# PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

# **Next Meeting:**

October, 16th—2:30 p.m. Highway 31 & Hyundai Boulevard Hope Hull Church of Christ



c/o Pintlala Public Library 255 Federal Road Hope Hull, Alabama 36043

Volume XIX, Number 4

October 2005

# Pintlala School 1948 Graduating Class



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Place 2	Mary Ann Venable	. (334)288-3234
Place 3	Rene Barnett	. (334)288-0231
Place 4	Judy Burton	. (334)288-3585

(L to R) Margie Bozeman, Davis Henry, Voncile Pettus, Margaret Lamar, Margery Boyd, Alton Hall, Mary Otis Collier, John Allen Rowe, Donna Ann Walker, Freddie Mizzell, Nat Venable, Eloise Hall

All photographs in this issue, courtesy of Davis and Margery Henry, unless otherwise noted.

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### President's Message

Our October meeting will be different in style and content. Join us for the unveiling of historical markers at each end of Hyundai Boulevard. You may read elsewhere in this edition for details. The event is important because we intend to commemorate Teague Road, recalling prominent families and their businesses among which were nearby dairies. In bygone days dairy farming provided a colorful part of our heritage and culture. We must not forget those who have labored to enhance the quality of life for Montgomery County.

The event and unveiling are vitally important because they will marry tradition with the future. Jack Hornady and Alice Carter are to be thanked for pulling things together.

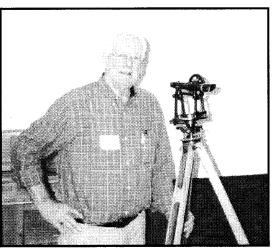
I have been pondering the importance of a knowledge of history.

Pintlala-related history is thrilling to me, but I have noticed that many simply do not care. Could there be a correlation between humility and historical interests? The preposterous idea that we have been preceded by generations of persons who were intelligent, hard-working, and high-principled is a sobering thought. It is humbling to acknowledge the broad expanse of history. To do so is to recognize a moral debt and a sense of stewardship of the legacies left to us. Failure to do so puts our culture at risk.

And I have been wondering about something else: the relationship between a knowledge of history and culture. Here's my theory. The more knowledgeable persons are of their own heritage, the more civilized, refined is their culture. The culture declines when one's heritage is unknown or unappreciated.

Show up for the October meeting. Join the PHA. Maybe we can do our part in transforming a declining culture.

Gary Burton, President



Pat Moseley, July's guest speaker, spoke on early surveying in Alabama. Photograph courtesy, Gary Burton.

#### **PHA October Program**

Pintlala Historical Association will meet on Sunday, October 16, 2005 at 2:30 pm. Our program will be the culmination of our on-going project--Teague Road Historical Markers. We will officially unveil the markers at this meeting. Please gather at the marker on the Highway 31 end of Hyundai Boulevard. The marker has been erected on the right side of the Boulevard as one enters from Highway 31, a short distance north of Joe Hall's driveway. Parking is available on the remaining portion of the old Teague Road and in the Hall driveway. The other marker, which is identical, is on the Highway 331 end of the Boulevard.

Immediately after the brief unveiling, there will be a reception and further remarks at the Hope Hull Church of Christ. In case of inclement weather, the program will be held at the Church. Please join us for this ceremony. We are thankful for the support of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce and the Montgomery County Commission in sponsoring our efforts to retain a portion of southwest Montgomery County history.

# Confederate Soldiers with Pintlala Connections

The PHA is collecting information on Confederate Soldiers buried in Pintlala and closely attached communities. Information about Union Soldiers buried in the area would also be helpful. Please send information regarding soldiers and burial sites to:

Gary Burton 13812 US Highway 31 Hope Hull, AL 36043 Garyburton1@charter.net

#### **Welcome New Members!**

Since April the Pintlala Historical Association has had eight new members to join. We appreciate their support and interest. New members are:

- Martha P. Armstrong
- ♦ Mr. and Mrs. John Holleman
- Cynthia Ann McCall
- ◆ Tim McQueen
- Justin Martindale
- Mr. and Mrs. Charles Russell
- Jack Ryals
- Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Ward

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### Identity of Federal Road Tavern-Keepers in Pintlala

We are indebted to Clanton Moseley for sharing the substance of a letter he received from Harry "Gil" L. Gillam, Jr. of Marshall, Texas in 1997. Gillam was researching James Butler Bonham of Alamo fame. It was Bonham's 1834 letter to his mother which identified the Pintlala tavern-keepers known for their poor service and sour disposition.

Excerpts from the Gillam letter:

"The little that I have on James Butler Bonham's half-brother is as follows. As stated in your genealogy, his name was John Whitsel Bonham and he was born December 18, 1795 to James and Sarah Bonham. He married Sarah Pou and at some point in time moved to Montgomery. In James Butler Bonham's letter of October 1834 to his mother, he states that John was involved in 'public-housekeeping.' A public house at the time was like an Inn. In a book entitled *Early American Inns and Taverns* by Elise Lathrop, published in 1926, there is reference to a Bonham House built about ten miles from Montgomery that served as dwelling and accommodation for the night for stage drivers and guests. Purportedly it served poor meals and the landlady had the reputation of being ill tempered. Unfortunately, this is about all that I have been able to confirm about John Whitsel Bonham."

"John Witsel Bonham, James Butler Bonham's half-brother, is referred to in James Butler's letter of October 1834 as having three sons and one daughter, Mary. This certainly doesn't match up with the John Bonham with two daughters named Ann and Nancy referred to above. Although the genealogical information you sent does not list a date of death for John Witsel Bonham, it is my understanding from sources that I have that he died in 1836."

## **Dairying in Montgomery County--Historical Overview**

As of September 2005 there is only one functioning dairy farm in Montgomery County-- the Marty Faulkner Dairy on Butler Mill Road. This is in sharp contrast to the approximately 137 inspected dairies here in the past as remembered by Z.P. Gordon, Jr., retired dairy farmer on Lamar Road, Hope Hull. Garry Henry, who served on the ALFA Dairy Commodities Committee from 1988 to 1995, states that there are approximately 90 operating dairies in Alabama in 2005. The 1974 Census of Agriculture lists 47 dairies in Montgomery County as contrasted with the nine listed for 1997 and the three listed in the 2002 census. The following information on dairying in Montgomery County is based to a large extent on the memories of past prominent dairy farmers who worked from sunup to sundown to produce delicious and healthy milk and milk products for Montgomery County residents. Particularly helpful in gathering information for this article were Davis and Margery Henry. The Henry family began dairying in Pintlala in 1921 with J.P. Henry, Sr. and closed their dairy operation in 1998 thus ending three generations of dairy farming. There are other families who spent generations oper-

ating dairies and other farmers who may have had large herds or just a few dairy cows and only operated for a few years. From the statistics given above, one can see that dairy farming was on a steady decline in Montgomery County. This was due to many factors, not the least of which, was that large dairies bought up the smaller ones and some of these dairy businesses were not from the local area. There are many empty silos and cobweb filled dairy barns that dot the rural landscape today--simply evidence of a way of life not to return.

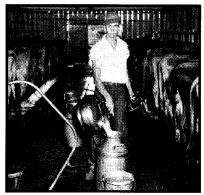
There are basically three phases of dairying: raising and producing healthy dairy cows, milking and transporting the raw milk, and processing and bottling milk. There were regulating agencies created to ensure a safe, healthy product and that farmers were paid fairly for their product. Dairies were classified and regulated by either the Alabama Dairy Commission or the State Milk Control Board during their existence from 1935 to 1982. The State Milk Control Board was established in 1935 and in 1939 its functions were transferred to the Alabama State Milk Control Board which was phased out in 1982 when the Alabama-West Florida Milk Marketing Order was implemented by the Federal Government. Dairies were classified as either as Grade A or B dairies. Grade A dairies produced fluid bottled milk for drinking including buttermilk. Grade B dairies produced milk for the production of cheese, powdered milk, and ice cream. Before the 1940s dairymen



Gus Boyd, Sr. delivering milk in Montgomery, 1915

milked by hand, delivered their milk to plants in ten gallon cans where it was weighed (1 gallon weighed 8.6 pounds) or measured by the gallon in order to figure the price they were to be paid. As electricity became available to rural areas of Alabama, milking became mechanized and farmers began to use milking machines. This was followed by the use of

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Davis Henry pours milk from one of the early milking machines, c.1950

pipelines and refrigerated tanks. Milk came directly from the cow through a strainer into the pipeline to the tank. Milk was measured in the tank at the farm and delivered by refrigerated tanker truck to the plant. The dairyman was paid by the 100 pound weight. Electricity brought vast improvements to dairy farmers and today they use the technology afforded by computers to keep advanced and accurate records for each dairy cow, including all areas of milk production and breeding of healthy, highly productive cows. Also in the 1940s Dairy Herd Improvement Associations (DHIA) spread to Alabama. This organization aided farmers in keeping monthly milk and butterfat records from each cow. The amount of milk each cow gave determined how much feed the animal would receive at each milking. Two of the early DHIA supervisors in Montgomery County were Ernest Richardson and Jim Mathis. They were followed by James Duncan who began weighing milk in 1968 and serviced twenty dairies in Montgomery County. Today, in 2005, he only services five dairies and travels outside of Montgomery County to achieve that number.

According to Donald Hall, Jr., longtime dairyman of the Snowdoun community, there were 37 bottlers of milk in 1938 in Montgomery County. The following bottlers are ones remembered by Davis and Margery Henry: (listed by date if remembered and alphabetically otherwise)

 Kratzer's Creamery was established in 1911 on Madison Avenue at the corner of Madison and McDonough Streets. This business owned the first pasteurization equipment in Montgomery. Their warehouse was located on Perry Street. Kratzer¹s Ice Cream Factory shipped milk, butter and ice cream

throughout the south. The business was sold to Foremost diaries in 1936. This information was provided by Robert Kratzer, son of Gale Kratzer and grandson of

A.W. Kratzer, founder of the Kratzer¹s Creamery.

• Robert and Georgia Alabama Meriwether ran a dairy and bottling plant in Montgomery on Augusta Street near Narrow Lane Road. They were listed in the Montgomery City Directory of 1929 as a dairy and in the 1931 directory they were listed as Pineview Dairy. Their business apparently closed after the death of Mr. Meriwether and they are not listed as a dairy after 1939. They delivered milk in Montgomery by horse-drawn milk wagon. The Meriwethers were grandparents of Mrs. Collins (Kate Olive) Gordon of Hope Hull, who shared this information.

• Z.P.Gordon Sr. received \$900 as a Veteran¹s bonus from the U. S. Government and used that money to buy equipment to establish a milk bottling plant in 1929 on Lamar Road in Hope Hull. With the advent of paper milk cartons in the 1950s, the Gordons ceased bottling but continued dairy farming until an ice storm in the 1980s

We can ship you any quantity, IN POUND PRINTS OR QUAR-TERS, quality guaranteed. Write, phone or wire us--we can give you the goods and the ser-Kratzer's Creamery Montgomery, Alabama

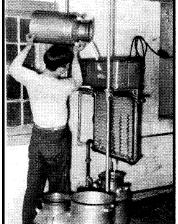
Kratzer's Creamery Advertisement from knocked the power out for several days and the dairy the Montgomery City Directory, 1916

Wanted!

houses to handle

Good, solid mercantile

Pure Creamery Buller



Davis Henry pouring milk into aerator, c 1950

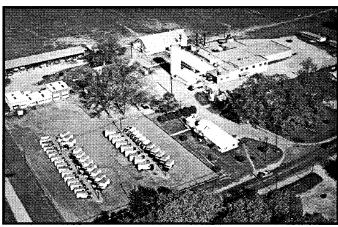
cows had to be sold. A.P. Gordon, father to Z.P.Gordon, Sr., was in the dairy business prior to Z.P.Gordon, Sr. establishing the bottling plant. There were three separate Gordon dairies at one time run by Z.P.Sr., Z.P., Jr., Billy, Alvin and Collins Gordon. This information was provided by Z.P.Gordon, Jr.

 Hall Brothers Dairy was located in Snowdoun and was comprised of 13 supply diaries. It was originally established as the Bellingrath Dairies and was purchased by brothers, Donald and Grady Hall, in 1937 and became the well known Hall Brothers Dairy. In 1954 it was the largest independent dairy in the south. In 1950 the two brothers ended their partnership and Donald bought his brother¹s share of the business, but retained the name of Hall Brothers. A Montgomery Advertiser edition from September, 1954 enumerated the following facts about the dairy: In 1950 it produced 1, 500 gallons of milk a day, employed 94 persons, owned 19 delivery trucks, maintained 28 routes, and had 1, 800 Jersey cattle. It took nearly 1,000 cows to produce their 1, 500 gallon output. The Advertiser included the fact that the average lifespan of a dairy cow was ten years with eight of those years

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being good for milk production. In 1954 Hall Brothers bought 1,800 gallons of milk from thirteen individually-owned dairies in the local area. The plant on Highway 331 in Snowdoun processed 3, 300 gallons of milk a day in same year. Donald Hall, Jr. was the last of his family to run the dairy and it was sold to Barber Pure Milk in 1983. Many of us can still remember the large artificial Jersey cow which stood in front of the plant in Snowdoun.

- The Ed Hall Dairy was started on January 1, 1938 on Cantelou Road in Montgomery County.
- Lee Farms Dairy was created in the 1940s and was located on the Western Bypass across from the 2005 site of Russell Oil Co. It was sold to Barber Pure Milk Company when paper cartons began to be utilized. It Aerial photograph Hall Brothers Dairy, main plant, 1970, Snowdoun, Alawas operated by J.P. Henry, Pete McClendon and Mrs. Estella Capell.



bama. Photograph courtesy, Patsy Hall Davis

- According to the late Tom Conner, who wrote the column, "Remember When" for the Montgomery Advertiser, a modern dairy employing the most up-to-date methods of processing milk was located near Norman Bridge Road, south of Fairview. It was begun after World War I by local pediatrician, Dr. Gaston Greil, who was concerned about his patients health and its relationship to the improper handling of milk during the stages of processing. The Greil Dairy was sold during the Great Depression and Dr. Greil died in 1934.
- Prior to World War II, Kilby Prison on the Wetumpka Highway built a model and very clean dairy run by the trustee prisoners.
- Another dairy with bottling capability was Tennala Dairy on Highway 31 at the location in 2005 of the Winn-Dixie Warehouse. It was established by W.L. Webster and was continued by his son, W. A. Webster.
- Dairy Producers, a cooperative owned by local dairy farmers was located on Fairview Avenue and later became the location for Barber Pure Milk Company which bought Dairy Producers, Teague Dairies, Hall Brothers Dairy and Lee Farms Dairy.
- Farmbest Dairies bought Foremost Dairies, a nationally known company which had several locations in Montgomery and was located on the Southern Boulevard where in 2005 the Greyhound bus station is located.
- McLean-Stewart Dairy was located on Highway 31 and McLean Road in Hope Hull.
- Southern Dairies, which was a Sealtest plant, was located on Fairview Avenue and manufactured mostly ice cream. Another plant producing ice cream was Young1s Ice Cream on Bell Street whose slogan was "Your tongue can tell".
- Teague Dairy, Snowdoun, Alabama was purchased by the Young and Grant families in 1948, but retained the Teague name. Teague Dairy went out of business in 1956 according to Bernard Young. (see V.XIX, no. 3, July 2005 edition of PHA newsletter for further information on Teague Dairy)

Many families in the county had dairy cows and produced milk for other processors and bottlers. The following listing is for active dairy farmers in Montgomery County during the period from the 1930s to 2005 as remembered by Davis and Margery Henry:

#### Dairy Farms (1930s-2005)

- Baggett Dairies
- Betts Dairy
- Blackman¹s Dairy
- Breithaupt Dairy
- Brown¹s Dairy
- Wallace and Tom Bush Dairies Ford's Dairy
- Callis Dairy
- Calloway Dairy

- Carlisle Dairy
- Cassidy Dairy
- Cauthen Dairy
- Eagerton Dairy
- Fairview Dairy (A. O. Weldon) Missildine Dairy
- Griel-Hurst Dairy
- Joe and Laslie Hall Dairies
- Ben, Andy and Benny Hitch Dairies
   Suggs Dairy
- Jackson Dairy
- McInnis Dairy
- Mashburn Dairy
- Morningjoy Dairy Petry Dairy
- · Stubbs Dairy

- · Swearingen Dairy
- Sylvest Dairy
- Varner Dairy
- Warner Dairy
- Wyble Dairy
- · Young and Grant Dairies

#### Individual Farms (1930s-2005)

- Ronnie and Charles Betts
- Fritz Beyelen
- Stanley Boswell
- Gus Boyd, Sr. and Jr.
- Mason Boyd
- Linton Caldwell
- Jake and Thomas Chesnut
- Guy Davidson
- J.D. Dean
- J. Fred Duggar
- R. W.Erke
- Otha Evans
- Martin and Marty Faulkner
- Stewart Fisher
- Junior and Sonny Fry
- John A. Garrett
- Reid Garrett
- John Gaston

- R. B. Glass
- Ocie Golson
- A. P. Gordon
- Alvin Gordon
- Billy Gordon
- Collins Gordon
- M. C. Gordon
- Z.P. Gordon, Sr.
- Z.P. Gordon, Jr.
- Donald and Grady Hall
- Ed and Mae Hall
- Mac Hall
- Hal Harris
- Pat Harris
- Pat Hams
- Pat Harsha
- J.L. and Buddy Hawk
- Davis, Garry and Mike Henry
- J. P. Henry, Sr

- J.P. Henry, Jr.
- I. W. Hobbie
- Jake Island
- John Latham
- J. Frank Lassiter
- M. K. Law
- Doug McBryde
- Abner McGhee
- Cooper McGhee
- Frank and James McLean
- Jim Mathis and Son
- J. D. Moore
- J. P. Mosley
- Hopping (Styles) Murrell
- Elbert Myers
- Roger Norris
- James PayneWalt Penn

- Barnett H. Perry
- W. H. and Winston Pirtle
- Ernest Richardson
- Jesse Reynolds
- William Sellers
- Robert and Albert Sharpe
- Robert Sheppard
- William Sneed
- Frank Stewart
- James Stoner
- C. M. Stowers
- Lloyd Taylor
- Sam Underwood
- J. B. Wallace
- Richard Watson
- W. I. Welborn
- Leslie Williams
- Lesile vviillams
- · Bernard Young

There may be other farmers who made their living by dairy farming that memory does not recollect--we apologize!

Many young men have fond memories of helping to deliver milk before school to make a little spending money. They also enjoyed the perk of drinking cold chocolate milk and other dairy products while making deliveries! Gone are the days of glass bottles left on the doorstep in the cool morning hours. What technology holds for the future of dairy farming we are not sure--but what a debt we owe to those hardworking families in Montgomery County who produced our milk for so many years.

For additional information on this topic, see the book, *The Heritage of Montgomery County, Alabama* at the Pintlala Branch Library or other Montgomery Public Libraries. Alice Carter is indebted to Davis and Margery Henry for their memories, archives and time in preparing this article.

#### **Old Picture Leads to Discoveries**

In 2003 Margery (Mrs. Davis G.) Henry of the Pintlala community was clearing out her childhood home and removed from the living room wall a framed picture that had hung there all of her life. The picture was taken to Margery¹s home where sometime later she became curious about what might be behind the picture---perhaps an Antiques Roadshow find! After unframing the picture of sailboats, she was quite surprised to find award ribbons for livestock glued to the backing material. She studied the eleven ribbons awarded to six Angus breed cattle, a draft horse and colt, two mules and one horse colt. The ribbon awards ranged from first to third place.

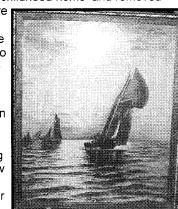
Margery had found an old ledger titled Pinchona Farm Livestock Records in 1999 when

Award Ribbons and ledger pages, 1916

her mother, Lora Boyd Whigam, died. She kept the ledger and studied the entries for cattle and swine which included detailed information on crops fed to the animals. After having earlier found the ribbons, she was astonished when she saw an entry indicating that in 1916 some of the cattle had been sent to the Fair. A note in the records suggested the reader see the listing for October 30, 1916 which revealed information on the cattle returned from the Fair and what they were

to be fed. By meshing the information on the ribbons and the ledger entries, Margery found that the Angus cattle had come full circle on the Pinchona Farm.

The Pinchona Farm, according to abstracts held by the Henry family, was comprised of 1,120 acres and in 1916 was owned by S. L. Tyson. Tyson rented the farmland and a house to



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other farmers. He had acquired the property in a foreclosure sale in 1892. Among the several different owners listed on the abstract were first owner, Wade Allen of Pintlala and also Thomas H. Watts who acquired the property through an executor's will. (Watts served as Governor of Alabama from 1863 to 1865). Ultimately Tyson sold part of the property to Gus Boyd, Sr. (Margery Henry's father) on October 29, 1936. Another parcel was acquired by longtime Pintlala resident, Jake Chesnutt, in 1938. Tyson assigned the mortage to Frank and John Noble on October 12, 1938 and Boyd paid off his twenty-year mortgage to the Nobles on October 30, 1944-- a period of only eight years.

The previously mentioned Pinchona Farm Livestock ledger was apparently left in a house on the Tyson property which ultimately was occupied by the Gus Boyd, Sr. family--just waiting for Margery¹s 1999 discovery! The discoveries that connected Angus cows, ribbons, ledger and livestock show of October 1916

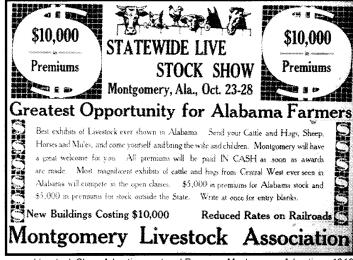
led Margery Henry to research the State Livestock Show of October 23-28, 1916 in the Montgomery Advertiser (microfilm, Alabama Department of Archives and History).

The Livestock Show is another story in itself. According to the Wednesday, September 27, 1916 Montgomery Advertiser, a committee from the Montgomery Livestock Association and other prominent Montgomery citizens met with the city commission on Tuesday, September 26, 1916 to urge the commissioners, for the sake of the livestock industry of Alabama, to begin at once the erection of barns and a show ring that would house the livestock coming to the first ever statewide Livestock show planned for Montgomery on October 23-28, 1916. As a result of this meeting the City Commissioners agreed to lease to the Association, for ten years, the property on the Lower Wetumpka Road known as the Sally League Baseball diamond (Sally League being the South Atlantic League of baseball teams). The Commissioners strongly encouraged the Livestock Association to become incorporated and to operate on a business; basis. Montgomery architect Frederick Ausfeld had already prepared designs for cattle, hog, horse and mule barns and for a show ring.

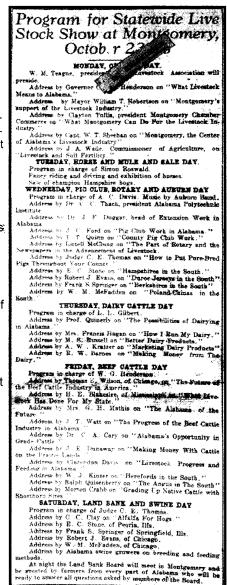
On October, 7, 1916 the Livestock Association met and apparently changed its name to The Livestock Fair Association of Montgomery as they are referred to as that name in the Sunday, October 8, *Montgomery Advertiser*. An election of officers took place with William Martin Teague elected as president.

According to the Advertiser the selection of other officers was largely from the old board (of the Montgomery Livestock Association) and the incorporation papers were filed. It is interesting to note that S.L. Tyson, from whom Gus Boyd Sr. purchased farmland, was on the board of the Association. Plans for the first livestock show in Alabama were well underway. The Association planned to spend approximately \$8,000 in buildings on the Sally League grounds and to raise \$5,000 by public subscription to be added to the \$5000 given by the National Stock Breeders¹ Association, all to be distributed as award or premiums for livestock exhibits. A full six days of activities were planned as evidenced by the extensive program reproduced in this newsletter.

(Alice Carter is indebted to Margery Henry for gathering the research materials for this article and sharing her archival materials)



Livestock Show Advertisement and Program, Montgomery Advertiser; 1916





# Pintlala Historical Association

c/o Pintlala Public Library 255 Federal Road Hope Hull, AL 36043

## **NEXT MEETING**

OCTOBER 16, 2005 2:30 p.m.

HIGHWAY 31 & HYUNDAI BOULEVARD
RECEPTION—HOPE HULL CHURCH OF CHRIST

### Join the Pintlala Historical Association

Please mail completed form, fee & dues to :

Pintlala Historical Association c/o Thomas Ray 2995 Pettus Road Hope Hull, AL 36043

Name	
Address	
City, State Zip	
Phone (Home & Office)	
E-Mail Address	
Areas of Interest	
If you are interested in genealogy, please indicate family surnames	

\$5.00 Registration Fee (One Time) - \$10.00 Annual Dues