

PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting:

July 16, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.
Pintlala Baptist Church



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

Volume XXXVII, Number 3

www.pintlalahistoricalassociation.com

July 2023

Tankersley Rosenwald School, 2023



2023 OFFICERS

President Gary Burton (334)288-7414
Vice President &
Program Chairperson. Alice T. Carter (334)281-3708
Secretary
Treasurer Ina Slade (334)284-0337
Parliamentarian..... Jack Hornady (334)396-2130
Members at Large
Place 1..... Patsy Davis..... (334)220-7004
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
Welcome New Members.....	Page 2
In Memoriam	Page 2
July Program	Page 2
History of the Tankersley Rosenwald School Written by its First Principal Jacob W. Williams	Page 3
Little Zion Rosenwald School.....	Page 10
Installation of William Bartram Historical Marker in Pintlala	Page 12
Article from <i>The Traveller, A Newsletter of the Bartram Trail Conference</i>	Page 13
From the Files	Page 14

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now I Am Worried

While wondering how much value we place on local history, I began to question how much local history is conveyed to our children. Living in Pintlala is a dream come true. Hunting, fishing, sports, friends, family, a public school, a public library, businesses which serve the public, the volunteer fire department, and churches. The community is replete with opportunities for our lives to be enriched.

The Pintlala Historical Association meets quarterly. It has proven to be an extremely well attended event which puts us in touch with our local history and with each other. In Pintlala the ground oozes with historical significance.

However, I am concerned about children learning what schools may not teach: our own local history. You may have an idea on how to approach this objective of educating ourselves and our children too...for the sake of forthcoming generations.

"Those who tell the stories rule society." Plato

Gary Burton, President
garyburton1@charter.net

Welcome to New Members!

Wallace Hornady, Woodberry Forest, Virginia

Deborah Ann Dunn, Montgomery, AL

Brock Parker, Montgomery, AL

Steve Wynn, Hope Hull, AL

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. R. Meade Guy, 1927-2023

Program for July 2023

Pintlala Historical Association will meet on Sunday, July 16, 2023 at 2:30 in the Fellowship Hall of Pintlala Baptist Church. Our speaker will be Sehoy Thrower from the Poarch Creek community near Atmore, Alabama. She grew up in a family that cherished traditional plant knowledge and Creek history. Sehoy Thrower obtained a B. S. degree in Environmental Science from Georgia State University. She has experience with regenerative agriculture. She works for the Environmental Department of the Poarch Tribe and does work related to water quality monitoring and ecological protection. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network. She has a personal interest in the Pintlala community through her connections to Sam Manac.



Sehoy Thrower

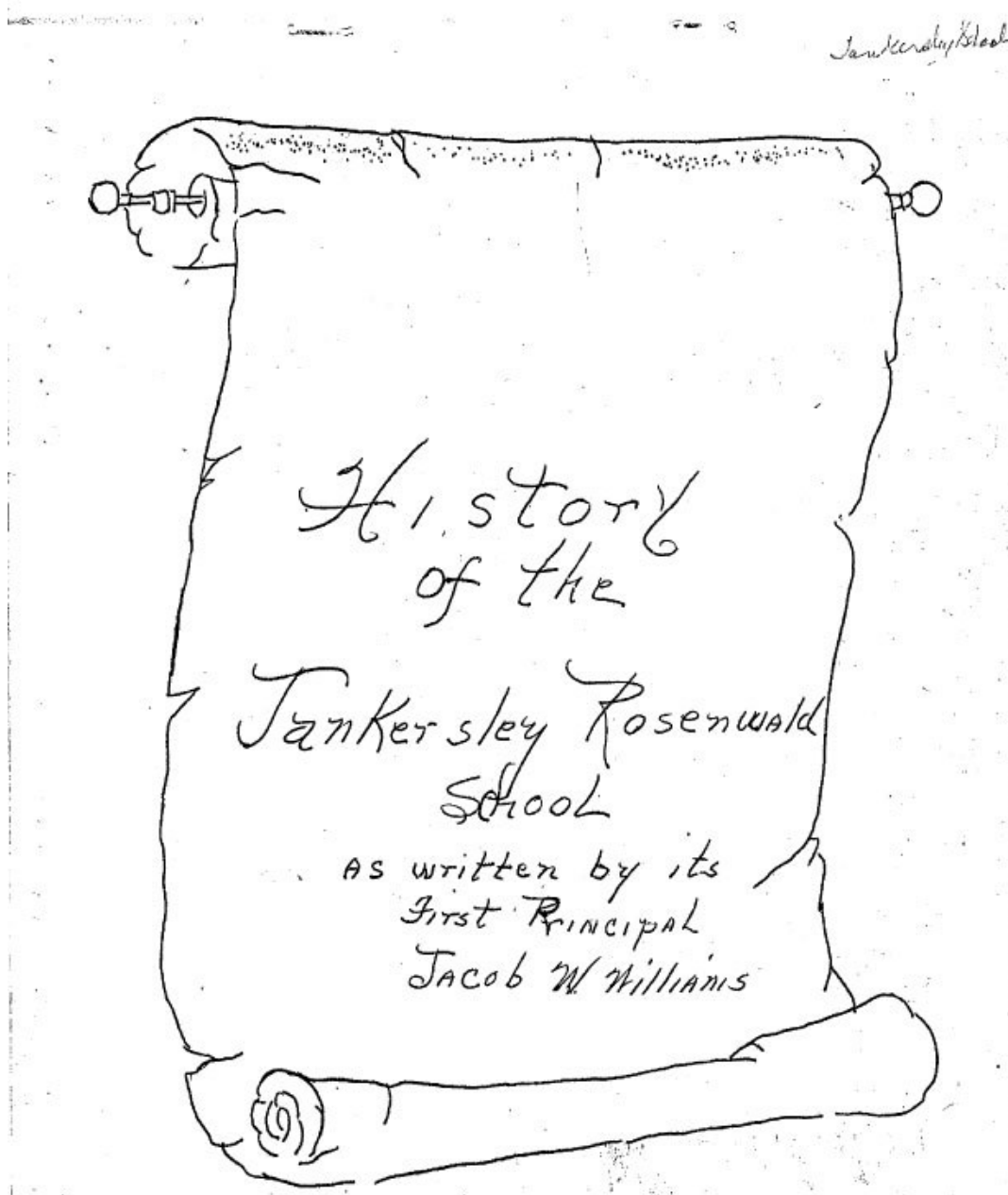
HISTORY OF THE TANKERSLEY ROSENWALD SCHOOL WRITTEN BY ITS FIRST PRINCIPAL JACOB W. WILLIAMS

(Reprinted for Pintlala Historical Association in July 2023)

Introduction to **Reprint** of Jacob W. Williams History of Tankersley School by Alice T. Carter

This introduction is to reinforce the fact that the Julius Rosenwald/Booker T. Washington trip to Montgomery County, Alabama on February 15, 1921 was made prior to the construction of the Tankersley/Rosenwald School located on what is the Hope Hull Mail Route in 2023. Local citizens would consider it located in-between the Fleta and Pintlala communities. Tankersley School was not open for students until the 1922-23 school term as stated by Jacob W. Williams on page 3 of his reprinted history. Thus Tankersley School was not on the impressive Rosenwald-Washington tour. Schools that obtained some funding from the Rosenwald matching funds plan and were included on the tour were: Big Zion, Guys (or Davenport), Little Zion and Madison Park.

Please see the April 2023 issue of the PHA Newsletter for images of these schools. It is my understanding that Auburn University has obtained grant money to be used to repair and preserve the Tankersley/Rosenwald School. When this project will be initiated is unknown. My hope is that the work will not be carried out before saving the school is too late.



TANKERSLEY ROSENWALD SCHOOL
HISTORY

The history of Tankersley Rosenwald School as given by Mr. Jacob W. Williams its first and only principal who served in the community for twenty-six (26) years and as principal of the school for twenty-one (21) years.

Coming to Montgomery County in October 1917 (serving the scholastic year of 1917-1918) from Lowndes County under the leadership of Mr. W. F. Feagins as Superintendent and Mr. H. R. Williamson as Assistant Superintendent, (Mr. Williamson served 1 year) then came Mr. T. L. Head as Assistant. Following Mr. Feagins was Mr. Harmon as Superintendent. Mr. Harmon and Mr. Head worked together for several years until Mr. Harmon left for other services in Montevallo, Alabama. Mr. W. R. Harrison succeeded Mr. Harmon and then our present Superintendent Dr. C. M. Dannelly succeeded Mr. Harmon. After one year Mr. T. L. Head became our Assistant Superintendent.

The following term I had another Assistant teacher given to me, giving me two assistant teachers. However my second assistant was not furnished by the county. She was given by the Lutheran religious denomination under the leadership of Superintendent Richardson of the Lutheran Schools in Montgomery, Alabama. We continued to have school in the old Pythian Hall for five (5) years.

During these first five years (5) the first Negro community trustees Board was organized, namely: Mr. Frank Supples, Chairman, Luke Anderson, John Sankey, Edd Dean, Simon Johnson, Arthur Brown and John Oscar Poole.

I was successful in giving them the idea of the necessity of a school building in the community to accommodate our boys and girls. The Hall was too congested. We didn't have enough room. We then decided to raise some money and try to buy us some land and build us a school. Being encouraged by Mr. Feagin to try to meet the demands of the Rosenwalds fund committee and we could get some help with our plans. We were very anxious and determined to have a building. The first year we started to work for the building, Superintendent Feagins had us to buy five acres of land and deed it to the county. This was our first step towards our goal and our goal was a school building. The five (5) acres of land was bought from Dr. William Tankersley. (Who at time was a member of the Montgomery County Board of Education.)

Entering our next year of work the war of 1918 intervened. Mr. Feagin called our Negro trustees Board into a meeting and told us that the government was not allowing any new school buildings to be built. This did not stop us. We were determined as we were to begin with. We continued to work and raise funds. We deposited our money in the First National Bank in Montgomery, Alabama until we could get started on the building.

At the close of the war, Superintendent Feagins called another meeting telling us our new requirements. The new requirement was instead of the five (5) acres we had already purchased, we had to have ten more acres in order to have the needed fifteen (15) acres. This either did not discourage us. We set out as determined as we had been in the beginning. We were willing to work and sacrifice; our goal was the building and nothing else mattered.

We were successful in getting the other ten (10) acres of land adjoining the other five (5) acres also from Dr. William Tankersley.

During this time we had worked very successfully under Mr. Feagin as Superintendent and two Supervisors; namely Mrs. Lula Thomas and Mrs. Mary Garner. At this particular time Mr. Feagins left us and Mr. A. F. Harmon became his successor. Also another Supervisor in the person of Miss Lillian Dabney, who worked very hard with us.

When we bought our land we bought ten of those acres in timber. When the time came to start to work on our building, the faithful trustees went into our woods and cut down trees carried them to the saw mill in their wagons and brought back the timber for the foundation of our building. No one was too busy to do his part. Everyone wanted to do something.

Our first term in the new building was the term 1922-23. The teachers for this term were, Mrs. Annie Mary Williams, Annys Mae Brayboy and myself. In the Spring of 1923, we dedicated our school. It bears the name of Tankersley Rosenwald after Dr. William Tankersley the man who sold us the land.

When we came in our new building, the county saw the necessity of two assistant teachers instead of one. This made our faculty number four (4) including the one furnished by the Lutherans, which they did for several years.

Mr. Harmon and Mr. Head worked together for several years and then there was a consolidation of the Montgomery City School System and the Montgomery County School system. At this time Mr. Harmon left to assume duties in Montevallo, Alabama and Mr. W. R. Harrison became our Superintendent. Later Dr. Dannelly.

Under Dr. Dannelly's administration, he has ably extended our school term from five to eight months. We have been given four teachers by the county. We started with seven grades, which we still have.

Miss Lillian Dabney, Supervisor, worked with us for several years giving us her best cooperation and service. We all regretted her passing. Yet there was nothing we could do. We have had one to succeed her, namely Mrs. Thelma Smiley Morris whom we have learned to love and cherish because of the interest she has in us and the children. No day is too long or short, no journey too long or short. She is never too busy to come if we call her. No night too dark; the sacrifice is hers to render service. We feel proud of her.

DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOL BUILDING & GROUNDS

Of the fifteen (15) acres, ten (10) are in timber and the school and playground take up five(5) acres with the building. Our building was originally painted grey and remained until this Spring (1943) when the color was changed to white. It had and still has three class rooms and folding doors between two rooms so that the two rooms can be used for an assembly or chapel. It also has a kitchen where the children learn some forms of cooking and the preparation of hot lunches on some days. A library equipped with valuable books for children to read. Each classroom has its separate library to protect its books individually. A very spacious cloak-room to each room.

We have our second pump on the campus. We also have a basketball court, volley ball court and baseball diamond and a pecan grove on the grounds and this year a large victory garden.

When we came into the new building, we had a very over-crowded situation not room enough for our children. We were not able to add anymore to our building. Mr. Head our Assistant Superintendent at that time wanted to help us the very best he could. There was a little building on the Normanbridge road (now called the Luverne Highway) that had been used by the white children but was not in use anymore, just standing there. Mr. Head informed the Negro trustees that they could have the building if they would go and get it, which they did and put it on the spot where it stands today.

Mr. Head intended for the building to be used as a Kindergarden which never happened. This little building was never used. Mr. Head told the people of the community since they had no church, they could have this building to hold their church services. They were having their church services in the school. They still hold their services in this building and it is called Mt. Sinia Baptist Church Number 2 or First Baptist.

The school is the Center for the Community. All of the activities for the community is carried on here at the school.

Since the dedication of the school we have been given by the State free textbooks for the first three grades and some of the books for the third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades. This has been very beneficial to the children and has enabled more children to have books to study and remain in school. There have been several teachers to come and to go and to remain from one (1) to twenty-five (25) years.

In the twenty-six (26) years that I have been in the community and principal of the school, it has been interesting to me to watch the progress of the children to see them come and go. Some have gone to other schools and colleges. Some have gone into businesses and others in the Armed Services of our Country. Some are teaching school laboring as I did to lead others into the light. I can look over the years and think that I have accomplished something which we in the out-set set out to do when I look at a little mind that has developed into something worthwhile by being instructed in a building which we set as our goal twenty-six (26) years ago for higher aims in life.

Lives of great men all remind us, We can make our lives
subline, and departing leave behind us foot prints on the sands of time.

Signed: Jacob Wilbert Williams, Principal

Note* Recopied from the original copy by Mr. Jacob Wilbert Williams
which was worn and battered.

Signed: _____
(Mrs.) Essie C. Williams, Principal

Date: May 1961

FOLLOW UP FOR PHA NEWSLETTER OF APRIL 2023

By Alice Carter

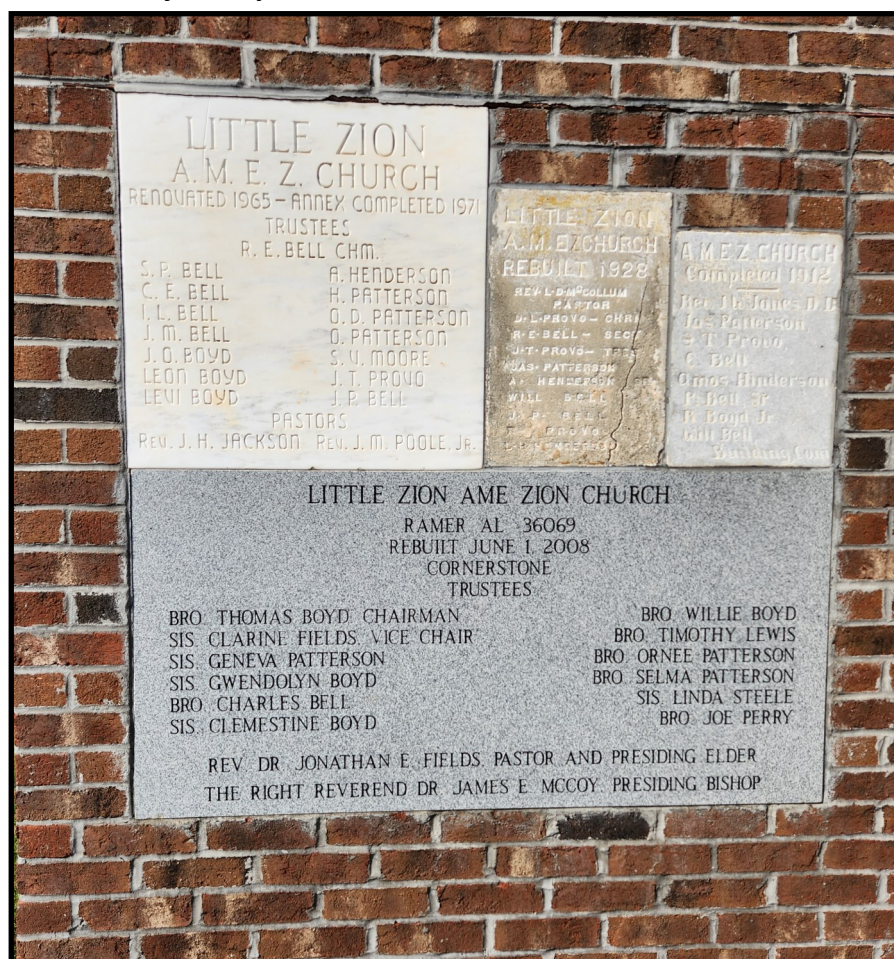
LITTLE ZION ROSENWALD SCHOOL HIGHWAY 94, MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Little Zion Church located on State Highway 94 in Montgomery County, between Ada and Ramer, Alabama has a long history as an active African American congregation. The four cornerstones at the left of the front doors reveal a brief church history. 1912 is listed as the year the original church building was completed. Thomas Boyd, current church trustee chairman, graciously met with Gary Burton and me on June 5, 2023. In our conversation, Boyd talked of his early education at Little Zion Rosenwald School. The original Little Zion School held classes in the Little Zion Church prior to construction of a stand-alone, three room school building made possible through the matching grant funds from Julius Rosenwald of Chicago. Thomas Boyd shared that Jethro T. Provo generously provided an acre of land for the Little Zion Rosenwald School located on a dirt road across Highway 94 from Little Zion Church.

Boyd led Gary and me up the very rough dirt road and to the over grown site of Little Zion Rosenwald School. The road was maintained by Montgomery County road crews during years of educating African American children who in the early years of the school walked and then later travelled by school bus to the Little Zion School. After this school closed around 1960 and students attended Dunbar School in Ramer the old road to Little Zion School deteriorated. For our journey to the school site we drove a short distance and completed the trip on foot to glimpse the school site including the playground area. I must add that Gary and I both brought home numerous chigger bites as mementos of Little Zion School!

See the April 2023 PHA Newsletter to review the historical trip to Little Zion School by Booker T. Washington, Julius Rosenwald and other supporters of education for African American students.

Many thanks to Thomas Boyd for the tour. He attended Little Zion School for first grade in 1951 and finished sixth grade there. He then attended seventh grade thru twelfth grade at Dunbar at Ramer.



Little Zion Church cornerstones provide brief church history. Photo courtesy Gary Burton



Gary Burton and Thomas Boyd who attended
Little Zion School



Alice Carter and Thomas Boyd

Both pictures taken at the overgrown site of Little Zion
School located off Highway 94

Photos courtesy Alice Carter

INSTALLATION OF WILLIAM BARTRAM HISTORICAL MARKER IN PINTLALA

PHA member Andy Dixon and his team of workers installed the William Bartram historical marker on the side of Federal Road in Pintlala on April 19, 2023. PHA is appreciative of their good work!



Installation in progress by
L to R: Felix Reyes, Andy Dixon and Wesley Williams



Installation Team, L to R: Felix Reyes, Andy Dixon,
Felix Hernandez and Wesley Williams



Alice Carter and Gary Burton of the Pintlala Historical Association are pictured at the unveiling of the new marker

Article from *The Traveller*

On April 23, Dr. Kathryn Braund made a presentation to the Pintlala Historical Association on William Bartram's trip through the Creek Nation in 1775. Following the presentation, the crowd traveled to the site of a new marker, near Pintlala, Alabama, placed by the society noting Bartram's journey along the Indian road that was later developed into early Alabama's historic "Federal Road."

Published from *The Traveller*, A Newsletter of the Bartram Trail Conference, Spring , 2023. This organization is headquartered in Athens, Georgia.

From the Files

PHA Newsletter, April, 2016, pg 3

ROBERT THROWER

At the January, 2016 PHA meeting Robert Thrower presented a thought-provoking program on his family from the Wind Clan, Poarch Band of Creek Indians. Prior to our program, several members accompanied Robert to the site of Sam Manac's store/tavern on the Federal Road in Pintlala. Robert and his wife Dana honored the spirit of his sixth great grandfather, Sam Manac, with a ceremony of the Dancing Feather. Robert had never visited the place once belonging to his great grandfather times six!

The peacefulness and tranquility of the pastoral site were enhanced by the sounds of chirping birds and lowing cattle as Robert tied a feather onto a tree branch in memory of Sam Manac. We were honored to bring Robert and Dana to his ancestral property.



Robert Thrower, January PHA Meeting, photos courtesy Charles Murrell

Information on Early Post Offices

Compiled by Laurie Sanders

PHA Newsletter, October, 1989, pg 2

BONHAM POST OFFICE

On June 26, 1882, Walter S. Stokes signed a request to establish a post office to be called Pintlala or Bonham. When acted up-on the U.S. Post Office Department accepted the name of Bonham. Walter S. Stokes was the proposed postmaster.

Bonham Post Office, according to the request, "will be situated in the NW Qtr. of Sec. 21, T 14, R 14, in the County of Montgomery, State of Alabama."

Other data on request form: Bonham will be a "Special Office", supplied by Morganville, which is a distance of five miles in a West direction. Post office nearest, but not on route, is Snowdown, distance by direct road, seven miles.

The proposed post office will be fifteen miles from Alabama river, on South side of it, and will be one mile from nearest creek, Pintlala, on the west side of it. The nearest railroad is Montgomery and Mobile. The nearest flag station is a distance of five miles - Cloverfield and Morganville on Montgomery and Mobile RR. The name of the station is Morganville. The population to be supplied -1000.

The Bonham Post Office was discontinued March 26, 1883. Mail went to Morganville.

Postmaster: Walter S. Stokes; July 11, 1882 March 26, 1883.

PHA Newsletter, December, 1989, pg 2**SNOWDOWN POST OFFICE**

The records of the Snowdown Post Office span almost a century, from February 19, 1859 to July 31, 1957. The Postmaster Listing appears to be complete and the names of the various postmasters serving the area provide one, also, with the surnames of some of the families to settle in these parts.

Report to Topographer

Signed by J A Calloway, Postmaster

Dated May 22, 1878

P.O. Name, Snowdown; Local Name, Snowdown

Situated in: NE Corner of SW qtr of Sec 30, T 15; R 18; Montgomery County

Office 10 miles South of Alabama River

" 4 miles North West of Ramer Creek

Nearest P.O. on Route 17268 is Oakley, its distance 6 miles, by traveled road, in South Easterly direction. Montgomery is ten miles in Northerly direction.

Post Office is distance of 6 miles from McGehee's Railroad Station, Montgomery and Mobile Railroad.

Report to Div of Topography, US Post Office

October 11, 1913

Submitted by J B Walter

"Situated: NE qtr of Sec 31; T 15; R 18; Montgomery Co. Al.

Nearest Creek - Catoma - P.O. is five miles on South side of creek

Tharin is 3 miles in South direction Montgomery is 10 miles in North direction

Post Office is 100 yards from Atlantic Coast Line Railroad; Station name is Snowdown."

The names of the Postmasters and their dates of service are on file in the PHA files in the Pintlala Library.

PHA Newsletter, March, 1990, pg 12**COLQUITT POST OFFICE**

In March, 1890, Alfred B. Colquitt filed application for establishment of a post office at Mr. A. B. Colquitt's Store, Montgomery County, Alabama.

Application was mailed to A.B. Colquitt in care of Postmaster at Morganville, Alabama,

The proposed post office name requested was Pintlala. The name acted upon and accepted was Colquitt. It was to be a "Special Office", to be supplied, from Morganville, its distance 6 miles in a West direction.

Other info from application:

It will be situated in S.W. qtr of Sec 16, T14S, R17W, in Montgomery County, Ala. It will be near route from Montgomery to Mobile on which mail is carried seven times per week, but not directly on route which is six miles in distance.

Nearest post offices: Morganville - 6 miles in West direction

Legrand - 7 miles in So East direction

Devenport - 9 miles in South direction

Alabama River - 14 miles on east aide of proposed office

Pintlala Creek - 1½ mile on West side of proposed office

Proposed office is "a village" and the population to be supplied in the area is 800.

Signed: Alfred B. Colquitt,

Proposed Postmaster

Certified by:

H.A. Belser, P.M. at Morganville

Dated: March _____ 1890

**PINTLALA HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION**

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

NEXT MEETING

**JULY 16, 2023
2:30 P.M.
PINTLALA BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Join the Pintlala Historical Association
Please mail completed form & dues to:

**Pintlala Historical Association
Ina Slade**

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