"The little brown church in the wildwood" could not have been dearer to its members than is the little white church on the hill four miles east of Milledgeville.

Montpelier Methodist Church is probably the oldest structure of its kind in this section. It was built some years prior to 1843 for at that time Benjamin Hall deeded the property on which it stands to "Montpelier Meeting House". "Pilgrim's Mount" is the meaning of the church's name and it has acted as a pilgrim calling pioneers to worship for over a century.

The church seats are hard, straight-backed, narrow pews, but over 400 men and women once gathered on Sundays to hear the message of their preacher. No carpets, no cushions, no steam heat have modernized the one-room building. The old organ is broken and a copper lamp over seventy-five years old repose in a corner, no longer useful except as a haven for spiders.

The small meeting house at one time had the largest membership in this community. When Samuel E. Whitaker presented a Bible to the congregation in 1872, the church was thriving and vigorous. The Bible now contains the names of all the preachers who have served from 1866, when J. V. Morris led the group of worshippers, up to the present.

Old members of Montpelier remember the "good old days" when men sat in the left pews and women occupied the right section. Sometimes the children would carry a quilt and a large supply of tea cakes to church. They slept and ate alternately during the sermon which lasted from an hour to an hour and a half.
In ante-bellum days, the negroes also came to church and sat in wide-eyed wonder at the back of the building. At the same time, during Montpelier's early youth, services were held the last Saturday and Sunday in the month; eventually Saturday was discarded as a day of worship.

In the 1880's, people from miles around packed hearty lunches and started out for church with old Dobbin leading the best wagon. All the congregation came an hour before the sermon began in order to hear news of neighbors whom they had not seen since the meeting a month earlier. After the preacher had delivered his oration, the members streamed out into the oak grove, spread the baskets of fried chicken, cakes, pies, pickles, vegetables (no spinach), and salads and enjoyed the society of pious friends.

The old oak grove was uprooted by a storm some years ago and has not been replanted. Another associate of the historic structure was destroyed when the childhood home of Carl Vinson burned two years ago.

Montpelier had its day when it was the place of entertainment, the distributor of news, and the guide of youth and old age. Though it is still active, larger churches have come to supplement its work and the faded white meeting house has stepped into its place in history along with other ancient buildings in Baldwin County.

Old families of Milledgeville attended a reunion of the members in October, 1932. The Vinsons, Whitakers, Kilpatricks, Browns, Barnes, Echolges, Stembridges, Robinsons, Halls, Ennises, Morans, Smiths and many others were amply represented. At that time, it was hoped that an annual assembly might be possible to honor the aging Montpelier. No other home-coming has been held since then, but wherever her children may wander, the little white church on the hill promises to remain a fond memory as well as a historic one.