

New Church Dedicated

The new building at Hebron Methodist Church was dedicated last Sunday. At the special services for the occasion the following paper was read. It was prepared by the pastor, Rev. J. A. Cook, after much searching of the records to find the true beginning of christian work in this section.

"In the year 1779 Rev. Andrew Yeargan came down through Fancy Gap and began preaching in Western North Carolina. He was the first Methodist preacher who traveled this section. He established churches throughout the Yadkin Valley.

The old Yadkin Circuit was organized in the early eighties of the eighteenth century. All this region was embraced in the wide reaches of that circuit which extended from near Greensboro, N. C., to the Pacific Ocean.

Churches were organized and rude log houses were built for worship. As a rule no deeds were given or recorded for the land upon which these log houses stood. The church was as a rule organized in a private home and when it outgrew the accommodations of the wilderness hut a church was built nearby. Owing to the fact that no records were kept it is almost impossible to trace the history of the various churches composing the circuits as they were organized.

In an effort to find a date for the organization of Hebron Church we have interviewed the oldest living citizens of the community and searched the records at Dobson. So far we have

have interviewed the oldest living citizens of the community and searched the records at Dobson. So far we have failed to find an exact date but comparing the records for other churches we find that Hebron was in existence as early as 1822 and its history probably exceeds that date by at least twenty years.

One man tells us that when he moved into this community in 1873 the old people told him that the church had been in existence for a hundred years. This would carry its organization back to the days of Andrew Yeargan.

The original church building stood on land now owned by Mr Henry Cook. The logs of which the church was built was moved nearly forty years ago and used in erecting a tenant house which is still in use on the farm of Miss Pattie Richards.

Another log church was erected on the present site about the year 1882. This was sold in 1918 and is now used by Mr. Thrower as a barn.

The present church was erected in 1923.

We now unveil and dedicate this memorial tablet in loving remembrance of all those who have had any part in the erection of the several church buildings used by this congregation and in the maintenance of the worship of Almighty God in this community from the beginning of the hour of the Methodist Church in the wilderness down to this good hour. The history of more than a century is a prophecy of the goodness of the years to come May the special blessings of Almighty God be upon this present building. May he be continually honored here, now, and through all the years to come."