

PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting:
April 20th —2:30 p.m.
Pintlala Baptist Church



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

Volume XXII, Number 2

www.pintlalahistoricalassociation.com

April 2008

The Duggar Family - c. 1960



Photograph courtesy of Elizabeth Love

Front Row (L-R): Wendy Duggar, Martha Duggar (Grandchildren of Fred and Edna),
Back Row (L-R): LLeuwelyn Duggar, Jane Windham Duggar, Fred Duggar, Jr., Edna Duggar, on shore of Lake Edna, built near home on Highway 31

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President's Message—"Urgent and Progressive Matters"

A few weeks ago I attended a special meeting of Montgomery's Antiquarian Society as the guest of Mary England Ashley. The program featured Daniel P. Jordan, President of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, of Charlottesville, Virginia. Jordan's presentation was superb and stimulating. During the question/answer period someone asked Jordan to respond to the critical famine of historical knowledge and our nation's lack of interest in history. Daniel Jordan responded to the issue as though one would respond to a destructive fire. To paraphrase, Jordan said that our country now faced a crisis in our decline of historical interests and disciplines. He said that the situation had become one of national defense, for he questioned the audience, "How can we defend what we do not know?" The specter is a scary one.

Be sure to check out the new website: www.pintlalahistoricalassociation.com. The website is simple and can archive our newsletters as well as provide information, photographs, and links relative to the mission of our organization. WE are indebted to Jack Hornady for his generosity in assuming the costs for the first year's service. In addition, we are grateful for Jerrie Burton's help in designing and maintaining the website. There is room to grow on the website. If you have ideas, email Jerrie via the website or with this address, jerrieburton@charter.net

The April 20 program will feature Dr. Ed Bridges, Director of Alabama Department of Archives and History. Dr. Bridges is an iconic figure among lovers of Alabama history.

Invite a friend to the April 20 meeting. Pay their membership dues. Our rich heritage is meant to be shared.

Gary Burton,
Garyburton1@charter.net

Old Records Found and Returned by PHA Member

Bill Sansom, PHA member, recently returned the minutes of the Montgomery County Board of Revenue (1875-1882). The transfer of the old record book took place before the Montgomery County Commission on March 25, 2008. Sansom was looking through materials gathered from the estate of his late aunt, Mattie Ruth Sansom Sullivan, when he acquired the large book. His aunt was the younger sister of a woman who was married to William Orum, the head of the city's engineering department, but it is not known with certainty how the document came into her possession.

Pintlala is mentioned extensively in the post-Reconstruction era minutes. Pintlala-related excerpts will be featured in this newsletter from time to time.



Bill Sansom, Mary Ann Neeley, Gary Burton

PHA April Program

Pintlala Historical Association will meet on April 20, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. at Pintlala Baptist Church. Our speaker will be Dr. Edwin C. Bridges, Director, Alabama Department of Archives and History.

He will present images from the Archives' collections that give viewers a walk through Alabama history. The state is fortunate to have Dr. Bridges as only the fifth Archives Director in more that one hundred years! Please show your support for PHA and the Alabama Department of Archives and History by attending and bringing a guest.



Dr. Edwin C. Bridges

The Duggar Family of Hope Hull and Beyond

by Alice Carter

Travelers using Highway 31/Mobile Highway south of Montgomery in the 1920s were familiar with a brightly lit, wooden, barn-red cottage with porches on all sides located approximately eleven miles from downtown Montgomery on the east side of the road. Nearly eighty years later travelers on the same road still glimpse a barn-red cottage in the very same location. The original cottage has an interesting history along with its owners, the John Frederick Duggar, Jr. family.

About the time of the April, 1920 marriage of Fred Duggar of Hope Hull and Edna Rivers Haynes of Sandy Ridge, Alabama the buildings at World War I, Camp Sheridan, located in the Chisholm section of Montgomery were being dismantled and auctioned to the public. Fred purchased the Camp Sheridan Hostess House (early version of an Officer's Club), took it apart board by board, moved it to the Duggar farm in Hope Hull and rebuilt it as a home for his bride Edna and their future family of three children. Their daughter, Dorothy Duggar Franklin of Tuscaloosa, writes so romantically about the house, describing it thusly:

"The rooms flowed, one into the other, so that couples could dance in the huge ballroom, then wander through the many French doors (both inside and out) and on to the wrap-around-porches enveloping the house. Five chimneys with large open fire-places provided heat for the officers but Fred installed a modern coal- burning furnace with vents leading to each room as extra heating for winter's cold and dreary weather."



Duggar home on Highway 31

She described further that the structure was constructed of rough-hewn lumber painted barn-red with bright white trim (compare appearance to St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Prairieville, AL). The inside was finished with plaster all done by Fred. Years later in 1959, while Fred and Edna were away in Atlanta, the house burned. Hope Hull neighbors rushed to save what they could from the front rooms while the back ones blazed. A smaller house was erected in the exact spot of the original home. Fred Duggar III, who at this point in time was an architect in Atlanta, designed the new building using the original chimney from the ball room as the focus of the main room. The other chimneys were torn down with the brick used for new support pillars for the house. David Boyd of Snowdown was the builder. Kind neighbors in Hope Hull and Pintlala presented the Duggars with a gift of cash which was used to pay for the new roof. It was furnished with the antiques so lovingly saved and stored by neighbors. In December 2007, with many of the family now deceased or scattered about, the red cottage was donated to the Pintlala Methodist Church to be used as their parsonage.

John Frederick Duggar III was born in the original house on February 2, 1922, Llewellyn Haynes Duggar's birth followed in 1923 and Dorothy Walton Duggar arrived in 1937. Dorothy shares this memory of her home: "the children learned to crawl and walk, then to waltz on the same floor where Scott Fitzgerald [stationed at Camp Sheridan in 1917] held Zelda Sayre in his arms, dancing their way into love and another world."

Fred Duggar's ancestors were an aristocratic and intelligent lot. The first Duggar related (great grandfather) to Hope Hull's Fred, arriving in Alabama from Virginia, was Henry and his wife Alice Goode Vaughan Duggar. They settled in Marengo County in 1844. The family were prominent members of the area, particularly the Prairieville community, site of the picturesque St. Andrew's



St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Prairieville, AL

Episcopal Church. The family contributed to the establishment and construction of the church and several members of the family are buried in the lovely little cemetery adjoining the church. One of their sons, Reuben H., became a physician. After completing studies at the University of Pennsylvania, he returned to Alabama to practice for two years prior to the Civil War. After the war began, Governor Shorter appointed Reuben Duggar as physician in charge of the state salt works in Birmingham. Shortly thereafter he was appointed to the state medical examining board of the Confederate Army, while at the same time serving as assistant surgeon at the Confederate

hospital in Talladega. At the end of the war Reuben returned to

his home near Gallion, re-entered private practice and married Margaret Louisa Minge. This marriage produced five boys, the oldest being John Frederick, Sr. who was to become the father of John Frederick, Jr. of Hope Hull. Dr. Reuben Duggar was keenly interested in agriculture, fine livestock, experimented in horticulture and provided his children with an education which prepared them for business pursuits. Reuben was made a trustee of the Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College in Auburn (now Auburn University). Perhaps this appointment was fortuitous as son John Frederick, Sr. became closely associated with the University in later years. *This* Frederick graduated from the Mississippi A & M College in 1887 and earned his masters degree there in 1888; he then went on to study at Columbia and Cornell Universities. A teaching position at Texas A & M followed; he served as editor of the "Southern Livestock Journal"; he was assistant director of the U. S. Experiment Station, Clemson College; he was editor, "Experiment Station Record" for U. S. Department of Agriculture in 1892-1895. He then came home to Alabama and served as professor of agriculture at Alabama Polytechnic Institute, 1896-1903, Director of Alabama Experiment Station, 1903-1921 and finally served as Research Professor, farm Management at API from 1921 to 1945, the year in which he died on Christmas Day. In addition to his responsibilities at API, Duggar served as director of the Alabama Extension Service, 1914-1920 and authored three books, numerous pamphlets and bulletins relating to agriculture.

His published text books *Agriculture for Southern Schools* (elementary level), *Southern Field Crops* and *Southern Forage Crops* were standard texts for elementary and high school/college students, farmers and planters alike. The February 1922 edition of "The Alabama Farmer" published by Auburn agriculture students stated "Prof. Duggar is one of the greatest authorities in the south on practically every phase of farm life and farm problems." This indicates in what high esteem he was held by the agricultural community. In addition to his work at API he and his three sons operated a large farm on his land in Hope Hull. It included a large dairy herd and dairy operation, flock of sheep and was a farm as modern as the best methods of operation could make it. Professor Duggar carried out many agricultural experiments- one was dubbed the "Alabama land experiment." He would purchase land in different sections of the state, as API had no funds with which to purchase, and made studies of what grew best in the different types of soil. The Hope Hull land was a part of that experiment. This was the land on which Fred, Jr. and Edna would build their barn-red cottage in the 1920s.

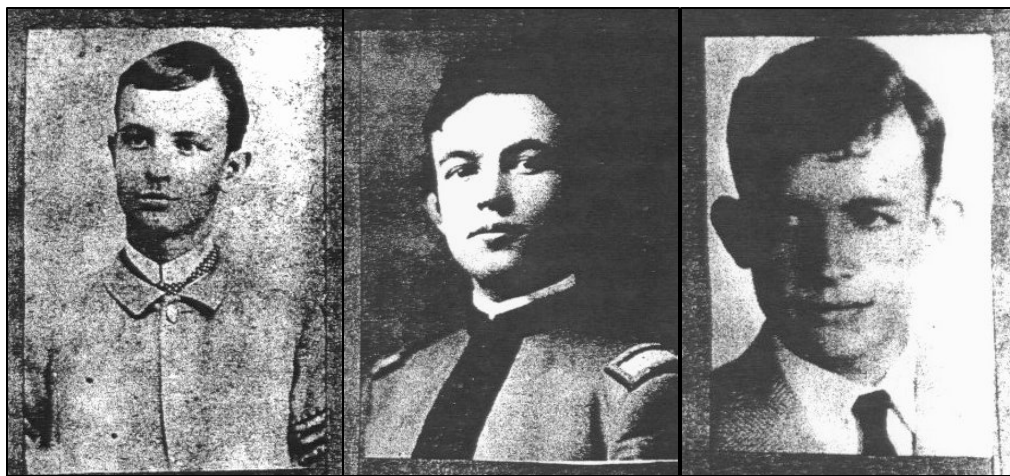
All of Professor Duggar's children were well educated and inherited their father's love for the land and what it produced. Fred, Jr. graduated in 1912 with honors from Auburn with a major in agriculture and went on to pursue graduate studies in chemistry at the University of Wisconsin. One of his first jobs was with the Bureau of Mines in Pennsylvania where he developed air purification systems. During WWI the Bureau lent Duggar to the U. S. Navy submarine program where he invented the air filtration system for subs that allowed them to stay under water twice as long as they could previously. He moved back to the Hope Hull farm, married and opened a chemistry lab in Montgomery.

In 1928 he discovered what is known as "*Duggar's Law*" that explains the thermal expansion of normal liquids (*the coefficient of thermal expansion is equal for every perfect liquid at an equal distance below the liquid's critical temperature, and the coefficient varies inversely with that distance*). His research on the law was published in the Journal of Physical Chemistry in 1958. During the Depression Duggar developed farm products that included a chemical formula called DB or Duggar's Bactericide. He manufactured and marketed it around the country as a dairy barn cleaner. Margery Henry, PHA member, confirmed that it was used in the Henry dairy barns. He sold the formula to a partner and it became the chemical base for the household cleaner, Clorox. He also developed a vaccine for pink eye in cows, a salve for red bug bites and a medicine to stop diarrhea in calves. He went on to become a state chemist for Georgia, riding the bus to Atlanta for the work-week and returning home for the week-ends. Edna would join him there for visits. PHA member, Jane Windham Duggar Chestnut told of Fred's interest in roller skating. Time away from his family made for some empty and boring hours so he went to the local Atlanta roller skating rink and became quite proficient as a skater. Another PHA member, Jack Hornady, recalls seeing Fred roller skating north from his home on Highway 31 to the Teague Road area. Other pleasurable activities indulged by Fred were dancing, long walks in the pastures with Edna, tending his vegetable garden and in later years trips to the beach with grandchildren. His daughter Dorothy wrote that he met Edna at a dance at the Hope Hull Woman's Club House and they continued dancing for years to come. There are many stories shared by neighbors about both Fred and Edna. Kate Olive Green Gordon recalls the clay tennis courts at the Duggars and how she loved to beat Collins, her future husband, at the game. Her family soon put in their own clay courts and Llewellyn Duggar would drive the short distance up Highway 31 pulling the packer behind his car in order to pack the courts at the Green's. Another story confirmed by Dorothy Franklin was that Fred raised and sold turkeys of which he was quite proud. He would play his mandolin to calm them! They were advertised as "New York Dry Picked - The Best on the market" according to Dorothy. John Malone recalls the pride the Duggars had in their Virginia ancestors who could be traced to service in both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. They even have a kinship with Benjamin Harrison, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The first Duggar to come to America, John D., received a land grant from King George II for land in Brunswick County, Virginia. Their southern heritage was of great importance to the family. Jack Hornady recalled that Edna Duggar placed a wreath over the Jefferson Davis star at the state capitol building in advance of a visit from Robert F. Kennedy during the turbulent sixties. Her intent was to prevent a liberal "yankee" from walking on that hollowed star.

The marriage of Fred and Edna was a good one. Jane Chestnut was married at one time to the Duggar's son Llewellyn and they lived for a time with the elder Duggars. Jane recalls never hearing a raised voice or harsh word between the two. Edna was creative, wrote poetry and was an artist. She was a member of the Press and Author's Club of Montgomery and The Writer's Conclave of Alabama. She published a book of poetry in 1984 and her poem honoring Helen Keller is reproduced at the end of this article. Many young brides in the Hope Hull community, including this writer, received as a wedding gift from the Duggars an embellished and hand painted copy of their wedding invitation. Edna was an active member of the Hope Hull Woman's Club for many years, enjoying wearing her hats and gloves to meetings. She relished being the "fortune teller" at the Halloween Carnivals at Pintlala School when they were big community-wide events in the fifties.

The Duggar's children mentioned previously were Fred III, Llewellyn and Dorothy. Fred developed polio at the age of seven, recovered but was left with an impairment with his walking. He was treated in a hospital in Birmingham and his parents rented an apartment there to help with his care. His disability did not prevent him from becoming an achiever. He graduated from Auburn University as an architect and practiced in Atlanta. While a student at Auburn he was editor of the yearbook, *Glomeratta*. He authored the book, *Checking & Coordinating Architectural & Engineering Working Drawings*, which was published by McGraw Hill in 1984. He currently lives with his sister in Tusca-

loosa. An interesting anecdote shared by Dorothy and Kate Gordon was the Fred, Jr. used his skills as a chemist; he made a serum using blood from the stricken Fred, III and injected it into younger son, Llewellyn. This was intended to prevent LLe-wellyn from contracting the dreaded illness and apparently it worked. Llewellyn was a colorful member of the Hope Hull community. Many residents recall his daredevil antics while flying a small plane. He was seen flying under limbs of giant oak trees and power lines. He was a world traveler even without great financial means. He died in 2004. Dorothy has been on the faculty at the University of Alabama teaching in the Women's Studies program. This writer has fond memories of seeing Dorothy on her horse galloping through the Duggar pastures on Highway 31 with her long blond hair flowing in the breeze.



Fred Duggar, Sr. (1868-1945) Fred Duggar, Jr. (1894-1980) Fred Duggar, III (b1922)

Photographs courtesy of Dorothy Duggar Franklin

The Duggar family has made contributions to agricultural, educational, medical and scientific circles. Fred's uncle, Benjamin Minge Duggar, was a plant physiologist who discovered the auremycin drugs, considered a "wonder drug" and to have saved many lives. His research for this drug was done through the Lederle Laboratories. The drug was made available to doctors in 1948 as the most versatile of all antibiotics with the ability to be given orally rather than in the injection form used with penicillian.

So-- when you pass the barn-red cottage on Highway 31 remember this distinguished but often eccentric family of Hope Hull and greater Alabama.

Sources:

Files: Alabama Department of Archives and History

Interview and written information: Dorothy Duggar Franklin

Interviews: Margery Henry, Jane Windham Duggar Chestnut, Jack Hornady, Kate Olive Gordon, Ruby Beck, Kay Wilson, and John Malone

Tribute to Helen Keller - by Edna Duggar

The mind of man, so circumscribed
By limits drawn from chart,
Is challenged by the limitless
Quest of her brave heart.

So urgent was her seeking,
The high and very far,
One hand reached down and touched the earth,
One rested on a star.

What man had said impossible
She sought at once to find;
Her way led to a lofty height
For treasures of the mind.

Oh, that I, too, that view might see
From God's own mountaintop of light,
The beauty of the infinite,
A star-thrust in the night.

Following is the enabling legislation creating the Old Federal Road Task Force. Mark Dauber, Pintlala resident and PHA member, serves on the task force.

Rep(s). By Representative McClammy

HJR27

ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

CREATING THE OLD FEDERAL ROAD TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE OLD FEDERAL ROAD SHOULD BE PROMOTED AS A HISTORICAL TRAIL.

WHEREAS, in 1806 when the United States was still young and rapidly growing westward, a horse path for postal riders was opened through the Creek Nation stretching from middle Georgia to costal Alabama. As the likelihood of another battle with Britain increased, the crucial need to quickly move troops to protect the American Gulf Coast was becoming more evident. In June 1810, Colonel Richard Sparks, the commanding officer of Fort Stoddert located in Mobile County, Alabama, was ordered by U.S. Secretary of War William Eustis to inspect and document these horse paths in order to mark a military road so that troops and supplies could be sent to defend the Gulf Coast. A second scouting party from Fort Stoddert was led by 1st Lieutenant John Roger Nelson Luckett who made the first significant survey for road construction in land that would later become Alabama. On July 11, 1811, Brigadier General Wade Hampton was directed to immediately begin construction of three wagon roads through the Creek Nation - the second of these roads became known as the Federal Road; and

WHEREAS, with construction at last beginning in 1811, the "Old Federal Road" was built from west to east connecting Fort Stoddert to Fort Wilkinson, located near Milledgeville, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the Old Federal Road successfully connected Fort Stoddert to the Chattahoochee River. At that point, the Federal Road merged with the earlier postal riders' horse path that linked Athens, Georgia, to New Orleans, Louisiana. This path quickly became a major travel route for pioneers to the area once known as the Old Southwest; and

WHEREAS, from its start as a narrow horse path used to carry the mails, the Old Federal Road underwent great development and became a major military road connecting early American forts in the Creek Lands and the Mississippi Territory. Acting as the interstate highway of its day, when "Alabama Fever" raged through the Carolinas and Georgia, the Old Federal Road carried thousands of pioneers to the Old Southwest. As such, the Federal Road directly contributed to the dramatic increase in Alabama's population between 1810 and 1820 with Alabama's population growing faster than that of either Mississippi or Louisiana during this time. Alabama continued out-distancing both Mississippi and Louisiana in population growth through 1850; and,

WHEREAS, the Federal Road became a well traveled stagecoach route for those going through Alabama. Nearly two centuries later, remnants of the Federal Road remain visible; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is hereby created the Old Federal Road Task Force.

(a) The task force shall be composed of the following persons:

- (1) The Director, or his or her designee, of the Alabama Historical Commission.
- (2) The Director, or his or her designee, of the Alabama Department of Archives and History.
- (3) The president, or his or her designee, of any four-year public college or university that is located within the geographic area of the Old Federal Road.
- (4) One member of the Alabama Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.
- (5) Three members of the Alabama House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House.
- (6) The Director, or his or her designee, of the Bureau of Tourism and Travel.
- (7) One member from each of the congressional districts in which the Federal Road was located appointed by the Speaker of the House.
- (8) The Director, or his or her designee, of the Alabama Department of Transportation.



**PINTLALA HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION**

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

NEXT MEETING

**APRIL 20, 2008
2:30 P.M.**

**PINTLALA
BAPTIST CHURCH**

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

**Pintlala Historical Association
c/o Thomas Ray
2995 Pettus Road
Hope Hull, AL 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 _____

\$5.00 Registration Fee (One Time) - \$10.00 Annual Dues