

PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting:
January 20th —2:30 p.m.
Pintlala Baptist Church



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

Volume XXII, Number 1

January 2008

Pintlala School 4-H Club (circa 1950)



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Place 4.....

Photograph, courtesy of Beverly Ming

This photo was found in the effects of Beverly Ming's mother, Annie B. Poole, and can be seen in the Pintlala Branch Library.

Pictured (L to R): Shirley Defee, Freddie Rhodes, Gloria Morgan, Elaine Lassiter, Hiram Lassiter, Charlie Reddock, Jeannie Grace Gardner, The Rowe Twins, Jane Rhodes and Jane Morgan

President's Message—Random Thoughts

Speaking of history, 2007 is now in the history books and we turn our attention to new opportunities for PHA. Our organization must strengthen itself over the coming months. Here are a few simple objectives:

- We must think of strategies to increase our membership with a view to do so with younger adults. Our aging membership and our noble mission would encourage us to do so.
- We must take the Mildred Smith project to a new level. Words cannot measure our gratitude to Jean Dean and Butch Moseley for helping us reach this enviable position.
- It is becoming apparent that PHA needs a website. If nothing is done but to archive searchable newsletters, historians and researchers would be greatly helped.
- The PHA Board needs to meet more often to monitor progress.
- **PHA dues are due January 1, 2008**

These are achievable goals. Let's work together to make them happen. Bring a friend to this month's meeting.

Gary Burton,
Garyburton1@charter.net

In Memoriam

Wilbur Clanton Mosley, Jr., genealogist, student of local Pintlala history and stellar organizer of the Mosley-Shackelford Family Association, passed away at his home in Aiken, South Carolina on December 1, 2007. Clanton was born in Birmingham, Alabama on October 30, 1938 to Wilbur Clanton Mosely, Sr. and Clare Thomas Mosley. Wilbur was brother to Carrie Mosley Newell, Estelle Mosley Armstrong, Annie Mosley Chesnutt, Lula Mae Tyre and Carrol B. Mosley all of the Pintlala community. Over the years Clanton visited his Pintlala aunts, uncles and cousins regularly.

Clanton was always eager to learn more about his extended Mosley family roots and to share his vast store of information with others. He was most gracious to answer queries over the phone or via email. His razor sharp mind, attention to detail and thoroughness will be missed. For many years from his Aiken home, he exhibited devoted leadership and loving care for the Mosley-Luckie-Tankersley-Supples Cemetery. Clanton always checked the cemetery condition on trips to Pintlala, often mowing the entire cemetery with a push mower brought in his car from South Carolina. He was an encourager to this organization.

Our thoughts and prayers are with is wife, Betty; son, Ben; daughter, Mary Beth and grandchildren.

October PHA Meeting

Thanks to Bill Stone for an excellent program presented at the Stone's Chapel Church, aka Burkeville United Methodist Church, Stone Family Cemetery and Magnolia Crest, home of Warren Henley Stone. His presentations were informative and interesting. We are indebted to Sabic Innovative Plastics for allowing our group to enter their property.

Magnolia Crest is a beautiful ca.1830 home which is well cared for by the corporation. Our small but enthusiastic group enjoyed the rarely given tour.



Bill Stone - Photo courtesy Gary Burton

PHA January Program

James Fuller, Executive Director, Montgomery County Historical Society will be our guest speaker on Sunday, January 20, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. at Pintlala Baptist Church. He will outline the history and purpose of the Society and how it can assist in research projects. James is a native of Montgomery, graduated from Sidney Lanier High School and Mercer University in Georgia. He is a partner in the Stonehenge Gallery, although retired from the "daily grind." James' family were early settlers in Montgomery County with their family home once located on Liberty Church Road in south Montgomery County. James was instrumental in having the Figh-Pickett House moved to South Court Street where it serves as the headquarters for the MCHS. Please join us for this interesting meeting.

WADE HAMPTON ALLEN
(April 16, 1794-June 21, 1851)
By Gary Burton

Alabama was a territory moving rapidly toward statehood when Wade Hampton Allen, a young teenager, became part of a large westward migration out of Edgefield, South Carolina. Born on April 16, 1794, Allen was named for the Revolutionary War hero, Wade Hampton, of South Carolina, not to be confused with the grandson bearing the same name and who, as a Civil War legend, would eclipse the fame of his own grandfather.



Wade Hampton Allen—Used by permission of the Alabama Department of Archives and History

In 1817, when Robert Allen brought his wife Nancy Hamm Allen and son Wade, along with Wade's other siblings, to the Alabama Territory, he found himself on the cusp of exciting changes. The county and city of Montgomery would soon be successively incorporated. As a young man, Wade Allen would provide a shaping, formative influence in the development of the new city. His involvement in county affairs and state interests would be defining.

Before long, Allen became known for his entrepreneurial abilities, sound judgment, and skillful business acumen. Unlike his contemporary and Montgomery's founder, Andrew Dexter, Allen's managerial talents and work ethic established him as a reliable and trustworthy businessman. Before the competing villages of New Philadelphia and East Alabama merged into the nascent city of Montgomery, an interesting observation was made in Woodward's *Reminiscences*. After a lengthy diatribe recalling the formation of the infant city and how Montgomery was named, the following commentary was given as an afterthought in a letter from J.G. Klinck, dated November 24, 1858:

"P.S. The foregoing alludes to Dexter's quarter section alone, up to the time stated. Walton Lucas and Mr. Allen were both doing business on the Bluff fraction in 1819, close to the river."

By 1819, the year that Alabama acquired statehood, twenty-five-year-old Allen had established himself as a reputable worker, who contributed to the commerce of a developing village. Two years later, Allen invested in a sawmill on Spring Creek in order to provide the necessary lumber for new housing starts. With a growing reputation for providing reliable service, Allen was asked to build the city's first jail.

Family Context

Allen's father, Robert, was a veteran of the Revolutionary War, having served as a horseman under Joseph Pickens. Allen's grandfather, Josiah Allen, was also a veteran and was killed by Indians and Tories near Edgefield.

All nine of Robert and Nancy Allen's children were born in South Carolina, and the large family moved from that state to the Alabama Territory in 1817. Interestingly, some genealogies refer to Robert Allen as "Rev." When he died in 1829, his will mentioned his wife, Nancy, and each offspring by name. His bequest included the distribution of land, modest sums of money, four slaves, one bay mare, three spinning wheels, books, and a loom.

Their son, Wade Allen, married twice. He first married Catherine Crum Carpenter on March 8, 1821. The event was announced by the *Montgomery Republic*.

Children by Catherine Carpenter: Ann, and Eliza Brown who married Thomas Hill Watts, the Governor of Alabama during the Civil War.

It is assumed that Catherine died. The date for Allen's marriage to Eliza Sayre has not been determined.

Children by Eliza Sayre, daughter of Calvin and Mary Sayre: William Wirt Allen, Wade Hamilton Allen, George Edmund Allen, Joseph Virginius Allen.

Allen and his second wife experienced much grief and separation. Their son, William Wirt Allen, who would

become the infamous Confederate soldier, was born in New York in 1835. Census records confirm that Eliza's father, Calvin Sayre, was in New York the same year. More than likely, Eliza was with her parents enjoying their attentiveness and obstetric care. She was also recovering from the grief of losing an eleven-month-old son, Calvin Dickerson Allen, named for her father. In 1843, the Allens once again experienced a disproportionate share of grief when another infant son, Charles Sayre Allen, died.

Wade Hampton Allen died on June 21, 1851, leaving Eliza with the responsibility of rearing Wade, age fourteen, and Joseph, age four. Both sons died as young adults, in 1861 and 1865 respectively.

The Allens and the Sayres are buried in adjoining family plots in Montgomery's Oakwood Cemetery.



*Eliza Brown Allen Watts
1825-1873—Used by permission of the Alabama Department of Archives and History*

The Allen Place in Pintlala

Those with long-time connections to Pintlala in southwest Montgomery County recall the Allen Place or Allen's Hill. Located 1.8 miles north of the Pintlala intersection on the west side of Highway 31 across from the home of Mickey and Felicia Moore, the property is now occupied by three mobile homes. Questions concerning the relationship of the property to Wade Hampton Allen have been raised for many years. Allen, in spite of his vast holdings of real estate, however, never owned property in sections 10 and 15 of Range 17, Township 14.

What connects the property with Wade Hampton Allen's influence is that ownership by the Allen family began with a son, George E. Allen, (March 1, 1844-September 19, 1909), who fought in the Confederate army as an Ordnance Sergeant with the 53rd Alabama Cavalry. He was also a sibling of General William Wirt Allen. In his post-war career, George Allen worked as a clerk in the freight office of the L&N Railroad.

The property comprising the Allen Place once totaled 601 acres. The old house, long since removed, could easily be seen on the west side of Highway 31 (Latitude, N 32.19834 and Longitude, W 83.35151). Abstracts reveal that George B. Holmes was granted a mortgage on most of the property by George and Sallie Allen in 1876. Two years later, Holmes was not able to honor the payment, a fate common to many in central Alabama during Reconstruction. The mortgage was transferred to the Merchants and Planters National Bank of Montgomery, which executed the foreclosure. The land was then sold at public auction at the "Artesian Basin" in Montgomery. The sale positioned Sallie E. Allen, widow of George E. Allen, to eventually regain the property. The sequence of ownership within the Allen family can be traced in the abstract:

1. Sallie E. Allen (1878) 2. Mary Allen Overton (1915) 3. Frances A. Overton and Edith O. Lane (1945) 4. Frances Overton (1946)

Religious Affiliation

An Early Methodist

Wade Allen had a strong and formative influence on Methodism in Montgomery. A Methodist Society was organized on September 15, 1820, in the Union Church, which was shared a building with the Baptists and Presbyterians. On December 1, 1830, the Methodists paid both the Baptists and the Presbyterians \$50.00 each for the use of the building, with the understanding that the Methodists would complete the building in a "plain and decent manner." The Methodist congregation became known as Court Street Methodist Church, the forerunner of First United Methodist Church. By 1852, the congregation occupied a prominent brick facility and enjoyed that location for the next 102 years. Allen was a faithful Methodist. The Quarterly Conference Record of Court Street Methodist Church (May 22, 1830-September 4, 1847) contains the minutes of the Montgomery Station Ala. Conference for April 11, 1846. Those minutes note that at the first quarterly meeting of that year, Allen was one of three stewards of the church. He did not live long enough, however, to enjoy worshipping in the new church building.

Legal Training and Practice

Wade Allen, Esq.

Allen was one of the early attorneys in the new city of Montgomery. In his possession was Harry T. Toulmin's "Digest of the Laws of the State of Alabama" (1823), pictured at right and used by permission from the Alabama Department of Archives and History.



Qualifying as an attorney in the state of Alabama was challenging but not well regulated. Timothy Lewis, Director and State Law Librarian of the Alabama Supreme Court, provided insight into how aspiring attorneys were qualified to practice law in the early, formative years of statehood:

"Generally, it was customary for a person to apprentice themselves to a licensed attorney in the State where they wished to practice. After 'reading the law' under this attorney, they went before a judge, or a panel of judges who orally tested their legal knowledge. If the judge (s) determined that the examinee was sufficiently well-versed in the law, the examinee was admitted."



Originally, by law, the Alabama Supreme court was the examining authority, but in 1821, this was changed so that any two circuit judges in the state could be the examining authority. Since the justices of the Supreme Court were also the circuit judges, the only change was that you didn't have to travel to Cahaba, to be examined in open court, if you somehow could get two of the circuit judges together."

Justice of the Peace

Certainly Allen's grasp of the early code of Alabama served him well when he was making land purchases or negotiating contracts with the government to operate stage coach services. Public records reveal that Allen functioned as a justice of the peace when officiating the wedding of his sister, Eliza Carolina Allen, and Rev. Norman Alford Urquhart on October 7, 1830.

Justices of the peace were elected by popular vote, and initially there were two justices from each district. To qualify as a justice of the peace, one needed not be a licensed attorney. Winning the popular vote was the only requirement.

Thompson vs. Allen, June 1833

Determining Allen's level of legal proficiency is difficult. However, in a case before the Alabama Supreme Court, Allen seemed to have been more experienced than most attorneys of the period. While the case is quite convoluted, Lewis provided this helpful summary:

As I read the case, Mr. Moses Thompson borrowed \$80.84 from Mr. Slaughter, which was evidenced by one or more promissory notes. Mr. Slaughter conveyed these promissory notes to Mr. John Thompson, deceased, who either conveyed them to Wade Allen or was indebted to Allen in some way.

In order to collect his debt, Allen sued John Thompson's Estate, and during the trial, it was determined that Moses Thompson, among others, was indebted to John Thompson for \$80.84 and that Wade Allen owned John Thompson's right to collect the debt. Moses Thompson then asked the Supreme Court to reverse the lower court's judgment on the following grounds:

- (1) *That Moses Thompson and the other garnishees were not party to the suit, since they were not summoned as defendants;*
- (2) *That there was no issue to present to a jury;*
- (3) *That he should not have to pay court costs, since he was not a defendant;*

(4) *The Circuit Court had no jurisdiction;*

(5) *That the judgment against John Thompson was in error.*

The Court affirmed the Circuit Courts judgment, stating that:

(1)& (2) The Circuit Court record indicates that Moses Thompson appeared at the trial and denied his indebtedness, but that the plaintiff, Allen, filed a statement alleging that Moses Thompson was indebted to John Thompson, thus making this a question for the jury, which decided that Moses Thompson was indebted to John Thompson. It did not matter that Moses Thompson was not a defendant, only that he was indebted to John Thompson;

(3) The Court stated that in denying his indebtedness and forcing the issue to the jury, Moses Thompson ensured that the proceedings assume(d) all the nature and formalities of a suit between plaintiff (Allen) and garnishee (Moses Thompson) and thus Moses Thompson is responsible for the court costs;

(4) & (5) That since Moses Thompson was not a party to the case, but a garnishee, he could not claim error against the defendant, John Thompson's Estate. Only a representative of the Estate could challenge conduct of the trial based on error.

Business Ventures

Steamboats and Stagecoaches

While still in its infancy, Montgomery assumed the personality of a river city in which weary overland travelers took advantage of flatboats governed by navigators who were skillful with hand-poles. The Tallapoosa, Coosa, and Alabama rivers became flowing thoroughfares bringing passengers, dry goods, slaves, and commodities deemed essential for the life of an early settler. In 1823, the city's governing council responded to the growing need for a new wharf to accommodate larger commercial vessels. Two years before the council's action, the steamboat Harriet had arrived from Mobile after ten days of plowing through river waters, allowing for stops in Claiborne, Cahawba, and Selma. The arrival of the Harriet was a defining moment creating intense excitement for the commercial future of Montgomery. Allen seized the opportunity to invest in a line of steamboats on the Alabama River.

As the quintessential entrepreneur, Allen was popular more as the owner and manager of stagecoaches than as a steamboat owner. The Federal Road, which was the travel artery connecting east Montgomery county with the southwestern portion where Pintlala is located, had been trampled and traveled by armies, mail carriers, and a huge westward migrating population, along with Indian and slave traders. The road snaked its way from the eastern side of Montgomery County. Having emanated from Milledgeville, Georgia, the road bypassed Montgomery for Snowdown and Pintlala. By 1839, other roads had been constructed, and the remaining Federal Road became one of a few options over which Montgomery-to-Mobile travelers made their journey.

In 1839, Allen purchased for \$50,000 a stage line service from Ward, Taylor, and Company, the proprietors that carried mail from Montgomery to Mobile. Overland travel was both arduous and dangerous, but Allen made the business venture profitable, enduring bad weather, hostilities, and at times impassable conditions. Journeying south beyond Pintlala was quite difficult.

Negotiating contracts with the federal government found Allen equal to the challenge. He became well known for his efficient management of four-horse stagecoaches, exceeding the expectations for arrival times. For twelve years, Allen worked hard at delivering the mail from Montgomery to Mobile and back.

The *Congressional Record* is replete with petitions to pay or reimburse Allen or his estate for his efficient execution of mail delivery. Road repair and construction were sometimes his responsibility as illustrated in the petition before the U.S. Senate, March 19, 1838, which sought reimbursement for work on a road from Columbus, Georgia to Alabama. The petition was referred to the Committee on Roads and Canals. As late as 1852, Congress instructed the Postmaster General to *"adjust and settle the claim of Wade Allen, deceased,*

for the extra services performed as contractor, under the firm of Allen and Kitchen, for transporting the mail from Montgomery to Mobile, in the State of Alabama, during the years eighteen hundred and forty-four and eighteen hundred forty-five, and to allow and pay the legal representatives of the said Allen a just and reasonable compensation for the extra additional services performed by him in carrying the mail one month in each of said years over said route, on a different schedule and in less time than he was required to do by his contract. . . . ”

Early in Allen’s career as a mail carrier, he brought in partners, a Mr. Kitchens of Blakeley and a Mr. Simond from out of state. Allen later often remarked that doing business alone was quite profitable, but involving other partners proved to be expensive and unsuccessful.

At one point, Allen’s land holdings, which exceeded 200,000 acres, were so extensive that he was able to feed the horses on the stage line from the produce of his own fields, and his own slaves managed the stables at the necessary rest stops. A search of land patents indicates Allen’s ownership of massive amounts of land in Lowndes, Montgomery, Lee, Macon, Coosa, Chambers, Russell, Chilton, Elmore, and Tallapoosa counties. He also secured land in Texas.

At times, Allen was dubbed, “Colonel Allen.” He said that he acquired the title by very expensive means when he was in Washington City awaiting the bids on mail contracts. As Allen told the story, a man from one of the western states flattered him frequently by referring to him as “Colonel.” The man ingratiated himself to Allen, borrowed \$1,000, and was never seen again.

Sawmill on Spring Creek

Montgomery’s need for construction material escalated as the city expanded. Allen, along with a Mr. Pinkston, shared interest in a sawmill on Spring Creek. At that time, M. P. Blue noted that Spring Creek was known as Eight Mile Creek. Today, some people believe that Oliver Creek, in the vicinity of Frazer United Methodist Church, is the creek formerly called Eight Mile Creek.

Local and Civic Involvements

Allen’s diversified approach to business and his varied interests portray a man who supported the causes and functions of a progressive city. His name and influence are attached to many endeavors.

Montgomery County

According to some of the earliest records of Montgomery County, Allen assumed numerous civic responsibilities. In June of 1822, George Powell was appointed as an overseer for the poor in “Capt. Allen’s District.” Twenty-five years later, in 1847, Allen was appointed by the Commissioner’s Court as one of several overseers for Montgomery County Roads.

Montgomery Academy

As a youngster in Edgefield, South Carolina, Allen had been educated under the tutelage of Columbus Barrett. Perhaps schooled by others and self-taught, he supported the establishment of the Montgomery Academy. According to Blue, “The ‘Montgomery Academy,’ now the chief Free School building, was erected, in 1840, for the use of Township 16 of Range 17, of which Neil Blue, Wade Allen and Charles L. Gilmer were the 16th Section Commissioners. Enoch L. Childs, esq., of New Hampshire, a graduate of Yale College of the class of 1840, was selected as Principal, who opened it early in January, 1841, and remained in charge of it for about six years.”

An Important Role in the Visit of Lafayette

In preparation for the nation’s jubilee observance of national independence, Marquis Gilbert Motier Lafayette was invited to return to America. Having fought in both the American and French Revolutions, Lafayette was venerated above all other veterans with the exception of George Washington. Upon his arrival, Lafayette toured every state in the fifty-year-old union.

Accounts by Blue and Woodward of Lafayette's Montgomery visit on April 3, 1825, portray a town caught up in the euphoria of intense celebration. Drinking and dancing, speechmaking and receptions made the event historic and unforgettable. Colonel Bolling Hall, Sr., introduced the French hero to Alabama Governor Israel Pickens. The festivities began on a Sunday morning, and sermons were unthinkable, if not unbearable. The reunion of Lafayette and local worthies of the Revolutionary War was emotional.

Some of the less dramatic records of the Lafayette visit include vouchers submitted to the state of Alabama for expenses incurred while preparing for the grand occasion. The vouchers were supplied by Captain James Abercrombie of Company D Troop, Montgomery, to Allen who was serving as quartermaster. The record outlined payment due individuals who rendered storage and provisions. It also supported payment for the "Express from Chattahoocha River to Montgomery Ala." A separate voucher outlined expenses for pistol holsters and sword belts. Abercrombie attested to the accuracy of the vouchers, noting "And that the same was for use of the Troop under my command as an escort to General Lafayette." Apparently, Allen possessed unimpeachable integrity in managing money and supplies.

Organizing Early Elections

On January 15, 1828, the State Legislature of Alabama amended the act that had incorporated the town of Montgomery. The amendment mandated the city's election of seven councilors. The first election was to be held on the third Monday of January in 1829. The election was to be managed and conducted by the following person or any two of them: John Gindrat, Wade Allen, William Sayre, D.A. Northrop, and Andrew Dexter.

Bringing the Capital to Montgomery

After the passage of a constitutional amendment in the fall of 1845, followed by appropriate decisions by the State Legislature, including the appointment of a Building Commission, the seat of government was moved from Tuscaloosa to Montgomery. The city did not learn of its official selection until the late afternoon of January 30, 1846, when the news arrived by stage. Peter Brannon reconstructed pivotal actions taken by the city: "The City Council of Montgomery immediately issued bonds in the sum of \$75,000 and at the suggestion of Col. Charles T. Pollard, they were all bought by local business people. The Montgomery committee to direct the building of the structure ere: Charles T. Pollard, chairman; Wade Allen, Silas Gaines, N.E. Benson, Charles Crommelin, Wm. Knox, Thomas Mays, John Whiting, Justus Wyman, and the Mayor."

Tragically, the new Montgomery capital building burned two years later on December 14, 1849. In spite of a hard legislative fight to return the capital to Tuscaloosa, Montgomery was victorious in retaining the seat of government thanks to the strong advocacy of Thomas H. Watts, Allen's son-in-law.

Additional Pintlala Connections with Wade Allen

- Allen and John Blackwell owned property in both extremes of the county. Allen witnessed Blackwell's last will and testament, which initiated the sale of a black slave, Caesar, whose popular preaching occasionally took place in Pintlala's Bethel Baptist Church. Communication and commerce obviously took place between the two plantation owners in Pintlala.
- Allen's Pintlala property became the site of the plantation home for his son-in-law, Thomas H. Watts. The Watts plantation was burned by Union troops when Governor Watts vacated Montgomery at the conclusion of the war. Today, Mike and Denise Henry live in the Watts house.
- William Lafayette Allen (1824-1864) was a Confederate cavalry officer and Allen's nephew. Interestingly, while driving a stage-coach, Hell-Roaring Bill Allen, stopped in Pintlala where he met and eventually married Mary Shackelford. Allen died of pneumonia prior to the Battle of Atlanta. His wife penetrated enemy lines, retrieved the body of her husband, and brought it back to Pintlala for burial in the Shackelford cemetery.



Watts plantation home in 2007



- The reasons why Wade Hampton Allen has been the subject of limited research or study are speculative at best. At first glance, he seems to be one of the lesser lights in the constellation of Montgomery's founding and formative years. He never sought elective office, but as a responsible citizen attached his influence to causes, both civic and commercial, which enrich any culture.

Sources

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Correction:

In the Volume XXI, Number 4, October, 2007 PHA Newsletter article *History of Duncan/Strickland House, Fleta, Alabama*, p.3: Lubrita should read Eubrita and Haden should read Hayden. If you keep the newsletters feel free to correct those two names in your copy. (Alice Carter)



**PINTLALA HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION**

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

NEXT MEETING

**JANUARY 20, 2008
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**

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Phone (Home & Office) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Areas of Interest _____

If you are interested in genealogy, please indicate family surnames _____

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