

# PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Next Meeting:

July 17, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.  
Pintlala Baptist Church



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

Volume XXXVI, Number 3

www.pintlalahistoricalassociation.com

July 2022



Side view , Hill's Chapel Church, 2022, After renovations of 2021, photograph courtesy, Gary Burton

I love it when Pintlala history thrives. No resident of Southwest Montgomery County can function without knowing something significant about this part of the county. Consider this:

A new historical marker is in the long process of becoming reality. It will commemorate the pre-Federal Road travel of the naturalist, William Bartram. He is probably the least known of the notables who made their way through what is now Pintlala. William Bartram (April 20, 1739 – July 22, 1823) was an American botanist, ornithologist, natural historian and explorer. We will be learning so much more as we prepare for the historical marker.

As a matter of fact, Alice Carter called my attention to the following paragraph in *George Shackelford and Annette Jeter and Their Descendants*. Editor-in- Chief: Edward Madison Shackelford, President Emeritus, State Teachers College, Troy, Alabama and Assistant Editor, Franklin Shackelford Moseley, Director Wesley Foundation, Auburn, Alabama. The Paragon Press, Montgomery, Alabama, 1941:

*And the records of the Alabama Anthropological Society (an extra extract from which hangs in Moseley's store nearby) mention Alexander McGillvray, the "Talleyrand of the Creek nation": LeClerc Milford,; his brother-in-law and later a general under Napoleon: William Bowles, a pirate and "soldier of fortune": William Bartram, a naturalist from Philadelphia: and Benjamin Hawkins, the first Indian agent for the United States government south of the Ohio—all having passed over the federal road which ran through this community and by Sam Manac's [Moniac's] home.*

We will learn much about Bartram in the days to come.

An unrelated note: The Pintlala Elementary School will observe its One Hundredth year of institutional public education of children in southwest Montgomery County on September 22, 2022. More information to come.

Additionally, *The History of Pintlala Elementary School*, published in 2009 has been digitized and can be read online at the website for pintlalahistoricalassociation.com. Thanks to Jerrie Burton for handling this project.

Gary Burton, President



### In Memoriam

Lorraine McLaney, wife of Ricky McLaney



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Anderson, Byron, Georgia  
Mrs. Alice Steen, Hampton, Georgia

*Both of these members are descendants of Felix Anderson and Franklin Goff Anderson who lived in Pintlala*

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Dunn  
Montgomery, AL

Mr. Ted Lamar  
Hope Hull, Alabama

### 2022 OFFICERS

President..... Gary Burton .....(334)288-7414  
Vice President &  
Program Chairperson .Alice T. Carter.....(334)281-3708  
Secretary .....Karon Bailey .....(334)281-6239  
Treasurer.....Ina Slade .....(334)284-0337  
Parliamentarian .....Jack Hornady.....(334)396-2130  
Members at Large  
Place 1 ..... Patsy Davis.....(334)288-6589  
Place 2 .....Daisy Anne Brady...(334)398-0636  
Place 3 .....Frank Ellis.....(334)315-8927  
Place 4 ..... Alan Davis .....(334)270-8657  
Newsletter Designer Angelique Pugh

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message .....Page 2  
In Memoriam / Welcome New Members .....Page 2  
July Program .....Page 3  
Hill's Chapel Church .....Page 4  
Phillip Fitzpatrick  
First Sheriff of Montgomery County, Alabama .....Page 7

**PHA Program for July 2022**

Pintlala Historical Association will meet at 2:30 on July 17, 2022 at Pintlala Baptist Church, Fellowship Hall. Our program will be a double-header — two speakers with Pintlala ties: Michael Smith and Dr. Tony Hopper.

Michael Smith lives in Greenville and is employed at Newell Brothers Road Builders as the lead mechanic for all of the VERY large equipment used in road building. He has developed a hobby of exploring the countryside with a souped-up metal detector. He has had fun and learned a lot through his hobby. He will bring some of his “treasures” to display and tell about at our July meeting.

Dr. Tony Hopper is a man of varied interests. He earned a doctorate in Electrical Engineering at Auburn University in 1970 and taught at Auburn University, Florida Institute of Technology, Auburn/Montgomery, Troy State/Montgomery and Faulkner University. From 1970 through 1988, Tony was Senior Engineer at four different engineering firms in the southeast. He began his own business, Hopper Professional Services, Inc., which did site preparation work from 1975-2007. He had a beef cattle operation in Hope Hull from 1975-2016. Another area of his life is his church affiliation with the Church of Christ. He was a preacher at two churches in Tennessee and served at Hope Hull Church of Christ for one year. He has made five trips to Mexico and 12 trips to Africa both for short-term missions work. He and his wife, Iva Kate Hall are currently members of Vaughn Park Church of Christ in Montgomery.

Another interest for Tony is playing violin with the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra.

He is the author of *Dearest Darling, It's Been a Long, Long Time: Love Letters from WWII*. This book is part world history and part family history. This history was uncovered with the discovery of a box of 300 letters chronicling Bert Hopper's (father of Tony) time in WWII, his love for wife, Lois and son Tony and his faith in God.

“The rest of the story” will be told by Tony at the July 17th PHA meeting.

Both of these fellows are interesting and I think you will enjoy meeting them and hearing their stories!

See you on July 17th!



Michael Smith with his metal detector, ready for exploring, photo courtesy Sarah Beth Carter



Dr. Tony Hopper, photo courtesy Dr. Tony Hopper

This article was transcribed by Alice Carter from an article in the *Montgomery Advertiser*, September 15, 1968. Bracketed material was added based on an article in the *Heritage of Montgomery County, Alabama*, published by Heritage Publishing Consultants, Inc., Clanton, Alabama, 2001. The Heritage article was submitted by Mary Shirley Rosier, Hope Hull, and former PHA member.

**Hill's Chapel Church**

By Mildred Smith

Hill's Chapel famed old Methodist Church and campground in Southern Montgomery County [located on Long Road, near Red's Little Schoolhouse Restaurant] is one of the county's oldest houses of worship.

The church derived its name from the Hill Family who gave 15 acres of land on which to build it. [Montgomery County Heritage Book states that the William S. Hill family donated five acres in 1857 for the building of the church. The original church building was located in the present cemetery area, but was later replaced by another building across the road. The third and current structure was completed in 1937. No evidence of the first two buildings remains. Over 45 pastors have served during these many years.]

While the church records have not been preserved in full, it is known that the camp meetings were originated about 1873. Many families built “tents” consisting of four or five rooms of rough lumber on the church grounds and met there annually on the second Friday in August for a week of services under a large open tabernacle that would seat several hundred people.

**Near Cool Spring**

The camp ground was located on a sloping plot of ground near a cool spring about 300 yards from the church and some of the families who built and occupied “tents” were: Llewellyn Evans, W. D. Zuber, Phillip G. Fannin, William Parks, W. C. Wright, William Snipes, John Giddens, James F. Davis, William Ellison, T. G. Young, Green Thweatt, Jesse Wadsworth. Rev. J.L. Smilie, J.H. McNeill, Mrs. Sallie Lawrence, Frank Boswell, Jack Davenport and William Cross.

The tents were thrown open to the public, lodging was given as many as could be taken care of at night, food was free, and hospitality was at its height. A granddaughter of Phillip Fannin still has the trunk in which food was taken to the camp meeting, trunks being the favorite packing box for cakes, pies and other goodies cooked in advance.

Few are left who recall the camp meetings, but those who do tell how their pioneer parents bundled them into wagons laden with the trunks filled with food and set forth for a week's stay at the camp ground. They recall how other families came from a hundred miles or more and how on one occasion the great evangelists, Sam Jones and Sam Small, preached to a crowd of more than 3,000.

**Ex-Chaplin**

At present, Hill's Chapel is one of the churches of the Ramer-Pine Level Methodist charge, and the pastor is the Rev. Robert Cruikshank, a former army sergeant who resigned from the military service to enter the ministry.

Some other preachers who have served Hill's Chapel are: J. W. Shares, T. B. Seales, B. S. Perry, Jerry Williams, Neal Gillis, Jake Nelson, Dr. H. H. McNeill, G. W. Jones, W. F. Price, J. A. Stripling, H. T. Johnson, J. D. Kersh, Hugh Gillis, C. Bates, Roy Moore, J. T. Martin, S. T. Trotter, L.H. S. Chappell, O.J. Goodman, J. W. Breedlove, W. P. Pattillo, H. R. Hudgens, E. W. Coleman, W. O. Calhoun, Leo Brannen, Robert Hendricks, H. C. Bass.

The oldest living member of Hill's Chapel is 93-year-old Claude B. Smilie of Pine Level, one of the pioneer settlers of Montgomery County and first resident of the community now known as Smiletown, settled by his sons and daughters who built homes around him.

### Editors Additions

By Alice Carter

A trip to Hill's Chapel Methodist Church campus on a sunny June afternoon in 2022 provided information which updated the Mildred Smith article of 1968. An attractive sign, erected in 1999, near Long Road and the church campus states that the church originated in 1872 rather than 1873 as written by Smith. A plaque located near the front door of the Church informs those who enter that some building renovations at the Church were completed in 2021. A phone interview with Mrs. Bobbie Williams, sister of Mrs. Hazel Bozeman Phillips, on July 5, 2022 helped me understand the renovations made to the Church in 2021. These were: repair work to the steeple; replacement of brick skirting to a timber skirting around the building; a new front entrance including brick steps and porch with iron railings and white support columns; and new shrubbery across the front of the building. A new porch roof was included in the renovation project designed by Jimmy Sellars. Please read the plaque pictured below for more information. The renovation project was graciously and generously sponsored by Mrs. Hazel B. Phillips.



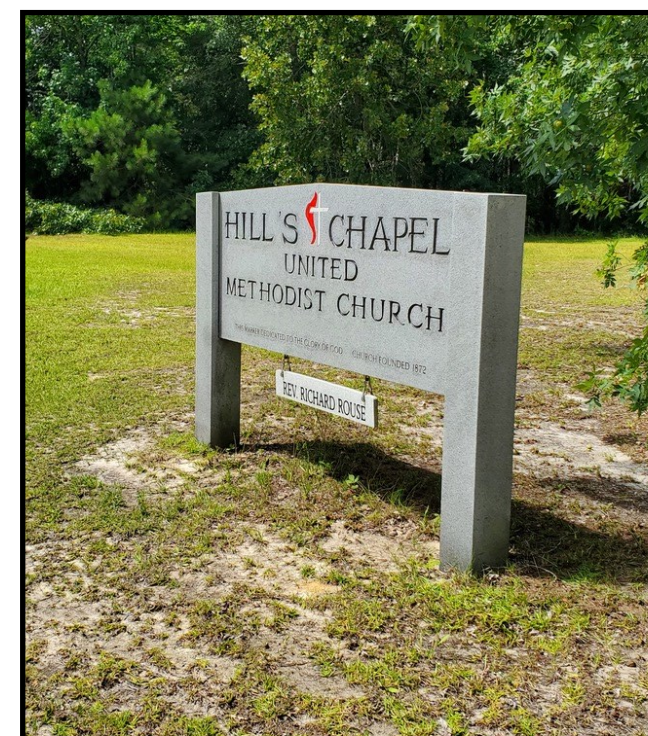
Hills Chapel Church, likely the 1937 building before renovation of 2021, Photo courtesy of Bobbie Williams



Plaque at Church entrance, Photo courtesy of Gary Burton



Designer, Mr. Jimmy Sellars; Mrs. Hazel Bozeman Phillips; Architect, Mr. Andy Smith, photo courtesy Bobbie Williams



Outdoor sign near entrance to Hill's Chapel Methodist Church, 2022, Photo courtesy of Gary Burton

**Phillip Fitzpatrick**  
**First Sheriff of Montgomery County, Alabama**

Phillip Fitzpatrick was the first sheriff of Montgomery County, Alabama. He was born in Green County, Georgia on November 18, 1788. Fitzpatrick and his siblings came to Alabama, then the Mississippi Territory, in 1816 and moved to St. Stevens (Washington County) on the Alabama River. They later relocated to Pike County near old Monticello, and then eventually settled in Montgomery County. The Fitzpatrick family were considered pioneers of that area, where they contended with Indians, raised large families, prospered and grew wealthy.

In 1816, the County of Montgomery was created by an Act of the Legislature of the Mississippi Territory. It was one of the original 7 Alabama counties created before the Alabama territory was established. Phillip Fitzpatrick was appointed Sheriff of Montgomery County in 1817 when Alabama was finally designated a territory; it was still a wilderness area. Alabama was later granted statehood in 1819. After vacating the office of sheriff, Fitzpatrick served as a State Representative in the Alabama Legislature from 1819-1820 and 1822.

Sheriff Fitzpatrick settled and lived in Line Creek, Montgomery County, Alabama, which is presently in the northwest part of Bullock County. This area and location is now Fitzpatrick, Alabama, an unincorporated community named for one of the Fitzpatrick brothers, probably Phillips. Some of this land is still in the hands of direct descendants of the original owners and has been farmed by their families for close to 200 years.

There are no present historical records on how Sheriff Fitzpatrick died at the age of 46, on October 28, 1835. He was one of the first family members to be buried in the Crews Cemetery in Fitzpatrick, Alabama, located on land now owned by Louis and Judy Rutland. The cemetery eventually held approximately 60 graves, many of which bear the Fitzpatrick name. The cemetery had no further recorded burials after 1915.

The MCSO will continue to highlight in future publications, as historical records permit, the past sheriffs of Montgomery County, Alabama.

Editors Note:

This article has been reprinted with permission of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office from its Quarterly Newsletter that is edited by Chief Deputy Kevin Murphy. Deputy Murphy used the name "Phillip" as found on the tombstone for Sheriff Fitzpatrick. However, in several other reference sources the name is found as "Phillips" Fitzpatrick. PHA appreciates the generosity of the MCSO and its willingness to share information.



**PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

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

**NEXT MEETING**

**JULY 17, 2022**  
**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**