

PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting:
October 16, 2016 - 2:30 p.m.



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

Volume XXX, Number 4

www.pintlalahistoricalassociation.com

October 2016

Hope Hull Play Boys



Can you help us identify the persons in this September 7, 1948 photo?

Photographer: John E. Scott; Courtesy, Alabama Department of Archives and History

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"We are shaped more by the place where we live than we may realize. Character, values, relationships often influence us long after we leave and especially if we stay. From terrain.org: "Sense of place" is one of those terms cited often but rarely defined. So let's start there: A big definition, but a pretty good one, really, from Geography Dictionary: Either the intrinsic character of a place, or the meaning people give to it, but, more often, a mixture of both.

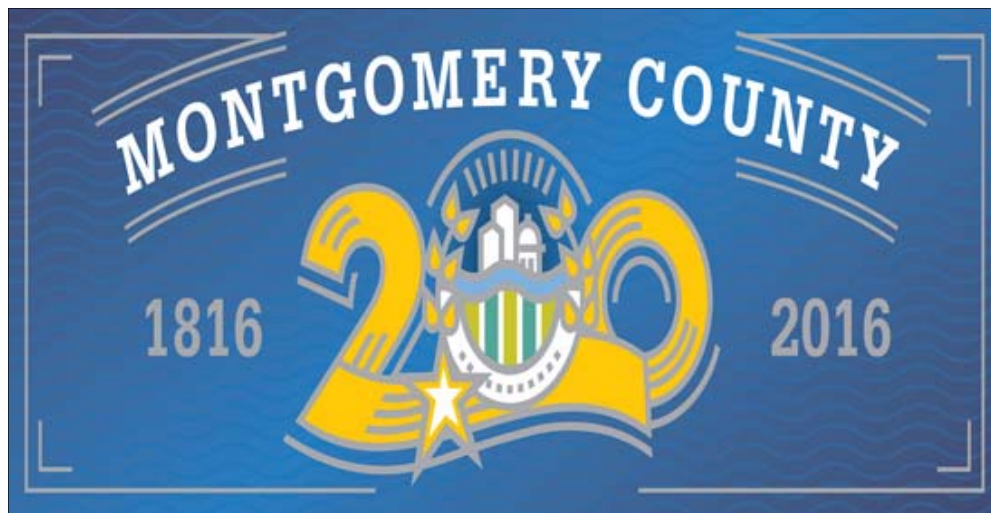
There is a wonderful mystique about southwest Montgomery County, especially Pintlala. If you think the area where you live is non-descript, drill down on its basic history and watch your sense of place grow. If you have roots in our part of Montgomery County, begin by scrolling through the indexed PHA newsletters online: pintlalahistoricalassociation.com or come to the meeting this month. You will acquire friends who have a common interests.

December 6 marks the Bicentennial anniversary for Montgomery County, Alabama. The county is older than the Alabama Territory, the city of Montgomery, and the state of Alabama. An important event is planned at high noon and will be hosted by the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Note the promotion elsewhere in this edition.

You will discover a delightful change for this newsletter. For this edition there is no particular theme or heavily researched article. Enjoy a sampling of Pintlala's historical potpourri.

Gary Burton, President

garyburton1@charter.net



October 2016 Program

Pintlala Historical Association will meet on October 16, 2016 at 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Pintlala Baptist Church. Our program "Beginnings of Montgomery County, Alabama" is an introduction to the year-long-bicentennial observance of our county's birth. This program will be given by our own leader and friend, Gary P. Burton, who needs no formal introduction. Gary has and will make this presentation to numerous historical organizations throughout the region for the Bicentennial observance.

-Alice Carter

THE FIRST TWO HUNDRED YEARS MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ALABAMA

Bicentennial Commemoration

December 6, 1816 - December 6, 2016

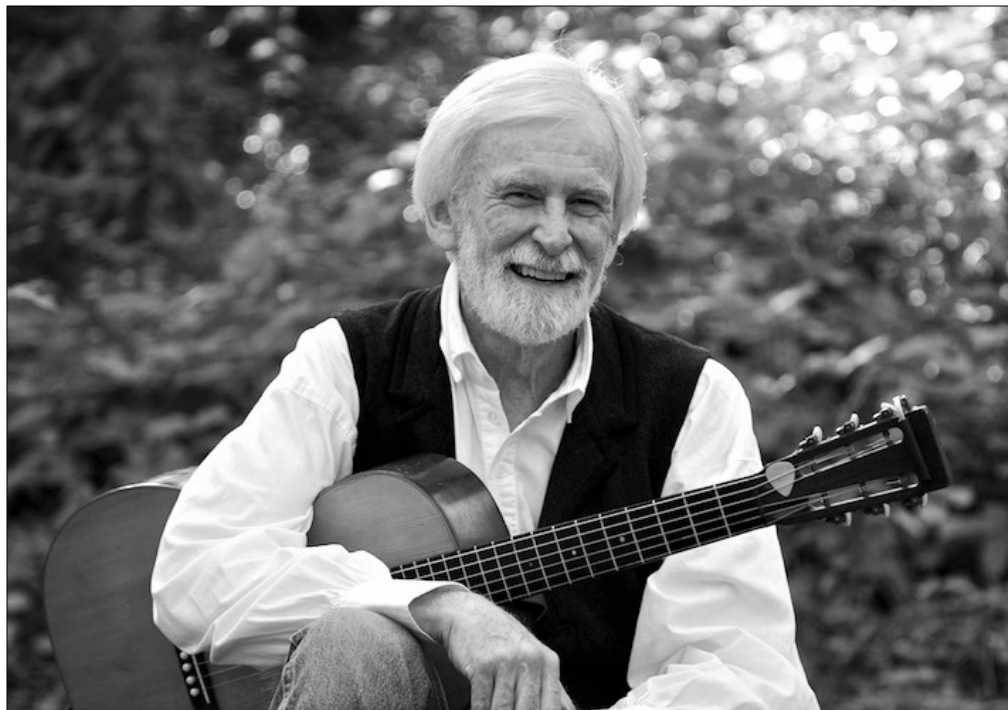
Tuesday, December 6, Noon - 1:15 P.M.

Alabama Department of Archives and History

"Reflections On The Beginning Of Montgomery County, Alabama"
with Musician Bobby Horton

Horton's music scores were featured in sixteen PBS films by Ken Burns.

"Flowing from the immense talents of Bobby Horton, the power of song and story transports an audience into a bygone era to experience the mood of history." --Gary Burton



Sponsors:

Montgomery County Historical Society
East Montgomery County Historical Society
Pintlala Historical Association

THE OLD SHACKELFORD MILL ON PINTLALA CREEK

-Alice Carter

Heretofore mostly unknown, the Shackelford Mill was not found on any of the lists of major mill sites in Montgomery County. This is the story as Alice Carter tells it:

A selection from an Abstract and Title belonging to the Davis G. Henry family is featured below. It, along with a few selections not printed, were used in hopes of answering, "Where did Bibb Fork get its name?" In search for an answer, references to a Shackelford Mill and Old Stage Road were found in the abstract. On August 16, 2016, Mitch Henry agreed to take Gary Burton and me to the site of the mill. The mill stone is no longer in the creek. Research needs to be done on the Old Stage Road in Pintlala.

According to the abstract, multiple persons in the Bibb family sold their property to John W. Tullis.

Date of filing for record: March 23, 1921

Recorded in Mortgage Book 309, Page 143

Consideration, \$4500.00

When Due March 18, 1923, with 8% interest

Omitting the legal description of the property...

"...with exception of the Mill Site and Mill known as Shackelford's Mill the run of the Creek and a space of land large enough for a wagon and team [sic] to turn around at the Mill...so as to make the old stage road to Mobile the line, all in Tp. 14, R. 17.... It is our intention to describe in any convey herein our entire tract of land known as the Bibb Place..."

Mitch Henry, current owner of the mill site, was the perfect guide on a perfect day. The recent drought had made the Pintlala Creek bed easier to walk. Mitch was generous with his time and knowledge of the land. He pointed out the blue marl on the creek's floor and helped us identify an Ibis perched in a bush. One could see what was left of wooden supports for the mill in the bottom of the creek bed as well as a large iron rod protruding from the water. Mitch has a working knowledge of a network of roads, now non-existent, giving access to Shackelford's Mill.



Pintlala Creek bed with exposed wooden supports from Shackelford Mill



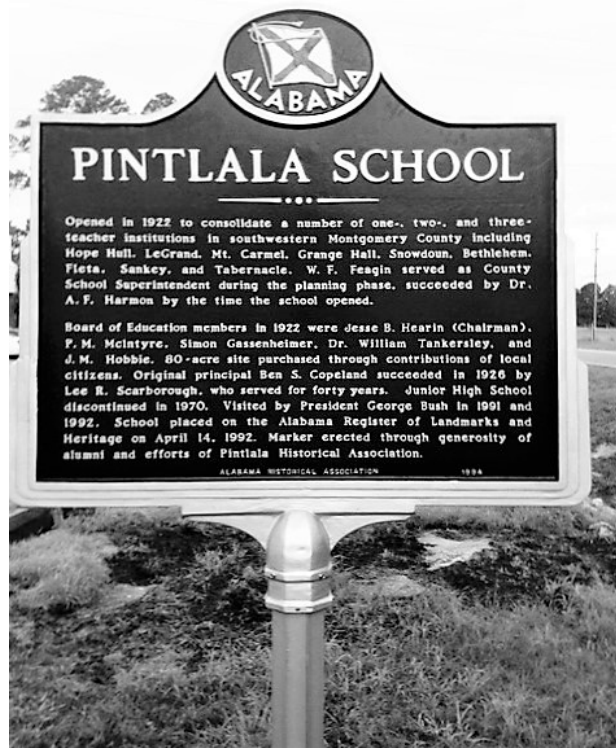
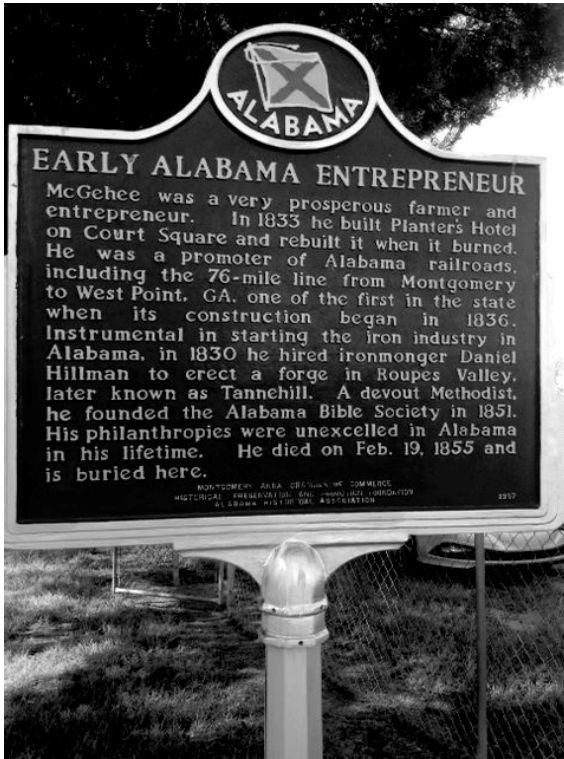
Alice Carter and Mitch Henry at site of Shackelford Mill



Exposed iron rod which was part of the mill

Update on Refurbishing Area Historical Markers

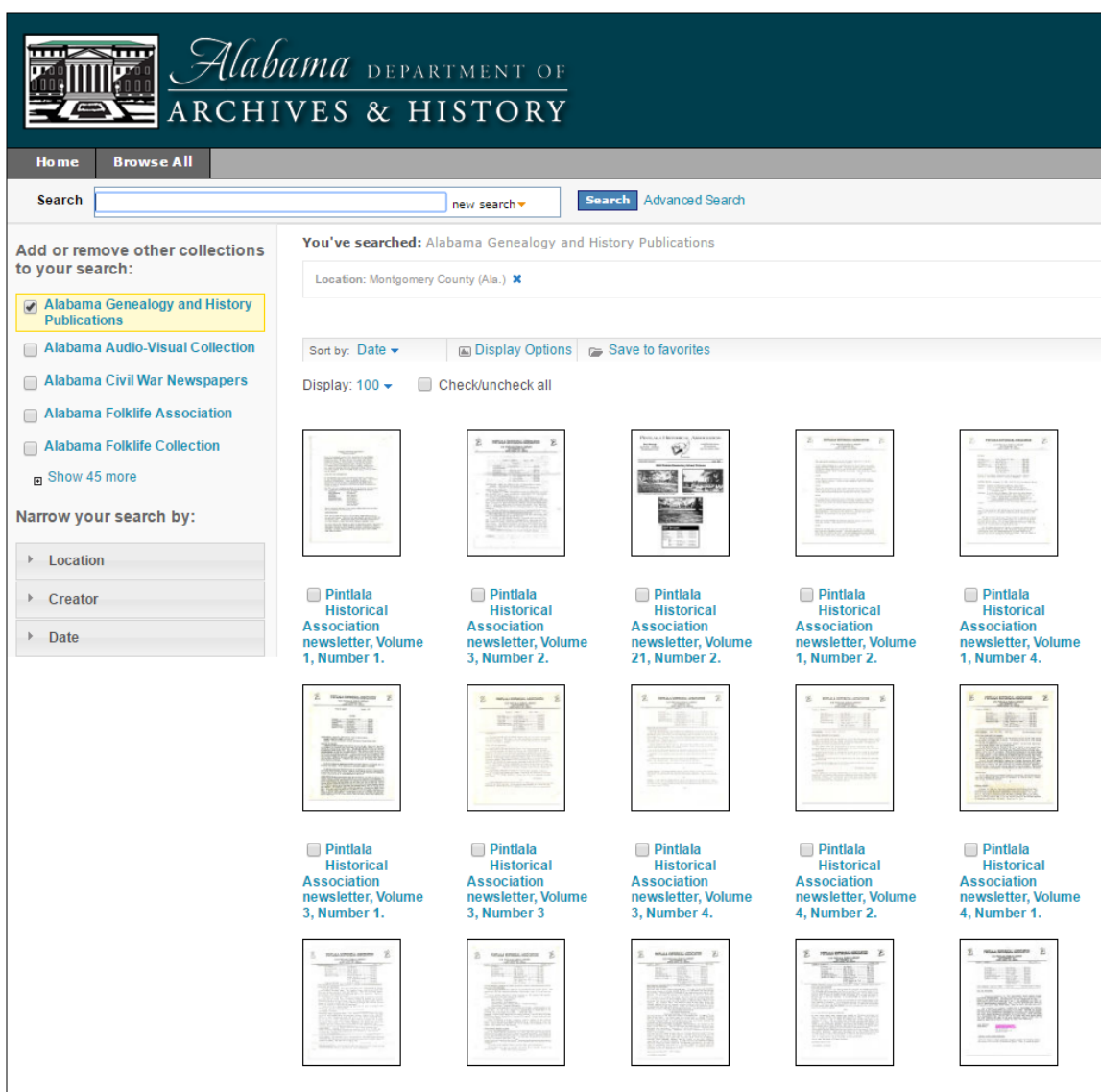
The PHA embarked several months ago on the quest of refurbishing the historical markers in the Pintlala and Hope Hull areas. Some required only cleaning; consequently, the Pintlala Elementary School marker was our first priority. Our costs were greatly reduced because of a partnership with the Alabama Historical Association in preparation for the state's bicentennial in 2019. Scotty Kirkland of ADAH was especially helpful. The McGehee Cemetery marker has been refurbished thanks to the oversight of Huey Marshall.



Pintlala Records Digitized And Searchable

Within the last year the PHA made a contribution to the Digitization Project/ Alabama Genealogy & History Publications Collection, which comes out of Alabama's approaching bicentennial. The state's earliest records will make their way online. Among other records to be digitized will be the records of local historical societies across the state. The PHA was third in the line and to date 100 of our newsletters are digitized and, for the first time, searchable. Any researcher with Internet access will be able to search for family names or matters of interest. Pintlala's history enthusiasts are indebted to Meredith McDonough of ADAH and the Friends of Alabama Archives for their strong leadership in this area. Thanks go to Jerrie Burton who scans the PHA newsletters for our website from which our newsletters were digitized by ADAH.

Go to the ADAH website (archives.alabama.gov.) /In the online catalogue/ digital collection, look for Alabama Genealogy & History Publications Collection/ Montgomery County.



Screen Capture of the Alabama Genealogy & History Publications Collection/ Montgomery County. Alabama Department of Archives and History Website

Thomas H. Edwards, Montgomery County Engineer
-Alice Carter

In last quarter's Pintlala Historical Association Newsletter an article "Covered Bridges on Pintlala Creek" was published and it contained several references to Montgomery County Engineer Thomas H. Edwards. After the newsletter was distributed, Montgomery County Assistant Engineer, James Kelley, spoke with current (2016) County Engineer, George Speake. He had in his files an article on Thomas H. Edwards which had appeared in the Montgomery Advertiser, Sunday, April 10, 1955 in the "City Limits" column written by the late Joe Azbell. Speake graciously shared this article with PHA and it is reproduced below:

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 1955

★ MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER — ALABAMA JOURNAL ★



• • • By JOE AZBELL • • •

Engineer Thomas Edwards

A FEW years ago there was a saying among farmers "We'll get to town if the bridge ain't down." In Montgomery County today, a modern rural highway and bridge system provides a rapid shot to the city for the farmer in any type of weather.



JOE AZBELL

Pioneer of this modern county road system is a quiet, unassuming man who has his office on the second floor of the courthouse. He is Thomas Edwards, county engineer. Generally seen with cigar in his hand and a smile on his face, Edwards has made the highway and bridge program in Montgomery County a model for other counties.

There is good reason for his recognition. Few county engineers in the state have seen the problems in road construction which Edwards has faced.

Since 1911

THE ROADS in Montgomery County must tie together the 790 square miles making up the county area. They must cross creeks, rivers, swamp areas, hills, and rocky lands.

The present road system was set up by Edwards in 1911, the year he became county engineer. He had served as assistant engineer in the previous year when the department was set up.

Montgomery County in those days was considered a sort of experiment in the employment of a county engineer. Only one or two other counties had engineers. There were no manuals, special books or other instruction to go by. The job involved guesswork, experiments, and much personal ability.

Edwards did a lot of pioneering. The county's splendid gravel deposits and its treated bridges made of timber are to his credit. The gravel tract was purchased under his supervision about 30 years ago and the bridge he has developed has been in use nearly as long.

Build 'Em To Last

AS EARLY as the first World War, Edwards was preaching the doctrine of building permanent county bridges and roads. "If you build a good road, it will stay there and its need will be justified," he often said.

But in those early days before the big mass production of automobiles, many people didn't recognize the need for a full system of county roads. Money to finance the projects which were approved was hard to come by. There were miles on miles of unpaved roads and the average person looking over a county map would ask: "You mean, you think all of those roads need to be paved or gravelled?"

In the end, Edwards' thinking won out. Gradually there began to appear the road and bridge program which is still being developed today. It has brought a new type of life to rural areas, providing the city of Montgomery with millions of dollars in business from farmers who once waited until the first of the month to come to town to do their trading because it was so difficult to make the trip over two-row lanes.

In the 1920's, Edwards had an idea. He decided if Montgomery County was to have a successful road program, it would need a gravel pit from which top quality materials could be dug. He insisted to county officials the horse and buggy wasn't coming back ~~in a style that automobiles were here to stay and if the county~~ was to get a gravel pit, it should be a permanent type.

The county purchased a 20-acre area of deep gravel covered with a clay over-burden. At that time the sand-clay road was making its appearance and gravel was essential in the construction and maintenance of roads.

In 30 years of ownership, the county has used up 12 acres of this area down to a depth of 36 to 40 feet. There is enough left to serve the county for about 20 more years.

First Via The Iron Horse

PROVING his good judgment 30 years ago, highway authorities believe there is enough gravel left in the mine to last until all county roads have been paved.

Situated in the northwestern corner of the county, the gravel deposit is more than 30 miles from the southeastern communities. In the early days, county bridges were considered too frail to bear up under gravel trucks and railroads reaching other sections of the county carried the gravel under a special rate.

Although the spur is still in use, county trucks now haul the majority of the gravel over the improved bridge system.

The county paid \$500 an acre for the gravel area 30 years ago and by the purchase has saved thousands of dollars which would have been spent to get the gravel from private mines.

Demands on the gravel deposit may be expected to diminish gradually as more and more county roads are permanently surfaced.

At present there are about 350 miles of gravel roads in the county. In the last four or five years, the county has paved 80 miles of its roads under the SACP system project. Another 25 miles have been paved by the county alone.

Montgomery County's road mileage is smaller than might be expected in view of the area. This is due to the number of large farming and cattle tracts and the expansion of the city of Montgomery.

There is considerable low land and swampy areas in the county, necessitating more than the usual number of bridges.

500 Bridges

RECORDS in the county engineer's office show there are 500 bridges in the county. Some 250 of these are of the permanent type.

Edwards said there are two bridge crews at work constantly on the non-permanent bridges making them permanent. He said in about three years, he expects all bridges in Montgomery to be permanent.

This has been a major project. If all of the bridges in the county were laid end to end they would stretch five miles.

Since the beginning of the farm-to-market road program, the county has contracted the roads and built the bridges. Some bridges have been concrete throughout but the majority are fabricated of treated timbers. The use of timbers has enabled the county to save materially in the outlay for bridges. There are bridges in use in the county today built of treated timbers 22 years ago.

The road work has held up equally as well. One five-mile stretch of blacktop put down in 1939 with single surface treatment is almost as good today as when it was opened to traffic.

Next year, Edwards will mark his 45th year as county engineer. In those years, he has seen the county system grow from a two-row path system to a modern program using 25 dump trucks, 20 graders, and many other pieces of mechanized equipment.

If Montgomery continues to grow beyond its city limits, the day may come soon when the county engineer's office will have more residential streets under its jurisdiction than the city has.

In all of the new subdivisions opened up outside the city limits—and there are thousands of new homes in these areas—the county assumes responsibility for care of the streets if the streets are built to county specifications. These include Dalraida, Sherwood Homes and the like.

Progress Has Its Headaches

NEW problems in traffic control, community planning and the like have cropped up in the engineer's office with the expansion of the city beyond the city limits.

Edwards believes the day may come when the county will have a big problem in these outlying residential areas. The maintenance of these miles of subdivision streets could be a growing expense.

"I've seen a lot of changes in these 44 years," he said, "and we are still making progress today."

Congratulations to PHA member, Ray Scott

The Legends of the Outdoors National Hall of Fame is changing the name of its prestigious Davy Crockett Trailblazer Award from the famous frontiersman to Alabama angler Ray Scott (below) who will also be its first recipient. According to Garry Maxon, Hall of Fame founder, “the award will now be known as the Ray Scott American Trailblazer Award in honor of one of the greatest men that our industry has ever known. Ray is a giant of a man not only in stature and in legend but in heart.” Scott blazed trails in conservation seeking to preserve, protect – and improve – the fishing resource and environment he loved. www.legendsoftheoutdoors.com.



Welcome to New Members

PHA is very pleased to welcome new members and look forward to seeing them at our meetings. Thank you for your support and encouragement!

- Mrs. Janice Anderson
- Mr. and Mrs. Larry Lauderdale
- Mr. and Mrs. Greg Sanders
- Mr. and Mrs. Rudon Taylor



Felix Marcus Tully Tankersley, Sr. (1819-1895) Family Portrait, ca. 1880

Back Row, L to R: James Tankersley (1870-1948), physician in Autauga Co.; Felix Marcus Tully Tankersley, Jr. (1862-1922), physician and later Probate Judge in Luverne, AL; Lucy Tankersley Garrett (1866-1910); George Stuart Tankersley (1868-1905), physician in LaPine and Highland Home, AL;

Front Row, L to R: Felix Marcus Tully Tankersley, Sr. (1819-1895; FMT, Sr.'s third wife, Rebecca McLemore McPherson Tankersley (1842-1914), mother to all children except FMT, Jr. whose mother was Martha Moseley, second wife of FMT, Sr.; William Tankersley (1874-1955), physician in Pintlala and Montgomery, father of Ethel Tankersley Todd and grandfather of Alice T. Carter.

"A Rare Old Volume", Source and Date unknown

Courtesy: James Fuller, Montgomery County Historical Society

A RARE OLD VOLUME

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST ALABAMA LEGISLATURE.

**Book Presented to State Archives Department by Mrs.
Pulliam of Arkansas is Very Valuable.**

A quaint and curious little volume has been added to the collections of the State Department of Archives and History. It is the "Journal of the First Session of the First Territorial Council of the Territory of Alabama," a very rare book.

It is the official record published by the State printer of the proceedings of the Legislative Council of 1818, held at St. Stephens, and which then corresponded to the State Senate proceedings of today.

A double interest attaches to the volumes because the Legislative Council or Senate then consisted of only one member, the Honorable James Titus of Madison County.

When the territory of Alabama was created out of the Territory of Mississippi, the newly appointed Governor William Wyatt Bibb was instructed to immediately call into session as a territorial Legislature, the members of the Mississippi Legislature living within the bounds of Alabama. There was only one member of the Legislative Council, James Titus, who lived within the confines of Alabama.

He regularly organized the Senate or Council, appointing Curtis Hooks secretary and James Pearson doorkeeper. Having organized the Senate of which he was the whole thing, he proceeded regularly to business. Every bill passed by the House was brought over to the one-man Senate by the clerk of the House and endorsed or rejected by him. All bills passed or considered by the Council are set out in the record, with the usual notes made in the records of Legislative assemblies. The session extended from Jan. 19, 1818, to Feb. 13, 1818.

The proceedings were published by Thomas Eastin, the first State printer.

The printing is clear and accurate, but in the quaint old style where an "f" did duty for an "s". Thomas Eastin, the State printer, was a Kentuckian who served with General Jackson as a quartermaster with the rank of colonel in the war of 1812. He settled in St. Stephens in 1815 and began there the publication of the St. Stephens Halcyon, one of the earliest of Alabama's newspapers.

The book was presented by Mrs. Helen Eastin Pulliam, a daughter of Colonel Eastin. She is now living at a ripe old age in Arkansas.

PHA is seeking reader assistance in identifying the persons in this photograph as well as the photograph on the cover. This photo was provided by Bill Sansom.

**Can you help us identify the subjects in the photo provided
by Bill Sansom?**

_____ **Hall, Mattie Scaife Sansom,** _____ **Poole**





**PINTLALA HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION**

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

████████████████████
NEXT MEETING

OCTOBER 16, 2016

2:30 P.M.

PINTLALA BAPTIST
CHURCH
████████████████████

Join the Pintlala Historical Association
Please mail completed form & 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