

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church and the Debate over the First Black Church

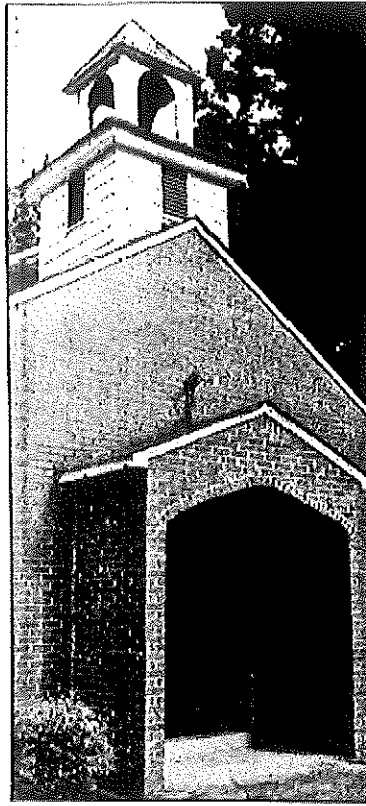


Photo by Jim Cook Jr.
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in
Decatur is DeKalb County's oldest
black church.

There seems to be a great debate over the title of the first African-American church in DeKalb County. According to some historians, the title goes to Antioch A.M.E. Church founded in 1868 by former slaves. However, others state that the title goes to Mount Pleasant Baptist Church founded in 1849 by a white plantation owner. So what constitutes a black church and which one was the first in DeKalb County? The definition of a black church seems to have two definitions: a church that caters to a predominately-black congregation or a church founded by African-Americans themselves. Antioch technically stands as the oldest black church started by African-Americans in the county, but Mount Pleasant is technically the first church in DeKalb County that served an all-black congregation. Either way, both churches were highly valued and important in the black communities they served.

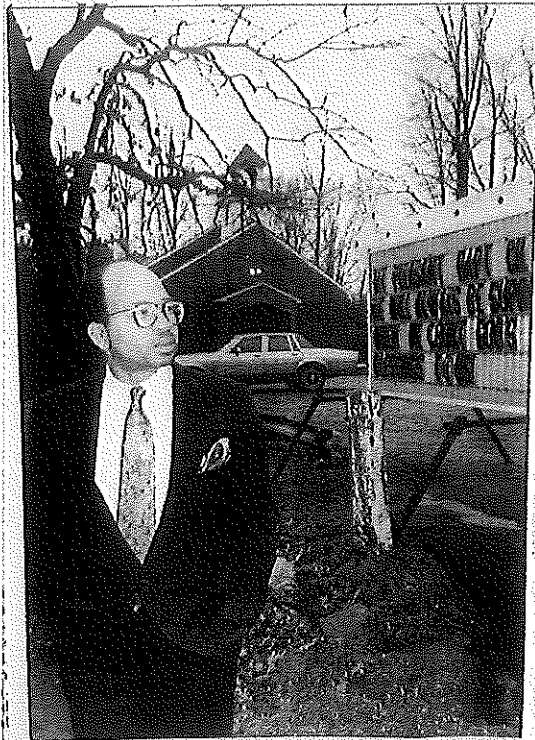
Even before the start of the Civil War, enslaved peoples expressed interest in worshipping in their own churches. Prior to the Civil War, most slaves and their owners in DeKalb attended Indian Creek Baptist Church. That practice changed for the slaves owned by Joseph Walker, former deacon of Indian Creek and slave owner. As the story goes, Walker had observed slaves on his plantation worshipping and misinterpreted their freedom of expression as a display of “half-heathenism”. Walker’s misunderstanding led to the creation of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

In 1849, Walker erected a church on 3 acres of his plantation and named it Mount Pleasant after his ancestral home in South Carolina. A problem arose when construction was complete ~~when~~, for some reasons unknown or lost to history, no black man would take over the pulpit. The absence of a pastor resulted in Walker preaching at the church and creating a temporary seminary ^{where} he taught the enslaved men reading, writing, and theology for 5 years--all of which was illegal during the time. Eventually, Walker ordained a pastor for the church and turned over the services to the members. In later years when a burial space was needed, Walker deeded a plot of land for the church to use as a cemetery. In 1869, Joseph Walker deeded the church lands to the Deacons of Mount Pleasant and their successors. The deed came with the stipulation that if the church were to move or become extinct, the land would revert to Mr. Walker’s heirs. The deed of 1869 stood until 1990 when Mr. Walker’s great-great grandson, Robert Walker Sr., signed a quitclaim deed releasing the right of reversion to the church.



Picture of Mrs. Frances Porter

The church has done much for its community, and contains cherished memories for its members. Mrs. Frances Porter, in a newspaper interview in 1983, remembers attending the school that the church operated ^{when she was} as a child in the early 1900s and eventually teaching at the church herself. Mrs. Porter and her family have a deep connection to the church and the former Walker plantation. The Porter family lived in the original house on the Walker plantation and Mrs. Porter remembers the family attending Mount Pleasant down the road from their home. The road where the church currently resides on bears their name, changing from Covington Road to Porter Road. Since its construction in 1849, Mount Pleasant was rebuilt three times. The church tore down the first building, and the second building caught on fire when lightning hit a pear tree near the church. In 1952, the congregation erected the present building under Rev. M.M. McGuire.



The Rev. Ron Cook At Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

The 1990s saw a rapidly changing landscape in DeKalb, and brought the effects of urban construction to the church. Under Rev. Ron Cook, Mount Pleasant negotiated rail lines and land use with MARTA from the late 1980s into the 1990s, since some of the rail lines were laid on 1.7 acres of the church's land. After 6 years of haggling over the land, Rev. Cook stated that the church wanted to get back to the "...business of saving souls". Church officials asked for payment for the land used and for the construction of a sound barrier between the rail line and the church. Despite pressures from urbanization, Mount Pleasant continues to operate in its original location and preserving its legacy.

By Sylvia Marshall

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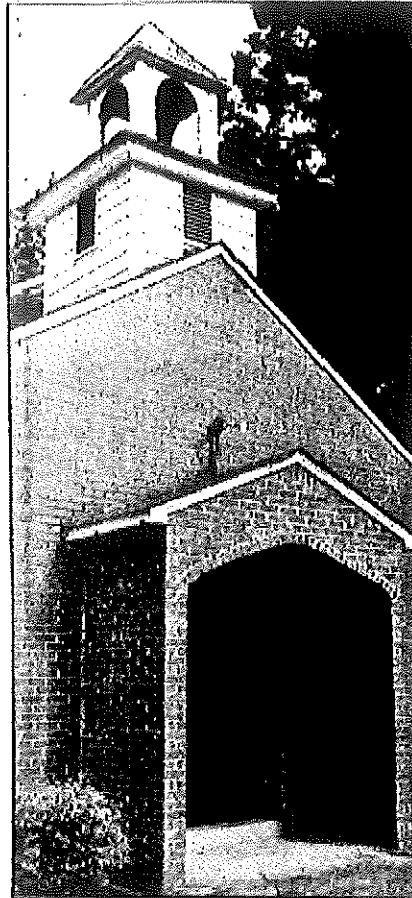


Photo by Jim Cook Jr.
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Decatur is DeKalb County's oldest black church.

There seems to be a great debate over the title of the first African-American church in DeKalb County. According to some historians, the distinction as the first African-American church in DeKalb County goes to Antioch A.M.E. Church, founded in 1868 by former slaves. However, the distinction goes to Mount Pleasant Baptist Church for others, which began in 1849 after its founding by Joseph P. Walker, a white plantation owner. So, what constitutes a black church? Which was the first in DeKalb County? The definition of a black church can often be subjective, definition depending on whether the church catered to a predominately-black congregation or whether African-Americans themselves founded the church. Though Antioch

A.M.E was, the first African-American church founded by African-Americans in DeKalb County, Mount Pleasant had been serving black congregates for around 19 years before the founding of Antioch. Antioch technically becomes the oldest black church started by African-Americans in the county whereas Mount Pleasant is technically the first church in the area that served an all-black congregation and was later ran by African-Americans.

Even before the start of the Civil War, enslaved people expressed interest in worshipping in their own churches. Prior to the Civil War, most of slaves attended the churches of their owners. Until 1849, some slaveholders and their slaves in DeKalb attended Indian Creek Baptist Church, a church founded in 1839 in east DeKalb. That practice changed for the slaves owned by Joseph Walker in 1849. Joseph P. Walker was a former deacon of Indian Creek Church, a judge, and a slave owner. As the story goes, Walker had observed slaves on his plantation worshipping and misinterpreted their freedom of expression as a display of “half-heathenism”. This misunderstanding lead to him organizing a church for his slaves. Walker donated around 3 acres of his plantation, where he erected a church building. He named the church Mount Pleasant after his ancestral home in South Carolina.

After the construction of Mount Pleasant, a problem arose. For reasons unknown, no black man could or would take over the pulpit. This resulted in Walker preaching at the church and the creation of a temporary seminary where he taught the men reading, writing, and theology for 5 years--all of which was still illegal during the time. Eventually, Walker turned over the services to the members after ordaining a pastor for the church. Later, the lack of burial space for church members raised some concern amongst church officials. In response, Walker deeded a plot of land for the church to use as a cemetery. The church and the cemetery continues to operate in its original location serving a predominantly black community.

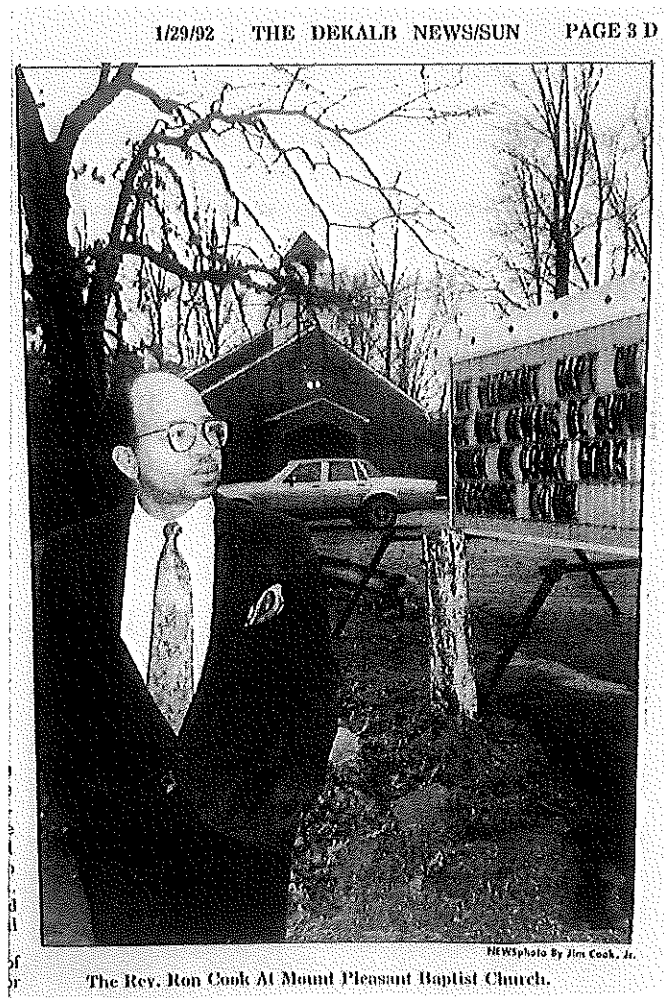


Picture of Mrs. Frances Porter Evans

The church has done much for its community throughout the years, and contains many memories for its members--past and present. Mrs. Frances Porter, who lived near the church and grew up within it, shares some of her memories of the church in 1983. In the early 1900s, the church held a school that taught local children in the area. Mrs. Porter remembers attending the school as a child and eventually teaching there herself. Mrs. Porter and her family have an interesting connection to the church and the plantation it was a part of originally. Mrs. Porter's father, Frank H. Porter, bought the original house and 50 acres of the former Walker plantation for \$1,000 in 1903. Frank Porter made history by becoming among the first black landowners in the county. The family attended Mount Pleasant down the road from their home, with Porter's

great-great grandson later becoming a Deacon of the church. The road that bore the church and their home now bears their name, changing from Covington Road to Porter Road.

On August 17, 1869, Joseph Walker deeded the land to the Deacons of Mount Pleasant: Jacob Austin, James Howard, Robert Fowler, Jasper Fowler, and their successors. The deed came with the stipulation that if the church were to move or become extinct, the land would revert to Mr. Walker's heirs. The deed of 1869 stood until August 20, 1990 when Mr. Walker's great-great grandson, Robert (Bob) E. Walker Sr., signed a quitclaim deed releasing the right of reversion to the church in the case that the church moved or became extinct. In return, Walker Sr. asked for the opportunity to preach one time at Mount Pleasant, which the church granted.



Since its construction in 1849, Mount Pleasant was rebuilt three times. The church tore down the first building, and the second building caught on fire when lightning hit a pear tree near the church. In 1952, the congregation built the present building under Rev. M.M. McGuire. The 1990s brought the effects of urban construction to the church. Under Rev. Ron Cook from the late 1980s into the 1990s, Mount Pleasant had been negotiating with MARTA and the land used to lay rail lines. Some of the rail lines came close to the church and were actually on 1.7 acres of the church's land. After 6 years of haggling over the land, the church wanted to get back to the "...business of saving souls". Church officials asked for payment for the land used and for the construction of a sound barrier between the rail line and the church. Despite this struggle, Mount Pleasant stands the test of time. From turbulent pre- and post-Civil War years to urban development, Mount Pleasant continues.

By Sylvia Marshall

Churches

Cornerstone Of Black History

By Mallikah Berry

"It's not just for spiritual comfort. It's a symbol of independence," said Dr. Gene Walker about the black church.

"The black preacher answers to the black church, because he only depends on God and other blacks for his independence. He's free"

Whatever role the church plays or whatever benefits the larger community reaps, one thing is certain: there would be no black history without the history of the black church. There is certainly no exception when tracing the black history of DeKalb.

The Civil War is responsible for black churches becoming a reality. "Prior to the War between the States the Negroes went to the white churches and were members. After the war, the Negroes, encouraged by the yankees ran away from their white masters and no longer attended the churches," wrote Elizabeth Austin Ford in her 1950 history of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.

Two Known Integrated Churches

There were two known integrated antebellum churches in DeKalb: Hardman Primitive Baptist Church and Rock Chapel Methodist Church.

Hardman, organized in 1825, was originally located on Shilowford (now Clairmont) Road east of Decatur on what was Walter T. Candler's Lullwater Farm. The cemetery is still there, although the church moved to Glenwood just west of Columbia.

Rock Chapel Methodist Church's roll of 1846 lists 12 men, five women and 11 slaves. By the year 1858 there were 61 slaves. As recorded in the Rock Chapel church history, the names of the slaves were listed by the owner's last name first, then the name of the slave: Turner's Nancy and Diamond's Chanie. Generally, separate services were held for slaves.

Among the black members was Hanna Weaver, who was a lifelong member until her death in 1903.

Rock Chapel Methodist church organized in 1825, was originally nicknamed the "soap factory," because the meeting house was near an ash hopper. The church is currently located on Stephenson Road in Lithonia.

After freedom, former slaves wished to worship among themselves.

'Something Of Their Own'

"People want to be among their own," said the Rev. Hurbert Shepard, pastor of Greater Travelers Rest Baptist Church. "They had something of their own. They could give expression to their feelings."

As told by the history of Mt. Pleasant Joseph Walker, a white man, observed slaves worship and misunderstood their freedom of expression. He believed the ceremony to be "half-heathenish" and an attempt by the slaves to return to the African jungle.

His concern for the spiritual welfare of his slaves and other slaves in the community moved him to organize a black church. Mr. Walker deeded the land and the building to the first deacons of the church. Eventually Mr. Walker found himself at the pulpit as there was no black man who could or would assume the position.

Mt. Pleasant is still standing in the original location off Covington Highway on Porter Rd. The church claims to be the oldest black church in DeKalb regardless of denomination.

Antioch Organized In 1868

Unlike Mt. Pleasant, Antioch African Methodist Episcopal Church founders were all black. The 123-year-old church is given the title of the oldest black church in Decatur by the book, *The Story of Decatur 1823-1899*.

The church was founded during the early reconstruction era in 1868. Antioch A.M.E. was organized in the home of Sister Lou Bratcher, the first members would meet in her home every first and third Sunday. When

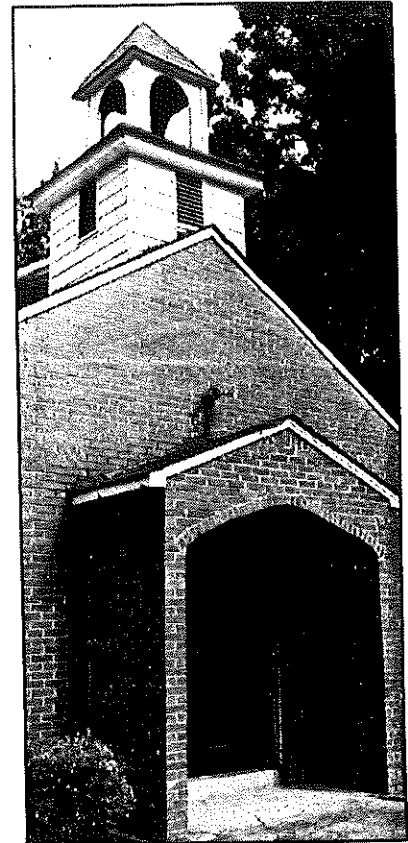


Photo by Jim Cook Jr.
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Decatur is DeKalb County's oldest black church.

Twelve Determined Souls Met 150 Years Ago To Begin Indian Creek Baptist Church

Twelve determined souls met on December 7, 1839 in what was then barely settled territory in east Dekalb. They gathered to worship together.

Today, east Dekalb is a mass of paved roads, shopping centers and subdivisions, but 150 years after that first meeting, Indian Creek Baptist Church is a vital member of the community with 1,200 members strong.

An outreach of the Indian Primitive Baptist Church in the Yellow River Association, Indian Creek was formed following a dispute over mission activities. Yellow River churches had viewed a resolution prohibiting involvement in "missionary societies, societies and temperance societies."

The handful of members led by Capt. William Towers organized under the name of Decatur Baptist Church. They first met in a first Presbyterian building in Decatur. In 1841, Lewis Towers invited the church to use the Georgia Academy building on Rockledge Road.

In January, 1842, members voted to change the name to Indian Creek Baptist.

The church has been on Rockledge Road since 1842. The first small frame building, with the traditional two front doors, was built on an acre of donated land in 1843. Today, the church is located on 15 acres in a brick sanctuary built in 1963. Several buildings have been added through the years.

W. A. Callaway was Indian Creek's first pastor. The Callaway family, known for Callaway Gardens, had 27 members to become Georgia Baptist pastors.

Possibly the church's most notable member in history was Judge Joseph Walker, who owned a large plantation stretching from what is the intersection of Memorial Drive and I-285 to Covington. Judge Walker also owned a large number of slaves.

A dispute with Indian Creek's pastor caused Judge Walker to leave the church in 1849. He had been the founding clerk. On the day he was returned, five years later, he was immediately elected clerk again.

Up until 1849, slaves and owners attended Indian Creek church together according to current pastor Bill Haynes. As attitudes changed, blacks expressed a desire for their own church.

Judge Walker donated three acres of land and built Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. The judge again left Indian Creek, this time to serve as pastor at Mt. Pleasant. He operated a makeshift seminary, training church men in reading, writing and theology, and eventually ordained a pastor for Mt. Pleasant.

Pastor Haynes commented that while the judge's actions don't lessen the severity of slavery, a loving and compassionate relationship was obvious.

Frank Porter, an Indian Creek deacon from 1849-54, donated the

came from

land on Porter Road where Mt. Pleasant is still located today. War caused suspension of services in 1863; Sherman's troops burned the building on his way to Savannah.

Members were meeting in a brush arbor in 1866 when they received a letter from Mrs. Theresa H. Seabrook in New Jersey. Mrs. Seabrook's son had been in the army unit that burned the church. She asked to be allowed to raise money to help the church rebuild.

New Jersey donors provided \$300 of the \$325 rebuilding cost. The 123-year-old story says a great deal about Indian Creek's facing challenges, neighbors helping neighbors and a strong commitment to missions both at home and abroad.

Since its inception, Indian Creek has helped establish many additional churches, including one in Hazleton, Penn.

Today, Indian Creek — like all churches, Pastor Haynes said — is facing changes and challenges. A larger population of minority citizens in east Dekalb, Pastor Haynes said, means the church is changing — "not the message of the ministry," but the approaches to outreach.

The church's most important ministry, he said, is international. English as a second language classes are offered, as well as an international Sunday School. "We have people from just about every conceivable nation come," Pastor

Haynes said, adding that the church gives Bibles in native languages as Christmas gifts.

A hispanic mission with 120 members meets in the church's chapel building; six years ago there were only 15-20 members. Spiritual need is a constant in the life of the church.

"The church is made up of people, and people have problems," he said. "Becoming a Christian doesn't solve those problems, but it gives people the strength to deal with them, and a person to deal with them — Jesus Christ."

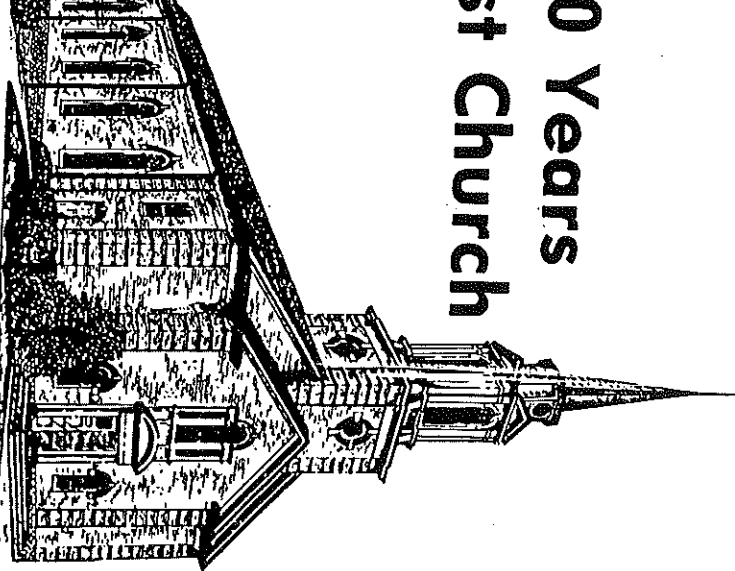
"The church is not a psychology center or a sociology center. It is a spirituality center. (built on) the word of God," he said.

Christian spokesmen also must be able to respond to challenges from within. "We have to show there is a group of people who live what they preach."

"We've got to come to a point to show the world the difference between the charlatans and the true ministers. The hope is in the local church."

"You can sit in a garage all night long, but that doesn't make you a car. They (fallen evangelists) can call what they had a church, but what they had, he said, was entertainment. The danger to all of us, he said, is "amusing ourselves to death."

Nonetheless, Pastor Haynes said he "has a lot of optimism about the future. We have a long mission ahead of us. In some ways, the best is yet to come."



Church's sesquicentennial to be grand celebration

Indian Creek Baptist Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary December 1-3.

An old-fashioned Christmas party will be held Friday at 7 p.m. in the church gymnasium. Saturday will feature a huge birthday party and worship service beginning at 7 p.m.

Sunday worship service will be highlighted by remembrances by older members and monologues on the history of the church. A barbecue will be served, followed by a service at 1:30 p.m.

Among those expected to be in attendance are pastors from churches Indian Creek has helped found: First Baptist of Decatur, Mountain View Baptist, Clarkson Baptist, Mt. Zion Baptist, North Clarendon Baptist and Northminster Baptist in Conyers.

As part of the sesquicentennial celebration, the church's Baptist Women recently presented its first Mission Action Award to Laura Harris. Ms. Harris has served seven years as the director of the church's Deaf Ministry.

Correction: Judge Joseph P. Wainker donated the land for church - (Mt. Pleasant Baptist)

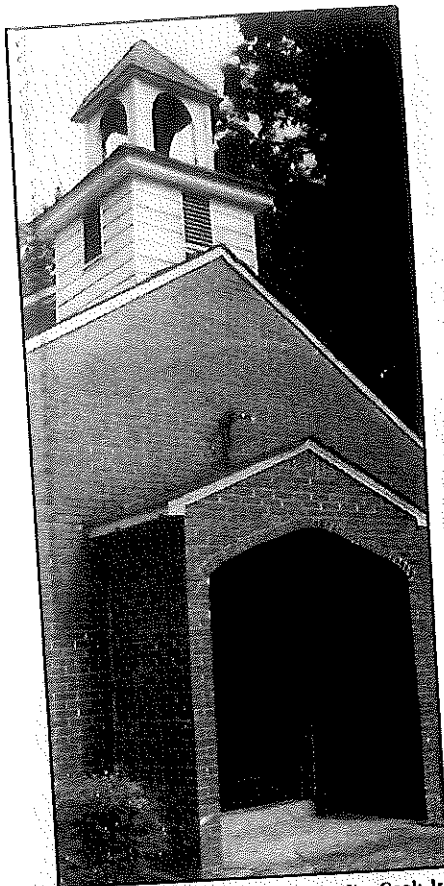


Photo by Jim Cook Jr.
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Decatur is DeKalb County's oldest
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(NEWSphoto By Helen Ordner)

Mrs. Evans Tugs At Old Mulberry Limb

Winding Porter Road Leads To Old Plantation, Mulberry Trees

By DOROTHY NIX
DeKalb Historical Society

Rapid change has erased the cotton fields, pasture lands and farm boundaries of once rural DeKalb County. Yet there are still country roads to follow off which you drop quickly into yesterday.

Such a road is Porter Road which branches off Kensington Road at the foot of the DeKalb County government complex on Camp Road.

Sandwiched between Kensington and Covington Road are a church, a cemetery and an old plantation which figured prominently in the early history of the county.

The remaining wing of the plantation house of Joseph Walker is here. It was called Mt. Pleasant after his ancestral home in South Carolina. Still ringed by mulberry trees, the farm is the last site in Georgia where silkworms were raised commercially. The original house was burned by Sherman's forces during the Civil War.

In 1903, the house and 50 acres of land were sold to Frank H. Porter who made history in his own right.

He was one of the first — if not the first — black owners of rural land in the county.

MRS. FRANCES PORTER Evans, who still lives on the old Porter homeplace, recalls that her father, Frank Henry Porter, came by wagon train from Covington in December of 1903 and bought the 50 acres for \$1,000. Mules pulled a wagon full of furniture, chickens and farm implements while the children walked, driving the cows.

She treasures a 1904 receipt of \$15 for her father's first cotton crop.

Joseph Walker, who sold the land, was a large landowner whose land started at Covington Highway and extended over past Indian Creek. It is said that the first house on the land was burned by Yankees during the Civil War and that Walker built a second house, a part of which survives in the Evans house.

When the Porter family took possession of the house they found a spinning wheel in the attic from which their mother later spun cloth, and a second, curious item. This was a gravestone for Joseph Walker which his family later placed on his grave in Indian Creek Cemetery near DeKalb College.

Mrs. Evans recalls wonderful times of growing up in the old house which

was probably built in 1865. As a child of ten, she remembers she could stand upright in the huge kitchen fireplace.

SHE REMEMBERS the wheat threshers coming through in the summer. The clean good-smelling wheat straw was used to fill the ticks on the bed. Goose and duck down were also used. "These were wonderfully cozy and warm when you sunk into them on a cold winter's night, but they would burn you up in the summertime," Mrs. Evans recalls.

She can remember stories of how the Union soldiers would tear these ticks apart, looking for valuables.

The children picked cotton and were required to give one-half to their father and the other half to their mother. Her father would use the money to buy sugar, coffee and the like at a general store where the Village Shopping Center is now located on Redan Road. "Mother would use her half to clothe us," Mrs. Evans said.

Cotton was taken to the Scottdale Mill, corn to the Dobbs Mill, and

(See PLANTATION, Page 4A)

Plantation

(Continued From Page 1)

wheat to Flake's Mill on the South River, ten miles south of Decatur. She remembers going to church at the oldest "colored" church in the area, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church for which Joseph Walker had given the land. She also went to school in the church, and later taught there.

She recalls the closest black school was at Redan, where classes for 85 scholars were started in a brush arbor. The present meeting house is the third for the church.

THE PORTER house of hand-hewn boards is put together with square nails. There are big wooden pegs in the foundation. Now the inside is covered with wallboard, and the exterior, with two layers of siding, conceals the age of the house beneath.

Mrs. Evans' father's father was Anthony Porter of Covington and her grandmother was Rachel MacMillian. Her mother's father was Henry Metz of Stockbridge, who served in the Confederate Army as an ammunition carrier.

Of the Porter family, in addition to Mrs. Evans, six still live on the farm: one brother, one nephew and four nieces.



MT. PLEASANT FIRST CHURCH

SIS. ELDER KING-SERVED ON USHER BD



building to the Mt. Pleasant people. Upon completion of the structure, an unexpected problem faced Mr. Walker. No black man could, or would occupy the pulpit. Mr. Walker, judge + deacon, preached to the negroes in their own church. He began instructing some of the people so that in a little while he was able to turn services over to them. Still another problem - Negroes had no place to bury their dead. Joseph Walker then decided to the negroes of Mt. Pleasant, a plot of ground to be used as a cemetery. Church is located just off Coverington Rd., a few miles east of Decatur.

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church for Negroes
Written for (and at the request of) The DeKalb
County Historical Society
By Elizabeth Austin Ford
October 1950

Mr. Pleasant Baptist Church is the oldest Church for coloured people in DeKalb County. Prior to the War Between the States, the negroes went to the white Churches and were members. After the war, the negroes, encouraged by the yankees, ran away from their white masters and no longer attended the Churches. The few religious services held by them were of a half-heathenish sort, located in the depths of some forest, for the former slaves were not then many years away from the African Jungle. They still secretly yearned toward the savage customs of their forefathers. When freed by the yankees, they lost much of the civilization which had been taught to them by their masters.

A former owner of many slaves, Joseph Walker, looked with much concern upon the plight of the blacks. He was a man of high intellect, and a deacon in his own church. The wildness of the negroes worried him. Mr. Walker had greatly aided his own Church, Indian Creek, being instrumental in getting it on the road to recovery. He then determined to aid the negroes.

In the first few years after 1865, when Sherman had gone on his way, Joseph Walker called together a band of his former slaves, with other negroes of the section. He helped them to organize a Church of their own which he called Mt. Pleasant for his ancestral home in South Carolina. He erected, for these negroes, a building which is still standing and still housing the original congregation. This building he caused to be constructed on a part of his own plantation. When completed, he deeded the land and building to the Mt. Pleasant people.

Upon the completion of the structure, an unexpected problem faced Mr. Walker. No black man could, or would occupy the pulpit. Mr. Walker, judge and deacon, was not to be outdone, so he preached to the negroes in their own Church, Mt. Pleasant. He began instructing some of the coloured people so that in a little while he was able to turn the services over to them.

There was still another problem. The negroes had no place to bury their dead. Formerly, they had had the privilege of the burial grounds of their white masters. But the burning Path To the Sea had wiped away this relationship. Joseph Walker then deeded to the negroes of Mt. Pleasant, a plot of ground to be used as a cemetery.

Judge Walker's name is scarcely known among the negroes at Mt. Pleasant today, though he did not die until near the turn of the century. They have forgotten their early benefactor.

This Church is located, just off the Covington Road, on a little-traveled dirt road, a few miles east of Decatur. Here, in a section where Indian relics may still be found, the negroes occasionally, as in their days on the dark continent, decorate their graves with bits of broken, coloured glass which has a special meaning to them. Other strange customs also still prevail. A recent, interesting story is told, by a member, of a funeral at Mt. Pleasant:

The casket was open; there was much wailing and shouting. Members passed up the aisles to view the dead woman and stayed to testify of her good deeds. These seemed to be multitudinous. Finally one black man could stand it no longer. Rising, he said, "Brethren and sisters, I knew this woman and she stole and cursed and fought". The preacher promptly called for a song and had the casket closed. I tell this incident because it shows, more than anything else, just what our negroes are like in this year of 1950.

By Mrs. Harold Ford. (Elizabeth Austin Ford.)

DHS
Archives

Churches - Baptist -
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church
(Black)

Mt. Pleasant
Bapt. Church -
written for
DHS by Elizabeth
Austin Ford
Oct. 1950

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Ford, Elizabeth Austin
Church *Negro*

MT. PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH FOR NEGROES
written ~~by~~ (and at the request of)
The DeKalb County Historical Society

By Elizabeth Austin Ford
(Mrs. Harold Ford.)

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Pearlie M. Davis

142nd CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

HISTORY-----1849---1991

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, located at 848 Porter Road, Decatur Georgia, is a cherished landmark to the people of this small predominately black centurally located community. Mount Pleasant is one of the oldest black churches in Dekalb County. Organized in 1849 by Joseph P. Walker, a prominent white member of Decatur Baptist Church (established in 1839 and re-named Indian Creek Baptist Church in 1842). Joseph Walker left Indian Creek in 1849, where he was the founding clerk, after a dispute with the pastor. Joseph Walker owned a large planation stretching from the intersection of Memorial Drive and I-285 to Covington, he relinquish 2 1/2 acres of land on the north side of land lot 229 in the 15th district of originally Henry, now Dekalb County. The parcel of land lying south and immediately on the road from F.F. Shumate to Morgan's Mill, commencing at a dogwood corner on said road and running south to a post oak corner, thence east to a white oak corner on the described above, thence west along said road to place of beginning. Also an alley or lane of 10 feet wide leading from said donated land to the road from his residence. Deed recorded November 29, 1873.

The denture was made August 17, 1869 to Deacons of Mount Pleasant, Jacob Austin, James Howard, Robert Fowler and Jasper Fowler, and their successors in office for the use of said shurch as long as Mount Pleasant remained on said land. If church moved or became extinct the land would revert to the lot from whence it was taken and any heirs surviving him. 141 years later Joseph P. Walker's Great Great Grandson Robert (Bob) E. Walker Sr, signed a quit claim deed, August 20, 1990 releasing to Mount Pleasant the right of reversion of said property in the event Mount Pleasant should move or become extinct.

Joseph P. Walker organized Mount Pleasant Baptist Church and named it after his old ancestral home in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. Leaving Indian Creek for a period of 5 years he taught these deacons how to conduct worship service, how to read and write and ordained a pastor for Mount Pleasant. Frank Porter, also a deacon at Indian Creek from 1849-54 donated land on Porter Road where Mount Pleasant Cemetery is located. (Our own Deacon Frank Porter is his Great Great Grandson).

We set aside this time to reflect upon God's faithfulness in providentially providing and protecting his people. In the early 1800's it was unlawful for a black man or woman to own property, read or write. Even after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, Georgia was one of the states choosing not to recognize it. Joseph Walker stayed with the people of Mount Pleasant 5 years, after the task God had assigned to his heart and hands was completed he was immediately re-elected clerk and chairman of the deacon board.

We do not question why God chose this manner for the conception of Mount Pleasant. We praise Him, Thank Him, and continue to stand on His mighty work.

'PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSING FLOW'

We descendants of past Mount Pleasant members gone to be with the Lord, continue to stand on the promise of Jesus. The good fight is still being fought. God continues to be our refuge and strength. A very present help in the time of trouble. Persecution has not crushed the church, power has not beaten it back, nor treasons and abuses of enemies, under the spirit filled leadership of our present Pastor (Rev. Ronald B. Cook), we continue too hold the banner for all men to see, pointing men, women, boys and girls to the heavenly way.

We give to our own, the late Sister Allene S. Porter. It was thru her diligent efforts that Minister Robert Walker Sr., was found. Minister Walker and his (2) two children and a colleague in the ministry participated in our last years Church Anniversary Celebration. He preached our evening service.

We thank him for following thru on a venture his Great, Great Grandfather started over (142) one hundred forty two years ago. God is still on the throne! We give him all the praise fo who he is, what he has done, what he has promised, and what he will do in Mount Pleasant future. We also thank God for sending us Rev. Ronald B. Cook to pastor with New Vision.
Mt. Pleasant is founded on a Solid Rock.

"REFLECTIONS"

Deacon Lois Hall

Rev. M. M. McGuire pastored Mt. Pleasant and St. Paul, after he started preaching (2) two Sunday's he pastored St. Paul 2nd and 4th sunday's before he went to Old Chapel on the 2nd and 4th sundays. He started preaching 1st and 3rd sundays at Mt. Pleasant. I used to wear starched and ironed overalls to church back then. The portion of land the church rest on is actually a solid piece of granite. Our mourners bench used to be full, we had some kind of service here. Deacon C. D. Payton who was a strong leader on the board. This is our 3rd structure, the old original was torn down, one caught afire when lightening struck a pear tree on the side of the church, one was block, this one that we are now in which was block was bricked over, this building was constructed in 1952 under Rev. M. M. McGuire leadership. We use to help each other back then. We also added the baptismal pool outside.

Sis. Etta L. Woods

Rev. M.M. McGuire was chairman of our deacon board, God called him into the ministry and the church called him as pastor. I joined under Rev. Randolph at the age of eleven and was baptized in thr branch behind the church. When we had revival you could hear the singing from Memorial Drive to Redan Road, people would walk from Clarkston to our services. My daddy C.D. Payton was chairman of the Deacon Board nd Superintendent of the Sunday School for about 25 years. Our services were held 1st and 3rd sundays because Rev. McGuire also pastored Chapel First in Scottdale on 2nd and 4th sundays. The choir was organized in 1944, Bro. J.D. Middlebrooks was our first musician, Deacon Broughton was our second musician who was from Lily Hill. We had to stay at rehearsals however long it took to get the song

right. Baptism services were held on 3rd Sunday in September. Our revival were held for (2) two weeks in August, after Rev. McGuire started pastoring Chapel First it was changed to one week in June.

Sis. Sarah McGuire Echols

We thank you for supplying a picture of one of the old churches and also of your father, Rev. M.M. McGuire.

Deacon Joe Lewis Brown

I can still feel the presence of the ones gone on before. We were very close. I served as president of the Usher Board for many years.

Sis. Kate Henderson Peeples

I married in 1948 and we joined Mount Pleasant in 1949, my husband Robert (Bob) Henderson and me were on the Usher Board for many years. My son Henry Grady and Granson Lonnie are also members.

Sis. Annie Jean Kinney

I remembered my mother Ola Lumpkin and Sis. Ritter Lester sponsoring Fish Fry's to raise money for the piano in the sanctuary it's about 30 years old. When dinner was spread on the grounds the sisters would sit their baskets on the wooden benches and you could go from basket to basket and get whatever you wanted to eat. The deacons use to make some of the best lemonade in a big tin tub. I joined and was baptized under Rev. M.M. McGuire.

Sis. Willie Joe Wilson

There was a bell in the tower of the church, it was rung for Sunday School, Church and Funerals. The benches in the church were slant and had nails you had to watch out for, (so you could beat them down before sitting on them). I was baptized in the branch by Rev. McGuire. Jack Houseworth and my husband Robert Lewis Wilson and me all joined on the same sunday. I was last to be baptized in the month of September, it was so cool and the water in the branch was so cold. There was a young lady from Avondale who also joined and was baptized with us. I forgot her name, but those were the good ole days.

Sis. Kate Clark

My daddy was a deacon, before he became a deacon he organized Mount Pleasant Usher's Board. We used to have one usher, Sis. Lucy Cross...My daddy served on the Usher Board for about 2 or 3 years. There was a Usher Union in Dekalb County, when a usher passed they did a little ceremony called Broken Chain. Our church membership roll was divided up into wards. Each deacon was assigned one, they would go and pray for the sick and shut-ins, collect church dues, and report to the church. The people were honest and sincere back then. There were no little I's and big U's no matter how much or how little a person had. Our service was filled to capacity if you weren't

in church by 11 a.m., you couldn't get a seat. All of my family joined under Rev. M.M. McGuire, my mother is a deaconess, my daughter Gwen joined at a later date. We had some muddy, rocky and full of ruts roads back then.

Rev. Jimmie Brown

I remember the wood floors, and Deacon Albert Ware, bringing water from the branch with a dipper and a gourd to drink from. Mothers and Fathers use to seat their children on the mourners bench, the Mothers pf the church used to pray for them during revival, they would also pray for them individually while they were seated on the mourners bench. The deacons board would be full you didn't have to worry about the devotional services the head of families were in control, no matter how old their children were. The people really came to worship and not entertain. The benches were 4 to 5 boards a 1/2 inch crack in them. They were covered and served as tables. The sunday's we didn't have service, since we met twice a month the members went to Piney Grove, Big Miller Grove, Chapel First, New Mt. Pleasant and Little Miller Grove. There was an active Mission Board at Mt. Pleasant, my whole family is here at Mt. Pleasant.

Bro. Willie (Sonny) Davis

I joined Mt. Pleasant under Rev. M.M. McGuire in 1945, I was baptized in the branch behind the church. I was 8 years old. The church then was a white clapboard house with a wood and coal burning stove. There were kerosene lamps. My dad Willie Davis was a deacon and church treasurer for a number of years. My mother Lillian Davis attended school at Mount Pleasant and was a life long member. The church is the only church my family has attended as members.

Bro. Willie Davis Jr.

I joined Mt. Pleasant under Rev. M.M. McGuire and was baptized in the branch, we didn't have the baptismal pool then. When dinner was spread they use to take the pews out of the church and place them on the grounds and use them for tables. I guarantee you couldn't sit on one of those pews all day long. There were two out-houses, one for the men and one for the women.

Sis. Lillie Mae Davis

I remember Rev. M.M. McGuire, I joined and was baptized under his leadership. He was very highly respected as a pastor.

Sis. Ritter Lester

My family joined under Rev. M.M. McGuire, I was an active member in the choir and served as the choir's president for about 20 years, my husband served as chairman of the Deacon Board for about 20 years and also was Superintendent of Sunday School. All my children were active members in Sunday School and Church. Sis. Lillie Ware, Sis. Rose Etta Haynes and Sis. Etta L. Woods served as secretaries. One of my sons (Bobby Lester) is a deacon of Mt. Pleasant and also served as church clerk, my daughter Shirley Oglesby used to play for the Mt. Pleasant Sunbeam Choir and the Senior Choir, the Sunbeam Choir was organized in 1969. My Son Roy Lester sung in the

choir and all my grandchildren song in the sunbeam choir.

Sis. Pearl Davis

I joined Mount Pleasant in January 1967, under the leadership of Rev. G.F. Frazier. The deacons were still wearing those big fat suits, skinny ties and pointed toe shoes. Sis. Lester use to sing 'WE'LL UNDERSTAND IT BETTER BYE AND BYE', Sis. Woods was singing 'THE OLD ACCOUNT WAS SETTLED LONG AGO', Benita nad Derek Lester was singing 'I CAN SEE SO MUCH WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE FOR ME', Roy Lester use to sing 'WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE', Ruth Woods 'I DECIDED TO MAKE JESUS MY CHOICE', Sis. Bara Lester-'IF I CAN HELP SOMEBODY', Deacon Joe Lewis Brown-'COME AND GO TO THAT LAND', Bobby Lester-' I GOT THE LOVE OF JESUS', Deacon Clyde Lester-'DID CHRIST O'VER SINNERS WEEP,' Shirley Oglesby-'HELP ME LIFT JESUS. Our Usher Board was thriving. The church was a member of the Yellow River Association.

Margaret Payton, Willie Joe Wilson, Barbara Lester, Shirley Oglesby, Emma Brown, Pearlle Davis were original members of the Young Women Association, our first meeting was held at the home of Sis. Willie Joe Wilson in Ellenwood. We know none of Mount Pleasant members presently have been here 142 years, a lot of prayed. We keep our trust in the Lord. 37 Psalm verse 5, Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

REFERENCE: Isaiah 40;31

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We the members of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church appreciate the support and fellowship from our sister Churches. This history takes us back to a time in where only a very few have memories. I hope we all get a better understanding and appreciation of just how far we have come, and have a much clearer vision under the leadership of Pastor Ronald B. Cook, as to where we go from here. We know when a Church has no vision, the people perish, but with a vision we can flourish. May God continue to Bless You.

MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH

Researched and compiled by Sis. Pearlle M. Davis---Secretary 1991
Copies will be filed in the Dekalb County Historial Society

Real Estate Trans. NONE
HILLER'S BOOK & OFFICE SUPPLY CO., ATLANTA
Paid \$
CLERK, SUPERIOR COURT

Mary Thomas Lee
Deputy Clerk

STATE OF GEORGIA, Cobb County

THIS INDENTURE, made this 20th day of August in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety

between Robert E. Walker, Sr. of the first part, and Mount Pleasant Baptist Church of the second part.

WITNESSETH: That the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of One (\$1.00) Dollars,

cash in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, has bargained, sold and conveyed by these presents bargain, sell, remise, release, and forever quit-claim to the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, all the right, title, interest, claim or demand which the said party of the first part has or may have had in and to the following described real property:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 229 of the 15th District of originally Henry now DeKalb County being two and one half (2.5) acres of land on the north side of said land lot described as follows:

BEGINNING at a dogwood corner on the road leading from F. F. Shumate to Morgan's Mill, and running south to a post oak corner; thence east to a white oak corner on the road described above; thence west along said road to the place of beginning; also included an alley or lane of ten feet wide leading from said land to the road leading from the residence of Joseph Walker to Mr. Alexander Vaughn.

The purpose of this quit-claim deed is to release to the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church the right of reversion of said property in the event the said Mountain Pleasant Baptist Church should be moved or become extinct, as contained in the Deed from Joseph Walker to Jacob Austin, James Howard, Robert Fowler and Jasper Fowler, deacons of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church dated August 17, 1869, recorded in Deed Book R, Page 610, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of DeKalb County, Georgia. Grantor herein is the great, great grandson of the said Joseph Walker and the sole direct heir of the said Joseph Walker currently living.

FILED AND RECORDED THIS
24th DAY OF AUG, 1990
AT 10:29 H. M.
BOOK PAGE
WHITFIELD C. SMITH CLERK
CLERK SUPERIOR COURT

with all the rights, members and appurtenances to the said described premises or belonging.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said described premises unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns, so that neither the said party of the first part nor his heirs, nor any other person or persons claiming under him shall at any time, claim or demand any right, title or interest to the aforesaid described premises or its appurtenances.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said party of the first part has hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of
James Lee Smith
unofficial witness
Robert E. Walker Sr.
9-12-91

Robert E. Walker, Sr. (Seal)
Robert E. Walker Sr. (Seal)
(Seal)



QUIT-CLAIM DEED

FORM 89

Georgia
Real Estate Transfer
MILLER'S BOOK & OFFICE SUPPLY CO., ATLANTA
Paid NONE
CLERK, SUPERIOR COURT
By *Mary E. Walker, Sr.*
Deputy Clerk

STATE OF GEORGIA, Cobb County.

THIS INDENTURE made this 20th day of August in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety

between Robert E. Walker, Sr. of the first part, and Mount Pleasant Baptist Church of the second part.

WITNESSETH: That the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of One (\$1.00) Dollar,

cash in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, has bargained, sold and does by these presents bargain, sell, remise, release, and forever quit-claim to the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, all the right, title, interest, claim or demand which the said party of the first part has or may have had in and to the following described real property:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 229 of the 15th District of originally Henry now DeKalb County being two and one half (2.5) acres of land on the north side of said land lot described as follows:

BEGINNING at a dogwood corner on the road leading from F. F. Shumate to Morgan's Mill, and running south to a post oak corner; thence east to a white oak corner on the road described above; thence west along said road to the place of beginning; also included an alley or lane of ten feet wide leading from said land to the road leading from the residence of Joseph Walker to Mr. Alexander Vaughn.

The purpose of this quit-claim deed is to release to the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church the right of reversion of said property in the event the said Mountain Pleasant Baptist Church should be moved or become extinct, as contained in the Deed from Joseph Walker to Jacob Austin, James Howard, Robert Fowler and Jasper Fowler, deacons of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church dated August 17, 1869, recorded in Deed Book R, Page 610, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of DeKalb County, Georgia. Grantor herein is the great, great grandson of the said Joseph Walker and the sole direct heir of the said Joseph Walker currently living.

FILED AND RECORDED THIS
24 DAY OF AUG, 19 90
AT 10.29 A.M.
BOOK PAGE
WHITFIELD C. SMITH CLERK
DEKALB SUPERIOR COURT

with all the rights, members and appurtenances to the said described premises in anywise appertaining or belonging.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said described premises unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns, so that neither the said party of the first part nor his heirs, nor any other person or persons claiming under him shall at any time, claim or demand any right, title or interest to the aforesaid described premises or its appurtenances.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said party of the first part has hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of
James Lee Smith
unofficial witness
Robert E. Walker, Sr.
Notary Public 9-12-91

Robert E. Walker, Sr. (Seal)
Robert E. Walker, Sr. (Seal)
(Seal)



Recorded Nov. 10th, 1873.

Deed Book R/610
DeKalb County

H. J. Williams - Clerk S. C.

STATE OF GEORGIA:

DEKALB COUNTY.

This Indenture, made the seventeenth day of August in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, between Joseph Walker of the County and State aforesaid of the one part and Jacob Austin, James Howard, Robert Fowler and Jasper Fowler, Deacons of Mount Pleasant Baptist (Colored) Church and their successors in office of the other part, Witnesseth, that the said Joseph Walker, does relinquish to the said deacons of said church two and a half acres of land on the north side of land lot No. two hundred and twenty-nine (229) in the fifteenth (15th) district of originally Henry now DeKalb County, the said parcel of land lying south and immediately on the road leading from F. F. Shumate to Morgan's Mill, commencing at a dogwood corner on said road & running south to a post oak corner, thence east to a white oak corner on the road described above, thence west along said road to the place of beginning. Also an alley or lane of ten feet wide leading from said denoted land to the road leading from my present residence to Mr. Alexander Vaughns. The said Joseph Walker doth donate, grant and give unto the said deacons and their successors in office for the use of said church the above described land, to belong to the said deacons as long the said Mount Pleasant Baptist Church remains on said land but if the church should be moved or become extinct then the land to revert to the lot from whence it was taken. The title thereof I warrant and defend from myself, my heirs and assigns and by these presents

do warrant and defend all and singular the above named premises to the deacons of said church and their successors in office. As Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of:

J. B. Wilson

¶

Joseph Walker

L. S.

Hiram J. Williams

¶

Clerk Supr. Court. D. C.

¶

Recorded Nov. 29, 1873.

H. J. Williams - Clerk S. C.

State of Georgia.

Fulton County.

This Indenture, made this 21st day of June in the year of our Lord One Thousand eight hundred and seventy three between W. A. Perkins of the County of DeKalb of the one part, and Washington L. Parker of the County of Fulton of the other part. Witnesseth, that the said W. A. Perkins for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred dollars in hand paid, at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents, does grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Washington L. Parker his heirs and assigns, all that tract or parcel of land, situated, lying and being in the County of DeKalb in said State, known as twenty-seven and one quarter acres of land bounded north by Lee Hudgins, East by Jackson, South by McGinnis and West by Jerome Williams. To have and to hold the said bargained premises with all and singular

*John
DAVID AINSIE*

CO

*Subject Files
Churches
BAPTIST,
MOUNT PLEASANT*

I've been think about our conversation about sister Winnie Davis ^{members} knowing some of the charter members at Mount Pleasant (Brick Store) Church, brother Bill, and I decided to give you a list of them. They were:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Iverson Lea Graves | 3. John Hinton | 5. Thomas Burge |
| 2. Sarah W. Graves | 4. Louisa Rogers Hinton | 6. Dolly Burge |
| 7. Isaac H. Parker | 9. Mrs. Adaline Strong | 11. Mrs. Horract T. Shaw |
| 8. Eliza Parker | 10. Horrace T. Shaw | |
| 12. Thomas Ainsley, Sr. | 14. Benjamin Ainsley | 16. Jesse Ainsley |
| 13. Mrs. Thomas Ainsley, Sr. | 15. Mrs. Benjamin Ainsley | 17. Mrs. Jesse Ainsley |
| 18. William Guice | 20. Matilda Guice | 22. William Guice, Jr. |
| 19. Mary Ann Guice | 21. Artemesia Guice | 23. C. C. Wright |
| | | 24. Mrs. C. C. Wright |

*Winn
Jack Ainsie*

There were twenty-four charter members, as stated above. I wonder if Sister Winnie Davis knew any or all of these persons. If so, I would appreciate any information she could give me on them ... things she might remember about them. If she knew them, or knew about them, she would have been young, for the church was organized in 1851.

Please ask, too, if she would know any living members of these person's families who might have photographs of them that I could copy. *I do not* ^{know}

Thank you for all of the nice things you have done for us through the years, and particularly for asking sister Winnie Davis if she can help me.

Sincerely,
J. Hill
Hill

The work that the colored clinic by me, can in order that it may which is held every Wednesday public it deserves. The clinic opens morning in the fraternity hall in every Wednesday morning at 9:00 the colored section. The clinic receives and treats a informing to any who feel interest- large number of colored children ed in its work. and adults weekly and is forced to turn away a considerable number of applicants every week.

The clinic is operated by a committee composed of one woman from each church. Mrs. A. P. Griffin, of the First Baptist church, is president. Mrs. Hamford Sams, of the First Presbyterian church, is secretary, and Mrs. Homer Allen, First Methodist, Mrs. Gouge, Christian, Mrs. Matthews, Episcopal, Mrs. Hubler Blakeley keeps the records, and Mrs. Conway is employed as nurse. Dr. Homer Allen donates his professional services.

The clinic committee seeks to follow up the cases which pass through the clinic, but where 40 or 50 cases are handled weekly it is manifestly impossible for this work to be done as fully as desired by the limited number of workers now identified with the clinic. The great majority of cases are children, whose eyes, teeth and ears are examined and in many of these cases

Sub-ject File: Charles -
MT PLCKERSBARR
BAPTIST
Source: D H S I - SCRAP BOOK
88.56 C

Mr. Pleasant Baptist Church for Negroes
Written for (and at the request of) The DeKalb
County Historical Society
By Elizabeth Austin Ford
October 1950

Mr. Pleasant Baptist Church is the oldest church for coloured people in DeKalb County. Prior to the war between the states, the negroes went to the white churches and were members. After the war, the negroes organized by the yankees, ran away from their white masters and no longer attended the churches. The few religious services held by those were of a half-nomadic sort, located in the depths of some forest, for the former slaves were not then many years away from the African jungle. They still secretly yearned toward the savage customs of their forefathers. When freed by the yankees, they lost much of the civilization which had been taught to them by their masters.

A former owner of many slaves, Joseph Walker, looked with much concern upon the plight of the blacks. He was a man of high intellect, and a deacon in his own church. The wideness of the negroes worried him. Mr. Walker had erected aed his own church, Indian Creek, before instrumental in getting it on the road to recovery. He then determined to aid the negroes.

In the first few years after 1865, when sorrow had gone on his way, Joseph Walker called together a band of his former slaves, with other negroes of the section. He helped them to organize a church of their own which he called Mt. Pleasant for his ancestral home in South Carolina. He erected, for these negroes, a building which is still standing and still housing the original congregation. This building he caused to be constructed on a part of his own plantation. When completed, he decided the land and building to the Mt. Pleasant people.

Upon the completion of the structure, an unexpected problem faced Mr. Walker. He black was good, or would occupy the title. Mr. Walker, judge and deacon, was not to be outdone, so he proceeded to the negroes in their own church, Mt. Pleasant. He began instructing some of the coloured people so that in a little while he was able to turn the services over to them.

There was still another problem. The negroes had no place to bury their dead. Formerly, they had had the privilege of the burial grounds of their white masters, but the burning path to the sea had wiped away this relationship. Joseph Walker then decided to the negroes of Mt. Pleasant, a plot of ground to be used as a cemetery.

Judge Walker's name is scarcely known among the negroes at Mt. Pleasant today, though he did not die until near the turn of the century. They have forgotten their early benefactor.

This church is located, just off the Covington Road, on a little-traveled dirt road, a few miles east of Decatur. Here, in a section where Indian religion may still be found, the negroes occasionally, as in their days on the dark continents, decorate their graves with bits of broken, coloured glass which has a diabolical meaning to them. Other strange customs also still prevail. A recent, interesting story is told, by a member of a funeral at Mt. Pleasant:

Church to
nal Contest
ple of Decatur
week to stand
to be held by
list church of
Baptist church
in Atlanta Ave-
The contest
Solos, duets,
and negro anth-
red on the pro-
mission fee will

up the altar to view the lord woman and stayed to testify of her good deeds.
She seemed to be well-bred. Finally one black man could stand it no
longer. Rising, he said, "Brethren and sisters, I know this woman and she
stole and swindled and fought". The preacher promptly called for a vote and had
the altar closed. I tell this incident because it shows, more than anything
else, just what our negroes are like in this year of 1950.

QUIT-CLAIM DEED

FORM 93

Georgia
Real Estate
Having Book & Page
CLERK, SUPERIOR COURT
Deputy Clerk

STATE OF GEORGIA

Cobb

County

THIS INSTRUMENT made this 20th day of August

In the year of our

Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety

Robert E. Walker, Sr.

of the first part,

and Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

of the second part.

WITNESSETH: That the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of One (\$1.00) Dollars,

cash in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, has bargained, sold and conveyed by these presents bargain, sell, remise, release, and forever quit-claim to the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, all the right, title, interest, claim or demand which the said party of the first part has or may have had in and to the following described real property:

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BEGINNING at a dogwood corner on the road leading from F. F. Shumate to Morgan's Mill, and running south to a post oak corner; thence east to a white oak corner on the road described above; thence west along said road to the place of beginning; also included an alley or lane of ten feet wide leading from said land to the road leading from the residence of Joseph Walker to Mr. Alexander Vaughn.

The purpose of this quit-claim deed is to release to the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church the right of reversion of said property in the event the said Mountain Pleasant Baptist Church should be moved or become extinct, as contained in the Deed from Joseph Walker to Jacob Austin, James Howard, Robert Fowler and Jasper Fowler, deacons of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church dated August 17, 1869, recorded in Deed Book R, Page 610, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of DeKalb County, Georgia. Grantor herein is the great, great grandson of the said Joseph Walker and the sole direct heir of the said Joseph Walker currently living. FILED AND RECORDED THIS

24 DAY OF AUG, 1980
AT 10:29 AM

BOOK PAGE
WHITFIELD S. SMITH CLERK

with all the rights, members and appurtenances to the said described premises or its appurtenances or belonging.
TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said described premises unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns, so that neither the said party of the first part nor his heirs, nor any other person or persons claiming under him shall at any time, claim or demand any right, title or interest to the aforesaid described premises or its appurtenances.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said party of the first part has hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of

James Lee Smith
unofficial witness

Robert E. Walker, Sr.

Robert E. Walker, Sr.

Robert E. Walker, Sr.



8775-715

Recorded Nov. 10th, 1873.

H. J. Williams - Clerk S. C.

DeKalb County

STATE OF GEORGIA:

DEKALB COUNTY.

This Indenture, made the seventeenth day of August in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, between Joseph Walker of the County and State aforesaid of the one part and Jacob Austin, James Howard, Robert Fowler and Jasper Fowler, deacons of Mount Pleasant Baptist (Colored) Church and their successors in office of the other part, Witnesseth, that the said Joseph Walker, does relinquish to the said deacons of said church two and a half acres of land on the north side of land lot No. two hundred and twenty-nine (229) in the fifteenth (15th) district of originally Henry now DeKalb County, the said parcel of land lying south and immediately on the road leading from F. F. Shumate to Morgan's Mill, commencing at a dogwood corner on said road & running south to a post oak corner, thence east to a white oak corner on the road described above, thence west along said road to the place of beginning. Also an alley or lane of ten feet wide leading from said denoted land to the road leading from my present residence to Mr. Alexander Vaughns. The said Joseph Walker doth donate, grant and give unto the said deacons and their successors in office for the use of said church the above described land, to belong to the said deacons as long the said Mount Pleasant Baptist Church remains on said land but if the church should be moved or become extinct then the land to revert to the lot from whence it was taken. The title whereof I warrant and defend from myself, my heirs and assigns and by these presents

do warrant and defend all and singular the above named premises to the deacons of said church and their successors in office. As Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of:

J. B. Wilson	‡	Joseph Walker	L. S.
Hiram J. Williams	‡		
Clerk Supr. Court. D. C.	‡		

Recorded Nov. 29, 1873.

H. J. Williams - Clerk S. C.

State of Georgia.

Fulton County.

This Indenture, made this 21st day of June in the year of our Lord One Thousand eight hundred and seventy three between W. A. Perkins of the County of DeKalb of the one part, and Washington L. Parker of the County of Fulton of the other part. Witnesseth, that the said W. A. Perkins for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred dollars in hand paid, at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents, does grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Washington L. Parker his heirs and assigns, all that tract or parcel of land, situated, lying and being in the County of DeKalb in said State, known as twenty-seven and one quarter acres of land bounded north by Lee Hudgins, East by Jackson, South by McGinnis and West by Janome Williams. To have and to hold the said bargained premises with all and singular

John B. Steward - Ordinary

Recorded Nov. 10th, 1873.

DeKalb County GA

H. J. Williams - Clerk S. C. Deed Book R

STATE OF GEORGIA:

DEKALB COUNTY.

This Indenture, made the seventeenth day of August in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, between Joseph Walker of the County and State afore-said of the one part and Jacob Austin, James Howard, Robert Fowler and Jasper Fowler, deacons of Mount Pleasant Baptist (Colored) Church and their successors in office of the other part, Witnesseth, that the said Joseph Walker, does relinquish to the said deacons of said church two and a half acres of land on the north side of land lot No. two hundred and twenty-nine (229) in the fifteenth (15th) district of originally Henry now DeKalb County, the said parcel of land lying south and immediately on the road leading from F. F. Shumate to Morgan's Mill, commencing at a dogwood corner on said road & running south to a post oak corner, thence east to a white oak corner on the road described above, thence west along said road to the place of beginning. Also an alley or lane of ten feet wide leading from said denoted land to the road leading from my present residence to Mr. Alexander Vaughns. The said Joseph Walker doth donate, grant and give unto the said deacons and their successors in office for the use of said church the above described land, to belong to the said deacons as long the said Mount Pleasant Baptist Church remains on said land but if the church should be moved or become extinct then the land to revert to the lot from whence it was taken. The title whereof I warrant and defend from myself, my heirs and assigns and by these presents

W. A. Perkins for him-
 premises unto the said
 signs, against the sa
 and every other person
 of these presents.

In Witness

affixed his seal the

Signed, sealed and del

Lawson Black

A. B. Culberson

Not. Pub. Fulton Count

(.SEAL.)

File: CHURCHES -
 MOUNT PLEASANT
 BAPTIST CHURCH

Recorded Nov. 10th, 1873.

Deed Book R/610
DeKalb County

H. J. Williams - Clerk S. C.

STATE OF GEORGIA:

DEKALB COUNTY.

This Indenture, made the seventeenth day of August in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, between Joseph Walker of the County and State aforesaid of the one part and Jacob Austin, James Howard, Robert Fowler and Jasper Fowler, deacons of Mount Pleasant Baptist (Colored) Church and their successors in office of the other part, Witnesseth, that the said Joseph Walker, does relinquish to the said deacons of said church two and a half acres of land on the north side of land lot No. two hundred and twenty-nine (229) in the fifteenth (15th) district of originally Henry now DeKalb County, the said parcel of land lying south and immediately on the road leading from F. F. Shumate to Morgan's Mill, commencing at a dogwood corner on said road & running south to a post oak corner, thence east to a white oak corner on the road described above, thence west along said road to the place of beginning. Also an alley or lane of ten feet wide leading from said denoted land to the road leading from my present residence to Mr. Alexander Vaughns. The said Joseph Walker doth donate, grant and give unto the said deacons and their successors in office for the use of said church the above described land, to belong to the said deacons as long the said Mount Pleasant Baptist Church remains on said land but if the church should be moved or become extinct then the land to revert to the lot from whence it was taken. The title whereof I warrant and defend from myself, my heirs and assigns and by these presents

premises unto the said signs, against the said and every other person of these presents.

In Witness Whereof

affixed his seal, the

Signed, sealed and del

Lawson Black

A. B. Culberson

Not. Pub. Fulton Count

(SEAL)

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church for Negroes
Written for (and at the request of) The DeKalb
County Historical Society
By Elizabeth Austin Ford
October 1950

Mr. Pleasant Baptist Church is the oldest Church for coloured people in DeKalb County. Prior to the War Between the States, the negroes went to the white Churches and were members. After the war, the negroes, encouraged by the yankees, ran away from their white masters and no longer attended the Churches. (The few religious services held by them were of a half-heathenish sort, located in the depths of some forest, for the former slaves were not then many years away from the African Jungle. They still secretly yearned toward the savage customs of their forefathers. When freed by the yankees, they lost much of the civilization which had been taught to them by their masters.)

A former owner of many slaves, Joseph Walker, looked with much concern upon the plight of the blacks. He was a man of high intellect, and a deacon in his own church. The wildness of the negroes worried him. Mr. Walker had greatly aided his own Church, Indian Creek, being instrumental in getting it on the road to recovery. He then determined to aid the negroes.

In the first few years after 1865, when Sherman had gone on his way, Joseph Walker called together a band of his former slaves, with other negroes of the section. He helped them to organize a Church of their own which he called Mt. Pleasant for his ancestral home in South Carolina. He erected, for these negroes, a building which is still standing and still housing the original congregation. This building he caused to be constructed on a part of his own plantation. When completed, he deeded the land and building to the Mt. Pleasant people.

Upon the completion of the structure, an unexpected problem faced Mr. Walker. No black man could, or would occupy the pulpit. Mr. Walker, judge and deacon, was not to be outdone, so he preached to the negroes in their own Church, Mt. Pleasant. He began instructing some of the coloured people so that in a little while he was able to turn the services over to them.

There was still another problem. The negroes had no place to bury their dead. Formerly, they had had the privilege of the burial grounds of their white masters. But the burning Path To the Sun had wiped away this relationship. Joseph Walker then deeded to the negroes of Mt. Pleasant, a plot of ground to be used as a cemetery.

Judge Walker's name is scarcely known among the negroes at Mt. Pleasant today, though he did not die until near the turn of the century. They have forgotten their early benefactor.

This Church is located, just off the Covington Road, on a little-traveled dirt road, a few miles east of Decatur. Here, in a section where Indian relics may still be found, the negroes occasionally, as in their days on the dark continent, decorate their graves with bits of broken, coloured glass which has a special meaning to them. Other strange customs also still prevail. A recent, interesting story is told, by a member, of a funeral at Mt. Pleasant:

The casket was open; there was much wailing and shouting. Members passed up the aisles to view the dead woman and stayed to testify of her good deeds. These seemed to be multitudinous. Finally one black man could stand it no longer. Rising, he said, "Brethren and sisters, I knew this woman and she stole and cursed and fought". The preacher promptly called for a song and had the casket closed. I tell this incident because it shows, more than anything else, just what our negroes are like in this year of 1950.

By Mrs. Furdal Ford. (Elizabeth Quolin Ford.)

L. A. Simmons

†

W. J. Clark

L. S.

John B. Steward - Ordinary

†

Recorded Nov. 10th, 1873.

DeKalb County GA

H. J. Williams - Clerk S. C. Deed Book R

STATE OF GEORGIA:

DEKALB COUNTY.

This Indenture, made the seventeenth day of August in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, between Joseph Walker of the County and State afore-said of the one part and Jacob Austin, James Howard, Robert Fowler and Jasper Fowler, deacons of Mount Pleasant Baptist (Colored) Church and their successors in office of the other part, Witnesseth, that the said Joseph Walker, does relinquish to the said deacons of said church two and a half acres of land on the north side of land lot No. two hundred and twenty-nine (229) in the fifteenth (15th) district of originally Henry now DeKalb County, the said parcel of land lying south and immediately on the road leading from F. F. Shumate to Morgan's Mill, commencing at a dogwood corner on said road & running south to a post oak corner, thence east to a white oak corner on the road described above, thence west along said road to the place of beginning. Also an alley or lane of ten feet wide leading from said denoted land to the road leading from my present residence to Mr. Alexander Vaughns. The said Joseph Walker doth donate, grant and give unto the said deacons and their successors in office for the use of said church the above described land, to belong to the said deacons as long the said Mount Pleasant Baptist Church remains on said land but if the church should be moved or become extinct then the land to revert to the lot from whence it was taken. The title whereof I warrant and defend from myself, my heirs and assigns and by these presents

W. A. Perkins for himse
 premises unto the said
 signs, against the said
 and every other person
 of these presents.

In Witness Wh

affixed his seal the da

Signed, sealed and deli

Lawson Black

A. B. Culberson

Not. Pub. Fulton County

(SEAL)

File: CHURCHES -
 MOUNT PLEASANT
 BAPTIST CHURCH

Dekalb County GA
Deed Book R

do warrant and defend all and singular the above named premises to the church and their successors in office. As Witness Whereof I have hereon and seal the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of:

J. B. Wilson

Joseph Walker

Hiram J. Williams

Clerk Supr. Court. D. C.

Recorded Nov. 29, 1873.

H. J. Williams - Clerk

State of Georgia.

Fulton County.

This Indenture, made this 21st day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy three between W. A. Perkins of the County of Fulton of the one part, and Washington L. Parker of the County of Fulton of the other part, that the said W. A. Perkins for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred dollars in hand paid, at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, does hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained, sold, conveyed and confirmed unto the said Washington L. Parker his heirs and assigns, all that tract or parcel of land, situated in the County of Dekalb in said State, known as twenty-seven acres of land bounded north by Lee Hudgins, East by Jackson, South by McGinnis, West by Jerome Williams. To have and to hold the said bargained premises with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances thereof, to the same being, be and lawfully to be enjoyed by the said Washington L. Parker his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns in fee simple forever. In Witness Whereof, the said W. A. Perkins, has hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of:
Lawson Black

A. B. Culberson

his
W. A. X
Perkins
mark

Not. Pub. Fulton County, Ga.

(SEAL)

Recorded Nov. 29, 1873.

H. J. Williams - Clerk