

Endowment

Sarah Cochran Fund

Miss Sarah Cecilia "Sally" Cochran was the granddaughter of Dr. Matthew Stephenson, assayer for the gold mint in Dahlonega. He became famous for his speech in which he tried to convince the Dahlonega gold miners to remain in Lumpkin County rather than go west with "49ers."

At one time the family had been wealthy, but by Miss Sally's adulthood, they were poor. Her father died in 1907, her mother in 1921, and her brother left home and was never heard from again. It is supposed that he went west. As far as can be ascertained, Miss Sally never held a job, but she did own a tiny house about two blocks from town.

Through the years people helped feed her, by bringing her sewing, and tending to her physical and legal needs. Help came from church members as well as townspeople. Toward the end of life, church ladies (mostly) saw that she had food—one family even brought her breakfast daily and one non-member often sent in an ample noon meal.

One day in 1957, Miss Sally brought \$50 to the church pastor saying she wanted to be sure no one would have to pay for her burial expenses. That money earned interest of fifty cents the first year and became the start of a benevolence fund. The Women of the Church at that time contributed to it regularly and later the church included it in the budget.

Her will left her silverware and house to the church. The silverware could never be found, but the church rented the house for several years before selling it and investing the proceeds. Since then, because the principal has not been touched and contributions continue, Miss Sally's \$50 and her house funds have grown considerably, and during the past year have helped over 100 families in need.

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord...that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them. Revelation 14:14