

PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting:
April 19th —2:30 p.m.
Pintlala Baptist Church



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

Volume XXIII, Number 2

www.pintlalahistoricalassociation.com

April 2009

**Elementary School Children at Pintlala School dressed in costumes for a play.
Circa 1920s**



Photo courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History.

2009 OFFICERS

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President's Message

"Transitions and Truth"

We were all stunned and saddened by the death of our Treasurer, Joy Shelton. She brought an effervescent personality and competence to her task. Joy was just getting started. Our prayers, love and longstanding respect go out to Jean Henry, to Ed and his family.

PHA is fortunate that Ina Slade has expressed a willingness to serve as our Treasurer; she is already on board and will be presented for a confirming vote at our next meeting. Ina will bring her gifts and strong commitment to our organization. We are very grateful.

Of course, we continue to be grateful to Angelique Pugh for her willingness to provide her layout-and-design talents for this publication. She renders an invaluable service.

Ricky McLaney has stepped up to the plate in providing us with information regarding the heritage of his family whom many have known and loved. You will find a very interesting submission in this newsletter and more information will follow later in the year.

The importance of preserving and sharing local history can be summarized in a brief interview with historian David McCullough found in the June 22, 2008 Parade Magazine:

History In Danger

According to a recent survey, fewer than half of American high school students know when the Civil War occurred. Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David McCullough weighs in about why this ignorance is a problem. How important is history in the United States?

For at least 25 years, we've been raising young Americans who are, by and large, historically illiterate. The founding of our nation, the Civil War, World War II—they all should be common knowledge, but they are not. History has not just been pushed to the back burner, it's been pushed off the stove.

Why does history matter?

Amnesia is as detrimental to society as to an individual. The historian Daniel Boorstin put it very well: "Trying to plan for the future without a sense of the past is like trying to plant cut flowers."

What can we learn from the past?

That there is no such thing as "a self-made man or woman"—we all are influenced by people around us. That every action has consequences, and we have to be very careful about leaping to conclusions from first impressions. And that integrity and character do count in the long run. The idea that no one has ever lived in more difficult or dangerous times is untrue. Others have weathered more horrendous storms; we can take heart from them.

Gary Burton, President

garyburton1@charter.net

April 2009 PHA Program

The program for this quarterly meeting is a result of questions from PHA members and others in our community wanting to know how to keep and store: Aunt Jane's quilts, special clothing items, photographs of relatives, news articles and old scrapbooks.

Here is your chance to learn how! Linda Overman is the Preservation Officer at Alabama Department of Archives and History and she will give us ideas on preserving our treasures safely. This will allow future generations to have a part of history saved by you!

We will meet on Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. at Pintlala Baptist Church. Bring a friend, encourage others to join PHA!



In Memoriam

Since the last meeting of the Pintlala Historical Association two members of our organization and one former president have passed away. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of:

- Hattie Norman McLaney Smith : February 15, 1923-January 28, 2009
- William James (Jim) Edwards: 1938-2009
- Joy Henry Shelton: September 23, 1951-February 11, 2009

Hattie Smith had been a PHA member since our inception. Jim Edwards served as the second president of PHA from 1989 through 1993. Joy Shelton had just begun serving as our treasurer when she passed away much too soon on February 11.



A Future For Pintlala Elementary School

Community residents and supportive friends have been relieved to know that a glimmer of hope exists for Pintlala School to remain as a functioning school serving the southwest section of Montgomery County. On March 9, 2009 the Montgomery County Board of Education rescinded its vote to close the school. This vote is contingent upon the school finding \$550,000.00 in funding before May 1, 2009. There is much work ahead before the "all clear" declaration is given by the Board. Our community is grateful to the Montgomery County Commission, the local delegation of the Alabama Legislature and the Montgomery City Council for their encouragement and support.

Many have worked diligently to secure a positive resolution to this dilemma. We should be particularly grateful to the SAVE OUR SCHOOL TASK FORCE and the leadership provided by Gary Burton during this traumatic time in the life of the school.—ATC

PHA Pintlala School Edition

Plans are underway to devote the July newsletter edition to the history of Pintlala School. In this effort we need your help. If you have pictures of groups, events, or teachers, particularly Mr. L.R. Scarborough, we would like to see them for possible use. We would prefer to have a copy of your original. If you cannot provide a copy, contact Gary Burton or Alice Carter to work out the details. We welcome stories, anecdotes or memories. All may not be used in the newsletter due to space constraints but we would love to have them. A file at the Library might be developed to maintain all of the information. Who knows maybe this will develop into a two or even three part series!

Special Invitation

A celebration of the 175th anniversary of the original Bethlehem Baptist Church's organization will be held Saturday, May 16, at the church in Southwest Montgomery County. One of the oldest rural churches in the county, it is located on the West side of Butler Mill Road, about 100 yards North of the intersection with W. Hickory Grove Road. The commemorative service will begin with traditional "Old Baptist" singing at approximately 10:00 AM followed by Elder Scott Sexton's sermon. Elder Sexton is the Moderator for the Ebenezer Primitive Baptist Association. Bring your favorite dish for a time-honored "dinner on the ground" at approximately 12:00 noon, plus any Bethlehem memories, snapshots, and/or memorabilia that you care to share during the afternoon. Also, in an early Memorial Day ceremony, our Pintlala Scout & Cub Troup 700, will honor all our service men and women that afternoon by placing a wreath on the grave of a Confederate Veteran in the Bethlehem Cemetery. We hope that you can come help celebrate this historic occasion!

Dues

Dues are due on the first of January of each calendar year. If you have not paid, please contact our new treasurer, Ina Slade. Her mailing address is 15212, Hwy. 31 HOPE HULL, AL 36043.

Dues are \$10.00 for the year and \$15.00 for new members (one time only, \$10.00 thereafter).

Thank you for always asking questions at our meetings/programs! These questions often provide the impetus for articles in the PHA newsletter. Your ideas are certainly welcomed, contact Alice Carter or Gary Burton.

Pintlala 1817 Map

By 1837 when John La Tourette drew his map of Alabama (can be viewed online at www.alabamamaps.ua.edu) a prominently marked Pintlala P.O. is seen right where the Federal Road and the Mobile Branch Road intersect. The Mobile Branch Road came straight south out of Montgomery before joining the Federal Road a short distance north of Pintlala Creek.

La Tourette Map

- George W. Jeeter - December 5, 1837
- John Bonham - March 24, 1838
- Discontinued - October 9, 1866
- Re-established - October 23, 1872
- ? H. Sellers - October 23, 1872
- Discontinued - February 16, 1874

In April 20, 1882 a request for a post office at Cantelou, Montgomery County was made and "Cantelou" was the name requested, but the name certified was "Pintlala." Postal records state that it would be classified a "special office" on the route from Montgomery to Selma. Perhaps the "special" classification was based on the population of 200 to be supplied. The Sanders information indicates that Alfred B. Colquitt filed application for establishment of a post office at A. B. Col-

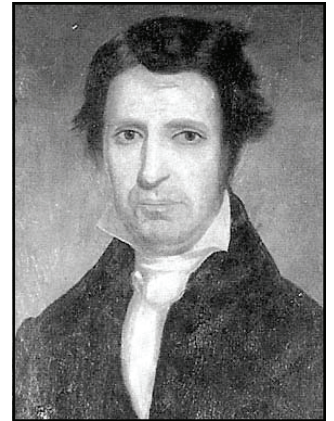
quitt's Store, Montgomery County, Alabama in March 1890. The post office department returned the application addressed to A.B. Colquitt in care of postmaster at Morganville, Alabama located in Lowndes County approximately 6 miles west of Pintlala. The name proposed on Colquitt's application was "Pintlala." The name acted upon and accepted was "Colquitt." Could this be because the post office at Cantelou was certified as Pintlala in 1882, eight years prior to Colquitt's request? Cantelou lies in the area near the Pintlala Creek off present day Highway 80. This explains why it was given the "Pintlala" name.

The Colquitt Post Office was classified as a "special office" to be supplied from Morganville, located to the west in Lowndes County. This designation must have been based on its population previously listed at 750 in 1872. The Colquitt post office of 1890 was located in the SE quarter of Sec. 16, T14s, R17w in Montgomery County. The Sanders postal information provides a postmaster listing for Colquitt:

- Alfred B. Colquitt - April 12, 1890
- Charles B. Crenshaw - February 12, 1894
- Charles B. Crenshaw - Rescinded, June 13, 1894
- *N. B. - September 16, 1895
- *N.B. - March 29, 1900
- F. Hurley - February 5, 1903
- **Discontinued to Hope Hull - February 29, 1904**

Communities usually were called by the name given to the nearest post office or vice versa. The assumption would be that the Pintlala community was called that until 1890 when the local post office was named Colquitt and then changed to Hope Hull in 1904 when the Colquitt Post Office was discontinued to Hope Hull. Needless to say, it is likely that residents did not refer to themselves as living at Hope Hull, but rather Pintlala. Even today, I qualify my address at Hope Hull by saying that I live at Pintlala. Our fellow PHA member, Ray Scott, has tried untiringly to get a post office back in our beloved Pintlala!

The Colquitt Post Office sat near the side of Highway 31 a few yards north of the current (2009) location of Newell Roadbuilders. In my lifetime it was still standing but moved much farther back from the road on the Newell's property.



Abner McGehee

Hope Hull Community

In order to discuss the Hope Hull Post Office, one must understand that the village of Hope Hull was first known as McGehee's Switch because it was the location for a switching station for the Montgomery and Mobile railroad. The station was named for Abner McGehee, planter and financier whose plantation was nearby. Later McGehee's Switch appeared on a state map only as McGehees. McGehee renamed the village "Hope Hull" in honor of his friend, Methodist circuit rider, the Reverend Hope Hull. Hull had influenced McGehee's life when he was a young man in Georgia. McGehee's Post Office was listed on March 8, 1875 in the Post Office Bulletin with Thomas Stacy (buried, Bethel Cemetery) serving as postmaster. McGehee's Post Office was discontinued on January 8, 1877. Five months later it appears as the Hope Hull office with William E. McGehee as postmaster. As stated earlier, the Pintlala Post Office was discontinued to Hope Hull on February 29, 1904 which would have been during the term of William D. Tobias as Hope Hull postmaster. The Sanders material includes a long listing of postmasters for the Hope Hull office:

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| • William E. McGehee June 18, 1877 | • William D. Tobias November 27, 1903 | • Hartwell S. Mason, Acting May 17, 1926 | • Mrs. Fannie V. Mason Retired - November 30, 1960 | • Mrs. Madine W. Gordon December 1, 1973 |
| • William R. Flinn August 14, 1882 | • Alexander H. Clark, Jr. December 5, 1904 | • Hartwell S. Mason November 16, 1926 | • Mrs. Frances M. Cruise, Acting - December 1, 1960 (daughter of Fannie Mason) | • Mrs. Madine W. Gordon, Retired 1990 (date unknown) |
| • *N/B - April 21, 1888 | • *N/B - May 22, 1907 | • Edwin B. Chestnutt, Acting February 28, 1927 | • Mrs. Frances M. Cruise, appointed by President July 24, 1961 | • Gloria Patterson, In charge - September 1, 1990 |
| • John V. Phillips April 11, 1893 | • Theodore E. Williams January 6, 1909 | • Mrs. Fannie V. Mason August 2, 1927 | • Mrs. Frances M. Cruise, Retired - November 30, 1973 | • Sherry Barrett Hughes November 3, 1990-current |
| • *N/B - November 27, 1895 | • Thomas A. Fowler November 11, 1909 | • Mrs. Fannie V. Mason November 30, 1944 | | |
| • Alexander H. Clark January 14, 1898 | • Edith M. Fowler, Acting April 12, 1922 | | | |

This outline and narrative of selected Montgomery County post offices helps us to understand that there has always been a distinction between the communities of Hope Hull and Pintlala yet, I believe a spirit of good" neighborliness" and cooperation has existed, largely due to the fact that since 1923 residents of both communities were united at Pintlala School. Manacks, Pintlala, Colquitt, McGehees, Hope Hull all names for settlements in Montgomery County which have remained rural and true to their historic roots. As Shakespeare said "a rose by any other name is just as sweet"!

*The N.B. status used in the Postmaster listings is defined as "Notice to Bulletin" suggesting that the named post office was in operation but no information was supplied to U. S. Post Office Department.

Sources:

Shackelford, Edward Madison and Franklin Shackelford Moseley, Editors. *George Shackelford and Annette Jeter and Their Descendants*.

Montgomery, Alabama: The Paragon Press, 1941.

Montgomery County, Alabama Post Offices compiled by Laurie S. Sanders over a period of years beginning in the 1980s.

Montgomery Genealogical Society Quarterly: Winter 2005

Alabama Historical Quarterly, Volume 18, No. 1, 1956

www.alabamamaps.ua.edu

Who was Alfred B. Colquitt?

Alfred Bethea Colquitt was born March 21, 1848 at Monticello, the original county seat of Pike County, Alabama to Dr. William Bethea and Mary (Miles) Colquitt, both from South Carolina. Alfred was one of ten children born to this couple. He received his early education through private instruction in Elba, Alabama where the family lived from 1854 to 1864. In 1863, at age 15 and only weighing seventy pounds, Colquitt volunteered as a Private in the Fifty-third Alabama Cavalry, Company H, CSA. He proved to be an excellent soldier and was soon promoted to a place on the staff of the Commander of the Fifty-third, Colonel Hannon. He remained in this position until the close of the Civil War.

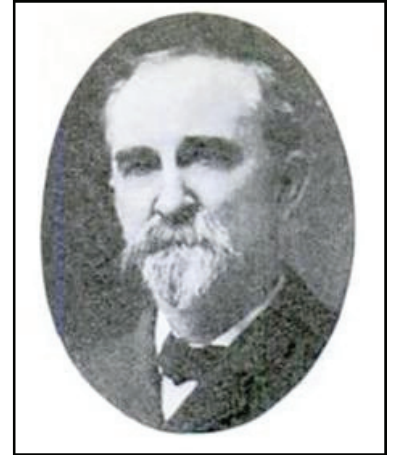
After the war ended he worked for a time in the general merchandise store owned by his brother in Bullock, Alabama. Bullock is a community that was situated on the county line between Coffee and Crenshaw counties. However, another source refers to the place as Bullock County. In 1876 Colquitt moved to his farm in Montgomery County, which was a successful operation.

Alfred Colquitt and Mattie Key Shackelford, daughter of Frank and Amelia Jane (Watts) Shackelford of Pintlala, Alabama were married on April 19, 1877. Their children were: Ethel "Bess", born June 8, 1881 in Pintlala, married a Mr. Martin of Montgomery; Kate; Blanche, born 1883 and married J. D. Boyd of Montgomery County; Jennie, born 1885; Wiley; Helen, born 1890 and Lois. In 1900 the family moved to Montgomery in order to educate the children. Colquitt continued to operate his farm in Pintlala.

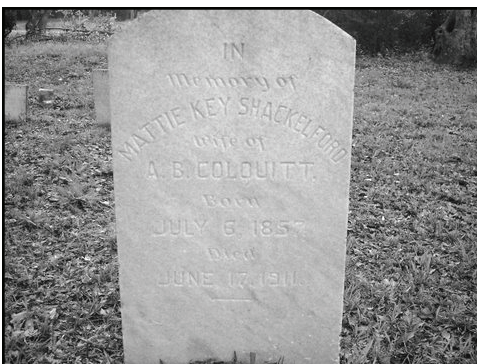
Colquitt was appointed a United States Deputy Marshall for the Middle District of Alabama in 1902 during Theodore Roosevelt's presidential term and during the administration of Governor William Jelks of Alabama. Colquitt was associated with the Democratic party, was a Methodist and a Mason.

Colquitt was killed by a train in Snowdown, Alabama in 1916. He and Mattie Key are both buried in the Shackelford Cemetery, Pintlala, Alabama.

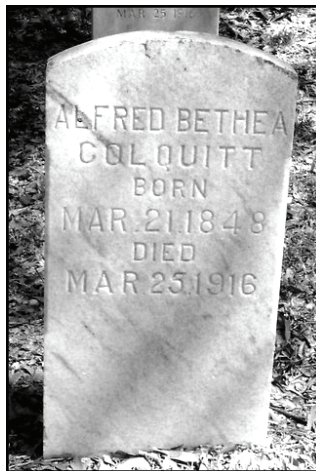
It is interesting to note that Alfred B. Colquitt is mentioned in his role as a U. S. Marshall in a current book, *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II* by Douglas A. Blackmon.



Alfred Bethea Colquitt



Mattie Colquitt Gravestone



Colquitt Tombstone in Shackelford Cemetery



Colquitt Confederate Marker

Sources

DuBose, Joel C. *Notable Men of Alabama: Personal and Genealogical, with Portraits*. 2 vols. Spartanburg: The Reprint Co., 1976 [reprint of 1904 ed.].

Owen, Thomas McAdory; Marie Bankhead Owen. *History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama*; Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co, 1921, pp. 382-383.

Shackelford, Edward Madison and Franklin Shackelford Moseley, Editors. *George Shackelford and Annette Jeter and Their Descendants*; Montgomery, Alabama, The Paragon Press, 1941.

Ricky McLaney Commentary on Photograph and Letter

This letter was in my mother's (Hattie Norman McLaney Smith) possessions. It is my dad's (C. Knox McLaney, Jr.) letter to his future in-laws asking for their daughter's hand in marriage. In the letter there are references to three other individuals:

1. My mother's brother "Boots" Norman who had joined the service with my dad and dad's best friend, Foch Jinright from Ramer and they were all stationed at Camp Crowder, MO. They all three had joined together on that Sunday afternoon (Dec. 7, 1941) when Pearl Harbor was bombed.
2. One of my mother's other brothers, Hartley "Bud" Norman, who suffered all of his life with severe asthma.
3. John A. Reddoch always had a new sports coat or checkered pants for Easter. Growing up at Mt. Carmel Methodist Church this was always anticipated as to how loud or outlandish his attire would be.

Permission was granted to marry and they were married at Camp Crowder, MO on May 29, 1943. My uncle "Boots" and his future bride Frances Rowlen Norman were part of the ceremony. Mom and Dad were married for 37 years until he passed away at the young age of 57 in 1980. Dad got out of the service in August of 1944, when his father passed away at the young age of 56. His commander told him he did know who he thought he was, but that nobody got out of the service in war time. Thanks to U. S. Senator Lister Hill, this only son and child of a farmer came home to Sprague to take care of his mother and farm in August of 1944.



Wedding picture: Camp Crowder Chapel May 29, 1943. Frances Rowlen Norman, Hattie Norma McLaney, C. Knox McLaney, Jr., Will Haden "Boots" Norman, in front Knox's Company Commander and in the rear is the Chaplain.

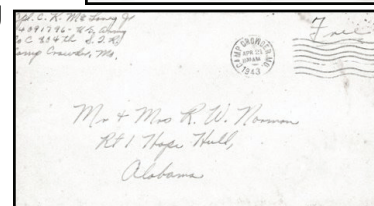
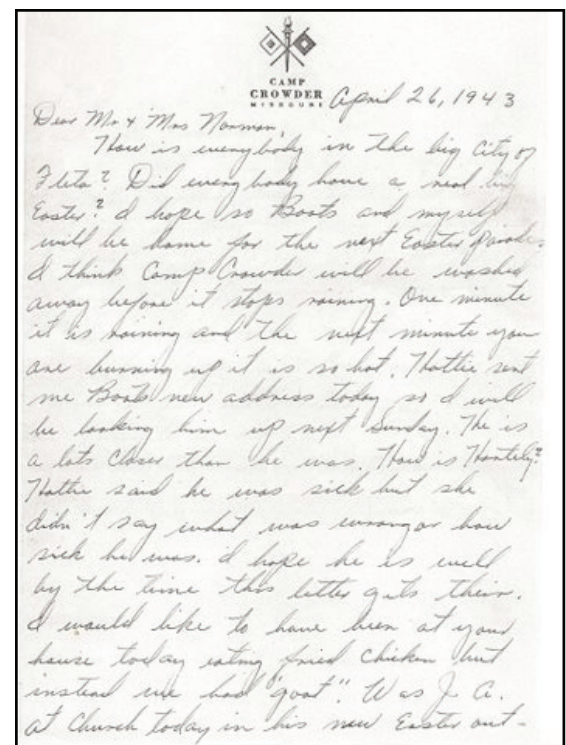
April 26, 1943

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Norman,

How is everybody in the big City of Fleta? Did everybody have a real big Easter? I hope so Boots and myself will be home for the next Easter parade. I think Camp Crowder will be washed away before it stops raining. One minute it is raining and the next minute you are burning up it is so hot. Hattie sent me Boots new address today so I will be looking him up next Sunday. He is a lots closer than he was. How is Hartley? Hattie said he was sick but she didn't say what was wrong or how sick he was. I hope he is well by the time this letter gets there. I would like to have been at your house today eating fried chicken but instead we had "goat". Was J. A. at Church today in his new Easter outfit? I would like to be there in person to ask this question but that is impossible, so you will have to excuse the letter. As you probably know Hattie and myself are planning on being married the first of June and I would like to have your permission. I promise that I will always do my best to make her happy and comfortable. I guess I had better close the lights are fixing to go out.

Love,

Knox



Letter and Envelope - Knox McLaney Letter 1943



**PINTLALA HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION**

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

NEXT MEETING

**APRIL 19, 2009
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 _____

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