

PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting:

July 18, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.
Pintlala Baptist Church



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

Volume XXXV, Number 2

www.pintlalahistoricalassociation.com

July 2021

Brady Family Cemetery, Highway 31, Pintlala, Alabama, July 2021; Outstanding example of careful and consistent care by a family



Photo courtesy Gary Burton

2021 OFFICERS

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 Secretary Karon Bailey (334)281-6239
 Treasurer Ina Slade (334)284-0337
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The End Of The Road Is Closer Now

About this time last year the Montgomery County Commission and Attorney John Bowman, Jr. worked together to “vacate” the last .056 mile of the Old Federal Road which terminated at the Lowndes County line. The notice of action to be taken was posted for four weeks in the Montgomery Independent last year.

I missed it. Check out the Montgomery County minutes for 2020, AGENDA, pp. 13-21. Most people, yours truly included, were unaware until the locked gate was visible. It now straddles the road. A phone conversation with Mr. Bowman a few weeks ago was cordial and helpful. I learned that Jeff Sanderson, not the Bowmans, owns the property where the McPherson Cemetery is located. Anecdotally, Mr. Bowman told of encountering a group searching for the cemetery during hunting season!

While we will continue to communicate as needed with Mr. Bowman, what is not lost are opportunities for scholarship and learning about the Old Federal Road. The PHA has been on the forefront of gathering information about this old historic treasure of a road. Checkout the PHA website: pintlalahistoricalassociation.com to recall our sponsorship for the archaeology done in 2012 and hosting the first public event in 2019 for the newly published *The Old Federal Road in Alabama: An Illustrated Guide*. The PHA is wedded to the Old Federal Road and there is still much to learn.

Gary Burton, President
garyburton1@charter.net

July 2021 PHA Program

Pintlala Historical Association will convene on Sunday, July 18, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. at Pintlala Baptist Church. Our program will be presented by Dorothy Gidiere who has served as Head of Archival Collections at Alabama Department of Archives and History since 2013. She will speak on the publication, *The Meteor*, a newsletter written, edited and published from 1872-1881 by patients at Bryce Hospital in Tuscaloosa. The newsletters are in the Archival Collections at the ADAH.

Prior to joining the staff at ADAH, Dorothy worked for Ancestry.com and the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in Nashville. She holds a Masters of Arts in Public History from Middle Tennessee State University and an additional Masters degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Please join us on July 18!

Alice Carter: alicecarter444@gmail.com



Dorothy Gidiere

THANK YOU!

New Members!

Mr. Mark Dauber, Hope Hull, AL

Mr. Mike Hawthorne, Hope Hull, AL

Mr. Gerry Sapp, Homewood, AL

Welcome and thanks for your support!

Thanks to all of our loyal and devoted members who paid your Membership dues for 2021! You are appreciated for your support and interest. Dues are always due in January so in a mere seven months you will see a reminder to pay again! Your dues make it possible to keep the history wheels of Hope Hull and surrounding communities rolling right along.

A special thanks to our treasurer, Ina Slade, for her record keeping and patience with yours truly as I attempt to keep the membership records up to date.

Alice Carter

**PHA Friends: Betty Matthias Chesnutt, 1926-2021 and
Jacob Thomas Chesnutt, Jr., 1921-2021**

Betty and Thomas Chesnutt were friends of the PHA organization through their willingness to dig deep into their memory banks when called upon to help with research projects for articles for our quarterly newsletters. They came to our October 15, 2017 meeting to present their memories of Thomas' time in the U. S. Navy aboard the USS Fletcher. He experienced harrowing times during WWII while protecting his country. See book: *Tin Can Titans: The Heroic Men and Ships of World War II's Most Decorated Navy Destroyer Squadron* by John F. Wukovits at the Pintlala Library. We appreciated each meeting with them and their graciousness to those wanting to learn from them. I recall as a young mother in the Pintlala community being around Betty at Home Demonstration Club meetings. She was a breath of fresh air for our rather staid members. They were, as shared at their Celebration of Life service held on June 26, 2021, full of energy with four lively children. Both were devout followers of Jesus Christ and shared their beliefs with many. The two retired together from management positions with Stuckeys at Hope Hull. They will truly be missed. Our sympathy is extended to their four children and grandchildren.

As you can see from their life dates above, Betty died first on May 21, 2021 at age 95 and Thomas soon followed his beloved Betty only 27 days later on June 16, 2021 at age 99.

Note: In July 2017, PHA hosted a program at Pintlala Baptist Church called "The Gathering" which was jointly sponsored by the Montgomery County Historical Society. Thomas was interviewed by Christie Anderson from the Society and this can be found through the website: omeka.lib.auburn.edu—and on this site type the word "Chesnutt" in the search bar, look for "listen here". Click on "here" and the interview should come up.

My Unanswered Questions and Unresolved Issues

Gary Burton

After many years of learning from Pintlala's local history, research has given rise to persistent questions that wake me up in the middle of the night. I am not hard and fast in staying with the Pintlala surroundings, but I often expand beyond to tangential areas of Montgomery County. Influence is not always limited by geography. A love for local history agitates my curiosity and deepens my love for Pintlala.

So I am providing a summary list of my unresolved issues. You may have answers for me. You may point me in a helpful direction. A farmer or hunter may have stumbled upon some evidence. A classroom teacher, a professional historian, or a landowner may help with a serendipitous discovery. Your information will be treated with gratitude and respect and confidentiality, if necessary. So...here is my summary list. The list is not exhaustive, nor in order of importance. Sleepless in Pintlala, Gary Burton, 334-315-2235.

1. The location of John Scott's burial site

John Scott, a founder for the city of Montgomery is acknowledged in Oakwood Cemetery, along with many other notables. He was one of two founders for the City of Montgomery, along with Andrew Dexter. A beautiful tribute to the memory of John Scott exists in the early Oakwood Cemetery, but his grave is not there. Mary Ann Neeley states in her book on Matthew Blue: *John Scott is buried in an unmarked grave in Lowndes County, but his family placed a marker in the family plot in Oakwood Cemetery.*

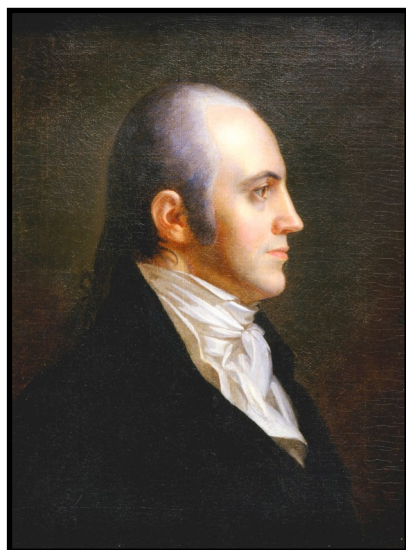


John Scott (Memorial Marker in Oakwood Cemetery)

2. The Hope Hull Hymnal

Hope Hull in 1803 published *Hymns and Spiritual Songs*. He remained active as a preacher and Methodist leader until his death in 1818. On his deathbed, the "Father of Methodism in Georgia" said to David Merriwether, "I am under new marching orders and I am ready to obey." In studying the Rev. Hope Hull a few years ago and learning of his hymnbook, I have salivated at the thought of acquiring one. The help of Dr. Paul Richardson, a friend, and Church Music schol-

ar and hymnologist, has almost convinced me that none exists any longer. He may be right. It may not hurt, however, to check your family's piano bench.



Aaron Burr (Portrait by John Vanderlyn, 1802, Wikipedia)

3. Aaron Burr and Moniac's Tavern

A few days after the capture of the former Vice President (1807) in what became southwest Alabama, a military escort led by Nicolas Perkins was charged to take Burr to Richmond to stand trial. With Burr occupying the horse at the center, there were horses with riders on each side, one at the rear and Perkins riding as the leader. It is claimed by many that Aaron Burr and his escort spent the night at Moniac's Tavern near today's Pintlala. The claim is made by those who speak with authority, such as Peter Brannon and others. However, in checking the Federal receipts for the trip made by Perkins I could find no evidence. It is most likely that Aaron Burr did just that. It would be nice to have confirming documentation.

4. Isaac Willett (1807-1857)

Willett is buried in the Bethel Cemetery. The point of my curiosity is to determine if there were a relationship with Col. Marinus Willett. Marinus Willet figured prominently when the first treaty of the U.S. government was agreed upon in 1790. The Treaty of New York was struck with the Creek Indian Nation. President Washington dispatched Marinus Willet to escort many prominent Creeks to New York and primarily to relate to Alexander McGillivray. Sam Moniac, who would settle in the area of today's Pintlala, was in the party. It becomes quite a story about the journey to and from New York, the celebrations and negotiations, the peace medals distributed, and the results of treaty.



Bethel Marker

5. A Major Church Split

The regional split between Primitive and Missionary Baptist in 1837. This division was deep and commemorated by a marker placed in the Bethel Cemetery in 1923. More work should be done on the divisions within families and if the vit-

riol within families determined settlement patterns in certain locations in Montgomery County.

6. The Parmers

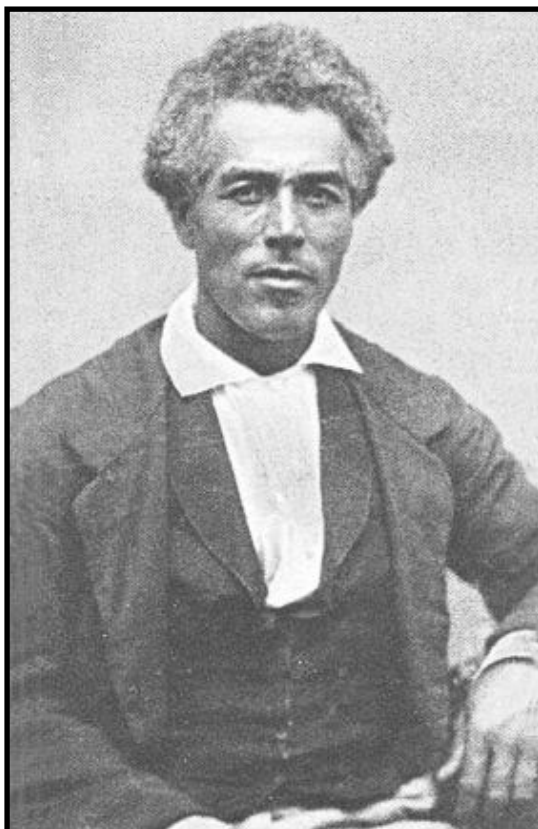
Twelve Parmers are buried on the back row of graves in the Bethel Cemetery. Who was this influential family who settled in Pintlala? The earliest burial was Mariah Parmer (1796-Nov.6, 1843) and the latest interment, William Worth Parmer (Oct. 30, 1848-July 18, 1901).

7. William Bartram (April 20, 1739-July 22, 1823) and Pintlala

William Bartram was a botanist, ornithologist, and natural historian who traveled extensively throughout the early period of the United States. His excursion into today's Pintlala is noted by some chronologists as July 20, 1775 with some latitude. It is stated that he *crossed Pintlala Creek near the present day town of*



William Bartram (Portrait by Charles Willson Peale, Wikipedia)



Horace-King (Wikipedia)

Pintlala. His images and description of the natural life of young America are compelling and inspirational. The context of his work and connections with national leaders is worth a lifetime of study. Bartram's presence in the Pintlala area predates the commissioning of the Federal Road (1803) by 28 years.

8. Horace King, Bridge Builder(1807-May 27, 1885) And Southwest Montgomery County

Born a slave, Horace King became well known as a master bridge builder and a skilled craftsman in construction and woodworking. King is well known for building the spiral staircases in Montgomery's State Capitol and in the old First Presbyterian Church. During the period of Reconstruction, Horace King served in the Alabama Legislature and contributed in many ways to improvements in central Alabama. Although my interests are narrow, I

want to know about King's involvement in our part of the county with bridge building or bridge repair. My first contacts will be with Dr. Richard Bailey, local historian, and Dr. Dallas Hanbury, Montgomery County Archivist.

9. Line Creek, The Village

Hundreds of people responding to the lure of Alabama Fever, the opportunity for the acquisition of land and a fresh start, crossed this creek, now the dividing boundary between Macon and Montgomery Counties. Was there a village? Where was it precisely located? We know of a Post Office, but was there more?

10. Pintlala and Slavery

What evidence remains of slavery as an institution? Unmarked graves? Old structures, family stories, records?

There is so much to learn and the list is always growing. Even a hint of information may open a wide door to learning and publishing in the PHA Newsletter. Without historical underpinnings, a community's culture is very superficial.

Gary Burton

garyburton1@charter.net

334-315-2235



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255 Federal Road
Hope Hull, AL 36043*

NEXT MEETING

**JULY 18, 2021
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