

# PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

## Next Meeting:

April 21, 2024 at 2:30 p.m.  
Pintlala Baptist Church



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

Volume XXXVIII, Number 2

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

April 2024



Knights of Pythias Lodge, Big Zion 167, Pettus Road, Hope Hull, Alabama;  
prior to construction of Tankersley- Rosenwald School in 1922

Courtesy Fisk University, John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, Special Collections, Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives

## 2024 OFFICERS

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Vice President &  
Program Chairperson .Alice T. Carter.....(334)281-3708  
Secretary.....Karon Bailey .....(334)224-9631  
Treasurer.....Ina Slade .....(334)284-0337  
Parliamentarian .....Jack Hornady.....(334)396-2130  
Members at Large  
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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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I acquired the book because of chapter two. *TANNEHILL and the Growth of the Alabama Iron Industry Including the Civil War in West Alabama*, copyright 1999 by James R. Bennett. It is a hefty tome. The second chapter highlights the role and early influence of Abner McGehee in the new city of Montgomery. He was an investor and a railroad entrepreneur. McGehee was a part of the Broad River people who migrated to the central area of what became known as the new town of Montgomery.

Abner McGehee was a promoter of Alabama railroads extending from Montgomery. The 76-mile line which linked Montgomery to West Point, Georgia was begun in 1836. This railroad was inspired by McGehee.

Those who had an early vision for Alabama should be lauded. It is hard to define influence. Abner McGehee could see potential and he had the means to make it happen. For those who live in and around the Hope Hull area, learning about Abner McGehee would enrich our residency .

Gary Burton, President  
garyburton1@charter.net

**PHA 2024 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE**

**PLEASE REMIT TO:**

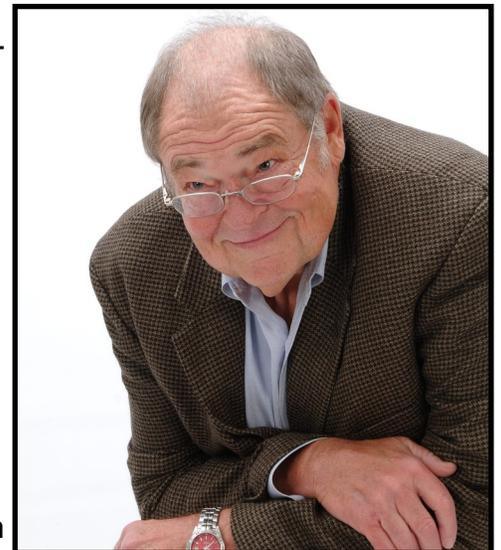
**INA SLADE**

**15212 HIGHWAY 31, HOPE HULL, AL 36043**

### **Pintlala Historical Association Program for April 2024**

Pintlala Historical Association meets on Sunday, April 21 at 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Pintlala Baptist Church. Our program will be presented by Olan (Skip) Tucker who grew up in the small community of Eldridge in Walker County, Alabama and now resides in Montgomery. Skip has been managing editor of the *Daily Mountain Eagle* newspaper in Jasper, Alabama (1972-1981), political consultant, author of four books, public speaker, and served as the press secretary for Governor Jim Folsom in 1995-96.

Skip will enlighten the PHA on his involvement with the Byler Road Project for which he serves as Communication Director. So what is the Byler Road Project? It is a project of around twenty people, all from northwest Alabama whose goal is to educate the public about the 200 year old, 140 mile long Byler Road. This, the oldest public road in Alabama, was created by the Alabama legislature two days after Alabama became a state in 1819. Governor W. W. Bibb approved this legislation. The road was named for John Byler who oversaw construction of the road in the 1800s. Along this route can be found at least two historic cemeteries, Rock Springs Cemetery and Prewitt Slave Cemetery. The road brought settlers into northwest Alabama and was the vision of Andrew Jackson whose goal was to connect the Tennessee River to the Warrior River in Northport in order to increase settlement and trade in this part of the state. The Byler Road Project aims to develop tourism and an historic appreciation for the communities along the Byler Road and for the old road itself.



Please join PHA on April 21 to learn new history of the northwest portion of our state.

Skip Tucker, photo source internet



### In Memoriam

Gaines B. Slade

March 24, 1941 - January 31, 2024

Mary Emma Sellers Smilie

May 20, 1930 - April 3, 2024



### New Members

Ty and Brittany D. Ashley, Florence, Alabama

Scott and Everlie D. Bolton, Dothan, Alabama

Greg and Tiffany D. Dean, Madison, Alabama

Velma Kelly, Hope Hull, Alabama

Chelle M. Kenmore, Hope Hull, Alabama

David and Donna Watts, Hope Hull, Alabama

### **Pettis or Pettus Road?**

Alice T. Carter

As of 2024, Montgomery County Road 19 is referred to as Pettus Road. Is this the original spelling for the road's name? There is evidence that Montgomery County Road 19 was originally spelled Pettis. The Montgomery County Board of Revenue Minutes for years 1875-1881 entry for June 7, 1878 records : *Whereas sundry citizens living on the Pettis road have petitioned for a bridge to be built over Balls Creek (known by my family as Ball Branch) on said road and the Board being satisfied of the necessity of said bridge. It is considered by the Board that said petition be granted. Whereupon George T. Morrison made a proposition to build said bridge and in a good firm and substantial manner for the sum of one hundred dollars, he furnishing all the materials, the main body of such bridge and the approach to be about fifty feet in length, said bridge in repair for three years, which said proposition is accepted.*

In a conversation with my mother, Ethel Tankersly Todd, year unknown, she stated that she and her father, Dr. William Tankersley felt the road sign installed by county crews was misspelled as PETTUS. Further evidence for PETTIS being the original name is based on a map of early settlers in the Pintlala area which was drawn by the late Lewis R. Jones. John and Isham Pettis are shown as landowners on County Road 19. Isham Pettis' property is found on this map in R17, T14, Sec. 34 and John Pettis' property is found in R17, T14, Sec. 33.

### **Source:**

*PHA Newsletter*, October 2008

Excerpts from Board of Revenue Minutes, Friday, June 7, 1878

p. 355 (678)-Bridge Balls Creek

Board met pursuant to adjournment

Present: T. Joseph, Esq, President and messers Westcott & Hubbard

## Knights of Pythias Lodge, Big Zion 167

Alice T. Carter

A two-story timber building was constructed in an unknown year on less than an acre of land on the west side of Pettus Road, near Liberty Church Road's intersection with Pettus Road. This building was known locally as "the Lodge Hall" but correctly is titled the Knights of Pythias Lodge, Big Zion 167.

This property was acquired by Ethel Tankersley Todd in 1991 through a Quitclaim deed. The grantors who signed the deed were Bill Murrell, Susie Ellis and Addie Mae Calloway. They were all children of the last surviving members of the Knights of Pythias Lodge Big Zion 167, Route 1, Hope Hull, Alabama. The Quitclaim deed prepared by attorney Frank H. Hawthorne in 1991, states "the Knights of Pythias Lodge was out of existence and ceased operation as a Lodge approximately twenty years ago." The property was described as in "a dilapidated condition."

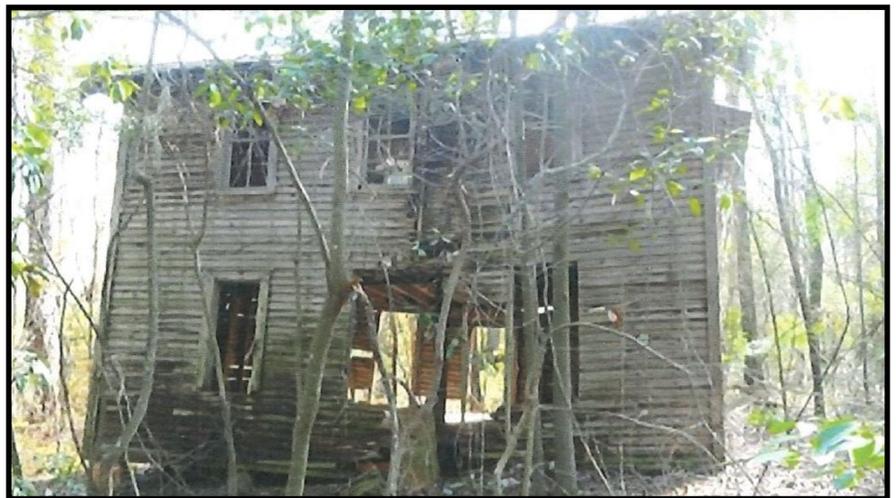


Knights of Pythias Lodge, Big Zion 167, Pettus Road, Hope Hull, Alabama, date unknown, Courtesy Fisk University, John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, Special Collections, Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives

PHA president, Gary Burton, and I toured an exhibit at the Alabama Department of Archives and History in January 2024, *Preserving Alabama's Rosenwald Schools*, which was organized by Auburn University College of Architecture, Design & Construction in partnership with the Alabama Department of Archives and History. On view in the exhibit was a photograph (see front cover) of a building labeled Tankersley School. I immediately recognized the image as the building known as "the Lodge Hall" on Pettus Road in Hope Hull, Alabama. I was astonished—as I had never seen this image. African American students are seen standing near the building. Label information identifying the photograph stated the image belonged to Fisk University, John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, Special Collections. I obtained permission to publish the image with the planned article regarding the Knights of Pythias Lodge on Pettus Road.

Seeing this image was the first time I realized that the Lodge had been used for classrooms prior to the construction of the Tankersley Rosenwald School, which is less than two miles down Pettus Road from the Lodge. The year for this initial arrangement has not been discovered. It is known that other buildings such as churches were used as temporary classrooms before the Rosenwald Fund assisted with the building of stand-alone schools for African American students, primarily in the south.

Gary Burton and I explored the crumbling Lodge Hall building in 2012 and he photographed it before total collapse ensued, which occurred only a year later in 2013.



Knights of Pythias Lodge, Big Zion 167, Pettus Road, Hope Hull, Alabama, date 2012, Courtesy Gary Burton

## Knights of Pythias of North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia

The above title will be shortened for purposes of this article to its alternate title, Colored Knights of Pythias. The Knights of Pythias was a fraternal organization in the United States originally founded for white men in 1864. An African American group formed their own fraternal organization in Vicksburg, Mississippi in 1880. Plans were made in 1885 to expand the order into Alabama. The Excelsior Lodge No. 1 was organized in 1887 in Birmingham, Alabama. No records have been located for the establishment of the Knights of Pythias Lodge, Big Zion 167.

The Colored Knights of Pythias followed the rituals and mission of the white groups. How the African Americans learned the rituals is debatable. Marilyn T. Peebles in her 2012 book, *The Alabama Knights of Pythias of North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia: A Brief History*, writes that the African American order of Pythias supported the philosophy of friendship, charity and benevolence as their motto. Their mission included: helping suffering members, burying the dead members, caring for widows of members and educating orphans. All are admirable goals and are likely similar to those goals of the white Pythians.



Knights of Pythias Lodge, Big Zion 167, Pettus Road, Hope Hull, Alabama, date 2013, Courtesy Gary Burton



Federal Lodge 153A, Felder, located on East McLean Road, Hope Hull, Alabama, Courtesy Alice Carter

### Sources

Quitclaim deed, 1991 to Ethel Tankersley Todd, property of Alice T. Carter

### Book

Peebles, Marilyn T. *The Alabama Knights of Pythias of North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia: A Brief History*. University Press of America, Inc., 2012.

### Internet

<https://org/wiki/wikipedia> accessed February 2024

### Acknowledgments

Jerrie Burton for image scans

Gary Burton for photography

Margery B. Henry for locating information on Federal Lodge via Frank Arrington

Diona E. Layden, J.D., M.S.I.S., Special Collections Librarian, John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, Fisk University

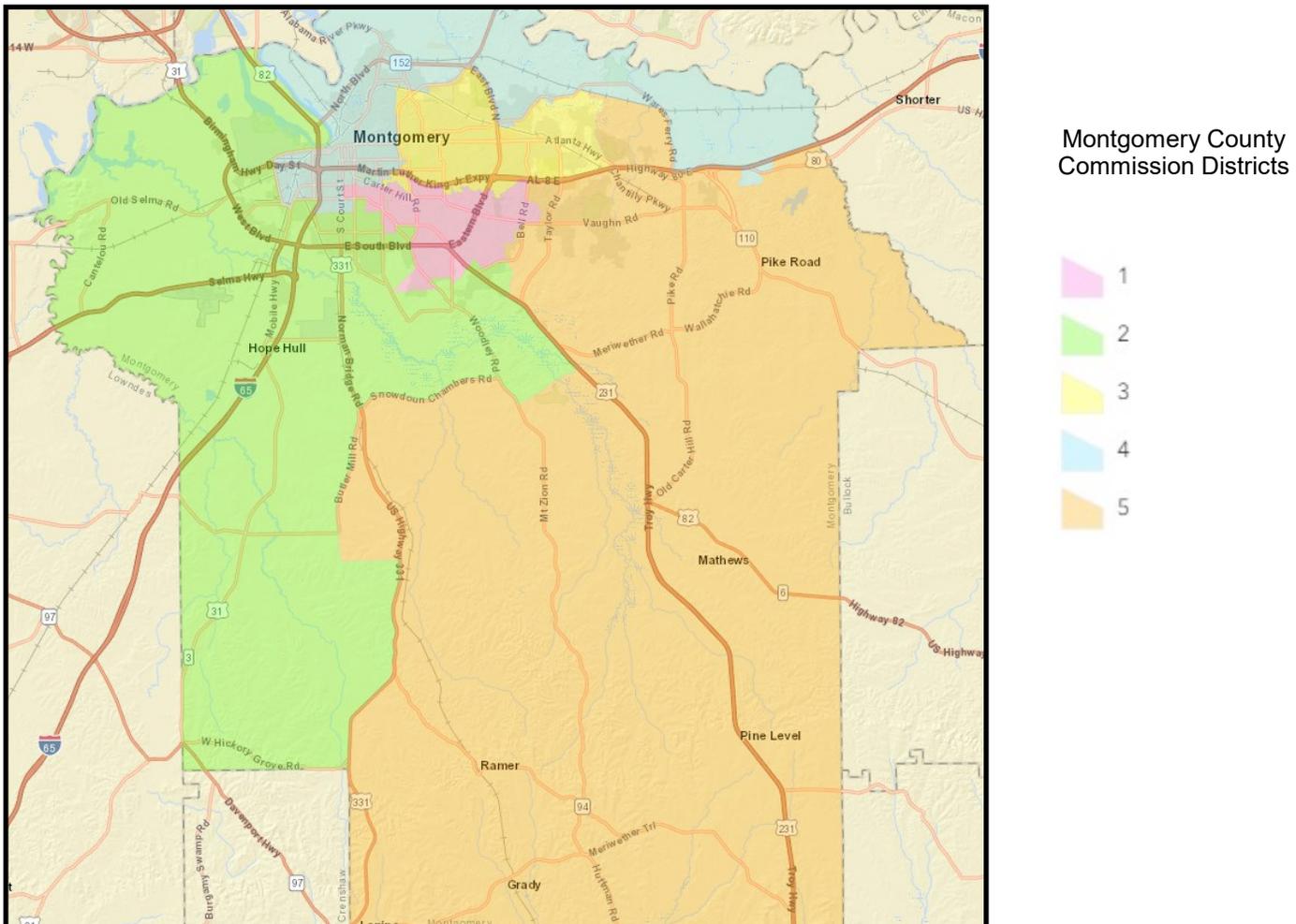
## Organization of County Government in Montgomery County

Alice T. Carter

The state of Alabama was originally land in the eastern section of the Mississippi Territory until December 10, 1817. At that time the western half of the Mississippi Territory was admitted to the Union as the state of Mississippi. This left the eastern half of the Territory to be designated the Alabama Territory. In two years time the Alabama Territory was admitted to the Union on December 14, 1819 as the state of Alabama. Montgomery County had been established earlier in 1816 by the Mississippi Territorial Legislature. This county was carved out of Monroe County, then part of the Mississippi Territory.

What are counties exactly? They are subdivisions of a state, organized to aid in the local administration of state functions. Counties were established during the American Colonial period of our 17<sup>th</sup> century history. County governing bodies were closest to the citizens and the governing body with which they most frequently did business. In 1819 the first state of Alabama legislature established a court system made of a five-judge county court designed to handle orphan and probate issues. In 1821 this court changed in composition to a one judge, one clerk court. The other four judges were assigned to a new Court of Commissioners who handled administrative and legislative functions. They controlled roads, ferries, bridges and management of public buildings. In 1850 a probate court was established in each county. The earlier single judge and clerk became the office of Judge of Probate, not appointed, but elected by popular vote for a six-year term.

As of 2024, Montgomery County has five districts with members elected by popular vote for a four-year term. Prior to 1964-65 the county governing body was referred to as the Montgomery County Board of Revenue and after that time became known as the Montgomery County Commission. The duties of the Commission remained basically the same, including control of county public funds, adoption of an annual budget, responsibility for construction and maintenance of roads outside city jurisdiction.



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FROM RURAL COMMUNITIES, 1952-2014**

Over the past seventy-two years the make-up of the Montgomery County Commission has changed—more women have been elected, two in 2024— and interestingly, no current commissioners are rural residents. The included list introduces readers to Commissioners from rural communities of Montgomery County, beginning in 1952.

TERM YEARS	COMMISSIONER	
<p><b>1952-1972</b></p>	<p><b>William Chappell Gray</b>, (b.1901-d.1978), resided in the Pine Level area of Montgomery County, owned thousands of acres of land in the county and maintained a large sharecropping method of farming.</p>	

<p><b>1952-1960</b></p>	<p><b>Hiram Eldridge Rowe</b>, (b. 1891-d. 1960) resident of Letohatchee Mail Route , farmer, fan of his ever present cigar and fishing with family and friends; died while serving as a member of the Montgomery County Board of Revenue</p>	
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TERM YEARS	COMMISSIONER	
<p><b>1960-1960</b></p>	<p><b>Lola Guy Rowe</b>, (b. 1893-d.1968) succeeded husband, Hiram E. Rowe who died in office; Mrs. Rowe was appointed to fill the term of her husband by Gov. John Patterson on October 14, 1960, see letter, page x</p>	

<p><b>1960-1964</b></p>	<p><b>Carrol Ballard Mosley</b>, (b. 1909-d.1985) farmer and cattleman, owner and operator of family's general store in Pintlala, associated with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Program in Montgomery County, served as a field representative of the Crop Reporting Service and involved in community activities</p>	
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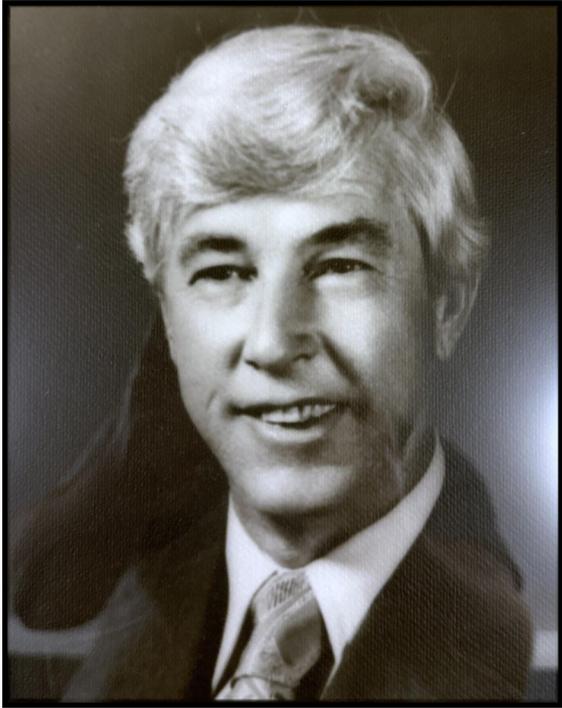
TERM YEARS	COMMISSIONER
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<p><b>1964-1968</b></p>	<p><b>Malcolm Chisolm (Mac) Hall</b>, (b. 1924–d. 2014) resident of the Cantelou community where he was a dairy farmer; known for having the tallest silo in Montgomery County on his farm</p>	
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<p><b>1964-1968</b></p>	<p><b>Fred A. Sellers</b>, (b.1910-d. 2016) resided in Fleta community in Montgomery County, cattleman, farmer and owner and operator of a general store in Fleta. Chairman of the Board of the Pintlala Water System and active in community activities.</p>	
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TERM YEARS	COMMISSIONER	
<p><b>1968-1972</b></p>	<p><b>Ernest Wayne Russell</b>, (b.1920-d.2002) resided in the Lapine community of Montgomery County, one of the larger cattlemen in Montgomery County, Established Russell Oil in 1955 which remains a viable family business in the year 2024</p>	
<p><b>1972-1976</b> (Second Term)</p>	<p><b>Fred A. Sellers</b></p>	
<p><b>1972-1980</b></p>	<p><b>Cleavy T. Johnson</b>, (b. 1915-d.1984), farmer, cattleman, owner of a finance company in Montgomery, active in community activities, enjoyed hunting and fishing, died while enjoying a morning of hunting in the woods</p>	

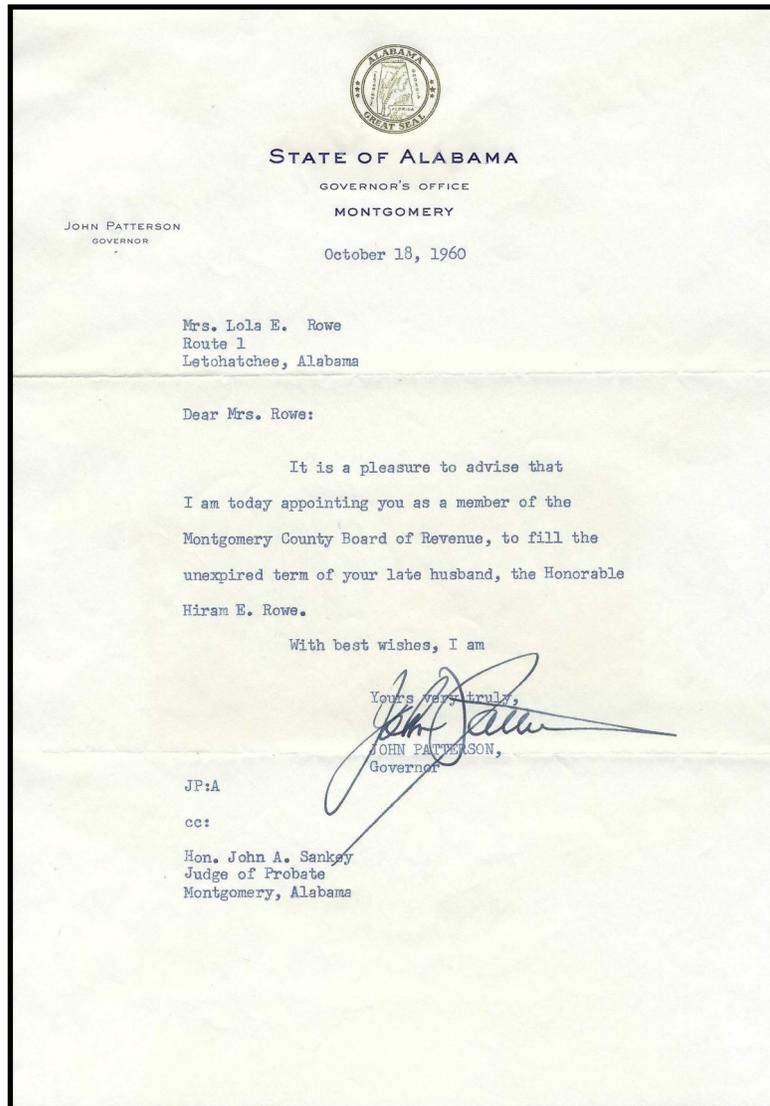
TERM YEARS	COMMISSIONER
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<p><b>1976-1980</b></p>	<p><b>H. B. (Mac) McKinney</b>, (b. 1924-d. 2000), at the time of his service as a County Commissioner, McKinney lived in the Lapine area of Montgomery County, partner in an electrical contracting company in Montgomery County</p>	
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<p><b>1980-1987</b></p>	<p><b>Joel Barfoot</b>, (b. 1951) resident of Pike Road defeated two term Commissioner, Cleavy Johnson in 1980; was a soybean farmer at the time of his term on the Commission; served as a Montgomery City Policeman 1969-1979; appointed chairman of the Pardons and Parole Board by Governor Guy Hunt, who married Joel and his wife at the Governor's Mansion; Barfoot retired as a Probation Officer in Elmore County.</p>	
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TERM YEARS	COMMISSIONER	
<p><b>1987-2004</b></p>	<p><b>Lynn Gowan, (1952-2018)</b> Grew up in Mathews, (Pike Road area), worked at Lamar Advertising in Montgomery, fought heroic battle against kidney disease</p>	

<p><b>2004-2014</b></p>	<p><b>Reed Ingram, (b. 1962),</b> Currently member of Alabama House of Representatives, District 75, owner of Sweet Creek Farm Market on Highway 231, lives in the Pike Road Community</p>	
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Letter appointing Lola G. Rowe to complete her husband's term on Board of Revenue, letter contributed by Earl Russell



Alabama Journal, November 9, 1964 Montgomery County Board of Revenue Meeting including the following previously mentioned members: Chappell Gray, Fred Sellers Carrol Mosley, and Malcolm (Mac) Hall, Newspaper article contributed by Joe Sellers



Montgomery County Commissioners as of April 2024

Front Row (L-R): Doug Singleton and Isaiah Sankey Back Row (L-R): Carmen Moore-Zeigler, Daniel Harris, Jr., and Ronda M. Walker  
source Montgomery County Commission website

### Sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississippi-----Territory>, accessed March 16, 2024

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Probate-court>, accessed March 13, 2024

County Probate Offices: Functional Analysis & Records Disposition Authority, October 18, 2023, used at Montgomery County Archives Office, February, 2024

County Commissions: Functional Analysis & Records Disposition Authority, October 18, 2023, used at Montgomery County Archives Office, February, 2024

<https://www.mc-ala.org/government/county-commission>, accessed March 1, 2024

<https://www.arcgis.com/webmap/viewer.html?webmaps>, accessed March 1, 2024

### Acknowledgments:

Joel Barfoot, former Montgomery County Commissioner

Laslie Hall

Dr. Dallas Hanbury, Montgomery County Archivist

Ricky McLaney

Mary Sue Menefee, daughter of Cleavy Johnson

Earl Russell, grandson of Commissioners Rowe

Joe Sellers and Fran Pugh, grandchildren of Fred Sellers

Ken Ward, Manager of Public Affairs, Montgomery County Commission

## Local Cattle Company National Award Recipient

Gary Burton

Carter Cattle Company, LLC of Pintlala was selected as the National Environmental Stewardship Award recipient for the 2022 year in April 2023. This award was established in 1991 by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. The award is presented annually to recognize outstanding stewardship practices and conservation achievements of cattle producers across the United States. The Carter's award was presented in Washington D. C. at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Spring Legislative Conference.

Through conservation incentives offered by the Watershed Project and Environmental Quality Programs, the Carters installed 2,000 feet of water lines to two new water troughs, protected 1,250 square feet of heavy use areas and built 1,300 feet of fence to exclude cattle from Pintlala Creek. These efforts help the Carters use the land in the most effective way for their cow herd while protecting natural resources.

Dr. Will Carter stated " We are in the cattle business, but we are in the grass business first. Our job is to manage the grass and allocate it to the cattle that then take the resource and produce something of greater value." The entire family works to utilize rotational grazing to improve the overall health of the farms ecosystem, soil health, forage base, watershed, livestock and wildlife.

Each year, seven families are recognized with regional Environmental Stewardship awards, with one being honored as the national winner. Congratulations to the Carter Cattle Company, LLC and the Will Carter family, who represented Alabama.

Adapted from the *Alabama Cattleman Magazine*, V. 65, No.6, June 2023



Carter Family pictured with Alabama Cattleman's Association delegation in Washington, D. C., April 2023, Courtesy Monnie Carol Carter



**PINTLALA HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION**

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



**NEXT MEETING**

**APRIL 21, 2024  
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**