



# PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



C/O PINTLALA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
175 FEDERAL RD.  
HOPE HULL, AL 36043

Volume 3, Number 1

January, 1989

## OFFICERS

President.....	Ethel Tankersley Todd.....	288-3225
Vice-President.....	Jim Edwards.....	288-0840
Secretary.....	Mamie Sellers.....	279-9313
Treasurer.....	Ricky McLaney.....	288-1057
Parliamentarian.....	Gary Burton.....	288-7414
Members-at-large...1.	George Mosley.....	264-7614
	2. Julianne Hataway.....	281-4338
	3. Jack Hornady.....	265-5752
	4. Moses Sellers.....	288-4626

**JANUARY MEETING:** January 15, 1989, 2:30 P.M. Pintlala Baptist Church.

**Program:** HISTORIC MT. CARMEL by Lurline Hall.

**Business:** Election of President, Secretary and Members at Large Places 1 and 2.

### NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT:

PINTLALA and south Montgomery County should now be on the map! Thanks to Mr. Ray Scott, his friendship with President Elect George Bush, and their mutual interest in fishing and conservation, Pintlala had an historic visit. The good Lord was kind in giving us a beautiful day sandwiched between grumpy ones. There are now those, thanks to Brooks Boliek of the Advertiser-Journal, who know how to pronounce Pintlala - "like the first syllable in pinto beans and the first two syllables of Lala Land". It was an exciting time for this community. Many have interesting personal stories to tell. Please write your "tales" and let us add them to the historic folder. Hopefully, 150 years from now, there will be those asking, "What important people have been to Pintlala?" I personally hope that Ray Scott will continue his interest in and his promotion of Pintlala.

The Pintlala Historical Association expresses its deepest sympathy to the Edwards family in the loss of Jim's mother. Evelyn Edwards was an enthusiastic member of this group.

We appreciate Mary Jane Shackelford giving to the Association pictures of Pintlala School and of early Shackelford-Mosley reunions. These will be on display and we will appreciate help in identifying the people shown. She also gave to us the copy (reprinted below) of a history of Old Bethel Church written by Dr. Frank Shackelford in 1923. E.T.T.

**OCTOBER MEETING** (Excerpts from minutes). There were 39 persons at the October 23 meeting. The treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$1057.09 with a paid membership of 84 households. A program was presented by Ms. Annie Crenshaw who discussed the origin of surnames and indicated that all names originate from four sources: how one looked, what one did, where one lived and whose son one was. Interesting reports were given by Lurline Hall who brought tombstone rubbings from a forgotten cemetery and by Jamie Henry who discussed Federal Road, the Indians and the early settlers. The president named a nominating committee: Chairman Kerry Brown, Louise Newell, Davis Henry and Alice Carter with Jim Edwards as non-voting member representing the board. A "Helping Hands" Committee was appointed to work with researchers and coordinate efforts at getting a book underway. Chairman Catherine Sellers, Hazel Norman, Mildred Lamar, Julianne Hataway, Lurline Hall, Mamie Sellers, Jamie and Jeannie Henry, Frank Hawthorne and Ethel T. Todd. M.M.S

## BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

"The Church of Christ at Bethel Montgomery Co. Alabama territory" of the (Primitive) Baptist faith was established at Pintlala, fifteen miles from Montgomery on the Mobile road and one mile south of Pintlala creek. In the year, 1819, on Feby. 13th of that year, their "Articles of Faith" was adopted having been written by two of their ministers, Meyrs. Electus Thompson and James McLemore. In Sept. a committee was appointed to choose a place for building a meeting house. At what point this house was built is not now known. It was built of hewn logs, and evidently had a dirt floor, for in Aug. 1820 a move was made to get money with which to "plank the floor." In 1833 this log house was torn down, and a frame building, 30 X 60 feet was built on a lot bought from my grandfather, George Shackelford, my grandfather using the old logs in building a barn on the place on which I am now living, and which barn I moved in 1922.

The James McLemore mentioned above, preached for the church many years, and was called from Elm Church, which was built to the north of Montgomery. This fact indicates that Elm was the first church house built in Montgomery County and Bethel possibly the second. Robertson's "History of the Early Settlers of Montgomery County" gives Antioch as the second, but Mr. Sam Pettus, whose parents were members of Bethel, says Bethel was the second one built in the county.

The congregation had a large membership from its beginning, slaves being admitted, and in 1838 it was decided to build an annex for the negro members, which however was abandoned in Sept. 1839. The membership was at times 187. The congregation could not get in the building, and buggies, wagons, and ox carts were placed near the windows to accomodate the overflow. They always had a three days meeting in Sept. of each year, and at that time "washed the saints feet." The attendance then was always very large.

Their discipline was very strict, and they lived up to its requirements. They would "dismiss" a member for nonpayment of a dept, dancing, lying, drunkenness, (although they did not forbid the drinking of whiskey, etc.) Faith in their teachings, and honesty, were their outstanding characteristics.

On July 22, 1837, a regular preaching day, an anonymous question, "shall we allow the Missionary Baptist Brethren in Bethel Church?" was found on the table. After much discussion it was unanimously decided that they would not allow them. Robertson's history says they were not finally excluded until October 1837. The Missionary Baptists, after being excluded, met at Allen's Spring, north of Pintlala creek, one mile from Bethel. This is said to be the first division into two branches in this section.

My ancestors had a rather peculiar connection with the church. My grandmother Shackelford was immersed, becoming a member in Sept. 1830. She was Annette Jeter, and her two brothers, Washington and Merville Jeter preached there for many years. My grandfather, George Shackelford, was evidently of that faith, when he moved to Alabama from South Carolina in 1819, but never united with them in form, only was consistent in upholding the church and its teachings. He was largely responsible for the building of the last house, and performed the duty of keeping it in order for which he received \$4.00 per year.

He had three children, Mary, who married Wm. ("Bill") Allen, Matt who married Sophrinia Ledbetter, and Frank, my father, all of whom lived and died strong in the faith, without ever uniting with the church. My mother, who was Parnellia Jane Watts, also shared that belief, and steadfastly resisted outward obedience. They all lived with consecrated service, as they saw it, relying upon predestination, calling, and election, and were strong supporters to Bethel Church.

The membership has been diminishing for many years, and Mrs. Elizabeth Lewis, widow of Benjamin Lewis, is so far as is known, the only living member. Services were held in Sept. of each year for many years, but they too, were discontinued in 1918.

There was an effort made a few years ago to recover the house and retain it as a land mark, but failed of securing sufficient funds, and since then it has rapidly decayed to the disappointment of many of us who retain sentimental attachment towards it. Rather than suffer violence to our feelings towards the old building and what it has represented these many years, by seeing it rot and tumble down in an unsightly heap, I took advantage of a reverting clause in the deed, and by consent of all parties concerned, tore the building away, and we are preparing to erect in its site a monument to its history and memory.

Adjoining the church is a large burying ground that has within it representatives of many of the older families of the section. I desire and have arranged to deed this to the proper parties and let it be for all time a treasured spot without molestation or hindrance. We are now removing the large trees, will build a substantial fence around it enclosing the church site also, and beautify and keep it as its importance deserves.

Time in its rapid flight changes in acting scenes and frequently causes us to accept unimportant and worthless things, but the faith, earnestness, and steadfastness and hope of these good people should serve to build up in us stamina and character.

Treasuring the above facts, they are written in loving remembrance.

Hope Hull, Ala.  
April 25, 1923

Frank Shackelford

#### QUERIES AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Fannie Ganey wrote from Niceville, FL giving her recollections of Alliance Hall that was located on Tabernacle Road. We would like to get more information from others.

"I never did write what I know about the old 'Liance (Alliance) Hall School'."

"About 1/2 mile north of the Moseley Cemetery on the right side of the road (The Tabernacle Road), I believe, stood the frame building that was the school house. At one time, during my mother's school days, Mr. Dave Murrell taught there. I know she went to school to him, and I think Miss Eula Durden, who later married Mr. Will Sellers, went to school there, also.

"During my early lifetime Aunt Betty Sanderson taught there. I don't remember how long she taught and exactly who followed her. But I do know a Miss Sara Dunkley taught after her. She may have been the last teacher before the schools became consolidated. When Mr. Feagin was Supt. he consolidated all of the small schools and that one was closed up and combined with Grange Hall.

"The Murrell children and some of Mrs. Frank Moseley's children went to school there when I did. Styles Murrell may can tell you more about it than I have.

"Mr. Oscar Brannon bought the property and converted it into a dwelling house. Later on Lindsey Sanderson bought and built the brick house he lives in now."

Mr. Thomas B. Moseley, Rt. 2, Box 47 A, Clifton, Texas 76634 hopes to find correspondents among the descendants of Robert D. Moseley who is likely a nephew of the Robert Moseley ancestor of many Pintlala families. Robert D. Moseley was married to Margaret Vann who was of Cherokee descent and related to the same Vanns that married into Will Rogers family. Their son, Mason Moseley married Lavinia Shepperd, granddaughter of Lavinia Anderson. (See October 1988 Newsletter). Mason and Lavinia Moseley moved from Alabama to Texas in 1836. Mr. Thomas Moseley has written a book A Moseley Genealogy. He writes that there are a number of Alabama Moseley relations mentioned in the book - Boyds, Busseys, Howards, Shepperds, Andersons, Cleavelands, Waters, Robinsons, Gaffords, Matthews', Potts, Farmers, Vaughns, Tankersleys etc. The book, published in 1985, is 388 pages, acid-free paper, buckram bound, and sells for \$45.00 + \$2.00 postage. He is planning a sequel in which he hopes to show the Virginia ancestry of the Moseley family and will welcome correspondence with any persons interested in the Moseley and Anderson-Shepperd family connections.

Mr. Fred W. Field, 1516 Averida Selva, Fullerton, CA 92633 is a descendant of the Coleman and Armstrong families who were early settlers in the Hickory Grove - Devenport area. He wishes to correspond with descendants of John Franklin Coleman, son of William Coleman (1803 - 1843) and Mary Armstrong (1804 - 1876). John F. married Virginia Webb at Little Sandy Ridge Church in 1853. Other children of William and Mary Coleman all born in South Montgomery Co., AL between 1824 and 1842 are: Elizabeth Ann, m. John Pipkin Cross, Mary Louisa m. Charles E. Crenshaw, Martha Rachel m. Rev. Azor Van Hoose, Charlotte Laura m. Rev. William E. Wiatt, Caroline m. William S. Hagood, Nancy m. George K. Williams, Julius Alexander and Cornelia Frances were unmarried. A family group sheet with additional information will be filed at the library.

Mr. Field is editor of Coleman World newsletter and has sent Ronald and Mamie Sellers a copy of a booklet on the history of Hickory Grove - Devenport Community - written in 1976 by Charles D. Powell who now lives in New Orleans. This booklet includes some records from Hickory Grove Church and an inventory of the Hickory Grove Cemetery. This booklet will be on display at the January meeting. Also Mr. Field included a copy of his interesting article in the Jan 1983 Publication of the Lowndes County Historical Society containing the Confederate War diary of his GGFather Rev. William E. Wiatt which mentions a number of persons and churches in our area of interest.

BOOKS: Many of us have been puzzled by differences in the records shown in the Milledgeville and Cahaba land books and the County tract books. We have ancestors who arrived in Alabama much earlier than the dates shown in the land grants recorded in the tract books. Some partial explanations may be found in The Formative Period in Alabama, 1815-1828 by Thomas Perkins Abernethy, University of Alabama Press, University, Alabama. This book is available at the public library. We reprint a few excerpts below:

\* .. few people of extensive wealth moved into to Alabama during the period of early development. Only the man who needed to better his fortune had an inducement to make the necessary sacrifice... No very extensive tracts of the new land were offered for sale before 1818 and men who had homes to sell in the old states would naturally wish to purchase a location in the new country before moving. Yet, from 1815 onward, men poured into the ceded lands and 'squatted' upon them in spite of the law and the government.... 1818 proved to be an exceptional year...the price of cotton rose to the unprecedented average of about thirty-four cents a pound. A rush to the western lands resulted and prices ranging from \$50 - \$100 an acre were paid... The first sale took place at Milledgeville, Georgia, in August 1817, and comprised a tract lying along the headwaters of the Alabama River in the neighborhood of the present city of Montgomery...The men who had moved into the region were generally too poor to make their way to the place of sale, and they had little hope of being able to compete with the wealthier purchasers...Much swindling went on during the sales. A company of speculators would combine, and, by a show of force, intimidate their competitors and bid off large tracts of desirable land at low prices. They would then sell out at a considerable gain to those who had not been able to compete with them...\*

Mr. Abernethy points out that the land speculation was fueled by the government policy of requiring that 1/4 of the sale price be paid at the sale and the remaining balance in annual installments. In addition there were many buyers who were holding scrip issued to those who had been victims of the infamous Yazoo Land Scandal and this was their first opportunity to redeem this scrip. Meantime the price of cotton went down and many were unable to meet the payments as they became due. In 1821 the government \*provided that land which had been purchased but not completely paid for might be relinquished and the sum paid on it applied on the balance due for lands which were retained....The men who relinquished their land under the act of 1821 did not consider that they were giving up their right to it... In the natural course of events, the relinquished lands would be put on the market again at auction sale, and here the relinquisher would have to compete with all comers for fields that he had owned and cleared and still cultivated....It would hardly have been considered honorable to bid against (a neighbor) ...However there were many sharpers who made it a business to prey upon those who had made improvements upon lands to which they did not have title. It was their practice to go to the interested party and threaten to bid against him unless he made terms.\*

HELP WANTED: We will need volunteer(s) to type the newsletter for coming issues. Can someone extract data from microfilm at the Archives? The Montgomery County Tax digests and the U.S. Census records for our area are good starting places.

LIBRARY HOURS: The Pintlala Public Library is open on Wed, Thu, and Fri 1:30 - 4:00 PM and Sat 9:00 - 11:30 AM.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME: Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery