

PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting:
January 21st — 2:30 p.m.
Pintlala Baptist Church



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

Volume XXI, Number 1

January 2007

Students at Robertson-Sankey School, circa 1910



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Place 4Judy Burton (334)288-3585

All Sankey related photographs, courtesy of Jean Dean

Pictured:

1st Row (L to R): Carrie Suggs, Emmie Reynolds, Walter Sharpe, Roy Sankey, Zelma Suggs, Willie Sankey, and Edward Suggs.

2nd Row (L to R): Malcolm Sharpe, J.S. Reynolds, Lillian Sharpe, Enes Suggs, and Daisy Reynolds.

3rd Row (L to R): Stannie Suggs, Bernice Suggs, John Sankey (Teacher), Leonard Sankey, and Henry Urquhart.

President's Message

Gary Palmer calls it a coming crisis in citizenship. As President of the Alabama Policy Institute, Palmer's sentiments were recently published by the *Montgomery Advertiser* (November 8, 2006). His conclusions are based on a report released by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute which indicates that America's colleges and universities are failing miserably when it comes to educating students about our nation's history and founding principles. To quote Palmer:

ISI commissioned the University of Connecticut's Department of Public Policy to conduct a survey of over 14,000 randomly selected freshmen and senior students from 50 colleges and universities nationwide. The findings of the survey, which included some of the nation's most prestigious schools, should be the cause for serious concern as they revealed a lack of students' core knowledge of American history, our founding principles and our governing institutions.

Also cited was the survey conducted by the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research. The survey indicated that none of the nation's top 55 colleges and universities required any history courses for graduation, and only three-Colgate, Columbia, and the University of the South-required a course in Western Civilization. Gary Palmer observes, "Perhaps the loss of civic knowledge and the loss of memory of the great ideas and values on which America was founded helps explain the incredibly hostile politics of today."

James Madison, the architect of the U. S. Constitution, sobers us when he stated that "only a well-educated people can be permanently a free people."

If liberty is cherished, then we must value a knowledge of history.

Gary Burton, President, garyburton1@charter.net

PHA October Program

Pintlala Historical Association will meet on Sunday, January 21, 2007 at the Pintlala Baptist Church at 2:30 p.m. Mary Ann Neeley will speak on Matthew P. Blue, Montgomery historian and subject of Mrs. Neeley's latest book, *The Writings of M.P. Blue: Montgomery's First Historian*.

Mrs. Neeley has annotated Blue's history to correct errors and clear up inconsistencies, added other material on early churches and a genealogy of the Blue family, as well as excerpts from Ellen Blue's (sister of M. P. Blue) Civil War diary. The book also includes many nineteenth-century photographs.

It is always a pleasure to have Mary Ann Neeley as a guest at PHA meetings so please join us for her interesting and educational presentation.

November 15 Tornado Damages Local Cemeteries.

Pintlala residents are grateful that there were no injuries or fatalities from the November 15 tornado. The recovery of personal property, barns, and farm structures continues to be a challenge. High winds and downed trees wreaked havoc with the public library, Pintlala Elementary School, and Newell Roadbuilders. The Pintlala United Methodist Church escaped severe damage with trees falling all around it.

Receiving little notice was the damage sustained by the community's historic cemeteries. The Shackelford Cemetery on Highway 31 was damaged and some fence damage at Bethel Cemetery occurred. However, the Moseley (Moseley, Supple, Luckie, Tankersley) Cemetery at the junction of Tabernacle and Plantation Roads was severely damaged and took a direct hit. Words and photos cannot describe the huge trees and large craters in the cemetery when the storm had passed.

However, large trees have been removed and craters have been filled in. Much, much restoration is left to be done. We are grateful that the hard, dramatic work has been performed. Please thank the following persons for their incredible help and intervention with crews and equipment.

- Montgomery County Commissioner Elton Dean.
- Montgomery County Engineers: George Speake, Richard C. Worthington, and James Kelly.
- On-the-ground leaders: Anthony Carter and Eddie Kirk.



Tornado damage, The Shackelford Cemetery

Margaret Livingston Malloy Sankey: a Profile

Information provided by Jean Dean

One of the teachers in early Montgomery County schools was Margaret Malloy Sankey, born to William Adams and Mary (Mollie) Livingston Malloy on August 29, 1874 in Montgomery County. Margaret is fondly remembered as Mag or Miss Mag. She was educated at Highland Home College, Highland Home, Alabama and Alabama Normal College for Girls in Livingston, Alabama. Her curriculum included art classes as documented by a photograph of her class painting "en plain air". Family members recall her many beautiful paintings which hung in her home.

Mag's family lived near the Robertson's Cross Roads area of Montgomery County when she was a small child and family members believe she may have been born there also. Mag's grandmother was Sarah Caroline Robertson who was a sister to W. G. Robertson author of *Early Settlers of Montgomery County*. The Sandy Creek body of water was located in this section of the county and would flood from time to time. Mag related to her grandchild that once during a flood her father swam their horse across the swollen creek in order for her to get to school, which was a log building. It is possible that this was Mt. Zion School which was located on the banks of Sandy Creek from the late 1800s to circa 1922. This school was remembered by Mildred Paulk Kendrick whose mother Lillie Gibson Paulk attended classes there. At this same time in Mag's childhood her family attended the Mount Zion Baptist Church. The family was of the Presbyterian faith but Legrand and Providence Presbyterian Church (established 1828) were too far to travel for their participation.



*Art Class at Alabama Normal College for Girls in Livingston, Alabama.
Margaret Malloy Sankey, 2nd from right, painting horses*

On November 24, 1898 Margaret Livingston Malloy and Frank Emmett Sankey (1869-1915) were married at Providence Church. The young couple shared the home of Frank's parents, Dr. and Mrs. John T. Sankey, on Butler Mill Road. Dr. Sankey's daughter, Margaret Sankey Fleming, also lived in the home. (This home is owned by Phil and Carolyn Snow as of December, 2006.)

Mag and Frank Sankey had four children: Willie Malloy Sankey (1899-1971); George Edward Sankey (1902-1910); Frank Emmett Sankey, Jr. (1094-1987); and Evelyn Sankey (1906-1932). When Frank Sr. died in 1915 he left Mag a widow at 41 years of age, after only 17 years of marriage, and with three surviving children to rear. Mag had been awarded a Life Certificate of Teaching in 1911 which gave her the authority to teach in any of the public schools of Alabama. She taught in schools near her home on Butler Mill Road including Robertson-Sankey, Snowdown and Legrand schools. She returned to school for the summer session at Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn University) in 1917. During this time away from home, her husband's sister, Margaret Sankey Fleming cared for Willie, Frank, Jr. and Evelyn. She completed the Alabama Reading Circle for teachers in 1918. How long Mag taught has not been determined.

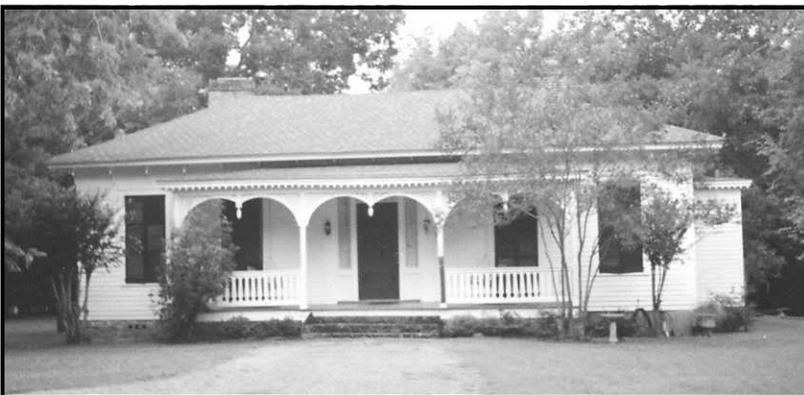
In addition to her life as a teacher and mother, Mag was a faithful member of Providence Presbyterian Church where her father, William Adams Malloy, was an elder. She was proud of her father's role in the church and conducted herself in a manner of which he would be proud. Her personal influence and devotion to Providence made her a model for other church members and lent strength to the small rural church. She was instrumental in organizing the Woman's Auxiliary in 1926 and served as its first president. She then served as Historian from 1926 to 1930 and also from 1932 to 1936. Secretary and Treasurer were other offices of responsibility she willingly filled. Her zeal and sound wisdom were important to every phase of church work.

Miss Mag's love for her family and her sacrifices on their behalf were no more evident than when she became the maternal caregiver for her grandson, Edward Cook, after his mother's death when he was only one year old. Edward was the son of Mag's daughter, Evelyn and her husband, Edward Melton Cook, Sr. Mag spent six months of each year in Savannah, Georgia so that Edward could be with his father who worked for the railroad in that city. This arrangement lasted until Edward entered the seventh grade and he then remained in Montgomery County for the entire school year finally graduating from Sidney Lanier High School. Edward died of cancer in 1964 in Tennessee only twelve years after the death of his grandmother.

Miss Mag touched the lives of many young people during her years as a teacher and through her leadership with the 4-H clubs in the local area.

She had organized a club among her pupils and encouraged club work for local youths until her death in 1952. She was also one of Montgomery County's outstanding Home Demonstration Club members.

PHA member Jean Stubbs Dean remembers moving into the Will Sankey home on Butler Mill Road when she was nine years old. This home was next door to Miss Mag's home. Jean later married David Dean in 1950, who was Mag's grandson and son of Willie Malloy Sankey Dean and James David Dean. Jean also remembers the good times she and her sister, Kate, had at Miss Mag's house playing with Merle and Beth Sankey



Original home of Dr. John T. Sankey, later home of Frank and Margaret Sankey

(Mag's great nieces who lived across the Butler Mill Road) and Edward Cook. Miss Mag expected their behavior to be first rate and she worked to instill habits of good manners and proper speech, no "aint's" were allowed.

Hilda Reynolds Smiley remembers Miss Mag as a fellow church member and "down the road neighbor." She vividly remembers the grey and black print dresses, black shoes and ever present hats worn by Mag. Hilda spoke of Mag as being a very frank person who let one know what she thought but at the same time was a sweet spirited person. A good home library containing many of the classic books of the time and a lazy susan table belonging to Mag were other memories recalled by Hilda. As evidence of Mag's strong mind, Hilda could remember the time that she walked out of a church service when she did not agree with the minister's theology.

Margaret Malloy Sankey died on August 2, 1952 after suffering a stroke three weeks earlier and is buried in the Sankey family cemetery on Butler Mill Road.



Margaret Malloy Sankey, circa 1950

Hilda spoke of Mag as being a very frank person who let one know what she thought but at the same time was a sweet spirited person. A good



*Gravesite of Margaret Malloy Sankey and Frank Emmett Sankey
Sankey family cemetery, Butler Mill Road*

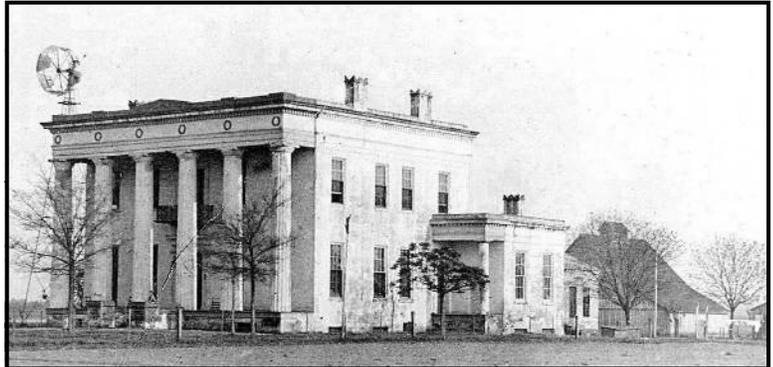
The following article by William O. Stone is the first in a series taken from a longer paper by Stone. The series is a continuation of information on the Stone plantations which were the topic of William Stone's presentation at the October 2006 PHA meeting at the Prairie Place Plantation house now in Hope Hull and owned by Dr. and Mrs. Fred Bush.

The Slave Population and Farming of the Stone Plantations Of Lowndes and Montgomery Counties 1840-1865

Written by William Oliver Stone
Photographs courtesy of William Oliver Stone

This historical documentation is designed to honor descendents of slave families and actual former slaves who were owned by the Stone Family and provide an accurate accounting of farming on the family plantations from 1840 through 1865. Today, little detailed information exists. Many names of Stone slaves will never be known. However, through legal wills, estate papers, and the U.S. Censuses Reports of Alabama of 1840, 1850 and 1860, we can remember some of those individual slaves by specific name, gender, age, and member ranking within slave families. The research also provides some idea of daily life on the Stone Plantations in Alabama.

In 1860 the total cotton crop of America was 4,675,770 bales with 3,697,727 bales of cotton exported out of the country, and 978,043 bales of cotton used in country. England, alone took 2,582,000 bales which amounted to four-fifths of her entire consumption for the year. The cotton-fields of the Southern States embraced an area of 500,000 square miles and the capital invested in the cultivation of the cotton plant amounted to \$900,000,000 dollars. America exported only a total of 420 bales in 1790. This earlier production was not one-tenth of the cotton product furnished by several countries to England. By the late 1850's the South was furnishing almost seventy-five percent of the surplus cotton product of the entire world. World demand for cotton exceeded production capabilities and provided a financial boom and landslide of wealth for the Southern States.



*Barton Warren Stone Home Place, 8 1/2 Mile Post Old Selma Road
Montgomery, Alabama. Circa 1883*

Cotton production demanded large amounts of farming land and the absolute necessity of slave labor. By comparison of wealth between cotton production of this period, it is interesting to note that for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1862, U.S. Governmental Expenditures under Abraham Lincoln's Administration amounted to \$480,000,000 dollars, just over one-half the dollar amount invested for cotton production in the South before the war began in 1861. The actual amount of total money or revenues taken in the first quarter of 1862 for operating the United States Government did not exceed \$5,000,000 dollars.

The general picture portrayed of the Old South is usually images of the large, majestic, white columned plantation houses surrounded with huge oaks, the stately planters dressed in all white attire, women in beautiful hoop dresses, and slaves treated, distastefully in performing the manual and mundane tasks of hard labor. Local and County laws of Alabama prohibited unusual physical punishment and abuse of slaves by slave owners, which resulted in heavy fines and /or imprisonment for guilty planters. During this period of slaves and masters only two known cases of slave revolt toward planters are recorded for Montgomery County in a forty-year period of time. Actually, 75% of all Southerners never owned a single slave during this period of our history. The Southern Black Belt Region constituted the most concentrated ownership of slaves. This fact resulted from the massive amounts of physical labor required for crop production in a non-industrialized, agricultural economy.

The Old South only lasted for a period of forty years and the Civil War lost before it began, in lieu of the fact, of its regional wealth of the world, cotton trade before 1860. The fact attributed to a Confederate Government which misunderstood, in almost every case, the basic essentials and needs of financing and maintaining a wartime economy, building and maintaining substantial and sound foreign relations with European Powers, and adequately supplying a sustained, well- equipped, military force in the field.

After 1865, many of the former slaves owned by the Stones elected to stay on the farms and were paid wages and a small percentage of profits from cotton sales. Barton Warren's farm was an active farming operation until the late 1880's under the direction of his youngest son, Dr. Henry Lewis Stone. The death of Barton Warren Stone in 1884 resulted in much of the plantation land being divided and inherited by children and grandchildren.

My information is drawn from several different, but accurate sources in determining the actual slave populations of the Stone Plantations both in Lowndes and Montgomery Counties. Wherever, possible, I have included first names and ages of particular slaves. Values of slaves are shown, as they were factually documented property. Value comparisons are also made based on our current dollar to better understand the worth of individual slaves at a specific time in history. The massive operation of the farms promoted the movement of slaves between plantation locations based on growing of corn, wheat, peas, hay, fodder, and cotton crops. The shifting of labor was utilized based on active and inactive fields, ginning and banding of cotton product, and preparation of cotton for river transport via steamboats destined for Mobile. Later, portable cotton gins reduced some movement of slave labor. The end location was the Alabama River wharf located on Warren Henley Stone's Magnolia Crest Plantation in Burkeville, Alabama.

In 1849, the net profit from a single bale of cotton sold in Mobile, Alabama, was \$51.00. This amount was equal in value to \$1,059.64 in 2002. An accumulated wealth of \$50,030.73 designated millionaire status in 1849. In 1862, millionaire status required a total wealth of \$51,961.69.



Barton Warren Stone; builder of Stone House Montgomery.

An itemized appraisal of the estate of Warren Henley Stone gives a detailed overview of the farming operation of "Magnolia Crest" Plantation in Burkeville in November of 1849. Landholdings at the time of his death recorded the ownership of 720 acres of land and ownership of forty-eight + slaves. Livestock comprised forty head of cows (22 milk cows and calves, 1 Durham bull, and 17 yearlings), two yoke oxen, one ox, six plow mules, five horses, fifty-eight stock hogs, seventy-five pork hogs, one lot of weeding hogs, fourteen sheep, and sixteen beehives. On-hand crop inventory included one lot of corn (3000 bushels), one lot of fodder (2000 bushels), eighteen and one-half bushels of peas, one lot of oats, one lot of wheat, and thirty-five bales of cotton. His estimated property and holdings at his death exceeded \$50,000.00. Warren Henley Stone had obtained millionaire status well before 1849. He was regarded as one of the wealthiest men of Lowndes County, Alabama.

Likewise, Barton Warren Stone, his oldest son, was a multi-millionaire, the most successful and wealthiest planter of his brothers, Absalom, John, and Warren Thomas. Eventually, all of Barton's brothers moved westward beginning in 1850 settling in Mississippi and Texas. Warren Thomas relocated his family to Texas after the Civil War.

The yearly, average dollar production of Barton's "Home Place" Plantation has been estimated at slightly over one quarter of a million dollars in today's currency with 60% income obtained from cotton production, 25% of income realized from the processing and sales of smoked pork meat, 5% income from cattle, and 10% income of profit on the collection of seven percent interest on money loans issued to local citizens and banks of Montgomery and Lowndes Counties.

The main element of long term prosperity for the Stone Plantations was direct negotiation of prices with European cotton buyers in Mobile and New Orleans by the brothers and the demand of payment in United States Currency. Barton disliked Confederate money and believed that it would not sustain value. He and his brothers did not suffer from inflation and devaluation of Confederate Currency for this reason. Barton's cash reserves kept at the plantation house were said to be \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 dollars at all times. Money was kept in the large family safe located in the back hallway on the first floor of the "Home Place" Plantation.

Lowndes County, Alabama, according to the 1860 U.S. Census, reports a slave population of 19,340 slaves in the county, ranking it 5th in the state and 12th in the nation in total slave population. Likewise, Montgomery

County, Alabama, according to the 1860 U.S. Census, reports a slave population of 23,710 slaves in the county, ranking it 3rd in the state and 7th in the nation in total slave population. Slave names were not enumerated in the 1860 Census, unless a particular slave was handicapped or over 100 years of age.

Chester, a slave of 108 years of age, is reported on page 161 of the 1860 Census being owned by Barton Warren Stone of Montgomery County, Alabama. Only 1,570 slaves of Chester's category are specifically named from a total population of 3,950,546 in the United States in 1860. Family legacy says that Chester was also known and addressed by fellow slaves of both plantations as "Papa Two". This name was given resulting from his long term relationship in raising Barton from a young boy into manhood. Chester Stone is believed to have died in 1861 and is buried on the "Home Place" Plantation grounds on the Old Selma Road in Montgomery County. At the same time, it must be remembered that in 1860, prior to the beginning of the Civil War, eleven percent of the total black population of the United States was free. This did not include the category of bondsmen in the South.



Stone family smokehouse, Old Selma Road

During the 1860's and after 1865, bondsmen represented the most concentrated wealth of all blacks in the U.S. due to demand for highly, skilled labor. Bondsmen were more educated slaves who contracted out their labor based on specific trade needs. Usually, bondsmen lived in their own homes off the plantation and divided their earnings equally between themselves and their owners. In some cases they bought their own freedom. Montgomery in the 1860's was described as having the very best-dressed, black slaves on Sunday morning in the United States. This description was based on quality clothing which was affordable and could be purchased by family members of bondsmen.

A large percentage of all Southern Plantation homes were actually built with slave labor and under the supervision of riders and skilled bondsmen based on plans drawn and designed by architects and engineers. The position of rider was a slave who had obtained overseer status over fellow slaves. Riders could usually read and write, but were not highly skilled tradesmen. The wealthiest bondsman in house building in Montgomery County was James Hale, a former slave of Dr. William O. Baldwin. After emancipation, he became a contractor and was reputedly the wealthiest black in Montgomery in the 1880's. He was responsible for building Hale's Infirmary in memory of his two children and bringing Dr. Cornelius Dorsett to the City, as Montgomery's first black Physician in 1883.

The 1860 U.S. Census outlines on page 393B Warren Thomas Stone inherited "Magnolia Crest" Plantation which comprised approximately 720+ acres of land out of the original 3000 acres owned by his father, Warren Henley Stone. His land holdings coupled with inheritance from his father's estate were estimated to be approximately 1200 acres which included the family plantation house. The document recorded Warren's ownership of 79 slaves in Lowndes County, Alabama. Barton Warren Stone's plantation comprised approximately 5000 acres of land in Montgomery County and an additional 2000 acres of land in Autauga County and included three Stone plantation houses which were the BWS (Home Place) Plantation House, the Duck Pond Plantation House, and the Prairie Place Plantation House. His holdings also incorporated the ownership of several textile mills and interest in the railroad between Montgomery and Selma. Documents detail Barton Warren's ownership of 83 slaves as shown on page 161 of the Census for Montgomery County. These figures do not include slaves owned by the other two brothers, those owned by Barton's sons and daughters or individuals willed as property to the daughters of Warren Henley Stone in 1849. Many of the slave names can be obtained from the original Last Will & Testament of Warren Henley Stone executed in Lowndes County, Alabama on November 09, 1849. A detailed inventory of the Estate of Warren Henley Stone was demanded by the court. The court action resulted from a law suit filed against Barton and Warren Thomas, as executors of their father's estate by a disgruntled son-in-law left out of the inheritance.

(The remainder of this article, along with documentation, will be published in the next newsletter.)



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ASSOCIATION

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

NEXT MEETING

JANUARY 21, 2007

2:30 P.M.

PINTLALA BAPTIST CHURCH

Join the Pintlala Historical Association

Please mail completed form, fee & dues to :

**Pintlala Historical Association
c/o Thomas Ray
2995 Pettus Road
Hope Hull, AL 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 _____

\$5.00 Registration Fee (One Time) - \$10.00 Annual Dues