

MERVIN, J. J.

INTERVIEW.

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Lillian M. Gassaway, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History
June 16, 1937

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Early Church History of
Methodist Episcopal Church South
as given in an interview by Rev.
J. J. Methvin, 709 West Alabama,
Anadarko, Oklahoma.

J. J. Methvin was born December 17, 1846 at
Jeffersonville, Georgia. He came to Anadarko in
1887 as missionary to the Wild Tribes.

Father-John Methvin, born in Georgia in 1811;
died 1879. Mother-Mourning Clover, born in Georgia
in 1816; died in 1851.

I was sent to Anadarko, in 1887, by the Indian
Mission conference, as missionary among the Wild
Tribes. The Church was organized in connection with
the Mission School, and was built in 1889 at the
Kiowa Indian Agency. Services were held in this
church until the opening of the country, in 1901.
After this time services were held in the Mission
Chapel until a church could be built.

A temporary grant was obtained from the Mission
Board and a contract was made to the effect that if
we could get a title to the piece of ground, the church
would give us a deed. The new church was built on what
is now, 216 West Central Boulevard. Then it was a
field belonging to the Mission School. It was just
across the south boundary line. With this agreement

I was allowed twelve hundred dollars for building purposes. The church stood on this ground about seven years, from 1901 to 1908.

In 1908 the authorities considered that it would be better to move the church over into the town. So a location was chosen on what was A Street, now called Oklahoma, just south of where the Post Office now stands. It was moved here in 1908. Here it carried on for ten years when the authorities thought it advisable to retire in favor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the members uniting with that church.

I was pastor of this church for a short while after the church was built, and again a few years later. Rev. Trevette was pastor when the church retired.