

PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting:
January 18th —2:30 p.m.
 Pintlala Baptist Church



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

Volume XXIII, Number 1

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January 2009

**Dot Davis (Cline), president of the Pintlala School Junior Red Cross Chapter receives a certificate of merit.
 Circa 1945**



Dot Davis (Cline), president of the Pintlala School Junior Red Cross Chapter receives from State Civilian Defense Director, Haygood Paterson, a certificate of merit for outstanding defense work done by the pupils at Pintlala in 1945. Pictured behind Dot is Mary Ann Guy, unknown male and possibly Edward Cook. The photograph appeared in the January 29, 1945 *Montgomery Advertiser*. If you know the identity of the two boys on the right side of the photo, please let us know. Photo courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History. (Dot was in the 6th grade and 11 years old when this photograph was taken.)

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President's Message

History matters. Soren Kierkegaard once observed, "Life must be lived forward, but it can only be understood backward." The discipline of history is simply a quest to understand. To get inside the minds of our predecessors and ancestors is challenging.

The Pintlala Historical Association has an important task to accomplish. The substance of our local history must be transmitted to new generations. It will not get done if the PHA doesn't do it. The loss of historical knowledge is threatening the very fabric holding our society together.

On Sunday, December 7, 2008, I ask everyone in the Pintlala Baptist Church congregation born after 1980 to stand. While this particular demographic was standing, I requested those who did not know the answer to the following question to be seated. *Why is December 7 important in American history?* Older persons present sounded a collective gasp when many sat down. Only three persons remained standing and knew the answer. Scary.

We are failing to pass the baton of history to the next generation. Perhaps Daniel Jordan, former Director of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, was right when he suggested that the loss of historical knowledge has become a matter of national defense. He said, "We cannot defend what we do not know."

Support the PHA with your presence and funds. We must begin where we are to do something about this collapse of essential understanding of the past.

Gary Burton, President

garyburton1@charter.net

January 2009 PHA Program

The January 2009 PHA program will feature Lyn Frazer, Archivist with the Montgomery County Probate Office. Lyn has a masters degree in history from Auburn University, and was a French and History teacher at St. James for a number of years. She joined the staff of the Alabama Department of Archives and History where she worked with local governments around the state on identifying and preserving historical records. She became the Montgomery County Archivist in 2003. Lyn is a native of Montgomery and lives in an historic cottage in Capitol Heights. She will share with our group the types of historic records that can be found in the county archives and how the general public can access and use the records.

Don't forget that the beginning of the year is dues time---\$10.00 to renew a membership and \$15.00 for a new membership.



Bill Sansom with Lyn Frazer examining the Montgomery County Board of Revenue Minutes (1875-1881)

About This Issue

This newsletter includes the transcription of two news articles detailing the many endeavors of students at Pintlala School in support of the United States and its allies in World War II. One article is from the January 29, 1945 *Montgomery Advertiser*, the other from *The Home Front*, published by the Alabama State Council of Defense which was responsible for the coordination of defense activities in Alabama. The Council was active from 1941-1946 and published *The Home Front* from 1944-1945. Director of the Alabama State Council of Defense was Hagood Paterson of Montgomery. PHA member Jack Hornady reminded me that the success of the programs at Pintlala School was possible through the generosity and support of parents and members of the community. As you will read further in the newsletter, Pintlala and its residents have always been special and have possessed a strong love of country. (The spelling of names is exactly as the news articles stated--thus the variation.)

Alice Carter

Monday, January 29, 1945

Montgomery Advertiser

In recognition of outstanding defense work by its pupils, Pintlala School was presented a service award Friday by Haygood Paterson, State director of Civilian Defense, at a special program in the school auditorium attended by the student body and a representative group of patrons.

The award, in the form of a certificate of merit, was accepted for the school by Dot Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Davis, and president of the Junior Red Cross Chapter which sponsors the school's defense activities.

In making the presentation, Director Paterson congratulated the school children on their exceptional record in the sale of war bonds and stamps in particular and the spirit of patriotism exemplified in their voluntary defense activities.

"Because of your outstanding record, I want you to have this service award signed by the Governor of our State," he said.

Jean Davis, secretary of the Pintlala Junior Red Cross, reviewed work done by the organization since 1942. Clothes for the Russians, toys for blind children, wreaths, place cards and filled Christmas bags for patients of Veterans Hospital, sale of seals for the Montgomery Tuberculosis Sanitarium and stamps for the Crippled Children's Clinic, victory gardens, various articles made for hospitals, participation in all scrap drives and in the March of Dimes collection were among the projects to which she called attention.

Edward Cook, who with Weldon Hall makes the bond and stamp team, gave detailed report on bonds and stamp sales for which the Junior Red Cross was responsible since 1942. In 1942-43, he said, the pupils of Pintlala School sold \$12, 395. 95 in bonds and stamps. In 1943-44 the sales were \$74, 267.50. This year, the sales to date are \$9, 282.80.

The school, he said, has won a flag showing that 90 per cent of the pupils have bought either bonds or stamps and added that "we sincerely hope this flag will fly the rest of the school year."

Last year Pintlala School won the Junior Red Cross plaque for the first rural school year whose enrollment in the organization reached 100 per cent. This year the school was beaten by another which reached 100 per cent just 15 minutes earlier.

The program was opened with patriotic songs directed by Miss Lottie Ree Garrett, of the faculty, followed by a Scripture reading by Frank Stewart, Jr. Dr. C. M. Dannelly, superintendent of schools, spoke briefly on the contribution of this county's schools to the war effort and congratulated Pintlala

School on its record. Principal L.R. Scarborough presented Mrs. Mary McLean White, supervisor and sponsor of the Pintlala Junior Red Cross.

Director Paterson, Dr. Dannelly, Miss Edna Cohen, secretary to the director, Miss Mildred Smith, Advertiser staff reporter, and Albert Kraus, State photographer, were guests of the school cafeteria at lunch.

The Home Front (publication)
January, 1945
page 3

Pintlala School Sponsors Active Defense Program

School (Montgomery County) has assumed responsibilities and put into operation a program that gives it first place among participants in home front activities.

The schools, too are at war, according to Dr. Clarence Dannelly, Montgomery County Superintendent of Education.

The Junior Red Cross of Pintlala School, which sponsors all student war activities, since our country went to war has sold \$1000,000 worth of War Bonds; collected tons of waste paper, scrap iron and tin; made gifts for Veterans Hospital; and gathered a substantial amount of clothing for the Russian Relief.

Last year alone, the children of Pintlala Junior Red Cross established for their financial goal in War Bond Drives the purchase of a jeep, but they so far surpassed the amount that their sales totaling \$12, 395. 95 bought 10 jeeps. Enough of the pupils are bond or stamp purchasers to give the school the right to fly the "school-at-war" flag.

In 1943-44 the Pintlala School won a plaque for being the first school to enroll its students 100 percent in the Junior Red Cross.

Victory Gardens flourish in this district and families of the school children planting them have realized considerable profit from this activity.

Mrs. Mary McLean White, who has served the organization as teacher-sponsor since its beginning has never failed to attend a meeting during the three years of its existence.

Jack Hornady of the ninth grade has directed all stamp and bond sales.

Pintlala Junior Red Cross officers this year are Jean Davis, Voncile Pettus, Edward Cook and Waldon Hall. Rae Venable, President of the Pintlala Girls 4-H Club is the capable reporter.

Other active leaders are also members of the 4-H Club. Among them are: Jean Davis secretary of the Defense Council and song leader of the 4-H Club; Rebecca Hatfield 4 -H reporter; Edward Cook reporter for the boys' 4-H club who is in charge of collections of stamps and bonds for the school; Jean Stubbs, secretary of the girls' 4 -H Club and also secretary of the Montgomery County Council of 4-H Clubs; Paula Mills, 4-H vice-president; Waldon Hall, another collector of stamps and bonds for the school; Voncile Pettus, representative to the Red Cross Council meetings in Montgomery; David Dean, president of the Boys' 4-H Club; William Nolan, secretary-treasurer of the Boys' 4-H Club, and Lural Greer, songleader.



SERVICE AWARD FOR PINTLALA—Dot Davis, president of the Pintlala School Junior Red Cross Chapter (left), receives from State Civilian Defense Director Haygood Paterson a certificate of merit for outstanding defense work done by the pupils. Others in the picture are: (Left to right) Principal L. R. Scarborough, Mrs. Mary McLean White, Junior Red Cross sponsor, and Superintendent C. M. Dannelly.

Copy of Original Photo from the January 29, 1945 *Montgomery Advertiser*

Letter Received

The PHA received a letter from one of its members offering to give our organization her circa 1926 Pintlala School rhythm band cape and hat. I responded to Sarah Elizabeth Garrett Moore of Bogart, Georgia and she answered with such an interesting narrative that I wanted to share it with all of our members. The letter has been slightly edited.

Alice Carter

October 26, 2008

Dear Alice,

Your letter stirred many more memories of Pintlala. I was Sarah Elizabeth Garrett and my parents were Reid and Corrie Mitchell Garrett. As the youngest of six children, my siblings had received nicknames, so my mother gave me a "good old fashioned name" so that I would not get a nickname.

But, as fate would have it a cousin with a bad lisp, came with her mother to see the new baby and immediately became so excited, "Oh, she is SO tweet, I want to take her home with me!" Now, anyone except business acquaintances know my name, for I have been known as Tweet. Myrt Henry Hall was three days older than I, so we grew up almost like twins, and strangely enough we both ended up on dairy farms-and we both grew UP on dairy farms.



Sarah Elizabeth Garrett Moore

Our home is no longer there but it was between the Newells and the Crenshaw homes-across from us when I was very young was "Uncle" Tan Shackelford's home, and Uncle Frank and Aunt Fannie Garrett Shackelford were diagonally across from us (toward Montgomery) and Mr. George and Miss Hermie Shackelford were to the right of uncle Tan's home. Uncle Frank was married to my father's sister and "Uncle George" had a daughter and a son the age of two of my sibling, so they seemed like family. Mr. George and Miss Hermie had no children so they weren't like relatives! Miss Hermie did occasionally have a crowd of us for spend-the-night parties and we feated on all sorts of goodies --not our usual fare, for sure, and lots of fun for kids.

In our home, after the older brothers got off to college and extra bedrooms were plentiful, we boarded teachers, so that Pintlala could attract the best teachers. I remember Lillian Benson, Bonnie Frost, Clifford Vinson and Mary Hall Van Pelt who stayed with us. They were excellent teachers (Mary Hall was Miss Alabama when she was a senior at Alabama. She later married a Gen Robert Lee and lived in Washington, D.C.)

Clifford Vinson was my first grade teacher and Miss Kitty McIntyre was my third grade teacher. I don't remember another teacher, so perhaps they also taught second grade, too.

I only remember Miss Laura McLean and her sister, Mary McLean White as fourth, fifth and sixth grade teachers.

In Junior High, Lillian Benson and Bonnie Frost taught. I left to go to Cloverdale in the ninth grade, in order to get Latin. Lottie Ree Garrett also taught me some.

My mother and coz. Iva Henry did so much to help in PTA work and in decorating the school for events. I remember taking tubs full of roses to put all across the edge of the auditorium's stage for graduations etc.

When I was very young , my parents and other parents got together and were in plays to make

money for the new school in Pintlala. Once, I was dressed as a little fairy and in subdued light on the stage, I switched notes into the "wrong" envelopes---someway the plot of the play worked out very romantically by having the wrong notes sent to two people---it all ended happily!!

My older brother Alex was at one time after graduation from Auburn, the accountant or business manager for the Reuben Gruberg carnival group which wintered in Montgomery. Once he arranged for a troupe of Russian midgets to come to Pintlala and present a play (to make money for the school.) They came by our home after the play & I remember how fascinated I was by these foreign people with very thick accents who were so tiny--grey haired older ladies sat on our sofa with their little high heeled shoes just beyond the edge of the cushions. They weren't dwarfs but really midgets--perfectly formed. Such a memory!

In those days we had no television and we did not realize how other people talked. These were truly foreigners. Oh, there are so many memories of Pintlala. It was an unusual community from what I gather as I discuss old times with people from other areas. We had such COMMUNITY in the true sense of the word. Without so many of the amenities we have today and such varieties of food, we had much that was different. A Mr. Anderson killed a beef animal each week, so we always had a supply of meat. He arranged so that his regular customers got good meat, but he did not let one family get all the best. He would set it up so one week we'd have roasts, another we'd have steak and maybe ground beef and so everyone got a variety--he had great beef.

There were orchards and apple and pear trees at every home and I remember having canning done at one of the home-ec buildings at Pintlala. Everyone brought their produce up to be canned in tin cans. There were pressure canners for large quantities of cans. Most everyone did canning at home, too, in smaller quantities in jars, but the community cannery was a great place to get together & to prepare for winter.

The people were unusual, also. Not many communities had two good doctors- Dr. Shackelford and Dr. Tankersley were so good for us all. The Lassiters always provided a place to make syrup--another time of celebration of community. How many cups of cane juice did I catch and drink from a cup before it could be cooked into syrup!!

The Duggars were such an interesting family. I have many, many memories of them. My sister, Dixie, flew once with Llewellyn, the uncle of the Llewellyn I was in class with. I have memories of him when he was a colonel and the PMS7T at UGA. The younger Llewellyn was strongly suspected of being the person who placed a long slow burning fuse all over the top of Pintlala School and attaching fire crackers at intervals--providing an exciting day at school with small explosions as the fuse burnt to the next fire cracker!

The older Fred Duggar rode with Miss Bessie Hawthorne to work at the State Capitol just as I did. What a lively discussion we had each day. I learned early that politics can get exciting!--especially if you ride with staunch Republicans and Democrats in the same car!

I must stop this rambling letter. You do have other things to do!

I will try to get by and pick up my rhythm band cape (Tweet started school at Pintlala in 1923, only one year after its opening. Her cape and hat date from circa 1926.) and see if I can find the cap to match. I'll mail it soon.

Sincerely,

Tweet Moore

Anyone wishing to contact Mrs. Moore can reach me for her address and phone number. We thank her for her interest and support of the PHA and hope that she can arrange a visit to Pintlala soon.

Wilkinsons Visit Pintlala

On November 8, Pat Emory Wilkinson, wilk59@earthlink.net, and her husband, Bryant, from Houston stopped in Pintlala to visit the Bonham Cemetery where Pat's ancestors are buried. A list of ancestors follows:

John Bonham

born 30 Oct, 1785 NC

m Jane Archer on 3 Jan, 1822 Montgomery Co, AL died 1 Aug, 1869 Pintlala, Montgomery Co, AL buried in Bonham Cemetery, Pintlala, Montgomery Co, AL

Jane Archer Bonham

born 5 Feb, 1807 SC

died 7 July, 1881 Pintlala, Montgomery Co, AL buried in Bonham Cemetery, Pintlala, Montgomery Co, AL

Margaret F Bonham Varner (daughter of John and Jane Bonham) born 20 Sept, 1824 Montgomery Co, AL m William F Varner on 12 Nov, 1845 in Montgomery Co, AL died 13 Feb, 1900 Pintlala, Montgomery Co, AL buried in Bonham Cemetery, Pintlala, Montgomery Co, AL

William F Varner (Son of John and Nancy Varner) born 5 July, 1823 Montgomery Co, AL died 26 Oct, 1860 Lowndes Co, AL buried in Bonham Cemetery, Pintlala, Montgomery Co, AL

Bethel Jarrell Bonham was the brother of Margaret F Bonham Varner.

(A son of William F Varner and his wife Margaret F. Bonham Varner is my great grandfather, Bethel Jerald Varner, born in Montgomery Co, AL on 13 Sept, 1853, died 27 April, 1935, Harris Co, TX .)



Bryant and Pat Wilkinson at the Bonham Cemetery in Pintlala



**PINTLALA HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION**

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

NEXT MEETING

JANUARY 18, 2009

2:30 P.M.

**PINTLALA
BAPTIST CHURCH**

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

**Pintlala Historical Association
Joy Shelton
22681 U.S. Highway 331
Lapine, Alabama 36046**

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Phone (Home & Office) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Areas of Interest _____

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

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