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**Tishomingo County Archives & History Museum**  
**203 East Quitman Street**  
**Iuka, MS 38852**  
**Phone: 662-423-3500**  
**E-mail: [tcarchives@nadata.net](mailto:tcarchives@nadata.net)**  
**URL: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mstchgs/>**

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**Rocky Springs Protestant Methodist Church**, 407 County Road 241, Iuka, Mississippi 38852;  
Directions: Just off Highway 25 on Coleman Park Road

The Rocky Springs Methodist Church was founded in 1851. Alex Pickings and Mr. McGee were two of the founders. The church was built on Mr. Pickings' place near a large bubbling rocky spring from which the church got its name—Rocky Springs Protestant Methodist Church. This land is now owned by R. B. Dean.

The first church was built from logs hewed by hand, and the church was heated by an open fireplace. This building was also used for a school. The first pastor was Rev. Thacker. Alex Pickings, Mr. McGee, and Misses Nancy and Margaret Pickings were Sunday School teachers. Mrs. Sally Smith and Mr. Barr also served as church officials. Will Dean was responsible for cutting the wood and keeping the fire lit in the fireplace. Eventually, the community out grew the building, and church members decided to move the church nearer the center of the community.

The church was moved in 1881 to a ridge on the Ramsey place about ½ mile from where the church is now located. This land is now owned by Lawrence Cutshall. This was also a log structure which was also used for school. Rev. Bill Lemmon was serving as pastor at that time. The community continued to grow, and church members wanted a larger and better building; therefore, the church was moved to its present location. Built in 1904, this newer structure was built from planks and heated with a pot-bellied stove. Rev. Norman served as pastor, and Joe Cutshall was the Sunday School Superintendent. Mr. Cutshall served as Superintendent until his death. At that time, Will Cutshall was elected Superintendent, and he rendered outstanding Christian service for almost 40 years. Alfred Asborn served as steward at this same time. Ministers who served church as pastor during this time were Rev. Carson; Rev. Bazle, Sr.; Rev. Sweaney; Rev. White; Rev. Bazle, Jr.; Rev. Ivy; and Rev. Sharp.

The annual revival meeting was held in a brush arbor every summer. These brush arbors were built from poles, slab, and brush for the top. The pulpit was built about four feet high out of slabs. The ground under the brush arbor was covered with sawdust. At night the aisles would be filled with children sleeping on pallets. There would be shouting, testifying, singing, preaching, and praying. Many of the prayers of these saints are still being answered today.

Rev. Timmons was pastor for a while, and then Rev. Alexander was pastor in 1936. Mrs. Altha Wingo, a member of Snowdown Church, helped to organize the first WSCS. The president was Mrs. Victora Dean, and the vice-president Mrs. Othie Cutshall. The church continued to grow, and its building was in need of repair. While Rev. Hammer Bennett was pastor, it was decided to build a new brick church. The brick building was built in 1943. Rev. Whitner was the first pastor of the new church. In 1945, the first children's day program was held. Rev. C. L. Ivy returned as pastor. Rev. B. F. Bullard and Rev. J. H. Holder served in the new church. While Rev. Ivy was serving the church, the Conference sent a deaconess, Miss Cora Lee Glenn, to work with the rural churches. The young folks gave their first Christmas Pageant. They were also asked to present it at the Campground and Salem churches. This was done under the leadership of Rev. Ivy and Miss Glenn. Miss Glenn began at once to train leadership.

Soon the church saw its need for more room. At that time all the classes were taught in the church sanctuary. Rev. Garoland Knott came as pastor in 1952. The Methodist Youth Fellowship was organized, and the church had its first Vacation Bible School. Lumber was cut for Sunday school rooms. The foundation lumber was cut from a big white oak tree that grew on the church ground. People donated money, which was placed into a building fund; much of the work was done on Saturday. The church had a sorghum crop, and the money raised from the crop was placed in the fund. Later, the church had a cotton crop known as the Lord's Acre Project. This was one of the church's greatest blessings.

The Woman's Society was re-organized January 21, 1951, under the leadership of Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Holder. Mrs. Leslie Moser, member of the Iuka Methodist Church, helped organize the group.

While Rev. Knott was pastor, the church had a wonderful experience. A three-week tent revival with Dr. Thomas Carruth was held, and many of young people accepted Christ. Rev. Knott served the church for five years. Miss Glenn served as deaconess for about seven years.

Rev. Sale Lilly followed Rev. Knott. During his stay, the parsonage was built. The church has had a prayer meeting service for years. Rev. W T. Dexter was called into the ministry while Rev. Lilly was pastor. Rev. Joe Carpenter served as pastor for about one year. Rev. Jimmy Grishman served for two years. The work of the church continued to grow. Rev. Charlie Benjamin came to the Circuit following Rev. Grishman. During this time, the church had a Lord's Acre Project. The pastor and members worked the cotton and gathered it. Five bales were made. New pews for the church were bought. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Dexter and Rev. and Mrs. W. T. Dexter and Stanley gave the first two.

A well was dug in 1964, and two new rest rooms were built. In 1965, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Walker served the church as the MYF counselors. John Carson served as Sunday School Superintendent. Everett Kirk and Luke Davis are two of the congregation's oldest members. Plans are being made to replace the gas heaters for electric heaters. Rev and Mrs. Benjamin are deeply appreciated by the people of this charge. They have worked faithfully with us for the past four years.

The church has good attendance, and prayer meeting is held each Wednesday night. Ten people came on profession of faith last summer. Children's Day and Homecoming each third Sunday in June is an enjoyable occasion.