



# HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hope each of you had a safe and enjoyable 4th of July! As we celebrate our freedom, we should be ever grateful to our Lord for providing so many blessings and to our forefathers who made such tremendous sacrifices to leave us such a legacy.

I regret that I will have to miss our July meeting, as I will be out of state on business. I have been in contact with the Sylvest family regarding the Butler Mill stone on their property, and will have an update at a later meeting.

We certainly appreciate our many contributors who submitted such appealing articles for this newsletter. Tremendous member input, such as this, makes the wheels of any organization turn. Many thanks, and keep up the good work!

JACK HORNADY  
President, PHA

## IN MEMORIAM:

We extend heartfelt sympathy to the family and many friends of Mrs. Vera Sellers Kraus, who passed away July 1, 1999. Mrs. Kraus grew up in the Fleta Community and was very interested

in our heritage. She was a member of the Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church, the Mayflower Society, a Daughter of the American Revolution, and a charter member of the Pintlala Historical Association.

#### PHA MEETING FOR JULY 99

The July 18th program for PHA will be presented by Dr. Karon Sharpe Bailey. Many of you may know Karon or her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sharpe. Dr. Bailey is an Associate Professor of English at Alabama State University. Her program for us will be based on her doctoral dissertation: *The Letters of Harriett "Hattie" Pinkston Englehardt*. Harriett Englehardt was a native Montgomerian who served with the American Red Cross during the final days of World War II in Europe.

Please attend our meeting on July 18th at 2:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall of the Pintlala Baptist Church. Bring a friend who might be interested, as we have a different perspective of the War by an Alabama woman who served on the front lines of one of the pivotal events of the 20th Century.

#### TABERNACLE HOMECOMING

The annual homecoming meeting of Tabernacle Church/Tabernacle Historical Association will be held on Sunday, August 1st, beginning with a devotional led by Dr. Cecil Williamson of Selma. President of the Association, David Reed, will lead a business meeting and Rae Venable Calvert will have a revised book of the Sanderson History. Following the meeting, a covered dish luncheon will be spread in the Fellowship Hall. Plan to attend this informative and enjoyable event! *(Thanks to Mary Ann Venable.)*

#### INQUIRIES:

If anyone knows of a Sanderson called "Hun" who married Foster Coleman, please let us know by writing PHA, Route 1, Box 488, Hope Hull, AL 36043. It is believed that this person may be a member of the Edmund Lindsey Sanderson family that lived in Lowndes County.

Gloria Mann is seeking information about the Surles School, which is just over the Montgomery County line in north Crenshaw County. This old two-room school is located on the north side of Surles Road, east of Highway 97. If you can provide any information, please contact her at 3530 Narrow Lane Road, Montgomery, AL 36111, phone 288-7533.

#### PHA'S APRIL PROGRAM

In April, Col. Jeff Benton (ret) gave a very interesting account of some of the colorful characters in his recently published book, *The Very Worst Road: Travelers' Accounts of Crossing Alabama's Old Creek Indian Territory, 1820-1847*. Thank you, Col. Benton, for a most informative and enjoyable program!



## KATHRYN TUCKER WINDHAM VISITS PINTLALA

Renowned storyteller and author, Kathryn Tucker Windham, delighted Pintlala residents and guests during her recent visit. Young and old alike sat spellbound by accounts of her youth, her days as a newspaper reporter, and the many colorful characters she has met. Afterward, she graciously granted snapshots with her admirers, and autographed books, including many "pre-loved" copies of her earlier works. Thanks to the Friends of the Pintlala Branch Library for arranging such a memorable event!

### BOOK: HERITAGE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Hurry and prepare your family histories and articles about your churches, clubs, etc. And gather your best photos for publication in the forthcoming book. For further information and a free copy of the brochure, please contact Joyce Nicoll, Phone 272-0481.

### LASSITER FAMILY REUNION *(Thanks to Miriam Lassiter Williams)*

The Annual Family Reunion of descendants of the late Frank Grant Lassiter and Annie Merle (Brady) Lassiter was held June 26 at the Pintlala Volunteer Fire Department with 55 persons attending. Guests came from Jackson and Maryville, Tennessee, Tuscaloosa, Moundville, Lowndesboro, Gulf Shores, Pike Road, Montgomery, and Hope Hull. Youngest guest was Mike Mayingo, approximately two-months old, from Gulf Shores. After a delicious meal, family and friends enjoyed time together, then some departed early to attend the afternoon wedding of Alan Brady's daughter at the Liberty Church of Christ.

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### MOUNT CARMEL BLACKSMITH SHOP

There was no sign on the Mount Carmel Blacksmith Shop as the old shed rambled along in the front yard of the Mathews place and there was no mistaking its purpose. Buck Poole, the proprietor and brother of Mrs. Hugh Mathews, was not the mighty man of the poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, but was brawny and strong. The shop was interesting but dirty. The windows were dingy and dusty and covered with many old cobwebs. The floor was of sandy dirt like the rest of Mount Carmel. On top of the dirt was a number of things that accumulate in a blacksmith shop: hoof parings, pieces of iron, sawdust, shavings and scraps of wood. Blacksmiths did more than just shoe horses. they repaired all manner of farm equipment, made iron tires for wagons and buggies, sharpened plows and sweeps, and other repair work. Near the forge and anvil, the floor was almost covered with sharp smelling hoof parings.

A pile of discarded horseshoes lay in one corner where they had been tossed for the convenience of anyone who wanted a set to pitch horseshoes, a popular game in the country on lazy afternoons. In another corner lay a pile of wheels, broken singletrees, doubletrees and buggy shafts. Near the center was the forge made of bricks and the old anvil. Nearby stood a



tub of terrible looking clack water covered with a greasy scum. No wonder the ladies shied away from this establishment.

Myres Hall, Charles and Richard's father, was the assistant blacksmith and it has been said it was a lively place to visit and meet with your friends. The aprons they wore were of leather, greasy and stained but good protection from the heat and the materials used in the blacksmith trade.

Overhead on a crossbeam hung the new iron horseshoes in a number of sizes, some and heavy, some medium for the ordinary sized farm stock and smaller ones for the lighter horses that only pulled buggies and surreys. Blacksmithing probably began when man discovered that iron could be softened when heated and could then be beaten and molded in useful things. Horses were wearing shoes as early as 200 B.C. and shoes were common in the Middle Ages. Each shoe for each hoof had to be made especially to fit the individual shape of the foot. The shoes came with concave surfaces and the smith chose the lightest possible for the work the horse would do. There were six or seven nails in the front shoes and eight in the back ones. The shoe was placed in the fire and the coals were blown with the bellows until they glowed red. The blacksmith would hold the shoe with a pair of long-handled pliers in one hand while he pumped the bellows with the other hand. He would then take the red hot shoe and place it on the anvil and pound it into shape. The hammer made music as it hit the shoe and then bounced on the anvil an extra but lighter blow. Beautiful showers of sparks flew upward and then down each time the hammer hit the shoe.

When the smith decided the iron was ready, he dipped the still hot shoe into the tub of dirty looking water and was rewarded with huge clouds of gray steam. Now it was time to place the shoe against the foot and the smell that came from that pared hoof was unique, to say the least. Sometimes the shoe was right the first time but sometimes it had to be heated and shaped again. Then the blacksmith was ready to drive the nails through the holes of the shoe where they would come out the sides of the hoof. He would then twist the protruding nails off with the back of a hammer and smooth the ends with a rough file. When he dropped the horse's leg, the shoe was on perfectly. When Buck Poole or Myres Hall shod a horse, the owner was often heard to remark, "That is as nice a job as I've ever seen."

The old blacksmith shop is no more and there are few remaining who think of those olden days when they spent pleasant hours in the shop talking, joking and laughing with the blacksmiths of Mount Carmel.

*by Lurline Hall, June 1, 1999*

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## HIGHLAND HOME COLLEGE

The school that eventually became Highland Home College was started in the Stratford community in the southern part of Montgomery County on September 8, 1856. Justus McClure



Barnes, twenty years old and newly graduated from Bethany College, opened a small school on that date, known as Strata Academy, with an initial enrollment of thirteen pupils.

Justus M. Barnes was born February 10, 1836, in a pioneer home near the headwaters of Pintlala Creek. He was a son of Elkanah and Mary Lumpkin Barnes. His father settled in Montgomery County in 1818, before Alabama became a state.

Samuel L. Jordan and Milton L. Kirkpatrick, brothers-in-law of Justus M. Barnes, eventually joined him as joint proprietors of Strata Academy.

Enrollment at the school grew and considerable progress was made despite the hardships of the Civil War years and the ensuing period of Reconstruction. However, during the years 1879 - 1881, epidemics of typhoid fever and other illnesses plagued the area. Three of the boarding students at Strata Academy died during this period and the school's owners decided to seek a new location on higher ground and with a good supply of potable water.

In 1881 the school was moved approximately six miles in a southerly direction to a high ridge in the northern part of Crenshaw County. A two-story frame classroom building, 100 feet long by 50 feet wide, was erected on 500 acres of land at this new location. This building was on the east side of what is now U.S. Highway 331. Messrs. Barnes, Jordan and Kirkpatrick constructed large residences near the classroom building and portions of those residences also served as dormitories for the boarding students. The owners named the village Highland Home and the school's name was changed to Highland Home Institute.

The Rocky Mount community, located less than a mile from the new school, had a bad reputation at that time. Whiskey was sold at "groghshops" and clans of ruffians fought at many public gatherings. Many of the residents of Rockymount were opposed to the establishment of the new school nearby and threatened its owners with bodily harm. However, the owners were successful in having a law passed which forbade the sale of alcoholic beverages within five miles of the school and the unruly element was eventually brought under control.

The Legislature of Alabama granted a charter to the school in 1889 and the school's name was again changed to Highland Home College. This was done in order that the school "might broaden its facilities to meet the increased demand made upon it and that it might afford greater advantages to its matriculates".

The school was always co-educational and while many preachers received some of the training at the institution, it was not a church school but a private enterprise.

Highland Home College was recognized for its academic excellence and the maintenance of strict discipline.

The school had students in primary, academic and college departments. The college department awarded Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degrees to those who had credits twenty-five points, including five points in mathematics and five points in language or literature.



The school day at Highland Home College began at 7:30 and ended at 4:00 p.m. Class work and lectures continued until 11:30 a.m. at which time the entire school assembled in the auditorium and sang until twelve noon. School was resumed at 1:00 p.m. There were recitations until 4:00 p.m. Boarding students had dinner at 6:00 p.m. and reported to their rooms at 7:00 p.m. They studied until 9:00 p.m., then assembled and had prayer.

Board and tuition at the college was usually \$3.50 to \$4.25 per week. The college had no endowments and received no government aid. The three owners used the earnings from their plantations and contributions from individuals to supplement the limited amount of revenue received from students' board and tuition.

The original classroom building burned in 1904. While the owners recovered only \$1,500 from insurance, they were able to replace it with a steam-heated and well-lighted building with the help of various individuals who gave money, land and services.

Students at Highland Home College from this area included Dr. S. D. Suggs, Dr. M. B. Kirkpatrick, Dr. A. D. Cowles, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Shackelford, Dr. William Tankersley, Dr. Felix Tankersley, N. J. Bell, J. M. Garrett, Silas Garrett, David Murrell and Lew Sanderson, to name only a few. Guy Renfro, Sr., minister of the Church of Christ and a long-time resident of Butler Mill Road, was a teacher at the college for a number of years.

Milton Kirkpatrick died in 1892. In 1898, Justus M. Barnes severed his connections with the college and moved to Montgomery where he established the Barnes School of Boys. His son, E. R. Barnes, operated the latter school for many years.

Samuel Jordan and George Clark continued to operate Highland Home College for a number of years following the death of Milton L. Kirkpatrick and the departure of Justus M. Barnes. The school was closed in 1916 at which time the ownership of the classroom building was transferred to the State of Alabama. The building was used by the Crenshaw County School System until it was demolished.

*(Many thanks to Thomas Ray for his research and graciousness in writing this interesting article! We're sure that it holds special significance for the Ray family, since his parents met at Highland Home College.)*

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DR FRANKLIN BRIGGS McCLEAN

by

Frank Howard Hawthorne, June 1999

Dr. Franklin Briggs McLean was born in North Carolina on March 1, 1840 and died November 25, 1911. He was the son of Neil McLean (b. Nov 15, 1802 - d. Mar. 17, 1875) and

Mary Briggs (b. Nov. 16, 1809 - d. Nov. 7, 1873). His parents were Hugh McLean and Eliza McDermitt and her parents William Briggs and Katherine Shriver.

He was reared near Wagram, N. C. and after receiving an education, he left home at age 20 and taught school in either Corinth or Tupelo, Mississippi. At age 21, he joined Captain J. M. Simonton's Company (Rifle Scouts) as a "5th Sergeant". His Company was called into service in Mississippi on August 24, 1861 and mustered into the service of the Confederacy on September 19, as Co. I, 1st Regiment of Mississippi Volunteers (Johnston's). He was taken prisoner at Fort Donaldson, but released prior to September 24, 1862, to his Company and appointed 2nd Lieutenant. He fought in many battles, was taken prisoner of war again and was moved to Point Lookout, Maryland on March 21, 1865 for exchange.

In the fall of 1865, he entered University of Louisiana Medical School (now Tulane Medical School), graduated the next year and commenced the practice of medicine at Steep Creek, Lowndes County, near his uncle, Colonel James Graham Gilchrist, who lived near Hayneville. He was practicing medicine in Letohatchee in 1870 where he had first married his first cousin, Kate Gilchrist, who lived only a short time. In 1872, he married her older sister, Elizabeth (Betty) Gilchrist (b. 1842 - d. 1921), both of whom were daughters of Colonel Gilchrist and his first wife, Elizabeth Briggs.

#### CHILDREN OF DR. FRANKLIN BRIGGS AND ELIZABETH (GILCHRIST) McLEAN

Kate	July 31, 1873 Aug. 6, 1965	m. Frank Stewart (an Andalusia attorney). b. Apr. 11, 1873 - d. May 15, 1905
James Neil	Jan. 29, 1875 Feb. 15, 1968	m. Alice Taylor in 1916. b. Aug. 4, 1877 - d. May 6, 1943. (Lived in Hayneville, Al until 1940.)
Mary	Feb. 16, 1877 May 10, 1954	m. Samuel Lee White. b. Oct. 17, 1875 - d. July 13, 1941.
Frank	July 10, 1879 Feb. 26, 1965	m. Julia Howard Greene on Dec. 28, 1911. b. Jan. 11, 1888 - d. Mar. 12, 1958.
Annie	Feb. 4, 1881 Dec. 28, 1962	(Unmarried)
Elizabeth Almina	June 21, 1882 June 20, 1963	m. Milton Reynold Gibson on June 4, 1907. b. Oct. 24, 1882 - d. Jan. 11, 1960. (Lived in North Carolina.)
Laura	Feb. 6, 1884 Aug. 13, 1978	(Unmarried)



## MT. CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CELEBRATES HOMECOMING

Pastor Roger Richeson led the celebration of Mt. Carmel UMC seventy-first annual homecoming on May 2, 1999. Choir director Brenda Majors McAllister, with pianist Tricia Guy Starkie, led the choir and congregational singing, and Nancy Cassady, Brenda McAllister, and Randall and Jessica Pierce offered special music.

Two other highlights of the service were the baptisms of Tristyn Adlena Pierce and Lillian Nicole Woodard, great granddaughters of Shack and Myrtie (Nolan) Scaife (the girls' ancestors have been members of the church for six generations) and the dedication and consecration of beautiful new stained glass windows. These were dedicated to the memory of A. C. Sellers, Ruth Mitchell Sellers, Nannie J. (Mama Nannie) Sellers, John Alexander Reddoch, Carrie Isabel Guy Reddoch, Richard Webb Norman, Hattie Sellers Norman and Descendants, Charles F. Bibb, Eubritta S. Norman, T. S. (Shack) Scaife, Myrtie E. Nolan Scaife, Jennifer Lynn Stewart, William Virgil Nolan, Sr., Nettie E. Watson Nolan, Will Hayden (Boots) Norman, the William Joseph Sellers Family, Phillip K. Kraus, Samuel J. Guy, Sr., (Mr. Sam), Lucile Andrews Guy (Miss Lucile), John A. Sellers (Uncle John), and Beuna Mae Duncan Sellers.

The artist who created the beautiful windows, Will Howard from Eufaula, attended the dedication with his wife, Kimberly Prawius. Members and guests concluded the celebration with a bountiful homecoming feast in the church fellowship hall.

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## MOORE MORSELS

*(In the April 1999 newsletter, we mentioned the lovely letter that we had just received from a former Pintlala resident, Sarah Elizabeth ("Tweet") Garrett Moore, from Athens, GA. The White Rat Funeral story is the "very favorite story" of her grandchildren, and her daughter is drawing illustrations for the story Mrs. Moore has written. At her recent visit to Pintlala, Mrs. Katherine Tucker Windham implored ALL of us to document these great family stories, and "Miss Tweet" has already done that! Here are some more excerpts from Mrs. Moore's letter, that we're sure you will enjoy!)*

Paving Highway 31. "In the April '98 Newsletter, you asked if we remembered when Hwy 31 was built. I do not believe that you could get a year, but perhaps the approximate time that sections of pavement near Pintlala were joined. The road obviously was completed in sections, as financing was available.

I have a lot of memories of that period of time. First, I know that at sometime my family had vacant rooms upstairs when the older boys were off to college or work, and because at that time there were not places to rent like apartments or motel rooms, we kept the engineering crews for both the Power Co. and the Highway Dept. in our home, while they completed the necessary surveys. My sister, Dixie, was still single (she married in 1935), so these memories are of times prior to that. Georgia Holmes of Hunstville was visiting and the teenagers got permission to ride



down toward Pintlala Creek to see the progress of the new road. I tagged along. The family had issued strict instructions not to go down where they had topsoil piled down the middle of the road. Naturally, teenagers listen attentively to parents, so you can guess where we went and how we happened to end up in a deep ditch when inexperienced drivers tried to turn around on less than half a roadway after we reached a place where we could go no farther. The highway crew had someone who was able to drive the car on ahead in the ditch and maneuver the car back up on the roadway. I was sworn to secrecy, so I never told until the older family members laughingly recalled our adventure many years later!

When the section near the creek was paved to join the section already in front of our home, there was to be a big celebration, and many of the neighbors went down to participate in the completion of Hwy 31. I remember that was somewhere fairly early in Depression times, for that made what happened at that celebration not a time for my dad to celebrate. Daddy always liked to dress well, and so he wore a brand new Panama straw hat to the festivities - unaware of the usual ceremony upon completion of a highway.

Just as the last load of concrete was being dumped, the hats of all the people present were customarily tossed into the concrete, so in went Daddy's brand new hat. Daddy was so upset, for he had an older hat at the house which he would not have minded so much parting with, and for a long time he wondered why none had said what they would be doing when that wonderful road was completed!

Lassiter's Ponds. "In that same newsletter, Lassiter's ponds were mentioned. I have the funniest memory of a social event there! Again, this was in the midst of the depression, when a group of young people decided to have a hay ride. The boys were to rent the truck, and the girls were to provide sandwiches, chips and pickles. Someone in the crowd had access to one of the Lassiter's ponds. It was a warm moonlight night, and we got to the pond and began to set out all the picnic. If you remember what we planned, you did not notice that anyone was scheduled to provide DRINKS! Well, it was the middle of the depression and the boys had put in just enough gas to get us there and back. There was no money in the crowd to get enough gas to go to a store or to buy drinks if we could get there. So we ate our pickles, chips and our salty foods, then attempted to enjoy paddling around the lake in the moonlight. For one thing, there was no mischief of any kind on our minds - nothing unseemly happened, for we would have given our kingdom for something to quench our thirst. Moonlight boatrides were not romantic, but were dreadful reminders that we were surrounded by water we could not drink. The hayride ended early, so we could get back to civilization and potable water.

But later, in the Montgomery Advertiser, there was a write-up in the society section about that wonderful night. One of the boys on the hayride worked with the society editor and was familiar with the fabulous accounts of high society where any wonderful account of a social event was printed in great detail. I can't remember all the wonderful things that were related about our social event, but it included exotic Spanish sounding guests' names, and how these visitors entertained us with their native dances "in a field abloom with angel trumpets". We would read the Advertiser's account of our AWFUL hayride, and go into convulsions of laughter.



So much for Pintlala memories! We didn't have TV and computers and money to spend, but we could still have wonderful fun.

The month before I was twelve, I was baptized in one of the ponds. There had been a meeting at Liberty Church, and several of us were baptized at night, with the lights of a row of cars lighting the area. My Christian walk is still where I find strength to go through anything that comes my way - and to find joy in my life. Another warm, wonderful memory of another time long ago and far away. (The "long ago and far away" relate more to the changing of the times and the morals than to actual time and distance.)"

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### BETHLEHEM CEMETERY

When we first married, "Cemetery Workings" were held at Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church at the South end of Butler Mill Road twice a year - in the spring and in the fall. My mother-in-law, Mrs. Leola Bedsole Hataway, and her sister, Aunt Desma Brady, members of the church, were two of the primary project engineers and planned the events for weeks! Throngs of people worked diligently to spruce up their loved ones' grave sites. They hoed the sandy soil clean; there was hardly a sprig of grass or weeds. The church was very active in those days, and church meetings like cemetery workings, were always followed by bountiful feasts spread on the long tables outside the church under the oak trees. The tables literally groaned under the weight of favorite dishes such as apple turnovers, assorted salads, and mounds of fried chicken.

But Bethlehem is a large cemetery, especially for such a small rural community. As the church's membership declined in number and health and the cemetery's membership grew, friends and supporters formed an association to help provide for the cemetery's upkeep. For years, Chairman Robert Gholston of Sandy Ridge (with only volunteers) worked "like killing snakes" to provide the primary maintenance of the cemetery. Those rigorous efforts, coupled with the efficient and frugal management assistance of Secretary/Treasurer Theresa Davis, enabled the establishment of a perpetual care fund.

Instead of twice yearly "workings" the friends of the Bethlehem Cemetery now are sent a newsletter inviting them to the annual meeting, held the Saturday before Mother's Day. It is followed, of course, by a picnic on the long outside tables under the oak trees! This year, a new tradition was established: that each person present would introduce himself, and give a synopsis of his family's connections with the cemetery. This year's meeting was held May 8, and we were delighted to have our youngest daughter and her family from Idaho attend. The grands are very interested in the family, and it was wonderful to show them where their GREAT grandparents had gone to church, and show them their resting place in the well-kept cemetery.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Bethlehem Cemetery annual newsletter, please contact Theresa Davis, 2535 W. Hickory Grove Road, LaPine, AL 36046, phone 288-6395. Contributions will be gratefully accepted. *(By Julianne Hataway)*



## OUR PIONEERING ANCESTORS

### ANSLEY GIDDENS

Ansley Giddens (spelled variously) was an Alabama pioneer although not immediately in Montgomery Co. He was born 1809 in Iredell Co NC, son of Thomas Giddens and (possibly) grandson of Basil Giddens. Ansley's mother is unknown at this time. She must have died when he was a young child. The Iredell US census for 1810 lists Thomas Giddens with the following persons in the household: 1 m to 10, 1 m 16-26, 1m 26-45, 1f to 10, 1f 16-26. By 1820 the household consisted of 1m 26-45 and 1m10-16 whom we presume to be Thomas and his son Ansley. We have no information about what may have happened to the others during the ten-year interim. Ansley received a liberal education in North Carolina and particularly enjoyed reading Latin. (Note that one of his sons was named Julius Caesar, perhaps reflecting this interest.) By 1830 Thomas and Ansley had migrated to Tipton Co. TN where they are in the US census record near the family of James T. Womack. Ansley married Emma Louisa Womack about this time. Their 2 eldest children were born in Tennessee: Elizabeth Virginia in 1831 and Mary Camilla in 1834. The other children of this union were born in Alabama: James Thomas (1837), Sarah (1839), John Ansley (1842), Julius Caesar (1844), and William C. (1847)

When he first came to Alabama, Ansley Giddens settled in Dallas Co AL. On 13 July 1836 he received an original patent to land in Sec 32, T14, R10. There is some evidence that the Womack family also settled in Dallas Co. At a later date Ansley moved his family to the area of Lowndes Co about a mile west of the Crenshaw Co village of Panola. There is no documented information about where Ansley's father may have been but family lore indicates that "he died of apoplexy in the field or woods" near the Lowndes Co residence. We have not located the family in the 1840 census record. Emma Louisa died sometime after William was born in 1847 and before 1850 when she does not appear in the census record for Lowndes Co. We do not know where she was buried. There are documents in Lowndes Co records in 1848 whereby Ansley Giddens was apparently making a motion against commissioners for Sec 16 township 13. Range 16 concerning some attempts to collect money from him in their capacity as education commissioners. In this matter Miss Sarah E. Womack of Dallas Co was called upon to testify in his behalf concerning the education of his children. It is likely that she is the sister of Emma Louisa. The 1850 Census for Lowndes Co lists the following persons in his household:

A. Giddings Occupation: overseer; Value of real estate: \$12,120; Birth: NC

Mary Camilla	17	TN
James Thomas	13	AL
Sarah	11	AL
John A.	8	AL
Julius C.	6	AL
William C.	3	AL

The record of family memoirs and some documents indicate that Ansley was something of an entrepreneur. He owned what may have been an early version of "chain" stores with general stores at various times at Sandy Ridge, Panola, Mt. Carmel, Helican, Briar Hill and Ramer. He also owned a gristmill and sawmill near his home at Mt. Carmel and probably moved these from his Lowndes Co home. There is an 1850 letter from his daughter Mary Camilla from her boarding school at Greenville, AL addressed to her father "Ansley A Giddens" of Panola at his post office at Hickory Grove, Lowndes Co. The US census for 1860 shows the family still living in Lowndes CO and lists these people as members of the household:

Ansley Giddens	50	Planter NC
E.N. Giddens	23	AL
E.V. Giddens	26	TN this should be E.V. Brown (mms)
W. C. Giddens	12	AL
L. M. Giddens	7/12	AL
W. A. Brown	9	AL

The W.A Brown listed is the son of E.V. (Elizabeth Virginia). She had married William Brown in Lowndes Co in 1849 and he died three years later. Presumably the widowed Elizabeth had been managing the household for her father before his second marriage



On 14 January 1859 Ansley married his second wife Elizabeth Narcissa Perdue in Lowndes Co. The children born to this marriage were Lucy Matilda 1859 (Mrs. Ed. Moore), Lucian Pinckard 1861 and Allie Lois 1868 (Mrs. James Mack Brown). The move to Ansley's last home on Hickory Grove Road near Mt. Carmel occurred before 1870. Ansley became a member of Rehobeth Methodist Episcopal Church in 1871 and his wife Elizabeth joined in 1873. The Montgomery Co Tax Book for 1873 shows that Ansley Giddens owned 414 acres of unimproved land in Montgomery Co. In addition he declared a wharf valued at \$15 and a toll bridge or ferry valued at \$60 (location unknown). His stock of goods was valued at \$4000. The house that he occupied is still standing and owned by his descendants. Ansley died 29 Oct 1876 and is buried at Mt. Carmel Methodist Cemetery.

We spent a number of unfruitful hours searching for any estate records for Ansley Giddens in Montgomery, Crenshaw and Lowndes Co. Finally we located a 1911 deed in Crenshaw County records. James Thomas Giddens explained that he had been managing his father's property as Giddens and Co. since his father's death but now he was getting old and wished to be relieved of the burden. He states that it was his father's dying wish that all his estate go to his second wife and her children. The deed is the conveyance by which the children of his first wife conveyed any interest they may have had in the estate to Elizabeth Perdue Giddens and her children. Presumably this deed is also recorded in Lowndes Co and Montgomery Co. We have made no effort to research the extent of the land holdings at that time but the company owned land in Montgomery, Lowndes, Crenshaw and perhaps Pike counties. Some of his Montgomery County land was at the intersection of Butler Mill Road and Hickory Grove Road and was donated to Mountain Hill Baptist Church by the Ed Moores, the James Mack Browns and Lucien P. Giddens.

Briefly, we have the following information about the children of Ansley Giddens:

Elizabeth Virginia married William Brown in Lowndes Co on 18 Oct 1849 and had one son William Ansley Brown. Her second marriage was to Francis Abner Boykin in Lowndes Co on 25 July 1861. They had two daughters, Georgia Womack Boykin (\*see note below) and Virginia Abner Boykin. Francis A. Boykin died in 1865 after serving in the Confederate Army. Elizabeth Boykin died on 29 December 1923 at the Grady, AL home of her daughter Georgia (Mrs. James Andrew Mills) She is buried at the Carter cemetery at Briar Hill in northern Pike Co. Mary Camilla married William Watson Perdue 17 Jan 1855. They had one daughter, Elizabeth Womack Perdue. Mary Camilla died in 1858 and is buried at Bethel Methodist Cemetery in northern Butler Co. James Thomas was never married. He served in the Confederate Army and had a lame hand from injuries he suffered at the battle of Murphreesboro in 1862. He managed his father's business until he was 72 years old as mentioned above. He was an active member of Rehobeth Methodist Episcopal Church during his later years. He died on 5 Sept 1914 and is buried at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. John Ansley's wife was Martha but we have no information about her or when they married. They lived for a time at Ramer, AL. Julius Caesar married Martha A. Carter in 1869. They lived in Pike Co AL. He died 3 Aug 1912 and is buried at the Carter Cemetery at Briar Hill in Pike Co. William C. married Elizabeth (Betty) Gamble. We have no further information about them. Lucy Matilda married E. H. Moore and they lived at Mt. Carmel near the old Giddens homestead. Lucy died in 1934 and E.H. Moore died in 1939. Both are buried in Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Two of their grandsons were killed during WW11 and are also buried at Mt. Carmel: Walter Hancock son of Faye Moore Hancock and Joseph Hancock, son of Lucy Moore Hancock. Lucien Pinckard married May Taylor of Greensboro, AL. We have no further information about them. Their son, Lucien P. Giddens Jr. was a Rhodes Scholar after graduating from Birmingham Southern in 1928 and was employed for a time at Montevallo Women's College. Allie Lois married Dr. James Mack Brown 23 Dec 1890. Dr. Brown practiced medicine at Sellers, AL for a time before they moved to Gadsden AL. Allie Lois died 25 May 1943 and Dr. Brown died 14 Aug 1948. They are both buried at Forrest Cemetery in Gadsden but a marker to their memory has been placed at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Their descendants own the old Giddens homestead.

\*Note: Georgia Womack Boykin was the grandmother of Mamie M. Sellers

\*\*Note: Walter Hancock was not killed during WWII, but died in 1956, shortly after being commissioned as an Air Force lieutenant.





Information inscribed on the back of the above photograph: (date of inscription unknown but likely during late 1930's or early 1940s)

"This picture of the old schoolhouse (which now stands about 250 feet West of the Ansley Giddens homestead in Mt. Carmel community, RFD 1, Letohatchee Alabama, was built as a home for his family by Mr. Nathaniel Bonham during the American Civil War while he was away serving in the Confederate Army.) Among his descendants (children) were Addie Bonham who married first a Mr. Evans and later a Mr. Bair; and Georgia Bonham (Duncan) who had a son, Morris Duncan, late of Huntsville, Ala. Georgia Bonham Duncan lent me (Dr. J. Lucien Brown of Gadsden, Alabama), the tintype picture from which this picture (copy) was made; and she identified every person shown here. The Ansley Giddens home and this old schoolhouse are both owned by the aforesaid Dr. Brown. This picture was made about 1873. The first teacher was Mr. Charles Chilion Davis (father of Mrs. Nancy Davis Jeffries, Mrs. Johnnie (May D.) Powell, Miss Kate Davis and others.

Pictured from reader's left to right in the picture are First row, small boys, Bobby Broadnax, Lucien Pinckard Giddens, Sr., Graham Stewart, Crowel Broadnax. Back Row (big boys) Charlie Moore, Clute Williams, Dave Hurst, Norfly Blunt, Henry Crummins, Ed H. Moore, William Walter (Billy) Sellers. Girls: Minnie Means, Pink (Sallie Maria) Bonham, Louie Brady, Mildred Bonham, Julia Moore, Lucy Matilda Giddens (Mrs. Ed Moore), Georgia Bonham (Duncan). Teacher E.C. McManus." (Note: Teacher's name is not quite legible. mms) (Another note: The Nathaniel Bonham mentioned above is likely Nathaniel S. Bonham, son of Nathaniel and Charity Bonham.)

SOURCES: Research by Rev. Jimmy Ford, Rabun S. Mills and Sara Hart (all descendants of Ansley Giddens)  
 Articles from Alabama Christian Advocate authored by Dr. Joseph Lucien Brown, son of Allie Lois Giddens Brown.  
 Letters from Dr. Brown to relatives and family information he recorded on the back of photos.  
 Correspondence with Mrs. Jean Hancock Morgan  
 US Census Records as cited above.  
 Certificate Register Cahaba Land Office Book 313 1835-1836 (Shown as Aunsley Geddins)  
 Rehobeth Methodist Episcopal Church records.  
 Montgomery Co Tax Records. 1873. Microfilm at Alabama Archives.  
 Crenshaw Co Deed Record Book 29 p 549-550 (lists heirs of Ansley Giddens)  
 Lowndes Co Marriage records.

Additions and corrections will be gratefully received.  
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