



PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



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HOPE HULL, AL 36043

VOLUME 7, Number 4

OCTOBER 1993

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Vice-president	Jack Hornady	265-5752
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	Lurline Hall	281-3399
	Catherine Sellers ...	271-0152
	George Mosley	264-7614

OCTOBER MEETING: October 17, 1993 2:30 P.M. PINTLALA BAPTIST CHURCH

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

According to a well-worn anecdote, many years ago a man was walking along a road in New England when he noticed certain memorial markers at specific intervals along the way. Because of his respect for the dead, the man paused at each marker, removed his hat and would often shed a tear. His stopping whenever he came to a marker made his journey arduous and tiresome. At the end of the day he encountered a friend who inquired about this peculiar exercise. "I'm showing my respect for the dead whenever I come to a memorial marker" was the explanation given. But the friend was forced to say, "these aren't memorial posts; these are mileposts. You've been weeping over progress!"

Such a story reminds us that there must be a balance between progress and preservation. Extremes must be avoided. To live in Pintlala and surrounding areas in southwest Montgomery County is a great privilege. However, appreciation for such a privilege is shallow without an appreciation for our heritage.

Don't miss the october meeting of the PHA. It will be different, fun, and stimulating. Hats off to Alice Carter for excellent planning.

Gary Burton

OCTOBER HISTORICAL PROGRAM:

Our October program will be a field trip to several historically significant spots in the Pintlala community. If this trip works out well and you like this type of program, we will plan other trips to other areas. PHA members will provide the narrative at each stop. I know that many of us have lived here for years and feel that we know everything about our community - but come join us and you may learn something new or interesting about home! This is a wonderful opportunity for younger members of the community or newcomers to the area to hear of our community's rich heritage. (Continued on next page)

TOUR (Con't)

Spots included on Tour One are the Davis Henry home site, Bethel Cemetery, Shackelford Cemetery, Bonham's Cross Roads, site of Grange Hall, and Pintlala School. Jamie Henry, Gary Burton, George Mosley and Ethel Todd will be our tour guides.

Suggestions for a comfortable and safe tour:

1. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing
2. Spray ankles with "Off"
3. If you have a small, light-weight camp stool that folds, you might bring it if you have problems standing.

We will convene at Pintlala Baptist Church, have a brief business meeting, get van assignments and hit the road!

See you October 17th. Please be on time as we need to move quickly through our meeting.

Alice Carter

PINTLALA SCHOOL MARKER

The fund drive for the purchase and placing of the historical marker for Pintlala School is moving along slowly but steadily. An ad in the Advertiser and one in Bulletin Board have not resulted in an outpouring of funds. We are depending on mailing and word of mouth contacts, so we ask your help in spreading the word. Volunteers who will attempt to contact members of their class are needed. Several people have taken on the responsibility for their particular class but several classes are still not spoken for. See Charles Hall and take a class to contact by telephone or postcard.

CWH

HISTORICAL BOOK PRESENTED

Gary Burton has presented PHA with a copy of Dr. Priest's beautifully written and well documented book, History of Sampey Memorial Baptist Church. The book is chock full of history, not only of the church but of the Ramer community and Montgomery County. We are indebted to Gary for this interesting and factual book, a wonderful addition to our PHA collection. (Alan Davis' name is mentioned several times and others that you may recognize.) This book is available to be checked out.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ARTIST GAINS MORE FAME

Clydetta Fulmer, our own Montgomery County sculptor and artist, was chosen to contribute to the decorating of the newly renovated Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Montgomery. Once again she has made us proud of her accomplishments.

REQUESTS FOR RE-RUNS

The Newsletter staff has had several requests for re-runs of previous articles or items. Tell us what you would like to read again and we will print it.

MOUNT CARMEL CEMETERY FILES

Do you remember an old popular song that went something like this: "Time after time, I tell myself that I'm - So lucky to be loved by you" ??? That song comes to mind when viewing the computer labels furnished us by Mamie Sellers with invaluable information on almost every person buried in Mount Carmel cemetery. These self-stick labels have been placed on each 3X5 card in the file which was extracted from the listing of the Mount Carmel cemetery. This makes these cards even more valuable as they now contain genealogical information that will be of great help to anyone seeking data on family members buried at Mount Carmel.

In another instance, Mamie has furnished information to our newest member, Dr. Clydia Jones-Williams, who requested help with several branches of her family tree.

So, "Time after time" Mamie comes through just when we need her most.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER: Dr. Clydia Jones-Williams
 2118 West Shaw Street
 Tyler, Texas 75701

BOARD MEETING HELD

The Board of Pintlala Historical Association met on September 20th, 1993. President Gary Burton appointed a nominating committee: Kerry Brown, Frances McGuire, and Rene Barnett. They will report at the October meeting on nominees for Treasurer, and Places 3 and 4 on the Board.

A workshop was planned for Sunday afternoon, November 7th, at 2:30 at Pintlala Baptist Church to work on maps of cemeteries. On this committee are: Alan Davis, Jack Hornady, and Laurie Sanders. All who are interested or have knowledge to share are urged to attend.

Plans were discussed for the field trip for the October meeting.

IN MEMORIAM

Members of the Pintlala Historical Association share with the family of Florence Sellers Post their grief over her death on July 29, 1993. She was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Will Sellers of Fleta and lived most of her life in Montgomery. She was a member of PHA, UDC, Regent - Captain William Bibb Chapter DAR, First United Methodist Church, Capitol Colony of Mayflower Society, and the Stratford Library.

The Letter Edged in Black
by Rene Barnett

Once upon a time in the 1800's and early 1900's before WWI and before telephones and telegrams became commonplace, one was often notified of the death of a beloved family member by the arrival of the postman or messenger bearing a black-bordered envelope which held within a black-bordered letter or note relating the sad news.

Such a small letter with a 1/4 inch border in black was found tucked between the pages of an old family Bible, advising of a Mother's death. The year was 1887. The 3 x 5 inch black-bordered envelope, addressed to Mrs. Sharlott Hooks, Aberfoil, Ala.* was from her nephew, J. E. Brantley who was currently staying in Columbus, Ga. It carried news that his Mother had died of yellow fever in Tampa, Florida, on the 17th "instant", meaning the current month of November, and he was returning to Columbus from Florida.

The black-bordered note, exciting curiosity, apparently has faded from use in the 20th century. No one questioned had seen one. Officials at the Smithsonian Institute, however, identified the note as "Mourning Paper".

An article I once read written by a Maryland resident stated that this custom of delivering "death news" was more prevalent in the more formal atmosphere of the city but it also carried over into the rural small towns and far countrysides. It is thought these black-bordered letters or "Mourning Papers" originated in the South and that many a boat carried more than a few of them. Today, one may wonder at the time required to send such a message by mail.

"Mourning Etiquette," written in 1890 by Fowler Brothers, referred to "Memorial Cards" as being black-bordered announcements, sometimes sent to friends to relay news of a death.

Although I nor my parents ever received "a letter edged in black", I remember my grandmother telling me of getting the news of her brother's death in this manner. In my "flea-marketing and junkin" about the countryside, I have seen a few of these letters and envelopes and I have recently learned that Ethel Mae Todd has one (copy of which we have at the bottom of this article).

I do, however, very well remember a song I used to sing when I was young: "The Letter Edged in Black", as well as part of its melody. Perhaps some of you will know if I am recalling (with the help of my 80 year old sister-in-law) it correctly?

(Song)

The Letter Edged in Black

I was standing by my window yesterday morning
Without a thought of worry or of care
When I saw the postman coming up the pathway
With such a happy face and jolly air . . .
He rang the bell and whistled while he waited
And he said, "Good morning to you, Jack",
But little knew the sorrow that he brought me
As he handed me the letter edged in black.
With trembling hands I took the letter from him
And broke the seal and this is what it said,
"Come home, my boy; your poor old father wants you,
Come home, my boy; your dear old mother's dead.
The last words your mother ever uttered
Was tell my boy I want him to come back.
My eyes are blurred and my heart is breaking
As I'm writing you this letter edged in black.
Those angry words, I wished I'd never spoke them;
You know I did not mean them, don't you Jack?
As the angels bear me witness I am asking,
As I'm writing you this letter edged in Black."

*I was unable to find the town of Aberfoil or Abberfoil in the book I have, "Dead Towns of Alabama" by W. Stuart Harris or from the Reference Department of the Montgomery Library.

Funeral Services

The friends and acquaintances of
MRS. R. P. HENDERSON

and family are notified that her Funeral Services will be held
at her late residence on East Street to-morrow
(Tuesday) afternoon at 4:00 o'clock

Tallapoosa, Alabama, August 26th, 1925

At left is an example of
the black edging that
appeared on letters and
notices bringing news of
death in days gone by.

MOUNT CARMEL CEMETERY MARKERS

Moses Sellers reports that all broken and fallen markers at Mount Carmel have been mended and placed upright and the proposed marker for James W. Chambers and his wife, Charity Matilda Bonham Chambers, who donated the land, is being prepared. Congratulations, Mount Carmel Cemetery Committee, for your thoughtfulness in maintaining this historic spot.

PHA MEMBER HIDES HER TALENTS

The following poem was written several years ago by Lurline Hall. Since it is about history in this area, it certainly belongs in this publication. (Varga's dolls were on calendars and depicted beautiful and exotic ladies). ETT

THE DEAD FOLKS ON THE WALL

With wagon full of household stuff, Renaldo came to call,
I want to ask a favor he told Viola Hall,
Since Beulah died I cannot live in that old house at all.
I'm moving to my daughter's home out by Columbus Mall.

I have so many household things I need to place till Fall,
To Fanny some, to Ruth a few, the rest I'll leave with y'all.
Can you accomodate my need? Someday it may befall
That I'll return and ask for them, to leave them casts a pall.

I have my family portraits, huge pictures, you'll recall,
My folks who settled this domain and they were pilgrims all.
They cannot stay in my old house where bad luck might befall,
And so with your permission, I'll hang them in your hall.

"Well, I will store your furniture, your dishes, bring them
all,
But I don't want those dead folks a-hanging on my wall.
They'll watch my every movement, disapproval like a shawl
Will hover over every move when they hang on my wall."

Kind Fannie got the furniture to keep until the Fall,
Dear Ruth got all the dishes, a rocking chair and doll,
Viola got the pictures though she'd refused them all,
And then Renaldo supervised their hanging on the wall.

But Vi was not to be outdone, she really had the gall,
She covered all those frowning mugs with some of Varga's dolls!
And now she lives quite happily, no looks her actions stall,
She buried every sneering smirk of dead folks on her wall.

When the escaped convict did not turn up anywhere in the neighborhood, the chief of police sent photos of him in six different poses to all of the police chiefs throughout America. A few weeks later he received a letter from a small town constable. "Got pictures of criminals," it read, "Have captured five of them and am closing in on the sixth." Copied

A list of the names of the white members
belonging to Bethesda Church Jan. 1st 1862

Charles Murrah
Rebecca Murrah
C. R. Waller
Emily M. Waller
U. Nable
Emily Nable
J. S. Fester
C. C. Fester
Martha Cone
Jessie Cone
Mary Cone
J. C. Butler
Albert Naffel
Sarah Naffel
Martha Nelson
John Fester
M. A. Wilburson
N. S. Fester
J. D. Fester
Mary Hayton
R. Fester
Margaret Sharp
Amanda Sharp
Amanda Jones

Margaret Barnes
Susan Holmes
Cassandra Masely
C. Winn
D. A. M^{rs}. Kenzie
Wm. B. Myrick
Robert Winn
A. J. Johns
Elizabeth Niblet
Adria Sharp
Mrs. Mathis
J. Robertson
D. H. M^{rs}. Kenzie
Mrs. Emeline Shephard
Miss Ellen Johns
Mrs. Mary Sharp
Mirham Sharp
Miss Margaret Austin
E. Dick
Mrs. Harriet Dick
Mrs. E. A. Robertson
Rev. John Robertson
Mrs. Louisa Kerr
Thomas Davis

Members 1-B

John Leonard
Barney Walters
Mrs. Sophia Leonard
Miss Martimer Leonard
Susan Myrick
Miss Mary Murrah
Mr. W. Dick
Mrs. Ann Holmes
O. R. Bell
Mrs. Mar. M. Sankey
Allen Bradley
Miss Eliza Bradley
Miss Elizabeth Bradley
Mrs. Susan Mc Lendon
Mrs. Agnes B. Holmes
Mrs. Ann Bell
Miss C. Walter
W. S. Barton
Mrs. S. L. Carney

May

Mary Niblet
Elizabeth Ringstaff
J. R. Mc Lendon
Susan Robertson
Wm. S. Foster
M. A. Foster
Charlotte Foster

Mary Massey
Thames Thompson
Miss Frances Zaster
John Niblet
Benjamin Bussey
James W. Sharp
Elizabeth Adams
Mrs. Elizabeth Jones
Miss Margaret Jones
Miss Susan Matthews
Sydney Matthews
Mrs. C. R. Massey
Miss Catherine Massey
Heddesia Farness

Listing courtesy of Catherine Sellers.

Other similar lists to follow as space permits.

Perhaps you will find a relative or two.

MIRIAM'S MEMORIES

The following are excerpts from a speech made by Miriam Lassiter Williams at Pintlala School. Leslie also spoke and we will be sharing portions of his speech at a later date due to lack of space at this time. Both are excellent talks, reminiscent of the Good Ole Days. Should you wish to read their speeches in full, a copy is available in PHA files in Pintlala Library.

OF TIME PAST ... AND TIME PASSING
In 1928, 65 years ago, I entered school here in the first grade on the side next to the lunchroom. First and second grade were in one room and third and fourth in the next room. Later it was so exciting to move over the hall to the fifth and sixth grade in the first two rooms next to the girls' bathroom. And it began to be more exciting when we moved to the end of the same hall for the seventh grade on the same side we had first grade in. And as the years went by, we attended the eighth and ninth grades in the last room near the portable rooms. And then we spent the ninth grade there where the principal's and the secretary's offices are now. We had Home Ec. in what was called the Old Grange Hall. That's where I learned to make cheese biscuits - one of my favorite breads. Grange Hall is now part of Old Alabama Town in Montgomery and still full of memories. I finished the ninth grade in 1937, 56 years ago, and this school has been educating students for 70 years. There were no backpacks boasting "Ninja Turtles" or "Beauty and the Beast" when I started to school. I had a little book satchel made out of a printed chicken feed sack - and we used to get some pretty ones. After the feed was emptied, we would rip the seams and rinse them to get all the feed out and wash them. Back then some dairy feed came in white sacks with writing on them and we would boil them in the old black washpot and get the colored letters out and rub them on the rubboard in our big tubs that we used to bathe in before we had running water and inside plumbing.

We call them 'the good old days' now. We had chores to do when we got home from school. I had to bring in stovewood, as we cooked on a woodburning stove, and Mama would have some good turnip greens and cornbread and sweet potatoes in the warming oven on top. On the side was a tank and that was how we heated our water. I had to milk cows and help in the dairy after I got home from school, first going in the pasture and driving the cows up. I love cow things. Last December when I went to the hospital, Leslie brought me home in my cow gown and cow socks. We kids had a good time working and had time to study. We had to get our lessons by a kerosene lamp and we made good grades. I was about 10 years old before we had electricity in our home.

Going back to my book satchel: I had a free pencil a salesman gave my daddy, as he ran a small general store. The pencil advertised Colonial bread. We had flour glue concocted in the kitchen and placed in a small bottle, a small box of Crayolas about 8 to a box and a Big Red Tablet. I still get excited when school starts each year. Children have so many more advantages now. I was through high school before we had a

a television., We had a homemade radio with speakers that my brother helped put together. I was in the ninth grade and remember people coming to my daddy's store to listen to the "Grand Ole Opry" and "Amos and Andy".

Styles in clothing have changed. In the winter I used to wear longhandles and long wool socks to school. My mother used the feed sacks to make my dresses and she would rip apart and remake my older sister's clothes for me. She made our underclothes out of flour sacks as we bought flour in 50 pound bags since Mama baked a lot of biscuits and made homemade bread and rolls. We raised our vegetables, chickens, beef and pork and we just bought the essentials of life. Daddy had a grist mill and made our meal for our cornbread. He also raised sugarcane and made syrup. Those biscuits and syrup were good. And our grits were ground out of the corn so we had grits for breakfast. With the dairy, we had plenty of fresh milk, buttermilk and butter to drink and eat.

Mama also made sheets, dish towels, pillowcases, and bath towels out of feed sacks. We didn't have much money but we were rich with the things that were recycled and made into useful things to use around the home. We were rich because we had many friends who helped their neighbors.

Pintlala did not have a nice lunchroom with warm lunches. We carried our lunch in a gallon syrup bucket. We had biscuits with sausage or biscuits with ham or biscuits with jelly, fig or pear preserves, or crackers and peanut butter. Sometimes we had fruit. Mama would bake cakes, teacakes, and gingerbread with pecans and raisins and some was usually left for our lunch. Mama did all her baking and I would help her some. I learned to like cooking. I didn't know what a lunchroom was until I went to Lanier. Because of a free study period and good grades, I was allowed to work in the lunchroom making sandwiches and putting out salads thus earning my lunch. With the money saved from lunches, Mama bought material and made me dresses that looked like store-bought. I babysat my sister and two younger brothers as she sewed and I was proud of my dresses.

We did not know what air-conditioners were. We had to open the windows and air-condition the rooms. When the wind got high, we had to grab our papers on our desk or they would get mixed up with the other students' papers. We did not know what a Papermate inkpen was. We had an ink bottle on our desk - and that is what we wrote with and it was so messy.

In the wintertime we had the radiator's steam heat and we kept warm as the janitor kept the furnace filled with plenty of wood. In our homes we used a fireplace and a big woodburning heater. Daddy got the house warm and would wake us up to get breakfast, dress and be ready to catch the schoolbus as he believed in people being ready when someone was carrying them places. That was a good lesson I learned from Daddy.

God bless you, we love you and we love Pintlala School for what it meant to me the 9 years I spent there. I am thankful for the parents, teachers and the principals that have preserved a good name for Pintlala.

MLW

SHACKELFORD CEMETERY LISTED

Thanks to Jim Shackelford we now have a listing on the Shackelford Cemetery. Incidentally, he is responsible for the cemetery being so beautifully clean and for the hand rails on the steep steps going up to it. The earliest marked grave seems to be an infant buried in 1834. The listing will be in our PHA files. There is a Brantley marker showing that the graves of James and Elizabeth Brantley are behind the Tandy Watts Shackelford house. I believe those graves are fenced and on property now owned by Lee Newell. They would be in front of where the Tan Shackelford house stood. A story about them is in the Brantley book in our files. Another interesting marker is on the grave of William Lafayette Allen (Wild Bill). He was a captain, Co. F., 2nd Alabama Cavalry, CSA, and died of pneumonia during the Battle of Atlanta. The story of how he kidnapped his bride is in Franklin M. Moseley's book. Is he the one for whom Allen Hill was named? ETT

Jim Shackelford is still working on his history of the 2nd Alabama Cavalry. If anyone has information on grave sites, members of families of those who served in this unit, etc., he would like to talk with them.

Jim also wants information on Eleazer and Anna Jeter who settled on the Federal Road in Pintlala around 1819. They were the parents of Annette Jeter Shackelford. Anna Jeter was the daughter of Robert Moseley and Penelope Talley.
Address: Mr. James T. Shackelford, 3465 Cedarbrook Circle,
Trussville, AL 35108 Phone: 205-655-3865

THANKS GO TO MARY HAWTHORNE

We deeply appreciate Mary Hawthorne's beautiful help in deciphering and typing copies of old newspapers and documents to go in our PHA files. Mary, if you aren't careful we will make a Southerner of you.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

Don't forget on-going projects. If you are involved, keep us posted as to your progress. If you have not chosen a project, here's a few suggestions: Churches, post offices, politics, farms, land grants, family histories, (genealogy), community clubhouses, stores, mills, schools, roads, cemeteries, early settlers, old buildings, Indians, and covered bridges. Send us facts, anecdotes and anything pertaining to the history of this area. Ideas and suggestions are welcome. Don't forget to contribute toward the Pintlala School historical marker and, if you haven't paid your dues for 1993, now is a good time to do that. Our quarterly meetings and programs, with Alice Carter doing the planning, get better and better. Learning about the history of this area is like reading a good novel, only ours is true.

IN THIS ISSUE:

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Pintlala Historical Association
c/o Pintlala Public Library
175 Federal Road
Hope Hull, AL 36043

\$5.00 registration fee + 8.00 annual dues.

Note: All members of a household are included.

Mr., Mr. and Mrs., Mrs., Ms. _____

Other household members: _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (office) _____

Interest Areas: _____

If you are interested in genealogy, please indicate family surnames _____

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c/o Pintlala Public Library
175 Federal Road
Hope Hull, AL 36043



Mrs. Carr Dunn
Rt. 1, Box 30A
Hope Hull, AL 36043