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THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH IN FAIRFIELD

The following is a record reproduced exactly as Miss Lizzie Anderson, Mrs. J. R. Bell and Mrs. C. B. Steward wrote it in 1955.

The first church was built in Fairfield in 1851. It was a Union Church which burned about 1872 or 1873.

A meeting of the leading citizens was called to discuss building a new church. Those interested were Jim Anderson, Jess Anderson, John Cullison, Mr. Tate, William Bradley, Dee Bradley, clerk, William Peck, Hiram Stubbs, and William Watson.

They each pledged \$100 and were to collect enough to build at once. When it was found that all the men were Methodist except two, Mr. Stubbs and Mr. Watson, Mr. Bradley told the men that if they would build a Methodist Church he would increase his pledge to \$1,000. Each man raised his pledge to \$500 except Mr. Stubbs who withdrew his \$100. Mr. Watson said he would give \$100 provided the men would help build a Baptist Church later.

They collected \$3,000 and as Mr. Cullison and Mr. Jess Anderson were carpenters, work began at once.

Mr. Peck had given the lot for the Church, which stood where the parsonage is now. It was a colonial type with a wide porch all across the front with large pillars. The steps extended across the entire front.

This Church was remodeled after the Galveston flood by Brother Russell, (father of David Russell, who was born in Fairfield). This was in 1901.

With the coming of Rev. Allen Tooke in 1909, things began to change. The Church was moved to the corner of the lot and the inside changed.

A parsonage was built where the Church stood. A story and half house. It was burned a few days after Brother Condrey moved in (1933), destroying all the Church records.

The Church was badly damaged by the fire and while Rev. Walter Willis was pastor the present Church was built. (1937-38 to 1965).