

PINTLALA



HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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255 FEDERAL ROAD

HOPE HULL, AL 36043

Founded in 1987

VOLUME XV, NUMBER 2

APRIL 2001

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: I want to thank the members and friends of our association for the continued efforts and interests in gathering, compiling and making available historical information regarding our communities of interest. Thanks to Gunter Guy for providing a copy of "HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY OF HICKORY GROVE" 1840 - 1976 compiled by Charles D. Powell. Frank Hawthorne and others are currently compiling information on families who have resided along US Highway 31 during the early 1900s. If you have information on some of these families who may not currently reside in our community, please prepare notes and make them available to Mr. Hawthorne and those working with him on this project.

Sincerely,
JACK HORNADY
President, PHA

APRIL MEETING: Pintlala Historical Association will move its April meeting to the fourth Sunday, which will be the 22nd of April at 2:30 pm at Pintlala Baptist Church. Easter falls on our normal meeting date of the third Sunday in April.

We will continue our series of programs on stores in the area covered by PHA. If you have information please bring it and be prepared to tell us the founding date, closure date, owners and PICTURES, if possible.

Our last meeting had wonderful stories about the following: Will/Fred Sellers Store in Fleta, Bedsole's Store, Webb Norman Store, McLaney's Store in Sprague, and the W. W. Sellers Store in Sellers, Alabama.

Looking forward to many of you attending and many bringing good information!

HISTORY IN THE MAKING: The *first ever* United States Border Collie Handlers' Association National Cattle Dog Finals will be held April 20, 21 and 22nd at the W. S. Newell Farm on Highway 31, just north of Pintlala! We feel honored that our community has been selected to host this event. "Top Dogs" that have already earned enough points to enter will compete on Friday and Saturday in the qualifying rounds. The dogs are judged on how well they handle a small herd of cattle, bringing them from the opposite end of a large field and working them through an intricate series of gates, pens, etc. The twenty dogs with the highest combined scores from the first two days of competition will be called back to compete for the Championship in Sunday's Finals. (You may get more information at the website, "www.cattledog.org.") Two Pintlala Border Collies, "Rosie" and "Belle," have earned enough points to enter, and will be shown by their owner, Wayne Butler. The Butlers have generously demonstrated their dogs' ability working sheep at Bible Schools, schools and other gatherings in this area. Wayne, PHA is proud of you and your dogs, and wish you the best of luck in this event!

IN MEMORIAM: PHA extends heartfelt sympathy to the families of Mrs. John A. Garrett of Butler Mill Road, Snowdown and Mr. Odis Rice of Pettus Road, Hope Hull.

WELCOME! PHA welcomes the Montgomery County Historical Society, 512 S. Court Street, Montgomery, AL 36104, Phone: (334) 264-1837.

BETHLEHEM CEMETERY ANNUAL MEETING Persons interested in the Bethlehem Cemetery on the Butler Mill Road (near the intersection of West Hickory Grove Road) in south Montgomery County) are cordially invited to attend the annual meeting at Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church on May 12, 2001 (the Saturday before Mother's Day). A short business meeting will be held at 11:00, followed by a picnic lunch outside under the beautiful old oak trees. So come out, bring your favorite "finger foods" and enjoy renewing old acquaintances and perhaps making new ones! (For further information, contact Theresa Davis, Secretary/Treasurer, Bethlehem Cemetery Committee, Phone 288-6395)

PHA 2001 MEMBERSHIP DUES. If you have not already renewed your PHA membership for 2001, please bring your payment to the meeting or mail it to the Treasurer, Thomas Ray, 2995 Pettus Road, Hope Hull, Alabama 36043. Thank you very much!

WELL WISHES: We hope that all our friends and members who have not been feeling "up to par," including Mrs. Ethel Mae Tankersley Todd, Mrs. Hattie McLaney, Mrs. Anna Rice, and Mrs. Clara Eden are soon feeling MUCH better!

THANKS TO RUTH MITCHELL OTT for "Family Counts," her intriguing articles in the Montgomery Independent Newspaper. Keep up the great work, Ruth!

CLARISE'S BONUS: Clarise McGinty had bought a beautiful old picture frame at an estate sale. She discovered that the frame was padded with pages from the March 31, 1938 edition of the Alabama Journal. There were some especially interesting articles. One was about an early treatment for certain types of cancer that had been amazingly successful until a batch of the mixture apparently became contaminated and was blamed for the early deaths of its users. Another was about "Puppy Love," a tragic Romeo-and-Juliet-type of love story about two teen age lovers whose parents failed to take their commitment seriously. Still another article stated that the outlook was encouraging for the unification of the three divisions of the Methodist Church (Methodist Episcopal, Protestant Episcopal, and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South) at the General Conference in Birmingham on April 28th. Equally interesting were the advertisements, especially those for Easter clothing: The Vanity Book Shop on Dexter Avenue touted the "latest fashioned footwear for \$2.99, with new spring bags to match for \$1.00." Guarantee Clothing Co., 23 Commerce Street, offered "Men's Fine Tropical Worsted Suits, values to \$20.00, at the Pre-Easter Sale Price of \$12.95" and "Men's Genuine Fur Felt Hats for \$1.95." The Montgomery Fair offered ladies' Easter hats, "New Pedaline Straws in a brilliant collection, for \$.98; others: \$1.98." Cosmetics, too, were featured at the Montgomery Fair, such as Renaud Bath Powder for \$.39 and Eau de Cologne for \$.69. Apparently, though, one of the more "pricey" shops was A. Nachman, advertising "Ellen Kaye Originals Frocks for the Junior Miss" at the awesome amount of \$16.98.

JANUARY PROGRAM: PHA's January 2001 program on area country stores generated so much enthusiasm that our program leader had to call "time!" Using the information gleaned from the accounts presented, Alice Carter hopes to compile a history of local stores. The vanishing "country store," on a par with the local school and church, was truly the center of social, political, and economic activity.

Billy Sellers presented an account of the Fleta Store run by his father, Fred Sellers, and his grandfather, Will Sellers. Billy displayed a painting of the store by Ney Park, and gave colorful accounts of the store's many and varied activities, including "politickin'" and Christmas Eve celebrations. Several families had lived in the rear of the store, which was also a post office and a voting place; also, the Fleta Masonic Lodge members met upstairs.

Ricky McLaney shared memories of his Uncle Webb Norman's Store, also at Fleta (diagonally across the road from Seller's Store) and the store his father (Knox McLaney) ran at Sprague. That store, too, was Post Office, and one of the large photos Ricky shared showed his father working there with a "wanted" poster in the background which featured Patty Hearst!

Henry William Rollins, Quincy, Florida told about the "commissary" in Bethlehem that was owned by his great-grandfather, A. J. Bedsole. He understood that the original store that burned was a two-story structure, but no pictures were available. Mr. Bedsole was a "furnish merchant" and sold almost everything from candy to caskets. Lowell Thomas Hataway, his grandson, shared a picture of the proprietor in the doorway of the "new" building.

Moses Sellers told about his Sellers Store on Highway 331 at Sellers, Alabama, which was originally operated by his father. Like many of the others, that two-story store served as

living quarters, and also housed a Post Office. Moses' store is the only one described during the program that is still standing. Currently, it is used for antiques.

Rene Barnett observed that long before the Government assumed the role of providing for economic needs, country stores frequently provided that service. Credit was often extended on an "as needed" basis, and many operators were never repaid. However, the following article, provided by Ruth Davis, is a clipping from the Montgomery Advertiser in the mid-1960s. It is a true tribute to the character and commitment of people of that era. The article reads:

"Anonymous Debtor Sends Heirs \$200: The heirs of Andrew Jackson Bedsole of Bethlehem Community are richer by \$200 today than they were before the mail arrived a few days ago. But they do not know from whom the money came. Mrs. Leola Hataway, a daughter of Bedsole, received an anonymous letter containing the money in \$20 bills and a request that it be divided equally among her father's heirs. The note also said the sender owed Bedsole the money when he died in 1942. The letter, unregistered, was mailed in Montgomery. Complying with the request, Mrs. Hataway has divided the money with the other heirs."

THE DEATH OF THE "WISH BOOK": Jesse Culp always writes an interesting article for "Cross Roads," his column in the monthly Cooperative Farming News which is published in Decatur, AL. But the February 2001 issue, which featured a tribute to the old Sears and Roebuck Catalog, really brought floods of nostalgia. With the advent of strip malls and internet shopping, that one-time family treasure has gone the way of the dinosaur, but Mr. Culp gave it a rightful place of prominence in our rural history. Here are some excerpts from his article:

"Sears, Roebuck and Company first started publishing the catalog in 1896, and it quickly caught on with American people, many of them living in isolated areas and depending upon it for most of their shopping.

"Folks could buy just about anything except perishable food items from it. Pre-cut six-room houses were offered for \$725. A horse-drawn buggy was priced at \$36.90. Mass produced violins (which Sears touted as "our Stradivarius model"); were sold at the turn of the century for \$1.95. And many of today's country music stars learned to "pick and grin" with a \$2.95 Sears guitar.

"The sears catalog was published before the automobile hit the scene. But after cars came out, they could be ordered right out of the "wish book." In fact, those of you living in the late forties will remember that Sears tried offering a new car once again - many years after it had quit carrying automobiles. Remember the Kaiser-Frazer?"

Mr. Culp said that people called the catalog "the wish book" because it whetted everyone's appetite for things they wanted. He said:

"Like everybody else in my generation, I just sort of grew up with the Sears, Roebuck Catalog. And this was true of several generations of Americans. I can remember how eagerly we looked forward to the arrival of the new catalog." He said that family members would almost fight over it until its hundreds of pages were practically "devoured."

Mr. Culp stated that "The women folks used it to keep up with the latest fashions. Men ogled the tools, sports equipment and boots. And we kids couldn't get enough of the toy section.

"The girls admired the female models and dreamed of someday becoming such models themselves." He admitted, however, that the boys used to sneak away with the catalog go gaze at the shapely girls pictured in it.

“When the new catalog came out every year, the old catalogs were never thrown away. They were used for sturdy doorstops, for toilet paper in outhouses and the young girls clipped the clothing pages for paper dolls.”

He confessed that, like most of us, it had been many years since he had ordered anything from the Sears catalog, but really hated to see it go! He said “When Sears decided to discontinue the ‘big book’ it was sort of like a member of the family had passed away.” But he predicts that “The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, which preserves and displays the objects which have been a prominent part of our society and our history, surely will give a prominent place to the Sears Roebuck Catalog.”

ELUSIVE KINSMAN

by Wayne Hand

Alas, my elusive kinsman, you’ve led me quite chase.
I thought I’d found your courthouse but the Yankees burned the place.
You always kept your bags packed, although you had no fame,
And, perhaps, just for the fun of it, twice you changed your name.
You never owed a person, or at least I found no bills.
Despite eleven offspring, you never left a will.
They say our name’s from Europe, came stateside on a ship.
Either they lost the passenger list, or granddad gave them the slip.
I’m the only one that’s looking. Another searcher I can’t find.
I play “maybe that’s his fathers name” as I lose my mind.
They said you had a headstone in a shady plot.
I’ve been there over twenty times but never found the lot.
You never wrote a letter; your Bible we can’t find.
It’s probably in some attic, out of sight and out of mind.
First you married (?) Smith, and just to set the tone,
Your next four wives were “Sarahs”, and every one a Jones.
You’ve cost me two fortunes (one of which I didn’t have)
My wife, my house and Fido. (How I miss that golden lab!)

But somewhere you slipped up, Ole Boy, somewhere you left a track.
If I don’t find you this year, well, NEXT year I’ll be back!

Many thanks to Mamie Sellers for sharing this delightful poem which we’d like to dedicate to all our genealogy enthusiasts.

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

**\$5.00 registration fee (one time)
Annual dues: \$10.00 in January**

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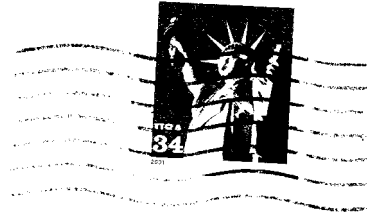
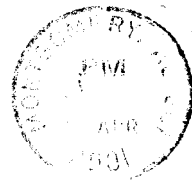
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Areas of Interest _____

If you are interested in genealogy, please indicate family surnames _____

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



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