

The Chapel was constructed from left over lumber milled for the Wigwam Hotel. The Wigwam was located on the ridge overlooking the mineral spring house at Indian Springs State Park.

The Chapel contains the original kerosene light fixture, colored glass windows, and a brass bell placed when it was built. The bell in the tower has been tolled practically every Sunday since it was hung. The benches are much older than the church and may have saved from another church. Recently, an old pump organ that stood in the Carmichael House in Jackson, GA for many years was placed in the chapel.

In July of 1992, Mr. Jimmy Cornell, Mr. Asa Maddox, Mrs. Tootie McMichael and members of the Indian Springs Baptist Church voted to turn the chapel over to the Butts County Historical Society for preservation.

For information on membership, special events, or how you can help, please contact us at 770-775-2492 or e-mail to buttscountyhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com.

For inquires, membership, and donations, our address follows:

Butts County Historical Society
P.O. Box 215
Jackson, GA 30233

Source: History of Butts County, 1825-1976 Compiled by Lois McMichael and from the Mercer University Baptist Library.



Indian Springs Chapel

(Formerly know as
Indian Springs Baptist Church)

ca 1890

Indian Springs Chapel

(Formerly the Indian Springs Baptist Church)

The Indian Springs Baptist Church was established and organized in 1825. The first building was probably made with logs. The second, a frame building was dedicated in 1854.

Many distinguished ministers aided the regular pastor. Among them was the Rev. Jesse Mercer, who attended his last public service here, led the congregation in prayer, and gave a short exhortation. He went to the home of Rev. James Carter, Pastor of the Macedonia Baptist Church, in Stark and where he breathed his last, without a struggle or groan. Asked if he was ready to depart, he replied: "I have no fears." He died on September 6, 1841. Rev. Mercer was a pioneer Georgia Baptist minister, first president of the Georgia Baptist Convention, and leader in the movement resulting in the founding of Mercer University. He often preached at Indian Springs Church and gave its members a book-case for their library. A Memorial was erected to Rev. Mercer at the home of Rev. Carter, by the Georgia Baptist Convention and others, at a dedication ceremony on December 13, 1977.

Among the charter members of the church whose names are remembered were: Rev. James Carter, George Barlow, Bryan Collier and his wife, Martha.

The ministry of Rev. James Carter carried the church through the anti-missionary strife about 1836. He was pastor as late as 1852, when the church had 84 members, 13 of whom had been baptized that year. The church was formerly a member of the Flint River Association, before joining the Kimball Association.

Rev John T. Kimbell was pastor for some time, as was James Graham Kimbell. Rev. William McMichael, beloved by all in Butts County, was also pastor here. He attached a piece of paper to his plow stock on which his text was written, and studied as he worked.

Rev. N.N. Edge, was pastor in 1874 and lived in Indian Springs. He was a passionate lover of young people and was a supported of their Sunday School work. In later years, the church saw a number of pastors.

The present building, a beautiful Queen Anne style structure stands today. The State Board was the largest donor to its cost, though its members contributed liberally.

This little church has been as the saving salt in the life of the community, and has furnished the opportunity for worship to many pious visitors in the village. It is valued for its real worth. All denominations attended its services and appreciate its ministries. The church records have been lost, so this sketch is only fragmentary and incomplete.