

# PINTLALA



# HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

C/O PINTLALA PUBLIC LIBRARY

255 FEDERAL ROAD

HOPE HULL, AL 36043

*Founded in 1987*

---

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 3

JULY 1998

---

President.....	Jack Hornady .....	265-5752
Vice-President.....	Beverly Ming .....	284-6464
Secretary.....	Mildred Shirley .....	285-5450
Treasurer .....	Thomas Ray .....	288-3368
Parliamentarian .....	J. P. Henry .....	288-4347
Program Chairperson .....	Alice T. Carter .....	281-3708
Members-at-Large: Place 1 .....	Gary Burton .....	288-7414
Place 2 .....	Carolyn Elgin .....	288-5816
Place 3 .....	Butch Moseley.....	288-3379
Place 4 .....	Dorothy Samuel .....	262-2019
Editors: Sandra Lassiter .....		284-5322
Julianne Hataway .....		281-4338

---

## NOTICE: TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Pintlala Historical Association will meet on Sunday, July 19 at 2:30 PM at Pintlala Baptist Church. We are in for a special treat- a musical program presented by Craig Mann, Assistant Curator for Living History Programs, at Old Alabama Town where he can be found demonstrating blacksmithing, leather crafts and 19th century music. Craig sings and plays instruments including guitar, banjo, dulcimer, mandolin, fife and tin whistle. He will share information on Southern 19th century music and we may even get to join in on a chorus of two! Please come and join us. Bring friends who might be interested in joining PHA. Thanks for your support of our program.

\*\*\*\*\*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The summer has come with a storm — heat storm, that is, the likes of which I don't seem to remember; however, even this record weather can't top the excellent programs which we have been experiencing at our PHA meetings in wonderful meeting facilities, thanks to Pintlala Baptist Church. Both challenge and defy the heat wave. To map the future without knowledge of and regard for the past is not the greatest of wisdom. We are indeed privileged to continue to have the opportunities which are ours to both learn about and or

be reminded of the past in our community and state through the informative programs regularly arranged for us.

Please call your friends and neighbors and remind them to be in attendance this time.  
Invite a guest.

**JACK HORNADY**  
President, PHA

\*\*\*\*\*

### HOMECOMING AT TABERNACLE

You are invited to the annual "Homecoming," on Sunday, August 2nd, at 11:00 AM at the Tabernacle Historical Methodist Church. It is located on the Old Federal Road (just off U.S. Highway 31) in the Pintlala Community. Dr. Cecil Williamson of the Crescent Hills Presbyterian Church in Selma will be the speaker and Ms. Rae Venable Calvert will give a brief history of the Sanderson Family. A "dinner on the ground" will be served after church services, so bring a covered dish and join family and friends to celebrate this recently restored church's 152nd year! Regular meetings are held here on every 5th Sunday. For further information, call Rene Barnett, 288-0231.

### OOOOOPS!

In the April issue of the PHA newsletter, the article describing recent recognition of honors received by Dr. Frederick Bush, Jr., mentioned his wife, "Patricia." It should have read "Diane!" Sorry! JCH.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

**Mrs. Mattie Ruth Sullivan**  
3935 Kerri Circle  
Montgomery, AL 36109

**Mr. Billy Joe Anderson**  
17378 E. Greenleaf Lane  
Conroe, TX 77306

**Mrs. Zollie N. Hickman**  
5801 Eastdale Drive  
Montgomery, AL 36117

**Dr. Clydia J. Williams**  
607 San Pablo SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87108

**Mr. & Mrs. James S. Farrior**  
1232 Harrison Point Trail  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

### APRIL PHA MEETING/TOUR, RECOGNIZING HISTORICAL MARKER

Pintlala Historical Association extends sincere appreciation to Will Hill Tankersley and Mark Dauber for an outstanding and most interesting program on April 26, 1998. Their extensive research into the Manac family and the location of Sam Manac's Tavern, the first licensed stand on the Federal Road, is important to us as this is part of our earliest history. Jim Parker of the Alabama Historical Commission attended, and added his professional opinions on the probable Tavern location. But, as Mark Dauber expressed it, "a definite location may never be known, short of digging up a tea cup with Manac written on it."

Thanks to the ladies who prepared the lovely reception: Alice Carter, Jean Ivy, Butch Moseley, Beverly Ming, Dot Samuel, Chris Hornady and Mary Ann Venable. And thanks to Jack Hornady and Cut Scout Troop 700, who picked up trash on Cloverfield. The great community effort made this memorable event even more enjoyable!

### IN MEMORIAM

We extend heartfelt sympathy to the family of Robert (Bobby) Chestnutt of Pintlala. He was a lifelong resident of this area, a long time member of the Pintlala Baptist Church, and a charter member of PHA. He was an ardent Scout Master for over 20 years, and loved the adventure Scouting offered. One of his more memorable undertakings was conducting a 14-day raft trip for his troop down the river from Prattville to Mobile. Mr. Chestnutt, who continued to keep in touch with many of his former Scouts, will be sorely missed.

### OUR APPRECIATION FOR RECENT DONATIONS

Several new publications have been donated to the Historical Section of the Pintlala Library. They are:

Roots in Southwest Montgomery County - Reminiscences and Namedropping - a Thirteen (Page) Paper written by Frank Hawthorne, March 5, 1998. This is a lively and informative paper about the Pintlala Community, its landmarks and inhabitants during the time Mr. Hawthorne was growing up in Pintlala.

Entrepreneur from the Broad River - Abner McGehee by Will Hill Tankersley, Unity Club Paper, May 12, 1998. Mr. Tankersley begins with the original Abner McGehee and traces his descendants to the present day McGehees.

Special thanks to Lorraine "Rene" Barnett for her gift of three books:

Travels Through North and South Caroline, Georgia, East and West Florida by William Bartram. Mr. Bartram was America's first native-born artist-naturalist and in 1773 set off from Philadelphia for the southeastern United States to explore the coastland of Carolina and Georgia. He crossed westward through Florida, returned through lower Georgia, and in 1776 penetrated into the country of the Cherokee Indians. His published record of this



journey is the most important and beautiful description of this part of the U.S. during the eighteenth century.

White Pillars by J. Frazer Smith, A.I.A. covers Southern architecture from log cabins to elaborate white-pillared houses, with commentary and illustrations by the author. Frazer Smith is intrigued with the beautiful homes of the southland and his feelings are contagious. You are encouraged to check this book out and learn of the interesting lives of the people who occupied these houses. For instance, there was a lady dressed all in black, who drove a buggy up to the front of the ruins of a lovely home every day. She paused, looked, and drove away. When new owners began to restore the house, she never came back. What was the reason for her visits? Why did they stop? This book provides a guided armchair tour of the Deep South, its architecture and history.

The Romantic South, by Harnett T. Kane, begins with: "A little more than a century ago, shortly before the South and the North directed guns at each other, an Ohio schoolteacher went to one of the Gulf states (maybe it was Alabama) and met a handsome fellow tutor with "the bloom of the Northern rose in her cheek." He inquired, Why had she come here? Her answer was prompt. "For the romance of the thing." If you love the South and its colorful history, you will want to read this book — just for the romance of the thing!

\*\*\*\*\*

LASSITER FAMILY REUNION (Thanks to Miriam Williams for this information.)

The family of the late Frank Grant and Annie Merle Lassiter held their annual reunion June 28, 1998 at the lovely home of the youngest son, Glen Allen and Eddie Joe Lassiter. There were 57 present who came to Pike Road from Cordova, Fairhope, Tuscaloosa, Moundville, Hope Hull, Montgomery, Jackson, TN, Jonesboro and Decatur, GA, and Niceville, FL. Two family members who passed away in 1997 were sadly missed: Nell Lassiter and Helen Lassiter. Several other family members were unable to attend, including several nieces and nephews who were away at a church retreat. It was nice to have the four remaining Lassiter brothers present: J. B., Clarence Felix and Glen. The group enjoyed taking pictures and looking at old ones, admiring "Jo's Sew and So" room with her beautiful sample garments and Glen's delightful orchard. The food was plentiful and delicious: Everyone enjoyed sampling each family's favorite dishes (while trying to forget the calories) and look forward to the 1999 reunion.

\*\*\*\*\*

"105 YEARS AGO" (Thanks to Rene Barnett for this intriguing article from Baldwin Smith's Column in the Montgomery Advertiser, "100 Years Ago." It was dated August 3, 1993.)

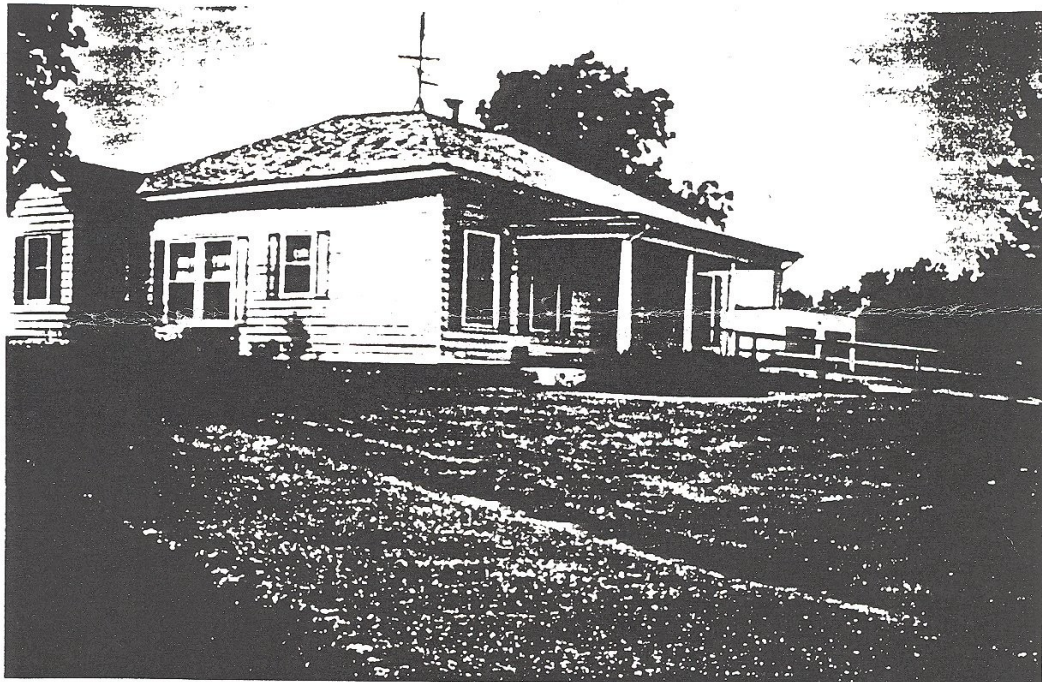
"Anniston. A tragedy occurred. Miss Mary Hazard, daughter of Col Hazard, one of the wealthiest and most prominent citizens, was writing in an upstairs room, stopped to speak to her father and two little brothers about lunch and then returned to the room alone. A shot rang out and her father rushed to the room to find her lying on the floor in a pool of

blood, a smoking pistol on the table. She died without being able to speak. Whether the shooting was accidental or intentional will never be known. Her father granted her every wish except to allow her to receive the attention of a certain young man."

*Note: We solicit your contributions to the PHA newsletter, especially for inclusion in two regular columns: "This Old House" and "Remember When." The former will feature a local structure of historic significance, and the latter will describe any of your favorite memories! So please submit your items to Sandra or Julianne. Of course, we certainly welcome any other articles, too!*

### THIS OLD HOUSE: THE BOYD/WHIGHAM HOME

*Thanks to Marjorie Boyd Henry and Sandra Lassiter for information on this lovely, historic home!*



A beautiful white house with green shutters, located on Cloverfield Road between Federal Road and Venable Road, is the home of Mrs. Lora Boyd Whigham. Previously, the property had been owned by several men prominent in Alabama and even in United States history. A letter written by Mrs. Mamie Thorington, Home Demonstration Agent at Alabama Polytechnic Institute, states that the house was built between 1817 and 1853 presumably by a Mr. Wade Allen, who owned the property at that time. Mr. Allen bought the property from the government in 1817, and it is thought that the house was built closer to that date because it closely resembles other old homes built by slave labor at that time. The house is put together with pegs instead of nails; the floor is hand hewn and the hinges are handmade.



In 1853, Thomas H. Watts bought the property. He had married Eliza B. Allen, daughter of Wade Allen, January 10, 1842. They had six children before she died in 1847. Thomas Watts was a colonel in the Civil War, and on April 9, 1862, was appointed attorney general of the Confederacy by President Davis. He resigned from that position when he was elected Governor of Alabama in 1863. He served as the last Confederate governor of the state. Although Watts was one of the wealthiest men ever to hold that office, by the end of the war, he was virtually penniless. Like many other Confederate officials, he was incarcerated for a short time by the Federal government after the war. In 1880, Governor Watts was forced to sell the property, which was purchased by William L. Chambers, the first Provisional Governor of the Samoan Islands after they were taken from Spain. The house changed ownership several times: from W. L. Chambers to John L. Flowers, to Hilary A. Herbert, (Secretary of the Navy in President Cleveland's administration), to S. L. Tyson. On October 29, 1936, Mr. Gus Boyd, Sr. and Mrs. Lora Lena Boyd bought the property from Mr. Tyson. Several years after Mr. Boyd's death in 1962, Mrs. Boyd married Mr. Sam Whigham, who died in 1995. Mrs. Whigham still lives in this lovely old landmark today.

### REMEMBER WHEN?

Do you remember when radio was the main means of mass communication? The entire family gathered during the "Big War" to hear news bulletins, Kate Smith sing "God Bless America," and the reassuring voice of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The family's entertainment, too, was provided via radio, by such favorites as Lum and Abner, Fibber McGee and Molly, Don McNeil's Breakfast Club and The Shadow. And young listeners literally *stampeded* into the house at the first strains of the William Tell Overture, and the announcer's exhilarating words, "From out of the past come the thundering hoofs of the great horse SIL-ver -- the LONE RANGER rides again!"

There were many local favorites, too, such as Hank William's Drifting Cowboys, and the Farm Show that Crawford Rocquemore did from his place. But the highlight of the day was the morning's piano music provided by "The Minute Man and His Singing Canary." During the 1930s, 40s, and into the 50s, he was broadcast over WSFA and WJJJ. He played the organ, too, and sometimes played both simultaneously. Did you know that the "Minute Man" attended Ramer High School with Clara Owen (Venable)? He was E. Caldwell Stewart, father of the Pastor of Pintlala United Methodist Church, Rev. David Stewart!

\*\*\*\*\*

### *America the Beautiful*

In the summer of 1893 a thirty-four-year-old professor of English literature at Wellesley College in Massachusetts took a trip across the country. Invited to teach a course in religious drama at Colorado College in Colorado springs, Katharine Bates was looking forward to seeing a different part of the United States. Her first stop was the Chicago

World's Fair, which had recently opened. The beautiful white buildings housing exhibits of American's future, called the "White City" would become the "alabaster cities" of her now famous hymn.

She then traveled through rich farmlands, with their fields of grain, and then came to the awe-inspiring mountains. At the end of the summer session, she was taken to the top of Pike's Peak. She looked out over the mountains and plains below and at the vast sky above. Standing on that spot, the lines of the first verse of "America the Beautiful" took form in her mind. That evening, in her hotel room, she composed the poem in full.

Two years later, she sent it to the Congregationalist magazine. It was published, appropriately, on July 4, 1895. After she made two revisions, it was joined with a tune written in 1882 by Samuel Ward, a New Jersey organist and music store owner.

Bates never took any money for her poem, for she believed it was her gift to her country. The words to the song are more than a look at our natural resources, it is an affirmation of our early pioneers who took freedom with them as they traveled west. And, finally, it is a prayer for God's help and guidance that America in the future can truly be a great land.

*O beautiful, for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!*

*O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern, impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness!  
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm the soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!*

*O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife  
Who more than self their country loved and mercy more than life!  
America! America! May God thy gold refine  
Till all success be nobleness and ev'ry gain divine.*

*O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee.  
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!*

\*\*\*\*\*