

PINTLALA



HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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255 FEDERAL ROAD
HOPE HULL, AL 36043

Founded in 1987

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OCTOBER 1998

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In our July Newsletter, we welcomed and recognized five new members to the Pintlala Historical Association. Their residences range from Montgomery to Florida to Texas and New Mexico. This wide interest in the rich history and current events of our community can be attributed directly to the outstanding programs at our regular meetings and the informative "Remembrances of the Past" provided by many of our members and distributed far and wide through the newsletter. Your contributions of articles and information regarding our community and its inhabitants, past and present, are an integral part of the lifeblood and purpose of our organization. Thank you, and please keep the articles coming in! Just call Sandra Lassiter or Julianne Hataway (their numbers are listed above) and continue to share your information with all of us.

I regret to announce the resignation of Mrs. Carolyn Elgin from our Board due to the illness of her husband. She has served well, and we will certainly miss her wise counsel. Her successor to the Board will be announced soon.

JACK HORNADY
President, PHA

OCTOBER 18 PHA PROGRAM *(Thanks to our Program Chairman, Alice Carter)*

The October 1998 PHA program will be a walking tour of Oakwood Cemetery led by Mary Ann Neely, Director of Old Alabama Town. We will meet at Pintlala Baptist at 2:15 (leaving the church at that time) to share rides or ride in the church van. If you prefer to meet us in Montgomery, we will meet at the entrance to Oakwood Cemetery on

Columbus Street at 2:45. PLEASE NOTE THE MEETING TIME. There is parking space available across the street at the Police Department.

I hope each of you will schedule your time to attend this interesting program. Mrs. Neely is making time in her very busy schedule to give us this special tour - let's have a big crowd to show our appreciation!

This tour was scheduled last year, but was rained out. If it storms, we will meet at Pintlala Baptist Church. If it merely sprinkles a light rain, we will use umbrellas and go on with the tour. If in doubt or what to do, call me at 281-3708. See you there!

GOOD WISHES: We all hope that Mrs. Ethel Mae Tankersley Todd, who is recuperating at home after a recent fall, is feeling MUCH better!

SPECIAL THANKS FOR DONATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING BOOKS:

"Richard Sanderson of North Carolina and Some Alabama Descendants" has been donated to the library by the author, Rae Venable Calvert. This book is a history of the Sanderson Family and traces their roots back to Richard Sanderson (1641 - 1718). Richard was born in England and was granted land in Colonial America by King Charles II. He lived in Perquimans County, North Carolina. Ms. Calvert writes that according to family tradition around May 1, 1835, Almon Sanderson, his sister Dorcas Lindsey and brother, Edmund Lindsey and his wife Mahalia, and their small son, left Pasquotank County, NC, and traveled to Alabama along the old Federal Road. Almon settled in what became known as the Tabernacle Community and Edmund Lindsey settled in Lowndes County. Mrs. Calvert has done an outstanding job of tracing the descendants of the Alabama Sandersons to the present generation. The book is well-documented and has an index in the back listing every name in the book with a reference page number. Mrs. Calvert is a native of Pintlala and now lives in Pearland, Texas where she is a practicing attorney.

Mr. and Mrs. James R. Lewis presented a copy of the 1923 Troy Normal School Year Book in memory of his sister, Mrs. Bessie Lewis Kendrick.

W. E. (Bill) Colvard donated another copy of his book, "Letohatchie Reminiscences," from its second printing. This hard board copy, which will be available for checkout from the Pintlala Library, contains a few more illustrations than its first edition.

IN SYMPATHY:

Heartfelt sympathy to the family of John Blair Hawthorne of Snowdown. Mr. Hawthorne grew up in this community and attended Pintlala School. He was a World War II Veteran, a graduate of Auburn University, and very active in civic and community affairs.

JULY MEETING

Craig Mann, Assistant Curator for Living History Programs at Old Alabama Town, presented a most outstanding and entertaining program for the July PHA meeting. Craig is a talented musician as well as a knowledgeable historian. He presented a musical program of Civil War songs using instruments of the era: mountain dulcimer, banjo and guitar. He also described each song's history. One of the highlights was his singing of "Lorena," which was such a sad song that generals on both sides would not allow it to be played. Upon hearing this song, some soldiers become so melancholy and homesick that they deserted the army for home.

We will certainly have Craig back again and I urge all members to attend -- you will be glad that you did! (*Thanks to Alice Carter.*)

PINTLALA UMC BAZAAR Everyone is invited to the Fall Bazaar at Pintlala United Methodist Church on Saturday, October 24, from 7:00 AM till 2:00 PM. There will be delicious home cooked goodies and beautiful handmade items. Come early, have a sausage biscuit, and enjoy the festivities!

A article in the October 4 Birmingham News commended the atmosphere, cuisine, and rich history of Mosley's St Pintlala's largest business. While discussing the article, it was revealed that the store holds many more items of historical interest that need to be documented.

PINTLALA'S COMPUTER AND GENEALOGY CLUBS

On October 7, the Montgomery Advertiser featured an article initiated by Mary Lillian Rosier about two Pintlala clubs that meet at the Branch Library. The Computer Club meets twice each month. Members see demonstration new products and help each other with individual questions. The next meeting will be at 9:30 on October 21st. Many people want to develop computer skills in order to pursue special interests, such as genealogy. And the Genealogy Club meets once a month, right after the Computer Club meeting - usually between 11:00 and 12:00. Members will use a computer program to research their respective family surnames. The next meeting of the Genealogy Club will be November 4th. Thanks, Mary Lillian, for trying to help us become "Hi-Tech Historians"!

(And, speaking of genealogy:) A PROUD FAMILY HISTORY

The smiths were proud of their family tradition. Their ancestors had come to America on the Mayflower. Their line had included Senators and Wall Street Wizards.

They decided to compile a family history, a legacy for the children, and hired a noted author. There was a problem, however: How to describe the great-uncle who had been executed in the electric chair.

The author assured the Smiths that he could handle that chapter of history tactfully. When the book appeared, it stated that:

"Great-uncle George occupied a chair of applied electronics at an important government institution, attached to his position by the strongest of ties, and his death came as a real shock."

(Thanks to Mrs. Ethel Mae Todd for sharing this!)

REMEMBERING "MR. WHIT" Mr. T. Whit Athey will long be appreciated for his many contributions to the agricultural community. An outstanding cattleman, he did much to improve the cattle quality in this area by selling exceptional breeding stock. Over the years, many farms owned a whole series of herd sires nicknamed "Whit" for the man who had raised them!

TABERNACLE HOMECOMING - by Mary Ann Venable

The Tabernacle Historical Association celebrated the 152nd Annual homecoming of the historic Tabernacle Methodist Church on August 2, 1998. One of the largest crowds ever attended and enjoyed a day of fellowship and plenty of good old fashioned food. Descendants in attendance from some of the founders of the church were from the Sanders, Supple, and Mosley families. They came from Texas, Georgia, Florida and all parts of Alabama and gathered together to celebrate their past and honor those who came to this community as pioneers.

Dr. Cecil Williamson, Pastor of the Crescent Hills Presbyterian Church of Selma, led the morning devotional, Mrs. Rae Venable Calvert gave the Sanderson Family History, and David Reed, President of the Association, presided over a business session. Mrs. Calvert has written a history of the Sanderson Family and a review of this book is given elsewhere in this newsletter.

Formed in 1978, the Tabernacle Historical Association is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to restore and maintain Tabernacle Church and Cemetery. Anyone interested is invited to join and attend our meetings. Dues are \$10 per year and meetings are held on each Fifth Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m. at the church. The next meeting will be November 29. For further information about the Association, please write to Tabernacle Historical Association.

Association, Route 1, Box 488, Hope Hull, AL 36043. Many friends in Pintlala and surrounding communities belong to the Association and there are members from as far away as California. A newsletter is published just before each meeting with information about the members, announcements, and the history of the early church and its early members. We would love to hear from you if you have any information about the church or its members to share with us.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?

The Katz brothers supplied fresh fruits and produce for this area? In addition to operating their fruit stand on Dexter Avenue, the Katz brothers delivered fresh produce to our area each week. Everyone looked forward to their visits and getting to taste beautiful, delicious bananas!

Pirtle's Puddle offered all day fishing for only \$1.00? In 1945, Hocker and Nanny Pirtle of Snowdoun opened their pond to the public and erected a large sign that read: "Piddlin' is Perfect at Pirtle's Puddle." They offered a full day of fishing and picnicking for only \$1.00, which afforded a wonderful opportunity for people in this area to enjoy outdoor activity at a reasonable price. Many children caught their first fish there and many also took their first horseback ride on Hocker's gentle old gray horse that frequently was ridden out into the pond! Alan Rankin's column in the Montgomery Advertiser once featured "Pickett, the Pirtle's Seagoing Horse." And it STILL costs \$1.00 to fish at Pirtle's Puddle! THANK YOU to the Pirtles for providing nearly 54 years of wholesome family fun!

MRS. BESSIE MAE MOXLEY LAW'S 100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION - by Clarise McGinty

On Sunday, September 27, 1998, the Snowdoun Women's Club joined family, friends and neighbors to celebrate Mrs. Bessie Mae ("Ma") Moxley Law's 100th birthday! *(This was the first time that I have ever been privileged to help celebrate such an event, and my joy in sharing this wonderful experience was also expressed by countless others!)*

At Snowdoun, the flashing light sign reading "HAPPY BIRTHDAY 'MA,' 100 YEARS" and the magnolia limbs tied with large yellow bows let all the Highway 331 travelers know that people were proud of "Ma" Law.

Inside, Mrs. Law graciously greeted her guests. Wearing an ivory blouse, crocheted salmon pink vest with lovely pearl pin, and her beautiful smile she sat in her white wicker chair. Her feet rested on a stool covered with a patchwork quilt.

Fresh flowers, a lovely doily crocheted by "Ma" in the 60s, and a birthday card signed by President and Mrs. Clinton adorned the guest book table. A large, antique-framed picture of Mrs. Law made when she was about three years old, hung above the beautifully decorated fire place. One wall of the Club House displayed the multitude of birthday cards that well-wishers had sent. A pictorial family history (including pictures of her parents, weddings, birthdays, football games, and other family events) was shown on a video screen, complete with accompanying music and identification lists. Another beautiful patchwork quilt covered a large table that displayed family photo albums and special recognition by Governor Fob James. Mrs. Law had also received special recognition on the actual day of her 100th birthday, (Thursday, September 24) from Willard Scott.

She was born Bessie Mae Moxley, September 24, 1898, daughter of John Jasper and Christine Georgia Alice McLeod Moxley. She has lived during the administration of seventeen presidents, from McKinley to Clinton and has seen a lot of changes during her century of life. Early transportation was by wagon, horse and buggy, surrey, and train. Her first years were spent on a plantation where they raised pigs, cows and sheep; her family shopped at a "rolling store." Her formal education began in a one room school house at Bethel, and included two years at the Woman's College in Newton, Alabama. Her first excursion was a train trip to Florida, when she was eighteen.

Bessie married Miles Jessie Law on May 22, 1924. Jessie had a young son, Wilbur Parker, whose mother had died shortly after his birth August 8, 1923. Bessie and Jessie farmed all around central Alabama. They raised

peanuts for "cash crops" and corn and velvet beans for feeding their animals. From 1941 to 1968, they ran a dairy farm in Snowdown. Bessie had chickens, beautiful flowers, and lots of "stray" cats and Jessie had a big garden.

The couple had two children, Hylan ("Red") and Sara ("Sis") Alice. Hylan joined the Navy during World War II and married Faye Golson December 20, 1947. They had two daughters, Rosa Alice and Ruby Mae. Sara married A Boyd, and they had four children, Patricia, Carl, Terry and Connie. Parker and his wife, Louise, had three children, Steve, Tony and Deborah.

Each generation celebrated Mrs. Law's birthday. In addition to the children and grandchildren, her family included great grandchildren, and three great great grandchildren! As family and friends gathered to enjoy the celebrations, delicious refreshments, and pay special tribute to a lovely lady, we should all be reminded to cherish our own special memories.

The "modern marvels" invented during her lifetime include air conditioning, air planes, helicopters, frozen foods, fluorescent lighting, television, radar, xerography, jet aircraft, nuclear reactors, penicillin, Polaroid cameras, transistor radios, and polio vaccine. She saw the first man on the moon in 1969.

Can't you think what a TREASURE of "living history" Mrs. Law's life represents!



THIS OLD HOUSE

THE SHACKELFORD/CHESNUTT HOME. The exact date that the Shackelford family acquired the property has not been determined. The only dates I have are the dates on the abstract (Lands owned by Frank Shackelford prior to May 10, 1871), the dates the Bethel Baptist Church was built (about 1818) and a brick on the front steps of the present dwelling (1848) which I have been told was the date the original home was built. The Shackelford family owned many acres of land in the community. They sold land to the Crenshaws, Garrets, Manleys, Windhams, Henrys and Chesnutts, and gave property for two burial grounds.

The present dwelling was built, according to another brick on the front steps, 1916 by Dr. Frank Shackelford, Jr. Around the year 1930, George Curtis Chesnutt, Jr. purchased the home. The Chesnutt's lived in the community until the later part of 1948 when they sold to Roy and Julia Alverson. In 1988, Walter (Butch) and Sandra Taylor purchased the property and lived there nine years. They decided to get a smaller, more modern dwelling. In 1996, Jeanne C. Brackin (granddaughter of G. C. Chesnutt) found out that the property was going up for sale and she talked with Butch about giving her a chance to get it. Early in 1997 the purchase was made final, and along with her parents, Robert and Sarah Chesnutt, they moved into the old CHESNUTT HOME.



DESCRIPTION OF HOME: The house has a conventional foundation, a large wrap-around porch on the front. I believe the Taylors added banisters on the front porch. Entrance is made by a COFFIN DOOR off the front porch. The living room is large and spacious with a large window in front. The formal dining room is another large room with built-in china cabinets. The eat-in kitchen is another spacious room. There are two bedrooms and a bath downstairs. The front bedroom, which was used by Dr. Shackelford as an office, has a separate entrance. The hall downstairs has been modified - a wall was put up to make a small room between the kitchen and the back bedroom. The Chesnutts used this area for eating; we use it as a den. Upstairs are three bedrooms and a bath. There are five coal burning fireplaces in the house. There is a large screened back porch which has a wonderful view. The barn out back has two work areas down stairs and one large area upstairs (which the Chesnutt children used for parties). The barn, I am told, was built with timbers from the Bethel Baptist Church building, which was on the original Shackelford property. There is a goat dairy building which was built, I believe, when J. P. Henry, Sr. owned the property. The coal storage building is also still standing, but the smokehouse was torn down, I believe by the Chesnutts.

(Many thanks to SARAH CHESNUTT for this interesting article about a lovely landmark!)



The barn is said to have been built with timbers from the Bethel Baptist Church building.

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

\$5.00 registration fee (one time)
Annual dues: \$10.00 in January

Mr., Mr. & Mrs., Mrs., Ms. _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____
(home) _____ (office) _____

Areas of Interest _____

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

Return address:

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



Mrs. Carolyn Dunn
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