



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR
JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN
F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 25, 2001

Mike Patterson
2205 Glade Road
Colleyville TX 76034

Re: Sansom's Chapel Methodist Church

Dear Mike:

Thank you for returning my phone call this morning.

As we discussed, there was concern among the staff here that Sansom's Chapel Methodist Church, in existence for only eight years, lacked the level of historical significance necessary for approval of an Official Texas Historical Marker. Complicating the issue of its short existence is the fact that no physical remnant survives and the site is now a shopping center.

As requested, I am returning your original application materials. You did a great job on the research; I only wish more of the applications we receive were as well organized and researched. I hope you will place a copy of these materials in the county archives to document this small part of Tarrant County history.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia J. Beeman".

Cynthia J. Beeman
Historical Marker Program Coordinator
History Programs Division
cynthia.beeman@thc.state.tx.us

Enc.

c: ✓ Ron Wright
Libby Buuck



**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

GEORGE W. BUSH, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: September 28, 2000

To: Ron Wright, Libby Buuck, Mike Patterson

Re: Sansom's Chapel Methodist Church

Tarrant County

Thank you for your application to the Texas Historical Commission for an Official Texas Historical Marker. It has been received in the History Programs Division office, and we look forward to working with you on this project. Please refer to your guidelines and application booklet for information on the application process, but if you have any questions, don't hesitate to call us.

In making a preliminary review of the application, we may have noticed some missing components. If a list of one or more items appears in the space below, we would ask that you submit these items as soon as possible. That will allow us to make a more thorough evaluation when your application comes up for review in approximately 60-90 days. In order to be fair to all the marker applicants, we review the applications in the order in which they are received.

Here is what we need to complete your application packet:

Packet appears complete; questions may arise later

Comments:

Thank you for your interest in preserving Texas' heritage. If you have questions at any point throughout the process, please do not hesitate to call our office at 512/463-5853. We look forward to working with you.

Cynthia J. Beeman
Historical Marker Program Coordinator
512/463-5854
cynthia.beeman@thc.state.tx.us

Emily Bell
Historian
512/463-8769
emily.bell@thc.state.tx.us

Egina Reyes
Office Manager
512/463-5853
egina.reyes@thc.state.tx.us

HISTORY PROGRAMS DIVISION

**2000 Application Form
Official Texas Historical Marker**

(Please complete both sides of form.)

This marker is for (title or subject): Sansom's Chapel Methodist Church
(Title subject to change by THC staff and/or State Marker Review Board.)
County: Tarrant

Marker location (street address and city, or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map):
2400 School Lane, Bedford, TX 76021

Distance and direction of marker topic from marker site (if applicable): Marker will be 0.8 mile northeast of the old church site.

Approval of County Historical Commission

The application and narrative history must be approved by the county historical commission before forwarding to the Texas Historical Commission.

Signature of CHC chair or Marker Committee* chair: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

*Marker Committee chair signature accepted only if form signed by CHC chair is on file; call 512/463-5853 to request form.
The CHC chair or Marker Committee chair will automatically receive all copies of correspondence regarding this marker project.

Permission of owner for marker placement

Permission for placement of a marker must be obtained from the property owner. Please provide the name of a contact person if the owner is an institution, organization, or public entity. Do not complete this section if the marker is to be placed on right-of-way maintained by the Texas Department of Transportation.

Name: Old Bedford School
Contact person (if applicable): Libby Bullock Managing Director
Mailing address: 2400 School Lane Bedford TX 76021
Phone: 817-952-2290 Fax: 817-952-2263 Email: lbs@startext.net
Owner's signature: Libby Bullock (on behalf of the city of Bedford, TX)

Do you wish to receive copies of all correspondence concerning this marker application? Yes No

To whom should the request for payment be addressed?

Name: Bedford Historical Foundation
Contact person (if applicable): Libby Bullock
Mailing address: 2400 School Lane Bedford TX 76021
Phone: 817-952-2290 Fax: 817-952-2263 Email: lbs@startext.net

Does this person wish to receive copies of all other correspondence concerning this application? Yes No

Is there anyone else to whom all correspondence concerning this marker application should be addressed?
(One additional name and address only, please.)

Name: Mike Patterson
Mailing address: 2205 Glade Road Colleyville TX 76034
Phone: 817-283-2658 Fax: _____ Email: marimike@flush.net

For more information contact:
Texas Historical Commission, History Programs Division
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276
512/463-5853, Fax 512/475-3122
www.thc.state.tx.us



Shipping Instructions

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, neither post office box numbers nor rural route numbers can be accepted. If the marker is to be placed on the highway right-of-way, it will be shipped directly to the district highway engineer.

Name: Libby Blumck
Street address: 2400 School Lane Bedford, TX 76021
Phone: 817-452-2290

Type and Size of Marker Desired (Please check one only.)

Subject Markers

Subject markers are solely educational in nature and convey no legal restrictions to the property. They are appropriate for topics such as cemeteries, church congregations, businesses, persons, events and institutions. These markers should not be attached to buildings. If the marker is to be attached to a surface other than the foundry-provided post, please provide the requested information in the space below.

- 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) \$275
- 27" x 42" marker with post \$1,100
- 27" x 42" marker without post (see below) \$1,000
- 18" x 28" marker with post \$750
- 18" x 28" marker without post (see below) \$700

If not on post, to what (block of granite, gatepost, etc.) will the marker be attached? _____
Type of material? (wood, stone, etc.) _____

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Markers

Markers conveying the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation are reserved solely for historic structures deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural integrity and historical associations. The RTHL designation does carry a measure of legal protection for the structure (see Marker Policies 13 through 18) and for that reason we must have a legal description (lot and block numbers) for the property to be designated. The most commonly used marker for conveying this designation is the medallion and plate (also referred to as a building marker); however, the 18" x 28" or 27" x 42" size marker may be ordered for those who wish a greater amount of historical information to appear in the marker text. Careful attention should be paid so as not to damage historic building material if the marker is to be mounted directly onto the structure. The THC staff can provide alternate ideas for mounting upon request.

- Medallion and 16" x 12" plate with post \$450
- Medallion and 16" x 12" plate without post (see below) \$400
- 27" x 42" marker with post \$1,100
- 27" x 42" marker without post (see below) \$1,000
- 18" x 28" marker with post \$750
- 18" x 28" marker without post (see below) \$700

If not on post, to what (building, gate, etc.) will the marker be attached? _____
Type of material? (wood, stone, etc.) _____

Legal description of property (lot and block number; metes and bounds):

Before forwarding your material to the Texas Historical Commission, please check to make sure you've included the following items. Incomplete applications cannot be considered and may be returned to the applicant.

- completed application form signed by the county historical commission chair or marker committee chair
- narrative history with reference notes and bibliography
- photograph of the proposed marker location (do not use instant/Polaroid photos)
- map indicating marker location and other sites related to the marker topic
- historic photo of property and current photographs of all elevations (RTHL markers only)
- legal description of property (RTHL markers only)
- floor plans (RTHL markers only)
- site plan (RTHL markers only)

Mail completed applications to:

History Programs Division, Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276

Additional items, including directional signs and replacement parts for 1936 markers, are available. Please contact the History Programs Division for a separate order form.

SANSOM'S CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH of Bedford, Tarrant County, Texas; 1872-1880

During the second half of the nineteenth century many small churches in rural north-central Texas were formed, flourished for a time, and then faded away. They were the victims of shifting population patterns, the emigrations or deaths of their leaders, economic misfortunes, and a host of other factors.

One such country meeting place was Sansom's Chapel Methodist Church, established in 1872 in Bedford, Tarrant County, Texas. It disbanded at some time in the year 1880, and its members then joined other area churches. In late 1886 or early 1887 newly-formed Oak Grove Methodist Church moved the Sansom's Chapel building to its own site, less than two miles away, and used it until well into the twentieth century.

Sansom's Chapel was named for the Reverend Samuel Durrell Sansom, Jr., an early Bedford settler who arrived in Tarrant County in the first half of the 1860's.¹ Throughout most of the church's history he seems to have been its guiding spirit, and its demise may have been due to his leaving the Bedford community in the late 1870's when he moved to nearby Zion (Smithfield) and went into the dry goods business.²

Sansom was born into a distinguished Methodist family in Lincoln County, Tennessee on January 30, 1816.³ He was the son of another Methodist minister, Rev. Samuel Durrell Sansom, Sr. (1776-1854) and his wife, Elizabeth (Lackey) Sansom (died 1843).⁴ The elder Sansom's

father, John Sansom, was a Virginian who died in service during the American Revolution.⁵ S. D. Sansom, Jr., first came to Texas in the fall of 1837, and served for a time in 1839 as a Texas Ranger in the company commanded by Captain H. M. Smith.⁶ He also spent time as a militiaman during the days of the Republic of Texas in a company commanded by Captain John Edward Waring in Militia Beat No. 6.⁷ He returned to Tennessee in 1841 and married his first wife, Sarah A. King, there on July 21, 1842.⁸

In the spring of 1845 Sansom returned to Texas and settled briefly near Hallford Prairie, in the area of northeast Tarrant County-northwest Dallas County. In the fall of 1846 he moved to Tyler County, Texas and was licensed to preach there in 1850. In 1851 he was admitted on trial into the East Texas Conference, and traveled the Kaufman Circuit in 1852 and 1853. He also rode the Athens Circuit in 1854 and 1855, and in 1856 traveled the Crockett Circuit. In 1860 he and his family were living in Henderson County, Texas. By 1861 his preaching was somewhat curtailed because he was having serious eye trouble.⁹

S. D. Sansom's first wife died on August 9, 1861. He was remarried on October 12, 1862 to Sarah Ann Thomas (June 18, 1842-June 13, 1934). After Sansom's death in 1894, she was remarried in 1901 to Louis B. Blevins.¹⁰ She was a familiar figure around Smithfield for many years.

Sansom is listed as a Local Elder at the first meeting of the newly-formed Grapevine Circuit of the Dallas District of the East Texas Annual Conference on December 10, 1864, by which time he had permanently settled in northeast Tarrant County. His name is constantly seen

in the Grapevine circuit's minutes until the late 1870's as a steward, as a local elder, and as a member of various committees.¹¹ He was an active citizen in Bedford and Smithfield, and was a charter member and first Master of the Grand Prairie Masonic Lodge #455, which was established at Zion Methodist Church [later Smithfield, present-day North Richland Hills] on June 5, 1875.¹²

Sansom died at Smithfield, Tarrant County, on July 16, 1894. In his obituary, H. K. Agee said of him, "...As a traveling preacher he was clear, strong, and successful; as a local preacher he was cheerful, earnest and faithful, laboring, both night and day, that he might deliver his message and finish his course with joy..."¹³ He lies buried among several of his family members in Smithfield Cemetery.

Fortunately the book containing the minutes of the Grapevine Circuit, to which Sansom's Chapel Methodist Church belonged, is still in existence. It was the primary document used to write most of this history. It spans the period from late 1864 through early 1888.¹⁴ Most of the references to Sansom's Chapel refer only to matters of offerings contributed by the church toward the support of the circuit's Preacher in Charge and its Presiding Elder. When other information on the church appears, it has been included in this paper.

For more than half its existence the church probably met in Mr. Sansom's home at Bedford. In 1877 its members reported that they had a building nearly completed. Methodist preachers on the Grapevine circuit in the 1870's often complained of the lack of buildings set aside for church purposes. They indicated that several of their flocks were meeting in private homes.

Bedford's first Methodist congregation, Spring Garden Methodist Church, first appears in the Grapevine circuit minutes in early 1867.¹⁵ In 1872 the frame building there which served as a church, school, and grange hall burned.¹⁶ This event may have given rise to the first meetings at Sansom's, about 2.3 miles to the southwest.

The first mention of a Methodist meeting held at Sansom's in Bedford came in the minutes of the Second Quarterly Conference of the "Grape Vine" [Grapevine] Circuit of the Dallas District of the Trinity Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The meeting was held at the church at Birdville [central Tarrant County, now in Haltom City] on April 27, 1872.¹⁷ Sansom's church had apparently been established between that date and the first quarterly meeting, which had been held on January 6, 1872.¹⁸

Only three men served as Preachers in Charge of the Grapevine circuit during the brief life of the Sansom's Chapel congregation. Sansom's first preacher was Samuel S. Cobb,¹⁹ who was already riding the circuit when the church began, having taken the post in January, 1872. He continued in service until the end of the year. Cobb was a memorable figure; in a memorial to him printed in 1901 it was said, "...He had his faults....He was high-tempered---quick as powder; but God never made a man with nobler designs..."

After Cobb's reassignment, Lewis M. White²⁰ began a four-year tenure in January, 1873 and remained through December, 1876. William Sibert May²¹ began a two-year term in January of 1877 and continued through the end of 1878. At the beginning of 1879, Lewis M. White returned and served until December, 1880.

During that same period of time four men served the circuit as Presiding Elder, regularly visited Sansom's Chapel and the circuit's other churches, and presided over the quarterly conferences. They were Jacob Monroe Binkley²² (January 1872 through December 1873), John W. Chalk²³ (January through December 1874), William F. Easterling²⁴ (January 1875 through December 1877), and William Holmes Hughes²⁵ (January 1878 through December 1880).²⁶

At the April 1872 quarterly conference, S. D. Sansom was recorded as a local elder, a position he held as a leader of the church but without any remuneration for his work. At that time, the circuit included five churches: Minter's Chapel, Grapevine, Willow Springs, Birdville, and Sansom's.²⁷ By the time of the third quarterly conference, held at Sansom's on July 20, 1872, an additional church at Foster's School House was included.²⁸

At the fourth quarterly meeting held at Minter's Chapel on October 12, 1872, Samuel Cobb reported that only one Sunday School was functioning on the circuit... at Minter's Chapel. He listed the churches on the circuit and their memberships: Grapevine (72), Minter's Chapel (122), Sansoms (37), Birdville (28), Willow Springs (22), Pleasant Hill (19), and Foster's School House (17), for a total Grapevine Circuit membership of 317. As to the general condition of the circuit, Cobb wrote:

"...I regard the Circuit in a spiritual point of view as in a decidedly prosperous condition. ...The members with one or two exceptions are at peace with each other and all seem anxious for the prosperity of Zion...Several Back Sliders have been reclaimed who for years have been dead to the Church, but I think they are alive again and bid fair to be useful in the future...Prayer meeting has been kept up regularly at only two appointments in the work (Grapevine and Minters Chapel)...they offer however, as an excuse for the omission of duty, that we have no houses of our own in which to worship, which I re-

gard as a lame excuse. Private homes in my opinion are very appropriate places for neighbors and friends to meet with their little ones and offer up prayer to God...’’²⁹

At the first quarterly meeting for 1873, held at Minter’s Chapel on February 15, the other churches mentioned were Minter’s Chapel, Grapevine, Austin’s [now White’s Chapel in Southlake, Texas], Pleasant Hill, Birdville, and Willow Spring.³⁰

On the same day a building committee was named for a meeting house to be known as Sansom’s Chapel. The committee included Brothers S. D. Sansom, A. D. Currie, and Tilford Scott. Bro. Currie was elected Steward for the Sansom Class.³¹ A. D. Currie and his wife were admitted to the Conference during the same meeting.³²

At the beginning of 1873 the Preacher in Charge of the circuit was Lewis M. White. White’s reports to the conference were generally more optimistic than those of his predecessor, Samuel S. Cobb. For the ensuing year Sansom’s was asked to raise \$55.00 of a total of \$550.00 from seven churches.³³

At the fourth quarterly conference held at Grapevine on October 11, 1873, the conference minutes reported the death of Bro. John Berry of the Sansom’s congregation during the preceding quarter.³⁴

In the third quarterly conference held at “Sansom’s Camp Ground” on August 8, 1874, the conference minutes mention that “...One permanent Campground bought and arrangements made to build a large campmeeting shed...” This seems to suggest that the Sansom’s property

may have been purchased between March 21 and August 8, 1874. At that meeting, A. D. Currie was listed as a Steward at Sansom's.³⁵

We have not located the deed in which the two-acre Sansom's Chapel property was purchased. The transfer predated a disastrous court house fire in Fort Worth on March 29, 1876, in which all the county's deed records were destroyed. Several settlers later had their pre-fire deeds re-recorded, and some land records survived in the files of one or more abstract companies which were already established in Fort Worth by that time.³⁶

On March 10, 1884, S. D. Sansom sold three tracts of his land at Bedford to R. T. Valentine...20.5 acres he had purchased from Tilford Scott, 23.5 acres from J. W. Haynes, and 20 acres from W. R. Allen. Nowhere in the deed did he mention or make any reservation of any lot earlier deeded to the Methodist church.³⁷ This deed seems to suggest that the church acreage may actually have originally belonged to someone other than Sansom.

Using the 1889 deed when the church lot was sold into private hands, we are able to locate it precisely in relation to modern-day landmarks. It was included in the Mansel W. Wilmuth survey in present-day Bedford, and was described as:

“...beginning at the South-East Corner of the Beeler Survey and running West 93 Varas to the North-East corner of the Darby Survey; Thence South 131 Yards to a Stone; Thence East 93 Varas to a Stone; Thence 131 Varas to the place of beginning...”³⁸

At the fourth quarterly conference held at the Grapevine church on October 17, 1874, John Mayhan [Mahan]³⁹ and A. D. Currie were elected to be the stewards of the Sansom's Chapel Church.⁴⁰ L. M. White reported :

“...The spiritual condition of this Circuit is good. Attendance at church very good. Accessions during the present quarter: 173. Baptisms: Adults 71, Infants 31. There are four regular prayer meetings well attended. Dismissed by letter 30, Deaths 1, Expelled none.”⁴¹

During the first quarterly conference for 1875, held at Zion on January 23, a listing of the circuit’s eight churches was made and an amount was set as a goal for each church to raise in support of the ministry. The local churches and their amounts were: Grapevine (\$167), Minter’s Chapel (\$162), Zion (\$167), Sansom’s (\$90), Fossil [Creek] (\$90), Austin’s (\$90), Elizabeth [town] (\$100), and Grapevine Springs (\$34).⁴² This gives us a suggestion of the relative sizes of the various churches on the circuit.

The fourth quarterly conference of the circuit was held at Sansom’s Camp Ground on September 25, 1875. White reported to the conference:

“...sabbath school interest improvement as manifest in the organization of new schools and the rebuilding of some that had declined in interest on account of having no suitable place to carry them on...We have built two new churches this year (ie) have one already built--and the lumber on the ground to build another as soon as cotton picking is off hand and have good prospects for another...”⁴³

At the first quarterly conference of 1876 at Grapevine in January 1, White reported Sunday School interests lagging during the winter, as they usually did. He attributed the lag to a “want of suitable places in which to hold them....the church was never more prosperous than now except upon a want of unity upon the subject of Church building in some instances...”⁴⁴

At the second quarterly conference for 1877, held at Zion on June 2, W. S. May reported that “...We have not succeeded in organizing [Sunday] schools at Minter’s Chappel and

Sansom's Chappel---yet we hope to do so some day soon..." A report was filed which showed that \$124.03 had been raised toward the building at Sansom's Chapel. Five men were elected to serve as trustees at Sansom's Chapel: Samuel D. Sansom, Campbell Poiner [Poynor, 1825-1908], John Mahan [c1828-1886], J. F. Moody [b.c1855], and William Morrow [1849-1916]. The conference's last action was to choose Sansom's Chapel as the site of its upcoming Campmeeting. Five of the circuit's churches contributed a total of \$84.00 toward the ministry, but Sansom's was not one of those contributing.⁴⁵

During that same quarterly conference, William S. May reported to the conference on the condition of the circuit:

"...We have four Sunday Schools which are prospering in the main. Some of the schools are lacking in books and literature, but are advancing in this particular. We have in these four schools 4 Superintendents, 43 Teachers and officers, 309 Scholars, 255 books in library, 72 visitors t____, 105 Lesson papers, 90 Little People [a publication] and 24 Magazines have expended during the year \$[left blank] for Sunday school purposes. The children have been pastorly instructed tolerbly faithfully."⁴⁶

On October 13, 1877, a report to the conference was prepared by Samuel D. Sansom, the President of the Board of Trustees at Sansom's Chapel, and James Frank Moody, the Secretary of the same board. The report was submitted to the fourth quarterly conference. It said:

"To the President and members of the Quarterly Conference of Grapevine Circuit-ME Church South. The Trustees appointed for Sansom's Chappel make the following report. Viz. We have two acres of land deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Church South in fee simple on which we have erected a house 25 ft by 36 ft --- and have it enclosed with good floor and lacking only ceiling seating and painting to make it a good substancial house. It has cost us to place it as it now stands in money and labor about Three Hundred Dollars. The house is not involved --- there is some lacking but not to invalue the property. We regard the property as it now stands worth \$500. We think it will take about \$200 to finish the house which we propose to do as soon as possible...."⁴⁷

At the time of the second quarterly conference held at Minter's Chapel on May 11, 1878, the minutes listed the four Sunday Schools in operation on the circuit; Sansom's did not have one operating at the time. A. D. Currie of the Sansom's Chapel Church was selected to be a delegate to the District Conference.⁴⁸

The third quarterly conference met at Zion on July 27, 1878. Sansom's Chapel sent no report nor contribution to the conference. For some reason neither did three of the largest and most thriving churches send offerings...Minter's Chapel, White's Chapel, and Grapevine.⁴⁹ It may be significant that this is the last meeting at which Samuel D. Sansom is named as a Local Elder.⁵⁰

During the first quarterly conference of 1879, held at Zion on February 8, a committee of three men was named "...to take into consideration the moving of Sansom's Chappel to a more eligible point---and was given discretionary power in the premises. Bros. D. W. Smith, R. B. Merrell, and A. M. Quayle were elected..." as the committee. During that conference, no money for the support of the ministry was received from Sansom's Chapel.⁵¹

On February 7, 1880, the first quarterly conference of the year met at Grapevine. Six churches on the circuit were named in the minutes and an amount was set for each to raise to support the ministry in the ensuing year. Sansom's is included in the list, and its amount was set at \$50 of a total of \$600 to be raised by it and the other churches, which included Grapevine, Zion, Minter's Chapel, Little Fossil [Creek], and White's Chapel. The minutes of this quarterly conference contain the last mention of Sansom's Chapel by name.⁵²

At the time of the second quarterly conference held at Minter's Chapel on May 1, 1880, Lewis M. White reported that the circuit then had seven churches with a Sunday School at each. The new church formed on the circuit since the first conference was the church at Mount Olivet, which has not been identified as to location at this time. This would seem to suggest that Sansom's was still in operation. However, it made no contribution toward the ministry then or later. Only four of the seven churches did...Grapevine, Minter's Chapel, Fossil Creek, and Mount Olivet...for a total contribution of \$59.15.⁵³

There is a blank page in the volume of conference minutes where the record of the third quarterly conference should begin. In a subsequent report, the Preacher in Charge admitted to the conference that local records had sometimes been neglected. At the fourth quarterly conference held at Mt. Olivet Church on October 23, 1880, no specific mention of Sansom's is made. However, "A. D. Curry" (a member of the Sansom's Church) is named as a Sunday School superintendent and a notation was made that there was a Sunday School operating at every church on the circuit.⁵⁴

By the end of 1885 the area's Methodists were contemplating the formation of a new circuit. In the minutes of the fourth quarterly conference it is recorded that "...Bro A. D. Currie, J. B. Andrews, and M. M. Austin were appointed a committee to sell the church house at Mt. Olivet and divide the proceeds between Grapevine Circuit and the new Circuit if there is a division."⁵⁵ That division indeed occurred, since by the time the first quarterly conferences were held in 1886, the Fossil Creek Church (where the first 1886 meeting of the Grapevine Circuit

was to be held) was included in the newly-formed Keller Charge of the Dallas District. About the beginning of 1888 its name was permanently changed to Smithfield Charge (Circuit.)⁵⁶

It is possible that a small cemetery may have developed in association with the Sansom's Chapel Church. In his boyhood, Bedford native Tom Miller Acton (1908-1999) remembered seeing a number of sunken graves without headstones near the site of the church. Mr. Acton said it was common knowledge in the community that the graves were there. They were visible until about 1920.⁵⁷ Mr. Acton's paternal ancestors arrived in Bedford in 1853,⁵⁸ and his mother's parents purchased a farm adjoining the Sansom's Chapel property in 1894.⁵⁹

Surprisingly, many of the settlers who attended Sansom's Chapel and other pioneer Bedford Methodist churches are not buried at nearby Bedford Cemetery. Most of them seem to have used Smithfield Cemetery, which lies four miles northwest of the Sansom's site. Across the years many descendants of Bedford oldtimers have told this compiler that their ancestors did not want to be buried at Bedford Cemetery because of its association with the Church of Christ which sat beside it.

On July 7, 1886 the third quarterly conference of the Keller Charge, Dallas District, North Texas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, authorized Oak Grove Methodist Church's trustees to make "...a Quit Claim Deed to the Land where-on Sansom's Chaple is Situated..." Later, on November 5, 1887, ..."The Trustees of Oak Grove [were] authorized to perfect the Title to the Church Lot where Sansom's Chaple stood: Sell same: and apply the proceeds to Oak Grove Church..."⁶⁰

The Sansom's Chapel lot was finally sold on March 1, 1889 by Oak Grove trustees H. R. Sparger [1833-1914], Marcus D. Arthur [1834-1893], and Campbell Poynor [1825-1908]. It was purchased by William Letchworth Hurst [1833-1922], for whom adjacent Hurst, Texas is named. Hurst owned the property adjacent to it at the time.⁶¹

No photograph of the church house at Sansom's Chapel has been located. Two copies of one photo of it have survived after it was moved to the Oak Grove location. Oak Grove's trustees reported that the two-acre Sansom's site was worth twenty dollars in 1887.⁶²

The Sansom's Chapel church house was moved by January 29, 1887. By the wagon roads of the day, it was a move of about 1.7 miles. As it appeared after it was moved to the new Oak Grove site, it was thirty feet wide (N-S) by forty-five feet long (E-W).⁶³ It had a double door on the east end, and no windows in that wall. The west wall was solid, without windows or doors. The north and south walls had no doors. The north wall had at least three (and probably four) tall windows which extended higher than the door. The south wall was probably identical to the north wall. The whole building was covered with horizontally-laid wood siding, each piece of which appears in the photograph to be about five inches wide. It had a wood-shingle roof.⁶⁴ Oak Grove trustees reported to the conference in 1887 that it would seat three hundred worshippers.⁶⁵ The building served the Oak Grove congregation until about 1925.⁶⁶

Hundreds of fast-growing suburban communities across the state are, like Bedford, losing touch with their past every day, as new development erases landmarks and vacant land is paved over, subdivided, and changed forever. The site of the Sansom's Chapel Methodist Church

remained an undeveloped pasture until the 1990's. It is now covered by a strip-mall parking lot at a major highway intersection, at the southeast corner of State Highway 183 (the Airport Freeway) and Bedford Road, beside the Bedford Road exit.

An Official Texas Historical Marker will insure that this important, albeit shortlived, link in our community's religious heritage will not be forgotten. Since the original site of the church is now retail commercial space and paved parking lots, it is not deemed an appropriately dignified spot for such a marker. There is an excellent spot on which the marker could be placed, .8 mile to the northeast, on the same Bedford city property where the historic Old Bedford School is located. The property is excellently maintained, and is already the centerpiece of Bedford's historic preservation efforts.

This version of the church's history is condensed from a longer one now on file at the Old Bedford School, 2400 School Lane, Bedford, Texas 76021.

Michael E. Patterson
2295 Glade Road
Colleyville, Texas 76034-4569
(817) 283-2658
<marimike@flash.net>
July 31, 2000

NOTES

1. A descendant of S. D. Sansom, Jr. is Mrs. Ruth Dunlap, 411 Walnut St., Duncanville, TX 75116-3431; (972) 298-3114. At the time of the taking of the 1860 census, Sansom and his family lived in Henderson County, Texas. By the time of the first entry in the minutes of the Grapevine Circuit of the Methodist Church in December, 1864, Sansom had moved to Tarrant County. Mrs. Dunlap has files of family information and photographs dealing with S. D. Sansom and his family. S. D. Sansom and his first wife were the parents of nine children: a stillborn son (May 24, 1843); Mary Elizabeth "Mollie" Sansom (June 28, 1845-Nov. 4, 1877, who married William Riley Allen on Sept. 17, 1865); Martha Ann "Mattie" Sansom (b. April 5, 1847, who married Wesley Dial); William K. Sansom (July 2-9, 1849); John Fletcher Sansom (Oct. 9, 1850-July 15, 1895, who was unmarried); James O. Andrew Sansom (Aug. 17, 1854-Aug. 21, 1879, who was unmarried); Laura Emma Sansom (June 9, 1856-Jan. 23, 1894, who married John Lafayette Poyner); Sarah Adelaide "Addie" Sansom (Apr. 22, 1858-Jan. 17, 1938, who married William R. Morrow), and Samuel Jefferson Davis Sansom (Jan. 15, 1861-Feb. 23, 1913, who was unmarried).
2. Sansom family files in possession of Mrs. Dunlap. Tarrant County, Texas Deed Volume K, p. 600; Volume P, p. 581. United States Federal Census, Tarrant County, Texas, 1880, Enumeration District 96, p. 190. There are two deeds to S. D. Sansom recorded for land in the Zion (Smithfield) community in the J. C. McCommas Survey. On January 18, 1878 he purchased a small tract from Mr. and Mrs. Whittenberg (K, 600). On December 5, 1879 he bought another plot from D. H. Hightower (P, 581). In the 1880 census S. D. Sansom was listed as a retail grocer living and working at Smithfield. He did not sell his Bedford acreage until 1884. Mrs. Dunlap has a photograph of Sansom's store taken at Smithfield in the late 1800's.
3. Obituary of S. D. Sansom, photocopy of original in Ruth Dunlap's files of Sansom family information. There are no reference notes on this photocopy, but it is obviously from a newspaper printed at the time of Sansom's death in 1894.
4. Family files of Sansom material in possession of Mrs. Ruth Dunlap. These remarkable files include several original papers which belonged to both Samuel D. Sansom Sr. and Samuel D. Sansom, Jr. Some of the papers are Republic of Texas imprints and Confederate States imprints, and there is one lengthy letter written by S. D. Sansom, Sr. to his children in 1843 from the Republic of Texas, San Augustine Co.". There is also a sketch of the family history in the handwriting of S. D. Sansom, Sr. (1776-1854).
5. Original manuscript in the handwriting of Samuel D. Sansom, Sr. in which he details much of the family history. The original is in Mrs. Dunlap's family files.
6. *ibid.* Frances Terry Ingmire, comp., Texas Ranger Service Records, 1830-1846, (St. Louis, Mo.: Ingmire Publications, 1982), p. 131.

7. Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Inc., comp., Muster Rolls of the Texas Revolution, (Lubbock, Texas: Craftsman Printers, Inc., 1986), p. 240.
8. Obituary of S. D. Sansom.
9. *ibid.*
10. Sansom family files of Mrs. Dunlap, including photocopies of S. D. Sansom's family Bible records. After S. D. Sansom's death, Sarah Ann (Thomas) Sansom married Louis B. Blevins on August 11, 1901. This compiler remembers seeing in his grandmother's papers a large newspaper clipping (about 5"x 7") with a photograph and caption of this Mrs. Blevins. It seems probable that the clipping came from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, and he believes the date was 1931. The photograph was taken at one of the Smithfield community reunions. The caption mentioned that she had come to Texas in a covered wagon with her family in 1859, and that even though her married name was then Blevins she was still widely known in the community as "Grandma Sansom."
11. United States, Federal Census, Tyler County, Texas, 1850, p. 163; Henderson County, Texas, 1860, p. 53. In 1860, the family lived in Henderson County, Texas in the area served by the Science Hill Post Office.
12. Original charter of the Grand Prairie Masonic Lodge, dated at Houston, Texas on June 5, 1875. Original at Smithfield Lodge #455, North Richland Hills, Texas. Photocopy in Ruth Dunlap's files of Sansom family history.
13. S. D. Sansom obituary.
14. "Quarterly Conference Minute Book for the Grapevine Circuit, Dallas District, East Texas Annual Conference of the M. E. Church, South, beginning December 10, 1864." Photocopies of the original volume are at the Old Bedford School, 2400 School Lane, Bedford, Texas 76021; at the Central Texas Conference United Methodist Records and Archives Collection at the Texas Wesleyan University Library in Fort Worth, Texas (hereinafter referred to as CTC Archives); and in possession of Weldon Green Cannon at 702 W. Nugent Avenue, Temple, Texas 76501-1926. Hereinafter referred to as Grapevine Circuit Minutes.
15. Grapevine Circuit Minutes, p. 15.
16. *ibid.*, pp. 15, 60. Glenn M. Holden, "A Partial History of Education in Tarrant County," unpublished Master's thesis for Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas, 1931, pp. 38-40. Copies at Southwest and Genealogy Department, Fort Worth Public Library, Fort Worth, Texas; and at Heritage Room (Library) of Tarrant County College, Northeast Campus, Hurst, Texas.
17. Grapevine Circuit Minutes, p. 61.
18. *ibid.*, 61.

19. U. S. Federal Census, Wise County, Texas, 1880, p. 96. Wise County Messenger, Decatur, Texas, microfilm of original newspapers on file at Wise County Museum, Decatur, Texas. Wise County, Texas, Death Certificate No. 1601. Rev. Olin W. Nail, ed., Texas Methodist Centennial Yearbook (Elgin, Texas: 1934), p. 121. Macum Phelan, A History of the Expansion of Methodism in Texas 1867-1902, (Dallas, Texas: Mathis, Van Nort, & Co.: 1937), pp. 465-466. Minutes of the Thirty-Third Session of the North Texas Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, held at Honey Grove, Texas, November 23-27, 1899, (Stephenville, Texas: Eugene Moore, Pub., 1899), p. 37 (original at CTC Archives). Minutes of the Thirty-Ninth Session of the North Texas Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, (cover page of document missing with publication data, 1905), p.59 (original at CTC Archives). Samuel S. Cobb was born in Georgia. In the 1905 Minutes of the North Texas Annual Conference, he is listed in a table entitled "The Roll of Heaven." According to that table, he was born in 1834, converted in 1852, licensed to preach in 1853 and entered the itinerant ministry the same year. He died in Denison, Texas on April 21, 1901. He was a Confederate soldier. He was a member of the Trinity (North Texas) Conference by 1869, and was first appointed to the Gainesville circuit. S. S. Cobb is included in a group photograph of the North Texas Conference taken at Jefferson, Texas on October 19, 1870, reproduced in the Texas Methodist Centennial Yearbook in 1934. After that, he served on the Garden Valley, Dallas, Grapevine, and Decatur circuits. In 1876 he entered private business at Decatur. Cobb was living with his family in Wise County, Texas in 1880 when the census was taken, and there are scattered references to him and his family in the Wise County newspapers from December 23, 1881 until at least February 4, 1888. One notes the death of his daughter in 1881 at their home "near Decatur." In 1889 he was readmitted to the conference and accepted appointments until 1895. In the 1899 North Texas Conference Minutes, S. S. Cobb appears in the "Biographical Register and Directory" as a resident of Ardmore in the Indian Territory (in extreme southern Oklahoma). He served as a minister for forty-eight years...thirty-two of them in the North Texas Conference. He lies buried at Denison, Grayson County, Texas. Mrs. S. S. Cobb (her given name is not shown on her death certificate) was born in Tennessee on January 18, 1852 and died in Decatur, Wise County, Texas on January 7, 1923. She was buried in Dallas. She was the daughter of G. W. Smith, a Tennessean. Mrs. R. E. Collins was the informant for the death certificate.

20. Federal Census, Collin County, Texas, 1850, p. 191; Tarrant County, Texas, 1880, Enumeration District 94, p. 142; Tarrant County, Texas, 1900, Precinct 1, City of Fort Worth, Enumeration Dist. 106, Sheet 12. Phelan, A History of the Expansion of Methodism..., pp. 78-79. State of Texas, Confederate Pension Application of Lewis M. White, File no. 18885, Texas State Library and Archives, Austin, Texas. Grapevine Cemetery tombstones, Grapevine, Tarrant County, Texas. United States, National Archives, Compiled Military Service Records of Confederate Soldiers. Alice Pitts, comp., Marriages of Collin County, Texas (private printing, 1978), pp. 22, 38. Lewis M. White was born about 1837. As a boy of twelve, he appears with his widowed mother and his siblings in the 1850 census of Collin County, Texas. The family apparently spent a short time around 1840 in Arkansas on their way to Texas. In 1870 Lewis M. White, his wife, and two children were living in Denton County, Texas, where he was working

as a brick maker. On November 6, 1872 when the Trinity (North Texas) Conference met at Sulphur Springs, Texas, L. M. White was one of eleven applicants admitted on trial to the ministry. In 1880, L. M. White and his family were living in the Grapevine area in northeast Tarrant County. In 1900, he and his family were living in Fort Worth at 916 Butler Street. In his 1910 application to the State of Texas for a Confederate pension, Lewis M. White was living at McKinney, Texas. He said he was 73 years old and a native of Nashville, Tennessee. He claimed he arrived in Texas as a baby on March 10, 1838, when his family settled in Collin County. White married his first wife, Alvasary G. Hall, in Collin County on September 25, 1859. During the Civil War he served in the Confederate army as a First Lieutenant and Captain in Co. C., Martin's Regiment, 5th Texas Cavalry (Partisan Rangers). White's first wife, Allie G. White (Apr. 22, 1840-Apr. 4, 1885) lies buried in Grapevine Cemetery in northeast Tarrant County. His second marriage, to Mrs. Henrietta V. Fouts, took place in Collin County on December 16, 1885. Mrs. Fouts was a widow with children, and they had at least three more of their own. In the 1900 census, the wife's name is given as Jennie. Even though he indicated in his pension application that his residence had been Collin County almost exclusively, he seems to have moved around considerably. White's Chapel Methodist Church in Southlake, Tarrant County, Texas is named for him. He had some sort of controversy with the Methodist hierarchy and lost his credentials with the North Texas Conference, but apparently went on preaching outside the church's jurisdiction. White died in 1917; his death does not appear in the Texas death indexes. On January 11, 1939 his widow, Henrietta White, was living in Los Angeles, California when she unsuccessfully attempted to get a pension and/or the right to live in the Confederate Home in Austin, Texas.

21. R. G. Mood and J. E. Roach, eds., Minutes of the Forty-second Annual Session of the North Texas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, held at Greenville, Texas, November 18-23, 1908, (Dallas, Texas: Wilkinson Printing Co., 1908), pp. 38-39 (original at CTC Archives). William Sibert May was born in Virginia on April 3, 1829. He was converted in 1848, joined the Methodist Church in 1850, was licensed to exhort in 1851, and to preach in 1852. In September 1856 he was admitted on trial to the West Virginia Conference and was ordained as a deacon by Bishop Early in the same month. Bishop Early ordained him an elder in September 1860. He served through the War in the Confederate Army. In 1874 he transferred to the North Texas Conference, where the Grapevine Circuit may have been his first assignment. He traveled and preached twenty-one years in Virginia and thirty-four years in Texas. He died in Aubrey, Denton County, Texas on March 22, 1908. He lies buried there in Belew Cemetery. He was apparently not related to the pioneer May family of Bedford, Tarrant County, Texas.

22. R. G. Mood and C. W. Dennis, eds., Minutes of the Fiftieth Annual Session of the North Texas Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Held at Greenville, Texas, November 1 to 6, 1916, (no publication date or place), pp. 104-106 (original at CTC Archives). The memorial to Jacob Monroe Binkley in this source reports that he was born February 26, 1833 in Robinson County, Tennessee [probably meaning Robertson County]. He settled with his parents, David and Rebecca (Adams) Binkley, in Grayson County, Texas about 1855. He was married twice: first on April 13, 1863 to Sarah F. Coutts who died in 1874. He was next married

to Anna A. Evans on May 22, 1876. He died on January 13, 1916, and was buried in Sherman, Texas in West Hill Cemetery. There is extensive material available at the public library in Sherman concerning Binkley and his descendants.

23. Lewis County, Tennessee census, 1850, (55-785). Reid Brock, Thomas O. Brock, and Tony Hayes, Volunteers: Tennesseans in the War With Mexico (no publication place given: Kitchen Table Press, 1986), Vol. I, p. 51. Byron and Barbara Sistler, eds., Early Middle Tennessee Marriages. Vol. I. Grooms. (Nashville, Tennessee: Byron Sistler and Associates, 1998), p. 95. United States National Archives, Pension Records of the Mexican War. Jno. E. Roach and R. Gibbs Mood, eds., Minutes of the Forty-first Annual Session of the North Texas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Held at Sherman, Texas, November 20-26, 1907, (no publication date or place), pp. 37-40 (original at CTC Archives). Rev. W. H. Hughes, who also served as Presiding Elder of Sansom Chapel's circuit for a time, wrote this memorial to his old friend, John W. Chalk. Chalk was born in Maury County, Tennessee on February 20, 1826. He enlisted in the Mexican War on June 6, 1846 in a company raised in Lewis County, Tennessee, and was discharged on a surgeon's certificate on October 15, 1846. Chalk married Rowena Ricketts in Lewis County, Tennessee on April 17, 1849, and he was living there with his wife and child when the 1850 census was taken. In 1852 Chalk was appointed on trial into the Texas Conference and appointed to a frontier mission embracing Tarrant County and other outlying regions. The next year he was transferred to the East Texas Conference. He was pensioned for his Mexican War service (pension no. C16511). He died at Pilot Point, Denton County, Texas, October 10, 1907, and was buried in the town cemetery there.

24. Minutes of the Thirty-Ninth Session of the North Texas Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South (1905), cover page of document missing with publication data, p. 58 (original at CTC Archives). Kaufman County, Texas census, p. 94. Phelan, A History of the Expansion of Methodism..., pp.400-401. William F. Easterling was born in Georgetown, South Carolina in 1829. He graduated from Emory College, then moved to Thomasville, Georgia where he practiced law. He was licensed to preach in 1859, received into the Florida Conference in 1860, and transferred to the Louisiana Conference the same year. He transferred into the North Texas Conference in 1873 and was first stationed at Jefferson. Subsequently he was appointed to "Dallas, the Dallas district, Paris, Terrell, Sulphur Springs, Gainesville district, Montague district, Denton, and Forney." He represented the North Texas Conference at the General Conference meeting in 1878. In 1880 Easterling, his wife, and two children were living on Rockwall Street in Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas. He died at Montague on January 17, 1895, after having served a total of thirty-six years in the ministry. He lies buried at Montague, Montague County, Texas. "He was a logical and forceful preacher and a man of sound administrative ability."

25. R. G. Mood and C. W. Dennis, eds., Minutes of the Fiftieth Annual Session of the North Texas Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Held at Greenville, Texas, November 1 to 6, 1916 (no publication date or place), pp. 99-101 (original at CTC Archives). This record contains a memorial to Rev. William Holmes (Uncle Buck) Hughes, who was born in Stokes Co., North Carolina on January 27, 1828, the son of William and Alsie Hughes.

Hughes and his parents later moved to Bedford Co., Tennessee, and then to Maury County, Tennessee where he grew to manhood. Hughes tried to enlist in the Mexican War but was refused on account of his health. He was licensed to preach in 1846, became a Deacon in 1848, and an Elder in 1850. On September 10, 1849 he married Zuleika R. Kittrell of Maury County, Tennessee; they had five children, four of whom survived their father. Hughes came to Texas in 1852 and settled north of Dallas. In the fall of 1868 he returned to Tennessee for a time to care for his parents, then returned to Texas. He died at 12:15 p.m. on October 24, 1916, but the lengthy memorial does not mention where he died or is buried. In Nail, ed., Texas Methodist Centennial Yearbook, p. 173, a photograph of Hughes is reproduced with a caption stating that he was buried in Dallas, Texas.

26. Grapevine Circuit Minutes, various first and fourth quarter sessions, 1872-1880.

27. *ibid.*, p. 61.

28. *ibid.*, p. 65.

29. *ibid.*, pp. 66-71.

30. *ibid.*, p. 74.

31. *ibid.*, p. 74. Smithfield Cemetery tombstones. Smith County, Texas census, 1860, p.90; 1870, p. 241. Archibald D. Currie was born about 1832 in Alabama. He and his wife came to Texas about 1857, and were living in Smith County, Texas in 1860 and 1870. A. D. Currie probably lies buried in an unmarked grave in Smithfield Cemetery. His wife has a headstone there, and one of A. D. Currie's unmarried sisters lies buried beside her. Sarah Ann (Mrs. A. D.) Currie was born November 9, 1826 and died June 12, 1890.

32. Grapevine Circuit Minutes, p. 73.

33. *ibid.*, p. 74.

34. *ibid.*, p. 83. There is now no standing, readable gravestone for this John Berry in any northeast Tarrant County cemetery.

35. *ibid.*, pp. 91-92.

36. The grantee deed indexes for Tarrant County were searched for the years 1876-1937 without finding any reference to this two-acre tract. No deed was made to any Methodist congregation, or to S. D. Sansom, A. D. Currie, Tilford Scott, John Mahan, or John Berry (who may have acted as trustees at that time). Neither is S. D. Sansom shown as the grantor of this tract.

37. Tarrant County, Texas Deed Vol. 32, p. 352.

38. Tarrant County, Texas Deed Vol. 363, p. 277.

39. Smithfield Cemetery tombstones. John Mahan (died November 14, 1886, aged 58 years) and his wife, Adoline Mahan (April 12, 1828-July 29, 1880) lie buried in the cemetery which developed in conjunction with the Zion (Smithfield) Methodist Church.

40. Grapevine Circuit Minutes, p. 94.

41. *ibid.*, p.93

42. *ibid.*, p. 97.

43. *ibid.*, pp. 108-110.

44. *ibid.*, p. 114.

45. *ibid.*, pp. 127-130.

46. *ibid.*, p. 134.

47. *ibid.*, p. 137.

48. *ibid.*, pp. 142-144.

49. *ibid.*, pp. 145-146.

50. *ibid.*, pp. 145-147.

51. *ibid.*, pp. 155-156.

52. *ibid.*, pp. 167-168.

53. *ibid.*, p. 170-172.

54. *ibid.*, p. 174.

55. *ibid.*, p. 233.

56. "Quarterly Conference Record Book for Smithfield Circuit, 1888." Handwritten title on flyleaf of a printed record book bearing title page: The Complete Quarterly Conference Record Book, Embracing a Period of Four Years (Nashville, Tennessee: Southern Methodist Publishing House, 1884), p. 54. Original at the office of Smithfield United Methodist Church, corner of Smithfield Road and Chapman Road, North Richland Hills, Texas 76180. Copies at CTC Archives, and in possession of Michael E. Patterson at Colleyville, Texas. Hereinafter referred to as Smithfield Circuit Book.

57. Tom Miller Acton (1908-1999), interview with Michael E. Patterson at Bedford, Texas, September 9, 1998.

58. Texas Confederate Pension Application of Rufus P. Allen of Bedford, Tarrant County, Texas, File no. 31028.
59. Tarrant County, Texas Deed Vol. 117, p. 69.
60. Smithfield Circuit Book, pp. 18, 52.
61. Tarrant County, Texas Deed Vol. 363, p. 277.
62. Smithfield Circuit Book, p. 51.
63. *ibid.*
64. Two original copies of this photograph are known to exist. One is in the possession of Michael E. Patterson, 2205 Glade Road, Colleyville, Texas 76034. A second copy was seen and examined by Weldon Green Cannon in northeast Tarrant County in the 1970's, but its whereabouts cannot now be determined.
65. Smithfield Circuit Book, p. 51.
66. Michael E. Patterson, An Oral and Documentary History of the Lives of Harvey Richard Sparger (1833-1914) and his wife, Mary Ann (Hamilton) Sparger (1836-1916), (Colleyville, Texas: private printing, 1998).

SANSOM'S CHAPEL BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Acton, Tom Miller (1908-1999). Interview with Michael E. Patterson at Bedford, Texas, September 9, 1908.
- Brock, Reid; Thomas O. Brock; and Tony Hayes. Volunteers: Tennesseans in the War With Mexico. No place of publication given: Kitchen Table Press, 1986.
- Daughters of the Republic of Texas. Muster Rolls of the Texas Revolution. Lubbock, Texas: Craftsman Printers, Inc., 1986.
- Dunlap, Ruth. Files of family history material and photographs on the Sansom family. 411 Walnut Street, Duncanville, Texas 75116-3431. Phone (972) 298-3114.
- Holden, Glenn M. "A Partial History of Education in Tarrant County." Unpublished Master's thesis for Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas, 1931. Copies at the Heritage Room, Tarrant County College, Northeast Campus Library, Hurst, Texas; and at the Southwest and Genealogy Department, Fort Worth Public Library, Fort Worth, Texas.
- Ingmire, Frances Terry. Texas Ranger Service Records, 1830-1846. St. Louis, Missouri: Ingmire Publications, 1982.
- Minutes of the Thirty-Ninth Session of the North Texas Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Cover page with publication data is missing, 1905. Copy at Central Texas Conference United Methodist Records and Archives Collection, Texas Wesleyan University Library, Fort Worth, Texas (hereinafter referred to as CTC Archives).
- Minutes of the Thirty-Third Session of the North Texas Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, held at Honey Grove, Texas, November 23-27, 1899. Stephenville, Texas: Eugene Moore Pub., 1899. Copy at CTC Archives.
- Mood, R. G. and C. W. Dennis, eds. Minutes of the Fiftieth Annual Session of the North Texas Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Held at Greenville, Texas, November 1 to 6, 1916. No publication date or place given: 1916. Copy at CTC Archives.

Mood, R. G., and J. E. Roach, eds. Minutes of the Forty-second Annual Session of the North Texas Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, held at Greenville, Texas, November 18-23, 1908. Dallas, Texas: Wilkinson Printing Co., 1908. Copy at CTC Archives.

Nail, Olin W., ed. Texas Methodist Centennial Yearbook. Elgin, Texas: 1934.

Patterson, Michael E. An Oral and Documentary History of the Lives of Harvey Richard Sparger (1833-1914) and his wife, Mary Ann (Hamilton) Sparger (1836-1916). Colleyville, Texas: private printing, 1998.

Phelan, Macum. A History of the Expansion of Methodism in Texas 1867-1902. Dallas, Texas: Mathis, Van Nort, and Co., 1937.

“Quarterly Conference Minute Book for the Grapevine Circuit, Dallas District, East Texas Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, beginning December 10, 1864.” Photocopies of original at Old Bedford School, 2400 School Lane, Bedford, Texas 76021; at CTC Archives; and in possession of Weldon Green Cannon, 702 W. Nugent Avenue, Temple, Texas 76501-1926.

“Quarterly Conference Record for Smithfield Circuit, 1888.” Handwritten title on flyleaf of a printed record book bearing title page: The Complete Quarterly Conference Record Book, Embracing a Period of Four Years. Nashville, Tennessee: Southern Methodist Publishing House, 1884. Original at the office of Smithfield United Methodist Church, corner of Smithfield Road and Chapman Road, North Richland Hills, Texas 76180. Copy at CTC Archives.

Roach, Jno. E., and R. Gibbs Mood, eds. Minutes of the Forty-first Annual Session of the North Texas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Held at Sherman, Texas, November 20-26, 1907. No publication data given: 1907. Copy at CTC Archives.

Sistler, Byron and Barbara, eds. Early Middle Tennessee Marriages, Vol. I, Grooms. Nashville, Tennessee: Byron Sistler and Assoc., 1998.

Smithfield Cemetery tombstones. Main Street at Smithfield Road, North Richland Hills, Tarrant County, Texas.

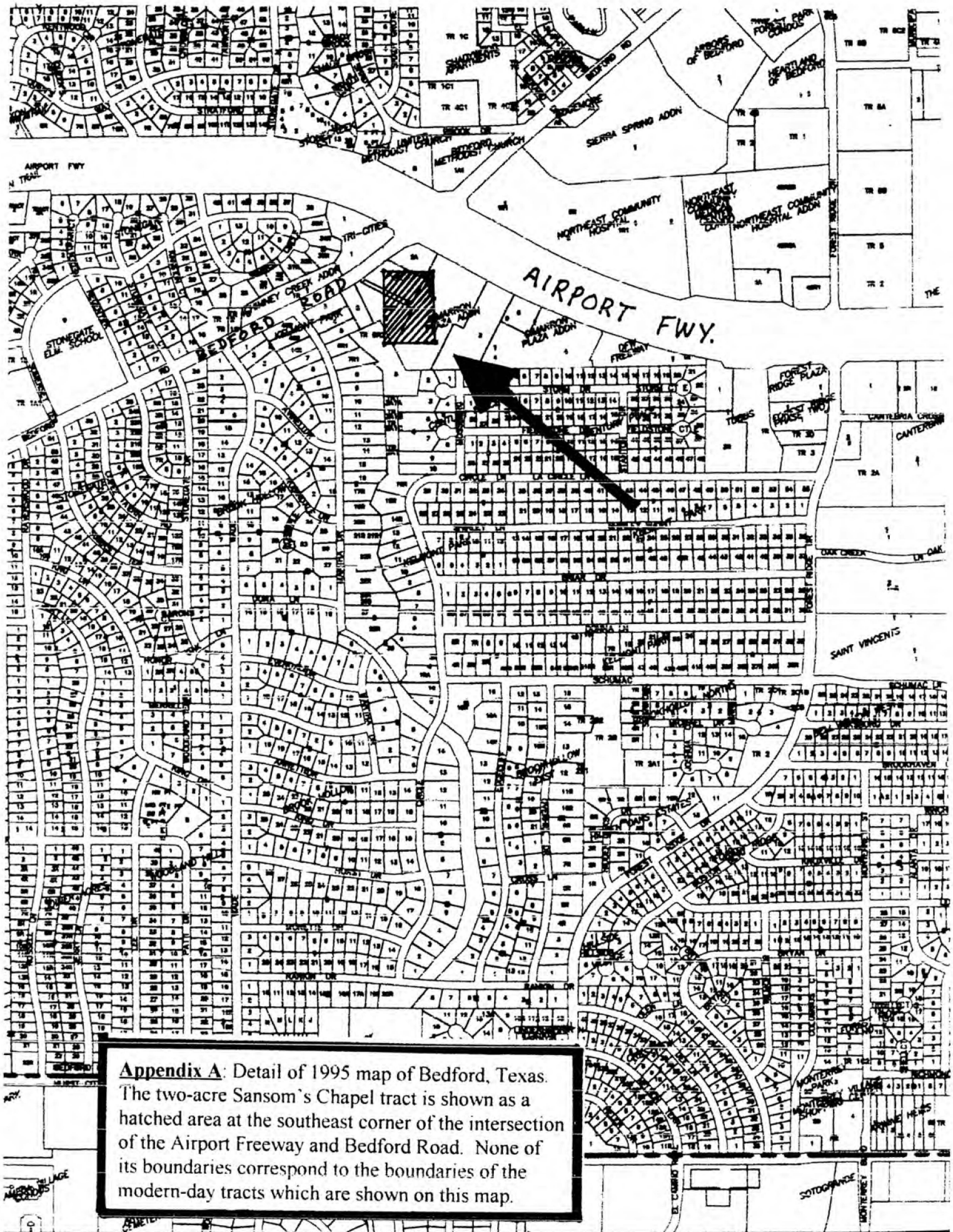
Tarrant County, Texas. Deed Records.

Texas. State Library and Archives. Austin, Texas. Confederate Pension Application Files.

United States. Federal Census Schedules. Collin County, Texas, 1850. Henderson County, Texas, 1860. Lewis County, Tennessee, 1850. Smith County, Texas, 1860, 1870. Tyler County, Texas, 1850. Tarrant County, Texas, 1880, 1900. Wise County, Texas, 1880.

United States. National Archives. Compiled Military Service Records of Confederate Soldiers. Mexican War Pension Files.

Wise County Messenger. Newspapers on microfilm at Wise County Museum, Decatur, Texas.



Appendix A: Detail of 1995 map of Bedford, Texas. The two-acre Sansom's Chapel tract is shown as a hatched area at the southeast corner of the intersection of the Airport Freeway and Bedford Road. None of its boundaries correspond to the boundaries of the modern-day tracts which are shown on this map.

Appendix B: Page 61 of the minute book of the Grapevine Circuit of the Dallas District of the Trinity Annual Conference of the M. E. Church, South, for the second quarter of 1872. On this page appears the earliest written reference to the Sansom's Chapel congregation.

51

A.D. 1872

Second Quarter

The second quarterly conference of the Grapevine Circuit of the Dallas District of the Trinity Annual Conference of the M. E. Church South for 1872. Was held at Birdville April the 27th 1872
 Pres. J. M. Binkley in the Chair

Members Present	
Rev. J. J. Cobb P. C.	A. M. Dwayne Stewards
L. D. Sansom L. E.	Wm. Turner " "
E. N. Hudgens L. E.	R. B. Merrel " "
J. A. Prater L. P.	P. D. Hudgens C. L.
G. W. Minter L. P.	J. B. Andrews S. C. M.

Visitors
 Conference was opened with religious services by Rev. J. M. Binkley

Secretary On motion P. D. Hudgens was elected secretary

Appeals Question First Are there any Appeals None

Complaints Question Second Are there any Complaints None

Method of the Children Question Third Is there a written report of the number and state of Sunday Schools, and of the Pastoral instruction

bound of the Circuit under the control of the M. E. C. South

Question Fourth Are there any recommendations

None

Renewal Question Fifth Are there any applications for renewal of licenses? None

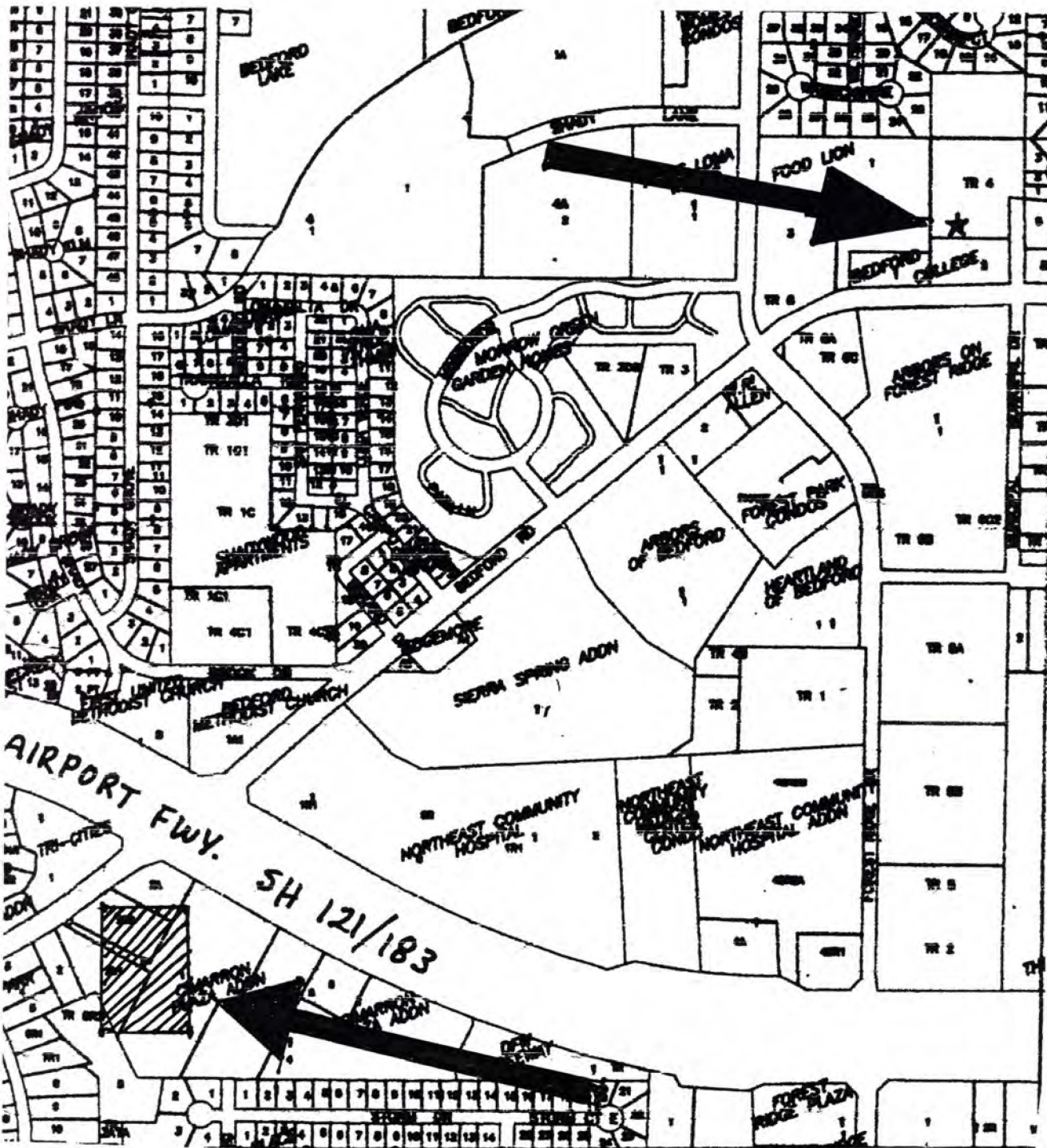
Question Sixth What is doing for the cause of missions Nothing

Question Seventh What is the General state of the Church - Received in the Church, Baptized Infants 1

Question Eighth, What amount has been raised the present quarter for the support of the Ministry, and how has it been applied

By amt from	Minter Chapel	\$ 55.00
" " "	Grapevine	38.75
" " "	Willow Springs & Birdville	75.25
" " "	Sansoms	8.60
		\$ 177.60

Applied to J. M. Binkley \$ 15.00
 J. J. Cobb " 118.25



Appendix C: Detail from a modern street map (1995) of Bedford, Tarrant County, Texas. The Sansom's Chapel Methodist Church property is the hatched area in the lower left, indicated by the arrow. It is now completely covered with retail space and parking lots. The proposed marker site is .8 mile to the northeast on city property, at the place marked by the small star and indicated by the upper arrow. The marker will be placed on the Old Bedford School property at 2400 School Lane, Bedford, Texas 76021. Photographs of both the church property as it now appears and the proposed marker site accompany this application.



Appendix D: The Sansom's Chapel Methodist Church site as it appears today is shown in the two photos at left, facing east (upper) and facing south (lower). We do not deem it a proper setting for a Texas historical marker. The closest and most appropriate location is on the Old Bedford School property, .8 mile to the northeast. The property is owned by the City of Bedford, is already dedicated to historic preservation, and contains many century+ old native post oaks... beside one of which we would place the marker. The marker would be placed so that the reader would be facing the Sansom's church site. The photograph above was taken on that property facing north toward the school building. The school building itself is already on the National Register and has a Texas Historical Marker of its own. These photographs were taken August 1, 2000.

