

Jemison Methodist Church
By Derric Scott
2021

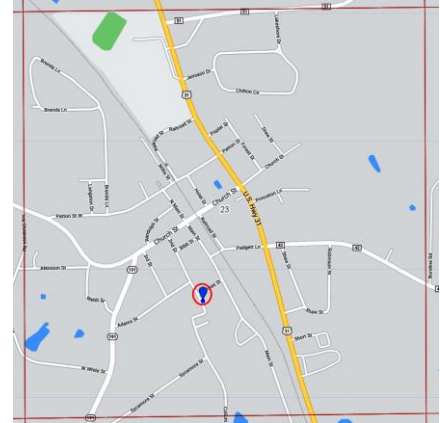
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The land the church building in Jemison was built on was originally bought as a land patent by Weston R. Gales. It was in the East ½ of the SW ¼ of Section 23, Township 23 N, Range 13 E.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TRACT		AREA		UNEXTD STATES TITLE	DATE OF SALE	NUMBER OF
PART OF SECTION	SECTION	Acres	1872	TO WHOM SOLD OR GRANTED	LOCATION OF GRANT	CERTIFICATE OR WARRANT
SE 1/4 of SE 1/4	23	639.84		A&S R R	3 June 1856	
SE 1/4 of SE 1/4	"	39.99		"	"	
East 1/2 of SE 1/4	"	79.98		Weston R Gales	Aug 14 1857	22395
SE 1/4 of SE 1/4	"	39.99		A&S R R	3 June 1856	
NW 1/4 of NW 1/4	"	39.99		"	"	
SE 1/4 of NW 1/4	"	39.99		"	"	
SW 1/4 of NW 1/4	"	39.99		"	"	
South east 1/4	"	159.96		Weston R Gales	Jan 14 1857	22377
East 1/2 of SE 1/4	"	79.98		Weston R Gales	Jan 14 1857	22300
NW 1/4 of NW 1/4	"	39.99		A&S R R	3 June 1856	
SE 1/4 of SE 1/4	"	39.99		"	"	



US Land Patent record of E ½ of SW ¼ of S23, T23, R13E. Right: section23, church location is the red circle.

Gales was a wealthy journalist and publisher in Raleigh, NC. It is unknown why he bought the land, although it was probably for speculation. He died young, at age 45, and it was unlikely that he ever visited his property.

By 1872 taxes are being paid on the property by Mrs. Louisa Allen. She owns much property in the Jemison area, including the entire SW ¼ of the section 23. A year later, in 1873, the taxes are being paid by George W. Langston. Further research shows that Louisa Allen was originally Louisa Wooley and she first married Willis Langston and had 12 children and that G. W. was one of her sons. It turns out that they are part of the Langston family that owned most of the land in the area when it was known as "Langston's Station." Louisa's husband Willis and son Andrew were murdered by the Blackwell Gang after the Civil War and she later married Rev. James Allen, hence her name on the tax record in 1872. Rev. Allen was a significant influence in other churches in Jemison, including the Baptist and Presbyterian.

Allen Louisa, Mrs	SW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of S23 T23 R13	6.0	1120	480
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1872 Tax Ledger showing Mrs. Louise Allen ownership of SW ¼ of the section.

Langston G W	SW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of S23 T23 R13	1.60	160	350.00	Site in town of Jemison
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1873 Tax Ledger showing G. W. Langston ownership of SW ¼ of the section.

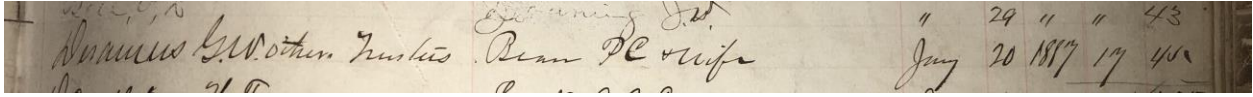
So far there is a gap of the ownership from G. W. Langston in 1873 until the property is owned by Pendleton C. Bean in 1884.

Bean James	NW 1/4 of NW 1/4	22	24	13	60	00
Bean P. C.	SW 1/4 of SW 1/4	17	23	14	87	350.00
	Part of NW 1/4 of SW 1/4	24	"	"		
	Part of SW 1/4 of NW 1/4	23	"	"		

1884 Tax Ledger showing P. C. Bean ownership of part of SE ¼ of NW ¼ of S23, T23, R13.

Jemison Methodist Church

It is specifically sold by him and his wife Mary Jane to the trustees from the Methodist Episcopal South for the church location in January of 1887. Those trustees were G. W. DeRamus, James H. Hughes, and G. L. McCrary. (See the full deed transcript in the References.)



Chilton County Deed Reverse Index entry showing sale from P. C. Bean and wife to G. W. DeRamus and other trustees, Jan 20, 1887

It was said that the original Methodist Church at Pine Hill required significant repair at this time so a new building was needed. According to *The Heritage of Chilton County, Alabama* and other sources, the new church was built with lumber donated by John Owen Smith. He had come to Baker County from Pike County in 1870 and lived between Thorsby and Jemison in what was called the Pinehill community. He also donated the land for Pine Hill Cemetery.

The Jemison Methodist Church today, with the Wedding Chapel sign in 2021, although not being used presently.



References

Union Banner:

A History of Chilton County, Clanton Study Club, 1927:

"The Methodist Church was originally located at Pine Hill, near the cemetery, but later moved to the present building which was built and dedicated in 1887."

Jemison Methodist Episcopal Church, 1887 Deed

Chilton County Deed Book 1, Pages 45 and 46

(Paragraph formatting and punctuation added for clarity)

The State of Alabama

Chilton County

This indenture made and entered in this, the 18th day of January A. D. 1887, between Pendleton C. Bean and wife Mary Jane Bean, parties of the first part, and G. W. Deramus, J. H. Hughes, and G. L. McCrary, trustees for the Methodist Episcopal Church South in the Town of Jemison in said County, parties of the second part.

Witnesseth that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of twenty dollars to us in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the said party of the first so bargained and secured do by these presents grant, bargain, sell, and convey unto the said party of the second part the following described real estate - lying in the County of Chilton State of Alabama, to wit, commencing at a stake in the S. E. Corner of the following described lot running N from the beginning S. E. Corner two hundred and forty five feet N, thence west one hundred and nineteen feet, thence South one hundred and eighty seven feet, thence east one hundred and twenty four feet back to the beginning, in Sec 23 Township 23 Range 13 East containing one-half acre, more or less.

To have and to hold to the said party of the second part and to their successors in office and in trust that said lot and premises shall be used, kept, maintained, and disposed of as a place of divine worship for the use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church South and assigns forever.

And said Pendleton C. Bean and wife Mary Jane Bean, of the first part, covenant with the said G. W. Deramus, James H. Hughes, G. L. McCrary, trustees aforesaid of the second part, that we are lawfully seized in fee simple of said premises that they are free from all encumbrances and that we have a good right to sell and convey the same.

That we will and our heirs executors and administrators that and all warrant and defend the same to said G. W. Deramus, J. H. Hughes, G. L. McCrary, aforesaid trustees of the second part, and their successors in office forever against the lawful claims of all persons.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hand and seals this 18th day of January A. D. 1887.

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of

W. H. Shelby

P. C. Bean {{seal}}

Mary J. Bean {{seal}}

The State of Alabama

Chilton County

I, W. H. Shelby, a Justice of the Peace in and for said County hereby certify that Pendleton C. Bean and his wife Mary Jane Bean whose names are signed to the forgoing conveyance who are known to me acknowledge before me in this day that being informed of the contents of the conveyance they executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date. Given under my hand this 18 day of January 1887

W. H. Shelby J. P.

The State of Alabama

Chilton County

I hereby certify that the above conveyance was filed in my office for record this the 20th day of January 1887 and duly recorded on this 20th day of January 1887 in Book 17 of Deeds page 45.

H. J. Callen

Judge of Probate