

How did Sandy Springs get its name?

In 1850 Sandy Springs was called Oak Grove. Roughly 75% of the founding members of the Sandy Springs United Methodist Church were pioneers from Sandy Springs, South Carolina, outside Anderson, who had relocated to Georgia. They traveled south and found the same sandy springs that they were familiar with in South Carolina.

Originally, they settled in the area of DeKalb County known as Cross Keys. Eventually enough settlers arrived in the general area of today's Sandy Springs that it became worthy of its own name, Oak Grove. The church, when it was established, had a campground associated with it that was named by church members as the Sandy Springs Campground. The campground and the annual revival meeting held there during the "laying by" time in August became immensely popular. People flocked from all over north Georgia to attend the revival, or camp meeting, bringing the population of the area to ten times or more of the residential population for the duration of the camp meeting. Most attendees coming from a distance were traveling to the "Sandy Springs Campground" more than the fledgling community of Oak Grove. The area became generally known as Sandy Springs.

Sometime after the end of the Civil War the community became known as Hammond, Georgia. There were several post offices that came and went over the decades. In 1929 a new post office opened for the community, and it was renamed Burdal for the Burdett and Dalrymple families. The citizens had lobbied for the name Sandy Springs, but it was denied by the US Post Office as "too long." Eventually the post office relented in 1941 and the name officially became Sandy Springs.