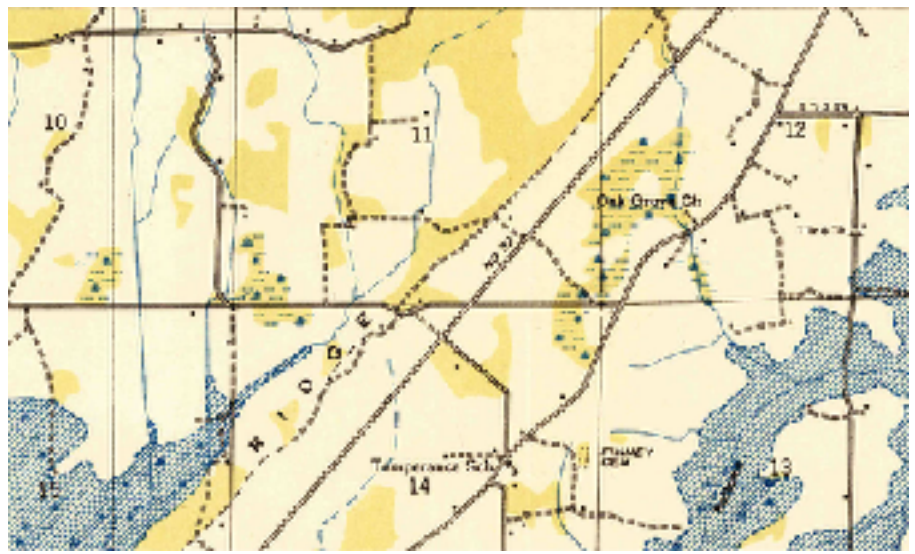


Oak Grove/Possom Trot School and Church

Location: S12/T5.R5E

Rolling Hills Subdivision in
Scottsboro



Ann Chambless wrote about this church and school in the Jackson County Chronicles on January 12, 1980, where she referred to the modern name of the church as Hollis Memorial Methodist Church, which was “called Oak Grove Church for almost 100 years before the name and site location were both changed in 1940.

“The exact location and date of organization are not know but senior church member have advised the church was established long before the Civil War in the general area of Scottsboro’s present Rolling Hills Subdue vision. The building was torn down by the Federal Army during the War Between the States, and the Federals used to logs to build a pontoon Bridge,” according to the personal recollections of John Finney, Vera Hayes Rice, and Julia Law Allen in January 1980. “Fifty (50) years after the war was over, Congress finally passed an appropriation of \$550 covering the claim of Oak Grove Church. Senator Bankhead wrote Attorney John F. Proctor in 1915 advising him of the allowance of this claim in the Omnibus Claims Bill approved by the President on March 4, 1915.

“In May of 1867, E. McKirby deeded two across of the northeast corner of Section 12, Township 5, Range 5 East to J. F. Finney, Richard Burgess, Isham Law, W. D. Parks, and E. McKirby as ‘Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South for the purpose of building a house of public workshop.’ The church built on this property on Wynn Road served the Oak Grove Church until about 1904-1905 when a new clapboard building was constructed with Thomas Joseph Barclay as the head carpenter.”

“This building i now owned by John Finney and is situation across from John Finney’s residence on Wyn Road. It has not be used as a church building for a number of years.”

“After Samuel Hollis died in February of 1940, his son, Ewell Hollis, donated approximately \$10,000 to the Oak Grove Methodist Church as a memorial to his father, for the purpose of building a new church. David Birdie Anderson donated the land, and a new building was constructed on Highway 79 is what was known then as the Temperance Hill Community. With the move to the new building, the Oak Grove Names was changed to oillis Memorial Methodist Church. Refer to Jackson County Deed Book 102, page 38, for Anderson’s deed.

In a JCHA page Facebook discussion, Clyde Broadway said, “There was a cemetery there which disappeared during the 1970s when houses were being built. There was a tombstone of a woman named Eliza P. Kelly there which was made to conveniently disappear too. She was buried there in the 1880s....There were several graves there, although this was the only one

that had a "proper" tombstone. There had been a Methodist Church at this cemetery in Rolling Hills. It was the Oak Grove Methodist Church. It was torn down by the Yankees to build a pontoon bridge across the Tennessee River during the War Between The States. At some time after the war, the Oak Grove Church was moved to a location on what is now Bob Jones Road, across the road from John Finney's house. This church split into two congregations when the Hollis Memorial Church was built at the Goosepond crossroads, on Highway 7....The other half of the congregation went to Randall's Chapel. I've heard that the building of the Hollis Memorial Church caused a huge rift in the congregation, and left the old Oak Grove church sitting empty until the 1970s. For many years, John Finney used it as a barn. At some point it was torn down and a house now stands on the lot where it was."

Clyde also notes that, "back in Rolling Hills, there was a school at one time on the Old Caldwell Road that no longer exists, but is on the northwest boundary of Rolling Hills Subdivision. This school was called the Possum Trot School. I think it may have been a log building. I know these things because the Broadways used to own all this land. My Grandfather and my father both talked about the Possom Trot school. I don't know who ran it, whether it was a county school, a private school, or a church owned school. It was gone by the time I came along."

Newspaper References:

Nov 13, 1902 PA: Oak Grove News. "Mr. Ira Thornton will teach the public school at this place this Winter."

Jan 1, 1903 PA: Hymer News. "School began at Oak Grove Monday after a short holiday."

Dec 7, 1911 PA: "The boys of Oak Grove community organized a corn club. Skelton Bros. offers the local prize of five dollars. Other clubs in the county will have to hustle if they beat Oak Grove in corn rising."

Nov 11, 1915 SC: "School house is going up at Oak Grove in Jackson. First under new law."

