

She was crowned on Friday night in a ceremony held at the school auditorium. She won over thirty other contestants.

(From the estate of Ruth Minick)

Church History

By Miss Minick

Miss Ruth Minick, principal of South Main Street School, has recently conducted an extensive amount of research on the "Old Methodist Church and Cemetery", located off South Main Street in Mount Airy.

She has compiled the date and reprinted it in brochure form.

Following are a few of the interesting excerpts from her compilation and the legible surnames of those buried in the cemetery.

Around 1857 or 1858 a new church referred to as the "Old Methodist Church" was built in southern Mount Airy where the Gilmer Memorial currently is. The land was part of the Elisha Banner plantation (the old Webster house recently torn down), and was given for the church by Mr. Banner.

All the older residents now living who remember the church agree that it was very beautiful. A tall-steeple, two-columned, white plank church, sitting rather far back from the street at the

end of a tree bordered driveway, it must have been an imposing sight.

The cemetery surrounded the church on three sides. It is known as "The Old Methodist Cemetery", and in it lie not only the Rev. Miles Foy and his wife, but many other familiarly named ancestors of many Mount Airy citizens.

Among the legible surnames on the tombstones are: Allred, Ailwood, Ashby, Banner, Bemis, Bitting, Blackwell, Bolt, Brower, Brown, Davis, Denny, Dunnegan, Durham, Fallenstein, Foy, Galloway, Gilmer, Griffith, Gwyn, Harrison, Hill, Hines, Hollingsworth, James, Lowry, Mitchell, Montgomery, Moore, Owen, Rangeley, Roberts, Satterfield, Schaub, Shamel, Shouse, Smallwood, Swift, Taylor and White.

There will be about 540,000 new cancer cases (diagnosed for the first time) in 1964.

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