

# PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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



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

Volume XXVII, Number 4

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

October 2013

Old covered bridge over Catoma Creek on Norman Bridge Road, named for builder, Job Norman.



Photo courtesy, Alabama Department of Archives and History

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## President's Message - Title

"Needed: A Contagious Sense of Community"

- A sense of community is hard to achieve these days. Even though we may have scores of friends on Facebook, we remain disconnected and lonely. While schools, churches, and other entities may work enthusiastically to create a community spirit, there is still much in our culture to pull us apart. Looking back over forty-one years as a resident of Pintlala, I realize that I have not always felt as strongly bonded to our community. Wonderful people have populated the area, yet a few years elapsed before the light bulb came on for me. Thanks to Ethel May Todd, I learned that there was a compelling history of the community and southwest Montgomery County. The Pintlala Historical Association provides the historical infrastructure undergirding a sense of community. There are many levels of community involvement, but knowing the basics of our history will send one's appreciation through the roof.
- From time to time check out the PHA website and peruse the archive newsletters. You will find a treasure trove of articles to whet your appetite for local history: [www.pintlalahistoricalassociation.com](http://www.pintlalahistoricalassociation.com)
- Make our meeting on October 20, 2:30 P.M. a priority. There will be an abundance of friends, new and old. Don't miss Jeff Benton. He is an incredible historian and a gifted communicator.

Gary Burton, President  
garyburton1@charter.net

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## October 2013 PHA Program

Pintlala Historical Association will meet on Sunday, October 20 at 2:30 p.m. in the Choir Room of Pintlala Baptist Church. Please note the alternate meeting room. Watch for posted signs to guide you.

Speaker for this program is an old friend who has spoken to us before, Jeffrey Benton, a retired Air Force Colonel, who currently focuses on local Montgomery history. His series on places of local interest, "Montgomery Treasures: Hidden in Plain Sight", appears weekly in *The Montgomery Independent*. (I look forward to this each week!) Benton has four books to his credit: *A Sense of Place: Montgomery's Architectural Heritage, 1821-1951*; *The Very Worst Road: Travellers' Accounts of Crossing Alabama's Old Creek Indian Territory, 1820-1847*; *They Served Here: Thirty-three Maxwell Men* and his current publication: *Respectable and Disreputable: Leisure Time in Antebellum Montgomery*.

The PHA will get a preview of his current book, which describes how Montgomerians spent their leisure time during the four decades prior to the Civil War. It will be available for purchase at \$20.00 each, cash or check, please.

Jeff will be happy to sign your purchase. Great Christmas gift idea!

We look forward to seeing each of you and any guests that you might invite.

Alice Carter  
Program Chairman

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**Pioneer Settlers of Montgomery County, Alabama:  
Normans, Sellers, and McLaneys**

**History and Commentary by Richard McLaney**

**Job and Rebecca Chilcutt Norman**

Job Norman (1783-1864) was born in Greensboro, North Carolina; he probably was a large baby because as an adult he grew to be 7 feet tall and weighed 400 pounds. He was one of four children of Charles Wesley Norman (1756-1818) and Rebecca Caffey Norman (1767- unknown). Charles was born in Virginia and moved to North Carolina shortly after the Revolutionary War ended. Job married Rebecca Elizabeth Chilcutt, alternately spelled Chillcott, (1790-1834), in 1808; her parents were Elkannah and Anna Chilcutt. Job's brother, John, died in 1817 and his father, Charles, in early 1818. After the death of his father, Job and Rebecca Elizabeth moved to Alabama in late 1818 with their five children and his nephew, Hiram, age 8. Hiram was one of Job's deceased brother John's three sons. Job's mother, Rebecca Caffey Norman remained in North Carolina with an unnamed son and the widow of John, Fannie Deer Norman. Also accompanying Job to Alabama was the family of his first cousin, Thomas Caffey and the families of their good friends the Wallers.

Job and Rebecca settled in the vicinity of the presently [2013] closed Harrison School on the Southern Bypass in Montgomery. They owned land from the current bypass to Catoma Creek. Job had built bridges in North Carolina and was called upon to build the first bridge over Catoma Creek in Montgomery County. He agreed to build the bridge with his slaves; the bridge would help him visit the Caffey and Waller families who had settled in Athens, Alabama (according to several published sources Athens became Ramer in 1851 when application for a Post Office was submitted). The log cabin built in 1819 by the Caffeys is still standing. It is located [2013] on the eastern side of Ramer, Alabama off Highway 94 on the Williams/Cowles Road. It has been enlarged and the exterior changed, but the logs are still visible from inside with slots cut out enabling residents to fire at approaching Indians. This house is likely the oldest house in Montgomery County, according to family members. The Caffey and Waller Families are buried in the cemetery southeast of the house in a very old pecan orchard. The Waller Family settled on adjoining land and many of their descendants still own this property. The bridge that Job built bears the Norman name to this day, as does the Norman Bridge Road and Normandale Shopping Center built, ca.1950s.

Children of Job and Rebecca Norman:

Rebecca (1808-1835)	James (1821-1836)
Anna (1810- unknown)	Sarah E. (1824-1849)
Riley (1812-1857)	Mary (1826- unknown)
Henderson H. (1814-1864)	Margaret J. (1829-1853)
Ann Elizabeth (1816-1898)	Emily Maria (1831-1864)
*Thomas Webb (1819-1874)	Elizabeth (1834-1834)

\*Ricky McLaney's great-great-grandfather, first Job Norman child to be born in Alabama

After Job's wife, Rebecca, died in 1834, he married widow, Mary Edwards, in 1836. Mary and Jesse Edwards had a son and daughter together and Jesse Edwards had two step-sons whom his first wife had by a previous marriage to John Shelby. When Job and Mary married, they became the guardians for the two Shelby boys. Mary died in 1838, leaving Job a widower for the second time, and Job became the sole guardian for all four children in 1839. The Edwards daughter later married Job's son, Riley, while the Edwards son is an ancestor of the late James Edwards, who served as president of the PHA, 1989-1992. *(How ironic it is that Job raised this young Edwards child and one of his descendants, George Edwards, married my grandmother's (Hattie Sellers Norman) sister, Lozonias, and my grandmother was married to Job's great grandson, Richard Webb Norman.)*

In early 1864, Job's third grandson, William Riley Norman enlisted in the Confederate Army. He arrived in Georgia as General W. T. Sherman was fast approaching Atlanta. Upon Norman's arrival, he immediately discovered that his two older brothers, John and Thomas Job had died in the war. Job ultimately had 10 children to die, two grandsons who died in the war and two wives who predeceased him; Job Norman died on August 9, 1864. He was buried near the house where his two wives and many of his children and grandchildren were buried. Eight months later in April

1865, those still living at the “old home site” faced Union troops approaching from the west. In fear, they abandoned the farm that had provided for the Normans for 46 years. They removed to Ramer to be with the Caffey, Waller, and Norman families of that community. It is written in some Alabama histories that General James H. Wilson’s raiders encamped at the outskirts of Montgomery on Job Norman’s property. When the Union troops left they burned the house and barns to the ground. They destroyed all the livestock and most hurtfully and which the Norman family will **never forget**—they destroyed the grave markers and scavenged the family gravesites. (*It is no wonder so many of the family left for Texas in 1869 after this hurtful and unnecessary episode.*)

### Second Generation

Henderson H. Norman (1814-1864) was the fourth child of Job and Rebecca. He had distinguished himself in the Mexican War (1846-1848) and came out of that conflict with the rank of Captain. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Captain Norman helped put together Company E, 33<sup>rd</sup> Alabama Infantry, which was organized on March 14, 1862 at Ebenezer Church, Ramer, Alabama. Henderson H. Norman was 48 years old and enlisted for three years or the duration of the war according to an 1861-1865 Muster Roll for Captain Henderson H. Norman. In a letter written by Norman from Ramer, Alabama on December 30, 1863, he submitted his resignation due to ill health (see page 19). Henderson had married Elizabeth Caffey, his second cousin, and after his death, Elizabeth married in 1868 Charles R. Waller. Waller had fought in the Mexican War, as had Henderson H. Norman, and was left a widower in 1864 when his wife Emily Maria Norman Waller died. Henderson Norman and Emily Maria Norman were brother and sister. Charles Waller and his new wife, Elizabeth, raised his, hers, and later their own children, twelve in all, in that original log cabin built by Thomas Caffey in 1819 on the eastern side of Ramer.

Henderson H. Norman is an interesting study as his will was written on July 14, 1864 at Chalybeate Springs, Meriwether County, Georgia where it is assumed he went to regain his health. His will was brought to Montgomery County, Alabama and probated on November 20, 1865 by David Campbell, Judge of Probate. His exact place and date of death are not stated in the Probate records. As of the publication of this newsletter his grave nor that of his wife Mary Elizabeth Turner Caffey Norman (Waller) have not been located.



Ann Elizabeth Norman Taylor

Ann Elizabeth Norman (1816-1898) was the fifth child of Job and Rebecca. She married James Keneer Taylor (1805-1894) on February 10, 1841 at the home of her parents. James K. Taylor’s brother, Richard, owned the property adjoining that of Job Norman. The Taylor couple raised their family in Wetumpka, but left Alabama with other Normans for Texas in 1869. They first traveled to Mobile, then via ship to Galveston, Texas, by train to Chapel Hill, Texas and then drove a mule team 150 miles to the Boz/Bethel communities just eight miles southwest of Waxahachie, Texas. They were met there by the family of Ann Elizabeth’s brother, Thomas Webb and Permelia Ann Myrick Norman. In 1876 the Taylor family made their final move to Richland Springs, San Saba County, Texas. Many Norman relatives still live there. (*I have enjoyed getting to know Jack Taylor of that community, we have exchanged photographs and he is eagerly awaiting a copy of this Norman history.*)

#### Children of Ann Elizabeth Norman and James Keener Taylor:

Eugenia Elizabeth	1841-1904	Richard Henry	1853-1939
1 Dr. James Job	1843-1915	3 Elbert Neal	1855-1939
2 Mary Virginia	1846-1930	Susan Mariah	1859-1908
John William	1848-1911	Ann Eliza	1862-1949
Thomas Hardaman	1851-1930		

1. *Self-trained physician, practiced in Civil War, afterwards in Richland Springs, Texas. He looks identical to my great grandfather, Henderson Hiram Norman.*

2. The fascinating story on Mary Virginia Taylor (Mollie) is that she married an Irish immigrant named William Henry Gibbons (Google this name plus "of Texas"). He arrived in America penniless; ultimately this couple owned over 50,000 acres west of Richland Springs. His estate was valued at over \$2 million in 1932. The family operates 30,000 of these acres today under the name, Mays Ranching Company.

3. Ancestor of previously mentioned, Jack Taylor of Richland, Texas.

Sarah E. and Margaret J. are the eighth and tenth children of Job and Rebecca Norman. They were the second and third wives, respectively, of Warren Stone of Lowndes County, Alabama. They are both buried in the Stone Cemetery at the Stone Plantation house near the former GE plant west of Montgomery. The Stone family has been a subject in previous editions of the *Pintlala Historical Association Newsletter*.

Hiram Norman, Job's nephew, who must have seemed like a son since he raised him from the age of eight years, moved to Athens/Ramer in 1832 and upon turning 21 years of age began making his livelihood by farming. He became ill in the 1840s and hired a lady to come take care of him and clean his house. He wrote to his two brothers back in North Carolina to tell them that he was sick and needed their help. He proposed that if they would come, they would inherit his land upon his death. He never received a response from them, and over a decade later, in 1857, he married the lady hired to take care of him— Elizabeth Ann Bullock. They raised 5 boys: John Hiram, William Lewis, Tom Caffey, George Webb, and Alford Charles. Hiram died in 1883 and is buried in the Ebenezer Cemetery south of Ramer. His five Norman sons had 38 children, and those had over 100 children. This is the line from which most of the Normans known of today in Montgomery County originated. Delmas Norman [in 2013] still owns the property that Hiram settled in 1832.



Permelia Ann Norman (1825-1904, buried at Oakwood Cemetery, Montgomery, Alabama)

**Thomas Webb and Permelia Ann Myrick Norman**

The last of the second generation of Normans in Alabama included in this document is my great-great-grandfather, Thomas Webb Norman. He was the sixth child of Job and Rebecca, and the first to be born in Alabama in March 1819 several months before Alabama became a state. Thomas Webb married Permelia Ann Myrick in 1842; her parents were Richard Myrick (1790-1849) and Mildred "Milly" Mims (1790-1853). They moved from Edgefield County, South Carolina and settled in Montgomery County, Alabama below Snowdoun on the Butler Mill Road in 1819. By 1831, the Myricks owned over 800 acres, but made a move to Bolton, Mississippi in 1843 with the two sons who remained in their home. Two sons and two daughters remained in Alabama (William B., James R., Mary Amelia Mastin, and Permelia Norman). Richard Myrick operated a large cotton plantation in Bolton, Mississippi with 25 slaves. He and his two younger sons are buried in the New Salem Cemetery near Bolton. Milly Myrick came back to Montgomery County after her husband died in 1849 and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery beside her two daughters, Mary and Permelia.

Children of Thomas Webb and Permelia Ann Norman:

John R. (Joseph)	1843-1864	George	1855-after 1923
Thomas Job	1845-1864	Charles H.	1857-1949
William Riley	1846-1935	Frank M.	1859-1919
*Henderson Hiram	1850-1933	Mollie	1870-1949
Mildred Elizabeth	1851-1935	Jeff	unknown-before 1923
Andrew Caffey	1853-1935	Infant	unknown

\*Ricky McLaney's great-grandfather

Thomas Webb and Permelia raised this large family on the west side of Butler Mill Road in the swamp right next to Thomas Butler. Living across the road was the William B. Myrick family, Permelia Ann's brother. The Normans farmed their 500 plus acres and had the bulk of Thomas Butler's farm leased at the time of his death in 1854. After losing two sons in the Civil War and seeing his father's farm and home destroyed, the family made a decision to move to Texas in 1869. After the marriage in that same year of their son William Riley to Mary Elizabeth Williams

(1852-1935), they began their trip to the Boz/Bethel communities southwest of Waxahachie. They were joined there by his sister's family who later moved farther westward. In 1870 the youngest child in the family, Mollie, was born in Texas. Thomas Webb died in 1874 at the age of 55; he is buried in the Waxahachie City Cemetery. *(I have visited this grave site; it gave me goose bumps just thinking what all this man had done in his 55 short years on Earth.)* Permelia Ann made the decision to return to Alabama in 1874. Her son, Henderson, my great-grandfather, had returned to Alabama and married in 1871, Elizabeth Tabitha Williams. Andrew Caffey, another son, had also returned to marry. Two of Thomas Webb and Permelia Ann's children— William Riley and Mildred— remained in Texas as they were married and raising their families there. Permelia Ann lived another 30 years; she passed away in 1904 and was buried at Oakwood Cemetery beside her mother. Later her sister, Mary Amelia Mastin, was buried on the other side of her. There was no marker for Permelia Ann from 1904 to 2011. *(The sexton of Oakwood Cemetery and the Mastin family agreed to allow me to place a marker for her. The marker gives her name, dates of birth and death, and to whom she was married and where he is buried. This marker placement was a promise I made to my mother in her last days).* Permelia Ann's daughter, Mollie, was buried in this plot in 1949.

### Third Generation

William Riley Norman (1846-1935) had tried to join the Confederate Army in 1861 at the age of 14, but was rejected for being too young. As stated earlier, he reported for duty three years later only to find that his two older brothers (Thomas Job and John) had just recently died in combat [see transcribed letter at end of text]. In 1869 he married Mary Elizabeth Williams (1852-1935), daughter of Nathaniel and Rebecca Shackelford Williams of Pintlala, who are buried in the Shackelford Cemetery in Pintlala. William and Mary moved immediately after their wedding with the rest of the Norman family to the Boz/Bethel communities in Texas. They raised eleven children there with five of their six boys serving in WWI.

#### Children of William Riley and Mary Elizabeth Norman:

Nora Viola	Lillian	William Riley, Jr.
Annie Rebecca	Joseph Lula	Hugh Malcolm
Thomas William	Nathaniel Shackelford	Emmie
Willie	Robert Lee	

Andrew Caffey Norman (1853-1935) married Belvedere Elizabeth "Belle" Lewis, while his younger brother Charles (1857-1949) married her sister Annie. After Belle died, A.C. married Willie Murrell. A.C. was quite the "horseman" and in the 1920s and 1930s he owned a champion stud horse used to breed mares from throughout the area. A.C. and Belle's house was just south of the Fleta intersection, where A.C. and later his son William Caffey ran a store. In 1935 Fred Sellers began operating this same store, which no longer stands (demolished ca. 1988). A.C. died in 1935 and is buried at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery beside wife, Belle. Charlie and Annie Lewis Norman are buried at Bethel Cemetery in Pintlala with her Lewis ancestors. William Caffey Norman, Sr. married my grandmother's sister, Eubritta "Aunt Britt" Sellers, in 1908 and they had five children. Their children were W.C., Jr., Virgie Lee, Alabelle, Julius Britt [celebrated his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2013], and infant Wallace W. With these two first cousin Normans marrying two Sellers sisters, these families have always been close and shared Norman and Sellers genes.

Mildred Norman (1851-1935) married J.C. Sims in Boz/Bethel, Texas and remained there when the rest of the Norman family moved back to Alabama. This Sims family ran the local stockyard in Waxahachie, and is credited with bringing the first Beefmaster cattle to Texas. *(I visited with these family descendants in the mid-1980s and it was absolutely amazing how much they resembled Julius Britt and his father and mother. The local library in Waxahachie is named after one of these Sims.)*



Thomas Webb and Permelia Ann Norman's son, George Norman married Betty Pool, the daughter of J.W.T. Pool, Jr. and Sarah Ann Lassiter. They had four children. George and Betty are buried in Montgomery in an unknown cemetery. Jeff Norman is also buried in Montgomery, He never married and was a carpenter by trade. He built the W.C. Norman, Sr. house in Fleta that has just been remodeled, [2013]. Frank Norman remained single and is buried at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Andrew Caffey Norman and his prized stud horse, ca. 1920. Photo courtesy of Julius Britt Norman.

### Henderson Hiram and Elizabeth Tabitha Williams Norman

Henderson Hiram Norman (1850-1933) is my great-grandfather, not to be confused with his uncle of the same name. He married Elizabeth Tabitha Williams (1846-1923) in 1871; she was the daughter of Isaac Williams (1813-1875), who is buried at Bethel Cemetery in Pintlala, and Mary Walton Williams (burial site was located on Highway 31 less than a mile north of the Union Academy intersection). They owned almost 900 acres on the Mobile Highway/31, just north of this same intersection. Mary died sometime in the 1850s, Isaac then married Elizabeth Anderson according to the 1860 Federal Census. Isaac had a house built as a wedding present for daughter Tabitha and Henderson in 1871. This house still stands today [2013] and is the oldest house in Fleta. (*This is the house where my Uncle Boots and Aunt Sassie raised their family.*)

#### Children of Henderson and Tabitha Williams Norman:

Minnie (1872-1947)                      \*Richard Webb (1877-1957)

Annie Maude (1874-1968)      Alma T. (1879-1957)

Mary Irene (1876-1879)

\*Ricky McLaney's grandfather



Henderson Hiram Norman, 1850-1933.



L to R: Dotson, who worked all around Fleta into the 1960s, Daniel Crum, Minnie Norman, Alma Norman, Henderson Hiram Norman, Richard Webb Norman, Tabitha Williams Norman. Not pictured: Annie Maude. Photograph made between 1915-1920.

Henderson Hiram Norman ran a country store located on the Northeast corner at the Fleta intersection. The store is still standing [2013] but has been moved back into the edge of the woods. Henderson served two different terms in the Alabama House of Representatives, the first in 1878 at the age of 28. This was the first session of the Alabama Legislature to be held during the tenure of Governor Rufus W. Cobb (term, 1878-1882). This legislative body and Governor Cobb struggled to help Alabama overcome the often misguided decisions of power brokers/law makers who held forth in Alabama during the Period of Reconstruction following the Civil War. Henderson Norman was elected for the second time in 1922 at the age of 72 when he was immediately dubbed by Judge Walter B. Jones of Montgomery County as the "grandfather of the legislature". His wife, Tabitha Williams Norman, died the year after his election.

The Montgomery Advertiser, ca. 1923



HENDERSON H. NORMAN, whom Montgomery county sends to the 1923 legislature as one of her representatives, is a "native son" descended from one of the earliest settlers of this county.



H. H. NORMAN

Mr. Norman was born in February, 1850, two miles from where he now lives at Fleta. Except for two years spent in Texas when he was a young man, his entire life has been passed in Montgomery county, where he has been engaged in farming. His education was obtained in the schools of the Fleta neighborhood and he is living on the place where the first school was built in that community about 1856.

His father, Thomas W. Norman, was also born in Montgomery county, 1819 being the year of his birth. The grandfather of the legislator, Job Norman, was one of the pioneer inhabitants of this section. He built the first bridge over Catoma creek on the road that now bears his name, the Norman Bridge Road. Job Norman, in point of size, was only exceeded by one other man in Montgomery county; this was Dixon H. Lewis, at one time a representative in congress.

Mr. Henderson Norman was one of a family of ten boys and two girls. All his brothers except one lived to an adult age. His two eldest brothers were killed in the Confederate army. Two brothers, George W. Norman and Charles H. Norman, now live in Montgomery; another brother, Andrew C. Norman, resides at Fleta; while a fourth brother, William R. Norman, has his abode in Texas. One of his sisters, Mrs. Sims, also resides in the Lone Star state, while the other sister, Miss Mollie Norman, lives in Montgomery.

Mr. Norman celebrated his golden wedding in October, 1921. His wife was Miss Tabitha Williams, also a resident of the Fleta neighborhood. Three daughters and one son of this couple are living. Miss Minnie Norman and Miss Alma Norman reside at Fleta, as does his son, R. W. Norman, who is the father of three children. Another daughter, Mrs. J. M. Lewis, who lives at Highland Home, is the mother of six children, making nine youngsters in all that call him grandfather.

This is the second time Mr. Norman will serve as a representative of Montgomery county. He was a member of the legislature meeting in 1878, when Governor Watts and Judge Clopton were prominent figures in Alabama political life. Mr. Norman has also acted for a considerable time as justice of the peace in his community.

He is a member of the Masonic order and is secretary of Fleta Lodge 23, A. F. and A. M.



Norman Family Reunion  
ca. 1920

*Adults seated L to R: Annie Lewis Norman, Charles Norman, Andrew Caffey Norman, J.C. Sims, Mildred Norman Sims, Henderson Hiram Norman (Tabitha was too sick to make the trip), Mollie Norman, Mary Elizabeth Williams Norman (1<sup>st</sup> cousin to Tabitha and daughter of Nathaniel and Rebecca Shackelford Williams), and William Riley Norman, Sr. The others are children, spouses, and grandchildren of the Sims and Norman families in Texas.*

In the early 1920s most of the living children of Thomas Webb and Permelia Ann Norman made the journey to Boz/Bethel, Texas for one final "Family Reunion". The Sims family lived in Boz, and Bethel was right next door where the Normans lived, which was the site of the reunion held at William Riley Norman's house. The Sims and Norman ranch and church were used in many of the scenes in Sally Fields hit movie "Places in the Heart".

Henderson Hiram Norman died in 1933 and his life had been one of a community servant. He was known as quite an orator and people would come from miles around to hear him speak at Grange meetings, Masonic meetings, political gatherings, and similar type events. Henderson and Tabitha are both buried at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Montgomery County, Alabama.

## Off The Bench

By JUDGE WALTER B. JONES

### UPON THE FARTHER SHORE

One peaceful afternoon last week, while a choir composed of his neighbors sang the old, old song that the dead had found a comfort in life, close friends tenderly bore from the sacred walls of an old-fashioned country church all that was mortal of an old-fashioned man. While hundreds of neighbors and friends stood silently by, they tenderly bore the grand old man of Montgomery County to his last sleeping place, there in the little country churchyard where sleep his own dead and the friends that had passed on before him.

During the simple services at the church, the sacred edifice was filled. Every seat was taken. Scores stood in the rear of the church; and the church-yard was filled with hundreds of friends and neighbors who had come from miles around. The funeral procession was one of the longest that ever wound over the hills of old Montgomery. And it was well that this was so:

Henderson H. Norman was born in Montgomery County, of pioneer stock, more than 80 years ago. Here he had spent the days of his long and useful life. Here he was known, here he was loved, and it was a fitting tribute to his life that so many hundreds of his friends and neighbors should accompany him to his last resting place and mourn his passing.

#### Quitted Himself Like A Man

In all the relations of life, as a man, as a citizen, and as a public official, Mr. Norman obeyed the admonition of the prophet of old: Quit yourselves like men. He did a man's work in the world, he did it like a man, and he lived the life of a man.

Two or three weeks before he died, when "the sorrows of death compassed" him, I paid what was destined to be my last visit to my good friend. He knew that his days were but few. He waited for the approach of death without fear, and saw it come with a Christian fortitude.

We talked of many things. Mr. Norman told me of his early days, of his kindly father and mother, of the struggle to get an education, of the aims he had in life. And then he said, wistfully: "You know, if I had life to go over I'd watch more closely the opportunities to do good. I am just afraid that I haven't done all the good in the world that I could have done. I feel that I have let many opportunities to do good pass by." It was the modesty of Henderson H. Norman that made him feel that way. For his life was literally spent in doing good. His neighbors trusted him, and he helped them. His people gave him public office, and he elevated the tone of public life. His fellow Christians esteemed him as a sincere follower of the lowly Nazarene. He lived a simple and modest life, and we can truly say that his county is better because of his life and his good deeds.

Henderson H. Norman loved his fellow men. He was careful to neither say nor do anything that would wound the heart of a fellow man. He looked upon his friends and his neighbors as brothers. He dealt with them kindly, courteously and honestly.



JUDGE JONES

### As One Who Loves His Fellow Men

Mr. Norman was often called upon to address his friends and neighbors at church meetings, at school exercises, in the lodge hall, and at neighborhood gatherings. In all his talks he urged his hearers to love one another, to say no harsh words of their friends, and to do no unlovely deeds. His favorite poem, one that he learned in early life, and that he recited frequently, was James Henry Leigh Hunt's beautiful jewel:

Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)  
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace  
And saw within the moonlight in his room,  
Making it rich and like a lily in bloom,  
An angel writing in a book of gold;  
Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,  
And to the presence in the room he said,  
"What writest thou?" The vision raised its

head,  
And, with a look made of all sweet accord,  
Answered, "The names of those who love the  
Lord."

"And is mine one," said Abou. "Nay, not so,"  
Replied the angel. Abou spoke more low,  
But cheerily still; and said, "I pray, thee,  
then,

Write me as one that loves his fellow men."

The angel wrote and vanished. The next night  
It came again, with a great weakening light.  
And showed the names whom love of God had  
blessed—

And, lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest!

### To The Island Valley Of Avilion

And so last week, in the full of the peace of the mid-Summer afternoon, we left Henderson H. Norman, the faithful friend, the upright citizen, the devoted kinsman, to sleep a little with folded hands in the quiet of the country church-yard. His Masonic brethren had performed their last sad office. The Master of his lodge repeated in gentle accent the closing words of the funeral service, the beautiful words that have come down to us in the ancient ceremony: "Soft and safe to, thee, my brother, be this earthly bed! Bright and glorious thy rising from it. . . So, in the bright morning of the world's resurrection, thy mortal frame, now laid in the dust by the chilling blast of Death, shall come again into newness of life, and expand into immortal beauty in realms beyond the skies. Until then, dear brother, until then, farewell!"

Sadly his friends turned from the new-made grave. Before them lay Life with all its duties, its responsibilities, and its struggles. Behind them, lay sleeping the kindly friend, in his narrow bed, waiting patiently for the great judgment day to enjoy the fruits of a well spent life as a reward for his mission here on earth. And because Henderson H. Norman loved his fellow men here on earth, the love of God will bless him yonder in the skies.

### Fourth Generation

Minnie Norman was the oldest child of Henderson and Tabitha Norman and married Daniel Crum from Greenville. He died at a young age and they had no children. She lived the remaining years of her life with her sister, Alma, who never married. They lived in the 1871 house built for Henderson and Tabitha, which Will Haden (*my Uncle Boots*) remodeled and moved into after Alma's death in 1957. They are both buried at Mt. Carmel Cemetery beside their parents.

Annie Maude Norman married James M. Lewis and they lived southeast of Highland Home on the road to Magnolia Shores. They raised six children there and she and her husband are both buried at the Forest Hills Memorial Cemetery in Snowdoun, Alabama. Our family made many a visit to these kin folks on Sunday afternoons. Their daughter, Mary Irene Norman, died quite young and is buried at Bethel Cemetery in Pintlala beside her grandfather, Isaac Williams. She also has a marker at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery beside her parents.

Richard Webb Norman (1877-1959) was the only son of Henderson and Tabitha Norman and he married Hattie Sellers (1889-1956). She was the youngest of eight children, who survived to adulthood, of William Joseph Sellers, Sr. and Alabama Pool called "Miss Bama" (*I just love that name!*). My grandmother and her five sisters were featured in the October 2007 *Pintlala Historical Association Newsletter*. Her brothers were William Joseph Sellers, Jr. and Hayden Sellers. My grandmother's ancestry can be traced to Edward Dotey (Doty) of the Mayflower and her great- great-great-grandmother was a half sister to Mary Ball Washington (*George's mother*), according to family history. Richard Webb and Hattie Sellers Norman lived their entire lives at Fleeta where her grandmother Letitia Boyd Pool (1835-1915) had built them a home just like she had done for most of her children who lived up and down the road in Fleeta. Grandma Pool had to raise the younger Sellers' children, as her daughter Alabama died at the age of 39. (*My grandmother, Hattie Sellers Norman, was 5 when her mother died, Aunt Britt was 10. William Joseph Sellers, Sr. had joined the Confederate Army at the age of 18, in October, 1863, Mt. Carmel, Alabama in Co.K, 53<sup>rd</sup> Alabama and was paroled May 14, 1864 near Charleston, South Carolina according to a 1907 Confederate Veteran's Census Record. He had fought with General Nathan Bedford Forrest for at least a year and was likely a part of the Streight's Raid effort in Northern Alabama before the 53<sup>rd</sup> Alabama joined with other divisions at Dalton, Georgia in pursuit of Sherman's forces through Georgia and the Carolinas.*)



Richard Webb and Hattie Sellers Norman, ca. early 1950s at Alabama State Capital.

#### Children of Richard Webb and Hattie Sellers Norman

Joe Richard (1917-1983)

Will Haden "Boots" (1920-1980)

Henderson Hartley "Bud" (1919-1957)

\*Hattie Sellers (1923-2009)

\*Ricky McLaney's mother

Richard Webb Norman operated the same country store that his father had built across the street from the A.C. Norman/Fred Sellers store. The Fleeta post office was located in the store from 1891-1935, where my grandfather served as postmaster from 1923-1935 when the post office closed and was assigned to Sprague, Alabama (*where my grandmother McLaney was in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 40 year career as postmaster. I was 10 years old when my grandfather passed away; being his namesake they placed me in a chair right beside his casket in Uncle Boots' house and everybody who came by would pat me on my head. That probably explains my bald spot! My Nanda Norman (Hattie Sellers), as we called my grandmother, was "the one in charge" in the family, as well as families of her brothers and sisters. They all sought advice from her and looked to her to decide what cause or efforts the*

families of Fleta were going to support. She may have been the youngest in her family, but she was a real go-getter and in charge. She was the greatest storyteller of family ancestry and happenings, and could keep her grandchildren spell bound on her front porch until a lightning bug came by. How difficult it is for my children and grandchildren to let me finish a story. I hope by writing this history of just my Norman line that it will ignite a glimmer of interest in genealogy for my children.)

### Fifth Generation

Joe Richard Norman married Mary Lee Sellers and worked at Sellers Grocery and also managed Piggly Wiggly stores in Montgomery. He once stopped a robbery attempt by throwing and hitting the robber with a half gallon of milk he had gotten out to take home. They moved from Fleta when their two girls Mary Jo and Harriet were very young. My Uncle Joe was short in stature and suffered from shortness of breath his entire life. My Uncle Bud never married and died from severe asthma at the young age of 37. He worked the front desk at the old Jeff Davis Hotel in Montgomery. He got an autographed baseball for us from the 1955 Brooklyn Dodgers when they stayed at the Jeff Davis Hotel while in Montgomery playing an exhibition game. My younger brother Hartley (*his namesake*) has the baseball [2013].

Will Haden (Boots) Norman was loved by everybody and he loved everybody in return. He married Frances Rowlen (Aunt Sassie) and they raised two girls Martha Sellers and Jenny. Uncle Boots sold feed for Reddoch Farm Supply and The Feed Lot, he knew every farmer in a 100-mile radius. He was always in charge of cooking for family gatherings, which featured his famous sauce on barbeque chicken. The Fleta barbeque pit was always active on Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and Labor Day. We never went anywhere on these holidays as children, except to the Fleta pit to be with the Norman and Sellers relatives. Frances Norman worked at Union Bank, becoming the first female officer at any bank in Montgomery. She later worked for the Pintlala Water System. (*I loved spending time with both Uncle Boots and Aunt Sassie.*)

Hattie Sellers Norman (1923-2009) married Cephas Knox McLaney, Jr. on May 29, 1943 at Camp Crowder, Missouri. His proposal letter to Hattie's parents and their wedding were featured in the April 2009 PHA newsletter. My McLaney grandparents were C.K. McLaney, Sr. (1887-1944) and Zerah Larkin McLaney (1893-1975). They both were born and raised in Ansley in Pike County. They grew up right across the railroad tracks from one another. My grandmother McLaney's family had a brief stay in Bardwell, Texas. My grandmother's high school diploma is from there. Knox and Zerah were married on Christmas Eve in 1916. Knox, Sr. had already been working for the Walter Brother's Plantation—7,000 acres—for a couple of years as an overseer of the Sprague Division. Sprague was the headquarters for the Walter Brothers' operations, with a three story building located near the railroad tracks. A store was located on the first floor, the brothers' offices were on the second floor, and hotel rooms were located on the third floor, to accommodate their business guests. The Walter Brothers' operations began dissolving in 1923 and the property owned by the McLaney family today was part of that business conglomeration. My McLaney grandparents built a house and country store in 1927 in Sprague, Alabama on the newly paved State Highway 9 now U.S Hwy. 331. [As of 2013], their home is still standing. The Sprague post office was also moved into the store, but in 1948 a separate building for the Post Office was constructed, that, too, still stands [as of 2013].



Knox McLaney, Jr. and Hattie Sellers Norman in 1967 at Knox and Trish's Wedding.

Knox, Sr. was instrumental in bringing electricity to the rural areas of Alabama. He served as the first president of Dixie Electric Cooperative and the first Secretary /Treasurer of Alabama Electric Cooperative now [2013] referred to as Power South. He ran the country store until the day he died, August 9, 1944. My father arrived via train from Camp Crowder, Missouri about five minutes before his father passed away. His last words on earth were "my boy is home." I previously mentioned that my "Nanda Mc", as we called her, served as postmaster at Sprague from 1923-1963. She was an avid reader, loved sewing, and constantly dreamed of going to Australia and New Zealand. (*That is what a lifetime subscription to National Geographic will do to you.*) She passed away on June 14, 1975. She was a great genealogist and left me with many notebooks and letters of family history. She wrote a history of the

Providence Presbyterian Church at LeGrand. Her McNeil ancestors had settled in Pine Level (Montgomery County) before Alabama became a state.

Knox, Jr. (my father) ran the same country store his father had run from 1944-1978. He also served as postmaster from 1963 until his death on July 18, 1980. As children growing up my brothers and I learned from my grandmother and father how to operate the cash register and we could also sell stamps and write money orders. (*Once we had mastered the money order we were as good as a postmaster!*) My Dad was a man of few words, but when he spoke people would stop talking to listen to what he had to say. He always had words of wisdom and encouragement to pass on. He was my best friend who is missed every day. He succumbed to cancer at the age of 57.

My mother, Hattie Sellers Norman McLaney, married Glenn D. Smith, Sr. in 1987; my children called him Papa. He owned Genuine Auto Parts in Montgomery. He was a couple years ahead of my parents in high school. When Papa asked me for Mama's hand in marriage, he told me that nobody in high school would flirt with her because they were all afraid of my Dad (Knox McLaney, Jr.). Glenn Smith is the grandfather remembered by my daughters because only one of them was born when my father was alive. Papa (Glenn Smith) passed away in 2000 and is buried in Montgomery by his first wife.

Hattie Sellers Norman McLaney Smith finished school at Pintlala and completed high school at Ramer in 1941 in the same class as my father. They were sweethearts from the first time they laid eyes on each other. She spent most of her work career with Royal Typewriter Co. and later with the Alabama State Senate. Family history says she at one time was considered the fastest typist in Montgomery. She really enjoyed working at the State Senate and meeting all of the political leaders. She spent many late hours working at the Capitol when the legislature was in session. One of her fondest memories there was when University of Alabama Coach Bear Bryant came by and instead of having his picture made with the politicians he opted for pictures with the ladies who worked behind the scenes. She was also proud the day that my youngest child, Kate, opened the legislative session with the "Pledge of Allegiance". My mother passed away in 2009 leaving behind her three sons, nine grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. She had a great appreciation for family history, ancestors, and relatives. She was very much like her mother as she was "in charge". Every family usually has to look for a family leader and that was the role that this mother and daughter did so well.

Children of Hattie Sellers Norman and C. Knox McLaney, Jr.

Cephas Knox McLaney, III (1945-2011)

Richard Wayne McLaney (born in 1948)

John Hartley McLaney (born in 1950)



Front L to R: Hartley, Ricky, Back L to R: Knox III, Knox, Jr., and Hattie McLaney, ca. 1959

**Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Generation****Cephas Knox McLaney, III**

Married Patricia Ann Hart of Evergreen in 1967

Children:     Laura Hayden (1978) married Renald Beqiri of Naples, Florida in 2012  
                   Tryon Matthews (1981)

Married 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Gwen Wise of Montgomery in 1985

Child:         Erin Norman (1985)

Married 3<sup>rd</sup> wife, Lisa C. Bond of Dothan in 1991

Child:         Ann Wells (1994)

**Richard Wayne McLaney**

Married Margie V. Owens of LaPine in 1969

Married 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Lorraine Dawson of Montgomery in 1976

Children:     Amanda Tyler (1978) married David Strickland of Pike Road in 1998

Children:     Dawson Reid (2001)  
                   David Parker (2004)  
                   Gracie Kathryn (2008)

Susanna Carol (1984)

Anna Kathryn (1991)

**John Hartley McLaney**

Married Rhonda Kay Cauthen of Sprague in 1970

Children:     Tara Kay (1974) married Stephen Stanley of Troy in 2007  
                   Tenise (1976) married Paige N. Owens of LaPine in 1998

Children:     John Preston (2001)  
                   Coleman Sellers (2004)  
                   Logan Cauthen (2004)

Married 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Diane Henley of Andalusia in 1990



McLaney Family at the time of Hattie Sellers Norman McLaney Smith's (standing center, second row) celebration of her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday in February 2008.

Editor's Note:

Thanks to Tyler McLaney Strickland for her excellent job of typing her father's handwritten manuscript and for the scanning of accompanying photographs in preparation for this article.

Thanks to Bob Bradley of The Alabama Department of Archives and History for interpreting *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, published in 1897.

All photographs are courtesy of Ricky McLaney unless otherwise noted.

Ricky McLaney sources: Family Archives and Papers

FORRESTON, TEXAS                      NOVEMBER 23, 1909

As I saw and experienced it, 1861 to 1865, so I relate it now.

In Tuesday's Semmi Farm News of Nov 23rd, it being my 68th birthday, I read a letter from one C.O. Amason, Company E 33rd Ala. Regt., Pat Cleburn Div. J.E. Johnson's Army of Tenn, giving a picture of the war. Yes, I too know something of those tumultuous times of which he writes.

I then being a boy of 14 years of age. Yes, Father and Mother had taken Bros John, Job and myself to Montgomery, Alabama fitted us all out with a new supply of clothing, trunks all preparatory to enter college at Nashville, Tenn. When lo the Tocsin of war sounded throughout our glorious South land, too much patriotic feeling in the boy of the South to think of school now. Yes on a certain morning in 1861, Father ordered the cook to have breakfast served by daylight the next morning. Yes and the horses well groomed. We, Father, Brother John, Job and myself mounted and away fifteen miles to a mass meeting at Athens, Alabama. Arriving near we could hear the sound of the big drum, and see the gathering together of the great multitude of heroes, the flower of our dear southland. What's the meaning of this great coming together? It means our Constitutional rights, yea our personal liberty, home and fireside are being encroached upon by the then Abolitionist party of the North, and these coming to offer themselves in defence of our rights.

Capt. H. H. Norman an uncle of the writer having had some experience in military tactics, having served in the war with Mexico and making a short talk stating object of meeting and it was to raise a company of 125 men to go to the front to combat the encroachment of the then threating North. Stepping out into open, he called for those who

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wished to volunteer to form in line. In less time than it takes to write this, he had his full company, could have gotten 1000 then and there as easily.

Bro. John and Job aged respectfully 16 and 17 was enrolled in the company. I being rejected on account of being too young.

Early in 1864, I bade dear Old Father and Mother and family good by and away to the front I go to give my services in defence of my country's cause. Gen Joe Johnson then being near Dalton, Ga. I left home, took the train at Montgomery at 8 o'clock at night. The next evening at 3 o'clock I could hear the rattle of musketry in not far distance.

Arriving at the command with expectancy and fear (as I knew there was a battle raging when I left home ) I sought out Company E. Lieutenant Joe Wilson, came forward to meet me, grasped my hand, I in instance ask of Bro. John, as softly as he could he told me the sad sad news. Had been killed in recent battle, sacrificed for his Country's cause. Brother Job having died a short time before at Knoxville, Tenn. with pneumonia.

Gen. Sherman's army was then pressing Gen. Johnson's back toward Atlanta, Georgia. The two armys being so unequal in numbers. The Federals would flank us and force to fall back. Notwithstanding we did it very grudgingly, we would put up a bold front during the day, and at night fall, we would silently move back a short distance and wait their coming, ever eager for the fray.

But circumstances or fate was against us, every time they come on us we would kill or cripple a goodly number of them.

I was in many skirmishes and fights from Dalton to Atlanta, was in battle on Peach Tree creek 22nd July 1864. Pat Cleburn's Div.

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after night fall on the 21st moved out of Atlanta marched all night getting around in the rear of the federal army, taking them somewhat by surprise. They having three rows of breast works encircling Atlanta situated some  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile apart; but our forces striking them in rear produced quite an awkward predicament. We charged them and drove them from two of their works and within 75 yards of 3rd line of works. When the Yanks concluded we was not so many after all. Our officers seeing fruitlessness of farther advance ordered us to lie flat on ground, then came whispered orders down our line that we were in precarious predicament, to undertake to retreat or retire in order, meant certain destruction or capture of the whole command and for each of us try and do the best we could to get back and reform in a designated old field  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile in the rear. Just a few to retire at the time, the remainder to keep up a constant fire on Yanks when they showed their heads above the works. Amason and I had gotten hold of three old fence rails and made us a kind of fort from which we would shoot when ever they poked their heads above their works. We were about the last to give up the field. When we did start we had to run something like 400 yards before we got under cover. My how those Yanks did shoot, the bullets coming at us uncomfortable close. But we made it back to old field spoken of and reformed.

Then came the fall of Atlanta, battle at Jonesborough and down to Lovejoy. Was with General Hood on trip back to Dalton on his way up into Tenn. I took typhoid fever was sent to hospital at Selma, Ala. Rejoined the command after they returned from that fearful campaign in Tenn. I with our company surrendered with Gen. Johnson at Greensborough, N.C. April 26th 1865.

Have been reading the News for 35 years.

W. R. Norman

Forreston, Texas

Banner Dec 30<sup>th</sup> 1862

Cool R Adams

Dear Sir

I want to  
 sent Cool Crittenden a few days ago  
 enclosing a certificate of my condition  
 as to health I have lost all hopes  
 of ever being able to take charge  
 of my command any more I  
 think best for me to resign I hope  
 you will favour my Resignation  
 and let me hear from you soon

Let me assure you Dear  
 Cool that I do not take this  
 course through choice my health  
 compell me to take the course

If I live to be a sound  
 man any more and this war still  
 continues I will be with you in the  
 good cause

Yours with much respect

To Cool

R Adams  
 38<sup>th</sup> Regiment  
 U.S.A. Cal

W H Norman Capt  
 Co E 38<sup>th</sup> Regiment  
 U.S.A. Cal



**PINTLALA HISTORICAL  
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**OCTOBER 20TH, 2013  
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