



PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



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175 FEDERAL RD.
HOPE HULL, AL 36043

VOLUME 8, Number 4

OCTOBER 1994

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OCTOBER MEETING: October 16, 1994 2:30 P.M. PINTLALA BAPTIST CHURCH

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Daniel Boorstin is perhaps the foremost historian of our times. In an interview published by the UNESCO courier, January 1991, Boorstin made three impressive points that are unrelated, yet thought-provoking:

-1 Boorstin concerning slavery in America . . . "There were some slave uprisings, but these were relatively few. I can't think that the plantation owners in the south considered their slaves as enemies, but rather as part of the family. I'm not saying it wasn't unjust, but at the same time that plantation wives played a very positive role in delivering babies and looking after the health of people in the slave quarters. They considered that they had a duty to do so. It was like a feudal community in Europe where the lord didn't consider that he was oppressing his vassals or his peasants, he saw himself as their protector. For many people, too, the belief in the inferiority of the Black race was very strong. They thought that they were protecting people who were helpless or feckless. That was the way they looked at it. You and I may find that immoral but nevertheless that was how they saw things. They didn't feel that they were living in a fortress, that their plantation houses would be besieged by the slaves. This did happen, but very rarely."

-2 Boorstin concerning the genius of America . . . "We still have many problems and many injustices in our country, but I am amazed when I come back to the United States from any other country and see how many different races of people and different ways of life have been brought together. It's relatively peaceful—we've never had a religious war, for example. The only other country in the world of which that's true is probably Japan. We had a terrible Civil War, the bloodiest war of the nineteenth century, but it was not a religious war."

-3 Boorstin concerning the future . . . "Historians should not play the role of prophets. It's difficult enough to be a historian. I think that among the excesses which historians should caution us against are prophecies of Utopia or Armageddon, or the beginning, or the end. These prophecies have been made again and again, more often by religious fanatics and by people frustrated with their own lives than by serious students of history."

Gary P. Burton

PROGRAM PLANNED FOR OCTOBER MEETING

Alice T. Carter, program chairman, has planned another field trip for our October meeting. We will meet at Pintlala Baptist Church at 2:30 on Oct. 16th. There will be a brief business meeting.

Alice says: "We will go to the Frank Mosley home, the Tankersley log cabin, Liberty Church of Christ, and the Ernest Garrett home. Please join us for an interesting tour. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. If you are interested in a video copy give a black and white blank video to Gary Burton. Mark your tape with your name, address, and phone number. When the tape is edited we will get your copy to you. In case of rain, we will have a speaker."

Our July meeting was delightful. A good crowd, delicious food, and we were well entertained and kept laughing by John A. Garrett of Snowdoun.

PHA MEMBER HONORED

Alan Davis is a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants. He is serving as Deputy Governor General for the Society and as Lt. Governor for the Capital Colony. Congratulations !

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. McCall
80 Oak Ridge Lane
Hope Hull 36043 Ph. 281-8825

DUES NOTICES SENT TO MEMBERS

In September cards reminding members of overdue dues were mailed. The response was great. We appreciate how easy it is to forget. REMEMBER PHA dues should be paid at our January meeting. Bookkeeping and mailouts become complicated when we do not know your wishes.

MARKER PLACED AT BETHEL CEMETERY

When the Men of Pintlala Baptist Church cleaned Bethel Cemetery several unmarked graves were discovered. One of these graves was that of Julia Lassiter Thompson, aunt of Miriam Lassiter Williams. In July 1994 Miriam and Leslie Williams had a marker placed on her grave. It reads:

JULIA LASSITER
THOMPSON
Oct 27, 1867 - Jan 5, 1955

Vol. 1 October, 1945 No. 1

**ABNER McGEHEE**

... from a miniature painted during life

February 17, 1779 -- February 19, 1855

A tall marble obelisk in the historic McGehee Cemetery marks the final resting place of Abner McGehee. It reads: " Sacred to the memory of Abner McGehee who died Feb. 19, 1855 - Aged 76 years and 1 day. His rare enterprise, energy, and industry, united with integrity made him a model man in all relations of life; and insured him great wealth which he distributed cheerfully and with noble hearted liberality for the Glory of God and the good of man. A Christian in heart and life, he lived and died in the communion of the Methodist Protestant Church. He parted in great peace and comfort of soul and sleeps in Jesus."

Abner McGehee had made and lost a fortune in Georgia before moving to Montgomery Co. in 1827. At one time he owned 10,000 acres of land and many of the most valuable lots in the heart of Montgomery. He was instrumental in building the South Plank Road that would go through his plantation and on to Mobile. He built the Planters' Hotel on Court Square. The hotel burned in 1838. Abner McGehee also owned the lot on which the Exchange Hotel was built. He was a large stockholder and a founder of the Montgomery-West Point Railroad. The largest single donation made by him at his death went to the American Bible Society. He organized and gave the building on Dexter Avenue for the Alabama Bible Society. At his death he superannuated his slaves and left monies for their care.

Abner's first wife was his first cousin, Charlotte Spencer. The first of their seven children, Harriett Louise, married Thomas Key Jarratt. (both buried McGehee Cem) Their second born became Mrs. Wm. Taylor. Her husband, a wealthy planter, built the first brick house in these parts and became known as "Brickhouse" Taylor. (both bur. McGehee Cem.)

He and Charlotte had seven children, two of whom died young. After Charlotte's death, he married Jane Gilmer, widow of Thomas Johnson. They had four children. In addition, they helped rear and educate the eight orphan children of his brother William. After Jane's death Abner married Mrs. Mary C. Russell Graves. They had two children. In addition to all of these Abner had to rear two orphaned grandchildren and several stepchildren.

Abner gave land for the McGehee Cemetery, for a Methodist Church, and for a school. (now the Hope Hull Woman's Club). For many years the cemetery was beautifully maintained by Abner McGehee III(?) and his family. Since his long illness and death the cemetery has reverted to chaos. With the development of the Industrial Park the cemetery is again accessible. Caroline and Julian Elgin, for the Pintlala Historical Assoc., are making efforts to stir up interest and get donations to restore this historic landmark. Frank Hawthorne, our legal advisor, is helping with this project. Certainly Abner McGehee, who did so much for Hope Hull, deserves to have his final resting place preserved.

We thank Mrs. William Hornsby (Jane Owsley) for information on Abner McGehee. Much of it was written by Clanton Ware Williams, outstanding historian and a McGehee descendant, who gave the land for the Hope Hull Recreation Center. Copies of this information are on file at the Pintlala Library.

Incidentally, the Thomas A. Fowler buried there was a long time postmaster at Hope Hull.

A word of caution to those who might visit this cemetery. Watch for rattle snakes! We think they are bedding in some of the broken vaults.

On October 4, Caroline and Julian Elgin and Ethel T. Todd met with the Administrative Board of Hope Hull Methodist Church. We gave background information on Abner McGehee and reported on developments at the cemetery. They were enthusiastic and receptive to the idea that they "adopt" the cemetery. A committee was appointed to study needs and possible solutions. ETT

MCGEHEE PLANTATION BURIAL GROUND
Montgomery County

Located on the Old Abner McGehee plantation on the L&N Railroad about a mile west of the home now occupied by J. A. Campbell. It is in beautiful condition with blooming flowers and graves kept in order. There are between 30 and 40 graves unmarked with mound or small unlettered stones at head and foot.

Information obtained by Miriam Brewer and Frank Richardson Mar. 9, 1936.

NAME	BORN	DIED	REMARKS
BIBB			
Charlotte Caroline	Mar. 5, 1814	Jan. 10, 1837	Born in Georgia, wife of George Bibb, daughter of Abner & Charlotte Mildred McGehee
Mary Charlotte	Mar. 17, 1834	Apr. 10, 1835	Daughter of George R. Bibb
Twin Sons	Dec. 24, 1832	Dec. 25, 1832	Sons of George R. Bibb
BRIGGS			
E. E. (Dr)	Nov. 4, 1814	Nov. 15, 1850	
CRENSHAW			
E. W.	1879	1931	
J. M.	Jan. 1834	Aug. 12, 1909	
Virginia	1836	1872	
FERGUSON			
Mary L.	Dec. 5, 1847	Feb. 16, 1907	
FOWLER			
Bessie	Feb. 7, 1850	July 4, 1925	
Elizabeth W.	Jan. 29, 1846	Aug. 27, 1926	
Thomas	1879	1916	
Thomas A.	Aug. 8, 1846	Oct. 10, 1921	

Note: Cemetery now (9/94) in terrible shape.

Copy from Archives and History given to PHA by Lula Davidson.

McGEHEE PLANTATION BURIAL GROUND
Montgomery County

NAME	BORN	DIED	REMARKS
GARDNER			
Flora E.	1880	1935	
GILCHRIST			
E. J. (Mrs)	May 20, 1828	Feb. 2, 1891	
James G.	Oct. 21, 1814	May 18, 1900	
James M.	Nov. 15, 1860	June 12, 1891	
Sallie H.	May 27, 1873	Sept. 18, 1896	
Susan L.			Aged 3 months, daughter of James & Elizabeth Gilchrist
W. T.	May 5, 1864	Jan. 22, 1881	
GRAVES			
Sallie M.	Aug. 21, 1830	May 11, 1854	Wife of P.S. Graves, married Dec. 1, 1852
HODGES			
Bessie	1858	1928	
JARRATT			
Martha A. Ann	Oct. 10, 1831	Aug. 25, 1832	
Thomas Key	June 27, 1801	Mar. 1, 1850	
McGEHEE			
Abner	Feb. 18, 1779	Feb. 19, 1855	Aged 76 years and 1 day
Abner	1882	1910	
Abner F.	Jan. 9, 1818	Apr. 8, 1849	Married Elizabeth A. Smith Sept. 18, 1839
Abner F.		June 27, 1850	Aged 5 months
Elizabeth A.	May 29, 1823	Jan. 16, 1850	Wife of Abner F. McGehee
Ellen O.	Nov. 9, 1829	Sept 6, 1931	Daughter of Abner and Mary C. McGehee

McGEHEE PLANTATION BURIAL GROUND
Montgomery County

NAME	BORN	DIED	REMARKS
McGEHEE cont.			
Harriet Ann Jane			Aged 11 months, daughter of Edward and Harriet Ann R. McGehee
Harriet Ann Richards		Oct. 20, 1827	Aged 27 years, wife of Edward McGehee of the State of Mississippi
Jane M. Lamar	June 4, 1792 1910	Sept 2, 1839 1912	
Lucinda S.E.	Oct. 22, 1833	Mar. 23, 1835	Daughter of Abner and Mary C. McGehee
Nettie M.	1882	1922	
Samuel	1859	1910	
Samuel A.		Sept 16, 1847	Aged 4 years and 5 months
Sara Frances	Jan. 12, 1886	Sept 28, 1932	
Thomas M.	Feb. 13, 1833	July 25, 1858	
William P.	Jan. 4, 1853	Aug. 30, 1919	
William S.	May 18, 1812	Aug. 27, 1829	
MURPHY			
Bessie Fowler	Aug. 22, 1881	Nov. 14, 1909	Wife of James K. Murphy
Edna Earle	Aug. 3, 1905	Aug. 27, 1926	
NOLLEY			
Lucy	Dec. 18, 1877	Feb. 21, 1932	
OLIVER			
Mary G.S.	Feb. 15, 1829	Oct. 15, 1829	Daughter of S.C. & M.S. Oliver
TAYLOR			
Abner McGehee	Feb. 22, 1846	July 24, 1848	Son of William & Ann Taylor

McGEHEE PLANTATION BURIAL GROUND
Montgomery County

NAME	BORN	DIED	REMARKS
TAYLOR cont.			
Ann Scott	Mar. 6, 1807	June 1, 1866	Wife of William Taylor
Ann Scott	Oct. 25, 1844	Aug. 17, 1845	Daughter of William & Ann Taylor
George Benjamin	Feb. 16, 1837	Mar. 2, 1837	Son of William & Ann Taylor
Richard Patrick	May 11, 1839	Aug. 28, 1841	Son of William & Ann Taylor
Susan A.L.	Feb. 14, 1841	July 10, 1856	
William	Aug. 11, 1798	May 21, 1882	
THOMPSON			
Allen	1860	1933	
Charles	1852	1935	

400 X 171.37
 1.57 Acres



Map Showing McGehee Cemetery in Industrial Park Area

GOSWYN, MILLS & CATOON, Inc.
 ENGINEERS - ARCHITECTS - PLANNERS - SURVEYORS
 1000 ...
 HOUSTON, TEXAS
 PARKER MAP
 INDUSTRIAL PARK
 HOUSTON, TEXAS

Handwritten notes:
 1000 ...
 1000 ...

MARKERS ADDED AT MTLs

Catherine and J.L.Hall, Etta and Fred Turnipseed have recently done some mowing and cleaning in the Mosley-Tankersley-Luckie-Supple cemetery. They, with help from other family members, have added the following markers:

Cater (Cader) Franklin Mosley Oct. 10,1860 - Aug. 9,1938
Charlotte(Elizabeth Walters) Mosley Jan.1,1866-Feb. 9,1952

George Mosley reports that donations to pay for a fence across the front of this cemetery have made it possible to continue plans for this project. It is much needed because partying beer drinkers apparently enjoy the company of friendly ghosts. Cleaning up behind them has become a real chore.

The best gifts are tied with heartstrings.

We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.

Don't count your years; make your years count. Copied.

AMENDMENT PROPOSED

At the meeting of the PHA Board in September, the following admendment was proposed:

The Program Chairperson and the Editor(s) of the PHA Newsletter shall be members of the Board.

This amendment will be voted on at our January meeting. Consideration was given to the suggestion that dues be prorated for those who join the Association late in the year. It was decided that the additional bookkeeping would not warrant the small saving.

HISTORICAL MAGAZINE DONATED

Frank H.Hawthorne has donated to PHA copies of The Family Tree, an outstanding publication by the Odom Library in Moultrie, Ga. Thank you .

HOPE HULL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

In this issue we begin an account of the history of Hope Hull United Methodist Church. The history is well written and most interesting. Look for more as this account is continued in the next edition of the Newsletter.

HISTORY OF THE HOPE HULL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The people of the McGehee Switch community realized the importance of rural churches, especially since there was not one nearer than Montgomery, and Montgomery at this time was only a small village and transportation was difficult.

It was through the efforts of a very wealthy and able citizen of the community, the Honorable Abner McGehee, that a church was built. In the year 1830, he had his slaves hew the lumber from his forest and build the church. It was located on what is now known as Dr. Suggs property on the Wasden Road. This church was a large building with a division in it for the slaves to come to the services of worship. The slaves were also allowed to come to the altar and partake of the Lord's Supper after the white members had been served.

The church was called Hope Hull for a distinguished Georgia preacher under whose ministry Lorenzo Dow claims to have been spiritually awakened. It is also believed that Hope Hull was a personal friend of Abner McGehee. At the time of its organization, Hope Hull church was a part of the Alabama Circuit, but only for a few years. The members soon chose to join the Methodist Protestant Church.

In the 1857 session of the Methodist Protestant Conference, which met in the basement of the Methodist Protestant Church in Montgomery, on Friday, November 6th, Hope Hull along with Montgomery, Robinson Springs, Autaugaville, Ivy Creek, Northport, and Jennings Chapel were designated as station charges.

In the records of the 1859 conference, Hope Hull with 67 white and 250 colored members paid its full claim of \$500.00.

In 1886 after much discussion, it was decided to move the church to a more convenient location. The A.H. Clark's gave the land to the community for the home of the church, so long as it was used for that purpose. (The Clark's were direct descendents of Abner McGehee and the land was once owned by him. The cemetery in which Abner McGehee is buried is on what was then the Clark property.) The building was relocated on the present site, facing west and painted brick brown. With a dense forest behind it, it was truly the "Little Brown Church in the Vale." Dedication services were held the second Sunday of June in 1886 by Dr. H.N. McNeil, who was the minister at this time.

In the ensuing years, the road had been changed from a wagon and buggy trail to a graded country road. In the fall of 1920, the people decided to turn the church around facing the new road, or north, and paint it white. During a cleaning session in the spring of 1925, sparks from a trash and leaf burning fire were

Hope Hull UMC cont.

blown onto the building by a whirlwind. In just a very short time the church was destroyed by fire. Everything was lost except the organ, a table, one pew, the pulpit stand, and the Bible. There was no insurance to cover any of the loss.

During the long road back, services were held in the Hope Hull Woman's Club for a while until the Club was ready to do its planned remodeling. After this, Miss Macke Pettus' old store building, which stood just east of the Edd Pettus home, was used for services.

Through the efforts of Dr. T.C. Cassady, pastor of the Capitol Heights Methodist Church, plans were launched to begin rebuilding the church. He aided in starting subscriptions for funds and committees were set up to secure donations and materials, and a building committee and carpenter crews were organized. Everyone contributed very liberally and showed much interest in the building. Barbecues and many other fund raising events were held. Cooper and Opal, architects, donated the plans that were used. The new building, which consisted of a sanctuary, choir loft, and four small class rooms, was completed at a cost of about \$2,100.00, plus donations of materials and much of the work done by the members. The building was completed in 1926, painting outside, and six dozen church chairs were donated by the furniture stores in Montgomery. The interior of the building was painted in 1927. The church was insured for the first time in its history. Dedication services were held in September 1928.

In 1929, the organ which had been saved from the fire was replaced by a piano.

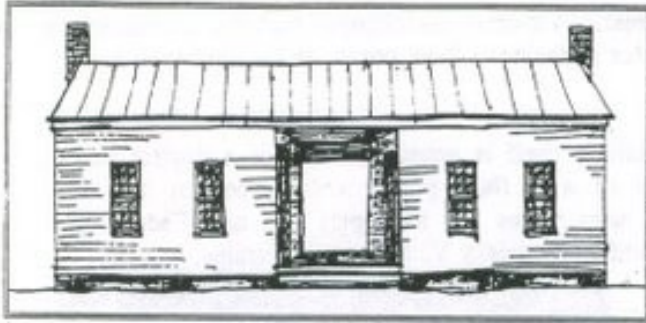
Though the building was ready, it still needed furnishings. A three act play, "Nora Wake Up," was one of the means used to raise money for these items. Finally enough money was available and pews were purchased from the old Bethel M.E. Church located on the Felder Road, which was being done away with. These were repainted to correspond with the inside trim of the church. At this same time the Womans Missionary Society brought shades for the windows.

Until 1930 the church had only oil lamps. The Alabama Power Company was putting lines in the community, but the line charge was so great the church could not afford to pay it. However, due to the untiring efforts of a committee from the church, they were successful in getting a line charge of only \$1.00 per month for all rural churches.

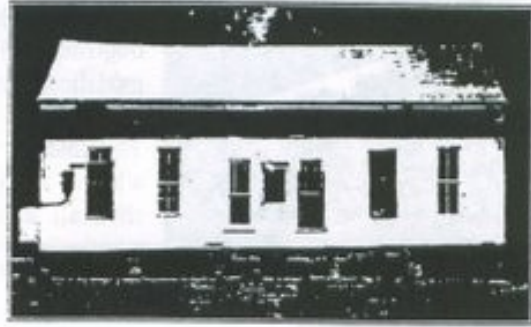
The Depression years were hard for the small church, but it seemed there was always a way. The doors were opened each Sunday Morning for Sunday School, and each fourth Sunday for preaching, even though at times it was difficult to raise the money for the preacher's salary.

Own A Piece of Alabama History

**** FREE ****



Conceptual Restoration Sketch



Area Map

Directions to the Lassiter House: Travelling on I-65 take Pintala exit 158. Turn east on County Road 24. Turn right on to the Old Federal Road. Follow to where the Old Federal Road itself turns 90 degrees. At that intersection, the house is on the right. You can't miss it.

Need a camp house for your farm? A rustic weekend getaway? An office? Or just hoping to find an old-time southern house to restore? Then the Lassiter House in south Montgomery County may be just for you!



This circa 1840 frame dwelling, a rare example of a Deep Southern "saltbox" house is available **FREE** to anyone willing to pay the cost of moving it. Situated on the historic old Federal Road southwest of the Pintala community, the house is scheduled to be torn down for proposed new development if someone cannot be found to re-locate it.



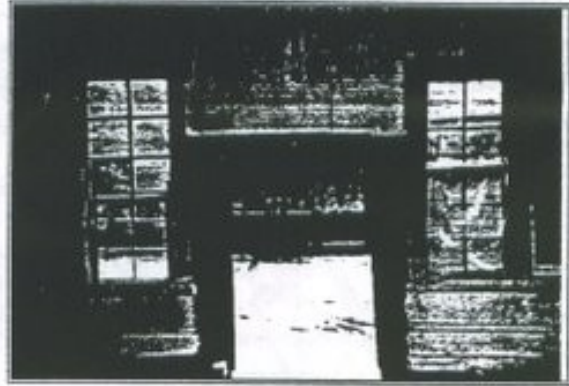


In the beginning, the 1,860 square-foot Lassiter House probably had a wide, airy open "dogtrot" hallway in the true old southern style, with a pair of high-ceilinged front rooms to either side, and another pair of lower rooms at the rear, beneath the sloping "saltbox" roof. Windows were originally "9-over-9" in the front and somewhat smaller at the rear. Victorian-era changes included enclosing the dogtrot, adding (or replacing) a front porch, and a number of interior modifications.

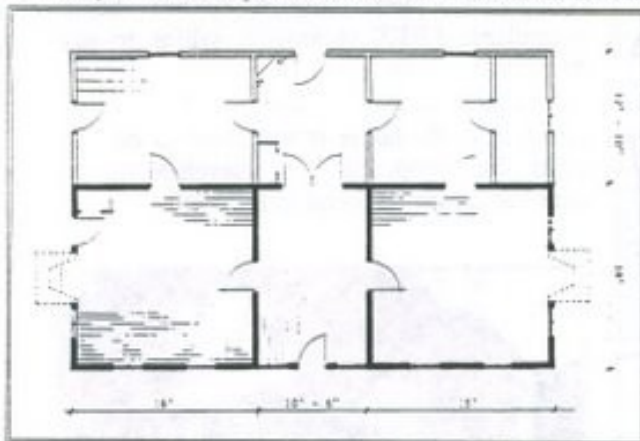
The interior detailing itself is unusually fine for a dogtrot house, with a wainscot of wide flush pine boards topped by a beaded chairrail in the main rooms and hall, plus two nice Federal-style mantelpieces modified by quirky Victorian overmantles.

The front rooms have fireplace openings, but the brick chimneys themselves have

recently been removed in preparation for moving, as has the long front porch. Some of the underlying sills of the house will need replacement or repair, especially at the rear. However, the main structure of solid, braced-frame construction is fundamentally sound and protected by a good tin roof. A bath has been cut off from one of the shed rooms and some of the original window openings have been converted to doors. The exterior siding is a mix of Victorian-era (1x4) flush tongue-and-groove boards, modern shiplap, and original clapboard siding. Most of the windows are now 4-over-4 lites.



Either restored to its original appearance or with Victorian additions, the Lassiter House offers an exceptional opportunity to rescue a part of rural Montgomery's vanishing architectural heritage. Moreover, it is a chance to save a rare house-type whose origins can be traced back not only to the colonial period and the eastern seaboard, but across the Atlantic to Elizabethan England. If you are seriously interested, please contact Ed Hooker of the Alabama Historical Commission.



Existing Floor Plan

THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

EDWARD HOOKER, III

242-3184
FAX 240-3477

208 S. PINE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
36130-0900

Real Estate of Edmund Lewis dead, sold by administrator

N.E. 1/4 of N.E. 1/4 of S. 9. T. 13. R. 17 containing 40 acres. at 8 1/2 dollars per acre bought by Alfred Pool Total \$340.00

S.E. 1/4 of S.E. 1/4 of S. 4. T. 13. R. 17 containing 40 acres at 8 1/2 dollars per acre
N.W. 1/4 of N.E. 1/4 of S. 9. T. 13. R. 17 40 at 8 1/2 dollars per acre
purchased by R. M. Pool Total \$680.00

N.E. 1/4 of S. 11. T. 13. R. 17 containing 160 acres at 8 1/2 dollars per acre
purchased by M. M. Supple Total \$1360.00

S.E. 1/4 of N.W. 1/4 of S. 10. T. 13. R. 17 containing 30 acres at \$9.95 per acre
purchased by Daniel Deaup Total \$298.50

S.E. 1/4 of S. 10 and S.W. 1/4 of S.E. 1/4 also N.E. 1/4 of S.E. 1/4 S. 28. T. 14. R. 17
containing 120 acres at 5 1/2 dollars per acre purchased by
William Parmer Total \$660.00

N. 1/2 of N.W. 1/4 of S. 3. T. 13. R. 17 containing 80 acres at 3 1/2 per acre
purchased by James Beach also N.E. 1/4 of S.W. 1/4 of S. 33. T. 13. R. 17
by James Beach Total \$440.00

Sold on the 7th day of February, 1857 by order of sale negro
woman Fells and child for 800 \$800.00

Contributed by Mr. Julius Britt Norman