

PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting:

October 15, 2017 - 2:30 p.m.



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

Volume XXXI, Number 4

www.pintlalahistoricalassociation.com

October 2017

“Sweet September”



“Sweet September”, favorite and award-winning horse of Joseph Harold Hall, stands with lowered head at the grave of owner Hall at the time of his funeral in 1939, Greenwood Cemetery, Montgomery. Horse was accompanied by trainer, Louise Moore.

Photo from *American Horseman*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“When Old Age Begins”

When learning stops. That is the short answer and it is true, isn't it? When the desire to know more shrivels and the world beyond us has lost its appeal, we are old. Intellectual laziness is a curse. “Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.” —Abigail Adams

The study of local history is one opportunity to keep the mind in gear. It doesn't take long to discover that Pintlala and our quadrant of Montgomery County is almost inexhaustible with its treasures awaiting discovery, exposure, and understanding. The Pintlala Historical Association is a wonderful venue for connecting with others who share the same curiosities about life in our neck of the woods during a bygone day. The PHA will be a catalyst for a deepening understanding and appreciation for those trailblazers who made our current way of life possible. Our moral debt to those of earlier generations is ever with us.

How to begin? Become a member. Just showing up for the next meeting will keep the mental juices flowing.

Alice Carter continues to unearth parts of our story almost lost to oblivion. Read her articles in this edition. She also highlights two incredible veterans of World War II and Korean War, Thomas Chesnutt and Collins Gordon. These two men, well known and extremely popular, were shaped in their formative years by life in this part of the county. In turn, you and I continue to be defined by their contribution to our lives.

Gary Burton, President
garyburton1@charter.net

October 2017 Program

Pintlala Historical Association will meet on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Pintlala Baptist Church. The program will feature Thomas Chesnutt, ninety six year old World War II veteran. Thomas is a native of Pintlala and remembers EVERYTHING! Join us for an interview of Thomas and discussion of his memories of serving on the destroyer, U.S.S. Fletcher. I think you will find his experiences and his commitment to our country inspiring.

If anyone is interested in the book, *Tin Can Titans: The Heroic Men and Ships of World War II's Most Decorated Navy Destroyer Squadron*, mentioned in the July, 2017 PHA newsletter, it is available on Amazon.com. Thomas could sign it if you purchase one and bring it to the October meeting. He is mentioned more than twenty times by author John F. Wukovits

Please join us—if you have been “away” for a time, turn a new fall leaf and attend! Your membership and support are truly important.



Thomas Chesnutt and Wife Betty Proudly
Share Book, *Tin Can Titans*

Photo Courtesy Gary Burton

New Members

The Rev. Lynn Smilie Nesbitt, Dothan, Alabama
Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Crowley, Prattville, Alabama
Dr. and Mrs. William A. Hopper, Hope Hull, Alabama

Memorial

In memory of Lurline Hall
Given by Daisy Ann Brady

**Algernon Collins Gordon —
of Felder Road, Hope Hull, Alabama**

by Alice Carter

Friends and family gathered at Hope Hull United Methodist Church on August 26th, 2017 to wish Collins Gordon a very happy 90th birthday. He has been a member of the Church for 79 years! Collins attended Catoma School and then graduated from Sidney Lanier High School in the R.O.T.C. program. While a student at Lanier he became a school bus driver with a regular route. During his senior year at Auburn University (then Alabama Polytechnic Institute) he married Kate Olive Green and they graduated together in May 1951.

Most of the residents of Hope Hull remember Collins as our “Route One mailman” but he has another life from another time—the era of the Korean War which began in 1951 and ended with the armistice in 1953. After his graduation from API in May, he was assigned to active duty with the Army’s 31st Infantry Division at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. In August of 1951, he was sent to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma for 15 weeks of artillery training and eight months later he was ordered to the war zone. His journey to Korea included stops at Yokohama, Japan; Seoul, Korea and by 1952 he joined an Army Infantry Company just in time for their attack on Hill 105 in North Korea. Collins’ assignment was as a Forward Observer with the Artillery Unit.

About two days after his arrival in Korea he crossed a stream of water leading onto the battlefield in the vicinity of Hill 105 and came under enemy fire of mortar and artillery rounds. Collins was wounded by fragments from enemy fire on July 31, 1952. He recalls realizing his injuries and called for a medic. His miracle came in the



Photo courtesy Lisa Hester



1st Lieutenant Collins Gordon, ready for action in Korea

Photo courtesy Lisa Hester

form of a stretcher with a soldier on board, who left the stretcher and used Collins’ belt as a tourniquet to stop Collins’ bleeding. The soldiers carried Collins on his stretcher across a stream, holding him above the chest high water. He was then carried a long distance over the mountains on the back of a South Korean to a medical tent with cots for the wounded. Eventually he was put on a medical train destined for a hospital in Japan where he remained for six weeks. He had severed a nerve in his left leg that called for numerous surgeries and skin grafts and the removal of about three inches of bone below the knee in the same leg.

Collins received the Award of the Purple Heart and was sent back to the U.S.A. where he spent almost one year receiving treatment and therapy at a military hospital at Ft. Gordon, Georgia. The doctors attempted to stretch the nerves in his leg, but the outcome was not positive and he has worn a brace on his left leg ever since to compensate for his “dropped foot.” He received a medical disability retirement. He and Kate Olive came back to Hope Hull.



Photo courtesy Lisa Hester

At a ceremony marking the Korean War's 50th anniversary, the State of Alabama awarded Korean War Medals to surviving Korean War veterans in the state including Collins Gordon.

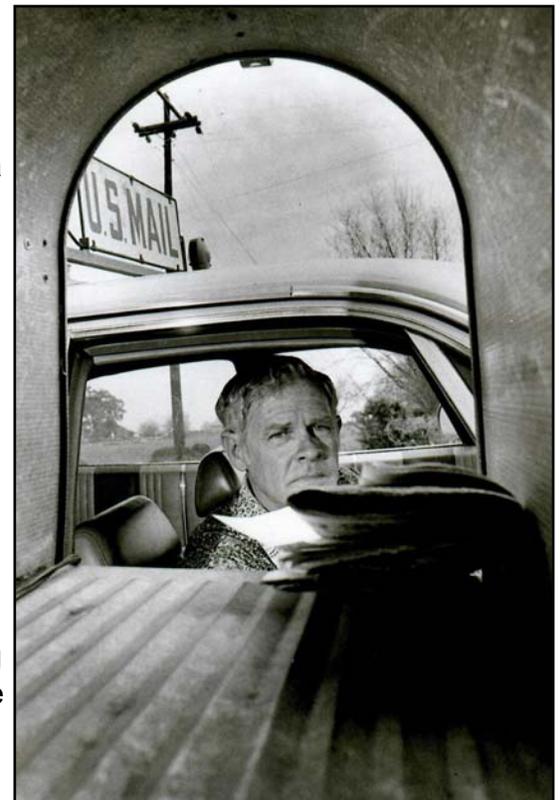
Kate Olive was an elementary school teacher, employed at Catoma, Southlawn and Pintlala schools with the Montgomery County School System and also at Hooper Academy in Hope Hull. Beginning in 1957, Collins was the mailman for Route One, Hope Hull, a job he held for 33 years. Two years after he began as a mailman, Kate Olive and Collins welcomed a daughter, Lisa, into their family. He retired from the Postal Service in 1990. When he began as mailman, first class stamps were 3 cents each, the route was 71 miles long and he filled 528 mailboxes. He remembers the Post Office where he first worked being a wooden frame two-room building. It was located near the railroad tracks on Post Office Road. The work area only had one light bulb that hung from the ceiling and an oil-burning stove in the center of the room. Collins had followed Frank Davis as the mail delivery person for Route One. In an unknown year the Post Office was moved about a mile down Wasden Road on the North side of the road and eventually moved again to the south side of Wasden Road where it stands today. Alex Chesnutt followed Collins on Route One.

Collins recalled in our interview of the days when Lewellyn Duggar was the delivery person for Route Two. After several months, Mrs. Mason, the postmistress, began to get phone calls from irate patrons wanting to know when the mail would be delivered. She investigated and discovered that Duggar had become bored with the monotony of the delivery routine and began running the route backwards!

For many years, Collins was the chief cook at local barbecues for his camp stew. It was always DELICIOUS! His recipe was published in a 1984 Hope Hull United Methodist Church Cookbook. It is reprinted in an endnote for this article.

After having been granted one miracle in Korea, Collins feels he was granted another miracle in 2000. He had an appointment with a dermatologist to check a place on his lower lip. The doctor sent him to surgeon Dr. H. T. Montgomery. While at the surgeon's office awaiting a procedure to remove the growth from his lip, an older nurse checked his blood pressure and expressed to Collins that she did not like what she heard. Dr. Montgomery came to the bedside to listen and told the Gordon's that they should go the emergency room soon and explain that Collins had a heart problem—not to go home and linger for days. Kate Olive and Collins went straight to Baptist Hospital and told the emergency room physicians that he was having a heart attack! He underwent triple by-pass surgery the next day. He expresses gratitude to the experienced nurse at Dr. Montgomery's office for his second miracle!

One miracle or two, residents of Hope Hull and Felder Road are thankful for the precious life of A. Collins Gordon.



Collins' perspective of the world for 33 years looking into 528 mailboxes

Photo courtesy Lisa Hester

Endnote

Hope Hull Camp Stew Recipe: (for 1 gallon)

1 ½ pounds Boston Butts

2/3 pound hen

2 pounds diced fresh white potatoes

½ pound diced raw onions

21 ounces (canned) crushed tomatoes

21 ounces white or yellow canned cream corn

15 ounces catsup

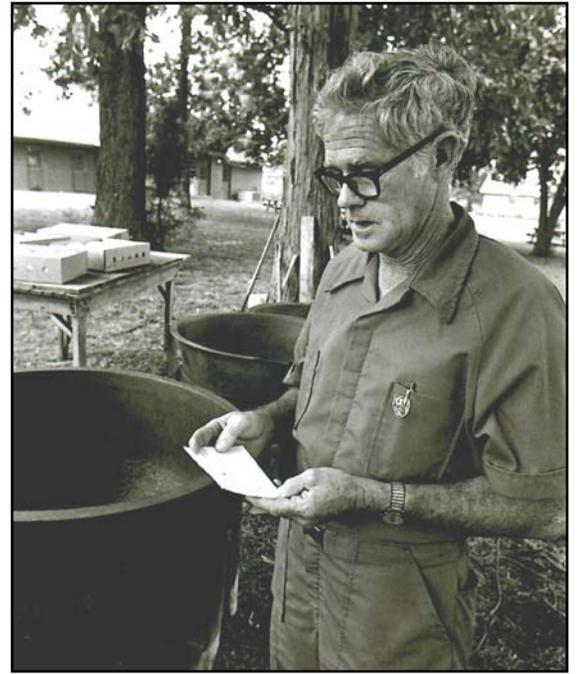
5 T. red wine vinegar

5 T. Worcestershire sauce

1 t. ground black pepper

2 t. salt

1 t. lemon juice



Chief Camp Stew Cook, Collins Gordon studies his recipe before cooking in the big iron pots seen in the background

Photo courtesy Lisa Hester

Boil pork and chicken until it turns loose from the bone easily. It is easier to bone out meat if you cook pork and chicken in separate pots. Remove all meat and bones from broth and save broth. Separate meat from bones and run through a meat grinder set for very coarse grind. Throw away all gristle and chicken skin but use all fat. If you don't have a grinder, just cut or chop meat into the size you want it. Cook diced potatoes separately until done. Cover with water to begin because you will use all potatoes and water when done.

Put everything, all ingredients into the broth left from cooking the meat. Bring this mixture to a boil and simmer slowly for at least 1 hour, stirring to keep from sticking and scorching. Stir for 15 minutes more after turning off the heat.

Camp Stew may be frozen.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Collins for spending several afternoons chatting with me about his war experiences and to Lisa Hester, his daughter, who located dates for this article.

Joseph Harold Hall, 1887-1939 — Of Felder Road, Hope Hull, Alabama

By Alice Carter

Montgomery Countians who lived here prior to 1983 are all well aware of Hall Brother's Dairy, which was located on Highway 331 in Snowdoun, Alabama. Not so well known is the father of the founders of Hall Brothers Dairy — Joseph Harold Hall. Hall and his wife, Sara Fannie Dunn Hall, (1889-1972) who were both natives of Grant County, Kentucky. The couple were married in 1905 and Fannie wore the silk and lace wedding dress made from materials sold in her father's store. Harold studied, bred and trained saddle horses from his boyhood days and was inspired by Ed Berry, a Kentuckian, known as a master of the art of training and showing American saddle horses.¹ Harold Hall had an appreciation and love for all livestock.



Wedding dress worn in 1905 by Sarah Fannie Dunn Hall at the time of her marriage to Joseph Harold Hall

Photo courtesy Kate Young Houston.



Henry Carlton Hall and Zerelda Hall surrounded by their family in Kentucky. Joseph Harold is pictured on the front row, right. Date: ca. 1895

Photo courtesy Kate Young Houston



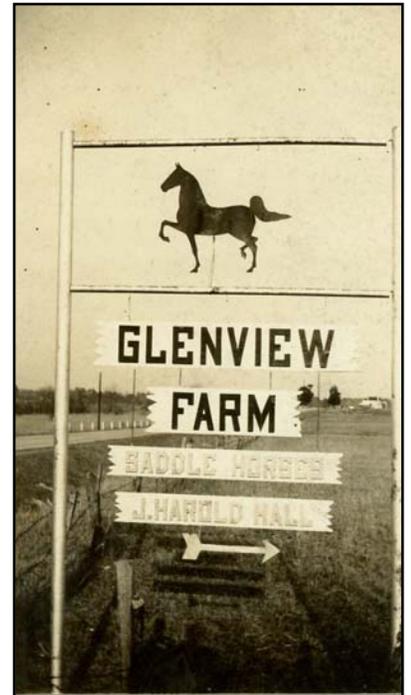
Kentucky school attended by Joseph Harold Hall, seated, front row, 5th from left. Date: ca. 1893

Photo courtesy Kate Young Houston

Hall's Jersey Cows

Harold Hall, wife Fannie, five children: Corinna, born 1906; Harold Jennings, born 1908; Maxwell Grady, born 1910; Cornelia, born 1912 and Edward Donald, born 1913 all came to Alabama in 1918. They settled on property located in Montgomery County only about one-half mile from Highway 80 on Felder Road at McGehee's Switch community, now known as Hope Hull, Alabama. Their cows and horses also made the trip to Alabama via train according to Hall's granddaughter, Patsy Hall Davis.

Their farm operation was called Glenview Farm. Here the family established a herd of Jersey milk cows and sold milk for income. The Jersey cows selected by Hall are physically a small breed that come in all shades of brown and are popular for their milk that is high in butterfat. The breed has a lower maintenance per cow due to its lower bodyweight and is desired for its genial disposition.²



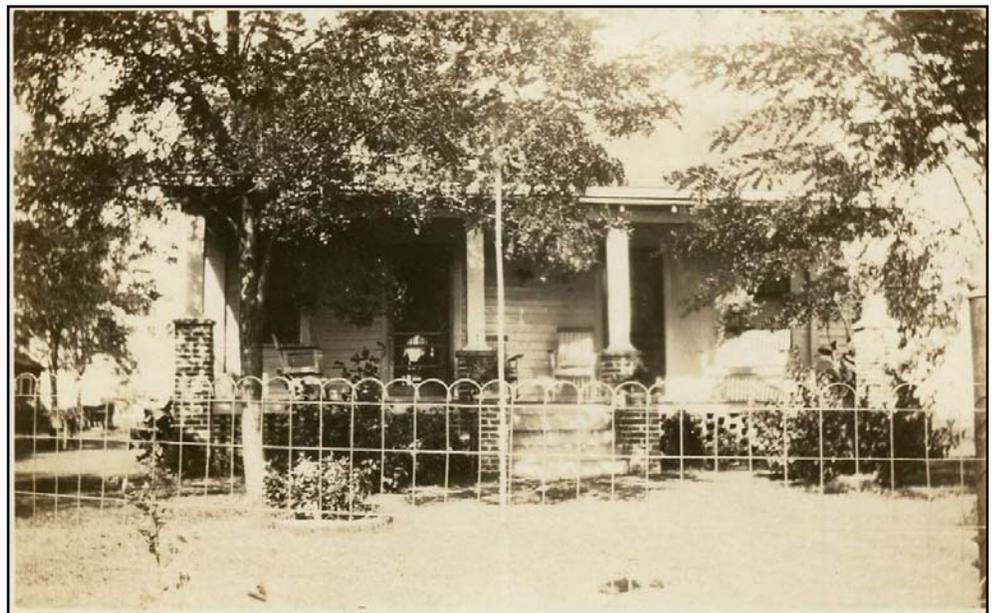
Felder Road farm sign, date unknown

Photo courtesy Kate Young Houston



Felder Road home of Joseph Harold Hall and family prior to remodeling, date unknown

Photo courtesy Kate Young Houston



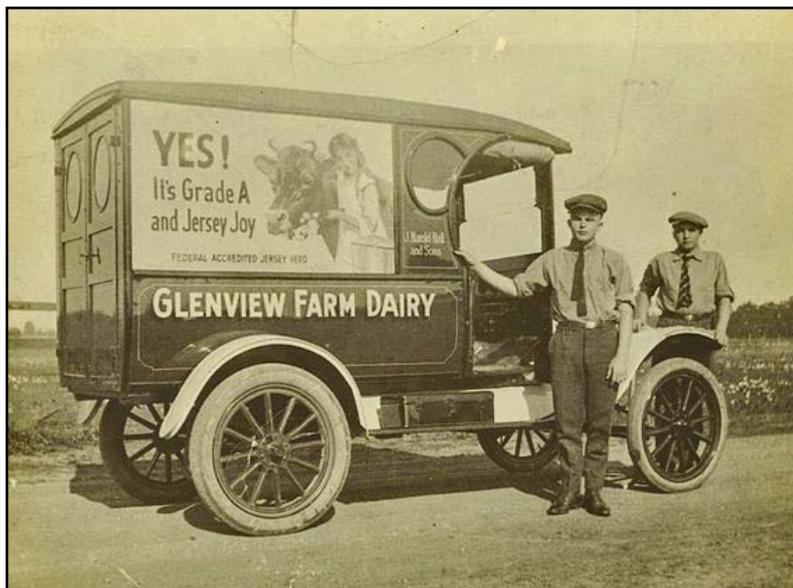
Joseph Harold Hall home, Hope Hull, Alabama, after remodeling, date unknown

Photo courtesy Kate Young Houston



One of Glenview Farm's Jersey cows, date unknown

Photo courtesy Kate Young Houston



Model-T truck that served as a Glenview Farm milk delivery vehicle with Harold Hall's sons, L to R: Bernard and Grady, date unknown

Photo found at: www/fordbarn.com/2011/10/30/the-model-t-milk-truck



Glenview Farm Christmas card, date unknown

Photo courtesy Patsy Hall Davis

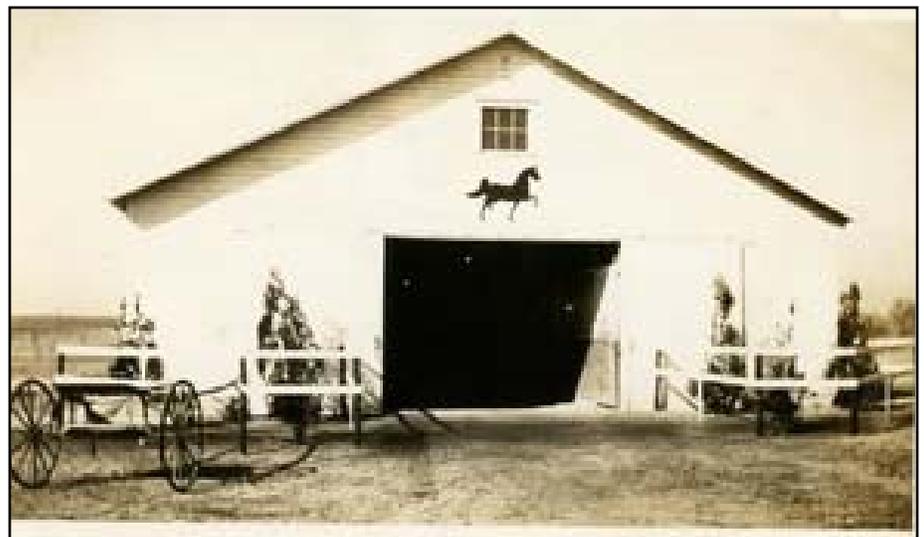
Harold Hall and His Love of Horses

However, Harold's love for the saddle horse continued at Glenview Farm. The Wikipedia website refers to the breed of horses as the American saddlebred, the "Horse America Made." The breed was once known as the "Kentucky Sadler" and was widely used as an officer's horse in the Civil War. In 1891 the breed registry was formed in the United States and since then approximately 250,000 horses have been registered. The breed has played a prominent part in the horse show industry in America where they are known for their performance in the show ring as well as being a pleasure-riding horse. Harold Hall carefully selected horses whose bloodlines have carried on in the show horse world. According to *American Horseman*, December, 1939, his horse, "Nobly Born 12396," was chosen as his head stud. Before leaving Kentucky, one of his earliest successful show horses was "Belvadear 10792". The magazine reports that one of her descendants was the walk-trot mare, "Sweet September 22753", that was bred and developed at Hall's Glenview Farm in Alabama. "Sweet September" was thought to have been Hall's favorite show horse of his entire career.³ His horses won many ribbons and awards at horse shows throughout the south and Hall acquired a reputation as a fair and impartial judge of show horses. He was a licensed senior judge of the American Horse Shows Association.⁴



Joseph Harold Hall riding one of his show horses in Alabama, date unknown

Photo courtesy Kate Young Houston



Horse Barn at Glenview Farm, date unknown

Photo courtesy Kate Young Houston



.J. Harold Hall on front steps of his home with two trophies for his show horses, date unknown

Photo courtesy Patsy Hall Davis



Joseph Laslie Hall, grandson of J. Harold Hall, holding photograph to the left and award with the following inscription:

State Fair of Alabama, Montgomery, 1926, Alabama National Bank Trophy, Five Gaited Championship, won by, Glenviews Belladonna, owned by, Harold Hall & Sons

Photo courtesy Gary Burton, 2017

The Kentucky Years

The 1910 U. S. Census for Grant County, Kentucky lists Hall as 23 years of age, married with three children (Corinna, Harold Jennings and Maxwell Grady) and residing with his parents, Henry C. and Zerelda B. Hall. His occupation was listed as farmer. In 1917-1918 Harold Hall, along with so many other American men, was placed on the register for the World War I Draft. His draft card indicates that he was thirty years old at the time with five children (Cornelia and Edward Donald born after the 1910 census) and listed himself as sole supporter for his parents, wife and children. With so many dependent upon him for shelter and sustenance, fertile, non-rocky, farmland was a necessity. Some of his descendants in Montgomery County, today, believe this was the impetus for the family moving in 1918 to Alabama.

The Alabama Years

The 1920 U. S. Census record for Montgomery County was taken two years after the Halls moved to the state. Two more children were born between the 1920 and 1930 census, Joseph L. Hall in 1922 and Bernard Hall in 1923, who were the only Alabama born children of Harold and Fannie Hall. Bernard Hall was killed in an airplane crash in 1943 serving his country during World War II.

Harold's sons Donald and Grady bought the local Bellingrath Dairy in 1938 and it became the well-known Hall Brother's Dairy in Snowdoun, Alabama. The two sons were 24 and 27 years of age respectively when they acquired Bellingrath Dairy. This transaction took place only two years prior to the death of Joseph Harold Hall on November 6, 1939 at age 52. It is believed that Joseph Harold was not a part of the business run by his sons. His widow, Fannie, moved to the Snowdoun community to be near family.

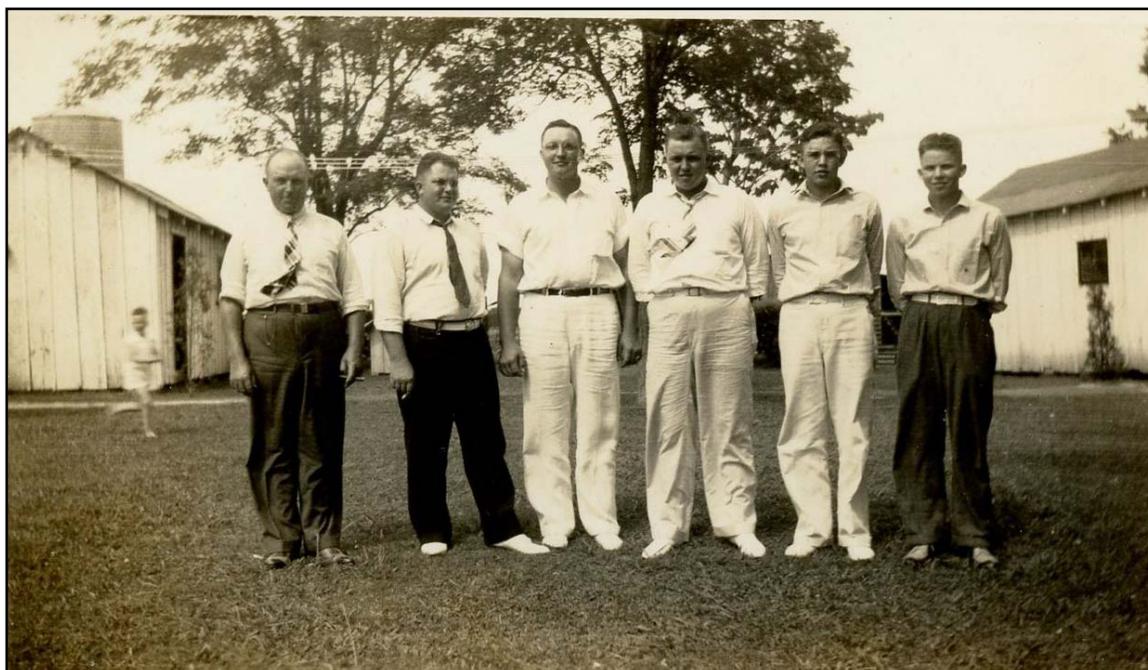
Following Harold Hall's death, his funeral was held at Greenwood Cemetery in Montgomery. As a tribute to Hall, his favorite horse, "Sweet September", was ridden by trainer, Louise Moore to the grave site where "Sweet September" stood riderless with head bowed, seeming to sense the loss of her best friend. (See cover photograph)

A feel for the personality and character of J. Harold Hall is summed up in an editorial written on September 7, 1939 by the well-known and respected editor/journalist with the *Montgomery Advertiser*, Grover C. Hall:

J. Harold Hall

Harold hall was one of that highly valued group of Kentuckians who in the last generation removed to Montgomery County to have a hand in the agricultural renaissance of this state and to lend tone and character to the life of the county. Mr. Hall's specialty was the breeding of fine saddle horses. His horses won many ribbons at many shows throughout the southern states. Mr. Hall was also interested in the development of a fine dairy herd. Thus passes at 52 a creative, progressive citizen, and a fine type of the country gentleman.

Mr. Hall was a vigorous, forthright personality, passionately devoted to his friends, a serious man who did not take the problems of day by day living in this world lightly. He loved beautiful animals and the decencies of life.



Pictured L to R: Father, J. Harold Hall, sons: Harold, Grady, Donald, Joseph and Bernard, Father's Day, 1938 at Glenview Farm

Photo courtesy Patsy Hall Davis

Endnotes

1. "J. Harold Hall, Well Known Breeder and Show Horse Judge, Dies Suddenly in Montgomery" *American Horseman* (December, 1939), pp. 36-37.
2. www.wikipedia
3. "J. Harold Hall, Well Known Breeder and Show Horse Judge, Dies Suddenly in Montgomery" *American Horseman* (December, 1939), pp. 36-37.
4. *Ibid.*

Sources:

American Horseman, V. VII, No. 12, pp. 36-37, December, 1939, Lexington, Kentucky.

Casey, Landel with added excerpts from the "Snowdown Jubilee Booklet" of 1991, "Snowdown's Hall Brothers Dairy." *Montgomery Genealogical Society Quarterly*, V.19, No. 2, (Summer, 2012). pp. 40-41.

Interview: Laslie Hall of Felder Road, Hope Hull, Alabama 9/2017

Interview: Dr. Robin Embry, 9/7/2017

Interview: Kate Young Houston 9/9/2017 and photographs

Interview: Patsy Hall Davis of Felder Road, Hope Hull, Alabama and photographs and information 9/2017

Greenwood Cemetery Records, Brian Cole and Michael

Wikipedia at yahoo.com

Acknowledgements:

My appreciation to:

My friends, Laslie Hall and Patsy Hall Davis, for their time and patience sharing their memories of family conversations regarding their grandfather. They were generous with their photographs and archives.

My Pintlala neighbor, Dr. Robin Embry, for sharing his family memories. He was the Hall Brother's Dairy veterinarian from 1958 to 1991.

Kate Young Houston, of Elmore County and granddaughter of Hall, for her time and generous sharing of her many Hall archives. I thank her for allowing PHA to scan her photographs.

Jerrie Burton for her many scans and edits of photographs.

Newsletter Serendipity

The PHA Newsletter for this quarter was planned around a program featuring Thomas Chesnutt, age 96; an article on Joseph Harold Hall who moved to Felder Road in 1918 and another article on Collins Gordon, age 90 and resident of Felder Road.

It was a serendipitous happening for me when I discovered that Thomas knew the sons of Harold Hall, remembered the horses and dairy cows at Glenview Farm and then I discovered that Collins remembered what he described as “beautiful horses” that trotted around with their tails tied up! Further smiles came to my face as I interviewed Laslie Hall and Patsy Hall Davis, grandchildren of Harold Hall, who both live only about two miles from the original Glenview Farm—all on Felder Road!

Alice Carter

Mississippi Visitors

The January 2017 PHA Newsletter featured an article on the Middleton/Moore families and their connection to the Mt. Carmel community in southwest Montgomery County. The research for this article was initiated by a request for information from two ladies from Natchez, Mississippi—Bennie Parrish Boone and Candace Bundgard. The two made a visit to Pintlala/Mt. Carmel and Montgomery on September 28th. They were pleased to find Bennie’s ancestors and see their markers in person, that provided a closer connection than a mere photograph. We all continued the attempt to understand the rather mysterious tombstone for Eugenia N. Middleton in the Mt. Carmel Cemetery (see January 2017 newsletter).



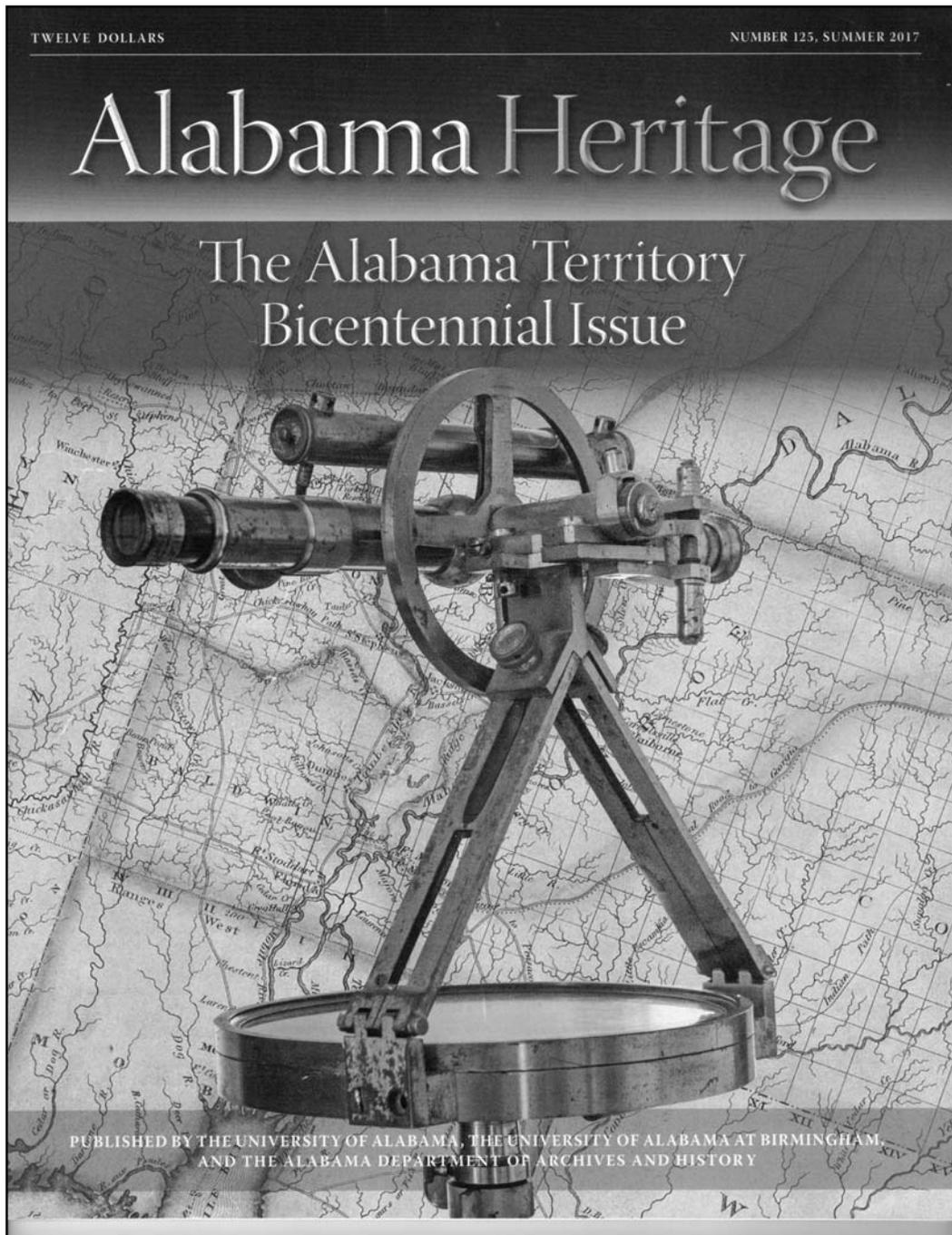
Bennie Parrish Boone at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Montgomery County,
Photo courtesy Gary Burton



L to R: Candace Bundgard, Alice Carter and Bennie Parrish Boone at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Montgomery County, near the Moore family graves who are ancestors of Bennie Boone. The visitors are from Natchez, MS.

Photo courtesy Gary Burton

Compliments: Alabama Bicentennial Commission for those who attend the PHA October 15 meeting, as long as supplies last.





**PINTLALA HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION**

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

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NEXT MEETING

OCTOBER 15, 2017

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