

PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting:
 October 20, 2019 - 2:30 p.m.



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

Volume XXXIII, Number 4

www.pintlalahistoricalassociation.com

October 2019

TANKERSLEY HOME



1830s home of Felix M. T. Tankersley (1819-1895) in Pintlala, prior to its move down a hill when Highway 31 was paved. L to R: William Tankersley and his mother, Rebecca McPherson Tankersley (3rd wife of Felix). Spotted dog was called Old Parrish.
 Photo courtesy Alice Carter.

2019 OFFICERS

PresidentGary Burton(334)288-7414
 Vice President &
 Program ChairpersonAlice T. Carter.....(334)281-3708
 SecretaryKaron Bailey(334)281-6239
 TreasurerIna Slade(334)284-0337
 ParliamentarianJack Hornady.....(334)396-2130
 Members at Large
 Place 1Patsy Davis.....(334)220-7004
 Place 2Daisy Anne Brady... (334)398-0636
 Place 3Frank Ellis.....(334)315-8927
 Place 4Alan Davis(334)270-8657
 Newsletter DesignerAngelique Pugh

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	Page 2
Welcome New Members.....	Page 2
October 2019 PHA Program	Page 2
Thanks to Alabama Bicentennial Commission	Page 3
Local Resident Publishes Memoir	Page 3
Bibb Fork Interviews	Page 7
History of Hickory Grove Community	Page 7
Alabama Department of Archives and History Upcoming Events & Announcements	Page 26
Alabama Bicentennial News	Page 27

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Bicentennial for the State of Alabama will be over in December. For history and heritage lovers the emphasis has galvanized individuals and small communities across the state around the need to protect, preserve, and communicate local history. Of course, the PHA has been doing this for a long time. Yet the Bicentennial has brought new enthusiasm to our mission. There is still much work to do.

- I was pleased with the turnout for our July program. We publicly launched *The Old Federal Road in Alabama: An Illustrated Guide* with all three contributing authors making presentations. There were autographs and photographs with Greg Waselkov, Raven Christopher, and Kathryn Braund. Approximately one hundred attended.
- It is our hope to report on our work with two schools, Pintlala Elementary and Hooper Academy, when the PHA convenes on October 20. We hope to engage collaboratively with the two schools in an observance of the Bicentennial.
- The final Bicentennial program this year will feature Mike Bunn. We are again indebted to Alice Carter for inviting Mike. Read about him elsewhere in this edition. I can't wait for Mike Bunn to be our guest.

We have begun an oral history project featuring three prominent residents of the Bibb Fork community. Margery Henry has been extremely helpful in this endeavor. She joined Alice Carter and me in conducting and recording interviews with Josephine Johnson, Clifford Cobb, and Annie Mae McQueen. Written summaries of each interview are included with this edition of the newsletter. If you wish to listen, each interview will be posted on our website: pintlalahistoricalassociation.com.

Gary Burton, President

Garyburton1@charter.net

Welcome To New Members

Mrs. Linda Henry, Hope Hull, AL

Mrs. Josephine Johnson, Hope Hull, AL

Mrs. Gina D'Accardi Higginbotham, Georgia (Shackelford, Moseley descendant)

October 2019 PHA Program

The October 20th, 2019 PHA meeting will be held at 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Pintlala Baptist Church.

Mike Bunn, director of Historic Blakeley State Park in Spanish Fort, Alabama will discuss his new book, *Early Alabama: An Illustrated Guide to the Formative Years, 1798-1826*. Alabama's 200th birthday has inspired several of the state's leading historians/researchers to pen new illustrated guidebooks documenting the state's history and existing sites of the state's origins. Bunn's guide presents lively stories of interesting leaders, tough frontiersmen, Indian Wars and the always intriguing political scene of the day—all appealing to general readers and historians alike. It serves as the basis for touring many of the state's historic sites.

Mike Bunn is a co-author of *Battle for the Southern Frontier: The Creek War and War of 1812*, and author of *Civil War Eufaula*.

Books will be available for purchase and the author's autograph! Join us for an interesting afternoon of early Alabama history.



Mike Bunn, director of Historic Blakeley State Park in Spanish Fort, Alabama. Photo courtesy, Mike Bunn



The Pintlala Historical Association program of October 20, 2019 featuring Mike Bunn, author of *Alabama: An Illustrated Guide to the Formative Years, 1798-1826* has been made possible by the Alabama Bicentennial Commission. We appreciate their help with programming during the Alabama Bicentennial Year.

Local Resident Publishes Memoir

Allen Brady, brother of PHA member, Daisy Anne Brady, has recently written and published his life's memoirs, which include memories of his Pintlala childhood. Allen was the tenth child of a family of eleven children of Lewis and Thelma Brady. The Brady family did not have an easy life or one of luxury. Lewis was a subsistence farmer, hunter, fisherman, trapper and carpenter/painter. Allen learned all of these endeavors from his hard working Dad.

The Brady family home, located on Highway 31, nearly two miles south of Mosley's Store, burned in 1954 when Allen was four years old. Community residents and family aided the Brady's during this traumatic time. A new home was built across the highway from the destroyed home.

Allen writes of the hard times, fun times, family relationships and colorful Pintlala characters. He describes his military service years during the War in Viet Nam where Allen served in the intelligence organization known as the Army Security Agency.

Happy memories include his military service in Okinawa where he met his wife Yoko Chinen. The couple came back to Pintlala to live in the home where Allen's grandmother, Daisy Anderson Brady, had lived. Both Allen and Yoko are retired and enjoy living near all of Allen's siblings and the gatherings they frequently have. The couple are active members of Davenport Church of Christ.

From the Ashes of 391: to Mules, Mad Dogs and Morse Code is a very personally insightful book for the author. It can be purchased from Allen Brady or from Amazon.com.



The PHA Oral History Project

By Gary Burton

In 2018 we began interviewing residents of Bibb Fork, an historic community nestled between the forks of the Pintlala Creek and the Pinchona Creek. Gary Burton, Margery Henry, and Alice Carter have participated in the interviews thus far. Frankly, this could not have been done without Margery. She, and her husband, Davis, have employed many who live in the Fork and friendships have been nurtured over several decades. To listen to the recorded interviews, go to the PHA website: pintlalahistoricalassociation.com.

Bracketed material was inserted by editor for clarification.

Josephine Washington Johnson/Interviewed November 8, 2018

Josephine Johnson lives at 33 Windham Court and was born on Joe Hall's place across the creek [north of Pintlala Creek]. Josephine's father was James Washington, Jr. Her mother was Rosie D. McQueen. She grew up with two brothers and three sisters.

Josephine began her working life at age 13. She recalls working Wednesdays for the Rev. Robert Perry, an early pastor of Pintlala Baptist Church. Rev. Perry, who lived on Allendale Road in Montgomery, would pick up Josephine after school. She would iron and clean in the Perry home; then when Rev. Perry drove to Pintlala for the evening Bible Study, he brought Josephine to her home. Such an early beginning revealed in Josephine a strong work ethic which led to opportunities in her working life: Davis and Margery Henry, Mitch Henry, Mike Henry's catering business, David and Mary Ann McCloud, Mrs. Julia Alverson, Mrs. Louise Newell and Linda Henry.

Josephine Johnson's work experience included service at the Holiday Inn/Montgomery. She began working for the Montgomery County Board Of Education with her work concentrated at Pintlala Elementary School Lunchroom.

Josephine attended McLean School [located on McLean Road in Hope Hull] and Carver High School [in Montgomery]. The McLean School (grades 1-9) was operated by eight or nine teachers with last names: Mitchell, McKenzie, Cannon, Crawford, Porter. Principals included: Miss Stevenson, Mr. Mitchell. Josephine played on the school volleyball team. She played softball for fun, often in the field behind Mitch Henry's place.

Recollections of working in the family garden were shared by Josephine. Okra, peas, greens, potatoes and corn were cultivated and harvested.

During the interview Josephine commented on certain houses and neighbors in Bibb Fork, among whom were Peter and Annie Mae McQueen, Bob Carter, T. J. Johnson (Galbaby), Peg [had a pegleg] Cobb and his brother William, father of Clifford Cobb. Mr. J.P. Henry, Sr. gave nicknames to all his employees.

Church life centered around the Shiloh Church [on McLean Road] and the Beulah Church [on highway 31] where she is a member. The church has celebrated its 139th anniversary. Her memories of good food and great music are strong. Needs within the Beulah Church

were met by raising money through fish fries and rummage sales. Today used clothing is often shared with members in need.

Josephine recalled the Montgomery wreck in which she and Linda Henry were involved and from which they are still recovering. The accident occurred on August 15, 2018. The two are good friends who talk by phone daily.

Josephine Johnson brings enrichment to many who call Pintlala home.



Josephine Johnson, Photo courtesy Josephine Johnson

Clifford Cobb/ Interviewed November 30, 2018

This interview was conducted at the home of Davis and Margery Henry, 12976 U.S. Highway 31, who joined Alice Carter and Gary Burton with comments and questions. The recording begins with Clifford Cobb and Davis Henry referring to particular houses and residents in Bibb Fork.

Clifford was born in Fairfield, Jefferson County and is now 83 years old. His father was William Cobb, originally from Montgomery County, to which he returned bringing his family in the mid-1930s. Clifford had two half-sisters who lived in the Birmingham area.

Clifford began working in local cornfields and hayfields. He smiled when he said that he milked a “few” cows for Margery and her father, [Gus Boyd, Sr.] Margery testified to the fact that Clifford grows good turnip greens and even delivers them to the back door! Following his work in the fields and with the cows, Clifford worked in construction for twenty years until retirement. After retirement he has worked for eight years with Baptist Health where he drives the shuttle, often helping people like Margery when she has appointments or is making visits.

Reflecting upon his earliest memories of Bibb Fork, Clifford Cobb recalls “clicking a wheel,” which preceded learning how to ride a bike. “Clicking a wheel” involved pushing a metal wheel [such as a barrel stave] with a steel wire which had a hook at the end.

Clifford’s father, William, worked on the paving of Highway 31. The work started in 1929 and concluded in 1935-36. Clifford’s memories of gathering at Crenshaw’s Store [located on corner of Hwy. 31 and Windham Road] were vivid. Automobiles were so few that one could

stand on the porch of the store and know the owner of the approaching car by its unique and distant sound.

Conversation centered around the grist mill and cotton gin in the curve [of Windham Rd.], both owned by Mr. Crenshaw. Mention was also made of the Shackelford mill located on the Pinchona Creek some distance behind Mitch Henry's house, on the old Bibb Place. Clifford was free to hunt all the way from the McLean's [McLean Road] to the Stokes [Windham Road]. Influential churches were Beulah (where Clifford attended) and Shiloh [McLean Rd.], the Bottom church [First Baptist Church of Hope Hull, on School Spur, just off Pettus Rd.] and the Hill Church [Mt. Sinai, near Fleta]. Every church had good cooks. Clifford expressed concern that many young people had moved away. At Beulah Church, primarily those on fixed incomes, have remained.

Clifford Cobb's recollections focused on lemonade made in a wooden barrel or keg which was placed on the back of a truck and kept cool with a block of ice. Real lemonade!

When the old school in Bibb Fork was mentioned, Clifford remembered seeing the building, which has long since vanished. He attended the McLean School by walking or catching the bus. Teachers lived in town. One teacher he remembered was Fannie C. Jones, mother of TV12's former reporter, Eileen Jones.

Clifford Cobb was asked about his experience plowing, which was considerable, and if he were competitive with Peter McQueen. Clifford remembers fishing in a pond on the Windham Place and in a smaller, nearby catfish pond too. Recently he has seen evidence of a very large animal in the fishing areas.

Today the population of Bibb Fork has declined, but all houses are occupied. Still strong in Clifford's memory is the day he learned of the death of James Griggs while going to Birmingham to work. Griggs died in a bus fire. [Griggs lived on Windham Road about where Mark Dauber lives today, 2019.]

A highlight for Clifford is the memory of working for Davis Henry who recollects Bob Carter killing rabbits while bringing home the cows to be milked.

Random subjects punctuated the rest of the conversation.

Davis remembered how his father, J.P. Henry, Sr., took Peter McQueen and Annie Mae to the courthouse to be married and how his father (Henry, Sr.) served on the draft board and processed Leslie Williams and Bobby Chesnutt. The two later bought land from him.

Windham Road was built by the WPA.

When Dr. Frank Shackelford died, his wife, Fannie lived with the Henrys (1942). Fannie Shackelford traveled to Colorado to visit her daughter and while there, Fannie Shackelford died. Her blindness did not deter her from regularly studying her Sunday School lesson.

Dr. William Tankersley delivered Margery Henry.

Margery loved riding her horse, Bonnie, every day when she would get the cows up for milking.

There have been many changes and improvements in loading and unloading hay.

After WW1. Davis's father, J.P. Henry, patriotically marched through Pintlala on the way to Florida. Instead of crossing the Atlantic bound for Europe, Mr. Henry became ill and was quarantined. When discharged he refused to take mustering out money. He not only served on the Draft Board, but also served on the Public Charity Hospital Board.

Pintlala farming was always interesting. Whenever a whiskey still was discovered on the Henry farm, a fence was put up around it to prevent the cows from partaking.

It would be hard to forget the conversation with Clifford Cobb and with Davis and Margery Henry.



Clifford Cobb, Photo courtesy Clifford Cobb

ANNIE MAE MCQUEEN/ INTERVIEWED AUGUST 17, 2019

By Alice Carter

Margery Henry, Gary Burton and Alice Carter visited with Annie Mae McQueen in her home in the Bibb Fork community of Pintlala. She agreed to let her interview/conversation be recorded for an oral history project by the Pintlala Historical Association.

Annie Mae was born on April 28, 1924 to Russell and Eliza McCall Talley. Eliza Talley passed away when Annie Mae was six weeks old and Russell reared her and her two brothers and one sister on the Crenshaw place situated in the "Parmer/Palmer Bottom" near Pinchona Creek. Annie Mae and her siblings attended the Harefield School right off Cloverfield Road, within sight of Pinchona Creek. The one-room school was kept warm by a wood-burning stove. The students would pick up wood to burn on their walk to school. Annie Mae remembers Rachel Draper followed by Tessie E. Felder as teachers. Playtime included ball games, jump rope and foot races. The Talley children, like others of the era, had to walk to and from school each day, which meant crossing the Pinchona Creek via the wooden bridge over the creek. Annie Mae was very frightened to walk over the bridge, especially when the water was high. She would cry with fear to make the trek when she could see the rushing water between the cracks in the bridge timbers. She carried her lunch in a syrup bucket — usually a biscuit with syrup.

At age nineteen in 1943 Annie Mae married Peter McQueen who lived on the upper section

of Windham Road. He worked for many years for the J.P. Henry family in the fields and in the dairy barns. Peter grew millet, corn, sugar cane and a vegetable garden for his family and animals. He and his family moved to the Bibb Fork community in 1971 and Peter passed away in 1999. Their daughter, Liza, who had married Robert Burt, a local plumber, ran the Pintlala School lunchroom for 28 years. Both Robert and Liza have passed away. Their daughter, Judith, currently [2019] lives with Annie Mae and with the help of Betty Washington cares for the talkative Annie Mae.

Annie Mae shared that she attends church at Beulah Baptist Church on Highway 31 in Hope Hull and remembers ministers Rev. Tyson, Rev. George Williams and the current minister, Rev. Ben Mathews. She enjoys the singing in the services.

Among her other memories include those of childhood Christmases. That season marked the occasion of one of her few trips to town—Montgomery. Her family usually shopped in local general stores including Crenshaw's, Mosley's and Lassiter's .

Ninety-five year old Annie Mae proudly shared with us, as we said our good-byes, that she still has ALL of her own teeth!



Annie Mae McQueen,
Photo courtesy Annie Mae McQueen

HICKORY GROVE COMMUNITY

A Xerox copy of the booklet *History of the Community of Hickory Grove, Lowndes and Montgomery Counties, Alabama (now Devenport) plus Hickory Grove Church and Cemetery 1840 to 1976* written by once Hickory Grove resident Charles D. Powell and provided to Ronald and Mamie Sellers in 1988 by Fred Field of California, a relative of Powell. Mamie Sellers presented the material to the Pintlala Historical Association in February 2019.

Mr. Field made available additional information in the form of "Post-It-Notes" which he stuck to the booklet pages. I have taken the precaution of transcribing the information to an explanatory page, (p10). The possibility of the sticky notes becoming lost in future years made the change in format logical. Bracketed material was added for clarification for some of Mr. Field's text.

Alice Carter

Pintlala Historical Association

2019

Asterisk Explanatory Information

*Note 1, located on Title Page

The page #s I [Fred Field] added are the sequence of a big pile of stuff from a cousin in FL. The booklet is complete [pages] 32-79

*Note 2, located on Title Page

Charles Powell is a CW [Coleman World] subscriber, also a cousin. He lives in New Orleans & is in his 90s.

*Note 3, located on p. 43

John Pipkin Cross married my [Fred Field] GGM's sister.

*Note 4, located on p. 43

I [Fred Field] believe my GGF, William E. Wiatt knew C. W. Powell in VA. Apparently came to Alabama to replace him [C. W. Powell] as teacher. WEW came approximately 1851.

*Note 5, located on p.48

G. K. Williams md. my [my refers to Fred Field]

GGM's sister. I [Fred Field] have additional info on his family.

HISTORY

OF THE

COMMUNITY OF HICKORY GROVE

Lowndes and Montgomery Counties

Alabama

(Now Devenport)

HICKORY GROVE CHURCH AND CEMETERY

1840 to 1976

Charles D. Powell *

PREFACE

One is severely handicapped in attempting to compile a history of almost any small rural community that was founded in the first half of the nineteenth century in Alabama, and Hickory Grove (Devenport) is no exception. This community is not now nor has it ever been incorporated, so there are no legal records pertaining to it specifically. Legal and/or political boundaries have never existed, and the question is always present as to whether certain persons may or may not have been residents. For the purposes of this paper, the area is considered to have extended out as far as five or six miles from the center during its early years; and this is the time period we are most concerned with. Another factor contributing to the difficulty is that the heart of the community is bisected by the line dividing Montgomery and Lowndes Counties, and such legal records as may be available are found in two counties.

On the plus side is the existance of a part of the minute book for Hickory Grove Church, which was founded in 1844. From this record and from tombstones in the cemetery, much information has been gleaned regarding many of the residents. In a sense, the history of the church and cemetery is a history of the community; however, it has to be recognized that there were many things that the church was not concerned with. Only those residents who were affiliated with the church at one time or another or who were buried in its cemetery will be found in the church and cemetery records. Many residents and the parts they played in the founding and developmant of the community may have been overlooked.

Hickory Grove lays no claim to fame. It produced no sons that gained great renown, and the community itself has never had any characteristics that set it apart from most rural communities. At the same time it was a pleasant place to live and over the years was home to quite a few persons, mostly no better and no worse than the average.

My purpose in compiling this brief history was to record as much as possible about when and why the community was founded and something about the people who lived there. Many of the approximately 163 persons who lie in Hickory Grove Cemetery have descendants scattered over much of our great country, and I feel that certainly a great many of these descendants would like to know something of the place that was once home to some of their forebears and the little church where they may have worshipped.

Background information was obtained from various historical publications, and other information came from federal post office and census records, minutes of Hickory Grove Church and Alabama Baptist Association, gravestone inscriptions, Bible and family records, old letters, and from the personal knowledge of the compiler.

This was not intended as a genealogical work; however, genealogical notes are included in the section on Hickory Grove Cemetery. This was for the purpose of showing family relationships among many of the persons buried there. It is interesting, I think, that so many of the persons buried in this cemetery were related either by blood or marriage.

Charles D. Powell

New Orleans, La.

1976

With the end of the War of 1812 there was a great influx of settlers into the Mississippi Territory from Virginia and the Carolinas, and by the early 1830's many persons who had earlier settled in Georgia moved on into Alabama, Mississippi, and westward. That area of Lowndes County in which is located Lowndesboro and Hayneville was settled around 1820 to 1830. Lowndes County, however, was not created until 1830, and this area was a part of Montgomery County. Land around Hickory Grove was taken up about 1830; however, it does not appear that there was any significant development in the area until about 1840. The name, of course, came from the large number of virgin hickory trees growing in the vicinity. Just who selected the name, however, is not known.

Location, Topography, and Industry

The native inhabitants of this area were the Creek Indians, but they had been removed before arrival of the first permanent settlers. The first white men found a rolling terrain covered with virgin forests of pine and hard woods and abounding with wild game, including deer, bear, turkey, raccoon, opossum, fox, quail, dove, and some water fowl. The area, no doubt, was a favorite hunting ground for the Creeks judging by the number of arrowheads that could be found as late as fifty years ago. To the north only a distance of some three miles is the beginning of the prairie; to the west about three-quarters of a mile is swamp; and to the east and south land becomes increasingly sandy, and in some sections is quite light.

For almost the first fifty years, planters spent much time clearing their lands which they planted principally to cotton and corn. This pattern of farming was followed until the 1930's. During and following the great depression of the 1930's there was a migration of farm labor away from the south. Largely because of this as well as other changes in the economic situation, row cropping became unprofitable; and many of the farmers switched to beef cattle and timber production. Others simply went out of agricultural production entirely, sold their land, and moved away or permitted the land to grow up in underbrush. During recent years so much of the area has grown up that wild life, such as fox, deer, and turkey, has returned. Some of these animals had not been seen in the area for many years.

Hickory Grove was approximately 22 miles south of Montgomery at the intersection of the old stage road from Montgomery to Mobile

(Old Federal Road from Milledgeville, Ga., to St. Stephens, Ala.) and a road leading to Hayneville, the County Seat of Lowndes county. In the 1840's and the 1850's this was a trade center and a gateway to the surrounding country. During this period it was an important center with considerable commerce and movement of persons into and out of Montgomery and Lowndes Counties. At no time, however, was Hickory Grove more than a relatively small community. The inhabitants were mostly planters who resided on their plantations that were located up to five miles from the heart of the community.

With the coming of the railroad between Montgomery and Mobile about 1860, Hickory Grove lost much of its importance as a center of commerce as it is seven or eight miles from the nearest rail station. Not-with-standing this, however, it continued as a local commercial center for many years.

George N. Powell opened a store there in 1857 but sold it in 1861. After the Civil War he again established a mercantile business in Hickory Grove and continued in this business until his death in 1897. He also owned and operated a cotton gin for many years and had wide farming interests. Merchants who followed George N. Powell were William T. Powell, a son, Renzo M. Guy, a grandson, Charles M. Guy, a grandson, W. M. Guy, a great grandson, Alver Guy, and Joseph Jackson Devenport. William T. Powell also operated a cotton gin and grist mill which he sold to Jake McQueen about 1907. McQueen operated these facilities for many years, and they later were taken over by C. A. McQueen, one of his sons. C. A. McQueen also operated a sawmill for some years.

From around the turn of the century to the 1920's there were three retail establishments situated on the square. The

original Powell store, operated by R. M. Guy and later A. Guy, was on the west side. William T. Powell's store which was taken over by R. M. Guy about 1907 was on the east side, and J. J. Devenport's store was on the south side. About one-eighth of a mile north was the location of the McQueen cotton gin and grist mill. All of these businesses have disappeared, and at the present time (1976) the only public business remaining is a general store (Davenport Store) on the site originally occupied by W. T. Powell's store.

U. S. Highway 31 generally follows the route of the old stage road and passes through the center of the community. State Route 97, from Lowndesboro to Highland Home, joins U. S. 31 one mile south and also passes through the center of the community. This route replaces the eastern end of the old highway from Hickory Grove to Hayneville. Montgomery County Route 12 extends from the northern junction of U. S. 31 and Alabama 97 eastward to Sellers. This was a main thoroughfare during the early life of the community and the road on which the homes of many of the early settlers were built.

Post Office

The date the first post office was established is not known; but it probably was before 1850, as there was a Hickory Grove Post Office in the early 1850's. However, no information is available on its date of establishment, exact location, and postmaster.* Topographic records of the U. S. Post Office Department show that there was a post office at Hickory Grove, Lowndes County, Alabama, in June, 1876, Abner F. Crenshaw, Postmaster. In 1899, the name of the community and Post Office had been changed to Devenport. The office was in Montgomery County, and J. J. Devenport was Postmaster. In 1901, it was still Devenport but was back in Lowndes County, and R. M. Guy was Postmaster. The switch from Lowndes County to Montgomery County and vice versa entailed the physical movement of the office of not more than 100 yards (from one store to another). The Lowndes-Montgomery County line bisects the center of the community.

It is not known why or exactly when the name of the community was changed from Hickory Grove to Devenport - J. J. Devenport was a highly respected resident of the community, and probably was the first postmaster after the name change. It may be assumed, therefore, that the change was made in his honor.

** The Appendix-Growth & Settlement Directory, 1850, lists a post office at Hickory Grove, Montgomery County, Alabama.*

Founders and Permanent Settlers

Boundary lines for the community cannot be clearly defined. For purposes of this discussion, its center is considered to be at the intersection of the old stage road and the Hayneville Road (Davenport on contemporary maps), but extending up to five or six miles in all directions. As nearby communities became established, the area considered as Hickory Grove became smaller. There is no way at this time to determine who actually founded the community. Land surrounding it probably was all sold in the early 1830's, but it appears that it was mostly taken up by speculators rather than settlers, and it was several years before any permanent settlers moved in. Some of the early landowners were William Moseley, Thomas C. Armstrong, John Roberts, James Willis, Timothy Barrett, James Reynolds, Martin Armstrong, Dan'l Moseley, James J. Stewart, Anderson T. Wright, and John L. Williamson. Moseley, Armstrong, Stewart, and Williamson are names that have been found in the general area almost since the community was founded, but it is not known if all the later residents were descendants of the first landowners.

One of the earliest landowners known to have settled more or less permanently in the community was Franklin Armstrong. He acquired considerable acreage at various points in both Lowndes and Montgomery Counties, but it is not known whether or not he was one of the first residents of the Hickory Grove community.

Existing evidence points toward William Moncrief as actual founder of the community. On February 16, 1839, he purchased from Franklin Armstrong, Martin M. Armstrong, and Daniel Moseley a tract of

land at the location where the community developed. The exact acreage in this tract is not known, but it appears to have been around 150 acres and presumably was acquired for a homesite. It was upon this same ground that George N. Powell built in the 1870's. At the present time (1976) a home built by Waverly M. Guy within the last 25 years occupies the site.

Following acquisition of this land, William Moncrief acquired considerable acreage in the immediate vicinity. By 1850 he owned between 900 and 1,000 acres of land nearby. Franklin Armstrong's home was east of Hickory Grove in Montgomery County. Some other early settlers who played a part in the community's development were Richard Henry Cross and *John Pipkin Cross, who settled one mile east of the Grove. The former came in 1841 and his younger brother, John, came in 1844. Duncan B. Graham, Addison S. Armstrong, Nathaniel Bonham, William W. Bonham, I. W. T. Pool, and Mrs. John Armstrong were others who were living east of the community in 1850. Andrew W. Hurst, Asa Dean, and C. P. McRee were planters living in Lowndes County to the west and north of Hickory Grove at that time.

In 1850 Claudius Washington Powell* was a school teacher at Hickory Grove. He went back to his native Virginia, completed his education as a medical doctor, and returned to Hickory Grove for the practice of medicine before the end of 1853. He was joined in the summer of 1856 by his younger brother, George Norman Powell. The latter in time became one of the community's leading citizens and remained so throughout his life.

There were many other persons during the 1840's and 1850's who came to the community for a time and then moved on,

and some may have remained for a good many years but left no imprint on its early history. Families who remained in the community for many years and who could be identified with it to a fairly recent date were Moncrief, Armstrong, and Hurst. The Powell family came along somewhat later, but the names "Powell," "Guy," and "Devenport" are the three most consistent of any for the immediate area. Two members of the Guy family married into the Powell family, and a third member engaged in the mercantile business in the building originally constructed by George N. Powell for his store. Members of the Cross family are still to be found in the area.

Many of the homes of the first settlers probably were built of logs. Most of them have long since disappeared and, with few exceptions the homesites are unknown. The location mentioned earlier as the probable site of the Moncrief home, of course, is known. The Hurst home was about one and one-half miles north, and its location is pretty well established. Sites of the homes of Richard H. and John P. Cross are one mile east and are still occupied by homes. Both brothers originally built log houses, and the Richard H. Cross home was still standing fairly recently though badly deteriorated.

Homes of McRee, Dean, and others who resided to the west have apparently long since disappeared. Much of the road upon which some of these homes were situated is no longer in use, and parts of it have been put under fence by adjacent landowners.

There were no mansions built by any of the early settlers or by those who came later, but during the latter part of the nineteenth century, many of the residents constructed homes that were comfortable by standards of the times. Some few of these old homes are still standing, but most of them have disappeared.

Many of the early residents were identified with Hickory Grove Church, and information pertaining to them and some of their descendants appears in a brief history of this church and the adjacent cemetery.

During recent years most of the descendants of the early settlers have disappeared from the immediate vicinity. In some instances this was due to deaths and in others to sales of their farms and homes and their removals to other areas. Quite a few new residents have taken the places of those who are gone, and a number of new and modern homes have recently been constructed; and the community has taken on a more prosperous appearance.

Professional Men

So far as is known the only professions represented among the early residents were the ministry and the medical professions. The only information we have on the early preachers is that shown by extant records of Hickory Grove Church. From these meager records, it appears that the ministers who resided in the community or nearby at one time or another were - Dabney P. J. Murphy, John A. Fonville, G. W. McQueen, and Eldred M. Stuart (Stewart). All of these served as ministers of Hickory Grove Church. William F. Bonham lived east of Hickory Grove and served as pastor of Mt. Carmel Methodist Protestant Church which had been founded earlier than the Hickory Grove Church.

There were a number of medical doctors who were identified with the community. Those who are known to have resided there and are presumed to have practiced their profession were:

Dr. Bryan W. Sloane - 1844; died 1845
 Dr. Philip N. Cilley, from New Hampshire
 1849 - 1850
 Dr. A. B. McWhorter - 1850 - 1857
 Dr. James Colvin - 1852
 Dr. Claudius W. Powell - 1853; died 1861
 Dr. James G. Turner - died 1872
 Dr. George N. Powell - 1897 - 1918

Dr. George N. Powell is the only one of this group who was born in the community. His youngest brother, Leroy Y. Powell, D.D.S., was also a native, but practiced in Montgomery, Alabama.

Dr. Claudius W. Powell, Jr., and Dr. Joseph Guy were born and grew up in the community or nearby, but entered into the practice of medicine elsewhere. Also there was a Dr. Baxter Pool, born a short distance away, who practiced in the community for a short time.

Civil War

The community, like virtually the entire South, was affected by the Civil War; though it was fortunate not to have had any battles fought in its vicinity. The state of Alabama as a whole saw little battle action, but many of its young men fought and died in other areas. Near the end of the war General James H. Wilson moved his army (Wilson's Raiders) diagonally across the state from the northwest enroute to join Sherman. He captured Selma and burned most of it on April 12, 1865. Montgomery was occupied at about the same time but was not burned.

Patrols from Wilson's army foraging for food and provisions ranged out as far south as Hickory Grove. They took all food and animal feed, silverware, and other valuables, poultry and livestock that they could lay their hands upon; but, so far as is known, did not destroy any homes and other land improvements. Many people in the community apparently received advance warning of the impending raids and were able to secrete much of their property. Experiences of the various families have not been recorded, but some stories have been handed down by word of mouth. I can recall my grandmother, who was a young girl at the time, recounting the experience of her family. It seems that the cattle and work animals were driven into the woods; the silverware was buried; and the cured meat, a very important item in any household, was hidden in the porch loft. If anything was discovered and taken, what it was is not now known.

The only other story that comes to mind is that when the raiders were searching the home of George N. Powell, who was away in the Confederate Army, the young

officer in charge noticed a Masonic insignia, whereupon he ordered his men not to burn the house since he also was a Mason. The accuracy of this story is subject to some doubt since other homes in the area were not burned. Possibly the officer in charge did make some concession because of the Masonic order, but it probably had nothing to do with burning the house.

There is no known compilation of the men from this area who served in the confederate army. Probably there were few households who did not have one or more sons or a husband in the service. Those known to have been in the army who were from the vicinity of Hickory Grove or who made their homes in this area after the war are shown in the following incomplete list:

- *George Kittrell Williams, Captain
- William James Moncrief, Captain,
53rd Alabama Regiment (Mounted)
(Alabama Partisan Rangers)
- George Norman Powell, 1st Sergeant
(Alabama Partisan Rangers)
- John Armstrong, 14th Alabama Regiment - Infantry
- Wm. F. or Thomas C. Armstrong, 14th
Alabama Regiment - Infantry
- F. G. Fonville, 14th Alabama Regiment -
Infantry (Died at Petersburg, Va.)
- Richard Hardy Cross, 14th Alabama
Regiment - Infantry
- Henry A. Calloway - (Died from battle
wounds 2/5/1863)
- Thomas Wilson Clements-(Died Tunnel
Hill Confederate Army Hospital,
Tunnel Hill, Ga.)
- Samuel Smith Stakeley, Captain, 59th
Tenn. Regiment
- Charles Chilion Davis, 1st Corporal,
39th Georgia Infantry

Alabama Department of Archives and History Upcoming Events & Announcements

Sunday, November 3

We the People: Alabama's Defining Documents

A Bicentennial Exhibition of Alabama's Six Constitutions

Opening at the Museum of Alabama

Wednesday, November 6 and Thursday, November 7

Register for Teacher Professional Development Workshops on Alabama's Six Constitutions

Purchase a copy of the Exhibition Catalog for We the People: Alabama's Defining Documents



For Bicentennial Banner News: alabama200.org

Brings information every Thursday on 200 years of statehood and highlights news and events celebrating Alabama.



ALABAMA DAY 200 - DECEMBER 14, 2019

Alabama Bicentennial Finale

On December 14th this year, there is only one place to be: our Capital City for the grand finale of Alabama's three-year bicentennial anniversary commemoration. Montgomery's own bicentennial festivities throughout the fall will prime the city for the state's biggest birthday party—at least the biggest in our first 200 years!

ALABAMA DAY 200 PARADE

The free, day-long celebration begins at 10 AM with a parade of Alabama people, places and history. From Court Square Fountain, a cavalcade of marching bands, city floats, living history on wheels—such as the USS Alabama Battleship Park and US Space and Rocket Center—elected officials, cute kids, beauty queens and special Alabama Notables will travel Dexter Avenue toward the State Capitol.

ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL PARK DEDICATION

Mid-day ceremonies led by Gov. Kay Ivey will include the official dedication of Alabama Bicentennial Park. Located at the foot of the Alabama State Capitol on Dexter Avenue, the park will tell the story of Alabama in 16 bronzes mounted on Alabama granite bases.

ALABAMA DAY 200 FESTIVAL

The afternoon will offer exhibitions, performances and open houses in the Capital Complex, up and down Dexter Avenue and throughout downtown Montgomery. The Alabama State Capitol and Alabama Department of Archives and History will host performances and presentations in their buildings and children's games, traditional arts/crafts demonstrations and historic re-enactors on their grounds. Museums, galleries, restaurants and stores will host tours, exhibitions and activities. The Alabama State Council on the Arts Gallery, in partnership with Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center from Camden, will feature exhibits and sales of works by contemporary Alabama artists.

ALABAMA DAY 200 FINALE

The day will conclude with a surprise! Sponsored by the Alabama Tourism Department and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, it will include entertainment and a never-before-seen show, details of which will be released closer to the date.

Throughout the day, major bicentennial sponsors, including Coca-Cola Bottling United, Regions and Alabama Power, will be on hand with activities and giveaways. The Alabama Tourism Department, Conservation and Natural Resources, State Department of Education and other agencies will join Alabama Public Television, Alabama Cattlemen's Association, Alabama Kiwanis and others to make sure all ages are inspired, educated and entertained.

Alabama's bicentennial commemoration began in 2017. That year, we Discovered Our Places. In 2018 we Honored Our People. This year, we Share Our Stories and prepare to write new ones in Alabama's Third Century.

For a complete schedule and more information, and to find out how YOU can be involved, call the Alabama Bicentennial commission at 334-242-4537!



**PINTLALA HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION**

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

NEXT MEETING

OCTOBER 20, 2019

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