

PINTLALA



HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

C/O PINTLALA PUBLIC LIBRARY

255 FEDERAL ROAD

HOPE HULL, AL 36043

Founded in 1987

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APRIL 2004

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THE PINTLALA COMMUNITY AND RESPONDING TO CHANGE

"Progress might have been all right once, but it has gone on too long," so stated Ogden Nash. Resistance to change, especially when one's quality of life is threatened, is basic to human nature. Yet change is inevitable. Some fear it, resist it, fight it. Others circle the wagons and try to forestall it. The preferred course is to manage and influence inevitable change.

Montgomery County has a problem. Outside the police jurisdiction of the City of Montgomery, there is no planning or zoning authority. Citizens have little, if any, means by which to express concern about haphazard, undesirable developments which threaten to render extinct the quality of life enjoyed by all. Equally true is the fact that smart growth and welcomed development have no mechanism by which to protect such objectives.

The Pintlala Historical Association will provide a forum for citizens of our community and surrounding areas to discuss our options in dealing with the future growth of our county. On April 18 the quarterly meeting of the PHA will broaden its usual style of meeting. Elected officials and interested citizens will come together to engage in a civil, reasoned discussion typical of a free society. The place: Pintlala Baptist Church. The time: 2:30 P.M. More details

can be found elsewhere in this publication. We are indebted to Alice Carter for her initiative in this endeavor. Don't miss the opportunity to influence history!

GARY BURTON
President PHA
April, 2004

**PHA PROGRAM--APRIL 18, 2004, 2:30 PM, PINTLALA BAPTIST CHURCH
SANCTUARY**

As you have read in our President's message, the program for April is an educational one for citizens of Pintlala, Hope Hull and surrounding communities. We will benefit from hearing the experiences of our Snowdown neighbors as they have dealt with encroaching industry in their rural residential neighborhood. We must educate ourselves in an attempt to effect change in the management of "progress". Dr. Winston Pirtle, Rebecca Harris and invited County Commissioners will enlighten us on alternatives to protect our treasured neighborhoods and rural lifestyle. PLEASE JOIN US!

BRING YOUR NEIGHBORS! Let's help make history!

HEARTFELT SYMPATHY: PHA members extend heartfelt sympathy to the family of Mr. Leslie Williams, and other members and friends who have recently lost loved ones.

WELL WISHES: We hope that all our other friends who have been having a rough time soon feel MUCH better! Those include Felix Lassiter, Pintlala, William Davis, Sellers, Pauline and Dawn Edge, Bethlehem, and Robert Sharpe, LeGrand.

EARL AND JANNELLE ADAMS CELEBRATE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY! Heartiest congratulations to this Pettus Road couple celebrated their 50th anniversary in March!

WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS! A special WELCOME AND THANK YOU to PHA's new officers and board members (and those "newly recycled") who began serving in January 2004!

PHA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES are now payable. If you have not already done so, please give \$10 renewal dues to Treasurer Thomas Ray, or send a check to him at 2995 Pettus Road, Hope Hull, AL 36043.

THE JANUARY PHA PROGRAM was presented by Susan Abram, doctoral candidate at Auburn University in the field of Early American History. Mrs. Abram told about William Bartram - who he was, why he is important in American history and of interest to us in Pintlala, and shared many interesting maps, books, and interesting tidbits. *THANK YOU, SUSAN!*

JEAN DEAN DONATES BOOKS TO PHA LIBRARY: Many thanks to Jean Dean for her generous donation of genealogy books for the PHA section in the Pintlala Public Library!

THE ANNUAL BETHLEHEM CEMETERY MEETING will be held Saturday, May 8. Those with ties to or interests in that cemetery should attend. For complete information, please contact Theresa Davis, 2535 W. Hickory Grove Road, LaPine, AL 36046, PH (334) 288-6395.

CONCORD CEMETERY ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: On Saturday, August 1, 2004, there will be a meeting to organize the Concord Methodist Church & Cemetery Memorial Association at Tabernacle Church located on the Old Federal Road in Pintlala (Hope Hull) Alabama. The meeting will begin at 1:30 following a Tabernacle Historical Association meeting and lunch. Everyone interested in restoring Concord Cemetery, which is located near the Lowndes County Industrial Mall on County Road 26 at Tyson, is invited and urged to attend. Rae Venable Calvert will lead this meeting.

SACRED HARP SINGING AT PISGAH: The Primitive Baptist Church at Pisgah, near Red's Little School House in Grady, will be the site of the 3rd annual traditional Sacred Harp Singing on Sunday, May 16. The singing, in beautiful four part harmony, starts around 9:00, with a break for a covered dish lunch at noon, and continues into the afternoon. So come (any time you can) and help preserve this rich, musical heritage! For further information, contact Frank and Carolyn Hataway, 5367 County Road 1107, Goshen, AL 36035, Phone (334) 562-3994.

ETHEL MAY TANKERSLEY'S FOURTH BIRTHDAY: Many thanks to Alice Carter for sharing this recently discovered account of her mother's fourth birthday celebration. Alice said that the invitation was penned, in a beautifully flowing script, (which I regret that I was too technically inept to copy in camera-ready form) read:

"Invitation to Ethel May's 4th Birthday Party, Dec. 21 - 1921"

*To you, little friend, This welcome I send,
To come and be gay, with little Ethel May
On her fourth anniversary Of the 21st day.
Santa will be there, With long whiskers and hair,
From three 'til five - Now remember
The 21st day of December!*

The newspaper account (presumably from the Montgomery Advertiser) described the festive

affair this way: "Enjoyable Birthday Party is Given: A very merry birthday party was enjoyed by little Miss Ethel May Tankersley and her friends on Thursday evening when Mrs. William Tankersley charmingly entertained at her home on the Mobile Road.

The guests were met at the door by Old Santa, who conducted them into the living room where an attractive Christmas story was told by Miss Zera King.

The doors were then thrown open and in the dining room stood a brilliantly decorated Christmas tree holding the favors for the children which were given them by Old Santa Claus.

The cake was then cut for the thimble and wish bone and a delightful ice course with delicious cake and fruit nectar was served.

The invited guests were:

George Gunter, Frank Garrett, Ruby Lee Hattimer, Evelyn Williams, Joe Garrett, Myrtle Lassiter, Corrie Frances Garrett, J. B. Lassiter, Lottie Garrett, Frances Sellers, Mary Dixie Garrett, Howard Shackelford, Mary Jane Shackelford, Zelma and Nelda Tankersley, Frank Timmerman, Albert Murchison, Richard Garrett and Jennings Guy.

SPECIAL THANKS to all those who continue to work tirelessly to keep PHA a vital organization. In addition to our President, Vice-President and board members, those include Mamie Sellers, who keeps our membership rolls current and prepares all the address labels for the newsletters, Mary Ann Venable, who catalogs our books and pamphlets in the Historical Section of the Pintlala Library and maintains our official PHA files, Karon Bailey, who keeps detailed records of all our activities, Thomas Ray, who manages to see that our finances are always "in the black," Alice Carter, who always somehow comes through with excellent programs, and Jack Hornady, who helps us maintain (if occasionally not 100% in accordance with Robert's Rules, at least a reasonable semblance of) order. And we are particularly grateful to our young historians, Grant, Kaycee, and Brady Lassiter, who help dispatch the newsletters! We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our members who submit articles for our newsletter: Thank you, Alan Davis, for your two-part article on Freemasonry and, in particular, the Fleta Masonic Lodge!

**HISTORY OF THE EARLY DAYS OF
FLETA MASONIC LODGE NO. 223, F. & A. M.
FLETA, ALABAMA**

Presented to the Pintlala Historical Association (October 1987 Meeting)

by Phillip Stabler

Edited and Revised
by
Alan M. Davis, March 2004

I. A BRIEF HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY.

Freemasonry, as we know it today, is a Speculative Science, not an Operative one. It is a Fraternity, which by tradition traces its origin to the building of King Solomon's Temple, that work was, in fact, done by Operative Masons. Most scholars believe Masonry arose from the guilds of stonemasons who built majestic castles and cathedrals of the middle ages. The foundation of the modern (or speculative) work was in the year 1717, when four of the "old" Lodges met in London, and formed the Grand Lodge of England. From that foundation have come the rituals, customs and usages of the Fraternity. (Note: Freemasonry is often confused as a religion)

At least one Freemason was in America prior to the formation of the Grand Lodge of England. He was Jonathan Belcher, Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1705. When Benjamin Franklin joined the Fraternity, there were already several lodges in the Colonies, and in Canada the first Lodge was established in 1738. The influence of Freemasonry on our nation cannot be better illustrated than by noting the number of Masons who signed the Declaration of Independence. Of the fifty-six men who signed the document, all but four were Master Masons.

Likewise, a significant number of presidents of the United States have been Masons. These include George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, James A. Garfield, William

McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William H. Taft, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman and Gerald R. Ford.

Other Revolutionary War leaders who were prominent as Masons included Lafayette, John Hancock, John Paul Jones, and Paul Revere. At least thirteen of the thirty-nine signers of the Constitution were Master Masons. Following the Revolutionary War, George Washington was asked to form a General Grand lodge of Masons, for the entire United States. Humbly, he refused. As a result, there is no national Grand Lodge today. But jurisdiction of the Grand Lodges is limited to a single state, With the Grand Lodge of California and Hawaii being the sole exception. Today Masonic Lodges can be found in almost every community throughout North America, and in large cities there are usually several Lodges.

A Mason can travel to almost any country in the world and find a Masonic Lodge where he will be welcomed as a “Brother”.

II. WHO ARE THE MASONS?

The Masonic fraternity is based on the principles of Friendship, Morality and Brotherly Love and is dedicated to the “*Brotherhood of Man under the fatherhood of God*”. It uses the tools and implements of ancient architectural craftsmen symbolically in a system of instruction designed to build character and moral values in its members. Freemasonry is a fraternity which encourages its members to become better men, better husbands, better fathers and better citizens. Last year the Grand lodge spent over one million dollars on various charitable projects here in the state and to other states. It is also to note here that there are higher levels of Masonry and they are the Scottish and York Rite bodies and the Shrines. It is the Shrine Masons (Shriners) who operate the largest network of hospitals for burned and orthopaedically impaired children in the country, and there is never a fee for treatment. The Scottish Rite Masons maintain a nationwide network of over 150 Childhood Language Disorder Clinics, Centers, and Programs. Many other local Masonic organizations sponsor a variety of philanthropies, including scholarship programs for children, and perform public service activities in their communities.

In previous times, small communities prided themselves on having a Masonic lodge.

Most of the members were highly respected members of the community who formed the membership. Today, there are more than two million Freemasons in North America. The word "Lodge " means both a group of Masons meeting together as well as the room or building in which they meet. Masonic buildings are sometimes called "temples" because the original meaning of the term was "place of knowledge" and Masonry encourages the advancement of knowledge. Masonic Lodges usually meet once or twice a month to conduct business, vote upon petitions for membership, and bring new Masons through three ceremonies called degrees. In the lodge room Masons share in a variety of programs. Here the bonds of friendship and fellowship are formed and strengthened. Masons are men of good character who strive to improve themselves and make the world better place. They belong to the oldest and most honorable fraternity known to man.

III. A BRIEF HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY IN ALABAMA.

Organized Freemasonry had come to Alabama by 1811. Madison Lodge No. 21, chartered under the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, opened in what is now Huntsville on August 29th of that year. This lodge still exists and is presently named Helion Lodge No. 1, it being the oldest in Alabama. Coincidentally, it is also the lodge with the highest membership currently with approximately 546 members. The first lodge in south Alabama was Friendship Lodge in Mobile. It was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana in 1813, and forfeited its charter in 1821, rather than come under the jurisdiction of the newly formed Grand Lodge of Alabama.

The Alabama Grand Lodge was formed by a total of nine lodges, which were working under the various charters of the Grand Lodges in Kentucky, Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee. From these few original members, the fraternity has grown to as many as 85,000 plus with over 500 lodges during the 1950's. Currently but unfortunately that number has shrunk to 34,900 members and 331 lodges as of July and November of 2003. Many factors contribute to the decline in membership but death and suspensions are the main causes of the decline of numbers.

The original Grand Lodge was formed at the then state Capitol of Cahaba. In keeping

with this, the Grand Lodge has its executive officers in Montgomery and holds its annual session there. The Grand Lodge office and the Masonic Home are located near the present day intersection of Carter Hill, Vaughn and Zelda roads in Montgomery. The Masonic Home was built around 1910 for indigent Masons their widows and orphans was operated until its closure on December 31, 2002. The Grand Lodge office still operates at that location but plans to move in the future to nearby town of Millbrook.

IV. HISTORY OF FLETA LODGE: THE SANDY RIDGE ERA.

Sandy Ridge, which is located on U.S. Hwy 31 in the southeast corner of Lowndes County, was settled early in Alabama history. It is shown to have had a post office as early as 1835 and was shown on maps of Alabama when there weren't many other towns in central Alabama. A map, which I have, dated 1838 shows post offices at Argus (which may have been where Ebenezer Primitive Baptist Church is today), Carters Hill, China Grove, Hayneville, Hickory Grove, Mt. Meigs, Montgomery, and Sandy Ridge. Some of these towns were on or near the *Old Federal Road*, which meandered through central Alabama and then a southwesterly direction through Mobile and final destination in New Orleans. Sandy Ridge, at one time had a school, several mercantile stores, a Masonic Lodge, a grist mill, and possibly a Baptist Church. Sandy Ridge Methodist Church still exists today.

In reading the minutes it is easily assumed that prominence was in the area because there seemed to have been an abundance of money. Many prosperous business men and farmers or planters lived in this area that has disappeared after the "War Between the States". Many people migrated to Texas and other Western States to escape the war and memory of war to start a new life but there were many residents who stayed in the area to continue on.

Fleta Masonic Lodge has its origins in eastern Lowndes County in Antebellum times. The first lodge which was chartered in the area was called Sandy Ridge Lodge No. 58 and the location of this first lodge is not known. The early members of this lodge were granted dispensation from the Grand Lodge on December 6, 1841. According to Grand Lodge records that lodge didn't last because the dispensation expired in 1843. There are no records available as

to why that lodge didn't last. In 1854 the men of Sandy Ridge tried again to start a Masonic Lodge and were successful because it survives today.

Dispensation was granted by the Grand Lodge to the founders of the Lodge on July 7, 1854 to meet and organize a lodge. The Charter was granted on December 7, 1854. The names listed on the charter are listed below:

C. P. McRee, William Payne, D. D. Rambo, Andrew J. Perry

James S. Williamson, M. T. Hines, S. P. Brownlee, Robert B. Colvin

The original charter still hangs on the wall of the Lodge meeting room. Most of the minutes of the Lodge are still in existence at the Lodge today. There are minutes which are still readable beginning in August 1865 to April 1869 and from July 1872 to February 1947 then continuously from July 1952 to April of 2004. The Lodge archives contain the first minutes, which were beautifully written by James W. Williamson listed above on the Charter, was the Secretary pro tem. They read:

Sandy Ridge, July 15th, 1854

Met pursuant to the previous notice the following Brethren, Viz:
A.W. Hurst, W. E. Wyatt, S. P. Brownlee, G. W. Rives, William Payne, A. J. Perry, J.S. Williamson, R.V. Colvin, M. V. Hines, and W. F. Knight.

On Motion of Bro. S. P. Brownlee, W.E. Wyatt was called to the Chair and J. S. Williamson requested to act as Secretary. The Chair, after a few remarks explanatory of, announced the meeting ready for business.

On Motion of Bro. S. P. Brownlee, Monday the 31st, Inst. At 9 o'clock A.M. was the time appointed to meet for the purpose of electing officers and organizing the Lodge.

On motion of Bro. S.P. Brownlee, the Chair was instructed to appoint a committee of five to draft By-laws for the Lodge.
The Chair appointed C.P. McRee (Chairman), William Payne, G. W. Reeves, S.P. Brownlee, And James S. Williamson said

committee.

On motion of Bro. S. P. Brownlee Fifty Dollars was contributed by the following Brethren to wit A.W. Hurst, W.E. Wyatt, S.P. Brownlee, G.M. Reaves, William Payne, A.J. Perry, J.S. Williamson, R.B. Colvin, D.D. Rambo, and M.V. Hines Five Dollars each, for the purpose of purchasing furniture for the use of the Lodge.

On motion of Bro. S.P. Brownlee, the amount (say Fifty Dollars) contributions was placed in the hands of A.J. Perry with instruction to purchase receive and deliver the furniture of the Lodge.

On motion of Bro. S.P. Brownlee A.J. Perry was appointed to purchase Jewels for use of the Lodge.

On motion of Bro. A.M. Hurst, William Payne was instructed to furnish a sufficient number of aprons for the use of the Lodge.

On motion of A.J. Perry, The Secretary was instructed to notify absent Brethren of the time of our next meeting.

next meeting 9 o'clock A.M.

31st Inst.

31 July 1854

(date was written lightly here indicating they were probably approved on that date)

Obviously, the formation of the Lodge was well underway, it is certain that during the following two weeks, a dispensation was applied for, and received from, the Grand Lodge of Alabama. The Dispensation itself is not among the Lodge's archives, as it would have been surrendered to the Grand Lodge when the Charter was issued. However, its presence on that day was undisputable, as the group of men immediately referred to themselves in the minutes as "The Lodge". The minutes also refer to the dispensation and to Pro Tem appointments under it. The next meeting shown below shows that:

July 31st, 1854

The Lodge met at 9 o'clock A.M. The following Brethren being Present, Viz C. P. McRee, William Payne, A. J. Perry, C. McRee,

J. S. Williamson, W. F. Knight, D. D. Rambo, S. P. Brownlee, M. V. Hines, and G. Wyche Rives. (*G. W. Reaves*)

The appointees under the dispensation to wit C. P. McRee-Worshipful Master; William Payne-Senior Warden; and D. D. Rambo-Junior Warden; entered respectively on the duties of their office.

Prayer by the Reverend . William F. Knight.

After a few appropriate remarks by the Worshipful Master, he announced the Lodge ready for business.

On motion of S. P. Brownlee, proceeded to elect a secretary, Treasurer, Tyler, and Chaplain. Which resulted in the electing of J.S. Williamson-Secretary; A.J. Perry-Treasurer, R. B. Colvin-Tyler; and William F. Knight-Chaplain.

G. Wyche Rives appointed Senior and S. P. Brownlee-Junior Deacons.

On motion of S. P. Brownlee, the Wor. Master proceeded to invest the officers.

C. P. McRee from the committee on By-Laws for the Government of the Lodge reported a Code, which on Motion of S. P. Brownlee was adopted.

On motion of W. Payne, the Secretary was instructed to notify Bro. T. M. Bragg, David Heartsill, Ira Caffey, and S. P. Nesmith of the time of our next meeting and invite them to attend.

On motion of J. S. Williams, the Brethren present together with those heretofore associated with us in raising the means necessary to our organization were exempted from the payment of affiliating fees.

On motion, A.J. Perry read a communication addressed to the Wor. Master and Brethren of this Lodge by T.M. Bragg, Master of Eureka Lodge No. 64 inviting us to attend with our regalia on Sunday the 17th Sept. next for the purpose of participating in the Funeral services for deceased Bother J. C. Kirkpatrick.

On motion of A.J. Perry, His own together with the claims of A.P. Pfister and William Payne against the Lodge were considered

and entered to their credit respectively on the books of the Lodge.

On motion of the Secretary, S.P. Brownlee, A.J. Perry, William Payne, H.V. Hines, C.P. McRee and Wyche Rives were appointed a committee for the purpose of drafting a plan and ascertaining the probable cash of a suitable building for the use of the Lodge with instructions to report at our next meeting. On motion A.W. Hurst and J.S. Williamson were added to said committee.

Adjourned until 9 A M on Saturday 12th next month.

No minutes for the August 12th, 1854 meeting could be located. However, a formal report of the building committee given on that date still exists:

August 12th, 1854

The Committee appointed for the purpose of drafting a plan and ascertaining the probable cost of a suitable building for the use of of the Lodge, instructed me to report the plans of a house herewith submitted. Which in the opinion of the Committee will cost some thousand to twelve hundred Dollars. The Committee unanimously agreed in reference to the plan of the house and hope the Lodge will concur and proceed at once to the erection of the building.

No record could be found of whether this building was ever constructed and there are no records as to where this the Lodge building actually stood. Oral tradition is that the Lodge was a two-story building located in downtown Sandy Ridge, and that it was destroyed by fire several years after the Lodge moved their meeting place to Mt. Carmel in May of 1884.

The Minutes of April and May of 1867 does mention a building committee report which, on motion by Bro. A.W. Hurst that the committee negotiates with Bro.'s William Payne and Andrew J. Perry in reference to the purchase of the Lodge room. The Lodge could have been on the upper floor of a store owned by the two fellow Brothers. After the Lodge building was vacated in Sandy Ridge the minutes show that on May 10, 1891 the Lodge met at the "Old" Masonic Hall for the purpose of a Masonic Funeral for Bro. Dr. James J. Stephens, who was buried in the Payne Cemetery in Sandy Ridge. The building must have burned after that date and before the burial of Bro. Andrew J. Perry, who died in August 1903, because the members were ordered to meet at the schoolhouse for his funeral. Bro. Andrew J. Perry was shown to be a

“Justice of the Peace” according to the minutes of a Masonic Trial of Brother James Poole in 1893.

During this time at Sandy Ridge from the charter date of December 1854 to May of 1884 when the Lodge located to Mt Carmel there were many prominent men who joined the Masonic Fraternity. One name which comes to the forefront is that of Dr. Alexander Burnet McWhorter, Jr.. He was the son of Dr. Alexander Burnet McWhorter, Sr., who was a charter member of First Baptist Church of Montgomery, Alabama and was very prominent in the Montgomery area Baptists. Bro A. B. McWhorter had a distinguished service to Sandy Ridge lodge serving in the various stations of the Lodge. He served as Worshipful Master of the Lodge during the 1860's and 1870's and remained faithful to the Craft until his Death in 1886. Other prominent and active members were, William F. Bonham, Charles W. Cottingham, Andrew W. Hurst, G. G. Julian, Jacob C. Julian, Dr. J. F. McQueen, William Payne, Andrew J. Perry, D. D. Rambo, Dr. James J. Stephens, Dr. Ira H. Stone, William W. Stone, and James S. Williamson.

In reading the minutes of the Lodge I discovered many interesting events described in them. One such incident occurred on November 11, 1866 in which charges were brought against Bro. J. T. Rice by Bro. G.G. Julian “to wit he has been attempting to defraud Miss Sue Maxwell out of her interest of the school taught this year by herself and Bro. Rice. Without consent of Miss Maxwell transferred all the funds to other parties without turning over to her the value of one Dollar”. Subsequently charges were withdrawn in July of 1867 after a satisfactory explanation by Bro. Rice. It is to note that he requested a Demit from the Lodge after that meeting. One other incident occurred in September of that same year involved Bro. Dr. J. J. Stephens in which five specific charges were brought against him for malignant revenge against a Mr. Mitchell Gresham without justifiable cause and on the 21st of September a special communication was held in which the charges were taken up against the Brother and he replied (he thought he was wronged in a business deal) scathingly against his Brothers and of Masonry (the minutes of this particular communication take up three pages in the minutes book). It is at this point that there is a gap in the minutes spanning from April 10, 1869 to July of 1872.

There were other events which were recorded occurred during this time period. In July of 1874 there was a request from the Grand Lodge for aid to the Lodges in Louisiana due to the flooding of the Mississippi River. There were discussions held at meetings in 1874 to move the Lodge to Mt. Carmel but those plans never materialized. In 1877 there was a request from St. John's Lodge in North Carolina who's Lodge building was destroyed by fire \$5.00 was donated to their cause. In 1879 there was a vote to petition the Grand Master for a dispensation to allow Sandy Ridge Lodge No. 223 to remove to Pintlala Grange Hall. This motion was defeated at the next meeting.

It is allowable for a Lodge to let other organizations to use its facilities for their meetings. It is recorded that other organizations did use the Hall owned by Sandy ridge Lodge. One organization was the International Order of Good Templars (I. O. of G. T.) of Sandy Ridge Lodge No.188 used the Hall and many of its members were Masons and their wives as well as other prominent men and women of the area. This was a Temperance organization, with its degree work based entirely on the abstinence of the use of alcoholic beverages. The organization still exists with a membership now fewer than 2,000 nationwide. In the 1880's and 90's the membership peaked near one million members. One other Organization was the Sandy Ridge Debating Society also included many of the same members of the Masonic Order. Members include the following: W. W. Stone, A. F. Williamson, Robert L. Russell, L. D. Perdue, George Perdue, H. R. Williamson. One sheet of the minutes survived mixed in the minutes of the Lodge they read as follows: *The subject for debate tonight is which commands the most respect, the Mind or the Purse? The debate was opened by George Perdue, who was on the side of money; He was followed by L. D. Perdue, who was on the side of Talent. Robert L. Russell followed L. D. Perdue in the defense of intellect. He was followed by A. F. Williamson in the defense of money, W. W. Stone in the defense of the mind. He was followed by George Perdue; he was answered by W. W. Stone who gave the Lesson.* We need such organizations today to temper society to occupy our minds to a higher standard of good and moral living.

On January 12, 1884 Bro John C. Fonville was appointed a committee of one to see Mr.

James T. Giddens (of Mt. Carmel) in reference to the Lodge Hall at Mt. Carmel, reported that Mr. Giddens assures "that Sandy Ridge Lodge No. 223, shall have the use of the hall and ante-rooms free of such and that such use shall extend indefinitely at the options of the Lodge", the By-Laws were also changed to read as such. February 9, 1884 was the last regular communication held at the "Old Hall" in Sandy Ridge. The Lodge at Mt. Carmel continued to use the name Sandy Ridge until March 17, 1893 when the Lodge voted to change their By-Laws indicating the name change.

The History of Mt. Carmel (Fleta) Lodge No. 223 will be continued.....