

EUPHRONIA Thanks to Vera Sellers Kraus and Norman Guy we now know about Euphronia.

This community was located approximately five miles south of Country Road 19 (Pettus Road) on U.S. 31 South. Mr. Charles Gunter Guy and Mr. George W. Williams were the principal land owners. Each owned a mercantile business near their home sites. The Post Office was located in the store of Mr. Williams who was the Postmaster. Euphronia was an active post office from January 19, 1907 to October 31, 1912. The property was known as the C. E. Williams, Sr. property. Mr. C. W. Williams married Mary Lee Guy, daughter of C. G. Guy. Her mother was a Crenshaw. Mr. Guy's second wife was Lilly Belle Powell. They had four daughters and one son: Lola Rowe, Vivian Hooks, Zelda Lassiter, Isabelle Reddoch and Norman G. Guy.

Mr. Guy's third wife was Callie Sellers Norman. They had no children. Her first husband was Jefferson Norman, a druggist in LaPine, Alabama.

The original Guy home was built in 1852 by a Mr. Armstrong. Norman G. Guy lives on the old home site.

There was a small school built by Mr. Guy for the Guy and Williams children and was located across the road from his home. Mr. Guy's daughter, Zelda, was the last student to attend. After that, Zelda attended Athens College. Mr. Guy employed a governess for the younger children.

Does anyone know the names of any of the teachers at Euphronia?

OLD BETHEL CEMETERY: The Men of Pintlala Baptist Church and Ethel Tankersley Todd would like the names of descendents of those buried at Old Bethel Cemetery.

TABERNACLE CEMETERY: Mary Ann Venable says there are Luckies and Browns buried outside the chain link fence at Tabernacle. Does anyone have information about these people?

MOSLEY-TANKERSLEY-LUCKIE-SUPPLE (MTLS) & McGEHEE CEMETERIES. We are trying to locate relatives of the Supples buried in MTLs Cemetery and relatives of those buried at the McGehee Cemetery at Hope Hull.

HISTORICAL MEETING: All interested persons are invited to the Tabernacle Historical Association meetings at the historic Tabernacle Church each fifth Sunday.

APPRECIATION We deeply appreciate the great help of the unflappable Mamie Sellers with our Newsletters! She is taking a sabbatical, but continues to do the mailing labels for us. We sincerely hope that she soon gets her house remodeled and is back with her expertise.

MONTGOMERY GENEALOGY SOCIETY. Several months ago I was invited to speak to the Montgomery Genealogy Society about the Pintlala Historical Association and especially about our newsletter. On Sunday, March 12, I

enjoyed being at their meeting. Our interests are similar and they are a dedicated group. They meet monthly on the second Sunday at 2:00 o'clock at the Milo Howard Auditorium on the first floor of the Archives Building. On April 9, 1989, Mr. Kenneth Thomas, Jr., of Decatur, Georgia will be the guest speaker. Mr. Thomas is a columnist for the Atlanta Journal and Constitution. May 21, 1989 will be the annual meeting. The program will be Discussion and Sharing Time and election of officers for 1989 - 1990. On June 11, 1989, the program will be Civil War Highlights. Mr. Henry Mann will share Civil War relics and Mr. Clyde Blair will give a rendition on the Civil War Era. Dues are \$5.00 and they would welcome your coming. ETT.

HISTORIC MOUNT CARMEL

The mountain called Carmel was named for a mountain range in Israel and is the last mountain in the chain known as the Appalachians. It is the highest point in south Alabama, 660 feet according to the U.S. Geodetic Survey.* The community was remiss in claiming the name and the Mt. Carmel Methodist Church first laid claim to it in 1830. The name, in connection with the community, first appeared on the state maps in 1879 according to Alan Craig of Alabama Archives and History Department.

CHURCHES

The history of Mt. Carmel community is closely integrated with Mt. Carmel United Methodist church. The history of this church is actually the history of two churches: Mt. Carmel Methodist Protestant and Rehobeth Methodist Episcopal. Methodism officially came to Alabama in 1808. Twelve years later, in 1820, the first camp meeting was held at Mt. Carmel. Nathaniel Bonham, a preacher (not a circuit rider) moved from Georgia to the Mt. Carmel area in 1818. He is credited by some to have conducted the first camp meeting and to have had a very important role in the organization of this church. Very likely, he was the first preacher. A plaque by his grave reads: "Nathan Bonham who settled on this land before Alabama was a state, was a spiritual leader all his life. He organized and built the first church here in the early 1820's. His church joined the Protestant Methodist Conference in 1837 and in 1939 joined the Methodist Conference."

The church was organized in 1829 and the first church was built in 1830. It was located west of the present building just inside the present cemetery fence. It was built of logs and had a dirt floor. The present sanctuary was erected in 1853. The land was deeded to the church in 1855 by James Turner and his wife, Sarah. The trustees named in the deed were James Turner, Nathaniel Bonham, William Bonham, and Arthur Watson.

*Information: Sebie Smith Eng. in chg. of bldg. of WSFA, (Ch. 12) TV tower.

Mt. Carmel and Rehobeth united in 1939. Rehobeth was originally located a few miles south of Mt. Carmel where Magnolia Baptist church is now. The actual date of origin is unknown but it is known that the church was accepting members in 1832. The building was moved into the Mt. Carmel community in 1853 and was located a short distance west of the W. A. Guy house. It was torn down in 1940. Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church is the only church in the community at this time. (This information extracted from the pamphlet, "A History of Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church" published during their 150th anniversary year.)

A humorous incident is related by an old timer who remembers it well. Folks were known to "get religion" and shout in the olden days. Miss Georgia Ann Morrison came to church wearing a new silk blouse which she had embroidered lovingly and lavishly. A good sister sitting directly behind her, fanning herself with a palmetto fan, suddenly was overcome with the need to express her feelings and began to beat on the back of Miss Georgia Ann. It is reported she did not pause until the blouse was shredded and the fan disintegrated!

According to Shackelford Matthews, Rehobeth was a pretty building but, he said, "it was build a mile high off the ground". A man could stand up and walk under it without stooping over. The top was oval and almost gave way at one time and they put an iron rod in it all the way across the top and pulled it together. His mother, Mrs. Effie, said it was moved three times. It had two little rooms on each side at the front and two larger rooms on each side of the altar. It had stained glass windows. "They had the only Sunday School in this country," Shack said.

The parsonage for Rehobeth was the house where R. J. Edge lives now. It was originally a two-story house but since has been remodeled. It stood fifteen feet off the ground and had a porch all the way around it. The Stockards lived there before they moved to Davis Spur. Later the Bozemans lived there. The preacher who preached for Rehobeth also preached at Petrey. People from Fleta and Sellers came to church there. Many years have passed since Methodism came to Mt. Carmel but the church still stands through happiness and sorrow.

THE ROADS

The roads of Mt. Carmel are few but each has a story to tell. The main road is Hickory Grove, also known as County Road 12. The name came from the huge grove of hickory trees found at its beginning in the community of Hickory Grove, now known as Devenport. This section of the road ends at Sellers Station, picking up again at Strata. Pettus Road begins at U. S. 31 in Pintlala, goes through Egypt, Fleta, Mt. Carmel and on to State Road 97. Brady Road, named for the pioneer family who were early settlers, begins in Mt. Carmel and goes to the Ada-Union Academy Road, known as County Road 14. Buttermilk Road completes the quartet.

Sarah Brady Boyd tells about a spot behind the old Brady home, on

Brady Road, called Hall's Bottom where there once was a well surrounded by willow trees. One morning early, near the end of the Civil War, Mr. Tom Brady went to draw water for his wife to cook breakfast. He was startled to find a Confederate soldier lying on the ground obviously ill. Mr. Brady asked the young man for his gun and went to ask his wife to fix a cup of coffee. He took the coffee back to the young man, then returned to the house to get the soldier some breakfast but when he returned, the man had disappeared. It was reported that other Confederate soldiers passing by had been seen supporting one who looked ill, so it was conjectured they had taken their buddy with them.

Other early residents of Brady Road were the Matthews and Guys. Early land owners were Crowell, Hall, Brady, Bedsole, Huffman, Taylor and Williams.

The oldest house on the road now is the Hall house built by Mr. Will Morrison when he married Miss. Edna Hall. It has been owned by Mr. & Mrs. Josiah Hall, Sr; Mattie Hall Strickland, a daughter; Andrew Hall, a son; Myres Hall and his sons, Charles and Richard, being in the Hall family since 1921.

Of the four roads, Buttermilk Road is the most interesting even to its elusive name. It starts at Pettus Road, goes through Mt. Carmel and ends in Panola. Two old homes still stand: The Pool Place (also called the Dean place) and the Bedsole home. At the entrance but facing Hickory Grove Road is the Ellie Findley house which was last occupied by the Cliff Talley family. The Tom Sellers house was the first on the left and burned down many years ago. Mrs. Sellers, fondly known as "Babe", had her own horse and side-saddle and was well known for her benevolent work. She had some steps built under a shade tree and trained the horse to walk to the steps so she could mount. She wore a riding skirt to protect her clothes and was a familiar sight riding around the community.

Buttermilk Road was the "set" for the filming of parts of Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory". An old shack, which in better days was a residence for share croppers, was converted to "Jones Cafe" where Buddy and his elderly cousin went to buy whiskey for their fruitcakes. They are seen in the movie pushing an old wicker baby buggy and dealing with Mr. Haha, the proprietor. A black native, Luther Vickers, became a star momentarily by riding past in his wagon, standing up. He is seen disappearing around a curve in the road.

A house once traveled on Hickory Grove Road when the old home of the Hugh Chambers was moved from its original site to a spot about a quarter mile away where it became a permanent part of the Charles "Buck" Taylor home. Sarah Boyd sat on the church steps to see it pass.

The roads of Mt. Carmel are of asphalt or gravel now. Gone are the clay roads which were impassable when wet, and the sand roads, impassable when dry. Many of the older homes are gone also, along with

the old settlers; but the old names remain. Hickory Grove, Pettus, Brady and Buttermilk - - these are the roads of Mt. Carmel.

SCHOOLS

The first school stood about where the Methodist parsonage is now, according to Mrs. Corinne Scaife, who was a student there. She is now 97 years young. The teacher was Mrs. Annie Young. The building was soon declared too small and a vacant house, once the home of Nathaniel Bonham, was used temporarily. The home had two large rooms with a hallway, dogtrot style. This building is still standing although it, too, was soon declared outmoded. Then the headmaster, Professor Barnett, rode a bicycle over the community at night making up money to build a new school. He was described by Mrs. Jonnie Edge Watson as "a good-looking rascal". He married Miss Edwina Moore, also a teacher. They lived in the second house on the left on Hickory Grove Road after you pass the Pettus Road intersection. This house was known as the Theni Pool house and was once occupied by the Herbert Talleys and later by the Bobby Deans.

Another teacher, Professor Van Osdol, evidently was not so handsome as Barnett. He received a valentine from a young lady student which stated:

"Over the hill and across the level
God bless your soul, you ugly devil."

Possibly the young lady's grades, rather than his looks, prompted the verse.

Another teacher at Mt. Carmel was Miss Frankie Cameron who boarded with the Ellie Findleys.

The new school was build about 200 yards west of the intersection of Pettus Road and Hickory Grove Road. It had a good-sized auditorium with a classroom on each side to accommodate six grades. There were two outdoor privies, a well with a pump for water and a pot-bellied stove for heat. When this school was consolidated with Pintlala, Elbert Findley bought the building and converted it into a house which still stands on the same hill; it is owned now by J. W. Walker.

A schoolhouse is remembered by Shack Matthews because it was on their property. It was directly across the road from the Jake Brady home and stuck out into the road enough that horses and wagons had to go around it. Mrs. Corinne says it was called "Rough Edge College". The building later became the office of Dr. Baxter Pool and even later the Buck Pool blacksmithy. There was a schoolhouse just the other side of Otis Davis' store and Mrs. Ronald Sellers, Sr. was the last teacher.

THE COMMUNITY

"Mt. Carmel was a grand place. It was heaven to us." This is a

statement made by Mrs. Jonnie Lou Edge Watson, aged 93. That is the way she remembers her early years in Mt. Carmel. Mrs. Arnelia Edge Hudgens describes their house on Buttermilk Road as "a home full of love".

The little community flourished as a farming region with Hickory Grove community to the West, Bethlehem to the east, Fleta on the north and Old Field on the south. Cotton, sugar cane, sweet potatoes and other vegetables and fruit were raised. Home remedies such as turpentine and tallow on a flannel cloth, mustard plasters and sassafras tea were common treatments. Assafedida bags were the perfect preventive medicine, as friends with germs and those without, avoided you. Also, the teacher would not keep you after school unless she was wearing one too. Entertainment was the usual candy pullings, egg suppers, and Tucker dances. Tucker was a type of dance easy to perform as it did not call for the intricate figures of the square dance.

The Morrison brothers, Taylor and John, were in demand to play the fiddle and guitar. The Morrisons were a prominent family in Mt. Carmel where a story is told on Gilbert Morrison. Getting ready to go to church at Mr. Carmel Methodist one Sunday night, he reached in the wardrobe for his coat and without noticing what he had, he left, intending to put it on at the door. When he got in the lighted building, he realized he had his wife's bright green skirt. He nonchalantly laid it across his arm and proceeded to his accustomed seat unperturbed, 'though accompanied by quite a few giggles.

Arnelia Edge Hudgens tells of her experience with the Fantastic Riders who rode about the community on Christmas Day. They came dressed in all manner of costumes, riding on horses which were equally dressed for the occasion. The only restriction was that the men be single. The horses' tails and manes were plaited and decorated with colorful ribbons. The men's costumes were anything and everything they could rake and scrape. Some wore their coats backwards and shoes on the wrong feet. Their faces were covered by doughfaces or bandannas. They rang bells, blew horns, scared little children (unintentionally), kissed the older girls (intentionally) and went to the table in search of something to eat. In anticipation of their visit, the good wife of the house had laid out pies, cakes and drinks. After partaking of the hospitality, they road away amid much noise and merriment. A few of those merry makers were suspected to be Myres and Andrew Hall, R. J. Edge, Elijah Talley and Will Boyd.

On pleasant afternoons, members of the young crowd would ride out on horseback. Dr. Baxter Pool and his wife, Alta, and Lucy and Glen Moore made an impressive sight on their well-groomed horses. The Moore and Giddens girls were the envy of the neighborhood when they sat around on their front porch or in swings on the lawn, sipping lemonade or playing croquet, in beautiful, long white dresses and wearing stunning picture hats.

Another attraction was the picnics up on the mountain itself. A picnic on the "big mountain" was looked forward to for weeks. Mr. Moore

held an annual bar-be-que for the children of Mt. Carmel school and presented prizes for work well done.

THE MAIL ROUTE

An early mail carrier was Mr. Sam Humphries, a resident of Sellers Station, who walked from Sellers to Hickory Grove and back each weekday and delivered the mail. Mr. Humphries married Miss Dora Hall, an aunt of Charles and Richard. Mr. Scho Mathews was the next mail carrier but he rode a horse and carried the mail in saddlebags.

Mr. Albert Hugh Mathews was the mail rider for approximately six years. His son, Sheakelford, tells how he left their home in Mt. Carmel early in the morning, drove to Sellers Station in a horse drawn cart, picked up the mail and delivered it back to Mt. Carmel where he ate dinner at home. He changed horses, delivered the mail to the Ellie Findley place, turned left on Buttermilk Road and proceeded south delivering mail past Jim Huffman's place, where he turned left proceeding to the Davis store. There he took the right south to the Sexton place, crossed Highway 97, crossed Burgamy Swamp to the Stewart place. Returning the same way, just before reaching Davis' store he took the right and went east at least a mile. Then taking the left, he proceeded to Bethlehem, crossed Hickory Grove Road at Bedsole's store and went north past the Primitive Baptist church, through Talley Town to the highway (331) one mile north of Sellers Station. He returned to Sellers with the mail he had picked up and then returned home to Mt. Carmel.

Once a flash flood caught him in Sellers Station. All the bridges washed away and in one afternoon, the water rose to the top of the banks all through the bottom being level with water from the bank by Moses Sellers place to Sellers Station. He could not cross at Sellers or Strata so he decided to spend the night with his sister, Sue (Mrs. Earl Dean), rather than risk drowning his horse. Many were the perils of the rural mail rider back in those days.

THE BLACKSMITH SHOP

The smithy was located in the heart of Mt. Carmel on the Mathews property directly across the road from the Jake Brady house. Buck Pool was the proprietor. He learned his trade from his Grandfather Tarver who was a farmer with extensive acreage, a first class builder and a blacksmith. He made caskets from heart wood and put silver on them. It is said there was never a charge for a casket. Because of the silver one indiscriminate resident was accused of trying to dig up some of the caskets. The families of Beatrice Stockard, Cecil Vickers and Milbry Tarver Talley were descendents of Mr. Tarver.

Myres Hall, Charles' father, worked at the shop on Saturdays and it was reported to be a lively place, with much joking and laughter going on besides lots of hard work. They shod horses, built wagons and did any needed repair work.

THE MILLS

There were two mills, a grist mill and a saw mill, both owned by Mr. Ansley Giddens who lived where Dr. Brown's house stands now. He owned a store and employed Mr. Ed Moore, who later married Mr. Giddens's daughter, Lucy. A young man, Wilson Hall, lost his arm in the sawmill and Dr. Baxter Pool took care of him there in the store. The mills were back of the Will Guy house.

At a quilting one afternoon, one lady was holding forth on her extensive travels when Mrs. Cympronah Brady was heard to declare, "Well, I've never been any farther than Giddens's Mill." This raised a laugh as she lived across the road where the Bob Guy house stands now. The saying became a neighborhood byword, keeping the memory of Giddens's mill alive to this day.

Mr. Giddens's son-in-law, Ed Moore, became a wealthy man in his own right. His home is one of the oldest and largest remaining in Mt. Carmel. He gave the land for the original Moore's Chapel, which was organized in 1866 and was located one-half mile west of the present location on the Moore's place. Moore's Chapel, a black Methodist church, recently celebrated its 123rd anniversary. The Giddens, Moores and Browns, all members of one family, also gave the land on which the Mt. Hill Baptist church in Bethlehem now stands.

THE CEMETERY

Mt. Carmel cemetery is adjacent to the church but is considered a separate entity with its own committee and funding. Nathan Bonham, the first preacher, his wife, Charity, and their family are buried there. His son's wife, Mary, is called "consort" on her tombstone. Webster's dictionary states: a wife or husband; spouse, especially of a reigning king or queen, which indicates she was held in high esteem. A bronze plaque nearly tells about Preacher Bonham. Many graves are marked only by stones from the mountain with no information. The original land for this cemetery was donated by the parents of Mr. Hugh Chambers. Sad to say, they lie in unmarked graves. The graves of Hugh and his sister, Rachel, are also void of identification. Recently, Mrs. Clara Brady Barton had a marker placed for her cousin, Mrs. Fannie Brown Chambers, wife of Hugh. It would be nice if the cemetery committee could find funds to mark the older Chambers graves and mention the gift of land.

In this cemetery are to be found Bradys, Bonhams, Browns, Davises, Duncans, Devenports, Findleys, Giddens, Garretts, Guys, Halls, Huffmans, Mathews, Moores, Pools, Sellers, Taylors and many others. Many inspiring poems, sayings and verses of scripture may be found on the gravestones. This is an old and interesting burial ground.

REFLECTIONS

My hope is that this gives you some insight into the days that used to be in Mt. Carmel. I wish each of you could have been with me to listen to the older folks tell of the happy times they had as they visited with friends, partied when the work was done, and picnicked on the mountain each summer at the end of the school year. Remembering the words of the old timer, it was surely a "grand place!".

Lurline Schrieber Hall

15 January 1989

1989 dues are now OVERDUE. New members please complete the membership form shown below.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Pintlala Historical Association \$5.00 Registration fee +
c/o Pintlala Public Library \$5.00 annual dues.
175 Federal Road Note: All members of a
Hope Hull, AL 36043 household are included.

Mr., Mr. & Mrs., Ms. _____

Other household members: _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (office) _____

Interest Areas: _____

Genealogy interests? Indicate family surnames _____

PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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