#### ROCK CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH

#### CHURCH ROLL - 1846

#### MALE MEMBERS

FEMALE MEMBERS

Joseph B. Bond William O. Lee Jacob Chupp Green Diamond Bartley Thomason James McGuffey James M. Griffin Samuel Hamilton Jno. C. Turner Edmond Lee Patrick Buchanan Charles McGuffey Joseph T. Bond Joshua Coggins Henry Mise (Mize) Ned Hudgins Jesse Warren Henry Warren Thomas Warren Wm. B. Thomason Whitmore McGuffey Henry Weaver Edward A. Turner Young J. Marbut John Boyd James Morse Jesse Wiggins George Morse Phillip Duncan James T. Bond James Thomason James M. Evans Zachary Alford George Turner Wm. P. Bond Easom J. Bond Francis M. Wellborn Zebulon Swann Robert Jason William Argo John Wiggins Elijah Swan Mansel Starnes Alford Hudgins Thomas Evans Phillip McGuffey James McGuffey James Bradbury Daniel Chupp

Wylie Graham

Sarah Bond Lucy Ann Lee Elizabeth Chupp Mary A. Diamond Matilda Bond Mary Thomason Mary McGuffey Elizabeth Griffin Sarah Ann Lee Catherine Lee Rebecca Marbut Amanda Mise(Mize) Elizabeth Warren Rebecca Lee Mary Johnson. Nancy Thomason Mary Graham Jane Wellborn Permelia Coggins Rebecca Ann Lee Martha Lee Nancy Diamond Catherine Hammond Temperance Morse Martha McGuffey Elizabeth Davis Lucinda Boyd Centhy Higgins Corsey Wiggins **Emely Duncan** Mary Ann Hammond Sarah Ann Bond Dicy Evans Berthany Starnes Mary F. Bradberry Catharine Wellbonn Arminia Thomason Mary S. Veal Sarah Griffin Catharine Diamond Mary Swan Dicy Rutledge Nancy Hudgins Matilda Graham Martha Hudgins Catharine Owens Mary Ann Owens Emeline Diamond Susannah Watts Mary Watts

# ROCK CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH

# CHURCH ROLL - 1846 (continued)

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Matthew(?) Harmon John Diamond William M. Watts John W. Watts James New

#### SLAVES

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Slaves joined the church also with their white masters. The following were members in 1846:

Lee's Ransom
Marbut's Calebe
Maguire's William
Thomason's Daniel
Turner's Nancy
Turner's Henry
Lee's Dorcas
Chupp's Rebecca
Thomason's Luizy
Marbut's Jane
Diamond's Chanie

In the year 1858 there were 61 slaves who belonged to the church. Among them was Hannah Weaver, who remained a member until her death in 1903.

Note: This was transcribed from an original list on which was written the following note: "This paper was read at the Centennial July 29, 1925 by Rev. F. A. Ragsdale."

This is from the papers of Mr. Joe Bond (1872-1952), courtesy of Rachel

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Rock & Chapel Slave

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HUNTON, THE 8er of Mr. and Mrs. Habeas Corpus Writ Denied.

Oliver Wenver, a negra, made application for a habeas corpus writ before Judge Reid, of the city court, yesterday, in which he sought to set aside a fine of \$50 imposed by Judge N. R. Broyles, of the recorder's court. The writ was denied and he was sent back to the stockade

The negro was arrested Christmas day, by Officers Dodd and Kilpatrick and was charged with drunken and disorderly conduct, for which the fine was imposed, and then he was bound over by Judge Broyles on the charge of assault with intent to murder Will Foster.

Judge Robert L. Rogers represented the negro and City Attorney James L. Mayson represented the city.

Property Transfers.

West Point

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# Slave cemetery holds unique slice of DeKalb County history

Search the Archives

Go

Date of Issue: 09/15/04 By Diane James Special to CrossRoadsNews Top articles in Community:

The old tombstone says Hannah Weaver was born in 1840 and she died in 1904. It also has the name Ollie, but there is no last name for him, because that portion of the stone has broken off.

The 1860 Census, the first to record the existence of African Americans in the country, shows that Hannah had a husband named Ollie. DeKalb History Center researchers believe Ollie was her husband. The two are inhabitants of what is believed to be DeKalb's only known all-slave

Located in June, the nondescript plot is at the intersection of Rock Chapel Road and Stephenson Road in Lithonia, in the woods near Rock Chapel Elementary School and Rock Chapel United Methodist Church. The Weavers and the others buried in the are believed to have been members of Rock Chapel United Methodist Church, founded in 1825, 40 years before slavery ended in America in June 1865.

Mary West, a volunteer for the DeKalb History Center who is helping to document African-American cemeteries in the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area, called the "rare county history." To date, volunteers have identified 10 African-American cemeteries in DeKalb County. West said this is unique because all of its inhabitants were slaves.

"We have never found in this county before, what we would consider a slave ," she said.

West said the not only represents the last resting place of slaves, but could hold the key to a storehouse of vital information for people tracing their roots or seeking to learn more about African history.

It's not unusual that an all-slave would be next to a church. During slavery, slaves were often members of the same church as their white owners and their burial sites were often nearby. The Rev. Harry Hawkins, a former pastor of the 179-year-old Rock Chapel United Methodist Church, said that after slavery some of the slaves stayed with the church. Hannah Weaver and her husband were among them. Hawkins, who left the Church in June for another position, said Hannah's funeral was held in the predominantly white church in 1904, which was very unusual for the times.

The couple's tombstone is being kept at the church's old parsonage for safekeeping, away from vandals and the elements.

"If anybody ever started restoring the heing that manufact heak " Hawking sold

to bring that monument back," Hawkins said.

West said the actual number of graves at the site, now called the Rock Chapel Slave , is not known. She said graves are generally marked by four or five field rocks grouped together, but that some have no markers at all.

"Those of us who look at cemeteries all the time can look at a piece of land and know there's a grave right there," West said.
Since locating the site, West has developed a list of people who are



likely burled in the . The list is based on the names of the slaves who were members of the Rock Chapel United Methodist Church in its records that date back to 1846. On that list are Ransom Lee, Talebe Marbut, William Maguire, Nancy Turners, Henry Turners, Dorcas Lee and Chanle Diamonds.

Cemeteries are usually abandoned and neglected when there are no family members to tend to them. West hopes that now that it has been found, relatives of those buried there will come forward to help restore it.

Already in South DeKalb, two groups, in the city of Lithonia and in the Flat Rock community, are working to restore historic African-American cemeteries.

She's asking family groups or organizations interested in restoring the to contact the DeKalb History Center at 404-373-1088.

## **More Community:**

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Rock Chapel.

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