SKETCH
MOUNT PLEASANT CHURCH
NEWTON COUNTY GEORGIA

Mrs. Thomas Burge mentions in her "JOURNAL" on:

"March 13, 1852: Organized a church at Mt. Pleasant with which Mr. Burge and myself connected ourselves. Eight members only."

Besides Mr. & Mrs. Burge, I know for a certainty that two of the remaining charter members were Mr. & Mrs. Iverson Graves, parents of the late Mr. Henry L. Graves; elsewhere recorded are also the names of the remaining four.

Through these one hundred years the church has stood, years of war, poverty, and many vicissitudes, as a lighthouse in our midst. During the War Between the States it was burned by an incendiary and for some time we worshiped under a bush arbor. I have been told that we built a small church which went by the name of Bush Arbor Church which, when the present church was finished, was turned over to our negro brethren. Also, that the Bush Arbor church was farther up the road, near what is now the Shepherd place.

In an obituary Bishop Haygood said: "At this church in April, 1858, four days after I was licensed to exhort, I tried to preach my first sermon from Matthew V.-6, which text I have not attempted since."

Among many other noted men who have preached at this church were Bishops Payne and Candler, Capers, James Osgood Andrews, and George F. Pierce. We have not the manuscript at hand at present, but believe we can verify our belief that also, Dr. Ignatius A. Few, the first president of old Emory College and also Bishop Joseph S. Key also preached here, as well as Gen. Clement A. Evans, Dr. Bonnell, Lundy Harris, Dr. Means, the Revs. Walter Branham, Henry Branham, William J. Parks, Bingham, Sam Jones, Malsby, Thomas Betterton, Frank Eakes, Duval, K. Read and others, but after all the famous men mentioned, I am sure none were more loved than our very recent Brother Jack Nichols and Brother Jimmy Jones. It would require all our space to mention
all the fine preachers who have preached at this church or to begin to mention all the fine people who have made up our congregations. The Rev. Sam Jones above mentioned, was at one time pastor of the near-by Newborn church.

Soon after Mr. Henry L. Graves and following Mr. Iverson Graves, Mr. W.T. Patrick became superintendent of the Sunday School at this church and we now wish to pay grateful tribute to him for the forty or more years of loyal and faithful service he has given. His name remains on the register as superintendent, but since 1946, his health has not permitted him to attend regularly.

About 1921, the church was thoroughly repaired, all the work being done by its members, it being a joyous occasion as indicated by the following report by one of the members: "The people of Brick Store District will long remember the past week. Each day has been an experience to file away in the sacred annals of the past. Some day we will be saying one to another, 'Do you remember what wonderful weather we had the week we put the new roof on the Church twenty years ago?!' 'The wonderful dinners the women gave us—each day like a barbecue?' 'We hope to make our Church as beautiful as our dream of what it should be and we urgently invite all our friends of all denominations to unite with us as often as they will to worship and give thanks.'"

In 1950 the church was again restored and again the work was done by the members, the whole period being a joyful occasion and each day a glad home coming.

Dorothy Gray Bolton.
(Mrs. L.D. Bolton).