

# Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory

ID: 152

Name: Wesley Grove United Methodist Church Cemetery

Alternate name:

Address: 23640 Woodfield Rd.

Town: Woodfield

ADC Map Page 10 Grid G-3

### Type

Religious \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family \_\_\_\_\_  
 Private \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Association

Free black \_\_\_\_\_  
 Enslaved \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ethnic \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prehistoric \_\_\_\_\_

Setting  Rural  Urban  Suburban  Forested  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Condition  Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor

Negative Impacts (vandalism, dumping, neglect, encroachment, etc) \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate no. of burials 212 Date range of burials 1880 - present

Description (markers, materials, arrangement, landscaping, fence, paths and roads, etc.)

New vinyl fence / chain link. No trees or landscaping.  
No paths or road - completely enclosed  
Active church. ~~Building~~ next to cemetery  
Very well-kept. Even rows of markers.

Surveyor(s) Janet D. Manuel Survey date Apr 17, 2004

Photographer Anne B. Date 4/17/04 Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

Current owner \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Phone No. 240-683-1065

Historic Status  Locational Atlas ID \_\_\_\_\_  National Register  
 Master Plan ID \_\_\_\_\_  Other \_\_\_\_\_

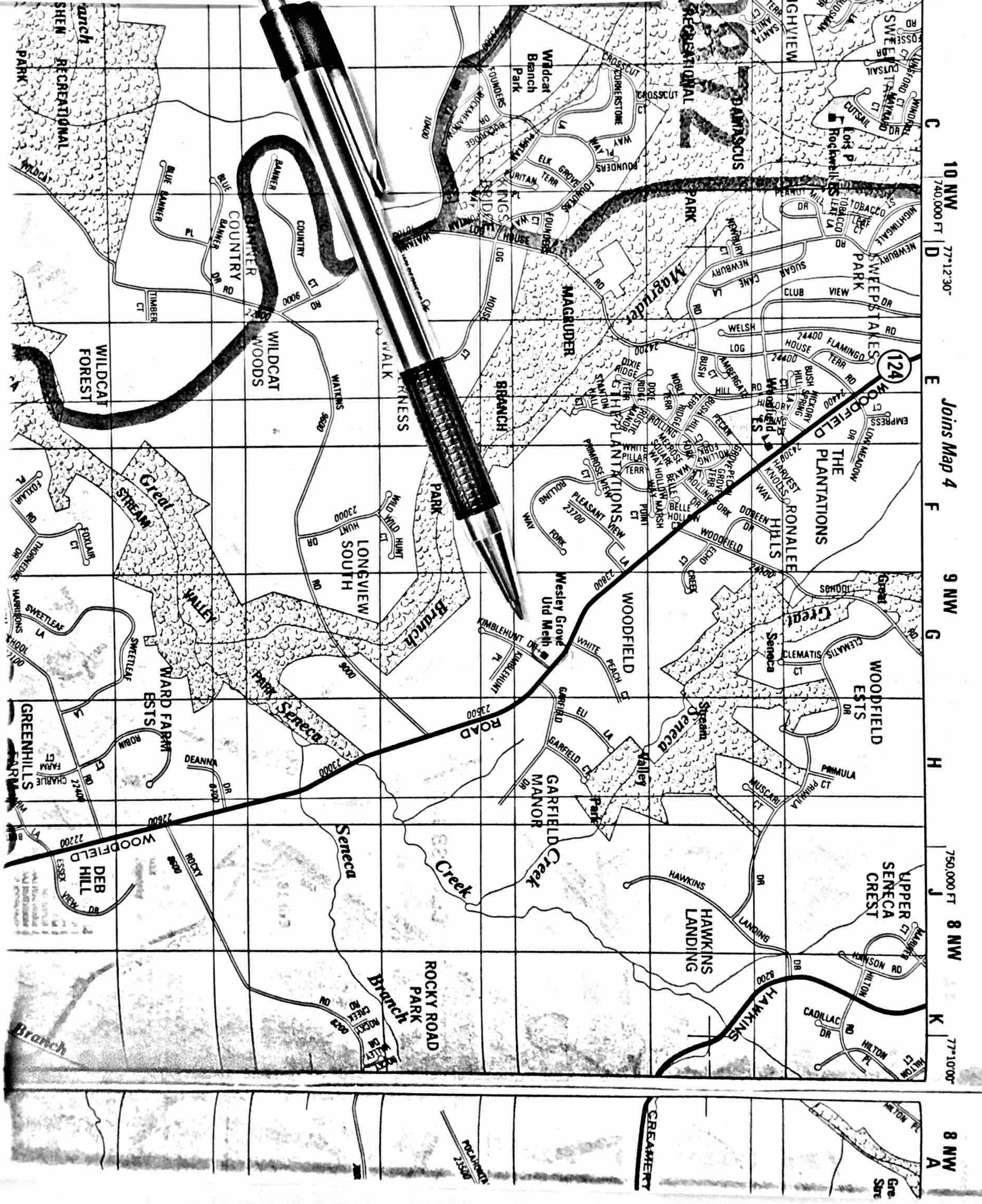
UTM 152

Additional sources of information:

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WOODFIELD

**WESLEY GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CEMETERY AT WOODFIELD (WESLEY GROVE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH CEMETERY)**

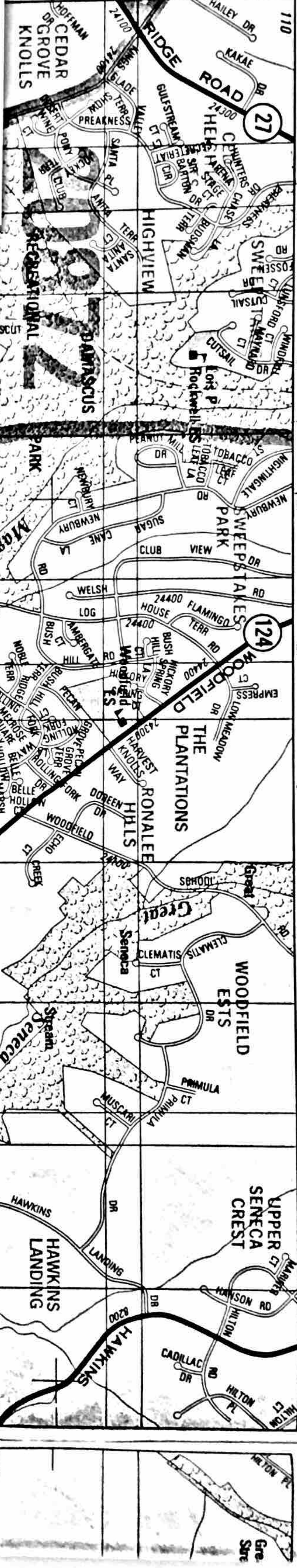
Directions: Route 124 South, Woodfield Road, church and cemetery on right in Woodfield. [A.D.C. Map: Montgomery, page 6, grid coordinates D-10.] Condition of cemetery: Well kept. Active cemetery. Earliest known death: 1880. Most recent death: Present. Veterans interred: WWII and other wars vets. In 1936, 3 record volumes, 1888-1936, at Laytonsville parsonage. Date transcribed: 1977. Location of transcribed records: Montgomery County Historical Society Library, 42 West Middle Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Contents: Over 158 marked graves, church established 1888.



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23640 WOODFIELD ROAD  
WOODFIELD

MAP 10  
234 NW  
15 00

11 NW  
10 NW 740,000 FT  
77°12'30"  
124 WOODFIELD  
750,000 FT  
8 NW  
77°10'00"



P 6 D 10

WESLEY GROVE  
WOODFIELD  
(OK)

MARYLAND CEMETERY DIRECTORY HEADINGS

County: *Montgomery*

Type of Cemetery:

Name of Cemetery: *Wesley Grove United Meth*

Location of Cemetery: <sup>23640</sup>~~23600 block~~ of Woodfield Rd. (124), Woodfield, Md

Contact: *253-2894*

Condition/Description of Cemetery: *well cared for*

Number of Graves: *Marked: Approx 135 (212)*

Oldest Grave Marker: *1880 ?* 1899

Span of Usage:

Inscriptions Transcribed: *yes*

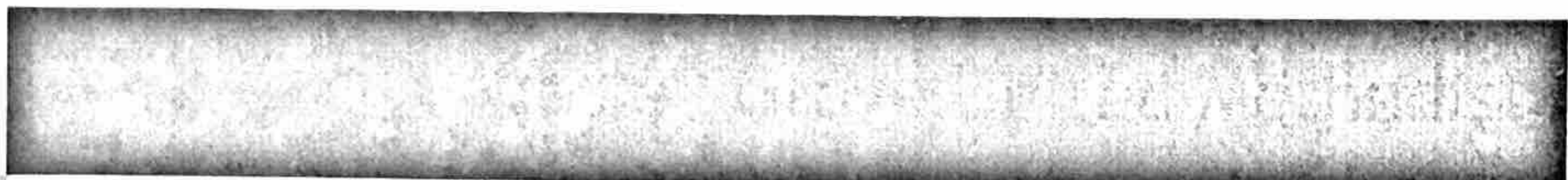
Date Transcribed: *Mar 1977 by Janet Manuel and Gretchen Mennies*

Transcribed Records Located: *Mont. Co. Hist. Soc; Janet Manuel*

Transcribed Records Published:

Comments:

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## We are 125 years old. Read all about our hi

Charles and John Wesley attended Oxford University the same year the city of Baltimore was founded. They joined a small group of students called, by fellow students, "Bible Bigots". They rebelled against Church of England practices. The Wesleys had a special interest in teaching to outcasts, paupers, prisoners, all manner of "hopeless" people. In 1736 the Wesley brothers sailed to Georgia. Impressed with the humble piety of Moravians, the Wesley brothers linked the Methodist group in England to a Moravian congregation. Methodism was born from the beginning lay movement. The Methodist church grew phenomenally even from inception and by 2000 had 10 million members in the United States. The Wesleys used a circuit rider system of preaching beginning in 1739.

By 1783, ancestors of our present day church members had settled in the area. Wesley Grove Methodist Church, a hundred years later, was part of the circuit system, initially on a circuit of 10 churches, then 5 churches, and finally 3 churches. Methodists became the majority religion in Maryland by the early 1800's, and the denomination began splitting into various groups, then split over slavery.

In 1872, only three years after the Methodist Church allowed laymen to attend Annual Conference, Wesley Grove began as an open air Sunday School class in a grove of chestnuts. Those chestnuts vanished, replaced by a row of homes along Route 124, several of them homes of Wesley Grove members. The Sunday School Society of Chestnut Grove—the origin of today's church—was founded by C.J. Burdette, Charles W. Browning, Singleton L. King and F.B. Day. In 1947, the still active Wesley Grove Sunday School began giving pins for attendance. A current member of the Wesley Grove congregation, Elizabeth Burdette, received a 25-year pin. Wesley Grove incorporated as Wesley Grove Methodist Episcopal Church in 1910, and, when the southern and northern branches of the churches reunited in 1939, changed its name to Wesley Grove Methodist Church. In 1969, Wesley Grove United Brethren united with the Methodists, Wesley Grove became Wesley Grove Methodist Church.

Farmers founded the Montgomery County Agricultural Society and a county fair to exhibit livestock and show farm machinery. Wesley Grove member Jim Kemp remembers his father's crop of worm weed, a plant sold for medicinal purposes. Harrison King, a Wesley Grove Methodist Church member, helped establish the Montgomery County fairground with standing buildings in Gaithersburg, where Wesley Grove members became known first for running a food booth with dogs and hamburgers, and later for managing the fair dining room, producing breakfasts, lunches and dinners. As many as 100 members and friends of Wesley Grove worked the fair each day. Wesley Grove church members taught youngsters how to pat oysters, fry chicken, shuck corn, and peel new potatoes.

In 1880, Singleton L. King donated land across from the open air Sunday School to build Wesley Grove Methodist Church. That year, the church had 78 Sunday School members. The Wesley Grove parsonage was in Laytonsville until the church built its own in 1959. With a committee spearheaded by Singleton L. King, David Ward, James Burdette, Eli G. Ward, John Burdette, and J. Osca, a new Wesley Grove Church was erected on the old site in 1910. The building had two rooms: a sanctuary and, behind it, the Sunday School. The beautiful stained glass windows were donated by various groups and individuals in the church. Men of the church built this structure.

In 1883, Thomas G. Woodfield bought an acre of land very close to the present day church. Woodfield Store supplied products as diverse as shoes, gingham and farm needs. Woodfield was the name of the community in which Wesley Grove United Methodist Church was built. Thomas Woodfield was first postmaster of Woodfield. The James B. Hawkins family, later owners, supplied to the community for 75 years. They sold the store to the D. Lab. Ketchum. Descendants

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supplies to the community for 75 years. They sold the store to the Ralph Ketchum's. Besce all three families belong today to the Wesley Grove church.

The Ladies Aid Society, now United Methodist Women, elected its original officers: Mrs. J. Mrs. Nettie Woodfield, Hattie King, and Gertrude Darby. In 1909, the group raised \$550 to the building where our present Sunday School meets; they also bought a pump organ for \$1 dinners and calendars.

Today our church has grown. The original Sunday School room has become part of the exp sanctuary. Our Education Building has been expanded. Wesley Grove UMC is a church with traditions and modern goals. We have church members related to the original members as people who originated far from Woodfield. We have programs for people of various ages w different interests. We are a church who likes to eat together, serving great meals to the to ourselves. Come visit our friendly church community.

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