

# PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

**Next Meeting:**  
July 19, 2015 - 2:30 p.m.



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

Volume XXIX, Number 3

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

July 2015

## McLean-Stewart Home, Hope Hull, Alabama, Constructed ca. 1921



Photo courtesy Scott Stewart

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President.....	Gary Burton .....	(334)288-7414
Vice President.....	Lee Barnes.....	(334)288-4855
Secretary.....	Karon Bailey .....	(334)281-6239
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Place 1 .....	Patsy Davis.....	(334)288-6589
Place 2 .....	Daisy Anne Brady .....	(334)612-0766
Place 3 .....	Rene Barnett .....	(334)288-0231
Place 4 .....	Alan Davis.....	(334)270-8657
Newsletter Designer .....	Angelique Pugh	

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## From the President - "Miscellaneous Matters"

Now that we have been fully engaged with the summer, the Pintlala Historical Association has been active for some time harvesting the history of Pintlala and southwest Montgomery County. Consider the following:

Talks are underway with plans to celebrate the Bicentennial of Montgomery County. The county was created by an official act of the Assembly of the Mississippi Territory on December 6, 1816. The county is older than the State of Alabama, the Alabama Territory, and the City of Montgomery. PHA will be involved in the 200th anniversary of Montgomery County.

The discovery of the old Callaway Cemetery occurred in the early spring. Erroneously thought to be located in Snowdoun, Bruce Murchison, Alice Carter, and I joined Wallace Bush in locating the small cemetery. Hopefully the fall newsletter will feature the backstory of the find.

Our attendance at regular meetings has been amazing. Programs of substance have been stimulating. The July program will be no exception. Make your plans now. Put it on your calendar. No one ever drifts into our meetings. We must resolve and be intentional about attending. Join us for another great event.

Take the time to read Alice Carter's article in this issue. I think it may very well be her best work. The grand narrative of two of Hope Hull's early families is chronicled with great research and captures the defining influence of wonderful families who preceded many of us. Be prepared to read Scotland's Gift To Hope Hull, Alabama: The Gilchrist And McLean Families, and learn why our area is blessed with such a rich heritage.

Gary Burton, President  
garyburton1@charter.net

## PHA Program

Pintlala Historical Association will meet at Pintlala Baptist Church on Sunday, July 19, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. Our friends Carole King and Karren Pell will be returning to share their third and newest book on Montgomery. Arcadia Publishing has asked the duo to produce a contemporary (1940 to present) look at our capitol city. The result is: Images of America—Montgomery. This book features 200 photographs that document everyday life, fun happenings and glimpses of downtown.

Carol and Karren dedicated the book and their royalties to the Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery. This group has been the leader in historic preservation in Montgomery since 1967.

Please join us (bring friends and family) for an afternoon with these two fun ladies ! Books will be available for purchase and signing.

(cost: \$25.29)



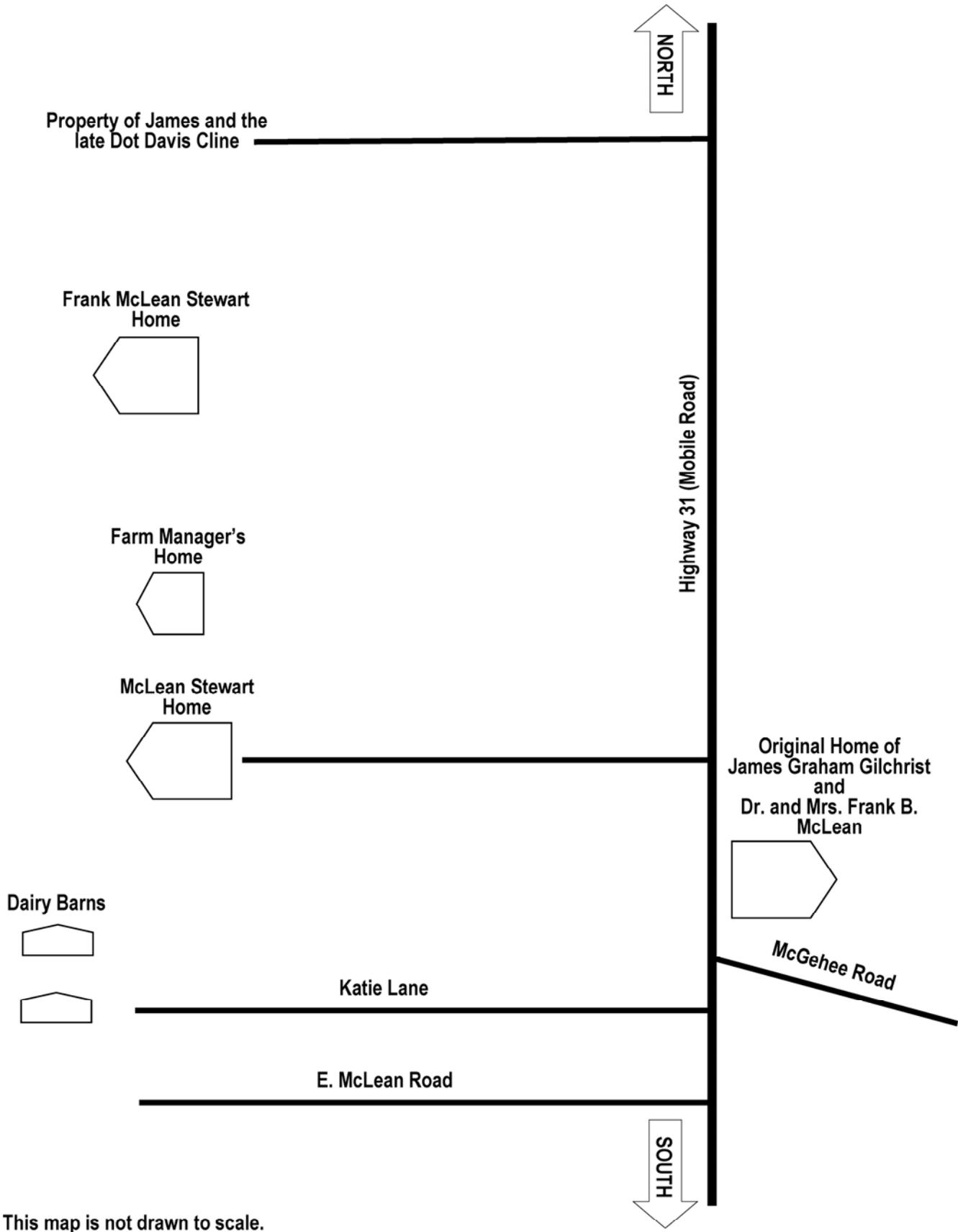
L to R: Carole King and Karren Pell sign copies of their most recent book. Photo courtesy Carole King.

## Welcome New Members

- Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Meadows
- Mrs. Bobbie Williams
- Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Hatcher

***Thank you for your support and interest in the Pintlala Historical Association!***

# MAP

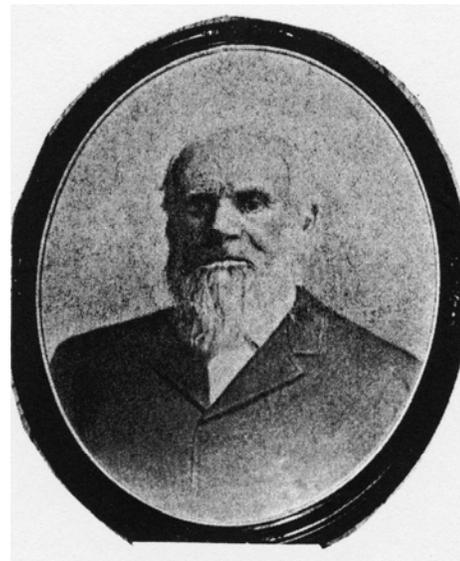


## Scotland's Gift to Hope Hull, Alabama: The Gilchrist and McLean Families - Alice T. Carter

Two families of Scotch descent came from North Carolina to Hope Hull, Alabama via Lowndes County, Alabama in the 1800s. The first of these two families to settle in Montgomery County around 1871 was that of James Graham Gilchrist. The first documentation found for his land ownership in Montgomery County is based on a tax list dated October 8, 1871 in the Rives' Beat, Township 15, Range 17, Sections 26, 27, 34 and 35. <sup>(1)</sup> Dr. Franklin Briggs McLean and his second wife, Elizabeth followed around 1880 as reflected in the 1880 Federal Census. The two families are connected through the wife of Gilchrist and the mother of McLean. Mary Briggs married Neill McLean and they were parents of Dr. McLean; Mary's sister, Elizabeth Briggs, was married to James Gilchrist. This made James Graham Gilchrist uncle of Frank McLean and as you will learn later also his father-in-law!

### JAMES GRAHAM GILCHRIST (1814-1900)

James Graham Gilchrist was born October 21, 1814 in Richmond County, North Carolina to Angus and Elizabeth McNeal Gilchrist both of whose parents were born in Scotland. James Gilchrist lived on a farm until age twenty-two when he entered the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) in 1836. For unknown reasons he left Princeton in March 1837; made his way to Schenectady, New York and entered Union College, founded in 1795. <sup>(2)</sup> He graduated in 1839 from the University of South Carolina with the only degree offered there at the time—Bachelor of Arts. He was a member of the Euphradian Literary Society, one of the two debate societies at USC. <sup>(3)</sup> *The Dictionary of Alabama Biography* states that he studied law and came to Alabama in 1840 to join his half brother, Archibald McKay Gilchrist, in his law practice in Hayneville, Lowndes County, Alabama.



Colonel James Graham Gilchrist, date unknown, copied from *From Whence We Came*

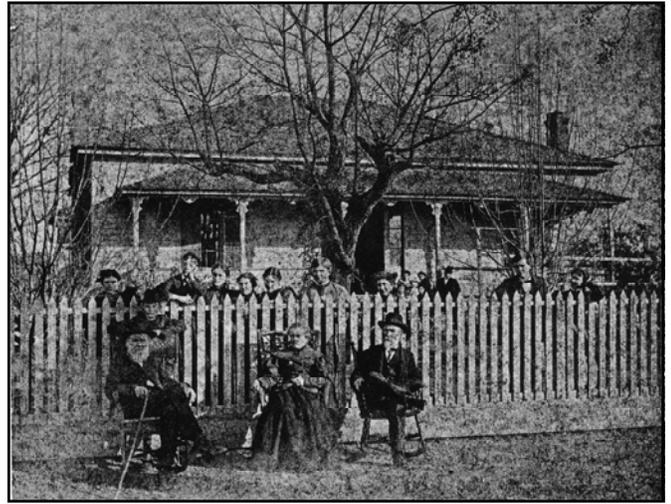
Elizabeth Briggs became the bride of James Gilchrist in 1839, the year before their arrival in Hayneville. The couple had five children: Angus, Sarah (Sallie), Elizabeth (Bettie), Catherine (Kate), and Anna (Annie). After the death of Elizabeth Briggs in 1852, James married two years later another woman named Elizabeth Briggs, which is interesting and unusual. The second Elizabeth was the daughter of the prominent Alabamian and Hope Hull resident, Abner McGehee. She was first married to a Dr. Briggs who did not live long—thus James Graham Gilchrist was married to two women named Elizabeth Briggs. <sup>(4)</sup> There were four children born to James and Elizabeth McGehee Briggs Gilchrist: Susan, Abner, James and Thomas. Elizabeth McGehee Gilchrist died in 1891; she is buried in McGehee Cemetery, Hope Hull.

James Graham Gilchrist was active in Alabama politics. He served in the Alabama Legislature that was the first to convene in Montgomery in 1847-1848 after the capitol moved from Tuscaloosa in 1846 and during the term of Governor Reuben Chapman of Madison County. Three days before Chapman's two-year term ended, the new capitol building designed by Stephen Decatur Button burned on December 14, 1849. It was quickly rebuilt and completed in 1851 with Barachias Holt acting as supervising architect. <sup>(5)</sup> Gilchrist served on the Judiciary Committee; was a Millard Fillmore elector in 1856; served in the Legislature again in 1859 and was elected to the secession convention of 1861.

The North and South were soon to be at war and Gilchrist raised a Company for the Confederate States Army at Fort Deposit, Alabama in 1861 and served as its Captain. This group became Company I, Forty-fifth Alabama Infantry and was referred to as the Rudolph Volunteers. <sup>(6)</sup> The regiment was organized in Auburn, Alabama on May 1862 and then quickly moved to Corinth, Mississippi. In the fall of 1862 they were part of a brigade facing action in Perryville, Kentucky. From there the regiment was in battle at Murfreesboro, Tennessee and remained on duty with the Army of Tennessee at Tullahoma in early 1863. At some point Gilchrist was promoted to Colonel. On March 25, 1863 he resigned due to ill health, mainly chronic diarrhea, and his age, 49 years. He submitted his application for Amnesty and Pardon on August 21, 1865. He returned to his home in Lowndes County and the family moved to Montgomery County in the

early 1870s to be nearer the state capitol and the seat of Alabama politics. Gilchrist had the heart and desire to help in the rebuilding of his state of residence that had been desecrated as a result of the War Between the States. He engaged in farming on a plantation south of Montgomery in the Rives Beat or Beat 6.

Col. Gilchrist built a one-story home for his family on property located near the corner of Highway 31 and Old McGehee Road. The total acreage listed in an 1855 deed from Abner McGehee to his daughter, Elizabeth J. Gilchrist, was for 795 acres, all of which lay in township 15, Range 17, of Sections 26, 27, 34, 35. Today this acreage is owned in separate parcels by the Wm. S. Newell Family, L.L.C. and Paris Wixon. The wood frame Gilchrist home sat about where a silo and the barns constructed by Wm. S. Newell are situated today. Col. Gilchrist's son-in-law, Dr. Frank McLean and his wife, Bettie Gilchrist McLean, moved into the Gilchrist home to care for Col. Gilchrist after the death of his second wife Elizabeth McGehee Briggs Gilchrist in 1891. Dr. McLean took over the management of the agricultural operations, built a small medical office in the yard and enlarged the home into a two-story structure. It remained on the property until it was purchased by Wm. S. Newell in 1966.



Gilchrist Home, Hope Hull, Alabama, date unknown, Seated outside fence, L to R: James Graham Gilchrist, Betty Gilchrist McLean, Dr. Frank McLean. Copied from *From Whence We Came*



Gilchrist-McLean House after second story addition by Dr. Frank McLean, date unknown. Copied from *From Whence We Came*

Col. James Graham Gilchrist served as the Worthy Master of Pintlala Grange 175 in 1873<sup>(7)</sup> and was appointed to serve on the Montgomery County Board of Revenue. His service on the Board was noted for his efforts to improve transportation and education in the county. Gilchrist earned the title "father of good roads in Montgomery County" as described by Frances Satterfield.<sup>(8)</sup> He continued to serve the people of Montgomery County on the Board of Revenue until his death in 1900 while serving as president of the Board. He had completed 24 years of devoted service to Montgomery County. Minutes of the Board include a resolution marking his death.<sup>(9)</sup>

Gilchrist was also appointed to the Board of Trustees, Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn University). In the University Board Minutes of 1832-34 a listing of Trustees and their terms of expiration can be found in the Auburn University Archives. The Honorable J. G. Gilchrist is listed as an appointee on January 4, 1885. No earlier listing for Gilchrist was located. The Auburn University Library Archives has digitally posted a June 15, 1899 notice by school president, Joseph F. Johnson, that three board members including J. G. Gilchrist, Hope Hull were appointed members of a Committee on the [Agricultural] Experiment Station, which was certainly an honor for Gilchrist and the community of Hope Hull. The 1900 API Board of Trustees' minutes include a lengthy tribute to the Honorable James James Graham Gilchrist who passed away on May 18, 1900 at his home in Montgomery County.<sup>(10)</sup> His funeral was conducted from the Gilchrist home on May 19 and he was buried at the McGehee Cemetery in Hope Hull next to his second wife who died in 1891.

Curiously, there is a Confederate marker for Gilchrist at Oakwood Cemetery, Montgomery, Alabama. There are no dates indicating his birth or death and it is unknown who is responsible for the marker found in the lot of Robert Allen Gilchrist whose relationship to Col. James Graham Gilchrist is unknown.

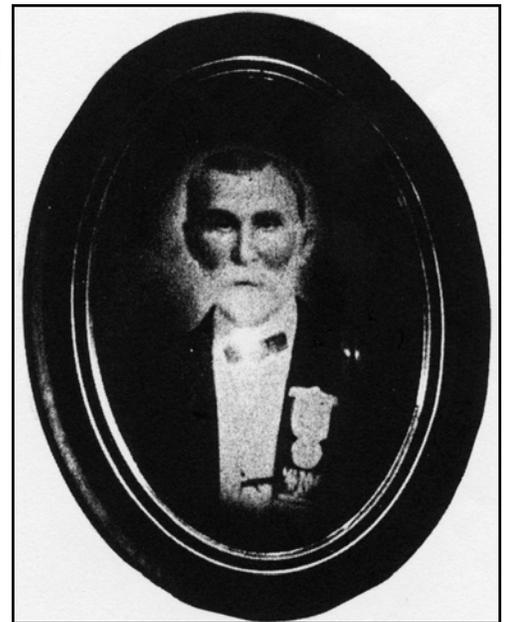


McGehee Cemetery tombstones for James Graham Gilchrist and Elizabeth McGehee Gilchrist, Photo courtesy Gary Burton

### Dr. Franklin Briggs McLean (1840-1911)

In this study, the second family of Scottish descent to come to Hope Hull was that of Franklin Briggs McLean, born March 1, 1840 in North Carolina to Neal/Neill (b. November 15, 1802) and Mary Briggs McLean (b. 1809) who were married in 1829. The couple had a large family of thirteen children. The Neal McLeans lived in Richmond County, North Carolina—the same county where James Graham Gilchrist was born in 1814.

Frank McLean left his North Carolina home at age 20, around 1860. He made his way to Mississippi and according to *From Whence We Came* by Frances Satterfield, taught school there, however she found no mention of his training to become a teacher. Where he taught is also unknown. An 1860 census record for McLean has not been located. Perhaps he missed the time frame for the 1860 Mississippi census due to his travels there. McLean listed Shannon Station as his home while a POW at Johnson's Island Civil War Prison Depot in 1863-1865. Shannon, Mississippi, as it is now named, is located at the southern end of Lee County in the northeast part of the state. The town of Shannon was in its heyday in the early 1800s when the railroad came through. It is merely a guess that this is where Frank McLean taught school.<sup>(11)</sup>



Dr. Frank McLean in his Confederate Veteran's uniform, date unknown, Copied from *From Whence We Came*

### Civil War Records for Frank McLean

Further documentation for Frank McLean is found in Civil War records from the state of Mississippi and a remarkable trail it is. A chronology of his military service has been developed using Muster Rolls and records found on the Fold3 website.<sup>(12)</sup>

Frank McLean—variously spelled McLane, McLain or McClean—enlisted for Confederate service on September 19, 1861 for twelve months at luka, Mississippi in Captain J. M. Simonton's Company (Rifle Scouts), 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Mississippi Volunteers which subsequently became Co. I, 1<sup>st</sup> (Johnston's) Regiment, Mississippi Infantry. He is listed as 5th Sgt. on a Company Muster Roll and twenty-one years of age.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment was captured at Fort Donelson, Tennessee near today's town of Clarksville. McLean is listed on a Roll of Prisoner's of War at Camp Morton, Indiana in June and August, 1862. Camp

(CONFEDERATE.)

*Mc* | *1* | *Miss*

*F McLean*

*2 Lt. 1 Regt Miss Inf*

Appears on a  
List  
of Commissioned Officers, Confederate States Army, prisoners of war at Port Hudson, La., sent north on steamer "Planet" July 16, 1863.  
List not dated.

Where captured *Port Hudson La*  
When captured *July 9, 1863*  
Remarks:

Number of roll: *25*; sheet *10*

*J. W. Wilkinson*  
(629) 4904 Copyist.

Frank McLean  
Confederate Muster  
Roll, 1863, Accessed  
on website: Fold3,  
Alabama  
Department of  
Archives and History

(Confederate.)

*Mc* | *1* | *Miss*

*Frank McLean*

*2 Lt 1 Regt Miss*

Name appears as signature to an  
Oath of Allegiance  
to the United States, subscribed to at Port  
Delaware, Del.

Place of residence *Richmond La*  
Complexion *Ruddy*; hair *Dark*  
Eyes *Blue*; height *5* ft *8* in.  
Remarks: *Retained until 1865*

Number of roll: *184*; sheet *11*

*J. W. Wilkinson*  
(665) Copyist.

Official record of  
Frank McLean as  
signator of Oath of  
Allegiance, June  
12, 1865,  
Accessed on  
website: Fold3,  
Alabama  
Department of  
Archives and  
History

Morton was a Union POW camp in Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana. The site was home to the Indiana State Fair prior to the war, but after the capture of Ft. Donelson, was converted into a POW compound. At the end of the war the thirty-six-acre site reverted to a fairgrounds and in 1891 the property was sold for residential development.

The men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment were exchanged and reorganized with its officers being elected by the men themselves. Frank McLean is listed as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant as of September 24, 1862. However, Muster Rolls for the 1<sup>st</sup> Mississippi Volunteers for January and February, 1863 list McLean as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant. By July and August, 1863 Muster Rolls state that McLean was part of the surrender of Port Hudson, Louisiana, the longest battle of the war, and was again listed as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant who was captured July 9, 1863 and was placed on the steamer "Planet" on July 19, 1863. The "Planet" was headed to Johnson's Island Prisoner of War Depot near Sandusky, Ohio. McLean arrived at the Depot on July 28, 1863 where he endured for one year and eight months. While held at Johnson's Island he was housed in Block 13 and listed his hometown as Shannon Station, Mississippi. <sup>(13)</sup>

Once again 2nd Lieutenant McLean was exchanged and transferred to Point Lookout, Maryland on March 21, 1865. Point Lookout, one of the largest and worst Union POW camps was established on August 1, 1863 on a peninsula in Saint Mary's County, Maryland where the Potomac River joins the Chesapeake Bay. All of the prisoners were sheltered in tents rather than barracks; flooding was frequent. McLean's stay at Point Lookout mercifully was for less than a month.

General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at the home of a man, ironically, named Wilbur McLean in the village of Appomattox Court House, Virginia on April 9, 1865. The formal surrender ceremonies took place on April 12, 1865, four years from the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter, South Carolina. On April 28, 1865 Lt. Franklin McLean was received at Fort Delaware located on a marshy island known as Pea Patch Island. This fort was built in the shape of a pentagon in 1859 and covered nearly six acres. The majority of its prisoners had been captured at Gettysburg. At Fort Delaware, McLean signed the Oath of Allegiance, required of all Confederates, sometime after April 28 and was released on June 12, 1865. He had served time in four different deplorable POW compounds and suffered from various health issues. Miracle of miracles, he was still alive and began his journey back to Richmond County, North Carolina where he would again find life hard and heartbreaking.

Frank McLean, now age 25, worn weary from horrific conditions seen and experienced was naturally anxious to return to his family in North Carolina. Contact with them during the war had been infrequent. What heartbreak he encountered upon reaching his family—they had lost everything and suffered from acute diarrhea due to poor diet. Three of his brothers were casualties of the war; two others had been injured with one dying from improper treatment in a New York POW camp. His youngest brother, Charles, who had enlisted at 17 years of age, survived a severe head injury but intellectually remained a teen for the rest of his life. <sup>(14)</sup>

Frances Satterfield, in *From Whence We Came*, concluded that all of the misery experienced by Frank McLean probably was the seed for his determination to become a physician and help those around him. Satterfield recounts from family history that he walked from North Carolina to New Orleans in 1865 to enter what was the University of Louisiana Medical Department, now known as Tulane Medical School. Nineteenth century medical students were only required to study for one year under a Medical Doctor, attend two classes of four months each in a recognized Medical School. Frank completed his requirements in 1866 and chose to begin his medical practice in Steep Creek, Lowndes County, Alabama. He is quoted as saying “I chose it because it was a good area to get experience—they had everything, including malaria and typhoid fever.” <sup>(15)</sup> His uncle, James Graham Gilchrist, was already settled in Hayneville and involved in a law practice. Frank met his cousin Kate Gilchrist in Hayneville and married her in 1870. Sadly, she died shortly afterward and in 1872 he married her sister Elizabeth (Bettie, Betty) Gilchrist both daughters of Col. James Graham Gilchrist.

A short time after his marriage to Betty, they moved to Montgomery County and rented a house within a few miles of his father-in-law. Frank and Betty began their family of seven children with the birth of Kate McLean in 1873. The next children in birth order were: James Neil McLean, 1875; Mary McLean, 1877; Frank McLean, Jr., 1879; Annie McLean, 1881; Elizabeth Almira McLean, 1882 and Laura McLean, 1884. By 1881 when Annie was born, Dr. Frank McLean had purchased a “place” near Col. Gilchrist and it was later referred to as the “Duggar Place.” <sup>(16)</sup> This would be property on the east side of Highway 31 right at McLean Road. As detailed earlier, the family moved to the Gilchrist Place on Highway 31 and remained there until around 1921.

Dr. McLean had a busy medical practice in the Hope Hull area, traveling for hours on his horse, “Old Tom” to see his patients. He often fretted that he had had no extensive training in surgery but managed to handle surgical cases with success. Two records from the Medical Society of Montgomery County, Alabama list Dr. McLean as a non-member in 1898 and as a member in 1908. This is not a complete listing from the Society, merely what was provided by its Director.

Once during a smallpox epidemic, he announced to his daughter Mary, teacher at the small school at McGehee’s Switch, that he was coming to vaccinate her students. She objected saying she needed parent’s permission, but he arrived later in the morning with pockets full of treats, vaccinated each student and as an added bonus instructed Mary to dismiss school early. Many of the parents were not happy but their children were out of harms way. <sup>(17)</sup> Dr. McLean developed angina, which caused concern for his family when he was out on calls. Mary McLean often accompanied her father and served as his assistant. His last patient was Dewitt McGehee who contracted pneumonia as a child. Dr. McLean checked him daily and ultimately declared Dewitt out of danger. The doctor reported to Dewitt’s parents that he would not

return unless called. <sup>(18)</sup> The next day, November 25, 1911, Dr. Frank McLean passed away and is buried in the McLean lot at Greenwood Cemetery, Montgomery, Alabama. This last patient of Dr. McLean's is in all probability the Dewitt McGehee who died in 1949 and is buried at Memorial Cemetery, Montgomery.

### Children of Frank and Betty McLean

A brief look at the large McLean family will demonstrate their contributions to our community. Dr. McLean's determination to educate his children is described in *From Whence We Came* in which he stated: "...the farm would support them and medicine would educate them." Their early years in Hope Hull were not easy—economically. Times were hard after the Civil War and the period of Reconstruction. Mary McLean wrote that there were no schools until she was ten years old (1888). A three-month- school was opened that was quite primitive. No location for the school or teacher has been found. <sup>(19)</sup> She described a later ten-month-school that was paid for by combined efforts of local families at McGehee's Switch. The teacher who came from Wisconsin, name unknown, put forth great effort for her pupils: glass windows installed in the school house; shelves built around the room to serve as desks; sacks were sewn together to cover hay on the floor to block out the cold air; a blackboard was obtained and best of all a piano arrived. Kate McLean called the teacher "heroic". <sup>(20)</sup> She was an inspiration to both girls and perhaps inspired all of the McLean sisters to become teachers.



Obelisk marking McLean Lot, Greenwood Cemetery, Montgomery, Alabama, Photo courtesy Gary Burton



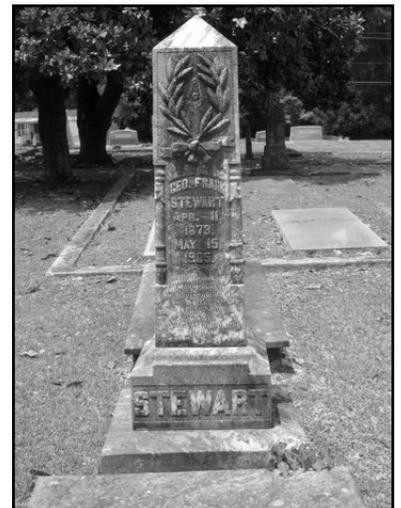
### Kate McLean

The oldest child was Kate McLean, who was sent to Florence, Alabama at age 15 to attend the Southern Female University and graduated in 1892. Other documents found for Kate show that she attended the State Normal College, Troy, Alabama from which she received a diploma and an Alabama teaching certificate in 1894. <sup>(21)</sup> She taught in the small one-room schools of Montgomery County until 1901 when she married George

Children of Dr. Frank and Betty Gilchrist McLean, Hope Hull, Alabama, 1930s, L to R: Laura, Elizabeth Almina, Annie, Frank, Jr., Mary, Dr. James Neill and Kate, Photo courtesy Scott Stewart

Franklin Stewart, an attorney in Andalusia, Alabama. Stewart served on the town council during the mayoral term of Henry Opp that encompassed the years 1899-1906. During his tenure there were four men who served as City Clerks and included George F. Stewart. Their son, Frank McLean Stewart was born in 1903. Tragedy struck this young family in 1905 when George Stewart died of appendicitis. The *Andalusia News* gave front-page coverage to his death. Details of his personality and social endeavors paint the picture of a wonderful and promising young man. He had been ill for several days, brought to a Montgomery hospital where surgery was performed. Stewart succumbed shortly afterwards; his body was taken by train back to Andalusia where he was buried at Magnolia Cemetery located to the rear of the Covington County Courthouse. <sup>(22)</sup> His mother, Martha Olivia Johnson Stewart is buried near her son.

Tombstone of George Franklin Stewart, husband of Kate McLean Stewart, Magnolia Cemetery, Andalusia, Alabama. Photo courtesy Gary Burton



The young widow and her eighteen-month-old son returned to Hope Hull and their loving and supportive family. Kate began the routine of driving Dr. Frank in his buggy to check on patients and along the way he began teaching her about the management of their 1,000 acre farm.

### **Dr. James Neill McLean**

Dr. James Neill McLean, second born (1875) to the Frank McLean family, graduated from Alabama Polytechnic Institute in 1895 in the literary course and afterwards attended medical school at his father's alma mater, Tulane University and graduated in 1898.<sup>(23)</sup> He joined the U. S. Army and was sent to Cuba during the Spanish-American War. After his separation from the military, he began a medical practice in Uniontown, Perry County, Alabama. Records provided by the Medical Society of Montgomery County list Dr. James Neill McLean as a non-member in 1902; member from Perry County in 1908; non-member from Lowndes County in 1921 and a member there in 1922 and 1924; 1941 and 1942 have him as non-member from Lowndes. In 1911, upon the death of his father, he returned to Hope Hull to continue the practice of Dr. Frank McLean. Frances Satterfield recorded that Dr. Jim was unhappy with this arrangement and soon moved to Lowndes County to become a farmer and cattleman made possible by an inheritance from his father. Alice Taylor of Snowdown became the bride of James McLean in 1916. They had one son, James Gilchrist McLean. Dr. McLean died in 1968 at age 93 and is buried in the Taylor plot at Oakwood Cemetery, Montgomery.

### **Mary McLean**

Mary McLean, child number three, described by family as the more reserved and quiet child of Dr. Frank McLean, was born in 1877. She, too, became a teacher in local one-room schools and eventually at Pintlala School from 1935-1947.<sup>(24)</sup> PHA member, Margery Boyd Henry names Mrs. White as her favorite teacher at Pintlala. Mrs. White's sixth grade was a wonderful experience for Margery. Mrs. White was kind, interested in the lives of her students and just had a special way with children. Relatively late in life at 43 years of age, Mary married Sam Lee White the overseer of the McLean farm in 1919 by O. C. McGehee, Methodist minister at Hope Hull.<sup>(25)</sup> They never had children and Sam White died in 1941. Mary had been her father's assistant on many house calls and office visits. She suffered a stroke in an unknown year and was an invalid until her death in 1954. She is buried along with Sam in the McLean lot in Greenwood Cemetery, Montgomery.

### **Frank McLean**

The fourth child in the Frank McLean family was Frank, Jr. born in 1879 and like his brother Jim attended Alabama Polytechnic Institute. Unfortunately in his first term there, he developed a severe streptococcus infection necessitating his return home. He entered Marion Military Institute after his recovery and enjoyed time on the school's baseball team.<sup>(26)</sup> After graduation he came home to Hope Hull and farmed with his father. In 1911, after the death of Dr. McLean, Frank, Jr. married Julia Howard Greene (called Howard) a local teacher. The couple lived in a home that is still extant on the Old McGehee Road. Frank was also employed with the state prison system. The couple had no children but helped rear children of Bess Greene Hawthorne, Howard's sister. Howard McLean died in 1958 and Frank in 1965. They are buried in Greenwood Cemetery, McLean lot.

### **Annie McLean**

Frances Satterfield described the McLean's fifth child, Annie (b. 1881), as gentle and shy. She never married and taught school locally for a period, but became the homemaker for the McLean's large family home. Annie died in 1962 and is buried in the McLean lot, Greenwood Cemetery, Montgomery.



Julia Howard and Frank McLean, Jr., date unknown, Photo courtesy Dot Hawthorne

## Elizabeth Almina McLean

Elizabeth Almina, known as Lizzie, was born in 1882 as the sixth child of Dr. Frank and Elizabeth McLean and was the only child to leave Alabama to live. Her marriage to Dr. Milton Gibson took place at Hope Hull Methodist Church as there were no Presbyterian Churches in the community. The couple made their home in North Carolina. Over the years she enjoyed summer visits with her brothers and sisters in Hope Hull.

## Laura McLean

The only McLean sister known personally by me was the seventh child in the Frank McLean family—Laura, born 1883. “Miss Laura” as I called her, taught in some of the local one room schools and eventually in the consolidated Pintlala School from 1929 through 1952. <sup>(27)</sup> Miss Laura called me her “little playmate” when we met in the school’s corridors. My mother, Ethel Tankersley Todd, filled the fifth and sixth grade teaching position left vacant by Laura McLean’s retirement. She attended various colleges in Alabama including Alabama College at Montevallo, Livingston and Troy Normal School. Laura was an excellent horsewoman, the only daughter to drive a car, possessed a wonderful wit and was an entertaining story teller. Her appearance was striking for her erect posture and elegant dressing style. Her students thought her “all business”. Davis Garrett Henry of Pintlala found her to be his favorite teacher even though she was quite strict. She was the last of Dr. Frank and Elizabeth McLean’s children to live in Hope Hull. After the family property was sold she moved from the big house to the smaller cottage built for Frank McLean Stewart and his wife Effie, where Miss Laura missed a front porch on which to watch the world go by. After years of declining health she moved to South Haven Nursing Home in Montgomery. She died in 1978 and is buried with her sister, Annie, at Greenwood Cemetery, McLean lot. For many years, she was aided by long-time devoted employee, Otto Talley, who drove Miss Laura wherever she needed to go and helped maintain her house. He was much loved by the family. Otto died in 2000 and is buried at Beulah Baptist Church Cemetery on Highway 31 in Hope Hull.

## Third and Fourth Generations of McLeans at Hope Hull

Frank McLean Stewart, Sr. only son of Kate McLean and George Frank Stewart grew up on the family’s large dairy farm and attended Alabama Polytechnic Institute from which he graduated in 1923. He became a partner with his mother in managing their agricultural holdings in Hope Hull. He ultimately became the Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture during the term of Governor Gordon Persons in 1955-58. The family diversified the farm including a small housing development off Highway 31 on Katie Lane. Frank died in 1968, only three years after his mother who lived to be 92 years old! He is survived by his son, Frank McLean Stewart, Jr., known to his friends as “Nank,” who lives at Oak Grove Retirement Village in

Montgomery along with his wife, Breezie. He, too, attended Auburn University and is retired from the construction business. The couple has three children: Katie, who lives in Atlanta, Scott and Frank Stewart, III who live in Montgomery County and six grandchildren. They all share a rich heritage to study, recall and appreciate.

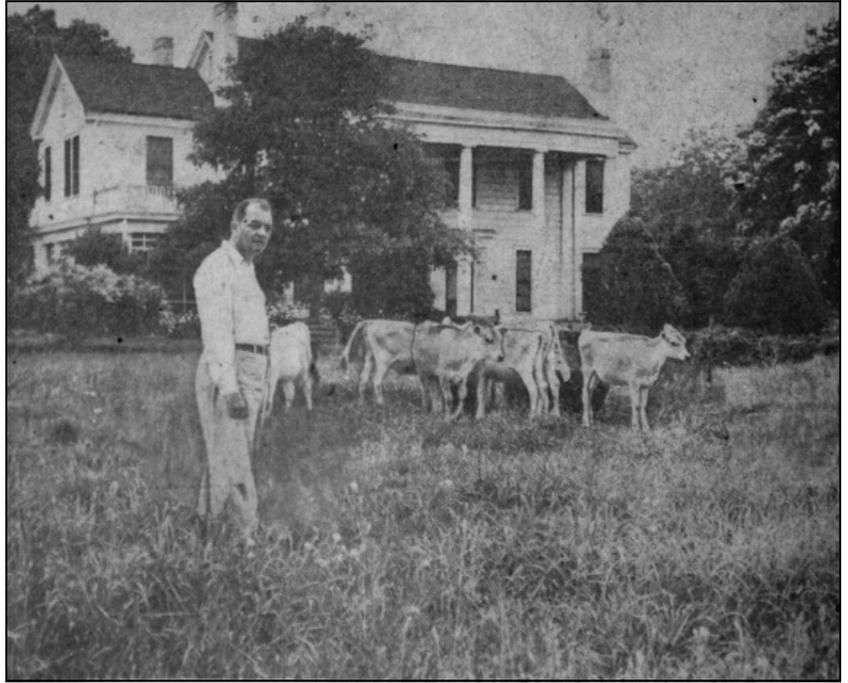
### The Farm

The McLean-Stewart family was involved with agriculture from the time each of the two families came to Montgomery County. Farming is not an easy life and struggles are constant to keep current with trends and economics of the industry. After the death of Col. Gilchrist and Dr. Frank McLean, an independent and brave Kate McLean Stewart became the stalwart leader for the family and its business endeavors in the management of a one thousand acre farm and dairy. At



Katie Lane street sign, first developed as McLean-Stewart Estates, Hope Hull, Alabama, Photo courtesy Gary Burton

one time there were twenty African-American families that lived and worked on the farm. After cotton fell victim to the boll weevil, oats became a major crop; cows were added to make use of the oats and then the dairy followed. At a mere five feet tall, Miss Kate gained a reputation for her accomplishments from burly dairymen in Alabama. She was a charter member of the Alabama Farm Bureau, participated in forming the local Dairy Producers Cooperative and secured loans on her own name. She was aided by her son Frank M. Stewart, Sr. after his graduation from API in 1923. The *Montgomery Advertiser* of December 10, 1951, reported that Kate Stewart sold their dairy cattle in 1951.



Frank McLean Stewart, Sr. in front of McLean-Stewart home, 1950, *Birmingham News*, From family scrapbook held by Scott Stewart

Property in Hope Hull belonging to the Gilchrists, McLeans and Stewarts has changed ownership many times. A complete tracing of owners has not been accomplished for this paper. Property on the east side of Highway 31 known as the Gilchrist Place at one time belonged to Abner McGehee and was deeded to his daughter, Elizabeth Gilchrist with other owners following: James Graham Gilchrist, Kate McLean Stewart, Mary White, William Sellers (1925), Manuel Gonzales (1957-1959) and Phillip and Caroline Sellers (1960-1965). William S. and Sadie Newell

acquired the acreage in 1966 from the Sellers and it is currently owned by the Wm. S. Newell Family, LLC. Property on the west side of Highway 31 was acquired by an investment group in an unknown year and finally by William S. and Sadie Newell in 1981. Today it is owned by the Wm. S. Newell Family, LLC. (28)



McLean-Stewart home and dairy farm, 1949, From family scrapbook held by Scott Stewart

Rural women often felt isolated with neighbors not always close by. In the 1920s The Hope Hull Woman's Club was organized and the McLean women were charter members and leaders in its formation. The Hope Hull club was federated in 1921, its first official meeting was held at the

McLean home and the collect repeated at the opening of each meeting was penned by Mary McLean White. ( See Pintlala Historical Association Newsletter Archives, July 2010)

### McLean Houses

For many who grew up or lived in the Hope Hull, Pintlala communities the sight of the large white antebellum style McLean home on Highway 31, roughly ten miles from the city of Montgomery, was impressive and a welcomed image on trips to and from the city. Kate Stewart and her sisters wanted to give their aging mother, Bettie, a comfortable home with modern conveniences. Construction was begun on the property across the road from the Gilchrist-McLean house. The family moved into a tenant house until the big house was completed. Bettie died in 1920, never getting to live in the new house. It is estimated that the family began occupying the home in 1921. In later years an elevator was installed to enable, stroke victim, Mary access to both stories of the house. <sup>(29)</sup> This feature was a novelty to neighbors.

It was sad for residents to see the home become an aging grand lady and almost relieved when it was there no more. It was not unusual to see travelers stop to photograph a symbol of a culture and era that had become a footnote in history.

The nearby one-story cottage style home of Frank and Effie Stewart remained for many years but was perhaps struck by lightning, burned and removed forever in Hope Hull the roots of a family connected by their close and loyal Scottish ties.



Charter members, Hope Hull Woman's Club, Fortieth Anniversary, Standing L to R: Annie McLean, Mrs. Henry Pirtle, Sr., Laura McLean, Mrs. John Campbell, Mrs. Edna Duggar; Seated L to R: Mrs. Kate McLean Stewart, and Mrs. George Hinson. *Montgomery Advertiser*, November 14, 1941, Courtesy Patsy Hall Davis



Home of Frank McLean Stewart, Sr. and wife Effie, Hope Hull, Alabama, Photo courtesy Scott Stewart

## Endnotes

1. Union College Library. Marlaine Deschamps, Archives Specialist. Student Account Books indicate that James Graham Gilchrist entered Union College ca. January 1837 and left between April and July, 1838.
2. University of South Carolina, Elizabeth West, University Archivist. Student files show that James Graham Gilchrist graduated in 1839 and listed his student activities. The University of South Carolina was originally called South Carolina College.
3. The Society of Pioneers of Montgomery, Alabama, *Pioneers Past and Present 1855-2001*. Montgomery, 2001. p. 343.
4. [www.http://wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org).
5. [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com). *Montgomery Journal*, September 18, 1899.
6. In years past Montgomery County was divided into geographical sections for voting purposes similar to the current system of designated polling places. These early sections were referred to as "beats." Pintlala was in the Killough Beat. James Graham Gilchrist lived in Rives Beat.
7. [pintlatahistoricalassociation.com](http://pintlatahistoricalassociation.com), archived newsletters, July, 1989, p. 8.
8. Frances Satterfield, *From Whence We Came* (Atlanta, 1973), p. 38.
9. State of Alabama. Montgomery County Board of Revenue Minutes for 1875-1882. Montgomery County Probate Court Office of Recording and Records.
10. There is a discrepancy for the death date of James Graham Gilchrist. Frances Satterfield in *From Whence We Came* consistently used May 18, 1890; however other sources such as the obituary in the *Montgomery Advertiser*, May 19, 1900, Auburn University Board of Trustees Minutes and the tombstone for Gilchrist at McGehee Cemetery all use 1900.
11. Frances Satterfield in *From Whence We Came* writes that Frank McLean taught in Corinth or Tupelo. p.48.
12. Military records found on the Fold3 website are digitally scanned records from microfilm records held at the Mississippi State Archives, Jackson, Mississippi.
13. Another soldier of local interest held prisoner there was Capt. Hugh William Henry of Montgomery County. One wonders if the two men might have known each other—particularly after the war when both men were active in Civil War Veterans groups. [pintlalahistoricalassociation.com](http://pintlalahistoricalassociation.com), archived newsletters, April 2013.
14. Frances Satterfield. *From Whence We Came*. p. 75.
15. *Ibid.* p. 77.
16. *Ibid.* p. 79.
17. *Ibid.* p. 88.
18. *Ibid.* p. 93.
19. *Ibid.* p. 82.
20. *Ibid.* p. 84.
21. Stewart Family archival materials held by Scott Stewart, Montgomery, Alabama.
22. Andalusia Public Library. Genealogical Files, accessed May 2015.
23. Joel C. Dubose, editor, *Notable Men of Alabama: Personal and Genealogical with Portraits, V. 1*, Reprint Co., Spartanburg, SC, 1976, p.218.
24. Tom Salter, Director Communications, Montgomery Public School System.
25. Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery County Marriage Records.
26. Frances Satterfield. *From Whence We Came*. p. 105.
27. Tom Salter, Director Communications, Montgomery Public School System.
28. Montgomery County Probate Office of Recording and Records, Deed Book 597, p. 143.
29. Frances Satterfield. *From Whence We Came*. p.111.

## Acknowledgements

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*Andalusia News*, Andalusia, Alabama, May 17, 1905, page 1, Alabama Department of Archives and History.

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### Other

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*c/o Pintlala Public Library  
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