by Glenn N.  Holliman

**Crossing Paths - Three Distinguished Servants of Alabama**

During my recent sojourns to my native state of Alabama, I have been staying with my first cousin **Mary** and her husband **Elliot Clayton (E.C.) Herrin**.  I have known E.C. since his marriage to**Mary Daly** in 1951. As am I, Mary is a 3 great grand child of **Cornelius Holliman** (1792 - 1862) who immigrated to Fayette County, Alabama from South Carolina in 1836.  Mary and E.C. have raised a family of  four and now have six grandchildren.  After service in the U.S. Navy and graduating from Howard College (now Samford University), E.C. in the 1950s worked as an accountant in the Birmingham steel mills.  However, he had an ambition to be an attorney.

In a punishing schedule, strongly supported by Mary and the family, E.C. went to law school for years, sometimes three to five nights a week.  In 1964, he passed the Alabama bar and in 1967 became the municipal judge for the city of Helena, Alabama.  In 2011, now 81 years old, he continues to hold court for the city twice a month.  ***He is the longest serving municipal judge currently on the bench in Alabama, a distinguished record of service.***



E.C. Herrin has loved sports all his life and played sandlot ball many afternoons as a youngster.  *Above he is in his high school baseball uniform in the 1940s*.  A favorite childhood companion was **John Thomas** **Vaughan**, another kid growing up in the Depression in east central Alabama. Born in 1932, Dr. Tom Vaughan became a veterinarian and served for 18 years as the 6th Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn.  Today, the large animal hospital at the University of Auburn is named after the well-respected Dr. Vaughan. (*photo above*)

**Three Alabamians Cross Paths!**

While these two children played their sandlot games, an old dignified Negro man used to stop and watch.  After a time, he came to know the boys by name.  "Hello, Mr. E.C.,  Hello, Mr. Tom", he would say in the parlance of the pre-Civil Rights era.  And in the societal manner of a different age, the two boys, eight or nine years of age, would respond to the ancient figure, "Hello, George, how are you today?"  This happened on numerous occasions.

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| http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/f2/George_Washington_Carver.jpg/220px-George_Washington_Carver.jpg |
|  |

E.C. has never forgotten the African-American man who died in 1943.   Who was he?  He was the distinguished Alabamian, a former slave who did his best scientific work at Tuskegee Institute - none other than the legendary**George Washington Carver**!  The above photo of Dr. Carver was taken in 1906.

**More in the next post on the Hollimans and Associated families of Alabama....and paths that crossed....**

*Plan now to attend the Holliman and Associated Families Genealogical Round Table at the Fayette County, Alabama Civic Center, 10 am to 3 pm, Saturday, October 15, 2011. For information and reservations for lunch, contact Glenda Norris at gnorris@bcbsal.org or Glenn Holliman at Glennhistory@gmail.com.  Sessions to include Tracing the Holymans from England to Alabama, Holliman Farm Sites in Fayette County and sharing of information on Associated Families.  All invited!*

by Glenn N. Holliman

***Back to the 19th Century...A Series of Articles on the Hollimans and Related Families of Fayette County, Alabama***

Below,**H**. **Bishop Holliman**, great grandson of **Samuel T. Walker,** and **Glenda Norris**, 3 great grand daughter of Samuel, stand at his grave at Pilgrim's Rest Church in Fayette County, Alabama.  Glenda led a tour on April 9, 2011 of Holliman and associated family cemetery sites.  Glenda and two cousins, **Norman** and **Robert Holliman**, are attempting to have installed a Confederate tombstone marking the incredible military service of this family ancestor. Samuel, 1820 - 1900, was one of the 7,000 or so troops left in Lee's army when he surrendered at Appomattox!



The late **Cecil Rhodes Hollima**n (1901 - 1980) has written extensively on the Walker family and in later postings the history of the Walkers and especially Samuel will be explored.  One of Samuel Walker's daughter's, Martha Jane, married **John Thomas Holliman** (1844 - 1930), a grandson of **Cornelius Holliman** and son of **Uriah Holliman** (1820 - 1862).  John Thomas and **Martha Janes Holliman** had five children, one being Glenda's great grandfather, **James Monroe Holliman**.  Another child was **Ulyss Holliman** (1884 - 1965), the father of Bishop Holliman, above.



Located near Samuel's resting place at Pilgrim's Rest is his wife, **Elizabeth Walker** (1821 - 1879), mother of Martha Jane Walker Holliman.

**More next week on the Hollimans and associated families....**

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***Back to the 19th Century...A Series of Articles on the Hollimans and Related Families of Fayette County, Alabama***

April 9, 2011 distant cousins from six states gathered in Fayette County, Alabama to discover and rediscover ancestral grave sites.  The picture below was taken at Caine's Ridge Baptist Church cemetery where lie **John** **Thomas** and **Martha Jane Walker Holliman** and members of the associated family of **Caine**.



*Left to right,****Bishop Holliman****(Indiana),****Glenn Holliman****(Pennsylvania),****Bill Holliman****(Mississippi),****Robert Holliman****(Tennessee),****Joey Holliman****(Alabama),****Norman Holliman****(Tennessee),****Wally Allen, Jean Holliman, Tommie Holliman Allen, Faye Gardner****,****Lenwood Holliman****,****James Franklin (Frank) Holliman, Vonceil Duckworth,******Tyler Duckworth****(all from Alabama) and****Jeanette Holiman Stewart****(Texas). The photograph was taken by****Glenda Norris****, organizer of the excursion.*





*The earthly remains of****John Thomas****and****Martha Jane Walker Holliman****lie side by side at Caine's Ridge, a few miles south of their former home in Fayette.  The story of John Thomas Holliman is told in its sad glory by one of his great grandson's****Rhodes Holliman****in this blog, February and March 2010.  Please go to the Archives function and to seek the articles.*

**More next posting on the Holliman and their associated families in Fayette County, Alabama.**

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**The Visit to Caine's Ridge, a Family Excursion in 2011**

Lecturing on family history near the burial sites of this paternal and maternal grandparents is 91 year old **H**. **Bishop Holliman** (in purple shirt with cap).  As a boy he used to visit **John Thomas** and **Martha Jane** **Walker Holliman**, his paternal grandparents at their last home near the Fayette train depot.  One of his memories is sitting on their porch on the south side of town watching the trains come into town.



*Below*in a photograph taken in either 1928 or 1929 are John Thomas and Martha Jane Walker Holliman standing in front of their home in Fayette.  John would died in 1930 and Martha Jane in 1931.  The young man sitting on the porch in a white shirt and tie on the far right is 10 year old**Bishop Holliman**!





*Cleaning the Caine monument is****Glenda Norris****using shaving cream.  When gently scrapped off, the cream reveals difficult to read letters.  Glenda credits her Uncle****Rhodes Holliman****for the process. In the background are****Robert Holliman****and****Faye Gardner****.*

Bishop Holliman's father was **Ulyss Holliman** (1884 - 1965) who grew up in Fayette, married **Pearl Caine (**1887 - 1955**)** in 1906, and removed to Jefferson County, Alabama in 1917 in search of increased income for  his growing family.  Pearl Caine's grandparents, **William Ellison** and **Melissa Anthony Caine**, lie buried under the gravestone above.  It was Pearl's grandfather who gave the land for the church.

**The journey to explore Holliman and their families continues in the next post....**

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Spring Hill Cemetery in Bluff, Alabama is the final resting place of a pioneer ancestor who made the trek from the Carolinas to Alabama in 1836, raised a large family, survived the Civil War although losing a husband and two sons, farmed, midwifed and lived to be 94 years old.  Family lore has her enjoying her 'flowers' - her 'Four Roses' - deep into her final years.

***"Mary Polly Lucas Holliman, January 2, 1819 - July 5, 1913, Pioneer Strength, Integrity, Human Kindness"***



Even thought 'strenth' may be mis-spelled, this grave stone speaks eloquently of the wife of **Uriah Holliman**, 1817 - 1862.  As Dr. **Rhodes Holliman**, a great, great grandson has written (*see Archives of this blog, March 2010 and copy below*), Polly buried a husband and son (**Charles Daniel Holliman**) at Okalona, Mississippi after the Battle of Shiloh in 1862.  Sick herself, she rode home, raised the children remaining and lived to the age of 94.  During the decades after the war she served as a mid-wife, delivering many of her own grandchildren.

*"In 21 years of married life, Mary Polly and Uriah would produce 13 children - seven boys and six girls.  She could hitch up a mule to a plow and till the soil as well as any man.  While maintaining her farm, she became the only source of medical assistance in her community as a herb doctor, caregiver, and midwife to many of her neighbors.  She would accept appeals for help from all over the area, saddle up a mule and ride out to provide services*." -**Dr. Rhodes Holliman**

*Below family members, four of whom are direct descendants of Polly Lucas Holliman, gaze over the Spring Hill Cemetery in the Bluff community of Fayette, County.  Left to right: Wally Allen, Jean Holliman, Tommie Holliman Allen, Bill Holliman,****Bishop Holliman****(great grandson of Polly Lucas) and Jeanette Holiman Stewart.  Bishop Holliman,b 1919, is a first cousin of Rhodes Holliman's father,****Cecil Rhodes Holliman****(1901 - 1980).*



On that early April day in 2011, when sixteen Holliman descendants traveled through Fayette County, the trees were leafing out in pastel green. One noticed that the soil of Fayette County could not decide if it wanted to be red clay or sandy stone and rock.  Both pine and oak thrive in the ravines and on the ridges adjacent to the Sipsey River that flows north to south through the county. Swamps cover many areas near the river bottoms. From this soil our 19th Century ancestors harvested cotton, corn and lumber.   Hogs and cattle grazed in the woods and pastures. Below the ground, coal emerged, and today oil and gas flow deep from the Alabama earth.



*Above, a  dirt road winds off from the Bluff cemetery*

**Next more posts on the Hollimans of Alabama....**

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