

# PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

**Next Meeting:**  
*January 17th —2:30 p.m.*  
Pintlala Baptist Church



*c/o Pintlala Public Library  
255 Federal Road  
Hope Hull, Alabama 36043*

**Volume XXIV, Number 1**

**[www.pintlalahistoricalassociation.com](http://www.pintlalahistoricalassociation.com)**

**January 2010**

## **Strata Church of Christ, date unknown**



Strata Church of Christ, date unknown. Originally Strata Academy, founded 1856.

Current Strata Church of Christ, not pictured, constructed in 1968, Photo courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Boothe

## **2010 OFFICERS**

President.....	Gary Burton .....	(334)288-7414
Vice President .....	Lee Barnes .....	(334)288-4855
Secretary.....	Karon Bailey .....	(334)281-6239
Treasurer .....	Ina Slade.....	(334)284-0334
Parliamentarian.....	Jack Hornady.....	(334)396-2130
Program Chairperson.....	Alice T. Carter.....	(334)281-3708
Members at Large		
Place 1 .....	Jean Dean .....	(334)548-2167
Place 2 .....	Mary Ann Venable .....	(334)288-3234
Place 3 .....	Rene Barnett .....	(334)288-0231
Place 4 .....	Gregg Linn .....	(334)281-9050
Newsletter Designer .... Angelique Pugh		

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### *President's Message - "Random Thoughts"*

- To live in an area without knowing something of its basic history may never be a crime or even a moral offense. However, it is an expression of ingratitude. Persons who care take the time to know and learn. That is why your support of the Pintlala Historical Association is vitally important. Participation and membership dues, along with special gifts, make a profound difference. A sense of place gives birth to a sense of privilege and a sense of privilege becomes the basis for responsible citizenship. Pintlala is rich in history and heritage. Get involved in the PHA and influence others to do the same.
- The PINTLALA SCHOOL HISTORY continues to get good reviews. It reflects the ongoing engagement of our community with the quality of life provided by such an institution. Our initial supply is dwindling fast.
- Becoming Alabama is an informal, statewide collaboration of cultural organizations for the commemoration of three landmark events in the state's development: the Creek War of 1813-14; the Civil War and Emancipation; and the Civil Rights Movement. Certainly Pintlala has found herself in the confluence of these three streams of defining history.
- Don't miss the meeting of the PHA this month; it will prove to be informative and stimulating.

Gary Burton, President

garyburton1@charter.net

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#### **OFFICIAL NOTICE: DUES ARE DUE AT JANUARY 17 MEETING.**

**MEMBERSHIP VOTED TO RAISE DUES TO \$15.00 ANNUALLY-JANUARY 1 TO JANUARY 1.**

**The five dollar "start up fee for new members has been abolished.**

**MAKE CHECK TO PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION. GIVE TO TREASURER, INA SLADE  
or MAIL TO ADDRESS ON LAST PAGE OF NEWSLETTER.**

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### *January 2010 PHA Program*

Pintlala Historical Association will meet on Sunday, January 17, 2010 in the Fellowship Hall of Pintlala Baptist Church at 2:30 p.m. Our program, OLD ROADS, BRIDGES, AND MAPS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY will be presented by Lamar Hall, retired Assistant County Engineer with the Montgomery County Engineering Department. Hall served in this capacity for thirty-seven years. He is a native of Montgomery County but now resides in Lowndes County and works for the Pintlala Water System.

Please make a New Year's resolution to attend our PHA meetings and invite a friend to join! Dues for 2010 are due at the January meeting. See you on 17 January!

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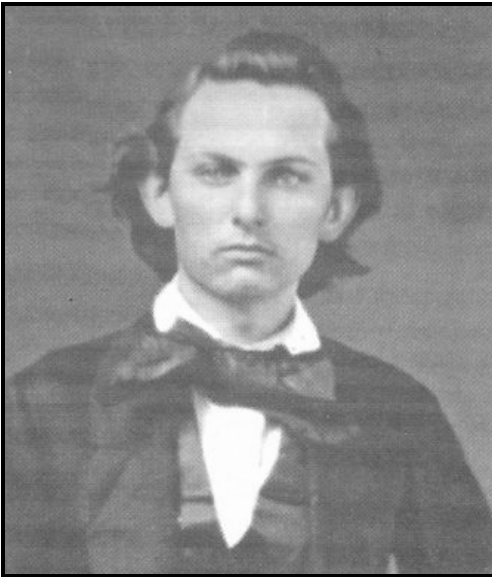
### *History of Pintlala School Book*

The History of Pintlala School book, published in October 2009, has been selling consistently. There are only 30 copies remaining. If any members are interested in obtaining a copy, please contact Alice Carter at 281-3708 or Gary Burton at 288-7414. Members first copy is \$10.00 and all other copies (for members and non-members) are \$15.00. Add \$3.00 for shipping and handling if need be. Thanks to everyone who purchased a book and helped to make this project a big success!

## Strata Academy

By Alice Carter

Justus McDuffie Barnes entered Bethany College in West Virginia in 1854 and graduated, within two years rather than the normal four years, in 1856. He returned to his home in Strata, Alabama in southwest Montgomery County with a fine education yet unsure about his future career. His father, Elkanah Barnes, suggested he teach until he knew what he might do to earn a living. Elkanah constructed a school building near his home on his land in Strata. Young Mack, only twenty years of age, began the new Strata Academy on September 8, 1856 with a student enrollment of thirteen. As the excellent reputation of the school spread more students entered and the one-teacher school grew. The Barnes family built boarding houses for students from communities farther away than Strata. Mack's sister, Mary Elkanah, married Samuel Jordan in 1872 and Jordan became a co-proprietor of the Strata Academy in the same year. The school continued to grow not only in size but in respect and influence.



Justus McDuffie "Mack" Barnes,  
circa 1856

The annual closing exercises at Strata Academy became an event of great interest and drew large crowds for the two-day program. Thomas Furman Cauthen, who served as minister at the Auburn Church of Christ in 1950, wrote in his unpublished Master's Thesis at Auburn University, Department of History many details of the popular annual event. This scholarly work titled "Justus McDuffie Barnes: Alabama Educator" provides a look into the life of the Strata Academy. Cauthen recorded that the faculty of 1878-1879 were: Mac Barnes, Sam Jordan and a Mr. Bonham. Research has not determined which Mr. Bonham. Could it have been a resident of Pintlala? The school census was listed as eighty students with some of the following participating in the 1879 closing exercises: H. J. Morris who gave an address titled "Our Glorious Future;" E. F. Bedsole presented "How I Got My Dinner;" Kate Bedsole presented "I Want Some Calico to Make My Doll a Dress;" Miss S. A. Parham, Miss M. M. McDaniel and Miss M. F. Taylor presented compositions of merit. Master Claudia Measle presented "My First Speech" with his younger sister, Clara, presenting "New Doll." Students from out

of Montgomery County were Miss M. I. Corley of Wilcox County and Mr. Jeff Gafford of Lowndes County with additional students from Butler and Covington counties. The whole school participated in a spelling competition. Valedictorian, S. N. Jordan, presented an original oration.

Thomas Furman Cauthen records in his 1950 thesis:

Before the opening of the Academy in the fall of 1879, the proprietors had an advertisement to appear in the Montgomery Advertiser and Mail almost daily throughout the month of October. The advertisement read:

The next session of our school will open at Strata, Montgomery County, Alabama, on the first Monday in November, and close the 20th of April, 1880. We can do nothing better than offer our success in the past as a surety of what we will do in the future. We promise to do much in a short time and at low prices. Eighty-three dollars will cover the entire bill for board, washing, tuition, lights, and incidental fees for six months. When pupils study Latin, French, or the Higher Mathematics, one half dollar per month more. Music on piano and organ at a reasonable price. Send for circular.

Also in 1879 a third proprietor, M. L. Kirkpatrick, joined the Strata Academy. The Academy's management remained in the Barnes family as Kirkpatrick had married Mack Barnes' sister, Frances Mahala.

Cauthen further details the 1880 closing exercises held on the nineteenth and twentieth of April with approximately fifty original essays read by students. I. N. Jordan gave the salutatory address. Vocal performances were given by Miss L.A. Cowles and Mr. W. P. Ruff. Miss Mattie M. Ingram recited the hymn, "Rock of Ages" and Miss F. V. Hensley recited "Parting Hymn." Vocal music was only taught on Saturdays at no charge to interested students. John P. Adams was valedictorian of the 1880 class. There were twenty six original orations delivered by male students. W. H. Reynolds presented "Woman" and W. H. Schley of Jefferson County was listed with an untitled oration. Attendance for the morning exercises was around one thousand on the second day of presentations with approximately twelve hundred attending the evening exercises.

During the 1879, 1880 and 1881 years of the school typhoid fever struck students of Strata Academy, causing three deaths. Mack Barnes and his partners, Jordan and Kirkpatrick, made the decision to move their school to another location on higher ground, deemed to be better for the health of those living on such property. Sites considered were Montgomery, Verbena and Snowdown. Ultimately a site in Crenshaw County, only six miles south of Strata, was selected and five hundred acres of land were purchased. In the spring and summer of 1881 the acreage became home to playgrounds and a large school building plus three dormitories. The three partners each erected large dwellings. Highland Home Institute was born. The three men went into debt financing the new educational institution.

Some members of the community resented the three school proprietors, who held high moral standards, coming into their area of Crenshaw County. The resentment escalated when Barnes managed to have a law passed that forbade the sale of alcohol within five miles of the school. The name of the Post Office was changed from Argus to Highland Home at the request of Barnes, Kirkpatrick and Jordan. This infuriated the opponents of the three educators.

The new school was successful for eight school sessions. The session in 1888-1889, held its last commencement program in the spring of 1889 with Barnes, Jordan, Kirkpatrick, Mecklen, Bledsoe and Smith listed as teachers by Furman Cauthen in his 1950 thesis. The Institute developed into the well known Highland Home College. The college will be discussed in future issues of the PHA newsletter.

The Strata Academy building became the Strata Church of Christ which was in use until a new building was constructed on the same site around 1968 according to church member, Brooks Boothe. The mother congregation of the first Strata Church of Christ had originally met at Fair Prospect, approximately two miles south of the Strata Academy. This church was formed around 1847 by Mary (Polly) Barnes and sixty other believers. Brooks Boothe believes this church was across the Rocky-mount Road or Highway 331 from the Fair Prospect Cemetery. This cemetery remains today perched on the precipice of a hill, not easily seen from the highway. It is the peaceful resting place for Elkanah Barnes, his wife, Mary (Polly), and Lucy Ruff Culler, first wife of Justus McDuffie Barnes. Mack and his second wife, Ethel Rawdon are buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Montgomery.

Justus McDuffie Barnes' influence in Montgomery County and beyond was felt, not only in the education of fine young men and women, but also as a preacher, evangelist, and church planter associated with the Church of Christ.

### **Sources:**

Cauthen, Thomas Furman. "Justus McDuffie Barnes: Alabama Educator." Thesis, Auburn University, 1950.

Barnes, Lee R. "Elkanah Barnes." *The Heritage of Montgomery County, Alabama*. Heritage Publishing Company, Clanton, Alabama, 2001.

Phone interview, December 31, 2009 with Brooks Boothe, Strata Church of Christ member and Strata resident

## Elkanah Barnes (1797-1861) and his Pintlala Connections

By Gary Burton

The father of early Montgomery County educator, Justus McDuffie Barnes, was Elkanah Barnes. Elkanah Barnes, a pioneering settler of Montgomery County, was instrumental in shaping the values and character of his own family and, consequently, the culture of central Alabama. A summary overview of his life and influence will never do justice to the powerful legacy still felt by many of our day. The purpose of this treatise is to examine the connections which existed between Elkanah Barnes and the greater Pintlala area. His descendant, Lee Barnes, is Vice President of the Pintlala Historical Association and has provided the preponderance of information on which my observations are dependent. Lee Barnes has provided a more extensive treatment of his ancestor in the Montgomery Genealogical Society Quarterly, Spring 1994.



Elkanah ("Elly") Barnes  
(1797-1861)

### The Family of Elkanah Barnes

Lee Barnes makes the profound observation that Elkanah was born in the aftermath of the American Revolution and died on the cusp of the Civil War. In many respects Elkanah Barnes was a common man who possessed an uncommon capacity for endurance and enterprise, and who would influence business and commerce, transportation, religion and civic life in profound ways.

Born on June 15, 1797, to Henry and Anne Roby Lanham, Elkanah as the oldest surviving son among ten siblings, would find himself struck by Alabama Fever and would migrate from Fairfield District, South Carolina, with thousands of others who would eventually homestead in the "southwest."

Young and single, 21-year old Elkanah and his brother-in-law, Thomas Butler, found their destination and their mutual destiny in Montgomery County, Alabama in 1818. Butler had married Alethe Robey Barnes in 1812. Both butler and Barnes would create entrepreneurial interests in the southern part of the county.

Elkanah's widowed mother, a Baptist, joined her son the following year. Mother and son shared their homesteading ventures together. Elkanah would not marry until July 24, 1830 when as a 33-year old operator of a mercantile store, he and Mary Lumpkin became husband and wife. The Lumpkin name would help identify the area where Mary's family had settled.



Mary ("Polly") Lumpkin wife of  
Elkanah Barnes (1811- 1891)

### Accomplishments

Thomas Butler constructed a mill on Pintlala Creek. Near the mill was Elkanah's "mercantile business" which supplied the daily needs of local residents who had brought their corn or wheat to be ground. The joint venture with Butler and Barnes became the center for community life. Elkanah and others were part of a local militia which drilled regularly near Butler's mill on Pinlala Creek. The militia participated in the accompaniment of General LaFayette when the famous hero of the American and French revolutions visited Montgomery in 1825.

Elkanah Barnes excelled in farming and agricultural development. He gave oversight to the sale of cotton in 1829. The 1840 census reveals that he possessed twenty-five slaves.

Business and civic accomplishments of Elkanah Barnes convey that he

was thoroughly engaged in efforts toward progress and improvement. He was a “fiery Whig” and his wife an “ardent churchwoman.” Mary (Polly) herself was well known for her biblical knowledge and was strongly influenced by Reformation evangelists and the emergence of the “church of Christ.” Elkanah’s other noteworthy accomplishments were:

- Served as a road overseer for the Bird Road in precinct 5 in 1847
- Postmaster of Strata, 1849-54
- Built a frame school building on his property, adjacent to his residence in Strata where his son, Justice McDuffie Barnes began his teaching career in 1856
- Joined others in chartering the “Alabama and Florida Railroad” in 1850
- Constructed the first mill and first two courthouses in Butler County
- Hosted at his “country headquarters” William Lowndes Yancey, Thomas J. Judge, Thomas H. Watts, and David Clopton

On December 18, 1861, Elkanah (Elly) Barnes died at his home in Strata. Mary (Polly) Barnes died on August 25, 1891. Both are buried in the Fair Prospect Cemetery south of Strata.

#### Land Patents Issued to Elkanah Barnes from 1828-1838

##### Montgomery County

T12N R18E	1135.55 Acres
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T13N R17E	797.35 Acres
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T14N R17E	239.75 Acres
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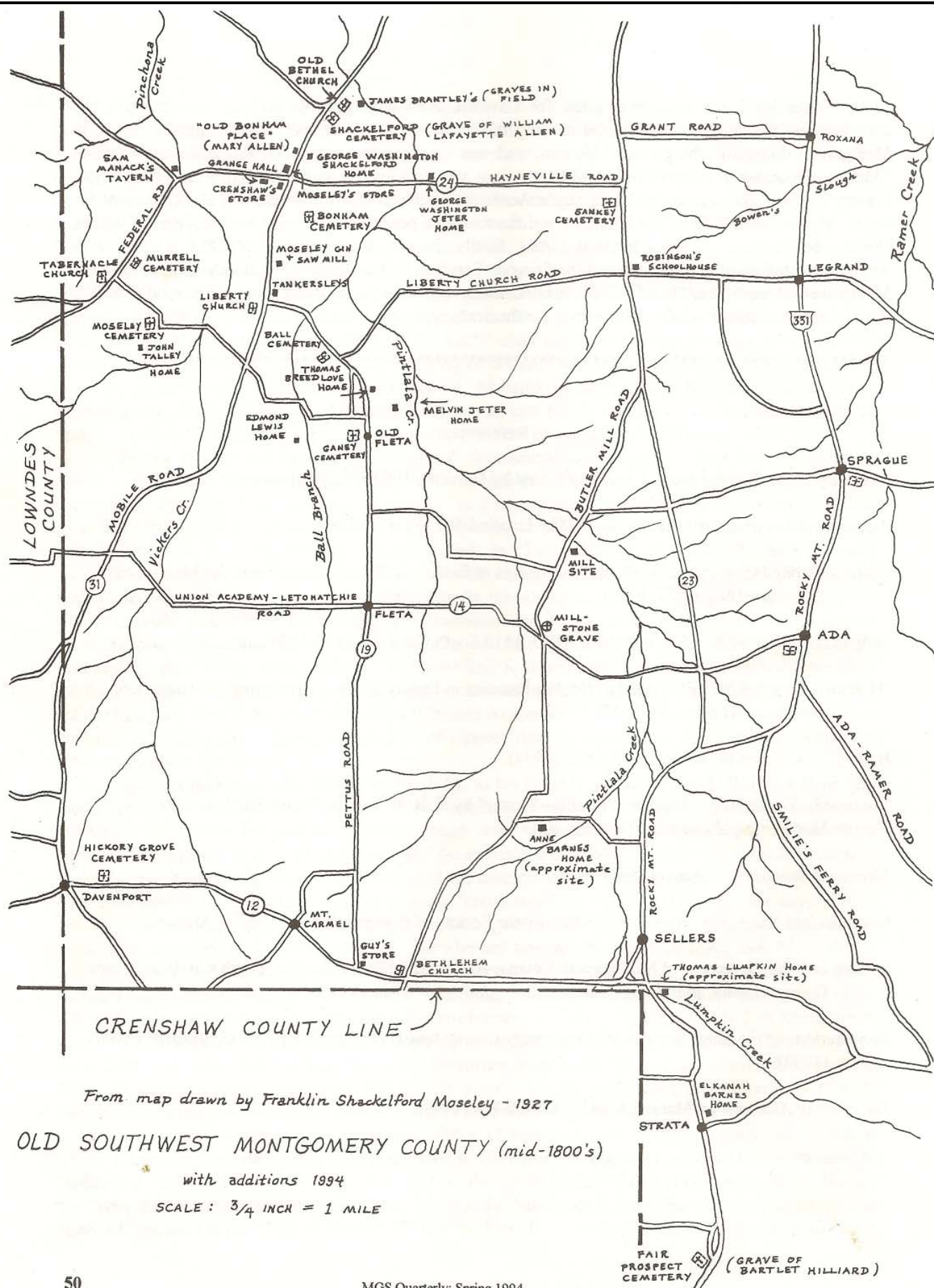
Total: 2,172.65 Acres

##### Lowndes County

T14N R16E	262.21 Acres
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**Grand Total: 2,434.86 Acres**





## Cool Springs Church orders pews in 1867 Provided by Ricky McLaney

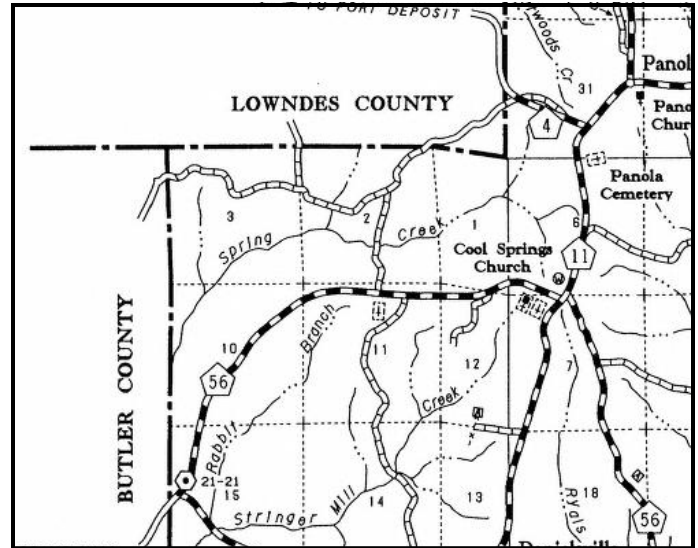
### *Transcription*

The State of Alabama, Crenshaw Co

We the undersigned committee do hereby obligate ourselves to pay J. H. Thomas five dollars a seat for furnishing lumber and screws and making seats for Cool Spring Church said seats to be 17 and ½ feet long with four uprights and backs put on with two wood screws where each slat crosses the upright said seats to be done as soon as possible and also 3 short seats at prices in proportion, said usury(?) to be done the first day of Nov 1867. Said work to be done in workman like manner and other lumber for seats and uprights to be 1 and ½ inches thick and 14 inches wide and the slating to be 1 inch thick and 4 inches wide.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands this 7 day of May 1867

B. A. Wallace  
J. A. Duncan  
Jehu King  
E. R. Donaldson  
Etheldred Bynam  
J. C. Nichols  
J. B. Duncan  
J. P. Norman  
John H. Stringer



Cool Springs Church

### Commentary on Photo by Ricky McLaney

This photo was in possession of my mother (Hattie Norman McLaney Smith). The picture was taken at the old Fleta Masonic Lodge which was located on the second floor of the old Sellers Store in Fleta, Alabama. My guess is that the picture was taken in the early 1920s. The only people identified on the back of the photo are #2, Henderson Hiram Norman (my great grandfather) and #6, LaFayette Duncan (Anne Duncan Latham's grandfather).

Henderson Hiram Norman passed away in 1933, but this picture of him appears similar to ones taken of him when he was re-elected to serve in the House of Representatives of the Alabama Legislature. He was referred to by Judge Walter B. Jones as the "Grandfather" of the Legislature because he was 82 years of age when he was re-elected again in 1932.

Help identify the other individuals in the photo!



Fleta Masonic Lodge, Circa 1920s



**Pintlala Van Guards and the Mexican War 1846-1848**

By Gary Burton

The transcript of an amazing letter was sent to me by Ron Thomas of Abbeville. Enthusiastic volunteers from militias across the state were eager to serve and communicated their willingness to do so in letters to Alabama's Governor, Joshua Martin:

SG17097 Public Information Subject Files: War With Mexico 1845-1848, Folder 29

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**Letter to Gov. Joshua Martin**

**"Excellent Sir:**

**I have the honour to inform you that I have fifty gallant soldiers who have volunteered to go with me to Texas or Else where in the defence of their Country whenever a requisition is made on you for forces from this state.**

**Please register us ready. We do not wish to be cut out by applications ahead of us.**

**The Company is known as The Pintlala Van Guards, a rifle corpse in the 6<sup>th</sup> Division. 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment, armed already with 50 of Hall's patent rifles.**

**We should be happy to receive orders through Gen. E. G. Fair or direct from you.**

**May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1846**

**James W. Curtis, Capt.**

**At Pintlala P.O.**

**Montgomery County Ala**

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Between 1846 and 1848, two neighbors, the United States and Mexico, went to war. It was a defining event for both nations, transforming a continent and forging a new identity for its peoples. By the war's end, Mexico lost nearly half of its territory, the present American Southwest from Texas to California, and the United States became a continental power. *The Mobile Register and Journal*, May 26, 1846, reports the widespread eagerness among Alabamians to serve in the Mexican War.

**We are reminded of a statement in the last *Tuscaloosa Monitor*, of the number of volunteer companies in this State which have reported themselves to Governor Martin, that we have such a functionary which has been overlooked during these stirring times.**

**The people hearabouts had pretty much forgot they had a Governor. We do not see in the list the names of several companies that have proceeded to the seat of war – and four or five of those now in this city on their way, are also not named. The companies mentioned there, and not already known to our readers are: The Greensboro' Independent Volunteers, Andrew L. Pickens, Captain; The Sumter Volunteers, Jno. A. Winston, Captain; the Jefferson Volunteers, Moses Kelly, Captain; and the Blount Volunteers, Capt. J.D. Slater.**

**Messers. Kelly of Jefferson, and Winston of Sumter, are we believe, the State Senators from these several counties. Mr. Winston was President of the last Senate.**



Lee Anne Wofford, Alabama Historical Commission, Visits Pintlala's Bonham Cemetery, November 18, 2009 L-R: Joyce Nicoll, Phylis Armstrong, Lee Ann Wofford, Jean and Don Ivy (Property Owners)

## Photographs from the November 2009 PHA Meeting



Gary Burton presenting Sarah "Tweet" Moore with flowers.



Dave Hornady speaking with Sarah "Tweet" Moore.



Jean Ivy and Davis Henry speaking with Sarah "Tweet" Moore.



**PINTLALA HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION**

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

**NEXT MEETING**

*JANUARY 17, 2010  
2:30 P.M.*

*PINTLALA  
BAPTIST CHURCH*

Join the Pintlala Historical Association  
Please mail completed form, fee & dues to :

**Pintlala Historical Association  
Ina Slade  
15212 Highway 31  
Hope Hull, Alabama 36043**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home & Office) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Interest \_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested in genealogy, please indicate family surnames \_\_\_\_\_

**\$15.00 Annual Dues**