HISTORY

Of

MONTICELLO CHARGE

Hillsboro Church
New Hope Church
Prospect Church
Talmadge Church
John Hill in addition to his son Benjamin Harvey Hill had another son, William Pinckney Hill, who was in early youth a Methodist preacher. He was a good friend of George Foster Pierce, later Bishop Pierce. They did much preaching together at Camp Meetings. William Pinckney was a brilliant man. But for some reason he left the Methodist Ministry, and for a time the Methodist Church. He went to Texas where he became a prominent lawyer in East Texas. After George F. Pierce became Bishop he was in Texas again and met his old friend. Through their renewed friendship William Pinckney Hill came again into the active membership of the Methodist Church. The Bishop says:

"During my stay in this place (Marshall, Texas) I had the pleasure of meeting many Georgia acquaintances; among the rest my old friend, William Pinckney Hill. We were associated most kindly during boyhood and early youth. We had not seen each other for twenty-three years. An emigrant to Texas, while yet it was an infant republic, he had lived amidst its revolutions and changes; and by talent, professional industry, honor, integrity, and high-toned moral deportment, he had won a proud position among his fellow citizens, and made himself a name that any man might covet. The renewal of our intercourse, under all its circumstances and results, constitutes an epoch in our history, and will live in the memory of each while life endures. Perhaps in Heaven we may discuss it as one of the providences by which our Heavenly Father works out His Gracious Purposes. May God Bless him, his wife, his sons, and daughters.

Life and Times of George F. Pierce pp 256-57
A quotation from the book, "Life of Benjamin Harvey Hill," gives to the present generation the beginning of Hillsboro Methodist Church quote: "In the beginning of the century (1800) his father, whose name was John Hill, came from N.C. and settled in Jasper Co., Georgia. He was a farmer of very moderate means and of limited education. He believed in education, religion, and temperance. He gathered around his home a school-house, a church, and a temperance society. He was the trustee of the school, steward and class leader in the church, and president of the temperance society. He was an enterprising citizen. He believed in progress and was loved by his neighbors. The little town, that owed in great part its existence to his energy, was named for him, and to this day is called Hillsboro.

We are told that the first church building stood where the Hillsboro Baptist Church now stands. Near this building a cemetery was started, according to epitaph on a tomb, around 1852. In later years the church was moved across the road under the big oaks opposite the school building. During the evangelistic campaigns of Sam Jones many people from the countryside joined the church increasing the membership considerably. A new church was built on the site where the present school building now stands. Records show that the land was donated by the late E.S. Wynens and his sister Mrs. Frances McCollough in 1877.

As time passed on a movement was made by the ladies of the W.M.S. to build a more modern building with Sunday school rooms. Through the efforts of Mrs. J.T. Garland, with the help of all the ladies, land was purchased from H.W. Burton and thereon the present building was constructed. 1912

With the burdens of wars, and scars of depressions, what was once an enterprising little town hit the rocks. Young people drifted to other places for business and professional careers, and most of the older members passed on leaving what was once an outstanding church in the Methodist Conference with only twenty residential members."
John Hill came from North Carolina about 1800 and settled in Jasper County. Among his sons were Benjamin Harvey Hill, and William Pinckney Hill. The latter was a friend of George F. Foster Pierce, who was born in 1811. Licensed to preach in 1830 and preached his first sermon in Monticello, Ga., March 28, 1830.

He had as traveling associate a bright young man, the brother of Benjamin H. Hill who preached with him. They went to Camp Meetings, protracted meetings, and on the circuits, they excited immense sensation. (Life and Times of Geo. F. Pierce pp 57)

William Pinckney Hill was in early youth a Methodist Preacher and the good friend of George Foster Pierce (later Bishop Pierce). They did much preaching together at Camp Meetings. William Pinckney was a brilliant man, but migrated to Texas, and gave up the Methodist Ministry, and for a time the church. He studied law and became a prominent lawyer in East Texas. After George F. Pierce became bishop he went to Texas where the old friendship was renewed and William Pinckney Hill came again under the guidance and membership of the Methodist Church. The Bishop says:

"During my stay in this place (Marshall, Texas) I had the pleasure of meeting many Georgia acquaintances; among the rest my old friend William Pinckney Hill. We were associated most kindly during boyhood and early youth. We had not seen each other for twenty-three years. An emigrant to Texas, while yet it was an infant republic, he had lived amidst its revolutions and changes; and by talent, professional industry, integrity, and high-toned moral deportment, he had won a proud position among his fellow citizens, and made himself a name that any man might covet.

The renewal of our intercourse, under all its circumstances and results, constitutes an epoch in our history, and will live in the memory of each while life endures. Perhaps in heaven we may discuss it as one of the Providences by which Our Heavenly Father works out His Gracious Purposes. May God Bless Him, his wife, his sons, and daughters."

Life and Times of Geo. F. Pierce pp 256-57
Hillsboro with Shady Dale

1943  H.H. Jones  A. Earnest
1944  "  "
1945  C.L. Middlebrooks Sr  "
1946  "  "
1947  "  "
1948  E.L. Middlebrooks  A. Earnest
1949  C.L. Middlebrooks  A. Earnest
1950  E.G. Mackay Monticello Ct. C.H. Dunn
1951  "  "
1952  "  Robert C. Gorday
1953  "  "
1954  "  "
1955  "  Charles Pigget
1956  J.W. Chidsey  "
1957  "  William L. Knecht
1958  "  W.J. Roberts
1959  Delma L. Hagood  M.M. McNeill
1960  "  Larry McIntosh
1961  "  Herbert A. Summers Jr
1962  Griffin District
     J.C. Callaway  "
1963  "  O.L. Vickery
1964  James M. Moore  "
A quotation from the "Life of Benjamin Harvey Hill" says: In the beginning of the century (1800) John Hill came from North Carolina, and settled in Jasper County, Georgia. He was a farmer of very moderate means and limited education. He believed in education, religion, and temperance. He was a trustee of the school, a steward and class leader in the church, and president of the Temperance Society. He was an enterprising citizen. He believed in progress, and was loved by his neighbors. The little town, that owed in great part its existence to his energy was named for him. ... The first services were, doubtless in homes of bush arbors, Gibson Ezell tells of the first deed dated 1818 of a church lot. This was probably the first church.

Another church seems to have been built on the site of the Baptist church about 1852. The record does not show what caused this church to be replaced.

A third church was built on land donated by E. S. Wynens and his sister Mrs. Frances McCullough in 1877. The church constructed in 1883-84. This building stood on the lot of present Ben Hill School.

The present church was built in 1912-13 on land purchased from H. W. Burton.

Till 1804 actual Western boundary of Georgia was the Oconee River, though the charter called for the boundary of the Mississippi River. In 1802 a compromise had been reached in which Georgia agreed to relinquish her claim to Alabama and Mississippi on condition the US move all the Indians out of the state as quickly as it could be done peaceably and on reasonable terms.

So in 1804 the cession of land Oconee to Ocmulgee was reached. The settlers rushed in. Monticello began in 1807. Seemingly Hillsboro was already named. Georgia was then a part of the South Carolina Conference, 1786 - 1830. The new territory was divided in large circuits Alcovad, Oconee, Ocmulgee Cts. and the District was the Apalachee, then Oconee. In 1811 the Cedar Creek Circuit was formed taking all Jasper, Jones, Baldwin and part of Putnam Counties. The preacher traveled it once per month, preaching every day except Mondays. William Arnold was pastor 1823-24. In 1829 Monticello was taken from Cedar Creek Ct. and formed with Madison tow half stations. And Eatonton and Clinton were joined into half stations.

By 1830 Georgia was strong enough to form the Georgia Conference 1830-66. 1830 George Foster Pierce and William Pinney Hill preached of the Cedar Creek Ct. In 1831 Thomas Mabry and Caleb Key were pastors, and held the revival at Hillsboro in which 60-70 were added to the Church. (This revival was unusual because most were held by groupings in Campmeetings.

Not till 1830 were trains or steamboats accessible to Georgia. Macon was laid out in 1825 (They said it was too close to Clinton to Grow.) A steam boat reached Macon in 1829. Train reached Macon in 1843. Branch was built to Milledgeville and Eatonton around 1850. Road thru Hillsboro not built till around 1880-90.

In 1857 Cedar Creek Ct. dissolved and formed the Jones County Ct. with James B. Payne pastor. 2) The Monticello Ct. which it has continued to be,
except for a short time when it became the Shady Dale Ct. and Rev. Augustus Earnest was pastor of Hillsboro.

The later decade of Georgia Conference the Monticello Ct. was in the Macon District. J.W. Glenn and J.E. Evans were presiding elders. J.D. McGhee was an elder among ex-pastors. M.F. Malsby and James E. Neese among pastors.

In 1866 the Georgia Conference divided and Monticello Ct. became a part of the Atlanta District Atticus G.H. Haygood P.E. and F.B. Davies pastor. 1878 Atlanta District W.F. Cook P.E. and J.A. Rosser Pastor.

In 1896 the Oxford District was formed with Walker Lewis P.E. and J.O.A. Grogan pastor.

1902 J.W. Heidt P.E. L.A. McLaughlin " 1898 New Bern S. B. Jones
1903 " W.E. Venable " 1879 Griffin District (Hillsboro W.F. Cook Geo. W. Hardaway
1904 C.E. Dowman P.E. " 1880 W.A. Parks - W.A. Rogers
1906 J.H. Farr " 1882 Oxford Dist. J.D. Gray " C.V. Weathers"
1907 " " 1883 With Monticello O.A. Thrower P.E.
1908 " " 1884 "
1909 " " 1885 G.W. Yarbrough "
1910 J.W. Quillian O.P. McDermont 1886 "
1911 G.H. Turner " 1887 " O.C. Simmons
1912 " W.T. Gantt " 1888 "
1913 " " 1889 "
1914 B.F. Frazier T.W. Ellis 1890 R.J. Bingham J.H. Daniel (Hillsboro
1915 " W.M. Twiggs " 1891 H.M. Newton (Ocmulgee
1916 " W.M. Twiggs " 1892 W.D. Anderson West Putnam
1917 " " W.D. Dunbar "
1893 " Monticello Ct. C.M. Vender
1918 " 1894 Walker Lewis Hillsboro W.F. Colley
1919 " Monticello Ct. J.O.A. Grogan
1920 " 1895 "
1921 " C.G. White "
1922 W.G. Crawley " 1896 "
1923 " J.T. Burdette " 1897 J.S. Bryan T.R. Kendall Jr
1924 " " 1898 "
1925 " " 1899 W.R. Foote F.R. Seaborn P.C.
1926 E.F. Dempsey "
1927 "
1928 "
1929 " V.A. Roark "
1930 Nath Thompson A.B. King "
1931 Nath Thompson A.B. King "
1932 R.Z. Tyler "
1933 Wallace Rogers J.V. Hawks "
1934 "
1935 "
1936 "
1937 T.M. Sullivan "
1938 "
1939 "
1940 "
1941 H.R. Jones "
1942 " A.E. Earnest (Shady Dale)