

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH BELL

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

FAIRFIELD, TEXAS

The following record was prepared by Mrs. J. R. Bell, Teague; Miss Lizzie Anderson; Miss Nannie Anderson; and Mrs. C. B. Steward. These ladies devotion to recording significant facts helps us today have a better look at our past. This story is reproduced exactly as it was written in 1955.

The Fairfield Female College opened in 1858. The building stood on the prairie east of Fairfield. Soon after the opening, plans were made to have a bell cast for the College. All the young ladies asked to be allowed to give some of their jewelry and money to give tone to the bell.

Seven hundred dollars in silver were added to the jewelry by the citizens of Fairfield and sent to England where the bell was cast. It was shipped to Galveston and was handled by wagon overland freight. Mr. J. J. Stubbs with his 8 to 10 oxen was the freighter.

When the bell arrived it was too heavy to place on top of the College building so a frame was made and in 1860 or 1861 it was placed on the end of the front gallery, where it stayed until the College building was torn down in 1900.

The bell was then presented to the Methodist Church by Mrs. William Bradley, where it continues to call the town people to worship.