



The Original Salem Methodist Church, built in 1857

Drawn by: Miss Mary Banner

Salem Methodist Church originated from an outgrowth of the old camp meetings conducted by circuit riders. No one knows just when the circuit riders first came to the community. It is believed a Methodist preacher, Isaac Rollins, preached along the Yadkin Valley as early as 1776.

One such meetings was held at Toast; a mile from Mount Airy. The camp meeting later moved to Oak Grove community, a mile south of Mount Airy. And from there it was moved to the Salem community, about 1850.

Within a few years, people in the Salem community realized the need for a permanent church. Finally, in 1857 John R. Patterson deeded property on which to erect a church.

Soon after the deed was turned over to the trustees of the church, lumber was sawed and the work begun. The men of the community donated the labor. The women did their part by feeding the workers.