



This seems to be St. John's Church. So where is Jones Chapel?



Damage inside St. John's Church is extensive.

Historic Rural Churches researcher is on the hunt for Jones Chapel info

By RICHARD MILLMAN

I need your help!

My name is Richard Hillman. I live in Evans, Georgia, and am retired. One of my enjoyments is volunteering with Historic Rural Churches of Georgia. We take pictures and search out the history of country churches. They are then put on a website to preserve their history. We all take pleasure in capturing this part of local history for future generations. Please take a moment and go to hrcga.org to see these "rural jewels."

I also love a good mystery and find great enjoyment in solving them. Won't you please join me in a search for the mystery of the history of Jones Chapel Road in Wilkes County.

The road begins as paved, but turns to a dirt passageway among planted pines and woods in the area of the Danburg community. A typical quiet, southern country dirt road until you come to a sharp 90 degree curve by the Fishing Creek Wildlife Management Area. Just off the road is an old building that has fallen into neglect and disrepair.

Since this is Jones Chapel Road and this appears to be a church, typical logic would say this is indeed Jones Chapel.

Much of the rear of the roof is missing and every rain causes more damage to the piano and pews inside. Mother Nature is slowly and systematically taking away this relic of our past.

Here the mystery begins. It is not Jones Chapel, but St. John's church. So, where is Jones Chapel?

That is why I am writing this article, to solve that mystery.

I need the help of local citizens who know the history of this road.

I spoke with an 87-year-old local man who began attending St. John's church in the 1940s. He was one of the last two members and they closed the church. He also attended the Jones Chapel school that sat adjacent to the church. The school building is no longer standing. The man did not know of a Jones Chapel in the area. There are graves in the overgrown cemetery, but no history can be found on the folks buried there.

That leads to the question. Where did the road get its name? More mystery.

Here are a couple of hypothetical suppositions:

The current building may have been originally Jones Chapel and later became St. John's.

One story is that there was a Jones Chapel at another location on the road. That building is long gone, but a cemetery supposedly remains. The location of that cemetery is another piece of the mystery.

Although these suppositions could make sense, we would truly like to know the facts about this building and the name of the road.

Please send any information, contacts, old pictures, or any other facts to me at hillman1978@hotmail.com.

You may also call me at 706-833-8964.

I look forward to writing another article soon with the answers to "The Mystery of Jones Chapel Road."