

Why Is RINGGOLD GEORGIA So Popular For WEDDINGS?

Ringgold's history as a destination to get married throughout the region yielded the arrival of thousands of anxious couples looking to tie the knot.

Although many chose to have their lives bound together in a civil ceremony at the Catoosa County Courthouse, others after completing their blood tests and securing their license sought members of the local clergy from one of the nearby churches - Methodist, Baptist or Presbyterian - to join them in matrimonial bliss.



In one unusual instance, two famous celebrities who wed here at the Ringgold Methodist Church brought their preacher along with them.

Former Louisiana Governor Jimmie Davis (1899 -2000) is a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame who is credited with writing "You Are My Sunshine." The widower came to Ringgold in 1969 to marry his already famous second wife Anna Carter Gordon (1917-2004).

Anna was part of the world famous Chuck Wagon Gang that recorded for Columbia Records selling over 40 million records. Some of their most famous songs include "The Church in the Wildwood," "We Are Climbing," and "Echoes from The Burning Bush."

She was inducted into the Gospel and Southern Gospel halls of fame.

The late Dottie Rambo, who was part of the wedding party, fondly remembered their wedding at the

Ringgold's Wedding Walk

You are my
Sunshine



church. She served as the matron of honor while her former husband Buck Rambo officiated.

“After the ceremony, Jimmie told us hamburgers and cokes were on him and we ate at the little restaurant (John’s Coffee Shop) up the street,” she recalled in 2007.



While today this location is known as the Ringgold Wedding Chapel, it was originally the third building of the Ringgold United Methodist Church built in 1926.

In county history, two earlier Methodist buildings hosted many of the weddings of the community. The congregation founded the church in 1845 under the pastorate of the Rev. Drury Fowler, six years following the Cherokee removal and the “Trail of Tears.” Their first church was built on

Post Road (LaFayette Street) next to the Citizen’s Cemetery (formerly the Methodist Cemetery).

That church like many buildings in the community served as a Civil War hospital during 1862-1863.

