

PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting:
April 18th—2:30 p.m.
Pintlala Baptist Church



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

Volume XXIV, Number 2

www.pintlalahistoricalassociation.com

April 2010

Highland Home College, circa 1881



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President's Message

"The Most Dangerous Thought Expressed"

I hear it occasionally; It is practiced more often than expressed. In my mind it is the most dangerous thought ever conceived and it undermines the foundations of a civil society. Here it is:

That was then; this is now.

Any attempt to separate us from our heritage or history can have a catastrophic effect on the culture. I often encounter persons who are proud of their ignorance, bragging about the fact that they don't read newspapers. Their knowledge of current events is woefully deficient, and matters of history are completely disregarded. With a flippant statement, "That was then; this is now," all that happened before is arrogantly dismissed. Legislators express the sentiment; the simple vote of a school board completely ignores eighty plus years of a small rural school and its continuing impact in a community. Is our culture suffering as a result of this egocentricity? No doubt about it. We live for the moment; we react to the immediate.

Considering history and precedent enables a thoughtful response to current challenges. My hope is that the PHA will attract persons who care. To live in such an area like Pintlala and southwest Montgomery County, so rich in heritage and abundant in historical treasures, should create a sense of stewardship in each of us. We must learn more about the place where we live. To do otherwise is to commit cultural suicide. Our children and grandchildren deserve better.

Miscellaneous Thoughts:

- Our Vice President, Lee Barnes, has written a compelling article for this edition of the newsletter. Absorb it. It is very well done.
- Lee Anne Wofford of the Alabama Historical Commission has notified us that the Bonham Cemetery has been placed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register. This is due to the excellent work of Don and Jean Ivy.
- We continue to hear from persons who have ties with this part of the county. They connect with our website and learn much from the archive of newsletters.
- Thanks for supplying us with vital information and old photographs. Eventually most contributions will be featured in our newsletter or online.

Gary Burton, President
garyburton1@charter.net

April 2010 PHA Program

The Pintlala Historical Association will meet on Sunday, April 18 at 2:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Pintlala Baptist Church. Our program will be presented by the President of the Alabama Historical Association, Gary P. Burton. That's right—our very own PHA President is also the outgoing president of the AHA. He will present his paper "Pintlala's Cold Murder Case: the Death of Thomas Meredith" to our organization only one day after presenting it in Gadsden, Alabama for the AHA annual meeting. Please attend and thank Gary for representing Pintlala on the state level amongst historians both professional and amateur.

Thanks to Lee Barnes for a wonderful job on the Highland Home College article!

Don't forget that dues were due at the January meeting. There are quite a few long-time PHA members who have not paid. Contact Ina Slade if you are not sure of your membership status. We need you!

Alice Carter
Program Chairman

HIGHLAND HOME COLLEGE

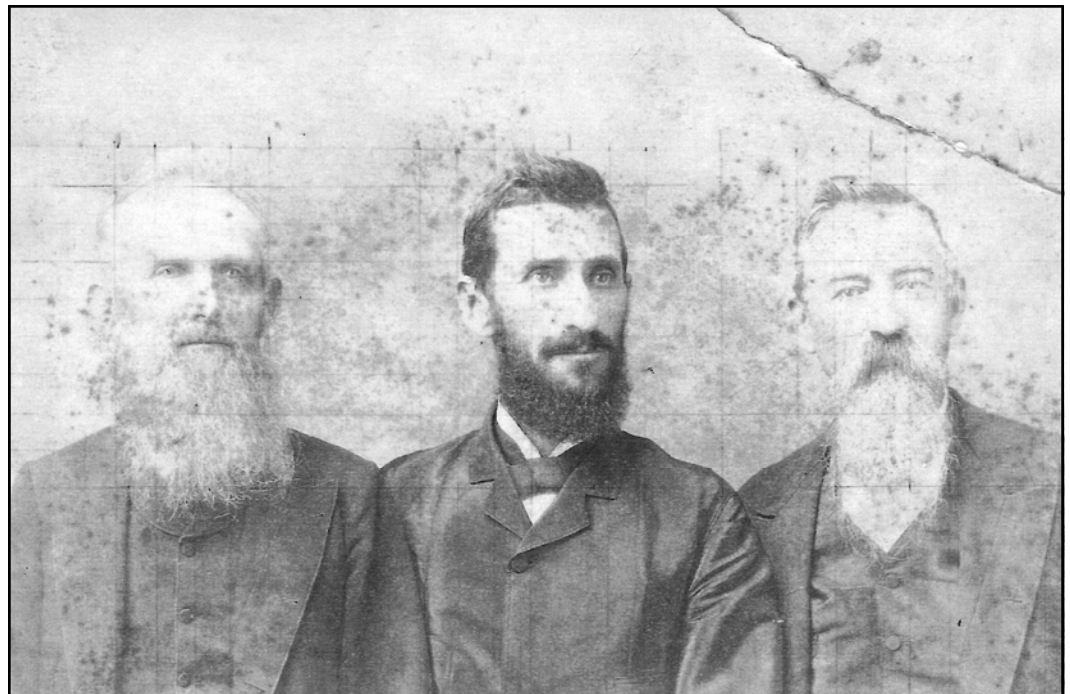
Lee Barnes

Justus McDuffie Barnes returned home to Strata from Bethany College at the age of 20. At the suggestion of his father (Elkanah Barnes), started teaching with 13 pupils on September 8, 1856. Thus Strata Academy was created, from which would evolve into Highland Home Institute and then into Highland Home College. He also started preaching in his 20s and around the age of 26, he was accepted as a well known preacher. Except for an interruption for the Civil War, Barnes continued his role as educator and preacher until his death in 1913. Barnes served as a private in Stacy's company of the Alabama Volunteer Corps of the Confederacy as a chaplain. J. M. Barnes took on Samuel Jordan as co-proprietor in 1872. Jordan also married J.M. Barnes' sister, Mary Elkanah Barnes that same year. Jordan was born March 17, 1847 near Ft. Deposit, Alabama. He received his education at home and enrolled as a student at Strata Academy from 1868 to 1871. Jordan also served the Confederacy having served in Hilliard's Legion and was captured in Kentucky spending the remainder of the war in Camp Chase, Ohio and Ft. Delaware federal prisons. It was in 1879 that the M. L. Kirkpatrick was named as the third proprietor. Kirkpatrick had also served the Confederacy as a Lieutenant Colonel in the 5th Alabama Partisan Rangers. He had also married Barnes' other sister Frances Mahala.

After typhoid fever and what they knew as "yellow chills" killed three students during the outbreaks of 1879, 1880, and 1881, the co-proprietors decided to move Strata Academy. The co-partners considered sites in Montgomery, Snowdoun, Verbena, and Crenshaw County for the new school. A 500 acre site was selected approximately six miles south of Strata Academy and approximately one mile south of the north boundary of Crenshaw County. In the spring and summer of 1881, a huge school building and three dormitories, with servants quarters were erected. A reporter described the construction as follows: "Messrs. Barnes, Jordan, and Kirkpatrick are each erecting large and handsome new dwellings. They are expecting a great many boarders during the next term of school, which will commence on Monday, November 14. The Highland Home Institute which they are building will be an ornament to our town as well as the county, being more than twice as large as any building in it."

In moving the school, supplies, materials, wages, and equipment were provided by Barnes, Jordan, and Kirkpatrick. They went into debt financing the enterprise on an unsecured basis. In other words, they did not pledge the land as security by use of a mortgage.

But not everyone was pleased. Resentment followed the partners success in having a law passed which forbade the sale of liquor within five miles of the school. Furthermore, the name of the post office had already



Justus McDuffie Barnes, M.L. Kirkpatrick & Samuel Jordan

been changed to Argus because there was another Rockymount that had a superior claim to the name. The proprietors asked the government to substitute the name of Highland Home and it was done. Certain citizens were furious. The blame was leveled at J. M. Barnes. His outhouses were overturned at night. His Negro servants were chased and abused. Old Charley, the grey horse of Barnes, had his tail sheared. But, in time, things settled and prejudices died down. Colonel Kirkpatrick became the political leader for the upper end of Crenshaw County. Barnes was said to have draw a larger audience at educational or religious meetings. Jordan was beloved by everyone and honored as a prophet.

Highland Home Institute prospered for eight years. The faculty in the last session (1888-1889) consisted of Messrs. Barnes, Jordan, Kirkpatrick, Mecklen, Bledsoe, and Smith. The last commencement exercises were held for the Institute in the spring of 1889. It was reported that the parking included "over 300 vehicles, many of them large covered wagons, bringing as many as a dozen passengers each. Besides the vehicles there were over 200 saddled horses and mules....Many arrived by trains...and the entire neighborhood, some 500 strong itself turned out afoot. No such crowds have ever been seen at the commencement exercises of any other school or college in Alabama."

The act to incorporate Highland Home College was passed by the General Assembly of Alabama and approved February 20, 1889. This was done so that the school might broaden its facilities to meet increased demand and greater benefits to the students. The college was co-educational from the beginning and they were pioneers in this area. They drew a large number of boarding students from all south Alabama counties, and others from all points of Alabama and some from out of state. Even as late as December 1889, the College was still enrolling new students.

The enrollment grew to 243 for the school year 1890-1891. Pupils that year included those from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, and Texas. Highland Home was filling the need of trained teachers. It was said that their teachers needed no letters of commendation. Teachers trained there were sought after. The College was said to have offered the most for the least money, offering special inducements to those with small means and wishing to work on a farm or elsewhere for part of the year. *The Montgomery Advertiser* published in 1891 that the College could very well be called a Farmer's Institute since the terms were so arranged that the students could take advantage of gathering crops in the fall and getting ready for spring planting. It was also an endowed school. Not endowed by donations from the wealthy, but endowed from the earnings of the farms of the three brothers-in-law.

Barnes, Jordan, and Kirkpatrick let it be known that they controlled the school. They expected parents to let all matters and difficulties between students and faculty be settled by the College. They said that it is far easier to deal with spoiled children than spoiled parents. The common punishment for infraction of the rules was doing without your dinner. An especially unruly student would be whipped regardless of the wealth of his family. After the whipping, they were made to get up on the stage and apologize to teachers and students. But this was rarely necessary. Expelling a student was not considered.

The school day began at 7:30 a.m. and ended at 4:00 p.m. Boarding students were expected to rise at 5:30 a.m., breakfast at 6:00 a.m. and study for one hour before school. In the evening they had supper at 6:00 p.m. and reported to their rooms at 7:00 p.m. They studied until 9:00 p.m., then assembled and had prayer. The Bible was not a required textbook until 1901.

Death broke up the big three in 1892 with the death of Col. M. L. Kirkpatrick. Later at the first annual meeting of the alumni association in 1895, J. M. Garrett paid tribute to the departed schoolman. "... it was never the fortune of any of human mould to be possessed of more manly virtues or more generous impulses than he."

The curriculum was much broader than just "reading, writing and arithmetic." The Academic

courses were Orthography, Penmanship, Reading, English Grammar, Geography, U. S. History, Analytical Arithmetic, Algebra, and Hygienic Physiology. The subjects for the Scientific courses included Physics, Rhetoric, Trigonometry, Chemistry, Astronomy, and Surveying. The courses for the Classical curriculum included Latin, Caesar, Virgil, Sallust, Hume's and McCauley's England, Pope, Longfellow, Pinnoch's Greece, Cicero, Horace, Rollin's Ancient History, Byron, Campbell, Horace, Anabasis, and Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire.



Unknown event at Highland Home College, date unknown

Highland Home College had a brass band. The brass band had as many as 23 co-educational members. It was reported that there was a long specially built band wagon drawn by four horses that carried the band from place to place. It performed concerts in schoolhouses, court houses, and churches all for free. The band members were also entertained for free, eating all the fried chicken and cake they could stand.

There were for a number of years two Literary Societies. The Wattsonian, named for Governor Watts, to which all the girls belonged. On the other hand was the boys society. It was the Zetaethians known as the truth seekers. These societies held debates, wrote essays on select readings, all occurring on Fridays and Saturdays. An Orator was selected by the Zetaethians and an essayists by the Wattsonians, to represent the Societies at commencement.

Sports were given little attention at the College. C. W. Landers remembers that that football was the leading game, but was played for exercise only. My grandfather (J.R. Barnes, Sr. 1884-1964) told me that he played football at the College, and was even given a chance to tryout at Auburn Polytechnic Institute. He wisely declined since he weighed only 125 pounds. The 1905-1906 catalogue said that we encourage games upon the campus, but we shall not allow wrestling nor football playing. Baseball and Tennis were played among the students in the early years but by 1913 boxing was the sport of choice. For interest in exercise the older boys and girls took military exercises every afternoon after 4:00 p.m.

In 1890 a delegation from Luverne made an offer for the school to move there. The delegation offered 20 acres and moving all buildings and the houses of every professor at no cost to the school. Luverne would have borne the cost at an estimated \$10000. They reluctantly declined because of the strict sense of honor in having had people move to Highland Home to be near the College.

The faculty 1896-1897 included J.M. Barnes, Samuel Jordan, George S. Clark, Elly Ruff Barnes, Felix M. T. Tankersley, Charles W. Landers, Miss Rosa Jordan, Mrs. Ladie Bowling, teacher of music, and Miss M. McLean, art teacher. Sometime in 1896-1897 a third literary was adopted and it had the name of Col. M. L. Kirkpatrick. This was the beginning of the last year with J. M. Barnes. In the latter part of the 19th century, Alabama was establishing normal colleges and agricultural schools with free tuition. This competition was tough to meet. Highland Home College lost more money for its owners some years than its income from the farms. On May 4, 1898, J. M. Barnes and

his son Elly Ruff Barnes, severed all connections from the College and began teaching in Montgomery, opening the Barnes School For Boys. J. M. Barnes taught for six years and he retired from teaching. Elly Ruff Barnes continued the Barnes School For Boys till June 5, 1942 at which time it closed for good.

The Luverne Journal of July 4, 1898 reported that the college would be under the new management of Samuel Jordan, President. George S. Clark would assist Jordan. The session of 1906-1907 had the following teachers: Samuel Jordan, George S. Clark, M. J. Bray, C. K. Sharp, Ina Beck, Fannie Jordan, L. M. Walker, J. D. Garrett, and Loyd Woodruff. In 1910 the first board of trustees were elected. They were J. M. Garrett, P. S. Lanford, Samuel Jordan, J. D. Davis, A. J. Jones, J. M. Barnes, E. R. Barnes, J. E. Dunn, W. J. Haynes, T. B. Larimore, and T. M. Smith.

The faculty in 1910-1911 included G. A. Dunn, G. S. Clark, Jerre Watson, Guy I. Renfro, May Tankersley, W. C. Stapleton, and O. C. Lambert. A welcome visitor to the College was J. M. Barnes in February 1913. This was perhaps his last visit since he died on April 28, 1913 at the age of 77. The College struggled on and the last commencement was held on May, 1915. President G. S. Clark left the school after the 1914-1915 session closed. Guy Renfro was appointed the head of the school. The school was opened in September of 1915. Because of fewer students and reduced funds, it closed its doors during Christmas of 1915.

Between the dates of 1891 and 1915 eighty four degrees were conferred upon young men and women. Only Samuel Jordan remained to see it close its doors forever. Mr. Jordan died August 27, 1933 at the age of 86.

Mildred Smith, columnist for *The Montgomery Advertiser*, would one day report on the on the following prominent graduates of Highland Home College: J. M. Garrett, Montgomery City Engineer, Dr. J. P. Buchanan, Dr. S. D. Suggs, Dr. T. J. Stough, John N. Burch, and Hardie Bell, business men, Dr.



Students in Highland Home College classroom, date unknown

M. B. Kirkpatrick, son of Col. Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Ursie Tankersley Kirkpatrick, church and club leader, and Lew Sanderson, attorney. Dr. A. D. Cowles, Judge Tankersley of Luverne, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Shackelford, Minister Charles Landers, Dr. and Mrs. James Tankersley, David Murrell, and Dr Will Tankersley were all graduates of the College. Other graduates were Ray Rushton, Merritt Vandiver, Henry Vandiver, Charlie Scott, Tom Scott, N. J. Bell, Dr. Felix Tankersley, Silas Garrett, Dr. J. W. Moon, and Dr S. E. Jordan, son of Samuel Jordan.

The school had its humble beginnings at Elkanah Barnes' suggestion to his son J. M. Barnes in 1856. It finally closed its doors permanently in 1915 under Samuel Jordan. The College together with its predecessors remained open for 59 years (less the civil war years).

SOURCES:

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

Alabama Archives and History, "The Civil War and Alabama Troops"

R. Lee Barnes, Family records and memories

Highland Home College photograph courtesy, Lee Barnes



Scene of Highland Home College campus, date unknown

Follow up article to A.B. Colquitt in previous newsletter

Troy Messenger, 1916 provided by Angela Nelson of Andalusia, Alabama

A Prominent Farmer Killed by Train

Montgomery, Ala., March 25

A.B. Colquitt, one of the best known and most prominent planters in the southern section of Montgomery county, was killed instantly early on Friday morning by passenger train No. 57 of the Atlantic Coast Line railroad, being struck while endeavoring to cross the tracks near his home, east of Snowdoun. The train was in charge of Engineer Harris and Conductor W. M. Lewis.

According to reports of the accident reaching Montgomery, Mr. Colquitt was going from his home, nearby, to one of his fields on the opposite side of the railroad track. Several laborers in a field near the scene are quoted as having seen Mr. Colquitt step on the track at the crossing, with the fast train but a short distance behind him. They believed he did not hear the shrill whistle of the train for the crossing. Mr. Colquitt was killed instantly, but his body was not mutilated.

A.B. Colquitt celebrated his sixty-fifth birthday last Tuesday, March 21. He was one of the most prominent men in his section. He served as United States revenue officer for several years, and was deputy United States marshall for a number of years at the time the late Judge Thomas G. Jones presided in the Federal court. He resided in Montgomery for a long time, but returned to his plantation home several years ago.

1916 News article provided by Ricky McLaney

Double Funeral Is Held at Fleta for Two Aged Women

Mrs. Alfred Poole, aged 81 years, died Friday morning at 3 o'clock at her residence at Fleta, Ala. She leaves six granddaughters, Mrs. Thomas Duncan, Mrs. E. L. Starr, Mrs. W. C. Norman, Mrs. J. A. Seller, Mrs. G. A. Edwards, Mrs. R. W. Norman and two grandsons, W. J. Sellers, Jr., and H. E. Sellers all of Fleta.

Mrs. C. J. Duncan, aged 88 years, died at 12:30 o'clock Saturday morning at her residence at Fleta. She is survived by four sons, Dr. Thomas Duncan, L. Duncan, G. W. Duncan and P. A. Duncan, and two daughters, Miss A. J. Duncan, of Fleta, and Miss Mollie Duncan, of Selma.

There was a double funeral at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon, conducted by Rev. H. H. McNeil, of Dothan. Interment was in Mt. Carmel cemetery.

The pallbearers at the funeral of Mrs. Poole, were El. L. Stough, G. E. Edwards, W. C. Norman, R. W. Norman, D. D. Boyd and J. A. Sellers.

The pallbearers at the funeral of Mrs. Duncan were J. D. Stockard, H. A. Norman, A. C. Norman, L. Duncan, W. W. Sellers and Joseph Hall.

Editor: It is ironic that Dr. Thomas Duncan would lose both his wife's grandmother, Mrs. Alfred Poole and his own mother Mrs. C.J. Duncan within two days of each other.

Gary Dean of Spanish Fort has identified James Nathaniel Dean as one of the individuals in the circa. 1920 photo of the Fleta Masonic Lodge from PHA Newsletter January 2010. Let us know what you think by checking out the website and clicking, "Can You Identify These?" www.pintlalahistoricalassociation.com

Family Searches for Pintlala Descendants

Graham and Erlene Mullins of Greenville are searching for the parents of Erlene's ancestor, Lawson Killough. They have learned that Lawson Killough had brothers Ebenezer, Robert, John and Samuel. They have found information on John J. and Robert but can't prove that they are the brothers of Lawson.

An interesting Pintlala tie is that the log house belonging to the Tankersley family was first owned by and constructed by a Mr. Killough--first name unknown. If any of our readers has information on the Killough family in Pintlala, please contact Alice Carter, 281-3708.



Erlene Mullins and Alice Carter at the Tankersley home built by Erlene's ancestors

Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church hosts 2nd Annual Celebration

The historic Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church near the NW intersection of Butler Mill and W. Hickory Grove Roads will host its second annual casual community celebration on Armed Forces Day on Saturday, May 15, 2010, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. There will be singing, an old fashioned "dinner on the ground," (bring a dish - if you have an OLD favorite, that will be an added treasure plus items of interest to share) and a presentation by Pintlala Scout Troop 700. So come out, and enjoy a celebration of our rich religious, patriotic, and historic heritage!"

Julianne C. Hataway
2589 W. Hickory Grove Rd.
Lapine, AL 36046
334-281-4338

Alice Carter plays Vital Role in Museum Exhibit

The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts is featuring a very compelling exhibit, *Nicola Marschall: Walker Family at Cedar Grove Plantation*, through June 20. PHA's Alice Carter, Museum Librarian, provided primary research for the project. Her work supplements the earlier research by Letha Clair Robertson, Kapelanski Scholar in the Museum's curatorial department, 2003-2004. Confederate history enthusiasts and art historians will revel in the exhibit which features the Walker family of Marengo County, the Cedar Grove Plantation near Faunsdale, and the portraits by the famed Nicola Marschall.

**Group photos possibly Highland Home College, dates unknown.
Can you identify or provide any information?**





Lula Mae Tyre walking east on unpaved Federal Road from her house to the Pintlala intersection. Note: Grange Hall and Pintlala School, left background, current Mosley's Store location right foreground.



Lamar Hall with Dave Hornady and Jean Henry at January 2010 PHA meeting.



**PINTLALA HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION**

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

NEXT MEETING

APRIL 18TH, 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