

# PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

## Next Meeting:

January 17, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.  
via Zoom



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

Volume XXXIV, Number 3

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

October—December 2020

## THOMAS R. STACEY



Captain Thomas R. Stacey, *Alabama Department of Archives and History*

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### The Whole Of History

The wonderful gatherings of the Pintlala Historical Association were temporarily suspended due to the pandemic Covid-19. Alice Carter arranged for us to hear Dr. Ben Severance in September, by Zoom. Writing history can flow with ease or one can open a vein and bleed.

I have the experience of a neophyte. My limited experience is challenging because I feel there is a threshold I must cross before a significant experience becomes foundational.

“Writing history is like holding a conversation across the ages, responding to people long gone and posing questions to individuals yet born.” — A.E. Samaan

A writer of history should strive to see the whole of history. We must learn from each other lest we miss the truth capable of changing us. No one has all the truth. It takes us all. May history open us to a world that is wide and inviting. May it challenge us long enough to make us work hard to be just. It is wonderful to be in a history-loving community. Let us learn to embrace the whole of history.

Before the year is done, help us with a generous gift to the Pintlala Historical Association by sending your gift to:

Ina Slade  
1512 U.S. Highway 31  
Hope Hull, Al. 36034

Our organization has current 501(c)(3) status.

Thanks for your strong support.

Gary Burton, President, garyburton1@charter.net

## **The Program That Was!**

October 18, 2020 was the regularly scheduled meeting date for PHA. We did not meet in April. As a result of advances in technology many organizations are meeting via “zoom.us”. Jerrie and Gary Burton have become proficient using this program and willingly lead our group in taking the leap for gathering in this manner on our regular date and time! Seventeen PHA members with computers, cameras and an installed app for “zoom.us” bravely convened to see and hear Dr. Ben H. Severance discuss his book, *A War State All Over: Alabama Politics and the Confederate Cause*.

Dr. Severance, retired U.S. Army officer and currently professor of history at Auburn University, Montgomery, specializes in Civil War and Reconstruction, Antebellum America and American Military History. He has published three books of which the most recent being the 2020 work *A War State All Over*.

Anyone interested in trying to zoom please contact Gary or me and we will try to help you connect. You need the following: a computer with an installed camera, an email address, a zoom.us app and you can do this!

PHA is planning to pursue meetings with this technology until life conducive to personal gatherings resumes.

Dr. Severance's excellent program was made available to us through the Draughton Seminars in State and Local History sponsored by the Caroline Marshall Draughton Center for the Arts and Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University.

Alice Carter: alicecarter444@gmail.com

## January PHA Program

PHA will meet on Sunday, January 17, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom. The program will be presented by Dr. Martin (Marty) Olliff. His topic will be *Getting Out of the Mud: Alabama's Good Roads Movement and Highway Administration, 1898-1928*.

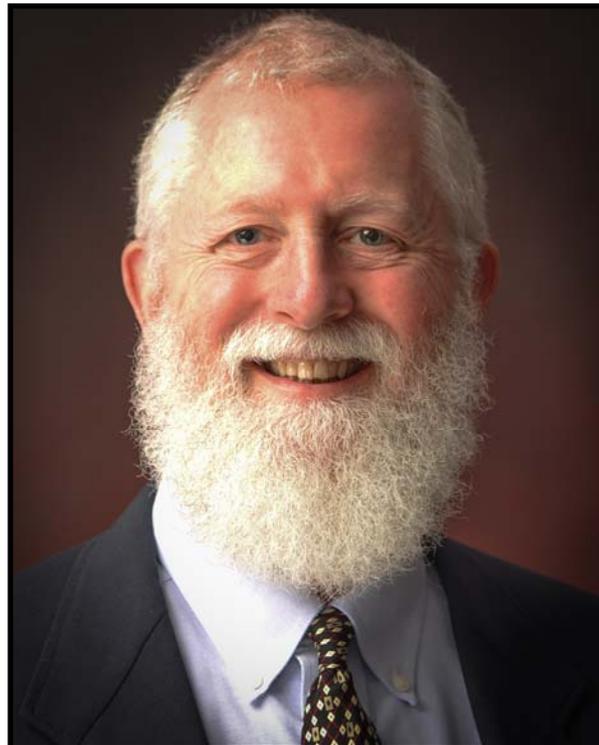
Dr. Olliff is a Professor of History and the Director of the Wiregrass Archives at the Dothan Campus of Troy University. His PHD degree in American History was earned at Auburn University.

He is active in various historically based organizations. He has served on the governing boards of the Alabama Historical Commission, the Alabama Governor's Mansion Commission, the Alabama Humanities foundation, Dothan Landmarks Foundation and the Wiregrass Museum of Art. He has also served as president of the Alabama Historical Association, Historic Chattahoochee Commission, Alabama Association of Historians and the Society of Alabama Archivists. He has served on the editorial board of the *The Alabama Review*.

Interestingly, Marty Olliff has been a professional chef! Fun!

If any of our members have an email address that you have not shared or if you have a new email address please send it to Gary Burton at [garyburton1@charter.net](mailto:garyburton1@charter.net) or to [alicecarter444@gmail.com](mailto:alicecarter444@gmail.com). This is a necessary step for members to participate in zoom programs.

See you on January 17 on the computer screen.



Dr. Martin (Marty) Olliff.

## Inquiries and Comments

Thanks to our PHA Newsletter being on the internet, due to Jerrie Burton's technology efforts, we find that there is readership of our research that reaches far beyond South Montgomery County, Alabama. We do try to answer the inquiries to the best of our pooled knowledge. Up to this point in time the inquiries have remained in email boxes on a few computers—we have made the decision to begin to share these messages with our PHA members in hopes that further information will come to light. Gary Burton and I have leaned on Ricky McLaney and Mary Ann Venable in tracking down information associated with the inquiries. Thanks you two!

Messages have been edited for brevity's sake.

### **April 27, 2020: Inquiry from Adam Pitts of Georgia**

*If it is of interest to any of your members, I wanted to share that I uploaded to the Find a Grave website a couple of photos of Tristram Bethea Walter (1845-1909) and his wife, Ellen Caroline "Callie" Stacey (1856-1913), daughter of Capt. Thomas R. Stacey (Co.K, 2nd Alabama Cavalry; buried in Bethel Cemetery). The Walters are my great-great grandparents. ...I have been browsing the PHA newsletter archives and have come across several references to Tristram Bethea Walter and the Walter Brothers operation near Sprague Junction. I was wondering if any of your members happen to know where either Tristram Bethea Walter or Thomas R. Stacey's residences were located? The family information I have says that Tristram Bethea Walter's home was in Sprague and was known as "Woodley." So perhaps there is a connection to Woodley Rd.? Would any of your members know sources for additional photos?*

This inquiry provided the inspiration for Thomas R. Stacey article in this newsletter by Gary Burton.

### **May 12, 2020: Inquiry from Jeffrey A. Chambers of Missouri**

*I am in the very early stages of working on some family history and your association popped up when searching for my great grandmother, Fannie Chambers. I was wondering if I can utilize some of your archives when I dig into researching. I did find some notes from Pintlala Historical Society [Association] that was a "Eureka" moment with a lot of information." His grandfather was Ralph D. Chambers.*

### **August 3, 2020: Inquiry from Samuel Matteson of Texas**

*I am seeking to locate the original church minutes or records for Pisgah Church. I have already communicated with Jim Gilbert of Lapine, who is custodian of some of the church records. Unfortunately, he only has documents from after the construction of the present church building in the early twentieth century. If you could help me identify and communicate with any descendant of the Rushton or Gardners (or any other church member such as the Urquharts) who still reside in the area and who might know where the documents may be, I would appreciate it greatly.*

### **August 30, 2020: Inquiry from Linda Venable Stahlberg of Georgia**

*I am looking for the old home address and business address of my grandfather, Miles E. Venable, who died on July 30, 1927 [could be 1928 instead] in Letohatchee, Alabama. I am writing because I saw a picture of the Venable home which burned in 1923 in one of your newsletters. My grandfather owned a business in Alabama, which was a manufacturing business of some kind. I am the youngest daughter of his only son, James Otis Venable. I am trying to find an address for Miles Venable in Letohatchee and information about his business.*



**THOMAS R. STACEY**  
**1830-1901**  
**Pintlala Resident, Confederate Veteran, A Civic Servant**

Gary Burton

In Pintlala's historic Bethel Cemetery is buried Thomas R. Stacey. Today the trunk of a large tree has grown tightly around the base of the double-headed tombstone marking the site of Stacey and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Porter Stacey. Some tree surgery is needed. Within very close range is a smaller headstone identifying the site where Stacey's son, William V. Stacey, is buried.

Only nine years after the death of Thomas Stacey in 1901 did a large gathering of the Pintlala community assemble near Ada at the Friendship Church. It was Sunday, August 12, 1910. Their purpose was to organize themselves in order to preserve the legacies and memories of Pintlala's early settlers. A number of people with strong connections to Pintlala were also present. Collecting materials and data had already begun. *The Pintlala Old Settlers Association* was born. Professor J.M. Barnes became President, while Walter Boyd was the Vice President, and W.J. Sellers of Fleta was the Secretary-Treasurer. An Executive Committee was also formed: W.R. Watson, Dr. Thomas Duncan, John Bedsole, and H.H. Norman.

Many had come from far and wide to pour over exhibits of photographs, family documents, and family Bibles with their records. Perhaps the site of the Friendship Church was due to the smaller capacity of the Old Bethel Church in the heart of Pintlala.

Dr. Thomas M. Owen, the founding Director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, presided over the remainder of the meeting. He led that gathering in discussing a list of notables, people of significant status, who were once residents of Pintlala. Some were local leaders. Out of that number was mentioned Captain Thomas R. Stacey.

The year had not passed before another article appeared once again in the *Montgomery Advertiser* by Dr. Owen who seemed to bleed some of Pintlala's significant history. On December 1910, the Sunday news recorded an overview: *MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOLDIERS IN THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES, 1861-1865, Story of Montgomery Mounted Rifles, The First Cavalry Command From Montgomery County, Roll of the Company...* the roll summarizes the military experience of many, if not all, who were involved, and for our purposes, Montgomery County farmer, Thomas Stacey. Perhaps it would be wise to focus on Stacey's family life in order to provide context for his Confederate military service.

### **THOMAS R. STACEY'S ANCESTRAL FOOTPRINT**

Thomas R. Stacey was born January 19, 1830 in Montgomery County, Alabama and he died August 2, 1901 also in Montgomery County. He was 71. Stacey was known as a large planter and farmer, a dependable Confederate soldier, and whose pose in his pre-war uniform has left his image indelibly in our minds. Dynamics within his family leave us with more questions than answers. Thomas Stacey's civic involvement after the war is noteworthy. His repose in Pintlala's Bethel Cemetery is a mute reminder that a person's influence lingers long after death.

Sumter District, South Carolina was the setting for the eventual migration into the new state of Alabama. Land records supplied by Steve Stacey of Monroeville, Alabama a few years ago have proven helpful. One must deal with variant spellings and chronological differences in a quest for understanding the land transactions through the mid-1820s. The transactions were executed by Thomas Stacey's grandfather, John P. Stacey.<sup>1</sup> Thomas R. Stacey's father, also named John P. Stacey, who was born 1810, would have been too young to make such transactions, so his grandfather, was the participant in land deals.

(This writer is using *Sr.* and *Jr.* to distinguish between the father and grandfather of Thomas R. Stacey.)

Buying and selling land on the part of the Stacey family within Sumter county, S.C. took place between 1815-1821 with wives relinquishing their dower after each transaction.

The Federal Census of Sumter County, S.C. for 1820 conveys information on the household for John Stacy, Sr. including three slaves.

An interesting transaction took place on January 24, 1821, Sumter District, SC: Richard W. Furman mortgaged three slaves, Edinburgh, Lisey, and Nelly, to John Stacey, Sr. Witnesses: Hardy Thigpen and William Barwick. Richard W. Furman was a Baptist minister and founder of Furman University.

The parents of Thomas R. Stacey, John P. Stacey, Jr. and Mary Hill, were married in Montgomery, Alabama on April 11, 1829. T.R. would be born the next year. Why John P. Stacey Sr. and John P. Stacey, Jr. migrated to Alabama is not fully known. Travel may have been slightly easier due to the Old Federal Road and the lure of Alabama Fever which often satisfied the quest for land.

John P. Stacey, Sr. purchased two parcels of land which probably had some enticement for his grandson, Thomas R. Stacey, in later years.

- January 03, 1827: John P. Stacia (a corruption of spelling) purchased from John A. Fulman for \$350.00 the SE ½ of SE ¼ of section 29, Township 15N, Range 17E (except for a parcel SE ¼) located in Montgomery County, Alabama.\*
- February 27, 1827: John Stacia (corrupt spelling) purchased from Frances Oliver for \$200.00 the W ½ of SE ¼, Section 29, Montgomery County, AL. Witness: Sam C. Oliver.\*

\*Samuel C. Oliver owned several land patents, two of which matched the descriptions above, except the patents are numbered Section 28, not 29, by the Bureau of Land Management.<sup>2</sup>

These two tracts of land appear to be only a mile from the point of confluence of two of Pintlala's well known landmarks: The Pintlala Creek and the Pinchona Creek. Today this confluence is often referred to as The Ford. A wonderful African American community, named Bibb Fork, has existed a short distance away for many years. The Fork was named for George Bibb a brother of William Wyatt Bibb, Alabama's first governor.<sup>3</sup> Between the two creeks the land is verdant and fertile, perfect for farming. The fishing is good. At an earlier day, Creek Indians hunted and fished and carved out of the wilderness a good life for themselves...and it may very well have been the same where John P. Stacey, Jr. settled down too. In two years a new bride would join him, and in 1830, a new son, Thomas R. Stacey. These two tracts of land may have been the magnet for three generations to live, work, and learn.

Several months ago, this writer sought the help of Dr. Dallas Hanbury, who serves as the Montgomery County Archivist, in understanding the land transactions of Thomas R. Stacey, and also to discover where he might have lived.<sup>4</sup> The summation provided by a later phone conversation and a confirming text with Dr. Hanbury was that there were several transactions by Thomas Stacey, but they seemed to hold little significance. However, one transaction's description was different because it was within The Fork. If he bought the two tracts acquired by his grandfather in 1827, the 160 acres would have been suitable to satisfy his desire to farm large tracts of land and maybe provide the site for a homestead too. These two parcels of land were a short distance north of The Fork.



R.17

Southwest Montgomery County  
Colquitt – Temporary Name for Pintlala

Yet beyond these earlier purchases of land in 1827 is the acquisition of land by Thomas Stacey himself when he was a young adult, NW1/4 of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of section 5, T14 and R17 which is primarily inside The Fork.

- 1830 U.S. Census, Montgomery County, Al.: The John T.\* (corrupt initial, instead of "P.") Stacey household was recorded with 1 male under 5 years of age, 1 male 5-10, 1 male 20-30, 1 male 40-50, 1 female under 5, 1 female 10-15, 2 females 15-20, and 1 female 30-40.

The fact that both Stacey families (Grandfather and father) had come to Alabama together gave numerical size to the early homesteaders. It may be that the infant Thomas R. Stacey is the "1 male under five years of age" in the 1830 census.

We must not forget how early these relationships and new settlements were. When Thomas R. Stacey was born in 1830, Montgomery County was 16 years old; Montgomery City, like the State of Alabama, was 14 years old.

After a few years, Thomas Stacey lived near Snowdoun. In a short article, "Old Residents of Snowdoun" by H.C. Lamar, Sr. This lone sentence states, "Capt. Tom Stacey lived on the old Corbin place, now known as the McDade Place.<sup>5</sup> It may be that Stacey and his wife, the former Mary Elizabeth Porter, lived at Sprague Junction where the Walter family resided.

Steve Stacey of Monroeville provides this interesting, but partially undocumented, nugget: "According to census records, Thomas R. Stacey, had 4 siblings, 3 brothers and a sister. Their names have not been determined. It is believed (not proved) that John P. Stacey, Jr. operated a hardware store in Montgomery. A brother, William C. Stacey, operated a general mercantile business next door. Thomas R. Stacey was recorded in the 1850 U.S. census in the home of his uncle, William C. Stacey, and his occupation was recorded as *clerk*."

Until the decade of the 1850s there seems to be a deafening silence about Thomas R. Stacey, but now in his twenties he emerges with a winsome personality, establishes many contacts and becomes widely known as a large planter and farmer.

### **Thomas R. Stacey and His Family**

Thomas R. Stacey was married three times according to Steve Stacey. He mentions the first marriage to Sarah Elizabeth McGhee but acquiesces to the fact that there is no record supporting such. There were no known children by the first union.

Stacey married the second time with a record which is somewhat interesting. In the 1860 Federal Census, Thomas R. Stacey gives his age as 26 and living alone. In reality, he was 30 years old having been born in 1830, but he was 26 when he married Julia A. Campbell who was 17 years old at the time. The date of the marriage was April 19, 1855. Julia A. Campbell was born in 1839. Thomas R. Stacey gave his marrying age, not his age from birth, to the census taker. The marriage did not last.

It is quite difficult to unravel the complex chronology with regard to Thomas Stacey's next marriage. Following the labyrinth of disconnected census dates is quite challenging. Julia Campbell died in 1864 at the age of 25. It is unknown what happened to her. The marriage between Thomas Stacey and Mary Elizabeth Porter was two years earlier, January 1862. Ellen Caroline Stacey, born January 27, 1856, a year after the marriage of Thomas Stacey to Julia Campbell.

Indeed, the clarifying document is below. After Julia's death it became necessary to bring Ellen into the home of Thomas and Mary Porter Stacey. For the rest of Ellen's life, she would relate to Mary Porter Stacey as her mother.<sup>6</sup>

**Ellen C Walter**  
**in the Alabama, U.S., Deaths and Burials Index, 1881-1974 Ancestry.com**

Name: Ellen C Walter  
 [Ellen C Stacy]

Birth Date: abt 1855

Birth Place: Alabama

Death Date: 2 Oct 1913

Death Place: Montgomery, Montgomery, Alabama

Cemetery Name: Greenwood

Death Age: 58

Occupation: Retired

Race: White

Marital status: Widowed

Gender: Female

Street Address: 343 Sayre St

Father Name: Thomas R Stacy

Mother Name: Julia Stacy

Mother Birth Place: Alabama

FHL Film Number: 1894102

Wills and Probates: Search for Ellen C Walter in Alabama Wills & Probates collection

One might well question the durability of Stacey's marriage to Miss Porter, but it lasted 39 years until Thomas Stacey died in 1901! For a period of time, the guardianship/caregiver relationship with Ellen Caroline seemed to be caught up in indecision and instability, before such matters were resolved. However one is to interpret the unconventional family dynamics, both Thomas and Mary Elizabeth Porter Stacy provided for his daughter, Ellen Caroline Stacey by his previous marriage, and their son, William V. Stacey by Mary Porter Stacey, many years of security and a stable home life.

### THE COMING WAR

Metaphorically, the drumbeat of war could be heard long before the formal vote for secession. The lust for war was gathering early incentive in some quarters. The stunning image of Thomas R. Stacey as a member of the Montgomery Mounted Rifles tells us much about the preparation, and perhaps eagerness, for conflict.

An examination of the military life of Thomas R. Stacey can be daunting. Bob Bradley, former curator with the Alabama Department of Archives and History, and now in retirement, has been a helpful guide. His kindness and willingness to converse about context and details were very illuminating. Our conversation, along with a supporting email (4/28/04) from Bob to Ron Fields, a British Military Historian, proved to be a helpful overview. It threw relevant light on T. R. Stacey's early participation in the Confederate military. Much has been extrapolated from the 2004 letter from Bob Bradley to Ron Fields.



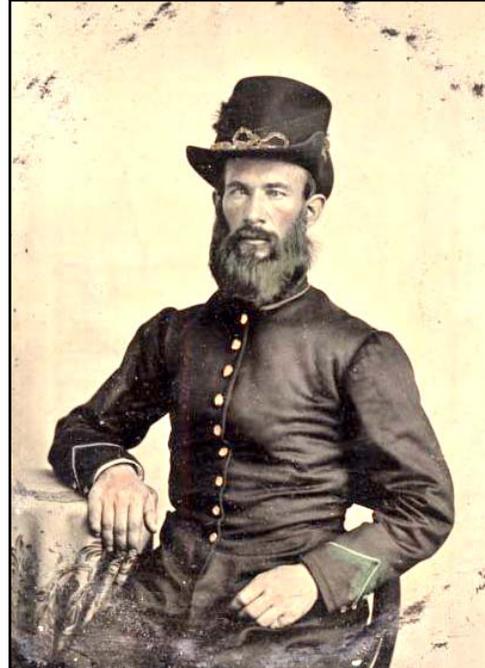
Captain Thomas R. Stacey,  
*Alabama Department of Archives and History*

## The Alabama Volunteer Corps, 1861-62.

Loosely organized groups and other Militia companies across the state had come together under the AVC: The Montgomery Mounted Rifles, one of the units, having incorporated in February 1860, wore uniforms that were prescribed for the AVC. It is easy to detect the cavalry yellow trim on soldier's dark blue coats and pants. Some company members wore MMR (Montgomery Mounted Rifles) on the crown of their U.S. pattern 1858 "Hardee hats." In addition, Bradley, points out that buttons and belt plates distinguished the pre-war uniforms intended for the Alabama Volunteer Corps from the ones designed for the U.S. Army. Buttons and belt plates with unique designs added an additional level of distinction, reflecting imagery of the State of Alabama.



2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Thomas Jefferson Goodwyn,  
*Alabama Department of Archives and History*



John F. Gaines,  
*Alabama Department of Archives and History*

It must be noted, as observed by Bob Bradley, that the uniform design reflects the "pre-war" period. Thomas Stacey was probably 31 or 32 years of age. Bradley also makes the point that the MMRs had access to the State of Alabama military stores during this "pre-war" period. Governor A.B. Moore had sent purchasers north where they bought the best of weapons, accoutrements, and equipage available during this "pre-war" period. This invoice signed by Governor A.B. Moore is evidence and it should be known that Bradley has a disproportionate influence with much that follows.<sup>8</sup>

### Executive Department

Montgomery Ala May 1, 1861

The Quartermaster of the State of Alabama will issue to the Montgomery Mounted Rifles-

- 115 Navy pistol belts and holsters
- 110 Carbines, cartridge boxes swivels and carbine straps
- 115 Canteens and straps
- 112 Haversacks
- 115 Curry combs
- 115 brushes
- 115 horse buckets
- 115 Pistol Flasks
- Camp Equipage complete for 115 men
- 110 rounds of cartridges

A.B. Moore

This company was formed up early in May, 1861 at Estelle Hall in Montgomery. Estelle Hall was located on Dexter Avenue and was used for social events and other gatherings.

James Holt Clanton was their Captain. He tendered their service to the Secretary of War, Leroy Pope Walker. Their service for 12 months included "rear service" duty when they were ordered to Pensacola and departed for Montgomery on May 26, 1861. Their assignment: "to protect or patrol" the coast. Their service took place in the Pensacola area, Milton, East Bay, and back to Pensacola and then into camp at Grand Lagoon; it was called Camp Goodwyn. Clanton resigned in the fall and returned to Montgomery to raise a regiment of cavalry. First Lt. W.W. Allen soon joined him, thus command of the company devolved upon 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Thomas Jefferson Goodwyn. The MMRs remained until ordered back to Montgomery. They departed on September 27, 1861. Arriving back in Montgomery, the MMRs were presented with the opportunity of joining Clanton's new regiment. "The old company was not willing to take up a new regiment." Those wishing to join withdrew, forming a new company called The New Montgomery Rifles or The Montgomery Rifles, Jr. Bradley's expression for this unusual exercise was that the company had "seceded from itself." This new company was designated Co. K and their captain was former 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Britton C. Tarver. Tarver remained with the 1<sup>st</sup> until the 7<sup>th</sup> was formed July 1863.

The First Alabama Cavalry Regiment was raised in Montgomery on November 1861; within less than a year the Second Alabama Cavalry Regiment was organized in Montgomery on May 1, 1862. On the same date, Thomas R. Stacey was mustered in as 1<sup>st</sup> Lt, with Co K, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alabama Cavalry on May 1, 1862 at Camp Stone near Montgomery. His horse was valued at \$400.00. Lt. Stacey was appointed Captain, 1862.

Many of the officers from the 1<sup>st</sup> formed the nucleus of the 7<sup>th</sup> including their Colonel Joseph Hodgson. Bob Bradley's opinion about this is that the men of Company K did not leave as a group, but most probably stayed with the 1<sup>st</sup>. It seems to have been more of an opportunity for officers to move up. In addition to Tarver, Turner Clanton of the MMR Jrs. also transferred to the 7<sup>th</sup> and was eventually promoted to Lt. Col. After the MMR Jrs. were created 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. T.J. Goodwyn continued to command the old company which became the MMR Srs. and remained

"attached" to the 1<sup>st</sup> until their term of enlistment was up in May of 1862. "While some of the men reenlisted in other companies of the regiment, most returned to their homes." First Corporal Thomas Stacey of Montgomery became Captain of Company K, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alabama Cavalry on May 2, 1862. After only a few months of service, Stacey became ill and was hospitalized and received a medical discharge.

Adam Pitts was kind enough to provide the following with this caveat:

"His (Stacey's) resignation from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alabama Cavalry, written in his own hand. I only have a printout, but the original file is probably available through the Fold3 database, which I unfortunately don't have access to. I can't make out all of the writing, but the main part reads":



Alabama Volunteer Corps., (see note 7)

Thomas R. Stacey:

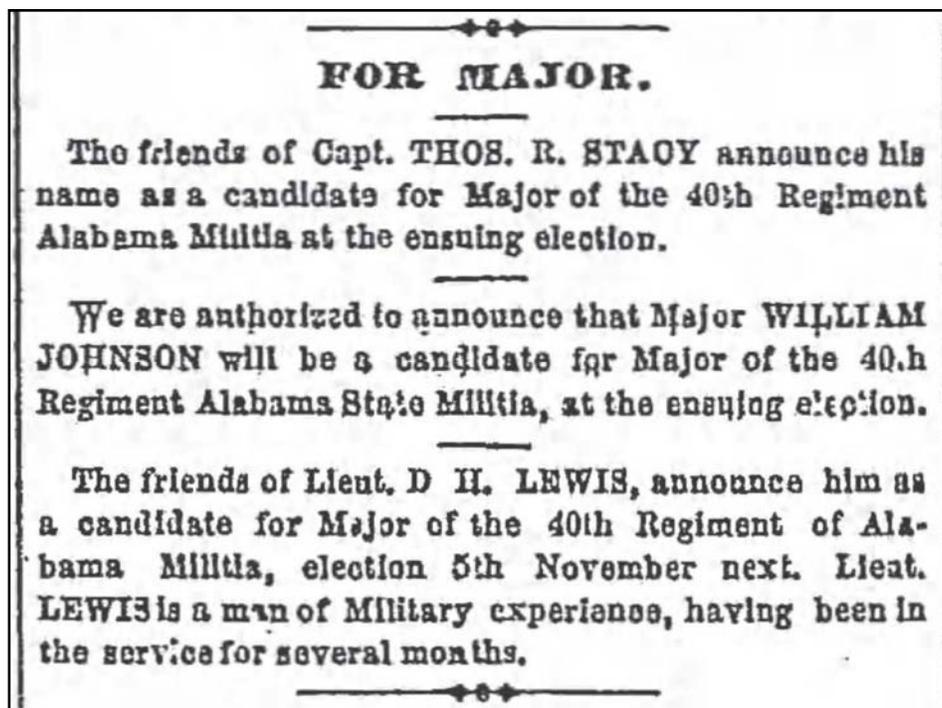
**"I have the honor of tending my resignation by reason of the Annexed Surgeon's certificate. My resignation is immediate and unconditional."**

R.M. Hill, the regiment's surgeon, wrote:

**"I certify that I have examined Capt. Stacy and find him incapable of performing military duty because of Chronic Dyspepsia which he has had for three years."**

Stacey resigned at LaGrange, Georgia in November 1862 and sometime later became a Captain of a local defense company in Montgomery. The firm resignation may have been due to family matters in addition to his own diagnosis.

Almost simultaneously with Stacey's resignation from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alabama Cavalry there appeared notice in *The Weekly Advertiser*. It may be that Stacey's abrupt resignation was in relation to this urgent notice.



*The Weekly Advertiser*, Wed, Nov 5, 1862, p 3, newspaper.com

### **The Mystery and History of J.H. Bohannon**

How long the name *Bohannon* was associated with the photograph which now bears the name, *Thomas R. Stacey* is unknown. Bob Bradley emphasizes that the vexing problem was that no one could identify J.H. Bohannon. Who was J.H. Bohannon? No one knew. No one knows now the significance of the Bohannon name. Was it the name of the person whose image is on the front cover? Or someone else?

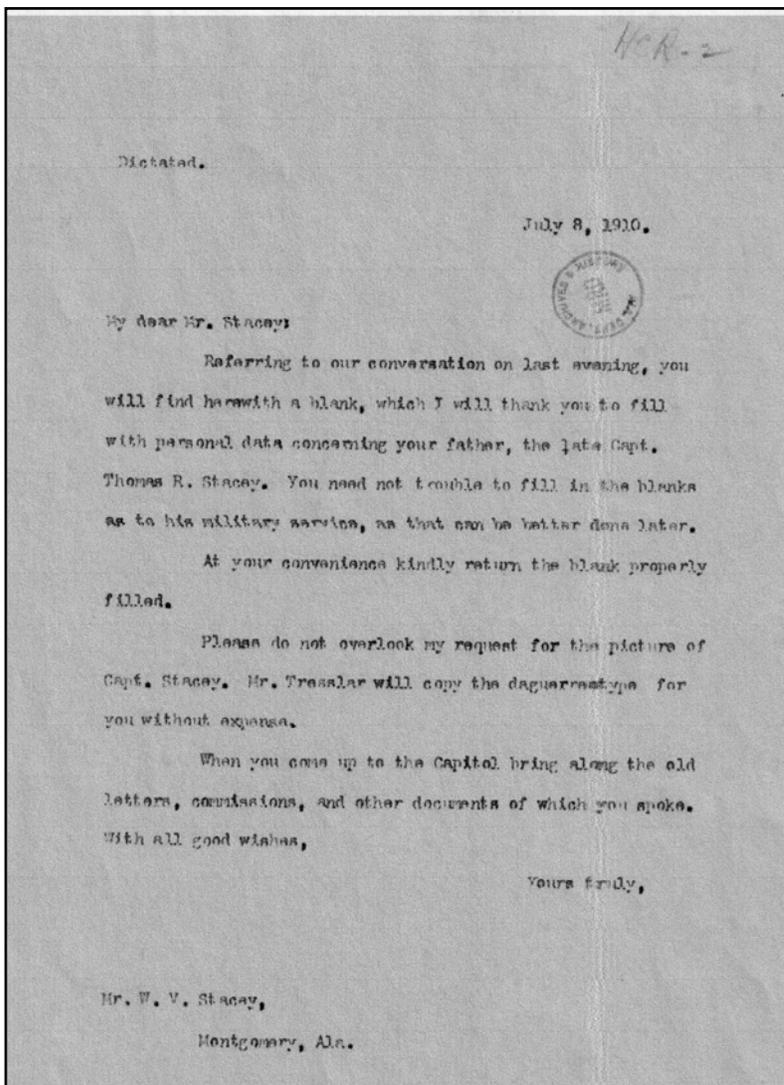
When Bob Bradley began to work at the Alabama Historical Commission in 1986, he was doing research on the 1st. Alabama Cavalry. Thomas Stacey was in the Cavalry, but Bob was more interested in Bohannon. A co-worker and colleague, Michael Bailey, who had worked for sometime at the Archives previously furnished a copy of Bohannon's image for the *Military Collector and Historian*. When Bob spoke with Mike about the photograph, Mike stated that it was a real mystery. Nothing could be found about Bohannon. Bob was equally mystified.

The issue would surface from time to time; there would emerge a clue here and a clue there, but nothing of substance ever came into view. There was never a way to match clues with the image on the photograph.

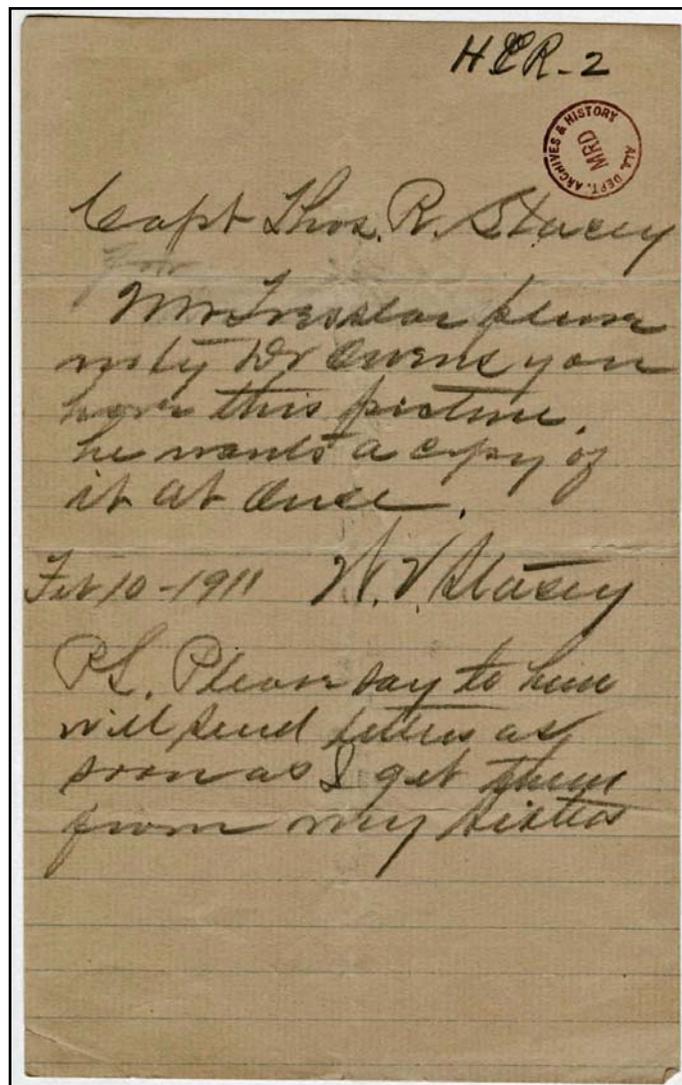
This quest may have had its roots with Dr. Thomas Owen, first Director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History. He could be aggressive in gathering material for conservation and preservation. Those who worked at the Archives attempted to keep copies of references to all Confederate soldiers. All of this information was in the card files back in the reference area.

The card files had been copied on microfilm and were rarely touched and never moved due to the dependence on microfilm. Archivist Alden Monroe and Bob Bradley, by now Chief Curator of the Archives, collaborated on what could be done with the old file cards; this was just before the days of surrendering the work to computers. This intrepid team began to remove from the files old photographs and original documents and other types of important information. Bradley just happened to be working on the "S" drawer when he pulled out the card file on Thomas R. Stacey, and with it was the original old photograph with the identification "Thomas R. Stacey!" There was no Bohannon. Now the image was forever identified with the soldier of the Montgomery Mounted Rifles.

Some time later, Bob Bradley was visiting Pintlala and was taken by Gary Burton to the historic Bethel Cemetery, now owned by the Pintlala Baptist Church. The graves of the Stacey family were singled out. Bradley spoke a greeting to Thomas R. Stacey. There was no responding voice. But there was a mystical moment which only a scholar and his subject would understand and there was the completion of a backstory which gives high praise to those like Bob, Alden, and Michael who do the hard work of saving, preserving, and organizing information. These are the unsung who go unheralded and if they seem lost, it is because they are lost among the footnotes of their historical passions.



Dictated from Dr. Owen to W. V. Stacey, July 8, 1910, ADAH



Note from William V. Stacey to Mr. Tresslar, February 10, 1911, ADAH

## CAPTAIN THOMAS R. STACEY AT HOME

The gaps in any historical narrative are troublesome to the curious mind. For Thomas R. Stacey, returning home before the completion of the Civil War, finds him continuing where he left off. His experience as a large planter served him well. He was never looked upon as one of the large slave holders of Montgomery County, but certainly adjusting to a new reality was in the cards for him. This is surely a gap which requires further inquiry.

The marriage record conveys that he was in Montgomery County on January 30, 1862 when he was married to Mary Elizabeth Porter.

On May 2, Stacey became Captain of Company K, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alabama Cavalry Regiment. November witnessed the firm resignation from Stacey. Why the suddenness? Maybe Thomas Stacey preferred to be sick at home. Maybe a family issue? Issues with the crops? Another gap worthy of exploration.

Thomas Stacey invested his life in Montgomery County. During his lifetime he witnessed the growth and development of the county at many levels. Like his father or grandfather before him (It is hard to tell which one, both bearing the same name, John P. Stacey, 1832), Thomas R. Stacey served the county with many others and for many years as a Justice of The Peace or as Notary Public. The appointments and commissions were cited in the *Advertiser*. Here are a few:

- Thomas R. Stacey, Justice of the Peace, June 12, 1864
- Thomas R. Stacey, Notary Public, March 8, 1871
- Thomas R. Stacey, Notary Public and Justice of the Peace, Snowdoun, Precinct 9, March 27, 1883 (Removed from beat).
- Thomas R. Stacey, N.P. And J.P. Woodley. Precinct 11 Commissioned Oct. 20, 1885, Resigned Aug.9, 1885
- Thomas R. Stacey, Snowdoun, Justice of the Peace, Snowdoun, Precinct 10, Appointed January 22, 1887
- Thomas R. Stacey, J.P. Snowdoun, Precinct 10, Commissioned January 26, 1887 Thomas R. Stacey, N.P. And J.P., see Commissions; Vol. 43 (1868-1883), p. No. 3

### **Thomas Stacey As Postmaster:**

McGhee's Post Office, March 8, 1875 – Discontinued, January, 8, 1877

The Post Office resumed work under the name of the Hope Hull community located in the northwestern part of Montgomery County near the large plantation of Abner McGehee. Because of the Mobile and Montgomery Railroad, the stop became known as McGehee Switch, then Hope Hull. Thomas Stacey did not continue as Postmaster once the McGehee Post Office was discontinued.<sup>8</sup>

### **Litigation Involving Thomas R. Stacey Regarding Land Disputes\***

- Reports of Cases Argued and Determined  
Reports in the Supreme Court of Alabama at  
The January Term 1872, Vol. XLVII, p. 714-722  
(This case has a reference to Stacey's bankruptcy)

- Reports of Cases Argued and Determined  
In the Supreme Court During the November Term,  
November 1899; Hon. A.D. Sayre. "Stacey et al v. Walter et al"  
1901 Vol. CXXV, p. 294-297

\*Google Books

### Thomas R. Stacey and The United Veterans of Camp Lomax

Following the war, veterans banded together in memory of their days in the field, the hardships and losses they endured and the friendships they cherished. One of these Montgomery groups was the Lomax Encampment, named in memory of General Tennant Lomax, who died at the Battle of Seven Pines in 1862.

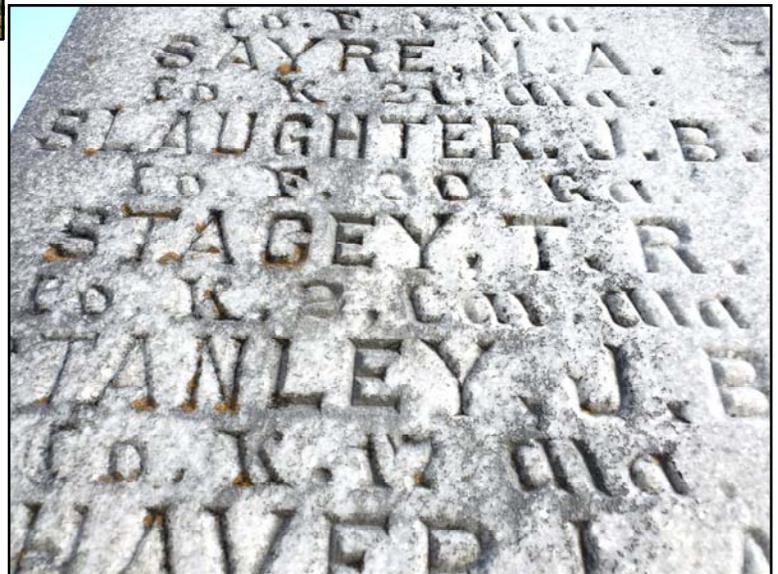
The arch, located at Oakwood Cemetery, was paid for by contributions of the citizens of Montgomery. It was made of Georgia marble and cost approximately \$1000.

This monument is located at the front of the Cemetery on Columbus Street. It is a double arch supported by three square columns with steps leading down to the street. All four sides of each column are engraved with the names of men who belonged to this local Confederate veterans' organization.

From An Oakwood Cemetery Facebook Album



The Lomax Arch  
Photo: Courtesy of Gary Burton



Stacey name inscribed  
Photo: Courtesy of Gary Burton

## THOMAS R. STACEY'S FAMILY BURIALS IN THE BETHEL CEMETERY

Pintlala's Bethel Baptist Church was founded in 1818. Hordes of people had traveled the Old Federal Road. Many had settled in the area. The father and grandfather of Thomas R. Stacey were in the area by the mid 1820s. The church was well attended. In the 1830s, the first decade of Thomas's life, a regional split took place in many Baptist churches between the missionary-minded Baptists and the Primitive Baptists. The Primitive Baptists were in the majority. The Missionary Baptists were rejected and left. The Bethel Baptist Church may be the only Baptist church to commemorate a church split. A marker is in the cemetery doing just that!

When combing the old church minutes and church roll, the Staceys: Thomas Stacey, Mary Elizabeth (Porter) Stacey, and son William V. Stacey are buried in the church cemetery, but there is no record of church membership.

Their daughter Ellen Caroline Stacey is buried with her husband, Tristram Bethea Walter in Greenwood Cemetery, Montgomery.

So how was it that Thomas Stacey, wife and son were permitted to be interred in the Bethel Cemetery? Perhaps they attended the once-a-month church service often enough to be in a level of good standing. A key to our understanding may come from the old church roll. Although Mary Elizabeth (Porter) Stacey was not a mem-



The Stacey Family Marker  
Photo: Courtesy of Gary Burtons



Ellen Caroline Stacey 1910  
Photo: Courtesy of Adam Pitts

ber, her father, Vincent R. Porter, was. Mr. Porter may have advocated for the Stacey family if such advocacy were necessary. W.G. Robertson in his "Recollections of the Early Settlers of Montgomery County, Alabama," comments on Vincent R. Porter.

The Bethel Baptist Church minutes open a window to Vincent Porter's life and the life of the church.<sup>9</sup>

- July 22, 1843: Opened a door for the reception of members, and Recd. by letter Bro. James Taylor and also Recd. by experience Henry a man of colour (the property of V.R. Porter) p.155
- August 27<sup>th</sup>, 1843 Convened at the water and opened a door for the reception of members and Recd. by Experience Charles a man of colour the property of Mr. V.R. Porter. P. 156
- June 26<sup>th</sup> 1847 Inquired of business in order when it was stated to the conference that Henry a man of colour the property of V.R. Porter (a member of this church) had been in disorder by running away from his master stealing &c, the case was taken up and after deliberation he was expelled from the church. p.178.

NOTE: The parenthetical content was written by the church clerk. Why would the clerk make such a comment?

## The three obituaries

## RECORD OF DEATHS.

### Captain Thomas R. Stacy.

Capt. Thomas R. Stacy, one of the best known citizens of Montgomery County, died at his residence at Chisholm early yesterday morning, after a lingering illness. Captain Stacy was in the 71st year of his age, and was a highly cultured gentleman. He was born in Snowdown, this county, and had never lived outside the boundaries of Montgomery County. He grew up with the progress of this community and was known to almost every citizen in this section of the State.

Captain Stacy was married twice. His first wife was a Miss Campbell, and his second wife was a Miss Porter, daughter of the late Vincent R. Porter of Montgomery County. His widow and one son and daughter survive him. They are Mr. William Stacy of Chisholm, and Mrs. T. B. Walter of Snowdown.

Captain Stacy was an honored Confederate Veteran and was captain of a company of the 2nd Alabama Cavalry, General Clanton commanding.

At the time of his death he was a member of Troop A, Montgomery Mounted Rifles, of this city. He was also a member of Camp Lomax United Confederate Veterans. The deceased had been a large planter most of his life, but at one time shortly after the war he engaged in the bakery business in Montgomery. He was a man full of energy and activity and was generous and public spirited.

The funeral will take place from the residence at Chisholm at 6 o'clock this morning. The remains will be taken to the cemetery at Bethel Church, fourteen miles from Montgomery on the Mobile Road, near Colquitt, where the interment will be made.

Thomas R. Stacy, August 3 1901, p.5  
Newspapers.com, *The Montgomery Advertiser*

### Burial of Mrs. Stacy.

The funeral of Mrs. Mary E. Stacy, who died Monday morning at the residence of Mr. J. A. Walters at Sprague Junction takes place today at Bethel Baptist Church. Rev. J. M. Barnes will officiate. The deceased was sixty-three years old. Before marriage she was Miss Mary E. Porter and was born and spent her entire life in Montgomery County. She is survived by a son, Mr. W. V. Stacy, and a daughter, Mrs. T. B. Walter, of Snowdown.

The pall bearers will be, Messrs. J. B. Walter, J. P. Jackson, J. T. Robertson, J. W. Underwood, J. B. Slaughter, J. T. Boyd, D. C. Walter, and Walter Boyd.

Mary Porter Stacey, September 20, 1905, p. 8  
Newspapers.com, *The Montgomery Advertiser*

### WILLIAM V. STACEY

William Vinson Stacey, 66, died at his home, 29 Marshall Street, yesterday at 7:30 a.m. after an extended illness. Mr. Stacey had made Montgomery his home for 50 years and was a member of the Baptist Church. He is survived by his widow and one daughter, Miss Jean Stacey, of this city. The funeral will be held from the Leak chapel today at 4 p.m. Dr. H. V. Carson will officiate. Burial will be in the Bethel Cemetery.

William V. Stacey, June 24, 1933, p.5  
Newspapers.com, *The Montgomery Advertiser*

Observations: The funeral service for Thomas R. Stacey was held at his residence at 6:00 A.M. on Sayre St. The drive across Montgomery County to the Bethel Cemetery was a long trip. The old church building was still erect. Mary Elizabeth Stacey's funeral was held in the old church, but when William V. Stacey died, the Bethel Church was gone, having been dismantled by Dr. Frank Shackelford a few years previous.

### **Conclusion:**

Thomas R. Stacey's life of 71 years spanned a significant period of time in our nation and in our county. Well known throughout the County, T. R. Stacey, with virtues and flaws, was remembered as a worthy citizen nine years after death. In the final mention, he was heralded in this manner:

### **NOTES**

1. Steve Stacey. Supplemental information emailed to Gary Burton. September 8, 2020.
2. U.S. Department of The Interior: Bureau of Land Management, [gloreCORDS.blm.gov](http://gloreCORDS.blm.gov).
3. Newsletter, [pintlalahistoricalassociation.com](http://pintlalahistoricalassociation.com), October 2018, vol. 32; Number 1
4. Dr. Dallas Hanbury, Montgomery County Archivist, text message to Gary Burton, May 20, 2020
5. Newsletter, [pintlalahistoricalassociation.com](http://pintlalahistoricalassociation.com), December 1989, Vol. 3; Number 5, p.
6. Email from Adam Pitts to Gary Burton, November 7, 2020
7. Image, Richard Hook, Illustrator, with author, Ron Fields, Men-at-Arms series, Osprey Publishing, 2005. The Confederate Army: Florida, Alabama, Georgia, section 8.
8. Phone calls from Gary Burton To Bob Bradley, November 16,24,25 with multiple texts.
9. Newsletter, [pintlalahistoricalassociation.com](http://pintlalahistoricalassociation.com), January 2011, Vol. 15, No.1
10. Minutes, Bethel Baptist Church, ADAH

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Robert Bradley.** Bob is a former Chief Curator for the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Whatever I know about the Civil War, I owe to Bob as an engaging conversationalist.

**Dr. Dallas Hanbury.** Dallas is our Montgomery County Archivist and he represents the history and heritage of our County in a way that inspires responsible citizenship.

**Adam Pitts.** Adam is the Branch Manager of the Lawrenceville Library in the Gwinnett County, Georgia Library System. Months ago Adam sought the help of Pintlala Historical Association wanting information about the Walter family. He has provided me with valuable information related to Thomas R. Stacy. I am very grateful.

**Steve Stacey.** Steve has been generous with information about the Stacey family. I am indebted to him for his keen interest in local and regional history. He works part time for the Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission and as a local historian for Monroe County.



**PINTLALA HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION**

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

**NEXT MEETING**

**JANUARY 17, 2021**

**2:30 P.M.  
VIA ZOOM**

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**