

# PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

## Next Meeting:

April 24, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.  
Pintlala Baptist Church



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

Volume XXXVI, Number 1

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

January 2022



A six-mule team dray hauling cotton as seen at Court Square, Montgomery, ca. 1900  
Scanned from *A History of Montgomery in Pictures*, Published by the Society of Pioneers, date unknown

## 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
April Program .....	Page 2
A Posthumous Honor for David Manac .....	Page 3
Stanfield Uniform Donated to ADAH .....	Page 4
What is a Higgins Boat? .....	Page 5
Jesse Bethea Walter Letter .....	Page 6
Part II: Those Enterprising Walter Brothers .....	Page 9

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"My walk through the cemetery was an acquaintance with local history."  
Author: Christopher S. Wren

My experience affirms Wren's observation. I find the study of local history to be stimulating and energizing. It is my opinion that the next significant historical breakthroughs will occur at the local level. I am thinking beyond the discovery of information, which indeed awaits our persistent curiosity, to a sense of understanding why history has unfolded in its unique manner.

For decades I have devoted myself to learning everything I can about Thomas Jefferson. Even his dark side is vital to contextual learning. The truth is that I will need two or three more lifetimes for this quest, and that might not be enough.

Yet it is the local history of Pintlala and southwest Montgomery County which I approach with a deepening and dedicated interest. My appetite to learn about the place where I live is on steroids. The result is that I have an intense sense of place. Perhaps you would find it fulfilling to embark down a similar path. How does one begin?

- Scroll through the archived editions of our newsletters on the PHA website: [pintlalahistoricalassociation.com](http://pintlalahistoricalassociation.com). From the founding days of our organization (1987) until the current day vast treasures of information exist.
- Google "Pintlala." I know this seems elemental, but something may pop up stimulating interest.
- Share this copy of the newsletter. Alice Carter has written a sequel with information about the Walter Brothers and their operation in Sprague. All of this was new to me until Alice began to unearth little known information. Fascinating.
- To get started on this journey of learning local history take a slow walk through an old cemetery.

Gary Burton, President  
[garyburton1@charter.net](mailto:garyburton1@charter.net)  
334-315-2235

### Community Request

A request has been made that PHA ask if any members or readers of the Newsletter have photographs of the Hope Hull area around the intersection of Wasden Road and Highway 31. There were two stores side by side at the intersection that are of particular interest. If you should have pictures, please email them to [garyburton1@charter.net](mailto:garyburton1@charter.net).

One of the stores was the Abner McGehee store and the other was perhaps a store belonging to the Petrus family. Thanks for giving this some thought.

### January 2022 PHA Program

The January 16, 2021 program has been canceled after deliberation and consideration of the current rise in Covid Virus cases. Your dues are still due in January, they remain at \$15.00 per household, please mail to: Pintlala Historical Association, Treasurer, Ina Slade, 15212 Highway 31, Hope Hull, AL 36043. The plan is to meet again on April 24, 2022. The speaker will be Clydetta Fulmer who will share her experience of recently creating two sculptures for Statuary Hall at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Thank you for sending your dues and patience with shifting meeting dates. Prudence with our health concerns are of importance to each of us.

Alice Carter  
Program Chairman

### A Posthumous Honor

Major David Moniac, son of Elizabeth Weatherford and Sam Moniac, was born in Pintlala in 1803. Moniac was the first Native American to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He was honored post-humously last month on November 15. Alice Carter and Gary Burton attended the event. Montgomery Attorney, Richard Allen, and the Alabama Department of Archives and History led and coordinated the events. Note the program:

## HONORING MAJ. DAVID MONIAC, CA. 1802—1836

ALABAMA STATE CAPITOL  
NOVEMBER 15, 2021 · 10:30 AM

---

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Steve Murray  
Director, Alabama Department of Archives & History

### DAVID MONIAC'S LIFE & LEGACY

Dr. Alex Colvin  
Curator of Public Programs,  
Alabama Department of Archives & History

### PRESENTATION OF THE ALABAMA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

Governor Kay Ivey

### RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF MONIAC DESCENDANTS

Lt. Caleb James, U.S. Coast Guard

### PRESENTATION OF MONIAC COIN TO GOVERNOR IVEY

Vicky Topcik

### PHOTOGRAPHS AND CONCLUSION

### MUSIC BY

Capitol Sounds Concert Band

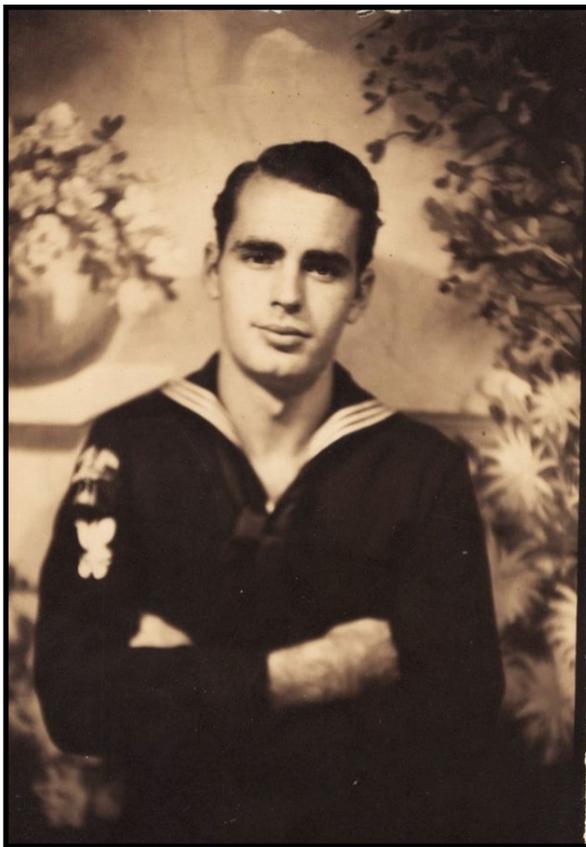
### Stanfield Uniform Donated to ADAH

PHA member Chuck Stanfield recently donated a Navy uniform and photographs that had belonged to his father, L.C. Stanfield, Sr. (1924-2017) originally from Attalla, Alabama in Etowah County. L.C. enlisted in the U. S. Navy at age 18, having completed the sixth grade and worked as a welder. He was stationed in the South Pacific where he was assigned to piloting Higgins Boats transporting men and supplies to Pacific beachheads.

While home on Christmas leave in 1944, Stanfield met Jean Simpson (1930-2003), also of Attalla, and after a 17-day courtship they were married! He returned to the battlefield and returned to Alabama in 1945. After his military discharge, L.C. completed his education at Snead Junior College and Auburn University. He became a vocational agriculture teacher at Billingsley High School, Autauga County and eventually became the principal there. He died at the family home in 2017.

Thanks to the sentimental Jean, L.C.'s uniform, worn for their January, 1945 wedding, was carefully packed away. After L. C. Stanfield's 2017 death, his son Chuck was cleaning out his parents home in Autauga County. The treasured uniform was found in a closet. Chuck consulted with Haley Aaron of the Alabama Department of Archives and History regarding the possibility of donating the uniform for their military collection. It was accepted.

Thanks to Chuck for his generosity in sharing the Navy uniform for many to see and appreciate as we have just honored U. S. Veterans on November 11, 2021.



L.C. Stanfield  
1944



L.C. and Jean, post-marriage  
1944

## What is a Higgins Boat?

The U. S. military began developing small boats in the late 1930s for the purpose of transporting troops from ships to open beaches. Andrew Jackson Higgins of New Orleans was manufacturing shallow-water work boats for the oil and gas industry in the bayous of Louisiana. He began to adapt his boats to meet the U. S. military's specifications for a landing craft. These craft were called Landing Craft Personnel (Large), shortened to LCP(L). At first there were two different craft used for troops and vehicles. The one intended for vehicles was referred to as a Landing Craft, Vehicle or LCV. Businessman Higgins solved this issue by combining the LCP(L) and LCV with a front exit ramp for either personnel or vehicles. The craft come to be called the "Higgins Boat".

These boats changed the way naval warfare was conducted. The troops no longer had to attack heavily defended ports but rather they could unload on an open beach and have more options in selecting their attack points.

Higgins Industries became a major employer during WWII and produced more than 20,000 boats by the end of the War.

Source: Research Starters: Higgins Boats. The National WWII Museum, New Orleans.

**DUES ARE DUE IN JANUARY  
PLEASE MAIL TO : INA SLADE, TREASURER  
15212 HWY 31  
HOPE HULL, AL 36043**

**WELCOME, NEW MEMBER  
Kahren Pugh, Letohatchee, AL**

**Jesse Bethea Walter Letter**

"Information related to the Walter Brothers article published in October, 2021 PHA Newsletter was certainly welcomed and appreciated" commented PHA member, Dr. Martha Lamar of Wisconsin. She was most generous to share a letter written by Jesse Bethea Walter to her grand father, H. C. (Hal) Lamar in 1922, three years before the passing of Jesse Walter. The letterhead and envelope provide documentation of the Snowdown area and the map indicates the location of the Lamar and Walter properties.

Thank you, Marti!

Transcribed Walter Letter:

J. B. Walter  
Dealer in  
Dry Goods, Groceries, Shoes, Hats, Clothing  
Cotton Seed Meal, Oil, Etc.

Highest Market Price Paid  
For Cotton Seed

Snowdown, Ala. Nov. 18, 1922

Dear Hal

I am writing to ask  
you to come over & spend  
the night or part of the day just  
which ever suits you the best. I want  
you to come out & help me get  
well. I need just such a man  
as I know you to be so I will  
say that if it suits you I will  
wait for you next Wednesday  
afternoon & will send you  
back the same way-so hoping  
to see you then. I am

Yours truly  
J. B. Walter

Give my kindest  
regards to Mrs. Lamar  
Let me hear  
in time to send for you

# J. B. WALTER

DEALER IN

DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, SHOES, HATS, CLOTHING

COTTON SEED MEAL, OIL, ETC.

HIGHEST MARKET PRICE PAID  
FOR COTTON SEED

SNOWDOW, ALA.,

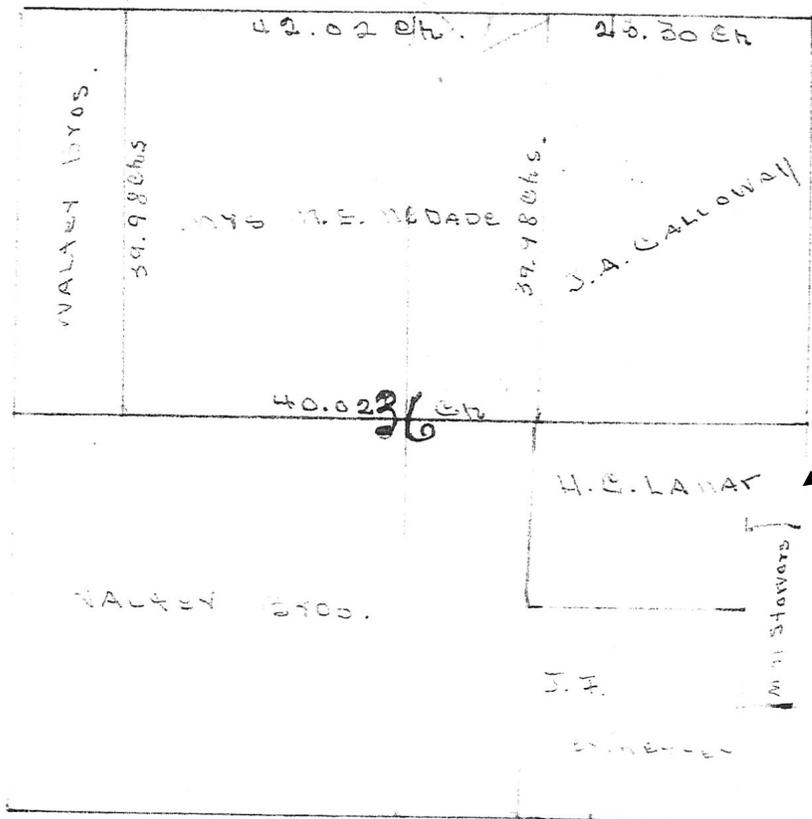
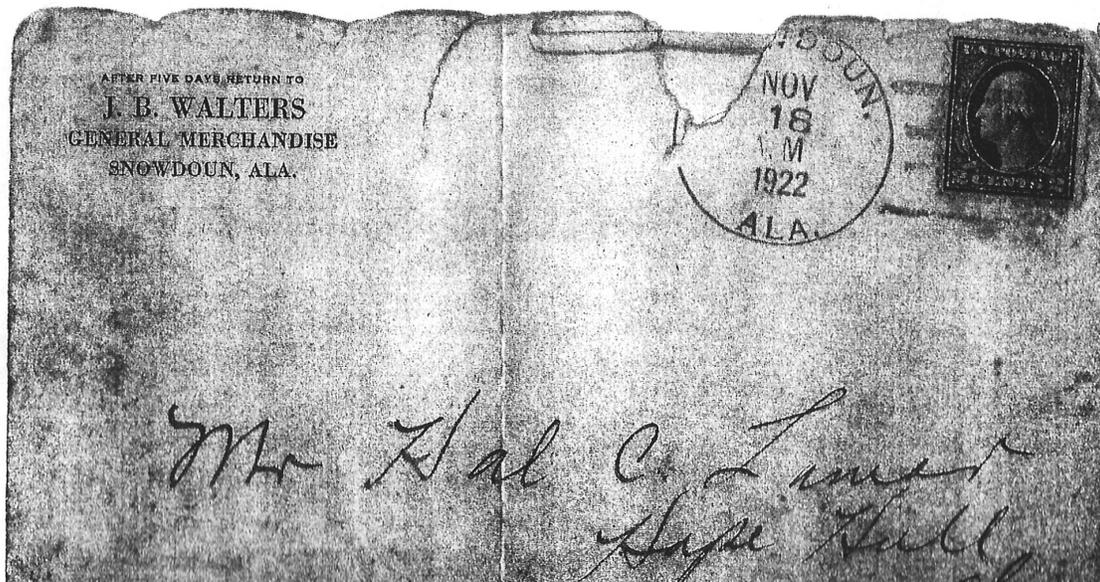
Nov 18 1922

Dear Hill:

I am writing to ask  
 you to come over & spend  
 the night or part of the day just  
 whichever suits you the best. I want  
 you to come over & before get  
 well - I need just such a man  
 as I know you to be - so I will  
 say that if it suits you I will  
 suit for you next wednes day  
 after noon & will send you  
 back the same way - so hoping  
 to see you there I am

With my kindest  
 regards to Mrs Lane -  
 I am best  
 no time to send for you

Yours truly  
 J. B. Walter



Section 36,  
 Township 15, Range 17, as shown by  
 Garrett's Old Map of the County of Montgomery made  
 in 1901, and found in Tax Assessor's Office.

## Those Enterprising Walter Brothers

In the October, 2021 *PHA Newsletter*, readers met the Walter Brothers: Tristram Bethea, Duncan Campbell and Jesse Bethea of Sprague Junction and Snowdoun, Alabama. In this installment the history of the family as seen through their business endeavors will be of primary interest.

Moore Leonard Walter (1803-1873) collected his family of five plus nine slaves and came from South Carolina to Sumter County, Alabama between 1835 and 1839. Duncan Walter provided information to officials for the Confederate Veterans Census of 1907 that he was born in 1839, Sumter County. The family was enumerated in the 1840 United States Census, Sumter County. Why did the group leave the Carolinas? A brief look at Alabama's earliest history provides clues.

"Alabama Fever" was an expression in use by 1817 to describe the rush by settlers to establish land claims in the Mississippi Territory before Alabama became a state in 1819. The Carolinas, Virginia, and Georgia produced many of these settlers. Land in what would become Alabama was available after the defeat of the Creek Confederacy by Andrew Jackson at Horseshoe Bend in 1814. This defeat led to the Indian Removal Act of 1830, which opened up millions of acres to white settlers. These settlers were in search of new land to cultivate, primarily for the production of cotton crops. The repeated growth of cotton on the same soil exhausts the nutrients, leads to soil erosion and the ultimate reduction in cotton yields. This generated the need for constantly expanding the frontiers to keep cotton production in rich, new soil.

Sumter County was part of Alabama known as the "Black Belt" named for the rich, black soil perfect for cotton production. Perhaps the move by Moore Leonard Walter to the Black Belt, was primarily a search for new fertile soil. The family is listed in the 1840 Sumter County census. Census enumerations were and are still taken every ten years. By the time of the 1850 Census, Moore Leonard Walter was listed as a farmer, and his family was counted by Hardy Wilkins in Montgomery County, second district (Ramer area)—not Sumter County.

With the Walter family established in 1850 Montgomery County, their business endeavors can be examined through news articles found in the *Montgomery Advertiser* as early as 1883. Brothers, Tristram and Duncan had served in the Confederate conflict, returned home and began working the family's cotton plantation in the Sprague Junction area. In 1859 their father had deeded property and slaves to his children. Moore Leonard Walter then died in 1873. The three brothers, Tristram, Duncan and youngest, Jesse, formed the Walter Brothers Firm as referred to by Willie Walter Stowers in her book of memories, *Miss Willie*.<sup>1</sup>

Hard working and observant of business trends, the three men were enterprising in developing new businesses such as mercantile stores, cotton gin, saw mill, and planting crops for feeding workers and farm animals.

The *Montgomery Advertiser* published articles over a span of time regarding cotton sales in Montgomery County. A selection of these articles that pertain to the Walter Brothers are transcribed below:

The transcription from the *Montgomery Advertiser* published **October 2, 1883** is the first reference found by this writer to document the Walter Brothers agricultural endeavors:

### Cotton on Wagons

*The enterprising Walter brothers sent to the city [Montgomery] thirty-two or more bales of cotton on wagons from their plantation in the southern portion of the county. First came two or three large wagons and teams each loaded with about six bales, then others with four and so on down to smaller ones with one and two bales. It was a long procession of wagons and mules and shows the scale on which the Walter brothers do business.*

Moving twenty years ahead, the *Montgomery Advertiser* published **March 4, 1903**, reports:

**FARMERS SELL 2,300 BALES**

---

**Big Montgomery Deal in Cotton**

---

**10 Cents Price Paid**

---

**Walter Brothers and Mr. Underwood the Planters**

*Farmers of Montgomery County sold 2,300 bales of cotton in Montgomery yesterday at 10 cents a pound. The sum paid for the cotton approximated \$115,000.00 in cash.*

*The sellers of the cotton were Walter brothers, successful planters and large-land owners near Sprague Junction, and W. S. [W. H.] Underwood a well to do planter in the same section of the county.[See Pintlala Historical Association Newsletter, V. 25, #4, October 2011] The buyer was James P. Ferrell, local representative of an English cotton agency.*

*Walter brothers sold 1,600 bales at 10 cents a pound approximating \$80,000.00 and Mr. Underwood sold 700 bales at the same price for which he was paid about \$35,000.00.*

*When cotton began pouring into Montgomery last summer 7 ¼ cents was a good average price for the staple. At their plantation near Sprague Junction Walter Brothers had made an exceptionally fine crop. They were able to hold their product and they did so. It was safely housed in Montgomery warehouses and the far-seeing planters watched the market.*

*The excitable fluctuation of the cotton market during the past eight months is a matter of history. It went to 7 ½, 8, 8 ½ and finally to 9 cents. Then it went down again. Not for a minute, however, were Walter brothers or Mr. Underwood tempted to sell. They had declared for 10 cents cotton and their time came.*

*Yesterday morning an offer of 10 cents was made by Mr. Ferrell for the lump lot. Walter brothers lost no time in clinching the trade and Mr. Underwood followed suit.*

*The deal was consummated in a brief time on Lower Commerce Street and the 2,300 bags of cotton were in the possession of Mr. Ferrell and \$115,000.00 in cash was in possession of Walter brothers and Mr. Underwood.*

*Taking this as the yield of only two plantations it is about the heaviest transaction in spot cotton that has been heard of in Montgomery in many seasons.*

The next year, **1904, on March 13, the *Montgomery Advertiser*** published the following:

**Walter Brothers Sell 1,100 Cotton Bales for \$72,000**

*Walter Brothers, who conduct the largest farming operations in Montgomery County, near Sprague Junction, sold 1,100 bales of cotton in Montgomery yesterday for which they received approximately \$72,000.00.*

*Four hundred round bales were sold to Johnstone and Hammond for 16 ½ cents a pound and 700 square bales were sold to the Fiske Cotton Company for 16 cents a pound, the half a cent premium being paid for the round bales.*

*The round bales averaged 250 pounds. The square bales averaged 500 pounds.*

*The Fiske Cotton Company paid Walter Brothers a sum approximating \$56,000.00 for 700 square bales and Johnstone and Hammond paid them approximately \$16,000.00 for the 400 round or half bales.*

*This lot of cotton represented the remainder of the crop grown by Walter Brothers. Some time before Christmas those progressive farmers sold a large lot of cotton in Montgomery at much lower figures than those secured yesterday. **They have stored their staple in Montgomery warehouses and quietly awaited advance in prices.***

*The sale of yesterday is the highest price for so large a lot of cotton that has been paid in Alabama in recent years.*

*Not much cotton is coming to Montgomery. Some 10 or 15 bales are brought here daily by wagons to "catch the spring rise" as farmers express it.*

*The future cotton market is not as high as it has been but spots remain stiff with better prices expected.*

Two years hence, on **July 14, 1906, the Montgomery Advertiser** reported:<sup>2</sup>

**Walter Brothers Sell 1,675 Bales of Cotton to The Weils<sup>3</sup>**

*Two spot cotton deals aggregating approximately \$120,000.00 were yesterday consummated by Weil Brothers and F. F. Johnstone and Company, local cotton buyers.*

*Weil Brothers purchased 1,675 bales of the sample from Walter Brothers, involving about \$85,000.00 I. [Isidor] Weil of the cotton firm declined to give out the price paid out of respect to the wishes of Walter Brothers but it was learned that the round price paid was 10 3/8 cents.*

*The cotton is distributed in the five warehouses of Montgomery and it is all of this year's crop, Walter Brothers having held it throughout the season. The buyers will export the product to foreign ports.*

*F. F. Johnstone and Company yesterday purchased 500 bales of cotton from B. P. Rainer of Union Springs. The round price paid was eleven cents. The total amount involved was approximately \$35,000.00. This cotton is stored in the warehouse of the purchasers and it will be immediately exported.*

*Walter Brothers are among the largest farm operators in Alabama. Their plantations are in the Southern part of Montgomery [County].*

By the time of the following news article, brothers Tristram/Truss (1845 -1909) and Duncan (1839-May 28,1917) had died. It is probable that Duncan, though quite ill, was aware of the cotton stored in Montgomery prior to his death. The remaining partner in the Walter Brother's Firm was Jesse Bethea Walter. Moving forward to **July 14, 1917** in the *Montgomery Advertiser*—

**1,120 Bales Cotton**

**Sell for \$163,396.00**

**Price Being 25.16**

**Staple Raised by Walter**

**Brothers During Past**

**Three Seasons**

*One of the largest cotton transactions that has occurred in Montgomery in many years was consummated Friday when 1,120 bales owned by J. B. Walter and the estate of the late Duncan Walter, of Sprague Junction, this county, were sold to Weil Brothers cotton factors of this city. The cotton brought \$163,396.00 and the average price paid was 25.16 cents per pound. For what purposes the cotton will be used was not made known by the purchasers. There was considerable speculation as to whether it would be exported or used for the manufacture of government equipment and high explosives in view of the tremendous demand for the staple by the mills of this country, due to government needs, the belief was strong that the cotton is for domestic use.*

*The cotton represents the crops of Walter Brothers for the years 1914, 1915 and 1916 and was raised on their extensive lands near Sprague Junction and Snowdown. By holding the fleece until the present time, the owners have realized handsome profits, it was said.*

*A sale of a larger lot of cotton by Walter Brothers, but which brought less money than the present trade, was made in December, 1916, when they turned loose 1, 447 bales, yielding them \$140, 572.25, or \$22, 823.75 less than was involved in Friday's transaction. The deal in December was divided into two sections. One lot of the cotton consisting of 1, 347 bales brought 19.35 cents a pound, while a smaller lot of 100 bales sold at 20.05 cents a pound. Weil Brothers were the purchasers.*

All of the above news articles from the *Montgomery Advertiser* were transcribed by Alice Carter on November 17, 2021.

Montgomery City Telephone Directories always are a wealth of information. By locating the commercial section (Yellow Pages as of 2021) of various years that coordinated with some of the above news articles, the possibilities of storage for Walter Brothers' cotton are revealed as probabilities. These Directories can be found on microfilm at Alabama Department of Archives and History. Illustrations are typical scenes in downtown Montgomery, not specific to Walter Brothers, dates and photographers unknown)

**1883**-sales article, but no phone directory listing for cotton warehouses

**1903**-sales article, but no phone directory listing for cotton warehouses

**1904**-sales article with the following phone directory listing: Hurter Compress Warehouse, located at the foot of Coosa Street; Johnstone and Hammond, located at the foot of Coosa Street and Marks & Gale, located at 201-215 Lee Street

**1906**-sales article, but no phone directory listing for cotton warehouses; however there is a phone directory listing for the previous year of **1905**: Johnstone, F. F. & Co. located at the foot of Coosa Street; Marks and Gale, located at 201-215 Lee Street; McKeithen & Powell, located at 307-309 Lee Street and Sellers & Orum, located at 110 Tallapoosa Street



Cotton Bales at Marks and Fitzpatrick Warehouse, Montgomery. Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History



W. J. Orum of Sellers and Orum Warehouse ( on left) and Scipes (African American) stands at right of the bale being weighed Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History



Sampling Cotton on Lee Street, Montgomery. Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History

**1917:** sales article, but no phone directory listing for cotton warehouses; however, there is a **1916** telephone directory listing: Alabama Warehouse Co. located at 17 Coosa Street; Hardaway-Covington Warehouse, located at 100 Bibb Street; Mutual Warehouse, located at 101 East Jefferson Street



RECEIVING PLATFORM—ALABAMA COMPRESS AND STORAGE COMPANY.

Receiving Platform at Alabama Compress and Storage Company, Montgomery. Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History



VIEW AT ALABAMA COMPRESS AND STORAGE COMPANY.

View at Alabama Compress and Storage Company, Montgomery. Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History

The year 1916 was a hard one for cotton farmers. The boll weevil<sup>4</sup> had destroyed much of their crops and July 4, 1916 was the beginning of a solid month of rainfall in Snowdown which ruined the cotton completely for that season. Willie Walter Stowers shared that information in her book *Miss Willie*. Her vivid description of the rain fall on page 35 of her book by Mary Prim says "Unable to do anything about the July rains and the resulting flood circumstances , many came to the pastures and fields around Willie's home ...and went swimming."<sup>5</sup> Sprague, being not many miles down the road, surely experienced the same circumstances. However, Walter Brothers cotton sales for 1917 were good because the Firm had stored cotton in warehouses for 1914, 1915 and 1916, selling minimal amounts until 1917. By 1922, Jesse Bethea Walter was ill, perhaps their cotton growing years were either already over or coming to an end.(See letter on p. 6)

### Walter Business in Sprague

The Brothers had constructed a large three-story building in the 1880s located by the rail tracks in Sprague. The first floor of the building was a mercantile business and Post Office, second floor were offices for the brothers and the third floor were guest rooms for businessmen who worked with the Walter brothers. Ricky McLaney, life-long resident of Sprague, remembers the building still in existence in the mid 1960s.



Some local African American residents at Sprague rented some of the spaces for living quarters. It fell into disrepair and its last history is unknown. At one time there were tenant houses and a wood yard near the old building. Sam Underwood of the Underwood family of Ada, Alabama owned the building when it was in decline. The building was similar in appearance to a building at a convict stockade at Banner Coal Mine in Birmingham, possibly in the early 1900s. There are no images of the Sprague building available.

Willie Walter Stowers in her book of memories written by Mary Prim around 1983 said that the Brothers de-

Long two-story building in center of photograph is similar in style to Walter Brothers Building in Sprague, built in late 1800s. Building seen here was located at Banner Mine, Birmingham around 1911. Birmingham, Ala., Public Library Archives

veloped a gin, work houses, commissary and dwellings for workers. The railroad that serviced Sprague was the Alabama Midland Railroad, incorporated in Alabama and Georgia in 1887 and came near Montgomery by 1890.

Mrs. Stowers described work at the Sprague gin: " From September until after Christmas workers at the gin, ginned until one o'clock at night by the light of oil lanterns and resumed work as soon as it was daylight".<sup>6</sup>, So what exactly is a cotton gin? It is a mechanized way to remove seeds from the cotton boll. It was invented by Eli Whitney in 1773 and was a time saving machine which initiated tremendous growth in the production of cotton primarily in the South. However, it increased the regions dependency upon slave labor. It took one worker about 10 hours to separate just one pound of lint from the seeds whereas the use of a cotton gin plus two or three slaves could produce approximately fifty pounds of cleaned cotton in just one day.<sup>7</sup>

A local history of Snowdoun compiled in 1992 mentions that a gin was built by the Walter family in Snowdoun, but no location or date for the gin was found for this project. Gaye P. Clayton of Snowdoun shared portions of this history.

After the death of Jesse Bethea Walter in 1925 the plantation, which had produced thousands and thousands of pounds of cotton, was sold to Robert J. Bell by heirs of J. B. Walter in 1927. Another news article appearing in the *Montgomery Advertiser* on August 21, 1926 provides insight into the business endeavors of the generation of children from J. B. Walter and indicates that cotton farming was over for Walter heirs. The newspaper announces the opening of a new automobile dealership located on Molton Street in Montgomery. The Walter Brothers and Hooper Motor Company were to be dealers in Star Cars produced by Durant Motor Company, makers of low cost transportation. Three sons of Jesse Bethea Walter were involved in the business, J. B. Walter (Jr.), Van Walter and Will Walter all of Snowdoun, Alabama. The three were experienced businessmen in Montgomery County and in the city with Jesse B. Walter, Jr. having managed his father's businesses. Another partner in the firm was H. J. Hooper, an experienced automobile dealer from Birmingham.

There will be a third installment in the April, 2022 newsletter concerning the use of convict labor on the Walter plantation in Sprague.



Selling Cotton in Court Square Montgomery. Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History



Cotton Market , Montgomery. Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History

**Footnotes:**

1. Mary Prim. *Miss Willie*. (Privately Published, ca. 1982) p.11
2. Within three years of establishing Weil Brothers Cotton in Montgomery, the company purchased 1,675 bales of cotton from the Walter Brothers in 1906.
3. Weil Brothers Cotton of Montgomery was founded by Isidor Weil in 1903. Weil arrived in America from Bavaria at age 13 with his younger brother, neither of whom could speak English. They were headed to Huntsville, Alabama where two of their uncles lived. In the 1870s, the young Weil brothers moved to Opelika, Alabama to live and work with an uncle from their mother's side of the family who owned a general store. Isidor was successful with buying cotton directly from farmers and selling it to local mills. The business grew rapidly and the Isidor Weil business came to Montgomery in 1903. At the end of WWI, his sons, Adolph and Leonel began managing the business. In the 1950s Adolph's sons Adolph, Jr. and Robert took the reins of the company and it became an international enterprise and remains so today.
4. A boll weevil is a small beetle that lays eggs in the boll of the cotton plant and finally destroys the boll as the eggs mature. The insect came to the United States from Mexico and entered Alabama around 1910. The beetle forced farmers to diversify their crops to avoid ruin. It is the only insect known to have a statue erected to remind people of its history and lessons learned by farmers. This statue is in the town of Enterprise, Alabama. [www.ahc.alabama.gov/architecturalprograms](http://www.ahc.alabama.gov/architecturalprograms), ca.2002, p.24.
5. Mary Prim. *Miss Willie*. (Privately Published,ca.1982) p. 35
6. Mary Prim. *Miss Willie* (Privately Published, ca. 1982) p. 12
7. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cotton>. p. 6

**Sources:****Books:**

Bridges, Edwin C., *Alabama: The Making of an American State*. Tuscaloosa, Alabama: The University of Alabama Press, 2016.

Davis, Charles S., *The Cotton Kingdom in Alabama*. Philadelphia: Porcupine Press, 1974.

Prim, Mary, *Miss Willie*. Privately Published, ca.1982.

Society of Pioneers of Montgomery, *A History of Montgomery in Pictures*. Privately Published, date unknown.

**Internet:**

<https://culverhouse.ua.edu/member/isidor-weil/> accessed 11/16/2021

[Newspapers.com@ancestry.com](http://Newspapers.com@ancestry.com)

Alabama Historical Commission: *The History of Agriculture in Alabama: A Historic Context*, Published ca. 2002. accessed at [www.ahc.alabama.gov/architecturalprograms](http://www.ahc.alabama.gov/architecturalprograms) accessed December, 2021

**Acknowledgements:**

Many sincere thanks to:

Reference Desk Workers at Alabama Department of Archives and History

Gary and Jerrie Burton printing from Newspapers.com by ancestry.com

Meredith McDonough, Digital Assets Coordinator, Alabama Department of Archives and History

Ricky McLaney, Sprague, Alabama

Wendi Lewis, Alabama Historical Commission



**PINTLALA HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION**

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

**NEXT MEETING**

**APRIL 24, 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**