

PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting:
July 21, 2019 - 2:30 p.m.



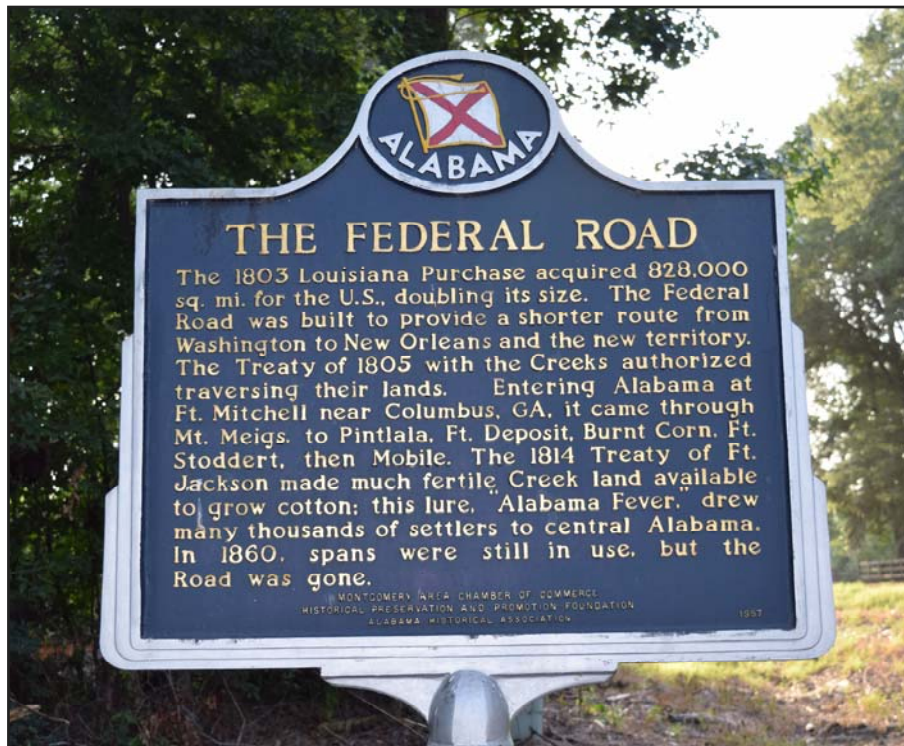
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255 Federal Road
Hope Hull, Alabama 36043

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www.pintlalahistoricalassociation.com

July 2019

The Federal Road



PHA-erected marker on the west side of Pinchona Creek at the intersection of Federal Road and Cloverfield Road." Photo courtesy Jerrie Burton



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

2019 July Program Flyer	Page 2
President's Message.....	Page 3
About The Book <i>The Old Federal Road in Alabama: An Illustrated Guide</i> ...	Page 3
Eight Random Quotations on the Federal Road.....	Page 4
From A Past PHA Newsletter The Completion Of The Federal Road Near Pintlala	Page 6
New Members	Page 7
World War II Veteran Chesnutt —Honored	Page 7
Twin Oaks Farm Marks 100th Anniversary	Page 8

This opportunity only knocks once.

The Pintlala Historical Association will host 3 of the best Alabama historians!

**PINTLALA
HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION**

**Sunday, July 21
2:30—4:00 p.m.**

**Pintlala Baptist
Church
Fellowship Hall**

**Everyone
welcome!**



Kathryn H. Braund is Hollifield Professor of Southern History at Auburn University.
Topic: *Travelers on the Old Federal Road*



Gregory A. Waselkov is professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of South Alabama.
Topic: *Archaeology at Moniac's Place on the Old Federal Road*



Raven M. Christopher is chief curator at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.
Topic: *Mapping the Old Federal Road*

All three authors will share with us their experiences as contributors to this new book. You will be able to purchase one of the 25 pre-ordered books available at the meeting for \$24.95 and have it signed by the authors. Contact Gary Burton for more information at 334.315.2235.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Book For The Road

The Old Federal Road, commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson in 1803, became the major travel artery from Milledgeville, Georgia through what became central and south Alabama, and on to New Orleans. Originally an Indian trading path, then a horse path, a postal road, and a war road, the Federal Road became vital to Alabama's statehood in 1819.

It is impossible to overestimate the importance of the Old Federal Road as a precursor to statehood. It brought hordes of people infected with "Alabama Fever," the intense desire to own new land, to this region, thus elevating the population levels required for a new state in the union. The story is fascinating. The Old Federal Road bisected the heart of our community of Pintlala.

Now there is a book for the road.

The Old Federal Road In Alabama: An Illustrated Guide will soon be released. Its contributors are Kathryn H. Braund, Gregory A. Waselkov, and Raven M. Christopher. They represent the very best in scholarship and will be our presenters at the PHA meeting on July 21, 2:30 P.M. We are working hard to have books on hand for sale and autographs.

We are able to organize and promote this unprecedented event thanks to a Bicentennial Community Grant.

I can't wait to see you on July 21

Gary Burton, President

Garyburton1@charter.net

ABOUT THE BOOK

University of Alabama Press

A concise illustrated guidebook for those wishing to explore and know more about the storied gateway that made possible Alabama's development.

Forged through the Creek Nation by the United States, the "federal road" was developed as a communication artery to link the east coast with Louisiana. The postal road created tensions within the Creek Nation that resulted in a devastating war in 1813-1814. The Federal Road served as the primary artery of emigration into Alabama after the forced surrender of vast acreage by the Creek Indians following the Creek War.

Central to understanding Alabama's territorial and early statehood years, the Federal Road was both a physical and symbolic thoroughfare that cut a swath of shattering change through the land and cultures it traversed. The road revolutionized Alabama's expansion, altering the course of its development by playing a significant role in sparking a cataclysmic war, facilitating unprecedented American immigration, and enabling an associated radical transformation of the land itself.

The first half of *The Old Federal Road in Alabama: An Illustrated Guide* offers a narrative history that includes brief accounts of the construction of the road, the experiences of historic travelers, and describes major changes to the road over time. The authors vividly reconstruct the course of the road in detail and make use of a wealth of well-chosen illustrations. Along the way they give attention to the very terrain it traversed, bringing to life what traveling the road must have really been like and illuminating its story in a way few others have ever attempted.

The second half of the volume, "Touring on the Old Federal Road in Alabama," is divided into three parts—Eastern, Central, and Southern—and serves as a modern traveler's guide to the Federal Road. This section includes driving tours and maps, highlighting historical sites and surviving portions of the old road and how to visit them.

EIGHT RANDOM QUOTATIONS ON THE FEDERAL ROAD

Compiled By Gary Burton

But for the Federal Road with its forts there had been no Alabama as we know it.

Peter Joseph Hamilton, "Early Roads of Alabama," *Transactions of the Alabama Historical Society* 2 (1897-98): 50, as cited in

THE FEDERAL ROAD: Through Georgia, the Creek Nation, and Alabama, 1806-1836, Henry DeLeon Southerland, Jr., and Jerry Elijah Brown, The University of Alabama Press, 1989, p. 2 .

Despite these setbacks, by 1818, American travelers were taking to westward roads like never before. Augustin Harris Hansel recalled his boyhood on the Federal Road near Milledgeville, Georgia: "We met almost daily caravans of fifteen and twenty one-horse covered carts, going westward; each containing a whole family and with a spinning wheel on the back and usually a dog underneath, and the boys would question the men as to where they came from and where they were going, with an almost unvaried reply: 'From Anson County, North Carolina, bound for the 'New Purchase,' or bound for the 'Alabam.'

Augustin Harris Hansel, "Memoirs, 1817-1906, Augustin Harris Memoirs, SHC, as cited in

Angela Pulley Hudson, *Creek Paths and Federal Roads: Indians, Settlers, And Slaves and The Making of The American South*, The University of North Carolina Press, 2010, p.125

In July of that year (1804) Isaac Briggs, an assistant surveyor general of the United States, offered to return to his station in Natchez through Georgia and the Creek Nation and to take observations of latitude and longitude at important points along the route. The offer was accepted by President Jefferson, and Briggs proceeded, but not without difficulties. He was furnished with an accurate sextant to permit proper delineation of these points on a map. By September 2, 1804, Briggs reported from Gen. David Meriwether's place in Georgia that he had found this "both to body and mind, the most fatiguing journey" that he had ever taken.

Southerland and Brown, p.15

Madam, I have the pleasure to inform you that mr Briggs & his companion were in good health at Colo. Hawkins establishment near the Talapousee river, which place they left on the 3d. of Oct. and expected to be at Fort Stoddart in a week from that time. mr Briggs having been able to procure but a single half sheet of paper, which he was obliged to fill with a report to me, had no means of writing to you. the Indians had recieved & treated him with great kindness. we may shortly expect to hear of his arrival at New Orleans. Accept my friendly salutations & respects.

Th: Jefferson

From Thomas Jefferson to Hannah Briggs, 5 December 1804

Washington Dec. 5. 04.

<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/99-01-02-0766>

Note: Isaac Briggs had become the Surveyor General For the Mississippi Territory.

For example, between October 16, 1811, and March 16, 1812, more than 3,700 white people had passed through Creek territory on the Federal Road on their way to the Mississippi Territory.

From Indian Agent, Benjamin Hawkins, and referenced in The Encyclopedia of Alabama. <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-2999>

The Methodists were not far behind: Abner McGehee made a home in southern Montgomery County about 1822 between Catoma and Pintlala Creek, near the Federal Road, and soon thereafter built the Hope Hull Methodist Church.

Southerland and Brown, P.117

Georgia governor Mitchell claimed that the Federal Road itself was the “line of separation” between the Red Stick and American-allied Creeks, which, although not entirely accurate, nevertheless reveals the way such a road could operate as a border space – between peoples and worldviews.

Angela Pulley Hudson, p. 108.

When the power of the Creek Nation was broken in 1836, it was logical and inevitable that alternate routes would develop and that, in the Old Southwest, the Creek Indians and the Federal Road would become ghosts together, yoked in history, leaving the land to new stewards, moving over other roads.

Southerland and Brown, p.143.

**To keep abreast of Bicentennial activities around Alabama,
enter this link: info@bicentennial.gov**

From A Past PHA Newsletter
The Completion Of The Federal Road Near Pintlala
(Extracted From A Thread Of Emails In December 2011)

VOLUME XXVI, NUMBER 1

THE PHA MISSED THE TWO HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY

November 30, 1811

The Completion of the Federal Road near Pintlala

Dr. Kathryn Braund, noted historian who teaches at Auburn University, recently posted the following on Facebook:

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY....200 YEARS AGO...somewhere near Pintlala, the Federal Road was completed. YES!! Pintlala. The Old Federal Road. Who remembered? Just got an e-mail from Greg Waselkov, who reminded me that this is "the very day those two parties of axe-weilding soldiers met somewhere near Pintlala in 1811, leading to all sorts of strife and woe and nation-building and such." We should have had a party!

As a follow-up, Dr. Greg Waselkov, who led the archeological exploration for Manac's Tavern a few months ago, emailed Gary Burton:

Hi Gary,

Actually it happened on November 30th. Peggy Dow's journal gets us in the ballpark, when she says the road was recently finished and she is recuperating from her traverse of the Creek Nation in mid-December 1811 when the earthquakes start up. Grant's edition of Letters, Journals and Writings of Benjamin Hawkins fills in the details. A letter to General Wade Hampton dated Aug. 26, 1811 (pp. 590-591) tells us that Hampton is negotiating with the Creek leaders and will direct construction of the road from the east, while a Captain Arbuckle would direct the troops at Fort Stoddert to do the same from the west. A flurry of letters in October and November (p. 597) document the progress from both directions in building bridges and causewaying swamps. On December 2, Hawkins wrote David B. Mitchell (p. 599) that Captain Arbuckle wrote him on November 30 that he and Captain Moore from Fort Stoddert "have this day finished the road and will turn our backs to each other tomorrow." Hawkins says they met 125 miles west of the Creek Agency, which is in the vicinity of modern Montgomery. It might have been a little east of Pintlala, but not too far off.

Warm regards, Greg

New Members

PHA welcomes six new members since the April meeting. We are delighted to have you as a part of our organization and look forward to greeting you at our meetings. Thank you for your interest!

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Crosby, Montgomery

Mr. Vaughn Johnson, Letohatchee

Mr. and Mrs. Benny McDaniel, Montgomery

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Shirley, Letohatchee

Mr. Dan Singleton, Lapine

Mr. David West, Hope Hull

World War II Veteran Chesnutt —Honored

Our Pintlala friend, Thomas Chesnutt, was honored on April 8, 2019 by a group of around ten ladies from Prattville who meet to quilt together and call themselves the Prattville Quilting Ladies. The ladies had worked on a patriotic lap quilt to present to Thomas in honor of his service in WWII. Former Pintlala resident, Jo Newell Lassiter, has worked over the years on quilts to be gifted to veterans. She is a vital member of this quilting group.

The group asked Thomas and his wife, Betty, to speak on his time in service to our country. He had spoken to our organization in July, 2017 and brought the book, *Tin Can Titans* by John Wukovits, in which Thomas is written about and quoted in several references.

The Chesnutts were very appreciative of the lovely and meaningful quilt. Congratulations Thomas !



L to R: Jo Lassiter, Betty Chesnutt and Thomas Chesnutt holding the quilt made for Thomas. Photo courtesy of Kathy Lassiter

Twin Oaks Farm Marks 100th Anniversary

By Margery, Mitch and Ashby Henry

Twin Oaks Farm in Pintlala, Alabama was purchased by James Porter Henry Sr. on December 30, 1919 from Edward Madison Shackelford and his wife Rose and his sister Lela Shackelford Mosely and her husband F. M. Mosley. Edward and Lela were the children of Madison and Sophronia Shackelford. Madison was the son of George Shackelford, one of the earliest settlers in Pintlala; he came to Pintlala in 1818 and his first recorded deed was dated 1821. Madison married in 1860 and moved to a home situated on Mobile Highway in 1867 that still existed on the farm that was comprised of 512 acres plus



Home of the Henry family of Pintlala, Alabama as pictured in 1953. The home was originally built by Madison Shackelford around 1867 and has undergone several major renovations over the years. Photograph courtesy of Margery Henry.

the farm home and barns purchased in 1919 by James Porter Henry. Two giant oak trees stood in front of the home in 1919. This home has undergone several renovations and is now occupied by Davis Henry,

James Porter Henry's youngest son, and his wife, Margery Boyd Henry. It has been the center of activity for the Henry family and Twin Oaks Farm for 100 years. To honor the farm's agricultural heritage, the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries has named it an Alabama Century Heritage Farm.



L to R: Margery Boyd Henry and Davis Garrett Henry, Sr., 2013, Photograph courtesy of Margery Henry

James Porter Henry was from Maryville, Tennessee. Family lore records that Henry marched through this area during World War I, while anticipating service overseas; he experienced his first exposure to the farmland of rural Alabama. A fever-

induced quarantine of Henry halted his foreign service. After his brief time in the military, Henry wanted to go to the University of Tennessee and play football. His father instead gave him two choices: go to the University of Tennessee and NOT play football (since he had experienced some injuries during his High School football career) or he would set J.P. Henry up in a farming operation. Henry decided to take the farming offer. In 1919, Henry learned about farming opportunities in Mississippi and the Alabama Black Belt, as the boll weevil had caused many Black Belt farmers to put their land up for sale. Henry and a

Tennessee neighbor traveled south to look around at agricultural opportunities. They first looked in Mississippi, but did not like the land being offered, after which they came to Montgomery County. After one day of looking, Henry called his father to come down, got his approval, and bought what he later named Twin Oaks Farm in Pintlala. He then brought his Tennessee walking horses and Angus cattle from his home in Maryville. J.P. Henry was welcomed by the community and soon came to be a well-respected resident and leader.

After a year in Alabama, Henry courted and married Iva Garrett on January 1, 1921. Their children were Fannie Ellen Henry Scoma, Myrta Florence Henry Hall, James Porter Henry Jr., George Frank Henry and Davis Garrett Henry. The family worked together on the farm for years. As the years went on, these children married and with J.P. and Iva's help and encouragement, established their own family farms in Montgomery County.



Alabama Century Heritage Plaque, 2019. Photograph courtesy of Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries



James Porter Henry, Sr. Family. L to R, Back Row: Myrta Florence Henry (Hall), Iva Garrett Henry, Fannie Ellen Henry (Scoma); L to R, Front Row: George Frank Henry, James Porter Henry, Sr. holding Davis Garrett Henry and James Porter Henry, Jr.

Row crops were the main use of the Twin Oaks farmland in the beginning. In 1921, the dairy was added. At first, Jersey cattle were milked, then Holstein cattle were raised until the dairy was closed in 1998. The farm sold its milk to processors that included; Barber Pure Milk Company of Montgomery, Hall Brothers Dairy, and Dairy Fresh. Beef cattle, including the Angus breed, have been raised on the farm since it's beginning.

The farm was operated by J.P. and Iva Henry with the assistance of sons, George and Davis, in the 1950s. The Henry family was honored in 1953 by the "Progressive Farmer" magazine as Master Farm

Family of the Year. In 1958, Davis returned from the military service in Pennsylvania with the Nike missile command and took over farm management with Margery. They operated Twin Oaks with the help of their children: Garry, Gus, Lora Gail, Mitch, and Mike along with the help of many friends and neighbors. Several families, including the McQueen family, the Johnson family, and the Jones family have worked on the farm for most of its 100-year history. Their and many others hard work and dedication have helped make Twin Oaks Farm successful.

Today, Twin Oaks Farm is owned and operated by Garry Henry and his wife, Shena, together with their son Garrett Henry and his wife, Emily. They raise and sell registered Angus cattle for breeding stock. They also wean, vaccinate, and background commercial feeder cattle. They also breed black Simmental and SIMAngus cattle. They maintain a large brood cow/calf herd and graze stocker cattle. Growing grass and forage is a key to the Henry's success. The farm currently irrigates crops using water from a large irrigation lagoon and Pintlala Creek. Crops grown in the past include sorghum, corn, wheat, oats, alfalfa, sudan, cotton, clover, and other forage. Davis and Margery still maintain a small herd of beef brood cows.

Angus cattle were the first on the farm, and have remained a constant in the ever-evolving business. Legend has it that in Twin Oaks' early years, lightning struck the original horse barn and burned many Tennessee walking horses. This led to J.P. Henry opening a dairy and concentrating on cattle production. Goats (as many as 80) were also milked on the farm and their milk was delivered to Montgomery mothers whose children had trouble digesting cows milk. (Goat's milk is naturally homogenized.) The old goat dairy barn still stands next to the Henry home.

The farm has come a long way from the mule and plow to the present time with computerized tractors, crop technology, embryo transfer, and artificial insemination. Innovation has helped the Henry's survive. Iva was one of the first to sell dressed chickens (rather than unplucked and live ones) at the farmers market in Montgomery to generate cash during the depression. Early innovations by the Henry family also included: purchasing one of the first iron wheel tractors in the area, installing one of the first glass pipeline milking systems, using first center-pivot irrigation system in this area, implementing use of round bales, spider rakes, and plastic wrapped balage (the long white tube-shaped hay storage method now seen in fields all over this area).



L to R: Davis Garrett Henry, Jr. and his son Davis Garrett Henry, III, 2019, Photograph courtesy of Garry Henry

Twin Oaks Farm owners have always been actively involved in encouraging young people to exhibit cattle and learn responsibility from youth livestock projects. Davis showed cattle from his childhood, so did all his children and grandchildren. Now his great grandchildren can be seen at the Alabama National Fair and livestock expositions showing and caring for their 4-H project animals.

Twin Oaks Farm has been well maintained and loved over the past 100 years. Four generations of the Henry family have farmed and continue to farm the land. With the Lord's help, many local families, friends, kinfolk and neighbors have been an important part of raising good cattle, crops, and children for 100 years.



Henry Family of Twin Oaks Farm, 1919-2019, Generations two and three

Back Row, L to R: Davis Garrett Henry, Jr."Garry", Gus Henry, Lora Gail Henry Bagents, Mitch Henry and Mike Henry
Front Row, seated, L to R: Davis Garrett Henry, Sr. and his wife, Margery Boyd Henry. Photo courtesy Amy Belcher

The Alabama Century and Heritage plaque was awarded to Twin Oaks farm on the 4th of July, 2019. This distinguished award was celebrated by family and friends at a reception held under the current "twin oaks" and was hosted by the Henry family. It was a happy and lively occasion!

Congratulations to a hard working family!



**PINTLALA HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION**

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

NEXT MEETING

JULY 21, 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