

# PINTLALA



# HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

C/O PINTLALA PUBLIC LIBRARY

255 FEDERAL ROAD

HOPE HULL, AL 36043

*Founded in 1987*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

The Pintlala Historical Association has entered a new year with a profound sense of loss. When Jamie Henry, our Vice-president, passed away, the wind was taken from our sails. The ocean of the future must now be charted without his guidance and wisdom. Personally, I shall miss Jamie's strong friendship, affirmation, and support. Jamie was always found on the side of that which was wholesome and uplifting. The enrichment he brought to our lives cannot be measured in words. His absence will be keenly felt for years.

The departure of Jamie Henry is felt, not only personally, but organizationally as well. His grasp of local history had no rival. With an encyclopedic recall, Jamie could take us back to bygone days and make us feel as though we were participants ourselves. Jamie's love of local history and family heritage was infectious. Serving as an effective ambassador for the Pintlala Historical Association, Jamie's storytelling ability lifted history from the sterile environment of the classroom or textbook and made it relevant. He brought warm animation to cold facts.

The civic legacy left to us by Jamie Henry is not ambiguous. It is clear. *Each generation is responsible for the preservation of its own heritage.* Hope for the future is grounded in the

heritage of the past.

So why not help us strengthen the mission of PHA by:

- \*Showing up for meetings
- \*Being intentional about bringing a friend (especially, a younger friend!)
- \*Being generous in financial support

The inspirational memory of Jamie Henry gives us reason to hoist our sails, for someday a renewed wind will invigorate us again. We must be ready.

GARY BURTON

January 2004

### **JANUARY PROGRAM:**

The January 18<sup>th</sup> PHA program will be presented by Susan Abram, doctoral candidate at Auburn University, whose major field is Early American History with an emphasis in Cherokee and Appalachian Studies. Mrs. Abram will speak to us about William Bartram - who he was, why he is important in American history and of interest to us in Pintlala.

As a follow-up for those members who attended the Bartram Trail Conference in October and for those members not familiar with Bartram at all, this program will complete our exploration of Bartram. Perhaps this study will lead to future PHA projects connected to the Federal Road in Pintlala.

Please heed our president's suggestion to attend and bring a guest who might like to join PHA!

*(Thanks to Alice Carter for again arranging such an interesting program! Come to the Fellowship Hall of the Pintlala Baptist Church at 2:30 PM on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, for this special event.)*

**PHA MOURNS LOSS OF VICE-PRESIDENT JAMIE HENRY:** James Porter (Jamie) Henry, Jr. was a lifelong farmer, a World War II veteran and a dedicated public servant. He was active in church and civic affairs, serving for years as a song leader, Bible teacher, and leader of numerous agricultural and community organizations. Jamie was past president of Montgomery County Farmers Federation, and received the Alabama Farmers Federation award for outstanding leadership. He was an avid historian, a charter member of Pintlala Historical Association and a true inspiration to all who knew him.

**NEWEST PHA MEMBER:** A hearty welcome to Mrs. Charles Roughton, 160 Katie Lane, Hope Hull, AL 36046 (Phone 281-4099)! We look forward to a long and pleasant association!



HEARTFELT SYMPATHY: PHA members extend heartfelt sympathy to the families of our members and friends who have recently lost loved ones, including the families of Mrs. Beatrice S. Woodard, Mr. James Porter (Jamie) Henry, Mr. Lattrell Adams (brother of Earl Adams) and Mr. Dave Ward.

WELL WISHES: We hope that all our other friends who have been having a rough time soon feel MUCH better! Those include Darrell Self, Rose Hornady, Dot Cline, Dawn Edge, and many others.

PHA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES are payable in January. Please give \$10 renewal dues to Treasurer Thomas Ray, or send a check to him at 2995 Pettus Road, Hope Hull, AL 36043.

MRS. WOODARD: Sprague resident Mrs. Beatrice Stockard Duncan Woodard, who passed from this life on October 24, would have been 101 on Christmas Day! She was a lovely, gracious, “spunky” little lady, who will long be remembered and missed by all who knew and loved her.

WELCOME, PINTLALA LARGE ANIMAL SERVICES: Welcome to “our own” Dr. Will Carter, who specializes in large animals and makes barn calls! *(That is a tremendous help to people like me who have trouble hooking up and backing a trailer. JCH)*

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*We now take for granted “necessities,” such as electric power and water. But many of us remember when those items were not readily available. Thanks to Mary Lillian Rosier for describing those days, and for submitting two newspaper articles about the early days of the Pintlala Water System. And thanks to all of you, who, like Mary Lillian, worked diligently to achieve a safe, sufficient water supply!*

THE PINTLALA WATER SYSTEM: In 1969, when Mary Lillian Rosier and her husband were looking for land in the Pintlala area, they were told that there was no water system. A residential well required drilling about 900 feet, and cost about \$3,000. The Rosiers were told that a water system was being developed, and they bought their home site. Later, Mary Lillian, with Mary Clyde and Charles Meadows and others, launched an aggressive campaign to try to speed up the project. They obtained large Montgomery County maps and designated persons on each road to personally ask their neighbors to support the water system. Working with Mr. John A. Garrett of the Farmers Home Administration, they circulated information in almost every method possible to encourage support. The response was very encouraging! Subscribers paid \$25 initially and signed a two year contract agreeing to pay a monthly fee of \$4.50, whether or not they used the system. Even most people who already had “good” wells supported the effort. Finally, the goal was reached, a Government grant was obtained, and the long-awaited water system was constructed! Here are two articles that Mary Lillian submitted from the Montgomery Advertiser:



## **THE END OF THE RAINBOW: Editor, The Advertiser:**

As Mr. Motisi, engineer for the Pintlala Water System, told the crowd at the community meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup> at Pintlala School, "At the end of the rainbow - will be WATER."

Water for all to use is more important to people in rural areas than a pot of gold. Water - fresh and clear, plentiful in supply, flowing at the turn of a faucet - is what some have dreamed of and never thought they would see in certain rural areas. This liquid gold lies so deep underground in the southern areas of Montgomery County that deep wells are an expense many cannot afford. Water, in these communities, is not taken for granted as it is today the same problem it has always been - a dire necessity and hard to get.

As a newcomer from the city, having bought property in this section with plans to build, I was astounded that so many people had survived for so long with no water source at all, hauling all drinking water, and bathing and washing clothes in ponds and creeks. But the end of the much sought after rainbow is in sight - there is a way to attain water for all the community. How? By community support.

In 1967 a group of interested citizens surveyed the area and obtained enough signed petitions to apply for a Farmers Home Administration loan to build a community water system. At that time, enough community interest was shown to apply for the loan but not enough support given to place the project in a high priority for accomplishment.

In recent months, those first interested have been joined by others in a vigorous campaign and a second survey made which verified the fact that the people in even greater numbers do want to support a water system. An organization was formed late in May and the next step of the project has been started - collection of water meter fees (\$25 per meter.)

A lot of people have worked extremely hard to make this project a success. Visits, phone calls, letters, radio announcements, posters in local stores, community meetings are some of the methods taken to inform the people of the current drive. But some may have not heard for some have not responded. The community needs the support of all that are interested now.

This water system is being planned to serve as many people as it is financially possible to reach. It strictly depends on community support. The area proposed for service begins at I-65 and US 31 Intersection in Hope Hull, and extends South on 31 almost to Davenport. It branches out and includes the McLean Road, the McGehee Road, the cross roads extending in both directions at Mosley's store in Pintlala, Tabernacle Road, Tabernacle Loop, the Bibb Forks community, several miles of the Pettus Road and the Letohatchie Road and various side dirt roads extending from main roads.

If you live or own property in this area and want to know more about this community water system, contact the undersigned or one of the officers of the organization. They are: Mr. Fred Sellers, Fleta (President), Mr. Charles B. Meadows, Pintlala (Secretary-Treasurer), Sgt. O. E. Sharp, Fleta (Vice President) and Mr. Sam Whigham, Pintlala and Mr. Wallace Bush, Hope Hull, Directors. In addition, the owners and operators of local stores are actively participating. MRS. J. D. ROSIER, Montgomery.

The second Montgomery Advertiser article was published April 13, 1971:



## NEW WATER SYSTEM PUTS COUNTY NO. 1

A transaction approved Monday by the Alabama Public Service Commission pushes Montgomery County into first place in the state in the percentage of its population served by a public water system.

The transaction, approved by unanimous vote of the PSC and without opposition from other parties, was the sale for \$1,000 of Hope Hull's water system to a new public utility corporation.

The new system, Pintlala Water System, Inc., headed by Fred Sellers of Montgomery, will serve an estimated 350 South Montgomery County homes, bringing the county public water service total to 99.5 per cent.

Joe Downey of the State Health Department said the county's total now is the highest in the state, with Jefferson County second at 96.4 per cent, Etowah County is third with 95.6.

The new system has the Health Department's approval Downey said.

Jim Williams of the PSC staff said rates will be about \$1 per month higher than previous rates for the fewer than a dozen persons served by the Hope Hull system.

Hope Hull Utility Corp., approved by the PSC in November 1961, had a \$4 minimum for the first 3,000 gallons plus a dime per 100 gallons for the next 2,000 or less.

"We're happy to see it," Williams said. "It's a step in the right direction."

The new system will offer "limited fire protection," or six-inch mains for private use, since no volunteer fire service is available to county residents, Downey said.

Construction of the system is expected to start within 30 days and be operational by mid-November, he said.

"Those who sign up get in for a \$25 fee," Downey said. "Those who come in later usually pay \$125 to hook up."

The system will feature a 100,000 gallon storage tank a mile east of Pintlala and polyvinyl chloride plastic pipe in eight-inch, six-inch and three-inch sizes.

Money for the approximately \$300,000 system will be raised from federal grants and Farmers Home Administration loans, and rates will be set by the federal agencies involved, Downey said.

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*Many thanks to Gary Burton for our last newsletter article about the First Baptist Church in Pintlala and this related article!*

## A.B. MCWHORTER

A.B. McWhorter served also as clerk of the Pintlala Baptist Church. Dr. Lee N. Allen in *The First 150 Years: A History of First Baptist Church Montgomery*, states that Alexander B.



McWhorter, along with his wife, were charter members of Montgomery Baptist Church (FBC), having moved their membership from Edgefield District, South Carolina. While in South Carolina, he was baptized by Basil Manly. A short time later Jesse Hartwell would also serve as McWhorter's pastor in Edgefield. Both Manly and Hartwell would eventually come to Alabama and succeed Lee Compere as Montgomery Baptists' founding pastor. Lee Allen provides the following observation from one who knew McWhorter:

"Whatever the character of the church meeting, whether on the Sabbath or during the week, Deacon McWhorter was seldom, if ever, absent. No duty however arduous or exacting and no sacrifice however severe, ever caused him to falter, so that he might do the will of God, and promote the interest of the church."

What circumstances brought A.B. McWhorter, who would eventually die in 1859, to Pintlala? Again, Allen provides a clue. Domestic missions of the Alabama Baptist Association was usually concentrated in rural communities and churches. McWhorter was on a committee charged with raising money and supplying preachers for rural assignments. Joining McWhorter on the Oversight Committee between 1843-1853 were James M. Newman, Henry Talbird, and two Montgomerians who had been domestic missionaries, A.T.M. Handey and D.P.J. Murphy. Was it not probable that, possessing a heart for rural missions, A. B. McWhorter sought to give lay leadership to the Pintlala Baptist Church?

A.B. McWhorter was very well known in Montgomery, Alabama. The 1840 Census reveals a total population of 2,178. Of this total 1116 were white and 1062 were black.

McWhorter's prominence as a lay leader can be seen at many levels. For one thing, he remained active and involved when First Baptist Church experienced a succession of short-term pastorates. Following Lee Compere, pastors included Samuel Worthington, James H. DeVotie, who left Montgomery for Tuscaloosa and Marion because his wife was a non-Baptist and "accused of being worldly." William Carey Crane would arrive on the scene following the pastorates of Alexander Travis and Jesse Hartwell. Crane's journals, housed at Baylor University, reveal that he made many visits to A.B. McWhorter. Crane's pastorate spanned 1839-1842.

It should also be noted that McWhorter supported the work of a slave preacher, Caesar Blackwell. Along with James McLemore and others, A.B. McWhorter was a trustee of the Alabama Baptist Association giving oversight and guidance to Caesar's preaching ministry. In 1829 the Association purchased Caesar from John Blackwell so that Caesar could preach the gospel among the slave population. He was also quite respected and popular among whites. Caesar had been converted under the ministry of James McLemore, who recognized rather soon that he had unusual communication skills. Caesar studied and mimicked the preaching of McLemore. According to Crane, who in 1877-1878, recalled Caesar with much fondness. Caesar was well received by almost everyone.

"He was a tall, ungainly looking African, brought up in the carpenter's trade. He had been converted under the preaching of a noted self-made, but singularly shrewd preacher named McLemore, whose opinions and illustrations he had studied and adapted in a good degree. He had the failings of preachers of his time and race, who were illiterate; still



sometimes, he astonished his hearers by the vigor of his language, acuteness of his distinctions, the soundness of his logic, and the correctness of his theology. He so far obtained the confidence of his white brethren, that members of the Alabama Association made up a purse and purchased his freedom. Set free, he traveled on horseback and on steamboats, preaching far and wide to his race. The churches in Mobile and Montgomery will long remember him.”

Caesar died in 1845, the year before A.B. McWhorter influenced the founding of Pintlala Baptist Church.

In 1840 A.B. McWhorter sought to have a slave excommunicated from First Baptist Church. One named Stefaney “was charged with keeping a house of ill repute, lying, and working on the Sabbath.” McWhorter’s leadership on this issue would be rejected for an overwhelming number of blacks who voted (9-1) against the motion.

The question persists as to why A.B. McWhorter would involve himself in a new work at Pintlala? Did McWhorter, along with others, feel that the people of southwest Montgomery County needed a different kind of Baptist witness? The Bethel Church, promoting its hyper-Calvinism, left a vacuum for a missionary Baptist influence. Was McWhorter restless and ready for a new venture in his own journey with Caesar having died the year before?

This much we do know. A.B. McWhorter’s father owned property in the Pintlala vicinity. Land records indicate that George Gray McWhorter owned 81.56 acres on the north side of Beulah Branch just beyond what was known as Allen’s Hill. It was not unheard of for struggling churches to exist for quite a long period of time before formally constituting. This usually came after the assurance of a pastor who would provide regular preaching if only once per month. Apparent was the ongoing struggle to find preachers for churches in rural settings. George Gray McWhorter died in 1829. His last will and testament indicates that property both real and personal was divided between his three sons. George G. McWhorter was a veteran of the Revolutionary War having fought in the Battle of Camden, and a Presbyterian minister who started churches in Lowndesboro, Wetumpka and Montgomery. He is buried at Oakwood. Certainly the availability of property was a precipitating factor in the decision to start a new Baptist work in 1846.

As an aside, A.B. McWhorter’s father-in-law was Benjamin F. Tarver who owned much property in Lowndes County. It was reputed that he was the largest slaveholder in Alabama at one time. A.B. McWhorter’s descendants are current residents of Montgomery: Claire Steindorf and Mack O. McWhorter, former County Commissioner.

If you have any additional information, please contact Gary Burton, 288-7414.

- Sources:
1. *Minutes of the Alabama Baptist Association*
  2. *The First 150 Years: A History of First Baptist Church Montgomery*, Lee N. Allen
  3. *Last Will and Testament of George G. McWhorter*
  4. *Land patent records*