County. Previous to this the congregation worshipped in the home of Moses Norwood.

The first Oak Grove church was a simple frame structure measuring 18 x 21 feet. By 1886 an arbor was built to accommodate the growing congregations who came for all-day services and revivals. The salary for a pastor in 1886 was \$9.00 a year.

In 1887 E. M. Clements, saw that the church needed additional land for a cemetery and gave the church two and 5/8 acres. The former church was torn down and a new church built at the back of the new property. This new church had two columns of posts down the center of the room to support the roof and two front doors. In 1906 these posts were removed and the two doors were replaced with one.



From 1894 to 1925 Dr. Dallas Zollicoffer, a noted and much loved community physician, taught and preached in the church and was a great influence on the lives of the parishioners. But the church was struggling and in the period from 1915 to 1925 the leaders found it hard to keep the message of the church alive. During this time Brother L. U. (Mont) Norwood, superintendent of the Sunday School, held prayer meetings and instructed the youth and adults on the importance of the church. But the church needed revitalizing.

In 1944, under the pastorate of the Rev. J. E. Garlington talks began about building a new structure. Rev. Garlington made the first donation but lack of funds kept the church from moving forward.

In 1945 under the leadership of Rev. E. C. Crawford a building committee was organized and the first sketches of the new church were drawn. The sketch showed a basement which could be used for Sunday School classes.



From 1946 to 1948 the Rev. W. N. Vaughan served as pastor of Oak Grove. During this time preliminary plans for the church were prepared by Linthicum and Linthicum Architects of Raleigh, N. C. By 1948 the final plans had been accepted. The Rev. Matt Gardner was now pastor. Mr. F. M. Rightmyer, a contractor from Weldon, was hired to build the church.

On December 19, 1948 a small ceremony was held to lay the cornerstone. Dr. A. J. Hobbs, district superintendent, delivered the message.

On April 24, 1949, four months after the cornerstone was laid, the church was completed and opened for the first service. Seven hundred people attended the all-day event. Sermons were delivered by Dr. A. J. Hobbs and the Rev J. E. Garlington. A picnic on the grounds followed.



Immediately after the opening ceremony work was begun to free the church of debt. The cost for the construction and furnishings was \$29,033.

On November 11, 1951, two years, ten months, and three weeks later the church was free of debt and ready for a formal dedication. At the dedication ceremony the Building Committee and members of the church expressed their appreciation to these individuals and groups:

- The Duke Endowment for a donation of \$3,500 and to Dr. J. M. Ormand for his assistance in the gift.
- The Advance for Christ Specials Fund of the North Carolina Conference of The Methodist Church for \$876.67 and to Superintendent Dr. A. J. Hobbs for his support and assistance.

- Dr. J. E. Garlington for spearheading the project and his help in securing a donation of \$350 from the North Carolina Conference Board of Church Extension and \$750 from the General Board of Church Extension.
- Mr. Frank M. Rightmyer, contractor and Mr. Rufus Hux, foreman.
- The Rev. Matt R. Gardener for his loving guidance and untiring efforts.
- The fourteen members of the Women's Society for Christian Service and their presidents Mrs. Fred Rainey and Mrs. William A. Vincent. This group had raised \$4,000.
- Those many unnamed individuals who donated materials and labor to the project.

The stained glass windows, bell, pulpit furnishings and organ were all made possible by generous gifts from the following individuals and families.

Stained Glass Windows - In Memory Of:

- Roland Coker and Florence Coker
- Rosser Leigh Clairbourne and Muriel Burton Clairbourne
- T. J. Allen and Family
- Laura Rainey Clements and Edward Clements
- The Baird Family
- W. R. Valentine and Mary M. Valentine
- Anna Rook Owens
- Margaret Norwood Robinson
- Lucy Cora and T. E. Rook by their Children

- Franklin Pearce Rainey and Mary Pollard Rainey
- Dr. Dallas Zollicoffer, Community Physician
- Lilton U. Norwood and Laura L. Norwood
- B. W. Vincent and Pearl H. Vincent
- Sallie Williams by the Children

Round Glass Window-Given By:

- J. O. and Lottie M. Baird

Bell In the Tower- Given By:

- Fred and Willia Rainey- In Memory of Isaac and Kate Rainey

Pulpit Furnishings:

- The Pulpit Stand - In Honor of our beloved pastor, Rev. Matt R. Gardner
- Center Pulpit Stand - Given by Dallas R. and Hazel Allen
- Two Pulpit Chairs - In Memory of Anthony and Florence Vincent, given by Malvern and Bettie Vincent
- Communion Table - In Honor of Mary Pruden Vincent, given by her husband William A. Vincent
- Altar Rail - Given by The Women's Society of Christian Service of Oak Grove Church



Hymn Board - In Memory Of:

Walter Clements, Veteran of World War I, given by Members of the Church

Collection Plates - Given By:

Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Jordan

The Organ - Dedicated to the Memory Of:

- Jesse and Irene Moss by their Children
- Anthony and Florence Vincent by their son William A. Vincent and daughter Florence Vincent Grant
- The Grant Family, by Lottie Grant Pugh, Charles W. Vincent, Sr. and his Wife and Children
- J. T. and Callie Wrenn, by their Children
- B. W. and Pearl Vincent, by their Children
- Members of Oak Grove Church and Mrs. Matt R. Gardner.
- The Women's Society of Christian Service and others

The speaker for the dedication on Sunday, November 11, 1951 was Bishop Paul Neff Garber of the N. C. Conference of The Methodist Church. The members of Oak Grove Church gave thanks to God for their beautiful new church and dedicated it to His glory.

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

Fred Rainey	Mrs. Leonard B. Rainey
Walter Gay	Mrs. Willia A. Rainey
William A. Vincent	Randall P. Allen
Charles Moseley	Leonard B. Rainey
Nathan Faulkner	Russell P. Moss
Jasper J. Rook	Wiley H. Coker
Atwell Norwood	Mrs. Fred Rainey
J. Baird	Mrs. H. C. Oliver
Mrs. W. A. Vincent	Matt R. Gardner

Deeds

Oak Grove Methodist Church

Book 21 Page 32

David H. Clements of Northampton County to William Miles, John Weaver, Howell Peebles, Thomas Moore, and John Blyhe, all of Northampton County, Trustees, June 30, 1821, for one dollar a tract of one acre of land on Jordans Road, 70 x 70 x 70 x 70 yds, using trees as markers, for the erection of a house of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Wit: Charles Walpole, Wm. D. Bradley, John Woodruff. Reg. December 1, 1821.

Book 79 Page 332

H. H. Clements and wife, L. A., deeded to J. G. Benn of Halifax County, J. H. Pepper and W. J. Moore of Greensville County, VA, and B. E. Rook and P. S. Norwood of Northampton County, Trustees for Oak Grove M. E. Church, S., December 1, 1887, for fifteen dollars, a tract of land adjoining the church line, 140 x 180 x 144 yds. containing 2 5/8 acres, for use as a cemetery. Reg. June 4, 1888.

Book 79 Page 334

E. J. Thomas of Northampton County quitclaim to E. M. Clements, November 30, 1887, for \$15.00 all of his interest in the above described tract of land conveyed by Clement and wife to the Trustees of Oak Grove Methodist Episcopal Church, S., for use as a cemetery or burial ground. Reg. June 4, 1888.

Book 363 Page 519

P. R. Moss, W. T. Gay, and R. P. Allen, Trustees of the Oak Grove Methodist Church, deed of trust to the Divisions of Home Missions and Church Extension. February 25, 1950 for \$4,000, with the security being a tract of one acre of land 70 x 70 x 70 yds. conveyed to the Trustees by deed registered December 1821 and recorded in Book 21

Book 364 Page 544

R. P. Allen, P. R. Moss, and W. T. Gay, Trustees of Oak Grove Methodist Episcopal Church near Roanoke Rapids, deed of trust to the Board of Missions, March 28, 1950, for \$750, with the security being a tract of one acre on Jordans Road adjoining Clements, 70 x 70 x 70 x 70 yds., conveyed to the Trustees by deed recorded in Book 21, pages 32-34. Reg. March 29, 1950.

Book 364 Page 580

R. P. Allen, P. R. Moss, and W. T. Gay, Trustees of Oak Grove Methodist Church, deed of trust to the Board of Church Extensions March 28, 1950, for \$3,500, with the security being a tract of one acre of land conveyed to the Trustees by deed recorded in Book 21 at page 32-34. Reg. April 21, 1950.

Book 403 Page 444

R. P. Allen, J. J. Rook, and Atwell Norwood, Trustees of the Oak Grove Methodist Church, right of way agreement with the State Highway Commission, November 4, 1953. Reg. March 24, 1954.

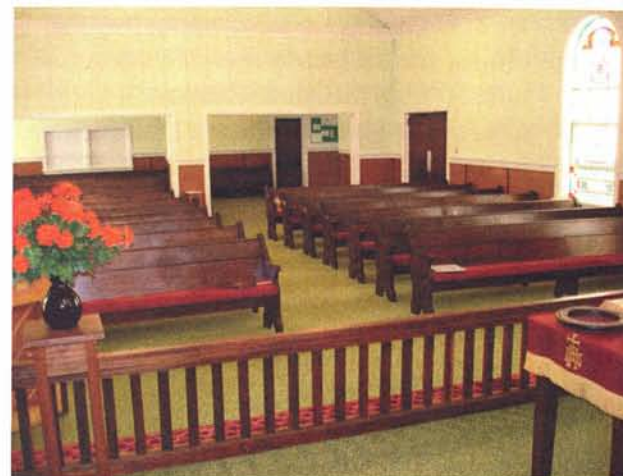
Book 467 Page 444

R. P. Allen, Atwell Norwood, and Wiley H. Coker, Trustees of Oak Grove Methodist Church, right of way agreement with the State Highway Commission, November 21, 1960. The land was on Secondary Roads #1211 and #1212 adjoining the lands of D. R. Allen. Reg. February 24, 1961.

Book 578 Page 47

Roland Coker, Jr., H. L. Jordan, Shelton Rook, and W. N. Coker, Trustees of Oak Grove United Methodist Church, right of way agreement with Virginia Electric and Power Company. February 6, 1977. Reg. March 16, 1977.

Source: Northampton County Court Records





Oak Grove Appointments

1896	J. Pegram	1951	A. S. Lancaster
1897-1898	None	1952-1953	M. R. Gardner
1899-1900	G. W. Fisher	1954-1956	A E. Brown
1901-1902	E. W. Fox	1957	E. H. Measamer
1903-1906	J. G. Johnson	1958-1960	G. C. Kinlaw
1907-1908	E. L. Earnhardt	1961-1963	A. L. G. Stephenson
1909-1911	E. N. Harrison	1964	C. M. Treihart
1912-1915	Marvin Y. Self	1965	William Taylor
1916-1918	R. W. Bailey	1966-1967	Garland Bailey
1919-1922	William Towe	1968-1970	Bobby Whitfield
1923	C. M. Lance	1971-1973	Herman Coker
1924	J. A. Thorpe	1974-1975	William E. Clements
1925	B. Duke Critcher	1976-1978	Fred Roberts
1926	E. W. Dawson	1978	Howard Wilkerson Jr.
1927-1929	O. C. Melton	1979-1980	Carl Frazier
1930-1933	J. T. Draper	1980-1984	J. J. Grimes
1934-1935	H. A. Chester	1984-1988	Everette Bryan
1936-1937	L. B. Pattishall	1988-1990	Jesse Staten
1938	L. E. Sawyer	1990-1991	Randy L. Wall
1939-1944	J. E. Garlington	1991-1994	Joanne M. Stallings
1945	C. E. Crawford	1994-2001	Faye Etheridge
1946-1947	W. N. Vaughan	2001-2005	Gregory C. Minnick
1948-1950	J. T. Maides	2005-present	Steven Mullenix

The Memorial Windows show the important role the church played in the lives of the early settlers of Northampton County, North Carolina and Southside Virginia. The full inscriptions under each window can be found on page 5 under Memorials.



ALLEN



BAIRD



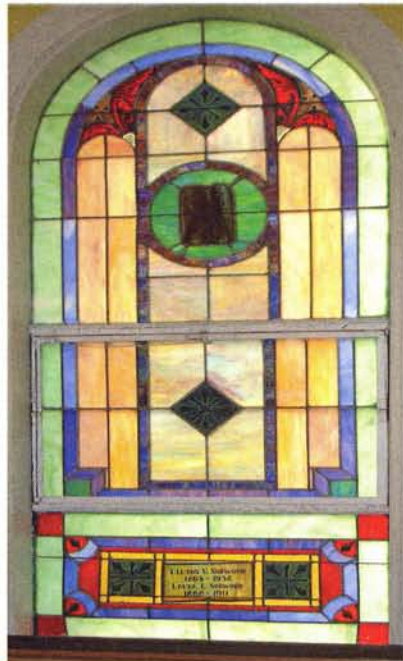
CLAIBORNE



CLEMENT



COKER



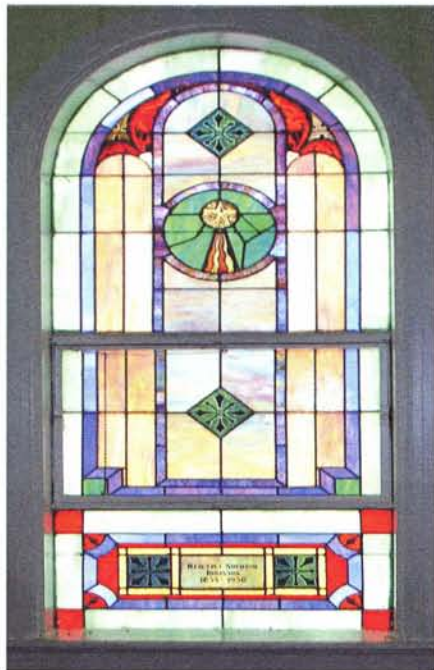
NORWOOD



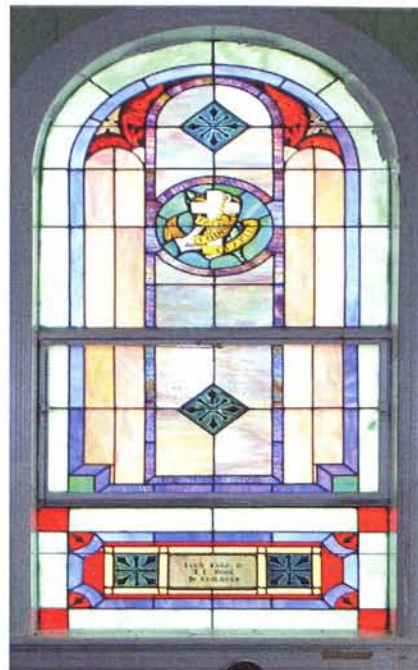
OWENS



RAINEY



ROBINSON



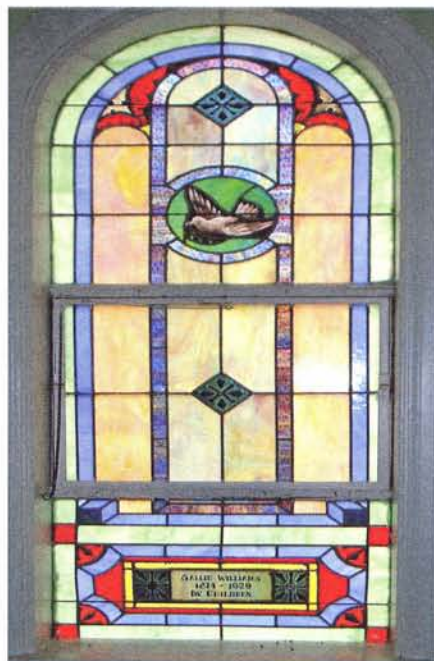
ROOK



VALENTINE



VINCENT



WILLIAMS



ZOLLIFFER



BAIRD

Buildings and Grounds



Headstones and Markers

Information in this section was transcribed from the headstones in the cemetery. Some headstones were illegible and could not be accurately recorded. Every attempt was made to include all marked families.



W. Willard Allen WWI USCG
March 20, 1920-June 25, 1980



Henry V. Allen
Nov. 8, 1891-April 26, 1961



Dallas Ross Allen
April 12, 1885-March 19, 1962



Hazel Moss Allen
July 27, 1902-January 7, 1992



Two Broken Stones near T. J. Allen
and Rebecca Allen



Rebecca Allen, Wife of T. J. Allen
June 10, 1853-June 12, 1893



Thomas Jefferson Allen
June 10, 1850-March 20, 1921



William A. Allen
SAW and WWI 1877-Dec. 17, 1952



Helen MacFarlane, Wife of William A. Allen
March 26, 1890-September 25, 1957



Randall Allen May 5, 1886-Sept. 29, 1969
Hyacinth Allen Aug. 9, 1901-Feb. 1, 1976



Broken Stone near Allen Graves
No name or date is visible



Sarah Wrenn Baird
May 7, 1899-March 12, 1976



Percy L. Bradley Nov. 20 1883- Feb. 24, 1953
Susan Garner Dec. 1, 1890- Dec. 8, 1984



Grace Clement Bradley
October 27, 1882 - Dec. 6, 1919



Laura Bradley
Died May 2, 1894



William Woodrow Carpenter Army WWI
May 17, 1917-Jan 2, 1993



Pattie M. Carpenter
June 12, 1912-Jan. 9, 2003



Dinah C. Chambliss
Feb. 25, 1907-July 4, 2001



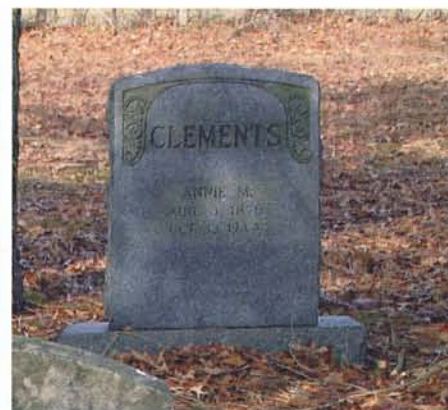
John H. Chambliss
May 7, 1906 -Jan 18, 1982



Rosser L. Claiborne July 7, 1880- Jan. 29, 1934
Muriel Burton . Nov. 14, 1877- Dec. 14, 1940



Clements' Section
Northern Part of Cemetery



Annie M. Clements
Aug. 4, 1876- Oct. 13, 1944



Sgt. Walter E. Clements
1896-1916



John Russell Clements
Aug. 14, 1866- Dec.12, 1910



Edward Mack Clements
October 23, 1858- Dec. 24, 1942



Laura Rainey Clements
June 7, 1860-Dec. 25, 1924



Infant Daughter of Edward M
and Laura R. Clements Feb. 14, 1898



Lillie Gertrude Clements
October 27, 1882- July 25, 1895



Mollie E. Clements
Aug. 18, 1857-July8, 1936



S. William Clements
Nov. 18, 1850-Nov. 4, 1908



Unknown Broken Stone
Middle of Cemetery near Road



Middle Section
Cooke, Clairborne, Jordan Families



Northern Section
Clary, Clements, Rainey, Vincent, Valentine Families



North Section
Bradley, Norwood, Moss, Morris, Gay



Peter C. Coleman
May 26, 1861-Feb.22, 1942



Susan P. Coleman
Nov. 20, 1867-Jan 12, 1938



Charles E. Coleman
Jan.24, 1895-May 12, 1974



B. Alma. Coleman
May 22, 1899-July 17, 1976



William and Beatrice A. Cooke
Aug.28, 1921-Sept. 25,1998 / July 10, 1925



Bessie R. Faulkner
June 30, 1906-May 18, 1991



Nathan Faulkner
Aug. 3, 1906- Sept. 13, 1979



Walter T. Gay 1880-1964
Leah G. 1882-1959



Lucy Virginia Grant
June 22, 1854 - Oct. 23, 1917



Charlie Grant
April 18, 1886 - Aug. 6, 1944



Eugene Grant
Infant Son 1863-18??



John Grant
Dec. 16, 1881-Nov. 18, 1907



Walter Grant
Aug. 28, 1857- May 13, 1905



Jewel Smith Gray
Oct. 13, 1912-Oct. 7, 1988



Benjamin Donnelson Gray
Sept. 14, 1877-Aug.23, 1958



Rosa Ella Norwood Gray
June 8, 1884-March 9, 1963



T. P. High
Oct. 7, 1838- Oct. 16, 1880



Cora May High
June 16, 1872-July 10, 1895



Samuel V. Holcombe
1899-1963



Josephine L. Holcombe
1897-1990



Henry L. Jordan Sept. 17, 1919-Mar. 2, 2005
Violet A. Jordan May 2, 1924-



Martha Mabry
March 22, 1858- July 4, 1922



William Mabry
1890-1932



North and Center Sections
Mabry and Rook Families



John M. Merritt
1872-1890



Benjamin F. Merritt
1870-1935



Minnie M. Merritt
1878-1904



Mary A. Merritt
1846-1933



Rock /Stone Marker Lodged in Tree
Near Merritt Graves



Benjamin H. Merritt
1842-1897



Maude Allen Moore
July 22, 1883-Sept. 15, 1961



Charles Gurley Moore
May 5, 1883-Oct. 6, 1961



J. T. Moore
Aug. 18, 1856-July 13, 1906



J. H. Moore
1858-1900



Julian S. Morris 1917-1976
Minnie G. Morris 1915-1987



Estelle B. and John A. Moss
May 15, 1903- Dec. 27, 1896



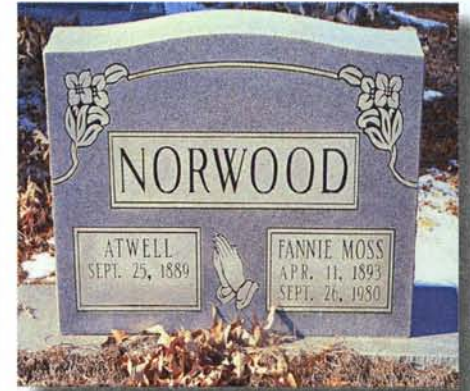
Katie Shaw Moss Feb 14, 1880
John Henry Mar. 13, 1879-July 13,1945



David Leonard Moss
April 1, 1900-Oct. 9, 1973



Moss Family Plot
Northern Section of Cemetery



Norwood: Atwell Sept. 25, 1889
Fannie Moss April 11, 1893-Sept. 26, 1980



Broken Stones near Moss Graves
Letters AUG, MA and LU are legible



John T. Norwood
Nov. 7, 1873-Oct. 19, 1956



Lilton L. Norwood 1963-1938
Hattie P. Norwood 1895-1928



Mattie Lee Clary Norwood
Nov. 25, 1924 June 15, 1974



N. T. Pearson
Sept. 18, 1840-June 6, 1901



Mary A. Pearson
Dec. 16, 1828-June 2, 1894



Northern Section across from the Church



J. H. and M. C. Pepper
May 21, 1832-Aug. 4, 1904
Dec. 9, 1820-Sept.23, 1906



R. A. Pollard
Feb. 12, 1819-March 29,1839



Mary Pollard Rainey
Feb. 11, 1876-June 6, 1959



Edw. B. Rainey Apr. 22, 1855-Mar. 10, 1905
Minnie B. Rainey Sept. 3, 1856-Apr. 7, 1940



E. B. Rainey and J. F. Vincent Plot
North Section of Cemetery



Franklin Pierce Rainey
May 9, 1853- Nov. 6, 1923



Ruth M. Rainey
1880-1932



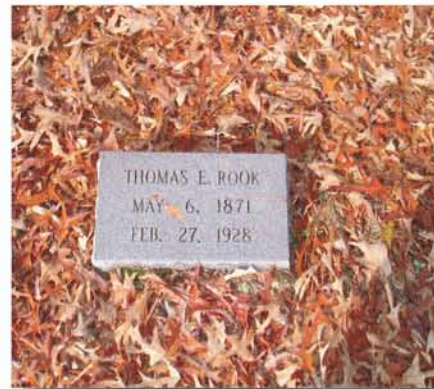
Daughter: Leonard B. & Almeda T. Rainey
May 15-May16, 1937



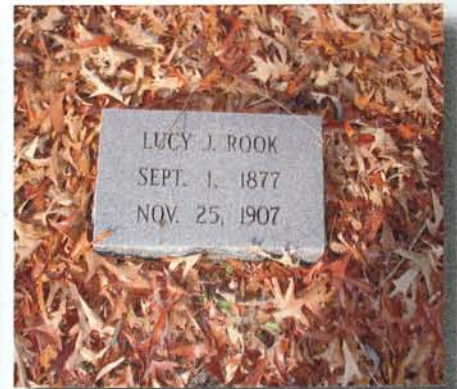
Seth Bass Rook
Oct. 6, 1896- Nov. 7, 1918



Mary Leggett Rook April 12, 1930
Wm. Linwood July 15,1924-Aug. 21,2004



Thomas E. Rook
May 6, 1871-Feb. 27, 1928



Lucy J. Rook
Sept. 1, 1877-Nov. 25, 1907



Two Broken Stones
Beside Lucy J. Rook



Amelia V. Rook
April 27, 1865-Nov. 15, 1942



Cora F. Rook
Sept. 3, 1884-March 10, 1931



Jasper J. Rook Dec. 28, 1894-May 9, 1969
Jewell W. Rook May 4, 1897-Sept. 8, 1987



S. J. Rook
1853-1918



Edwin: Son of Rosa and J. L. Riddle
March 29, 1898-April 28, 1898



Joseph Shaw March 9, 1850-June 14, 1920
Benie C. Shaw Mar. 14, 1845- May 22, 1949



Mary Shaw (wife of John Moore)
Feb. 20, 1870- June 27, 1942



Randall Valentine
Oct. 7, 1922-June 4, 1924



W. R. Valentine
Nov. 1819-January 28, 1904



Broken Stone
in Valentine Family plot



Mary P. Valentine
June 20, 1883- Sept. 24, 1897



Vincent Family Stone
North Section of Cemetery



John Fletcher Vincent
July 1, 1875-Aug. 26, 1920



Virginia Rainey Vincent Babcock
July 2, 1882-June 21, 1957



Clifton Vincent
1904-1908



Garland Vincent
1903-1907



James Edward Rainey Vincent
1905-1923



Vincent Family
South Section of Cemetery



James Anthony Vincent
June 22, 1867-April 30, 1940



Pearl Harding Vincent
1877-1952



James Anthony Vincent Family Stone
South Section of Cemetery



William Anthony Vincent
Sept. 2, 1898-July 20, 1970



Mary Pruden Vincent
May 24, 1896-Sept. 3, 1966



Florence Ford Vincent
1862-1953



Lillie Ward Vincent
1888-1928



Robert Clarence Vincent
May 23, 1903- May 11, 1928



Ida Belle Vincent
March 19, 1873-Feb 2, 1958



Charles Warrick Vincent
Jan.7, 1904 -April 6, 1957



Herbert Vincent Mar. 16, 1905-Nov. 30, 1975
Mary Gay Vincent Sept. 12, 1909-Dec. 21, 1978



Robert Glenn Vincent
April 22, 1907-Jan. 4, 1975



J. S. Vincent
1900-1939



Charles W. Vincent, Sr.
April 24, 1880- Sept. 11, 1917



Benjamin Warner "B. W." Vincent
1865-1938



George H. Vincent
Feb. 10, 1903-July 11, 1969



Vincent - Rainey Plot



Vincent and Allen Section
Center of Cemetery



Unidentified Grave
Located next to Vincent and Shaw



Mary A. Walker
1844-1929



J. A. Williams
April 20, 1871-May 28, 1850



Illegible Old Grave
Close to road, near Vincent Graves



Two V Markers
Vincent Family Graves



Sallie Williams
June 11, 1874-Aug. 4, 1929



Susie C. Williams 1913-1999
Rossell L. Williams 1900-1975



Fletcher Williams
Dec. 28, 1893-Aug. 12, 1962



Rubin L. Wrenn Aug. 30, 1905-May 24, 1982
Dorothy Wrenn April 12, 1904-Aug. 4, 1985



Callie W. Wrenn Mar. 14, 1869-July 10, 1947
Junius Tim Wrenn May 31, 1867-May 20, 1936



Ollie Younger
Oct. 28, 1897-June 22, 1966

These rocks could not be associated with any family. Their location is noted under each photo.



Unknown Rock Marker
Near Road in Center Section



Unknown Rock Marker
Near Road in Center Section



Unknown Rock Marker
Near Road in Center Section



Oak Grove Today

Today Oak Grove United Methodist Church is part of the Gaston Charge, which is comprised of Oak Grove, Shiloh and Pleasant Hill. The Rev. Steve Mullenix serves all three churches. Worship services at Oak Grove are held at 9:30 a.m. the second and fourth Sundays of the month. The congregation is small but faithful.

The Gaston Charge is part of the Rocky Mount District of the North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church. Dr. William C. Simpson, Jr. is the District Superintendent. Alfred W. Gwinn, Jr. is the Presiding Bishop.



Pastor Mullenix

Miscellaneous: 1993 Homecoming



Homecoming crowd includes Virginia Vincent Bunn (white dress).



Beverly Vincent Smith (later Pierpoint)



Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Rainey

To obtain a copy of this publication write to:
Beverly S. Pierpoint
9101 Bud Smith Rd.
Wake Forest, NC 27587



The idea for this publication was conceived at a meeting of the Archives and History Commission of the North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church. As a member of this commission, I volunteered to take on the challenge of photographing and archiving three churches in our conference provided they were churches with which I had families ties. Oak Grove United Methodist Church is the first church.

Laura Bailey of the Methodist Conference Archives and History office supplied me with the list of pastors and the deeds to the church. Other information came from news articles in the *Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald* and from the book *Footprints in Northampton*. Dr. William C. Simpson, Jr., Superintendent of the Rocky Mount District, allowed me to use three photos he had taken in 2006 during Homecoming.

I thank my brother, Edward Rainey Vincent (whose namesake lies in the cemetery), for accompanying me on frequent trips to Northampton County in various weather conditions to walk the grounds and photograph the church and the cemetery. Ed has been my teammate and this publication is the result of much of his efforts. Special thanks also goes to the Rev. Steve Mullenix, pastor of Oak Grove United Methodist Church. Rev. Mullenix allowed me inside the church to photograph the windows and the interior and educated me on the privileges associated with pastoring a rural church. I especially thank him for rescuing me when I locked my keys in the car and providing me with a picnic lunch while we waited for the locksmith to arrive. And, he did this joyfully!

I hope you will enjoy reading and viewing *A Journey Back: Historic Oak Grove United Methodist Church*.

Faithfully,

Bev

Beverley Vincent Pierpoint is a native of Halifax County, North Carolina. She is a graduate of Roanoke Rapids High School and North Carolina Wesleyan College. Her graduate studies include course work at the School of Design at N. C. State University. She is currently the Director of Corporate Communications and Annual Giving for The United Methodist Retirement Homes, Inc., a group of four continuing care retirement communities and one affordable housing community located in central and eastern North Carolina. She is married to James Wilson Pierpoint and the couple live in Wake Forest, North Carolina.



The Clements Section of Oak Grove Cemetery on a Snowy Sunday Morning in 2004