

# PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

**Next Meeting:**  
*July 21st—2:30 p.m.*  
 Pintlala Baptist Church



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

Volume XXVII, Number 3

[www.pintlalahistoricalassociation.com](http://www.pintlalahistoricalassociation.com)

July 2013



Alice Todd (Carter) with young Pintlala 4 H members

L-R: Judy Massey, Marilyn Lazenby, Janelle Lassiter, Susan Parker, and Alice Todd

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## President's Message - Random Thoughts

- Our next meeting will prove to be exciting beyond words. Historian Bill Stone will bring an original copy of the 1774 Articles of Association authorized by the first Continental Congress. Bill is no stranger to the PHA. His presentation will be stimulating. We are indebted to Alice Carter for inviting Bill.
- Pintlala played a prominent role as Alabamians responded to the call for arms during the War with Mexico. Ron Thomas of Abbeville mentions the eagerness to fight by the Pintlala Van Guard of 1846. He has done us a great favor by contributing to the historical narrative of our community. You will be enriched by reading his article in this issue.

Ron Thomas, an Ozark, AL native, was educated in the Dothan City Schools, attended Huntingdon College and Wallace Community College, and in 1970 received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of Alabama. He earned a Master's Degree in Counseling and Psychology from Troy University in 1976 and has completed post-graduate studies in administration and counseling & psychology.

Ron taught history and English at Rehobeth High School for 7 years and was counselor there for 3 years before becoming Houston County Schools vocational counselor and counseling coordinator, positions he held until his retirement in 1998. Following retirement, Ron formed Union Professional Services, Inc., an educational consulting company which he operates to the present.

He married Gayle Gamble in 1967, and they have one daughter, Caitlin, who is a registered nurse.

- We need to revisit and renew our commitment to chronicle the newspaper articles written by Mildred Smith. Much hard work has already been done by Butch Moseley and Jean Dean. Volunteers are always needed for getting the materials ready for publication.
- There may be a need for another historical marker in our area. Think about the need and the opportunity to educate the public mind on our rich history and heritage.
- You will find great delight and pride in reading my brief article about Alice Carter fifty years ago.

Gary Burton, President  
garyburton1@charter.net

## July 2013 PHA Program

Pintlala Historical Association will meet on Sunday, July 21 at 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Pintlala Baptist Church. Our program will be presented by Bill Stone of Montgomery. Bill has presented programs for us previously. For the July 2013 program he will be speaking on a document associated with the founding of our country—the Articles of Association. This document was drawn up and signed by members of the First Continental Congress, which met in Philadelphia in 1774. The intent of the Congress and the resulting document was to unify the British American colonies into a cohesive political body which could resist the high taxation and economic sanctions imposed on the colonies by the British government.

In 1774 there were multiple original copies of the Articles of Association produced. The edition on loan to Stone is one to which all fifty-three men sat down and penned their names. It is a rare document and one that citizens are not often afforded the opportunity to view. The loaned edition, which Stone is sharing with us is privately owned.

The primary purpose of exhibiting this document is to expose students in Alabama to a real piece of American History and to encourage their appreciation of our forefathers and their efforts to create documents granting freedoms to American citizens. By the end of 2013, the document will have been presented to between 10 to 12 thousand students. The PHA is one of the additional patriotic and civic organizations to be included in this rare opportunity. Please take advantage of this exhibition right here in Pintlala on July 21.

See you on July 21! Please bring a friend(s)!

Alice Carter



Bill Stone with framed Articles of Association. Photo courtesy Bill Stone.

## Pintlala and the Mexican War

**Ron Thomas of Abbeville has added a layer to Pintlala's history by highlighting the role of the Pintlala Van Guards in 1846. The following excerpt is from the hand of Peter Brannon in "Near the Forks of Pinchona," which appeared in the newspaper, *The Montgomery Advertiser*, in 1937. It serves as an introduction to the paper by Ron Thomas. I had the privilege of hearing the paper presented in Eufaula. Gary Burton**

Attached, for the interest of those who might be pleasantly reminded at the sight of these names, is a list of Capt. James M. Curtis's Company "A" of an Infantry Battalion under Lieut. Col. P.H. Raiford, mustered in May 23, 1846, at Mobile, for six months' service in the Mexican War. The list will serve as a pretty good census for that time and the reader can go back to the original entries and find several of the old family names therein.

Captain J. M. Curtis Company A, six months' service, Mexican War:

James M. Curtis, captain ; Norfleet Ivey, first lieutenant, John C. Parham, second lieutenant; James W. Moore, first sergeant; Edward M. Bussey, third sergeant; John R. Waller, fourth sergeant; Asa Allan, first corporal; Richard A. Wright, second corporal; Charles R Waller, third corporal; Robert Auvant, fourth corporal; John Campbell, musician; Meedy Bozeman, musician.

Privates: Mastar H. Allen (Martin), Cornelius Anderson, Robert T. Allen, Thomas S. Bennett, William P. Brantley, Lawrence W. Balls, Benjamin Bussey, Austin Bunch, Willaim Bussey, William Boyd, Silas H. Ballard, William Capps,, Stephen K. Daniel, Thomas Duffey (Durfey), James Gamewell, Edward Tarver, Elijah C. Hickson (Huckson), Jesse Hedgepeth, John Hedgepeth, Alpheus G. Jones, Benjamin F. Jack - son, James Karr, John A. Lasiter, James A. Luckey, Alfred Lewis, Daniel McQueen, Mason Mosely, Stephen G. Middleton, Mumford L. Merrill, George B. A. Mosely, Elder S. Nixon, James Perdeu, Jesse W. Payne, James M. Sagggers, Eli Suggs, James A Strickland, Jefferson Sharp, William Todd, Thomas Turner, John Vincent, George N. Ward, Bunberry B. Wilson, James Tunnel.

Discharged, Privates: William W. Ballard, Phillip E. Grover, William Jarnigan, William H. Williams, Solomon Young.

Dead: John R. B. Tankersley, third sergeant; George W. Ball, private; Layfayette Downing, private; Joseph C. Sharp, private; Reddin D. Simmons, private.

**To my knowledge there is only one headstone epitaph which commemorates Pintlala's involvement in the Mexican War of 1846. It is located in the Bonham Cemetery owned by Don and Jean Ivy. The cemetery is on the Alabama Historic Register. Gary Burton**

Cornelius Anderson  
Alabama  
PVT. Curtis' BN.  
Mexican War  
September 12, 1878



Grave of Cornelius Anderson, Bonham Cemetery

## More About James M. Curtis

Land Patents:

Churchwell Curtis. 10/1/35 014N - 017E NW1/4SW1/4. Sec. 25

James M. Curtis. 10/15/35 014N - 017E NW1/4SE1/4 Sec. 26

From the Montgomery County Heritage Book, p.97:

## Dennis Allen and Family

Dennis Allen, born 1786 died 1863, was born in Georgia, we believe county unknown. He was married 6 January 1818 in Jasper County Georgia, to Sarah Downey who was possibly from Atlanta....He moved to Montgomery County Alabama approximately 1837 in the Pintlala area. He was a farmer of about 160 acres....

Susan Allen, daughter of Dennis and Sarah Allen was born 5 August 1820, in Georgia. She married James Madison Curtis 3 November 1837, in Montgomery County, Alabama. James M. Curtis was born in Virginia in 1810, was a J.P. in Alabama and believed to be a captain in the militia in 1846. They moved to Harrison County, Texas in the mid 1850s. In 1860 they had two sons, J.C., age 20; W.H., age 5 months; four daughters, E.R., age 18; M., age 16; S.E., age 12; L.R., age 6, according to census. J.M. Curtis was a magistrate in Texas with \$ 3000 real value and \$ 4000 personal value.

Marjorie Wright, great-great granddaughter of Dennis Allen, contributed this article in *The Montgomery County Heritage Book*.



Bonham Cemetery

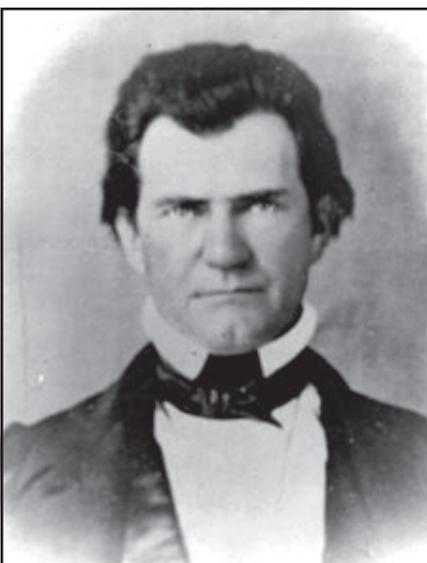
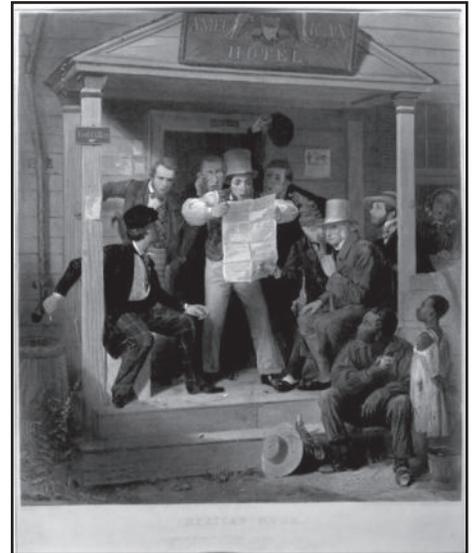
## TO ARMS! TO ARMS!: Alabama's Response to the Mexican War

by Ronald Thomas

When additional troops were needed to conduct the war in Mexico in 1846, Alabama Governor Joshua Martin was asked to raise a regiment of infantry consisting of ten companies of 80 privates each. Enthusiasm for this first real foreign U.S. war was high in Alabama, but faulty assumptions, misunderstandings, geography, the nature of federal/state relations, and basic human nature combined to make Alabama's response to the Mexican War more a tragicomedy than the noble answer to a patriotic call that it might otherwise have been. This paper draws heavily on the correspondence of Governor Martin to provide a unique perspective on Alabama's participation in the Mexican War.

Determined to create a United States that extended "from sea to shining sea," President Polk had, by August of 1845, sent an army of occupation commanded by Gen. Zachary Taylor to Corpus Christi in newly annexed Texas, ostensibly to protect U.S. interests. Elbowing ever harder, President Polk soon sent General Taylor into disputed Mexican territory to the Rio Grande, and in response the Mexicans concentrated additional troops south of the river. A squad of U.S. dragoons was then reportedly attacked north of the Rio Grande, and the fray was on. It was a fight both sides seemed to be spoiling for, and on May 13th, 1846, the U.S. Congress officially declared war on the Republic of Mexico.

Even before the declaration of war or authorization by Congress, however, General Taylor had himself sent officers back to southwestern states like Alabama to recruit volunteers for six months service. After the formal declaration, a call to arms went out to the twenty-eight states of the Union for twelve month volunteer troops to come to the aid of regular U.S. troops already committed to the conflict. While these several calls were generally successful in delivering over 73,000 volunteers into service opposing Mexico, the varying lengths of service and methods of mustering in led to some significant confusion.



Alabama Governor,  
Joshua L. Martin

Here in Alabama, the call to arms was enthusiastically received. Anticipating a request from the U.S. Government to raise troops, Governor Joshua L. Martin had issued a proclamation on May 10th, two weeks before war was declared, ordering the formation of companies of volunteers in each of Alabama's then 50 counties. The federal government's request was forthcoming on the 23rd of May, when the Governor was asked to raise a "regiment of infantry or Riflemen to consist of ten companies, of 80 privates each." On the 28th of May, Gov. Martin informed U.S. Capt. R.L. Downman in Mobile that 25 companies had already been formed across the state. Problems immediately arose due to Gov. Martin's premature call.

Martin had assumed that volunteers would be mustered for six months service, but the May 23rd authorization from Washington was for twelve months service only. Units already formed for six months had to be disbanded, and new companies formed from those willing to commit to a year's service. Also, Martin had simply called for volunteers, but Washington specified infantry or riflemen in companies of 80 privates. Several Alabama companies of mounted troops or artillery answered the call, only to be turned away by federal

mustering officers. Both zeal and confusion can be seen in the various responses to Gov. Martin's call from around the state.

Captain James W. Curtis of Pintlala in Montgomery County writes to Gov. Martin on May 13: "...I have fifty gallant soldiers who have volunteered to go with me to Texas or Else where in defence of their Country. Please register us ready. We do not wish to be cut out by applications ahead of us. The Company is known as the Pintlala Van Guards . . . armed already with 50 of Hall's patent rifles."

E.Y. Fair writes to Gov. Martin on June 4th, "there is a full company of Horse in Mobile at this time, from Dallas, of gallant young men, anxious to go immediately."

From Athens on May 30th, Captain Hiram H. Higgins writes, "We have been presented with one of the finest flags, I ever saw, & that too by the most beautiful and patriotic ladies that this world can boast, at this or any other period since the waters were gathered together in one place & the dry

Mustered into service  
before May 30, 1846 ...

Pintlala Van Guards	Capt. J.M. Carter
Sumter Volunteers	Capt. J.A. Winston
Macon Guards	Capt. R.F. Ligon
Hayneville Volunteers	Capt. E.W. Martin

land appeared. The heart cheering and animateing(sic) speeches made on that occasion wafted the imaginations of our heroic troops together with the flag to the front gate of the City of Mexico."

In contrast to the flowery prose of Captain Higgins, is the letter from Colonel M.J. Bean of Pike County, who reports that they "beat up for volenteers Calling on the young men of Said Co. and thare fourth with turned out Seventy four young men to defend the rites of there Countary and is now redy for the Servis of the State and United States of America at a minute warning."

Though grammatically wanting, Colonel Bean clearly states, as most all letters state or imply, that their service is first to the State of Alabama, then to the United States government.

Capt. William C. McBroom writes from Lowesville in Madison County that he has "raised a company of Volunteer Infantry in this County styld the Indipendent Guard. . . tendered to your Excellency for a twelve months campaign in the Mexican – or any other war subject to your order at a moments notice."

From Tuscumbia, Dr. A. Spottswood Moore begs for a commission as a surgeon in "that glorious struggle," stating that he is "too old now to take up my knapsack and march to the field of battle [ . . . but] will fight in the Fort or Gun hut, cannot travel on foot." Captain A.L. Pickens writes that his Greensboro Independent Volunteers are ready to march, fondly anticipating the day when we shall plant our standard triumphantly upon the banks of the Rio Grande."

From across Alabama, companies were formed. Some of those who hoped to be chosen for active service were the "Limestone Jewels," the "Tuscumbia Patriots," the "Perry Volunteers," the "Wilcox Greys," the "Talladega Volunteers," the "Eutaw Rangers," the "Montgomery True Blues," the "Jackson Guards of Lauderdale," the "Chattahoochee Guards," the "Pike County Volunteers," the "Macon Guards." the "Shelby Volunteers," the "Sumter Rangers," the "Montgomery Riflemen," and the "Hayneville Volunteers." Most of these companies predated the war as part of the Alabama State Militia, and the ranks and titles seen in correspondence often refer to that service.

It is obvious from several letters that by early June, Governor Martin had tried to clarify the call for volunteers, limiting the number of companies to ten of eighty men each enlisting for 12 months. Capt. F. E. Dancy of Decatur urged the Governor that should any of the chosen counties fail to form companies, he had a company already enrolled as the Morgan Volunteers, but that the unit had been renamed the Morgan Martins, in honor of Governor Martin.

At any rate, there was a race for Mobile to be among those chosen to carry the honor of Alabama and the United States into battle. To several north Alabama volunteers, marching to Mobile

presented a challenge, and they urged the Governor to adopt an alternative plan. A.C. Beard of Gunter's Landing recommended traveling down the Tennessee and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans. This sentiment was echoed by William M. Griffin of Warren, and H.H. Higgins of Athens, who suggests using the steamboat "Huntsville," a "large and commodious boat (that) can take some 800 to 1000 men." Richard W. Jones of the Jackson County Guards says he can get from Bellafonte to New Orleans in 8 to 10 days with his company of "hardy, mountainous, well disciplined [men] anxious to prove their valor when their country calls." Captain John Lanham of Moulton, seemingly unaware that Mobile is the rendezvous point, warns the Governor that should his company be forced to march to Tuscaloosa to be received into service, "we should go in utter destitution of . . . accoutrements of all description." "But," he says, "my company awaits your Excellency's orders, if they be to march to Tuscaloosa, to Tuscaloosa we will march."

There is no evidence that any Alabama units were mustered into service at New Orleans, so all these pleas must have fallen upon deaf ears. It is hard to understand, however, how the Governor could not have been swayed by the letter from Militia Colonel Benjamin F. Chisolm of Florence, who wrote, "I hold my self and company in rediness at any tim[e] called on to go texas or any whar els [.] God speed the tim[e] we ar Ready [.] Rit to me amediatly whar to tak shippin at I cold tak water at Florenc & go to new orleans & thar tak shippin with out marchin on futt one mil[e] . . . it is so far by land I wish to meet my army at new orleans Rit amediatly."

While some were writing their letters, trying to sort out the Governor's orders, and holding parades and elections, others were hurrying to Mobile, determined not to miss out on the opportunity to go to war. Further confusion and disappointment awaited them there.

Congress had recently required that volunteers furnish their own clothing and later receive reimbursement for it. Most volunteers, ignorant of the procedure, expected the state militia's Quartermaster Department to equip them, leading to heated words between Washington and Mobile.

Adjutant General J.W. Lang of the Alabama Militia arrived in Mobile by May 30th to find that, regardless of the Governor's plans, four companies had already been mustered into federal service: The Sumter Volunteers, the Pintlala Guards, the Macon Guards, and the Hayneville Volunteers. These companies were scheduled to depart for Mexico by early June, and there were already in Mobile 345 more volunteers from Talladega, Coosa, Tallapoosa, and Wilcox Counties who were not yet taken into service. It is clear that those counties with direct river access to Mobile had the advantage in getting chosen.

John A. Winston of Sumter County made his travel arrangements first, to sail aboard either the steamboat William King or the Winona, and sent his hopes that the Governor's orders could be forwarded to him in Mobile. This strategy resulted in the Sumter Rangers getting a spot, but the bloom soon faded. Within a week, Winston was writing to the Governor that "the regiment are to great number dissatisfied with the State of our affairs. An officer of the United States either ignorant of or disposed to disregard the laws of the State has organized a regiment and is about to embark us contrary . . . to the laws." He goes on to beg the Governor to "come at once to this place," and declares that "we may have been a little too hasty in joining the services." John A. Campbell writes the Governor from Mobile, "I think you had better come down here . . . and have the matters settled at once with the Federal government."

At Mobile, one six month Battalion was organized by Lt. Colonel P.H. Raiford, and another 6 month Battalion was raised by Lt. Colonel John J. Seibels, but neither saw active service, owing to the federal government's requirement for twelve month enlistments. A twelve month Regiment that was formed in June of 1846 by Colonel Jones W. Withers, broke up due to dissension among staff officers. A few of its companies went to Texas as independent volunteers, but none were engaged in significant action.

A regiment called the First Alabama Volunteers was mustered into service on June 29, 1846, at Mobile, under Colonel John R. Coffee of Jackson County. This regiment served in Mexico until May of 1847, but it was never involved in any major battles. Entering service with about 900 Alabamians, the 1st Alabama mustered out at Mobile a year later having lost 1 man killed in a skirmish and 150 dead of disease. Conditions for the soldiers were miserable, from almost every account, and a newspaper dispatch from Jalapa in 1847 stated that, despite General Winfield Scott's personal plea for re-enlistments, "it is not supposed that a single regiment can be formed. . . out of all the men now in Mexico. . . ."

By late 1847, Alabama's war fever was considerably diminished both by accounts of returning veterans and by the federal government's new call for 5 year or "for the duration of the war" enlistments. Alabama had been again called upon to raise a battalion of five companies, but by October, the ranks had not been filled.

Major J.J. Seibels's Independent Battalion of Alabama Volunteers, which formed in Mobile in December of 1847, was mustered into Federal service for 5 years or until the war ended. Judge Zo. S. Cook of Wilcox County, in his "Mexican War Reminiscences," states that during its organization, the battalion was quartered in the southern part of Mobile in the old Hitchcock press. Despite efforts of the guards, some of the boys would manage to get out at night, "giving the town a vermillion hue," as the Judge put it, (today we might call it painting the town red) and becoming "almost a nuisance." They were eventually ordered to move their camp north of Mobile across Three Mile Creek to a place known as Camp Toulmin, where they drilled daily and were tightly guarded at night until embarking for Mexico.

Not even this segregation, however, kept these boys out of trouble. They got into the habit of pestering one nearby creole family, which they regarded as no more than common negroes, until the creole father, to protect his family, shot and killed one of the recruits from Captain Barr's Tuscaloosa Company. Another recruit, from Mobile, had convinced Captain Irby to let him bring his younger brother along on the mission to Mexico. After a while it was discovered that this brother was actually a young woman, as Judge Cook called her, "a demimonde (or prostitute) from the city of a lower order." Cook's memoirs indicate that the battalion's behavior only got worse in Mexico, but that is a story for a different paper.

The soldiers of the Seibels Battalion were, like other Alabama units, never used in combat. Their duties included guarding prisoners, tending to sick soldiers, protecting shipments of military goods, and similar rear-guard chores. Minutes of Friendship Lodge, the first military Lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of Alabama, F&AM, show that the battalion, arriving in Mexico in late January of 1848, was stationed first at San Juan Creek and then took up duties near Orizaba. By this time all the real battles had been fought, Mexico City was occupied, and there was little of a heroic nature for Seibels' Battalion to accomplish.

The Mexican War was a war of firsts. It was America's first true foreign war. It was the first war to be covered by the press. Telegraphy had just been invented, but its rudimentary use helped to publicize this war. It marked the first major use of steamboats in wartime. The landing at Vera Cruz was the first large-scale amphibious landing, and has been called the greatest such landing until the Normandy landings in World War II. Alabama's response to this war, seen here primarily through the correspondence of Governor Joshua Martin, was a study in contrasts, a comedy of errors, marked by ambitious hopes and bitter realities, and was lived in real time by that remarkable species of mankind called "Alabamians."



**FIFTY YEARS AGO: ALICE TODD CARTER IN WASHINGTON D.C.****Gary Burton**

On March 5, 1963, an unusual meeting took place in our nation's capitol with President John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Alice Todd, then 18 years of age, was one of six 4-H'ers chosen from across the country to deliver their "Report to the Nation." Prominent and well known in Montgomery County for her involvement in 4-H projects, Alice joined five other representatives who would spend a few days in Washington before flying on to New York and then on to Los Angeles. The daughter of William and Ethel May Todd soon became lifetime friends with Don Weeks of Indiana, Faye Craig of Mississippi, Tony Mellor of Arizona, Larry Pressler of South Dakota, and Veronica Vamosy of New York.

During National 4-H Club Week, March 2-9, 1963, the group experienced a whirlwind of meetings. Arriving on Saturday, March 2, the 4-H "Reporters" received extensive orientation. The following day a limousine tour of the Capitol was provided and the National 4-H Center became the host facility for the D.C. activities. The day concluded with live entertainment by the Danish comedian and musician, Victor Borge.

Monday, March 4, was consumed with meetings at USDA offices and the National 4-H Center for Business and Educational Executives. Having met the Under Secretary of Agriculture earlier in the day, Alice Todd Carter with the other reporters returned to the USDA building to make tape recordings for network farm broadcasts

Tuesday was a stellar day by any standard. Alice Carter led the invocation at a Breakfast for congressional leaders. Dr. E.T. York, Jr., also an Alabamian, and Administrator of the Federal Extension Service, presided over the meeting. At 9:30 a.m. an unforgettable audience with President John F. Kennedy was held at the White House where he accepted the 4-H "Report to the Nation" and the "World Atlas of 4-H." The six reporters were representing 2,300,000 4-H Club members throughout the 50 states and Puerto Rico. When Alice met Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson, he quickly said to her, "You must call my wife; she is from Alabama!"

Alice Carter met with Alabama's Senator, John Sparkman, who featured Alice on his weekly TV broadcast.

Following a news conference at the National Press Club, the contingency of 4-H reporters flew to New York where accommodations awaited them at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. After a full day in the Big Apple, it was on to Los Angeles and the Statler-Hilton Hotel. Then 18-year old Alice Todd returned to her Pintlala home on Saturday.

When Alice was tapped as one of the national reporters and following the Washington experience, letters of commendation poured in from every quarter of the state and nation. Among them were letters from gubernatorial candidate George C. Wallace and Senator Lister Hill. Also as part of an amazing collection of photographs and letters is a letter from Evelyn Lincoln, Personal Secretary to the President.

The months unfolding after the March 1963 experience in Washington would be filled with racial tension and national heartbreak:

*April 16*, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. issued his "Letter from the Birmingham Jail."

*May 2*, Eugene "Bull" Connor unleashed fire hoses and police dogs on demonstrators in Birmingham

*June 11*, Governor George Wallace makes his stand in the schoolhouse door at the University of Alabama to protest integration.

*August 28*, Dr. Martin Luther King delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech from the Lincoln Memorial.

*September 15*, The Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham is bombed, killing four and injuring twenty-two.

*November 22*, President Kennedy is assassinated and the nation mourns.

Today Alice looks back on those days as a 4-H reporter and affirms the fact that one person more than anyone else had made the experience possible for her: Virginia Gilchrist, at the time the Montgomery County Associate Home Demonstration Agent for the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service.

The first week of May this year witnessed a reunion of the 4-H reporters in the nation's capitol. After an interval of fifty years all were present but one. Alice Todd Carter could not attend. However, thanks to the determination of Don Weeks and Skype technology, Alice visited the home of the author where a 45 -minute virtual reunion occurred. The joy of seeing each other was palpable. The truth is that Alice Todd Carter was representing Pintlala and Hope Hull in an exemplary manner, just as she does today.



4-H Report to the Nation 1963 team with President John F. Kennedy



Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson instructs Alice to phone his wife, Lady Bird, who was from Alabama.



Alice Todd with Senator, John Sparkman, on his weekly radio program.



Alice participates in 4H Report to Nation Reunion via Skype at Burton home, May 2013.



<b>EVE CRAIG</b> Mississippi	<b>LARRY PRESLER</b> South Dakota	<b>VERONICA YADROW</b> New York
<b>DONALD WEEKA</b> Indiana	<b>ALICE YUDD</b> Alabama	<b>TERRY MELLOR</b> Illinois

National 4-H Club Week is arranged and conducted by the Cooperative Extension Service, the National 4-H Service Committee and the National 4-H Club Foundation. Funds for the 4-H members' trip are provided by the Conrad Hilton Hotel of Chicago as a means of informing leaders in our nation about 4-H and how it helps young people become useful, responsible and self-reliant citizens.

### 4-H Report to the Nation

*EACH YEAR* since 1950 six outstanding 4-H Club members have been chosen to give a "4-H Report to the Nation" during National 4-H Club Week. Many state reports are made at the same time to key leaders in the states. This 1963 report includes the accomplishments of 4-H Club members in the fifty states and Puerto Rico.

Six dimensions of the 4-H Citizenship program are highlighted in this report, carrying out the 1963 4-H Club Week theme "4-H: Young Citizens in Action."

*In Personal Development* 4-H members recognize that citizenship starts with themselves and that it is their own responsibility to improve their capacities.

*In The Home* 4-H members learn firsthand that citizenship is a two-way relationship between people. Democratic citizenship is practical first here.

*In The Club* 4-H members are active in serving community needs and in providing a major channel for informal education.

*In The State* 4-H members share in a major public education system of the land-grant universities.

*In The Nation* 4-H members' efforts are supported by a partnership of the Cooperative Extension Service, business and industry, civic organizations, church groups and volunteer lay leadership.

*In Many Lands* 4-H members make international friends. 4-H is one of America's best exports.

Through a trip to Washington, D. C. and other selected cities, these outstanding 4-H representatives have an opportunity to call on the President of the United States, the Secretary of Agriculture, Senators and Congressmen, and other important officials in agriculture, education, government and industry. 4-H members say "THANK YOU."

1963 Report to the Nation 4 H Young Citizens in Action Program

## Pintlala Residents Lauded in *Montgomery Independent* Article

[The following article, which has been slightly edited for space conservation, was written by Montgomery historian and author, Jeff Benton, on the occasion of National Preservation Month and published in the *Montgomery Independent*. We thank the *Montgomery Independent*, Jeff Benton, and Fred Bush for allowing us to include this article in the July 2013 PHA Newsletter.]

### Montgomery Treasures: Hidden in Plain Sight

#### Tyson House and Fred and Dianne Bush

32<sup>nd</sup> in a series

May 23, 2013

by Jeff Benton

No matter the quality of a building's materials and craftsmanship, buildings do not preserve themselves. Individuals and groups do; and, only occasionally, enlightened governments and businesses do. Despite Montgomery's local and national preservation designations, the law offers little protection for our historic structures. Fred and Dianne Bush are two individuals who have chosen to be the defenders of our historic structures, those that show us where we came from, as they quietly make their mark in Montgomery's historic preservation field.

After Fred's distinguished career in the Air Force, Fred and Dianne chose to retire in Montgomery. That is unremarkable, but what they have done for their adopted home is remarkable. Their backgrounds, experiences, skills, talents, values, and perspectives have and are benefiting Montgomery—but few know of their contributions.

Fred grew up in an Air Force family. His education included an elite Swiss boarding school, a public high school near Los Angeles, the US Naval Academy in historic Annapolis, and a doctorate from the University of Southern California. Dianne was raised in a 200-year old family farmhouse in Vermont overlooking the Connecticut River. She was educated as a registered nurse, and when living overseas she worked as community liaison for the State Department and event coordinator for the Commerce Department. Their perspectives were broadened by a variety of assignments, several of which were at Maxwell's Air University schools, but probably most enlightening were the defense and air attaché postings in London, Helsinki, and Tallinn, Estonia. Their youngest son, a professor in physical chemistry with a PhD from UC Berkeley, has been a post-doctoral fellow at both Cambridge and Oxford, which has enabled the Bushes to enjoy the historical and architectural significance of these two ancient university cities from the inside.

Before Colonel Bush's retirement from the Air Force, the couple attempted to restore one of Montgomery's most impressive, and last surviving, Italianate mansions, the Seibels-Ball-Lanier or Swan House. They were rebuffed, and this remarkable square block complex was razed to make way for the RSA's Alabama Center for Commerce. Yet they were not to be deterred. After retiring, they first moved their 1852 Prairie Place house from the Old Selma Highway to acreage in Pintlala. **[PHA Tour, October, 2006]** There they lovingly restored it to its antebellum appearance. To save it from demolition, the Bushes also moved a Federal period dogtrot house from the Old Federal Road, which they relocated behind their "Big House" where it is embraced by natural woodlands.

Representative of the couple's time perspective is the double avenue of trees they planted along the drive from the public road to their house. The first section incorporates a rustic cedar split rail fence backed by Eastern Red Cedars, and the second section is flanked by 70 mature magnolias, also backed by cedars. Tree planters labor for future generations. In this regard, Dianne served as president of Montgomery Tree Committee for three years, and under her leadership it expanded its

scope to become Montgomery Trees, Inc. and supported the founding of Montgomery Nature Conservancy as a separate non-profit devoted to establishing Cypress Nature Park.

The Bushes have saved and restored six houses in Cottage Hill, Montgomery's oldest suburb. During this academic year, while attending Air War College, the couple's oldest son, an Air Force colonel (select), has lived with his family in the Bush-restored house at 240 Clayton. The Bushes have also restored, to varying degrees, 333 Mildred, 15 Whitman, 515 Morgan, 563 Morgan, and 570 Virginia.

Their most ambitious Cottage Hill restoration has been the 1838 Tyson-Screws-McBride House. This Greek Revival mansion, Montgomery's only surviving frame Greek Revival mansion, was included in the Depression-era National Archives' Historic American Building Survey (HABS) and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was once the centerpiece of an urban plantation; in fact, it still occupies two acres at the intersection of Mildred and Goldthwaite on the south side of Cottage Hill. The mansion's exterior and its interior floor plan differ from the common square or rectangular Greek Revival mansion. Its grand staircase is particularly unusual, if not unique. Large, well-proportioned rooms and twelve-foot ceilings offer an understated, yet elegant setting. The grounds include a nineteenth century shotgun dependency (again, moved to escape demolition) that is suitable as a rental or a guesthouse.

The most remarkable aspect of the Bushes' preservation work is that they did much of the work themselves, and like the most committed preservationists, they retained the maximum amount of the building's original fabric. For example, Dianne restored hundreds of double-hung sashes in all of the restored houses. Fred reworked each of the Tyson House's 4,300 square feet, and that included architectural archeology under the house and in the walls that determined the structure was fifteen years older than previously thought. Furthermore, Fred did this arduous work between trips to Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Europe while engaged in various consulting initiatives.

Although all of the Bush-restored Cottage Hill houses are for sale, that was not the Bushes' motivation. Rather, their investment was for the future of their adopted city and was an endeavor that reflected their commitment to historic preservation. This exceptional, accomplished couple, who chose to retire in Montgomery and to contribute to its future, merits public recognition.

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## **Welcome New Member**

Pintlala Historical Association welcomes Mr. Sonny Cauthen of Route 1, Montgomery as a new member. He was encouraged to join by Margery Henry. Thanks Margery!

**The Sources and Acknowledgements page for the Captain Hugh William Henry (1831-1916), 22nd Alabama Infantry Regiment, Company K article appearing in the April 2013 Pintlala Historical Association newsletter was inadvertently omitted. It is published below for your information. My apologizes to those who were so very helpful with the article.**

### ***Alice Carter***

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#### **Acknowledgements:**

My appreciation to: Ricky McLaney, PHA member, who arranged with Mr. Woodruff for Gary Burton and me to see the Falconer Cemetery and photograph it, copies of abstracts, maps and notes; Dewitt Cowles for sharing his early memories of the Falconer property; Mary Ann Neeley for assisting with early Montgomery history and attempting to teach me to pronounce Falconer as FAULKNER!; Gary Burton who acted as photographer for this project and collaborated in the research phase; to Laurie Sanders, PHA member, whose early inventory of the Falconer Cemetery, was easy to read versus the aged tombstones; Phillip Taunton, Sexton, Oakwood Cemetery, Montgomery, AL, Dr. Norwood Kerr, Alabama Department of Archives and History and Bob Bradley, Curator, Special Collections, Alabama Department of Archives and History. I am grateful to these two gentlemen for their time, patience and vast knowledge.

#### **Suggested reading:**

Any of the websites associated with battles in which Captain Henry participated.

Website for Carnton Plantation, Franklin, Tennessee

Carnton Plantation once the largest field hospital in the area served hundreds of Confederate wounded and dying soldiers. Today it is open for tours with proceeds aiding in upkeep of the house and cemetery. The plantation was owned by the McGavock family and after the war, John McGavock reserved two acres of land adjacent to the family cemetery as the burial site for nearly 1,500 Confederate soldiers killed at the Battle of Franklin. Today it is the largest privately owned military cemetery in the United States.



**PINTLALA HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION**

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

**NEXT MEETING**

**JULY 21ST, 2013  
2:30 P.M.**

**PINTLALA BAPTIST  
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Please mail completed form & dues to:

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