

The
Handbook of
Waco
and
McLennan County,
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Waco

stratified hard marine limestones with thinner interbedded shales. The oldest outcropping rocks in the county are of the Fredericksburg Group which are exposed along the valleys of the North and Middle Bosque rivers in extreme western McLennan County. Eastern McLennan County is in the outcrop region of Gulfian (Upper Cretaceous) rocks. These are dominantly thick marine shales with lesser interbeds of soft chalk. The youngest Cretaceous rocks exposed in the county are of the Upper Taylor Group situated in the extreme eastern section of the county, east of Mart.

Quaternary and Recent alluvial deposits are exposed along the valleys of the Brazos and North Bosque rivers.

In the subsurface, Cretaceous rocks range in thickness from about 1,400 feet in the western section of the county to about 3,000 feet in the eastern section. Beneath this Cretaceous cover are older rocks, ranging from westward dipping Pennsylvanian sediments under western McLennan County to folded and faulted possible cambro-ordovician rocks in the Ouachita fold-belt beneath central McLennan County to eastward dipping early Mesozoic (?) rocks under extreme eastern McLennan County.

O. T. Hayward

GEORGE BUTLER-JESSE HARRISON HOUSE. The George Butler-Jesse Harrison house at 1018 Taylor was one of the first brick houses built on the east side of the Brazos River before the east side became a part of Waco in 1871.

The original house contained three large rooms and a front porch with fancy fretwork trim in the "diaper pattern." The walls were four brick thick with twelve foot ceilings and pine floors.

It has been the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Harrison since 1929 and received a historical marker from the Texas State Historical Survey Committee on June 3, 1971.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: *Waco News-Tribune*, June 4, 1971; Interview, Mrs. Jesse Harrison (Waco, Texas).

Beverly Cox

GERALD, GEORGE BRUCE. George Bruce Gerald was born in 1836 in Yazoo County, Mississippi, and attended Eureka College and the State University of Indiana. In 1855 he entered law school at Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee, graduating in 1857. In December of that year, he was admitted to the Bar at Yazoo City. At the beginning of the Civil War, Gerald organized a company which was mustered in as Company F, 18th Mississippi Infantry. He rose to the rank of colonel and was wounded four times during the war.

In 1869 he moved to Waco where he entered

the newspaper business. He became the editor of the *Waco Examiner* in 1873 and purchased the *Waco Advance* in 1874. He sold the paper in January, 1875. He was elected county judge in 1876 and held that office for eight years. During the Twenty-second Legislature, he was a member of the State Senate. In 1885 he was appointed postmaster at Waco by President Grover Cleveland but resigned before the expiration of his term. He was again elected county judge in 1900 and retired in 1904.

On November 19, 1897, Gerald was involved in a shoot-out with James W. Harris and William A. Harris, which resulted in the deaths of the two brothers. The shooting climaxed a disagreement between Gerald and J. W. Harris, editor of the *Times-Herald*, who refused to publish and return one of Gerald's communications concerning the Brann controversy.

Gerald married Omega Melton of Madison County, Mississippi, on November 17, 1857; they were the parents of six children. He died on January 21, 1914. At his request, his body was cremated and his ashes scattered over the Gulf of Mexico at Galveston.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: John Sleeper and Jere C. Hutchings, *Waco and McLennan County, Texas* (1876, reprint 1966); William M. Sleeper and Allan D. Sanford, *Waco Bar and Incidents of Waco History* (1941).

GERALD, TEXAS. Gerald, in northeastern McLennan County six miles east of Elm Mott, had a population of 126 in 1900. A post office was established in March, 1888, and was closed in April, 1904, when mail was delivered to West. Gerald consisted of a few dwellings and a town hall in 1962.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: U.S. Post Office Records (MS., Archives, Texas Collection, Baylor University, originals in National Archives, Washington, D.C.).

GHOLSON, TEXAS. Gholson, on the Brazos River in north central McLennan County, was known as Sardis when it was first settled in the late 1840's. Early settlers in the area included Benjamin F. Gholson, Samuel Gholson for whom the community was later named, C. Acres, Joseph Rutherford, Phillip Hardwick, and L. P. Pitts. The community became known as Gholson after the Civil War.

The first school was established in 1854, and the first concrete block building was completed in 1855. In 1970 the school had eight grades.

In October, 1860, there was a post office at Sardis which was later discontinued. A post office was established at Gholson in February, 1877, but was discontinued in July, 1905, and replaced by rural delivery from Ross and later Waco.

During the 1870's when cotton was a major crop, there were two cotton gins near the community. At the turn of the century there were

a blacksmith shop and two mercantile establishments. In 1966 the Gholson Water Supply Corporation was formed by 120 area families. Gholson had five businesses, two churches, a school, and a population of 34 in 1970.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: *Texas Almanac* (1972); Walter Prescott Webb (ed.), *Handbook of Texas*. I (1952).

GIDNEY, WILLIAM HAYES. William Hayes Gidney was born on July 29, 1901, at West in McLennan County, a son of John William Gidney. He attended the West schools and received a bachelor's degree from Baylor University. In 1927 he received a degree from the Baylor College of Medicine in Dallas in 1933 and interned a year at Scott and White in Temple before joining his father in practice at West. Gidney practiced medicine at West for thirty-four years.

He was a member of the McLennan County and Texas Medical Societies, West Kiwanis Club, and the Methodist Church of West and president of the Academy of General Practice for the Waco area for two years.

On January 26, 1939, he married Lois Ludwig; they had two sons. Gidney died on July 1, 1968, and was buried in the Bold Springs Cemetery.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: *Waco Times-Herald*, July 2, 1968.
Lelia McDugal

GILBERT, TEXAS. Gilbert was the name of a post office in McLennan County which began operating in January, 1855, when William Jackson was appointed postmaster. It was discontinued in March, 1860.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: U. S. Post Office Records (MS., Archives, Texas Collection, Baylor University, originals in National Archives, Washington, D. C.).

GILDERSLEEVE, FRED A. Fred A. Gildersleeve was born about 1881 at Boulder, Colorado, and later moved to Missouri with his family. Prior to receiving his first camera in 1898, he was a racing jockey at county fairs in Missouri. He studied photography at a school in Effingham, Illinois (Missouri?). In 1905 he moved to Waco where he was the "Matthew Brady of Waco" for fifty-three years. During this time he chronicled the history of the city by camera. In October, 1909, he was the official photographer for the Dallas Fair, and in 1910, hired by an Eastern syndicate to photograph plantation operations on an island off the coast of Mexico, he pioneered in the field of industrial photography. During World War I he recorded, on film, activities at Camp MacArthur and Rich Field. Designated an honorary navigator by the pilots at Rich Field, he took advantage of the position to pioneer in aerial photography. Gildersleeve was also the official photographer of Baylor University's football team for many years and personally photo-

graphed four United States presidents — Theodore Roosevelt and Calvin Coolidge at Waco, Woodrow Wilson at Washington, and William Howard Taft at Dallas. He died at Waco on February 26, 1958, and was buried in Waco Memorial Park.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Vertical File, Texas Collection, Baylor University.

GILLIAN, GEORGE C. George C. Gillian, son of W. C. and Ann K. (Felton) Gillian, was born in Palestine, Texas, on September 20, 1852. In 1868 Gillian moved to Waco where he was a clerk but later invested in real estate. In 1887 Gillian moved to Crawford to manage a business and in 1890, formed a partnership with a Mr. Wise in the mercantile business. In addition, Gillian owned a stock farm and a bank in Crawford.

Gillian married Lizzie Andrews in 1880; they were the parents of two children.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: *Memorial and Biographical History of McLennan, Falls, Bell and Coryell Counties* (1893).

GILPIN, TEXAS. Gilpin was the name of a post office established in McLennan County in November, 1856, when Warren H. Clark was appointed postmaster. It was discontinued in May of the following year.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: U. S. Post Office Records (MS., Archives, Texas Collection, Baylor University, originals in National Archives, Washington, D. C.).

GLASGOW, W. T. W. T. Glasgow, son of Elijah and Jane C. (Jeans) Glasgow, was born in Tennessee on January 31, 1838. He moved to Arkansas with his parents in 1854 and in 1859 attended school in Mississippi. He spent a year in Texas and then returned to Arkansas where he enlisted in the Confederate Army. In 1862 he was captured and taken to Camp Douglas near Chicago. At the time of his capture, he held the rank of captain. Glasgow was later exchanged at Vicksburg. Reorganizing his command, he took part in the battle of Port Hudson, Louisiana, where he was once again captured. Glasgow escaped and resigned his position but in July, 1864, he organized another company and served in General Price's command.

Glasgow moved to Texas in 1870, locating in McLennan County. In 1882 he bought land near and in the city limits of McGregor. He served as school director for many years.

Glasgow married Minerva J. Burns of Tennessee in 1863. They were the parents of fourteen children.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: *Memorial and Biographical History of McLennan, Falls, Bell and Coryell Counties* (1893).

GLEISNER, JOHN B. John B. Gleisner, son of Frank and Carolina (Plats) Gleisner, was born in Burgkunstadt, Bavaria, in 1866. He

serves in an advisory capacity when called upon.

Helen R. Nash

JURNEY, JOHN C. John C. Journey was born in Hickman County, Kentucky, on June 4, 1830. In 1855 he moved to Texas, locating at Waco. During the Civil War he served in Cook's Company of Griffin's Battalion. He returned to Waco after the war and engaged in the hardware business under the firm name of Ripley and Journey. He later established the firm of J. C. Journey and Sons.

In 1857 he married M. A. E. Folts of Columbia, Texas; they were the parents of three sons. A year after her death in 1875, he married Mary Mozart Webb of Waco; they were the parents of three children. He died on May 8, 1903, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery. **BIBLIOGRAPHY:** *Waco Weekly Tribune*, May 16, 1903.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE. The nine justice of the peace courts in McLennan County are provided for by the Constitution of 1876 which specifies that every Texas county be divided

into not less than four nor more than eight justice of the peace precincts and that a justice of the peace be elected from each precinct. A second justice of the peace is elected within a precinct if it has a city of 8,000 or more population.

There are two justice of the peace courts in Precinct No. 1, Waco, with concurrent jurisdiction. The seven other precincts are Mart, West, China Spring, McGregor, Moody, Crawford, and Axtell.

The justice of the peace court has criminal jurisdiction over misdemeanors punishable by a fine of \$200 or less and civil jurisdiction where the amount involved is \$200 or less. The court may also act as a court of inquiry to investigate a crime with powers similar to those of the grand jury. Cases in this court are heard only by the justice unless a jury is requested. The justice of the peace also performs marriages and holds inquests in deaths by accident or violence or those not attended by a physician.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Vertical File, Texas Collection, Baylor University; Walter Prescott Webb (ed.), *Handbook of Texas*, I (1952).

K

KATE ROSS. The *Kate Ross*, the pioneer steamboat seen at Waco, was built by a Captain Gibson in 1874. Gibson and Robert J. Goode each put up one-half of the money to construct the craft, and Norman and Harvey Conger furnished the engine. Thomas and William Leonard were the contractors and builders. The sternwheel craft measured about one hundred feet by twenty-five feet and had a depth of six feet and was christened the *Kate Ross* in honor of the first white child born at Waco. In February, 1875, the *Kate Ross* made her maiden voyage, plying six to eight miles up the river. She made several more excursion trips up and down the river a few miles and was utilized as a freighter by Gibson, who made six trips to Towash and brought back cotton, flour, hides, and cedar charcoal. The *Kate Ross* left for Galveston in June, 1875, but became lodged on the shoals near Calvert. After several weeks, the boat was dismantled.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: *Waco Weekly Tribune*, June 3, 1905.

Elizabeth Williams Estes

KATY RAILROAD. (See Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad System.)

KELLEY, DANIEL A. Daniel A. Kelley was born in Wharton County, Texas, on November 20, 1849, the son of John and Anne (Moore) Kelley. He entered the University of Virginia in 1869 and received a law degree in 1870.

In March, 1871, he established his practice at Waco, associating first with Thomas Harrison, then with the law firm of Coke, Herring and Anderson, which later became Herring and Kelley. He limited his practice to civil cases with special attention to land title litigation and probate matters.

On March 4, 1875, Kelley married Georgia Townsend of Plantersville; they were the parents of three sons. Two years after her death, he married Anna West of Florida on June 18, 1902. He died at Waco on March 12, 1927, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Ellis Arthur Davis and Edwin H. Grobe (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Texas* (1924?); William M. Sleeper and Allan D. Sanford, *Waco Bar and Incidents of Waco History* (1941); *Waco Farm and Labor Journal*, March 18, 1927.

KELLUM, WILLIAM R. William R. Kellum was born in Alabama on December 27, 1818. In 1832 his family moved to a farm in Mississippi and in 1854, he and his father, with their families moved to McLennan County, Texas. His wife became ill during the trip and died soon after their arrival in Texas.

Kellum purchased land near the Brazos River and engaged in growing cotton. During the Civil War he served in the Confederate Quartermaster Corps. In 1867 he established Kellum and Sparks, a general store, in East Waco. Six years later he built a storehouse for the firm of Kellum, Rotan and Company, a wholesale grocery business which became

the Rotan Grocery Company. Kellum was elected justice of the peace for the precinct including East Waco in 1874. In 1876 he was elected a director of the Waco Bridge Company and in 1883 became vice president of the company. He resigned in June, 1888. He was a director of a cotton factory in East Waco at the time of his death on October 23, 1890. Kellum was survived by five children.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Roger N. Conger, "The Waco Suspension Bridge," *Texana*, I (Summer, 1963); *Memorial and Biographical History of McLennan, Falls, Bell and Coryell Counties* (1893); John Sleeper and Jere C. Hutchins, *Waco and McLennan County, Texas* (1876, reprint 1966); Vertical File, Texas Collection, Baylor University; *Waco Tribune-Herald*, October 30, 1949.

KENDALL, BEN GRAY. Ben Gray Kendall was born in Elkton, Kentucky, on January 26, 1877, the son of Rev. and Mrs. John G. Kendall. The family moved to Waco in 1890. Kendall attended Baylor University and worked as deputy district clerk in his middle teens. Under the supervision of his uncle, William Washington Kendall, he trained himself in the field of law and was admitted to the bar two years before he reached the legal age of twenty-one. In 1899, he became a law partner of William Sleeper, and in 1907, C. A. Boynton became part of the triple partnership under the name of Sleeper, Boynton and Kendall. After the Cameron family had given the vast acreage of Cameron Park to the City of Waco in 1910, Kendall was appointed as one of the original three Cameron Park board members. In addition to his law practice, he made the beautification, development and improvement of Cameron Park his most important concern for twenty-nine years.

In November of 1905, Kendall married Rose F. Drane. They had one son. Kendall died on August 1, 1939, at the age of sixty-two, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: William M. Sleeper and Allan D. Sanford, *Waco Bar and Incidents of Waco History* (1941); *Waco Times-Herald*, August 2, 1939; *Waco Tribune-Herald*, October 30, 1949.

KENDALL, WILLIAM W. William W. Kendall, the son of John W. and Margaret (Gray) Kendall was born in Todd County, Kentucky on September 29, 1840. He received his education from country schools and at the seminary at Homer, New York. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, he enlisted in the First Kentucky Regiment, C.S.A. After a year, he then enlisted in Morgan's Cavalry. He was captured and held prisoner for nineteen months in Columbus, Ohio, and Johnson Island near Chicago after participating in a raid through Ohio. He was finally exchanged and rejoined his regiment in Virginia in 1865.

After the war, Kendall spent six months in Europe before entering Louisville Law

School. He graduated in 1868 and then practiced law in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, where he was elected city attorney. In 1872, he moved to Waco and continued his law practice. He became part of a triple partnership in 1874 with F. H. Sleeper and E. A. Jones. He devoted himself chiefly to civil practice, including the extended litigation over the vast Tomas de La Vega land grant.

In 1874, Kendall married Sallie Speight, the daughter of J. W. Speight; they had no children. Kendall died on June 7, 1895, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: William M. Sleeper and Allan D. Sanford, *Waco Bar and Incidents of Waco History* (1941?); *Waco Morning News*, June 9, 1895; *Waco Tribune-Herald*, October 30, 1949.

KENDRICK, B. J. B. J. Kendrick, son of James C. and Mary (Butler) Kendrick, was born in Georgia in 1824. He was educated in subscription schools in Georgia and for a brief period in a private academy there. At the age of twenty-one, Kendrick began farming, an occupation he continued until the outbreak of the Civil War. In January of 1862 Kendrick organized Company F, 51st Georgia Infantry; he later became captain of this company. After the war he returned to Georgia before moving to Texas in 1865. He lived in Washington County until 1870 when he moved to a farm he had purchased in McLennan County. He served as Master of Waco Lodge No. 90.

In 1845 Kendrick married Margrett D. Bond of Georgia; they were the parents of eight children. He died on April 13, 1912, and was buried at White Hall Cemetery.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Roger N. Conger (ed.), *Century of Fraternity* (1952); Fall and Puckett Funeral Records (MS, Local History Collection, Waco-McLennan County Library); *Memorial and Biographical History of McLennan, Falls, Bell and Coryell Counties* (1893).

KENDRICK, JAMES MARCELLUS. James Marcellus Kendrick, son of B. J. and Margrett (Bond) Kendrick, was born near Greenville, Georgia, on December 12, 1848. He attended the common schools there and Soule University at Chappell Hill, Texas. In 1872 he purchased a farm near Waco which he sold in 1881 to buy one at Hillside, where he raised horses and Jersey cattle. He then bought a ranch in Bosque County in 1892, selling it in 1905 to purchase a larger ranch in Castro County and to expand his stock-raising business. He moved to Alta Vista in 1898 and later sold his farm at Hillside and bought one near Mart.

In 1875 he married Laura Ish of McLennan County; they were the parents of nine children. A member and deacon of the White Hall Baptist Church, Kendrick died at Alta Vista on February 17, 1914, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

U

ULANDER, JAMES E. James E. Ulander, son of Jonas Ulander, was born in 1861 in Monroe County, Mississippi, and in 1883 moved to Waco where he engaged in carpentry. In 1885 he and his brother, L. Frank Ulander, began a contracting business. They built City Hall, put up the wood work on Central School, and constructed the addition to the Ward School. Following his brother's death in 1888, Ulander continued in the contracting business and also established a planing mill and a sash, door, and blind factory. He later moved to San Antonio where he died on June 19, 1928. He was a member of the Odd Fellows.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: William H. Curry, *History of Early Waco* (1968); *Memorial and Biographical History of McLennan, Falls, Bell and Coryell Counties* (1893); *Waco News-Tribune*, June 20, 1928.

UMBERSON, CARROLL. Carroll Umberson was the son of W. F. Umberson. He farmed at Gholson and was a community, school, and church leader.

Umberson married Lois Sullenberger in 1923; they were the parents of two children.

Lelia McDugal

UMBERSON, W. F. W. F. Umberson came to McLennan County in 1860 from Winston County, Mississippi. He settled at Gholson where he farmed and was a member of the Baptist Church and Woodmen of the World fraternal organization.

Lelia McDugal

UNION GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT. Union Grove, in northeastern McLennan County, was the name of a rural school district created in January, 1884. The first trustees of the school were C. Battle, E. M. Long, and B. Hillin. In December, 1891, it became a part of the Geneva District.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Martin Luther Bannister, *Historical Development of the Public School System of McLennan County* (M.A. thesis, Baylor University, 1945).

UNION HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT. Union Hill, in central McLennan County, was the name of a rural school district created in August, 1896, from the Bosqueville School District.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Martin Luther Bannister, *Historical Development of the Public School System of McLennan County* (M.A. thesis, Baylor University, 1945).

UNITARIAN CHURCH IN McLENNAN COUNTY. The Waco Unitarian Universalist Fellowship was organized in 1954 and had a

membership of approximately thirty-five in 1970. Few of the members are Unitarians by birth and most are former orthodox religionists from a Southern background. Active affiliates of the Fellowship include a church school, a teen-age group called the Liberal Religious Youth, a women's alliance, and study groups.

An official denominational organization too small to support a minister, the Fellowship's Sunday services consist of speakers, chosen weekly, who speak on contemporary or historical issues. Many of the speakers are from local university and college staffs; others represent diversified areas in society. Services are held in various community buildings. Unitarian pastors from nearby cities are available for weddings and funerals. The fellowship's brief history at Waco represents an attempt to serve the religious needs of the theologically unorthodox while at the same time seeking amity with other religionists.

William B. Lee

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN McLENNAN COUNTY, THE. The United Church of Christ is the result of the merger of the Evangelical, Reformed, and Congregational Christian Churches.

The Zion United Church of Christ of Waco began as a branch of the Evangelical Church in 1881. The first services were held in the Presbyterian Church on Second and Jackson Streets in November of 1881. The church purchased two lots on Eighth Street in early 1862. By September of 1882, the church was completed and dedicated. Since that time, new additions have been made to the building but the church still remains at 629 South Eighth.

St. John's Church in Robinson was founded by Herman Staas in 1884. Known as St. John's Evangelical Church, the group met in the Presbyterian Church in Robinson during the first six years. For sixteen years afterwards, the pastor of the Zion Evangelical Church in Waco served the congregation. In 1938, the merger with the Reformed Church resulted in the change of the name to St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church. When the Congregational Christian Church merged with the E. & R. Churches, the church title was changed to St. John's United Church of Christ.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Ger-ald, Texas, five miles from Elm Mott near Leroy, was founded on October 28, 1900. Previously, members from this community