

PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting:
July 18th—2:30 p.m.
Hope Hull Woman's Club



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

Volume XXIV, Number 3

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July 2010

Hope Hull School, date unknown



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Hope Hull School, date unknown, photo from Hope Hull Woman's Club files

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President's Message

From Monticello, June 28, 2010

A Sense of Place

I try to visit Thomas Jefferson's house, Monticello, near Charlottesville, Virginia twice per year. Mr. Jefferson loved his house on this mountaintop. On this day, June 28, in 1776, he had completed his 17-day writing assignment for the Declaration of Independence while he was in Philadelphia. Even in Mr. Jefferson's full life of public service he possessed a strong sense of place. Monticello was like a magnet always drawing his spirit which found solace in his books, his farm, and his family. He once wrote, "All my wishes end where I hope my days will end, at Monticello."

It dawned on me a few years ago that, like Mr. Jefferson, I too have a strong sense of place. I love all things Pintlala: her people, her history, her culture, and her future.

Alas, most persons never bond to a place. There is no civic involvement, no community engagement, and no support of schools or businesses. The obligations of local citizenship never apply. So how does a person develop a sense of place? How does one grow into a significant emotional attachment to local culture to the extent that spiritual commitments, social engagements, and cultural improvements become a way of life?

The answer is simple but requires the investment of heart and soul: love people and learn history. Study the basic history of a place, not from the standpoint of a scholar, but from the vantage point of an enthusiast. The Pintlala Historical Association can be a partner in this endeavor. Begin this journey by attending our next meeting which will take place at a very historic venue: the Hope Hull Woman's Club on Wasden Road. Before attending, be sure to read Alice Carter's wonderful article in this edition of the PHA newsletter. It provides an exceptional historic overview of the Hope Hull Woman's Club.

Gary Burton, President
garyburton1@charter.net

July 2010 PHA Program

Please take note that the July 18, 2010 PHA meeting will be held at the Hope Hull Woman's Club on Wasden Road, Hope Hull, Alabama. We will not meet at Pintlala Baptist Church. Meeting time remains the same—2:30 p.m. The Woman's Club is the third building west of the Hope Hull Post Office.

We extend a special invitation to all former members of the Hope Hull Woman's Club and the Hope Hull Junior Woman's Club to join us.

Our program will be presented by Karren Pell, singer-songwriter, whose songs have been published and recorded nationally and internationally. Her compositions for music theater have been produced by Opera Memphis, Alabama Shakespeare Festival and others. She has a radio show and three books to her credit. *Alabama Troubadour* presents eleven essays about unique places in Alabama; *Tallassee*, is a pictorial history of Tallassee, Alabama; and her newest book, *Montgomery's Historic Neighborhoods* is a pictorial history of Montgomery's residential areas from the late 1800s to World War II. Come join us as Karren presents a sample of her original works which will bring forth memories, make us laugh, encourage us to reach out to others and give us a reason to just have a good time with our neighbors and friends.

HOPE HULL WOMAN'S CLUB
Federated 1921
General Federation 1923

Collect

Keep us, Oh God, from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.
 Let us be done with fault finding, and leave off self seeking.
 May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face,
 without self-pity and without prejudice.
 May we never be hasty in judgment, and always generous.
 Let us take time for all things; make us grow calm, serene, gentle.
 Teach us to put into action our better impulses straight forward and unafraid.
 Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create
 differences; that in the big things of life we are as one.
 And may we strive to touch and to know the great common human heart of
 us all, and oh, God, let us forget not to be kind.

(Collect composed by Mary McLean White and recited by all club members at the opening of meetings)

In October of 1921 Mrs. W.B. Whatley of Hope Hull, Alabama extended an invitation to every woman within a five mile radius of her home to come together to organize a community club. Fifteen women responded to her invitation and the yet unnamed club for women was born.

The first official meeting of the group took place on October 28, 1921 at the Frank McLean home on the Mobile Highway. The following ladies were elected as officers: president, Mrs. Sam (Ida) Fischer; first vice president, Mrs. Frank McLean; second vice president, Mrs. J. A. Campbell; secretary, Mrs. Mary White; treasurer, Mrs. Hawkins. Thirty-one women were listed on the membership role. Meetings were held in the homes of members. A constitution and by-laws were drawn up by Mrs. John A. Campbell and approved by members. The Official name of the organization was unanimously selected as Hope Hull Woman's Club. The purpose of the group as stated in the constitution was to promote intellectual improvements, social inter-course, and civic betterment.

Pink and lavender were chosen as club colors and dues were set at \$1.00 a year. The group also voted to join the General Federation of Women's Clubs as well as the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs. The Alabama group was organized in 1895 and was chartered into the General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1907. These groups promote education, preserving natural resources, stress good citizenship, moral and spiritual values, and good health, contributing to world peace and international understanding and supporting participation in the arts. At various times



Members of the Hope Hull Woman's Club, date unknown

over their existence the Hope Hull Club sent delegates to the annual meetings of both the Alabama Federation and the General Federation groups. The Hope Hull Club invited other local Federated groups to join them in their meetings. Pinedale and Catoma were among local communities also having Federated Women's Clubs. The members met twice a month until World War II when they began meeting monthly.

In 1922 Montgomery County reformed its education system following a plan developed by William F. Feagin. This plan called for consolidation of the one room schools scattered throughout the county. The one-room-frame, Hope Hull School on Warsden (Wasden) Road sent its students to either the new Pintlala or Catoma Schools. The building was left vacant. The newly organized group of Hope Hull women seized the opportunity to obtain the building as a home for a community club house. Through dealings with County Superintendent of Education, A. F. Harman, the group was given two options for the small building which had been built

around 1884. One option was to rent and the other was to buy the building and its two acre site. The brave group of ladies voted for option two—purchase. They accepted the challenge of raising the required amount of \$100.00. On April 27, 1922 donations from members totaled \$73.50. There were discussions of projects to raise the remaining funds.

The deed to the building and its two acre site was recorded with the Judge of Probate, Montgomery County, on May 10, 1922.

This public record may be

found in Deed Book 119, page 215 in the Montgomery County Archives Office. The deed was between the State of Alabama and the Woman's Club of Hope Hull, Alabama. A letter of appreciation was sent to the Montgomery County Board of Education for their interest in the success of the Woman's Club. The history of the two acres on which the Hope Hull School sat is interesting and brings to our attention the importance and generosity of the Abner C. McGehee family to the Hope Hull community which was named for McGehee's friend, Hope Hull, a circuit riding Methodist preacher. The two acre school site was originally deeded to the State of Alabama in 1907 by Sallie McGehee Clark, daughter of Abner C. McGehee, Alabama industrialist, philanthropist and founder of the Alabama Bible Society. Mrs. Clark deeded the acreage to benefit School District 11 in Section 21, Township 15, Range 17, Montgomery County, Alabama.

The enthusiastic ladies wasted no time in planning and raising funds for improvements to the school-house—now meetinghouse. The Club minutes of May 26, 1922 recorded discussions centered on "entertainments" and a barbecue as possible fund raisers. An ice cream supper and picture show was the first event held to add to the renovation coffers. A barbecue was held in August and netted the club \$517.00. This barbecue was more than a mere money raising event. According to a report by Mrs. Sam Fischer found in the Club files the barbecue was described as follows: "In a grove of splendid oaks, with booths beautiful with pine branches and Spanish moss, not to mention the excel-



Hope Hull Woman's Club, Fortieth Anniversary Tea, 1961: Charter Members in attendance: L to R, Seated: Mrs. Kate McLean Stewart, Mrs. George Hinson; L to R, Standing: Miss Annie McLean, Mrs. H. M. Pirtle, Miss Laura McLean, Mrs. John A. Campbell, Mrs. Fred Duggar, Jr.

lence of the barbecued meat and Brunswick stew, it was a real social event of more than local interest, for our Senior Senator, Mr. Oscar W. Underwood, honored us by accepting our invitation to speak on this occasion. Some of the metropolitan papers realizing the significance of our having as guest of honor a man of Senator Underwood's prestige (a presidential possibility) sent reporters and photographers to cover the event, and the story and scenes from our barbecue went all over the land." The ladies used earned funds to appoint their clubhouse with members accepting leadership roles. Mrs. Frank McLean was charged with purchasing a piano and Laura McLean was appointed to inquire about the price of chairs which she located for \$1.50 each and was authorized to order four dozen. Cramton Lumber Company of Montgomery made screens to separate the meeting area from the kitchen area for a cost of \$14.00 from the Club and a \$10.00 donation from Mr. Cramton. A rug and curtain committee was appointed. March 23, 1923 yard improvements were begun with the planting of a tree in memory of a soldier from the community who lost his life in World War I, the name of the soldier was not found in club minutes. Later the club ladies transplanted cedar trees in honor of the national president of the Federated Clubs, the Alabama president of Federated Clubs and the first lady of Alabama.

Renovations to the exterior of the Hope Hull Club House began in 1925. The architect chosen to redesign the exterior can not be conclusively named. The club minutes from February 26, 1925 indicate that architect Frederick Ausfeld was ready to begin work on the building. However, Mrs. Hal C. Lamar is quoted in a 1983 *Montgomery*



Front porch addition, photo from club files

Independent as saying that "prominent Montgomery architect, Frank Lockwood, was hired to make changes in the exterior of the building." It seems plausible that Ausfeld would have been chosen as he had been the architect used by the Montgomery County Board of Education to design the new county schools including Pintlala and Catoma. The community would have been familiar with his work and perhaps with the man himself. Whomever was chosen, the school's cloakroom door and windows were redesigned as French doors along the front of the building and a wide porch around the front and one side of the building was added. Cramton Lumber Company carried out the work in compliance with the architect's specifications. The cost of the changes have been recorded variously at \$1400 to \$1500.

Several objects mentioned in early club minutes are interesting and are of a sentimental note. The gavel used by club presidents for so many years was made out of native mock orange wood by Mr. H. M. Pirtle. A silver punch ladel was a gift to the Club by its first president, Mrs. Sam Fischer, who brought it from Mr. Fischer's native Switzerland. A bronze plaque in memory of club leader and president at least twice, Mrs. Fischer, once hung on the walls. Regrettably, the location of the last two items is unknown. (Does anyone know their location?) In 2008 when the club disbanded, the gavel was presented to Dr. Winston Pirtle and his sister, Gaye Clayton, grandchildren of the maker. Other memorial furnishings were not found listed in club minutes.

Much of the 89 year history of the Hope Hull Woman's Club is found in the available Club minutes. The tenth anniversary of the Club was celebrated in October 1931 with a birthday cake holding ten tapers which were extinguished by the past presidents in attendance. These officers were: Mrs. Sam Fischer, Mrs. Sam White, Mrs. Frank McLean, Mrs. J. Fred Duggar, Mrs. D. B. Jones, Mrs. J. A. Campbell, Mrs. Kate McLean Stewart and Mrs. E. L. Marxer. By the Club's twentieth anniversary in 1941 the members had many accomplishments to celebrate. The 40th anniversary meeting in 1961 brought a group of charter members together for celebrating and a photograph.



Hope Hull Woman's Club, May, 1984 L to R: Standing: Mrs. Mary Williams (guest), Mrs. Vera Theissen, Mrs. Clarice Caldwell, Mrs. Frances Bush, Mrs. Anna Campbell, Mrs. Gertrude Stehle, Mrs. Dorothy Cline, Mrs. Margaret Bowman, Mrs. Vivian Davis, Mrs. Dorothy Huey, Mrs. Dorothy Parks, Mrs. Edna Duggar, Mrs. Louise Christian, Mrs. Martha Campbell, Mrs. Christine Green, Mrs. Frances Cruise L to R; Kneeling, front: Mrs. Clara Bass, Mrs. Jerrie Dansby, Mrs. Carolyn Shelton, Mrs. Frances McCord

President, Mrs. Julian (Caroline) Elgin, whose mother Mrs. H. M. Pirtle was a charter member, presided. Mrs. Fred Duggar, Jr. (Edna) read a paper "A Medley of Memories" in which the history of the club was shared. The Hope Hull Woman's Club honored four charter members at a Golden Anniversary or 50th year celebration. A tea was held at the Club House on November 21, 1977. The four honorees were: Mrs. John A. Campbell, Mrs. Fred Duggar, Jr., Mrs. H. M. Pirtle and Miss Laura McLean. Mrs. T. R. Scales of Huntsville, President of the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs also was a guest. Mrs. Vera Theissen served as chairman of the anniversary celebration along with committee members: Mrs. W. A. Webster, Mrs. Clarence Bowman, Mrs. Fred Duggar, Mrs. Julian Elgin and Mrs. Frank Davis.



Hope Hull Woman's Club, 65th Anniversary Celebration, 1986

L to R: Seated: Ethel Bozeman, Frances Mason Cruise, Cornelia Hall Young, Imogene Mason Hand; L to R: Standing: Sarah Hawkins, Nell Hawkins Cauthen, Caroline Pirtle Elgin, Doris Hawkins, Anna Campbell Horn, Frances Thames McCord, Ruth Hawkins Darby, Bill Lamar, Mildred Lamar, Clint Horn, Julian Elgin

Over the years the rural club women have had much of which to be proud. Their accomplishments have been numerous with only some discussed here. First and most daring would have been their decision to purchase and assume the responsibilities associated with ownership such as securing insurance for the building and its contents, maintenance of the building and grounds of the former Hope Hull School. Their influence with the Montgomery County Board of Revenue to open Fairview Avenue at Cleveland Avenue (currently Rosa Parks Boulevard) in Montgomery all the way to the Mobile Highway was

applauded by county residents. This would enable residents living out in the county egress into the city without having to take the longer route through Washington Park. They were joined in this crusade by other organizations and individuals from the area including Pintlala. In their first year as an organization, the women also petitioned the Alabama Public Service Commission to reduce rates for telephone service for rural lines. This made phone service available for a greater number of rural residents. A lending library and story time for children were in place at the Club house prior to the rural bookmobile service provided by the county. The group also worked to have Alabama Power Company extend its lines into the Hope Hull area. This project was among the first rural extensions in Montgomery County.

The longevity of the Club was uppermost in the minds of members when the Junior Woman's Club of Hope Hull was reorganized and Federated in 1976. There had been an earlier junior version of the Senior Club but it had catered to much younger girls, mainly daughters of the Senior Club members. With age, they had all become members of the senior club. The 1976 group selected green and blue as their colors and the magnolia as their club flower. Joyce Maxwell served as the first president of the Junior group. Others serving with her were: Pat Bullard, first vice president; Connie Bush, second vice president; Janet Meads, secretary; Mary Moss, treasurer; Scarlet Sides, auditor; Patricia Elijah, parliamentarian. The major undertaking for fund raising for this group was the annual Christmas Bazaar. (This



Hope Hull Junior Woman's Club, 1979: L to R: Front Row: Connie Bush, Tannie Lamar, Linda Hope, Sandra Vaitis, Diane Bush, Marilyn Hitch, Marilyn Zeigler, Kathy Gordon, Patricia Elijah; L to R: Middle Row: seated, Patsy Davis, Scarlett sides, Alice Carter, Gail Lanier, Brenda Newell, Susan Brown; L to R: 3rd Row: standing, Pat Bullard, Joyce Maxwell, Peggy Hester, Barbara Luebert, Kathy Toulmin, Linda Turner, Kay Shaw, Linda Evans, & Ileen Seely

writer can attest to the hard work by members who created wonderful crafts and food for purchase. I continue to use Christmas ornaments from the Bazaars and use recipes shared by members.) This club continued until 1986-87 when most of the members either returned to or entered the work force. The remaining members were invited to join the original Hope Hull Woman's Club. Officers for the final year of Hope Hull Junior Woman's Club were: Becky Keith, president; Karen Jakeman, first vice president; Liz Ingram, second vice president; Jeanette Mitchell, secretary; Kay Shaw, treasurer.

The Hope Hull Woman's Club remained a viable organization for many more years. The minutes of the club reflect their continued involvement with the community such as serving as sponsor to a resident at Partlow Mental Hospital in Tuscaloosa. The care and maintenance of the building seemed to become more of an issue for business discussions at monthly meetings. Finally in 2008 with only eight active members remaining, the difficult decision to find a permanent caretaker/owner for the 124 year old building was made. Informal discussions with their neighbor, Hope Hull United Methodist Church, had begun in 2007 to explore a permanent arrangement satisfactory to all parties.



Hope Hull Junior Woman's Club Christmas Bazaar from *The Alabama Journal*, December 1, 1982; L to R: Susan Brown, Sandra Vaitis, Barbara Hope

The Hope Hull Woman's Club met on April 19, 2007 and a committee was established of all remaining members to determine what the future of the club and associated property should be. Kay Wilson was voted chairperson of this committee. Members present for this momentous decision were: Chris Green, Fran Bush, Clara Bass, Dot Cline, Sue Ann Campbell, Joyce Maxwell, Shelia Gordon and Kay Wilson. In July of the same year the group met with the exception of Dot Cline, Sue Ann Campbell and Shelia Gordon. Clara Bass made the recommendation that the property and building be given to the Hope Hull United Methodist Church and that the funds remaining in the treasury be divided between her church and Dot Cline's church.

Clara and Dot were the only members present who were not affiliated with the Hope Hull Methodist Church. The group affirmed the recommendation. A formal proposal from the Club to the Church Board of Trustees was presented in February of 2008. The Woman's Club desired that the building be retained, maintained or improved for a period of ten years. The use of the building would be left to the discretion of the Hope Hull Church. The Club then withdrew the offer and recommended a three month period for both parties to clarify any issues of concern. Minutes from the March 3, 2008 Administrative Board of Hope Hull United Methodist Church reflect the Church's desire to have an offer in writing from the Club. Kay Wilson reported that it was her feeling that the offer would be presented again in written form. Church Board member, Ralph Stanford expressed his opinion that the Board should be ready to accept the offer when once again presented. Sonny Turner was in favor of retaining the physical appearance of the building but not in favor of stipulating the use of the building. Ultimately, Thomas Ellis moved that the church agree to the stipulations of the Club women and Lee Hester seconded the motion. The motion was approved. On April 25, 2008 the Woman's Club of Hope Hull presented a written offer of ownership transfer to the Church Board of Trustees. The cost of transfer would be borne by the Church, the building was to remain in its current appearance but to be maintained or improved for a minimum of ten years. The use of the building was to be determined by the church but with some provision to allow community use through rental for events such as teas, receptions, and family gatherings. The Club stated that the building was an important part of Hope Hull's history and culture and that the Church was best suited to become the owner and guardian of its future. Finally on May 18, 2008 a warranty Deed between the Woman's Club of Hope Hull, Alabama and the Hope Hull United Methodist Church was signed by Christine Green as president and Frances Bush and Kay Wilson as witnesses from the Club. The legal agreement was signed by the majority of remaining Club members: Clara Bass, Frances Bush, Christine Green, Kay Wilson, Dot Cline, Shelia Gordon, and Joyce Maxwell with Sue Ann Campbell declining.

This was truly a passage of Hope Hull history and it is important that this 124 year old building remains at the heart of the Hope Hull community as it has for so many years. It continues to be of service to community residents. Congratulations to the Hope Hull Woman's Club for their careful deliberations and ultimate decision of great generosity.

A brief look at our country's history during the years when the Hope Hull Woman's Club was organized sheds light on the influence of women in America as well as Hope Hull, Alabama. On August 18, 1920 Congress finally passed an amendment to the United States Constitution (the 19th Amendment) which gave women the right to vote. The issue had been brought before Congress one time after another for more than forty years before the amendment was at last passed. This legislation empowered women and they used this power to educate themselves and their families. They began to participate in issues of the day. The women of Hope Hull were no different, as seen from the topics of their meetings. Programs concerning health, education, literature, the arts, homemaking, current events and issues affecting life in a rural community were discussed and often acted upon. Mrs. Ida Fischer in her end of term report written in 1922-23 stated "We endeavor to keep before our members the importance of every woman's taking an intelligent interest in public questions, and had several meetings with lectures and papers on citizenship and government." These women were now full participants in social issues which made life better for themselves, their families and fellow man.

CHARTER MEMBERS -1921

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. J.T. Bozeman | Mrs. G. A. Hinson | Mrs. H. M. Pirtle |
| Miss Sallie Mae Bozeman | Mrs. -- Johnson | Mrs. Kate M. Stewart |
| Mrs. J. A. Campbell | Mrs. William Katzky | Mrs. C. B. Thames |
| Mrs. E. A. Carter | Mrs. Sam Laing | Mrs. Lamses Wehr |
| Mrs. Charles Chapman | Mrs. Bertha Lillius | Mrs. W. B. Whatley |
| Mrs. Earl Chesnutt | Mrs. W.P. McGehee, Sr. | Mrs. Sam White |
| Mrs. E. B. Chesnutt | Miss Savilla McGehee | Miss Annie Williams |
| Mrs. Joe Chesnutt | Mrs. Frank McLean | Miss Sallie Williams |
| Mrs. Mark Dennis | Miss Annie McLean | |
| Mrs. J. F. Duggar, Jr. | Miss Laura McLean | |
| Mrs. Samuel Fischer | Miss Betty Pettus | |
| Miss Edith Fowler | Mrs. G. C. Pettus | |
| Mrs. William Hawker | Mrs. S. J. Pettus | |
| Mrs. H. E. Hawkins | Miss Mackie Pettus | |

Sources:

Minutes of Hope Hull Woman's Club
 Scrap Books-Hope Hull Woman's Club and Hope Hull Junior Woman's Club
 Files from Hope Hull Woman's Club

My thanks to Kay Wilson for providing the archival club materials.
 Compiled and written by Alice T. Carter



Frances Thames McCord and Clarice Caldwell, hostesses, October 9, 1986 sixty-fifth anniversary meeting.



Hope Hull Woman's Club, May 1988, Picnic, Last meeting of the year; L to R: Carolyn Shelton, Caroline Elgin, Anna Horn, Frances Cruise, Dot Cline



Hope Hull Woman's Club, May 1988, Picnic, Last meeting of the year ; L to R: Frances Bush, Odessa Franklin, Martha Campbell



Hope Hull Woman's Club House, 2010





**PINTLALA HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION**

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

NEXT MEETING

JULY 18TH, 2010
2:30 P.M.

HOPE HULL
WOMAN'S CLUB

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

**Pintlala Historical Association
Ina Slade
15212 Highway 31
Hope Hull, Alabama 36043**

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Phone (Home & Office) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Areas of Interest _____

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

\$15.00 Annual Dues