



HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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HOPE HULL, AL 36043

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JANUARY 2000

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hope each of you had a very blessed holiday season! Glad the Y2K bug was all but exterminated. As we enter a brand-new century, we look forward to more opportunities to recognize, preserve and celebrate our exciting historic heritage. Bring any suggestions you may have for program topics for the coming year. Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday, January 16, 2000!

JACK HORNADY
President, PHA

PHA PROGRAM FOR JANUARY 2000

PHA meets on Sunday, January 16, 2000 at 2:30 pm at the Pintlala Baptist Church. Our October program presented by Nell Stewart from Evergreen was so very enjoyable and moving. Nell shared letters written by her great-grandfather to his wife-to-be during his service with the Confederate Army. It is amazing that one family has maintained a body of 31 letters intact for over one hundred and thirty years!

If the Stewart family has such historic treasures, there may be others held by PHA members! The January program will be your chance to share "Correspondence written during the 19th

Century (1800-1899)." Please bring any letters dated prior to 1900 and share their background with PHA. These letters are often difficult to read, so please take time to transcribe them into readable form. Be able to tell who wrote each letter and something of the circumstances surrounding it.

Search your family records and share with us on January 16 - see you and a friend then!

HEARTFELT SYMPATHY:

PHA members extend heartfelt sympathy to the families of Pintlala residents, Mrs. Laura Allison and Mr. Kendrick Foster. Mrs. Allison served the area as Hope Hull's rural mail carrier. Mr. Foster's family provide assistance to other members of the Pintlala Computer Club. We cherish their valuable contributions to the community.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Mann
3530 Narrow Lane Road
Montgomery, AL 36111
Ph: 288-7533

Jay and Ruth Ott
91 Watson Circle
Montgomery, AL 36109
Ph: 277-2267

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Robert Lee Barnes
12196 U. S. Highway 331
Montgomery, AL 36105

Mrs. E. Caldwell Stewart
3124 DuPont
Montgomery, AL 36106
Ph: 264-9253

INQUIRY:

Robert Lee Barnes (address listed above) seeks information about the grave location of Anne Robey Lanham (Granny) Barnes. In 1790, she married Henry (Harry) Barnes, in Maryland. There, their first six children were born. They moved to South Carolina about 1804, and their next four children were born in that state. In 1818, her husband died in S.C. and their son, Elkanah Barnes came to Montgomery County, Alabama, with his sister's husband, Thomas Butler, and purchased land in the "valley of the Pintlala." The following year, Elkanah returned to S.C., and brought the rest of his family to the Alabama frontier. Anne Barnes died May 24, 1840, and (according to family records) is buried in the Bethlehem Grave Yard.

TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget: Annual dues for the Pintlala Historical Association are due in January 2000.

ABNER McGEHEE HONORED

A recent edition of the Montgomery Advertiser reported that Abner McGehee was one of six people honored for having shaped Montgomery. The paper stated that Abner McGehee built a railroad linking the Alabama heartland to the Northeast and Midwest. He was depicted in bonze at the RSA Pavilion Park, which was dedicated January 6, 2000.

BETHEL CEMETERY RESTORED AND REDEDICATED

Pintlala Baptist Church has restored and rededicated the 1819 Bethel Primitive Baptist Cemetery! The church has owned the cemetery since 1998. In addition to the restoration, a notebook containing a listing of all the graves, with photos of each tombstone and a schematic of the cemetery is now in the Ethel May Todd Historical Alcove at the Pintlala Branch Library.

The Bethel Cemetery is not on the Alabama Registry of Landmarks and Heritage. The service of rededication was held on November 4, 1999, exactly 76 years to the date when the Montgomery Woman's Missionary Union, along with Baptist dignitaries, came to Pintlala and installed a stone marker commemorating the 1837 split between the Primitive and Missionary branches of the Baptist Church. Many thanks to the Pintlala Baptist Church for their completion of this magnificent project! Visitors are welcome.

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR BOOK: HERITAGE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The deadline for submitting family histories and articles about your churches, clubs, etc. has been extended till March 31, 2000. Also, this newsletter contains some suggested questions to assist in preparing an oral history. So there's still time to complete your articles for publication in the forthcoming book! For further information and a free copy of the Heritage Book brochure contact Joyce Nicoll, Phone 272-0481.

(If you thought "Crazy Dow" applies only to our current stock market, you should enjoy this article written in 1939 by another minister about the colorful and controversial figure, Rev. Lorenzo Dow! The fiery, itinerant evangelist, preached in the wilds of west Montgomery and Lowndes Counties years before Alabama became a state. His popularity was evidenced by the fact that, during that time, more than 20,000 children (including Brigham Young's younger brother, Lorenzo Dow Young) were named for him. I found this article in a group of manuscripts from the Federal Writers' Project, and was so intrigued by it that I fired up the computer, and began "surfing" for more articles on Rev. Dow. I netted several - some more kind, others more critical. One article explained that Rev. Dow's malady was asthma, one stated that his wife, Peggy, always accompanied him on all his circuits, enduring all the rigors of travel in that day, while another stated that he married her one day, then left the next for an eight month tour in the South. Still another stated that he remarried less than a year after her death. Nevertheless, all the writers seemed to exhibit a great respect for this impressive figure.

Guess he must have been an early practitioner of "reverse psychology" as one article stated "Lorenzo Dow once met a man as he was riding along a solitary road to fulfill an appointment and said to him -- Friend, have you ever prayed? No. How much will you take never to pray hereafter? One dollar. Dow paid it over, and rode on. The man put the money in his pocket, and passed on thinking. The more he thought, the worse he felt. There, said he, I have sold my soul for one dollar! It must be that I have met the devil! Nobody else would tempt me so. With all my soul, I must repent, or be damned forever!" jch)

REV. LORENZO DOW

by

Rev. Anson West, D. D. From History of Methodism in Alabama

(From American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1940 Item 26 of 33, February 20, 1939)

Rev. Lorenzo Dow was the first Protestant preacher to preach in any part of the territory that is now Alabama. He claimed to be a Methodist and affiliated with that denomination, but they would not be responsible for him in anything he did. In May, 1803, Rev. Mr. Dow preached to the settlers in the Tombigbee and Tensaw settlements.

This was the first preaching ever done in Alabama except by Romish priests. However, when these settlements along the Tombigbee were developed, and became safe from the Indians and their claims were ceded to the U. S., heralds of the cross found its people and voice of the messengers of peace was heard in the wilderness.

Rev. Dow described in some of his writings the inhabitants as mostly English, but were like "Sheep without a shepherd," and while it was under Spanish government it was a refuge for bad men.

Lorenzo Dow was born Oct. 16, 1777, in Coventry, Tolland County, Connecticut. He was descended from the English ancestors. He was the subject of early religious impressions. Before he was four years old he expressed himself as "Mused upon God, Heaven and Hell."

He was united with a society of Methodists being received into it by Rev. G. Roberts. He claimed Hope Hull as his spiritual advisor. Rev. Mr. Dow made a long and hard struggle against the conviction that 'it was his duty to preach,' but at last yielded to the conviction that God had called him to the ministry.

He met with strong opposition from his father as to this move and still stronger from the members of the church and when he sought to obtain a license to preach he was discouraged and at first was rejected and sent away. He continued to press his claim and finally was admitted on

trial September 19, 1898. Ill health prompted him to come South. He was lured by the warm mild climate, and with his wife, Peggy, made the long tiresome hazardous trip. The journey was both dangerous and difficult, but to Dow, perils were a fascination. In his journals, which have been sacredly kept, he tells of these many perils and adventures among the wild tribes he encountered.

Any feature of the uncivilized and the wilderness appealed to him. On the stages of the long journey Southward he preferred camping out at night, especially in the piney woods country. Huge piles of straw were raked up which served as the bed and he would be lulled to sleep by the soothing monotone of the sighing pines. There was also a hope entertained that the resinous regions possessed a curative power for his malady. A singular chapter in his life was a great desire and fancy to preach to the Roman Catholics and hearing Ireland was their greatest stronghold, he would thither, but his pathway was not strewn with roses by any means. He requested a leave of absence from the Conference in order to make the trip abroad, but the request was not granted and he took the leave of absence anyway against their advice and entreaties. He consumed about twenty months on this trip, preaching the gospel incessantly and attending camp meetings.

Notwithstanding he had made the European tour against the authority of the Conference, he resumed preaching on his return and remained on "trial." However, he could not stand the test and his name was soon dropped from the minutes.

He was not careful to maintain the relationship with the Conference which he had so eagerly sought. He was sent out on circuit assignments but this did not correspond with the expansive fields of his dreams. He was discontented. In a word, he did not consider a circuit his right sphere, and claimed that his connection with the conference was severed. He was never really ordained to the ministry and was without authority to administer sacrament of organize societies. In doctrinal principles he was Methodist, but was without any church influence or allegiance. He was irregular and uncertain. He was a force, but uncertain, unreliable and inefficient.

He was restless and he was a dreamer. He was contradictory and never happier than when engaged in a wordy war. He possessed scant learning, but was a very close observer of mankind. The very face of Lorenzo Dow indicated his character. His features were both rough and delicate. It was rough and effeminate but in that face there was every mark of indomitable energy.

He parted his hair in the middle and work it hanging down his neck and shoulders and his face was radiant with kindness. His wife, Peggy, whom he married before coming South, in her writings, "Vicissitudes," gives an account of their first trip South and also gives an account of a trip which she made with him passing through the Bigbee settlements in November, 1811, from Natchez Mississippi to Milledgeville, Georgia in the wilderness some forty miles. She says "At night we camped out in lonely deserts, uninhabited by any being except wild beasts and savages. I was much alarmed and uneasy, but my husband was content and slept sweetly." In giving an account of her first meeting with him she says, "He is a most singular character, and admits himself that he was known by the name of 'Crazy Dow' and called himself 'Son of Thunder'."

Despite his ill health, he boasted that he held off death. He refused to die and said he must live to fight for the Kingdom. He did not believe in founding churches but preferred to preach and praise God in the wilds and in the open. However, a prominent jurist of Alabama, who is closely connected with Lowndes County, claims to have the historical facts that Dow preached from the altar one time if no more. The small church known as "Union" which is nestled in a groove between the small settlements of Burkeville and Manack, Lowndes County, claims the distinction of having him preach there in its early history.

The tradition, in part, is that Sam Manac, the half-breed who founded the latter place and for whom it was named, met Dow during his wanderings through the wilds and led him to that altar. Union Church, now obscure, holds an interesting part in the early history of Lowndes. Dow, the first man who passed the holy words around and around in Alabama, preached there. The Graves family, ancestors of Alabama's ex-governor, worshipped at that altar. Some of which sleep in the nearby churchyard, and it is built in the road that was the route of the thorough county stage coach line, 'most a hundred years ago.

Rev. Dow died February 2, 1834, in Georgetown, D.C., was buried near Washington, but remains were removed and re-buried in Oakhill Cemetery, near Georgetown.

He had one son, Neal, who was Brigadier in Union Army and author of "Main Law."

Joanne Raburn from Eugene, Oregon, compiled a list of oral history questions from a variety of sources, including her daughter's 6th grade class project and a college-level Women's Studies class project. She used them to produce a booklet, "The Life and Times of Winnie Lackore" to commemorate Winnie's 90th birthday celebration. This list could be tailored to almost any project involving obtaining and recording oral history. It should help to get us get started in gathering information for our special family stories. Than you, Joanne, for sharing this list, via the internet!

- What is your full name and why were you named it?
- Were you named after somebody else?
- Did you have a nickname as you were growing up?
- If you did, what was it and why did they call you that?
- Have you had other nicknames as an adult?
- What do family members call you now?
- Where were you born and when?
- Do you remember hearing your grandparents describe their lives? What did they say?
- Do you remember your great-grandparents? What do you know about them?
- Who was the oldest person you can remember in your family as a child? What do you remember about them?

- Were there any fads during your youth that you remember vividly?
- How old were you when you started dating?
- Do you remember your first date? Describe the circumstances.
- Name a good friend that you have known for the longest period of time? How many years have you been friends?
- Has there ever been anyone in your life that you would consider to be your kindred spirit or soul mate?
If so, who were they and why did you feel a special bond to them?
- How did you meet the person that you would later marry? Describe them?
- Do you remember where you went on the first date with your spouse?
- How long did you know them before you got married?
- Describe your wedding proposal.
- When and where did you get married?
- Describe your wedding ceremony. Who was there?
- Did you have a honeymoon? If so, where did you go?
- How would you describe your spouse? What do (did) you admire most about them?
- How long have you been married (or were you married)?
- What wise advice would you give to a grandchild on their wedding day?
- How did you find out that you were going to be a parent for the first time?
- How many children did you have all together?
- What were their names, birthdates and birthplaces?
- Do you remember anything that your children did when they were small that really amazed you?
- What is one of the most unusual things that one of your children did regularly when they were small?
- What was the funniest thing you can remember that one of your children said or did?
- If you had it to do all over again, would you change the way you raised your family? How?
- What did you find most difficult about raising children?
- What did you find most rewarding about being a parent?
- Did you spoil any of your children? How?
- Were you a strict or lenient parent?
- Did you find that you had to treat each of your children differently? If so, why?
- How did you first hear that you were a grandparent and how did you feel about it?
- What advice do you have for your children and grandchildren?
- As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?
- What was your first job?
- What kinds of jobs have you had?
- How did you decide on your career?
- Did you make enough money to live comfortably?
- How long did you have to work each day at your job?
- How old were you when you retired?
- What were the hardest choices that you ever had to make? Do you feel like you made the right choices?
- Who was the person that had the most positive influence on your life? Who were they and what did they do?
- Is there a person that really changed the course of your life by something that they did?
Who were they and what did they do?

- Do you remember someone saying something to you that had a big impact on how you lived your life?
What was it?
- How would you describe yourself politically?
- Are you Conservative or Liberal and why?
- What wars have been fought during your lifetime? How did you feel about them?
- If you served in the military, when and where did you serve and what were your duties?
- If you served in the military, were you ever injured in the line of duty?
What were the circumstances and what were your injuries?
- What U.S. President have you admired the most and why?
- As you see it, what are the biggest problems that face our nation and how do you think they could be solved?
- How tall are you?
- What color was your hair as a young child and then as an adult?
- What color are your eyes?
- Where have you lived as an adult? List the places and the years that you lived there.
- Why are you living where you are today?
- Do you wish you lived somewhere else (If so, where would it be)?
- Describe your general health.
- What major illnesses or health problems do you remember having?
- Do you have any health problems that are considered hereditary in nature? If so, what are they?
- What do you do regularly for exercise?
- Do you have any bad habits now or in the past? What were they?
- Have you ever been the victim of a crime? What happened?
- Have you ever been in a serious accident?
- Has anyone ever saved your life? Describe.
- Have you ever saved anyone else's life? Describe.
- Have you ever been hospitalized? If so, what for?
- Have you ever had surgery? If so, what for?
- If you could change something about yourself, what would it be?
- Have you ever had an experience that you would consider to be super-natural or psychic? Did you ever know something was going to happen before it actually did?
What was it?
- What do you usually dream about?
- What church, if any, do you attend regularly?
- Describe your religious beliefs.
- Do you believe in an after life?
- What was the most stressful experience that you ever lived through? What helped you get through it?
- What is the scariest thing that has ever happened to you personally?
- What kinds of musical instrument(s) have you learned to play?
- Would you consider yourself creative?
- What things have you made that others have enjoyed?
- How would you describe your sense of humor?
- What is the funniest practical joke you ever played on anyone?
- What activities have you especially enjoyed as an adult?
- What are your hobbies?

- What did you like to do when you were not working?
- What is the most amazing thing that has ever happened to you?
- What is the most embarrassing thing that has ever happened to you?
- Have you ever met any famous people? Describe what happened.
- What organizations and groups have you belonged to?
- Have you ever won any special awards or prizes as an adult? What were they for?
- Describe a time and place when you remember feeling truly at peace and happy to be alive.

Where were you and what were you doing?

- What is the most beautiful place you have ever visited and what was it like?
- What is the longest trip that you have ever gone on? Where did you go?
- What has been your favorite vacation? Where did you go and why was it special?
- What was the favorite place you ever visited and what was it like?
- What pets have you had?
- Do you have a favorite story about a pet? What is it?
- Is there anything you have always wanted to do, but haven't?

FAVORITES

- What is your favorite style of music?
- What is your favorite musical instrument?
- Who is your favorite musical group?
- What is your favorite song?
- Who is your favorite singer?
- Who is your favorite movie star?
- What is your favorite movie?
- Who is your favorite artist?
- What is your favorite painting?
- Who is your favorite poet?
- What is your favorite poem?
- What is your favorite TV program?
- Who is your favorite author?
- What is your favorite book?
- What is your favorite season?
- What is your favorite tree?
- What is your favorite flower?
- What is your favorite holiday?
- What is your favorite color?
- What is your favorite sport?
- Who is your favorite athlete?
- What is your favorite animal?
- What is your favorite meal?
- What is your favorite fruit?
- What is your favorite vegetable?
- What is your favorite candy?
- What is your favorite cookie?
- What is your favorite drink?
- What is your favorite restaurant?
- What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?
- What is your favorite board game?

- What is your favorite card game?
- Do you remember your family discussing world events and politics?
- Was there a chore you really hated doing as a child?
- What would you consider to be the most important inventions that have been made during your lifetime?
- How is the world now different from what it was like when you were a child?
- What kinds of books did you like to read?
- Do you remember having a favorite nursery rhyme or bedtime story? What was it?
- Do you ever remember not having enough food to eat because times were hard for your family?
- What were your favorite toys and what were they like?
- What were your favorite childhood games?
- What were your schools like?
- How did you get to school?
- What was your favorite subject in school and why?
- What subject in school was always the easiest for you?
- What was your least favorite subject in school and why?
- Who was your favorite teacher and why were they special?
- How do your fellow classmates from school remember you best?
- What school activities and sports did you participate in?
- Did you and your friends have a special hang-out where you liked to spend time? Where was it and what did you do there?
- Were you ever given any special awards for your studies or school activities?
- How many years of education have you completed?
- Do you have a college degree? If so, what was your field of study?
- Did you get good grades?
- Did you like school?
- What did you like the most and the least about it?
- What did you usually wear to school? Describe it.

IF YOU HAD TO PICK A LABEL FOR YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS (your spouse, children, parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts & uncles, cousins), WHO BEST FITS THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTIONS? The best cook; The hardest-worker; the quietest; the best memory; the best gardener; the funniest; the best-looking; the animal lover; the most politically-active; the most mischievous; the calmest; the most athletic; the most intelligent; the most educated; the best career; the most creative; the wildest lifestyle; the most sociable; the biggest tease; the best housekeeper; the most reclusive; the most colorful; the most relaxed; the most frugal; the most generous; the tallest; the shortest; the best story-teller