

**THE HISTORY  
of  
GRAYSON COUNTY TEXAS**

**by  
GRAYSON COUNTY FRONTIER VILLAGE**

# 1388

*K. Summers*

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#1312

Christman, Ray Christman, and Velma Christman Weaver.

My mother passed away in 1921 and I had to take her place, looking after the family, cooking, washing clothes, and working in the fields. I have one son, James Paul Holder, who is 50 yrs. old. He is a field engineer for the General Telephone Co. in Sherman. He married Donna Boyd in Shreveport, Tex. They had 2 daughters, Debra Holder b. 1950 d. 1976, and Paula Holder b. 6-18-1952.

## CHUMBLEY, ALEXANDER AND SARELDA

by Joe W. Chumbley

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Though the Chumbley name is of English origin, there are relatively few families in America bearing this name; and most of them can be traced to a common ancestry in Virginia dating back to Pre-Revolutionary War Years. In the early 1800's a few Chumbley families migrated from Virginia through Cumberland Gap into Kentucky and Tennessee from which later generations spread through the South and Midwest in "sprinkling" numbers.

My grandparents, Alexander and Sarelda (Rainwater) Chumbley, came from Pulaski County, Kentucky in 1893 and settled at Kentuckytown. Their eldest son, John P. Chumbley, had brought his wife and children to this community a year earlier. Other children of Alexander and Sarelda were: James M., Miles R., George A., Bartholomew, Robert (my father), Lewis M., Joe W., Nancy J., Margaret, and Malinda. Several of the children married and settled elsewhere in Texas, Oklahoma, and Arizona. Those who became more permanently attached to Grayson County and their children are listed below: Children of John P.: Cleophas, Nannie (Mrs. Bob Sadler), Angelina (Mrs. Joe R. Dean), Alta (Mrs. Lawrence Huddleston), Relda (Mrs. Joe Taylor), Coloda (Mrs. Albert Haliburton), Debbie (Mrs. Dock Haliburton), Lela (Mrs. Olin Blount), George, Robert, and Ethel (Mrs. C. Gibson). Children of Miles R.: Sallie (Mrs. Andrew Reed), \*Caleb, John, Robert, Elizabeth (Mrs. Paul Corbin) and James. Children of Robert (my father): John (died 1917), Relda, Charles, Joe W., Miles, David, and Jim (James). Children of Margaret (Mrs. George Dobbs): Joe, Ben, Bartie (Mrs. Fred Ellis), and William. Children of Joe W. (my uncle): Joe W., Ilene (Mrs. Winston Hayes), and W.A. (initials only).

\*In 1921 nineteen year-old Caleb won the title of TEXAS STATE CHAMPION CHECKER PLAYER by defeating the holder, a University of Texas Professor, who regained the title from Caleb the next year.

Of the descendants of Alexander and Sarelda, probably the most widely known in Grayson County was the Rev. Cleophas

Chumbley (1880-1943). From 1919 to the time of his death he served as pastor of various Baptist churches in the county. His youngest son, Leon, became a Baptist preacher and served as pastor of churches in North Texas, Mississippi, and Arizona before his recent retirement. Other children of Cleophas were: Alma Ruth, John Henry, Cleophas Paul, Albert, Inez, Grace, Mary Katherine, and Dorothy.

Chumbley graves are located in Kentuckytown's Vittitoe Cemetery, Whitewright's Oak Hill Cemetery, Sherman's West Hill Cemetery, and Dexter Cemetery. Alexander was buried in Sweat Box Community Cemetery between Commerce and Ladonia where the family resided for a short time in 1895.

## CLARK, ARCHIE ERVANDER & IRENE RUTHERFORD

by Oren H. Clark

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The earliest known history of Archie Ervander Clark began in the latter part of the 17th Century when John Jernigan left England as a sailor with his wife he came to America settling in North Carolina. They had ten children and one of them, John Jernigan, married Hanna Terry and they settled in Tippah County Mississippi. They had nine children, one being Mary Jane who married Archie E. Clark on Nov. 19, 1861. To this couple a son Archie Ervander Clark was born Dec. 4, 1864. The states being involved in Civil War his father went to fight for the South. He was wounded at Atlanta, Georgia in the battle against Sherman and his troops and died at Barnsville, Georgia at 33 years of age. His mother died soon after and Archie E. Jr. was reared by grandfather John Jernigan in Blue Mountain, Mississippi. Here at Flat Rock Baptist Church he met and married Miss Ardenia Irene Rutherford a student at the Blue Mountain Female College, Nov. 16, 1886. They became the parents of eight boys and one girl.

After the birth of three sons: Archie Earl, Willie Richard and Rutherford, my parents moved to Grayson County from Blue Mountain, Mississippi in 1893. They moved to a farm north of Sherman and were farmers. Born to them after their move to Texas was John, Hugh, Edward, Annie Mae, Walter and Oren. As each new baby arrived a black lady Mrs. Fannie Edmonson (who lived near the Clark's farm) would come over to help. She was also there once a week to help with the family wash. All washing was done in a black wash pot in the back yard. A fire was built under it and the clothes were boiled in home-made lye soap. All the food the family had was raised on the farm, vegetables, pork, chickens, turkeys, milk, butter, and eggs.

The coldest day of the year was hog killing day, with family and neighbors helping. Lard was made from the fat, and the meat was kept

in the smoke house. Each summer the fruit and vegetables were canned to last through the year. My mother bought material once a year and made our clothes. My dad died Jan. 1914 and is buried in West Hill Cemetery. My mother was born March 1866 and died Jan. 1954 and is buried by my dad in West Hill Cemetery. I have one brother living, Walter who lives in Sherman. My sister Annie Mae Davis, lives in Dallas.

In 1929 I married Mary Lou Choate and have one child Wanda Lou, who live in Lewisville, Texas with her husband Loy Coffey and two children, Gina and Loy.

## CLARK, JOHN THOMAS, SR. AND ANNIE THOMPSON CLARK

by Isabel Clark Ellison

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John T. Clark, Sr. and Annie T. Clark settled in Denison, Grayson County, Texas early in 1913. The family had six members, dad, mom, a sister Christine who was the oldest followed by two brothers John Jr. and Richard A. (Dick) then myself Isabel who was the baby of the family. The family with the exception of myself moved to Tyler, Tex. from Van Buren, Ark. about 1910. I was born in Tyler in 1912 while dad was operating the Tyler Bottling Co. In Tyler, Dad heard of a bottling company for sale in Denison. He purchased it and we moved to Denison and here we stayed. We lived in the 1300 block of West Sears until our home was built. The family home was at 101 E. Hull St. It was built by an early day German contractor named W. Beck. We moved into this house in 1914. The house is still standing. We were all members of Trinity Methodist Church. We worshiped at a house while the church building was being erected. Dad was Sunday School Superintendent for several years.

Our business, The Red River Bottling Co. was located in several different locations while Dad owned it. The ones I remember most was the location on East Woodard in the 100 block between the Katy Railroad depot and the Southern Ice Co. and the location in the Sugarbottom District. The operation of our business was mostly by family members and was quite a bit different from our modern plants. We bottled fruit flavored "Pop" as it was called then because of the pop up caps in the early bottles. The syrup for the different flavors was mixed by dad. Early deliveries were made by horsedrawn wagons on the rough streets and when long trips were made like to our distributor in Sherman the bottom of the wagons had to be covered in straw as a cushion for the cases of bottles. These trips usually took an entire day and in cold weather the bottles sometimes froze and broke and in summer the heat sometimes exploded the bottles.

Dick, the youngest brother worked

2) James Leroy Westbrook was born Feb. 1904 at Whitewright, died Oct. 5, 1976, buried in Cedarlawn Cemetery. He married Grace Underwood Jan. 15, 1924 in Denison. They had one son, James Russell Westbrook, born Nov. 26, 1925 (Thanksgiving Day and a heavy snow had fallen) He married Billie Louise Dixon in Denison June 7, 1944. They had 2 boys and one girl: Steven Lee born Oct. 1951; married Tena McMinn July 6, 1973 at Ft. Worth, Tex. They have one girl Whitney Blake born Feb. 6, 1976 in Ft. Worth, and one son Jonathon Ashley, born Sept. 7, 1977. Brian Christy was born in Ft. Worth May 16, 1953. Both boys currently in service: Lisa Ann born Dec. 27, 1958 in Ft. Worth. James Leroy later married Stella Mae Atkins Redding June 1, 1949.

3) Sarah Zella Westbrook was born Nov. 1, 1905 in Oak Grove community (four miles west of Denison), married John Orville Spencer Oct. 12, 1930 at Madill, Okla. He died Oct. 13, 1941, buried at Fairview. They had no children.

4) John Elliott Westbrook was born Sept. 14, 1908 in Denison. He married Sue Coker June 17, 1934 at Colfax, Texas. He died Dec. 12, 1977, buried at Fairview. No children.

5) Frank Westbrook was born July 10, 1910. He married Louise Williams Hackey July 12, 1948. They have one son, William Bryan born March 11, 1949. Bryan married Linda White Sept. 17, 1971. They live in Sherman.

6) Ted Westbrook was born Aug. 30, 1912 in Denison. He married Katherine Finke Thompson Feb. 24, 1944. Ted died Dec. 3, 1970, buried in Cedarlawn. They had one son, David Leon born Dec. 23, 1946 in Denison. He married Barbara Arnold Oct. 20, 1973 at Lawton, Okla. They had one son, Clayton David born Dec. 18, 1975.

7) William W. (Bill) Westbrook was born Jan. 18, 1915 in Denison. He married Dorothia Jo McDonald Miller July 15, 1950. They had no children.

## RAINWATER, TERRELL

by Terrell Rainwater III

914

My grandfather, Terrell Rainwater, was born in 1846 in Somerset, Ky. He learned photography at an early age and while his brother Silas was being killed as a Union soldier in the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863, Terrell had developed his skills as an early day photographer. He met and married Esther Shoe in Appleton City, Mo. in 1879. They told about meeting the James brothers at a dance in Montrose, Mo. Terrell was acquainted with Cole Younger and, in fact, had taken a portrait of him. Their first child, Ethel Francis, was born at Appleton City in 1884. Being a photographer entailed a lot of traveling, and in 1886

his old photos still in my possession, is engraved the address of his establishment: N. Travis Street One Block North of the Opera House. This would have been on the site of the old Grayson Hotel. Esther had an autograph book which I still have. This contained little verses by many friends in Sherman then. One stands out in mind. It was signed, OCTA AUGO, Sherman 1886. The family moved on from Sherman by 1888.

My uncle, Joseph Frank Largin, was born at old Preston on Aug. 27, 1886. The family moved to Denison about 1890. Frank became a lineman for the Katy in Denison. The family lived in the 800 block of W. Chestnut. His mother, supposedly taught in the Denison schools about that time, but this is not confirmed.

## RAMBO, JAMES

by Joan Rambo

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James Rambo was born 13 June 1876 and was the son of James R. and Nancy C. (Coley) Rambo. He was married 1 Aug. 1899 to Mary Evelyn Meek who was born 28 Sept. 1882 in Cooke County, Texas and was the daughter of John Henry and America Jane (Lee) Meek. Their issue: Jesse James born 1900; Malie Ellie born 1902; Homer Franklin born 1904; Mamie Ellie born 1908; Cora America born 1912; the twins Albert and Elbert Henry born 1914; and Mary Edna born 1917.

James Rambo's father James R. and grandfather James M. fought for the Confederate Army. His father was in for 4 years and was injured in two very bloody battles — Battle of the Wilderness and Antietam. His father's family came by way of Georgia and Mississippi to Texas and settled in Limestone County between 1860 and 1870. Then as a very small boy his parents moved with him, his brother and half-brother to Arkansas. As a man with his own family he farmed and moved around living in Oklahoma and Texas. While living and farming in Grayson County he was also known to brew a little moonshine. Although most of his children were born in Oklahoma his twin boys were born in Southmayd and spent some of their growing years in Grayson County. His wife attended the Pentecostal Church.

The Rambos are descendants of the immigrant Peter Rambo who came to this country before William Penn., and in his reports to England Penn mentions Peter Rambo as being of help to him.

Elbert Henry Rambo, son of James and Mary Evelyn (Meek) Rambo, and his twin, Albert, were born in Southmayd, Grayson County, Texas on 8 April 1914. Albert died in 1918 when he was just four years old. Elbert married Mabel Barbara Davenport on 10 April

Coralie Frances (Rowland) Davenport — see Davenport and Slinker/Rowland sketches. Their issue: Richard Wayne born 1939, married Joan Ellen Harvey; Barbara Latrice born 1941, married Gale Raymand Walker; Cora Elaine born 1944, married Jon Carlton Jennings; and Don Edward born 1945, married Leslie Lynne Horwood. Richard and Barbara were born in Grayson County, and Elaine and Don were born in Orange County, California.

Elbert was raised in the Pentecostal Church and Mabel in the Presbyterian, but after they were married they attended the Nazarene Church. Elbert did construction work in Grayson County and after going to California did pipe fitting and plumbing. He had his own plumbing business in Orange County, California, from which he is now retired. To date, Elbert and Mabel's four children have given them fourteen grandchildren.

## RAMSEY, JOHN ZIEGLER

by Faye Norton Bock

916

John Ziegler Ramsey was my mother's mother's father, and I never knew him; but my mother was devoted to him and I have often heard her talk of her joy when as a child she visited him in his farm home near Bells, and particularly of the year after she was a young lady when she lived with him and taught in a small country school nearby.

John Ziegler Ramsey was born in Virginia on May 9, 1828, the youngest of the twelve children of Hailey S. and Esther Ziegler Ramsey. His first wife was Sarah Ann Wright whom he married in Virginia and lost through death in 1852, a year after the birth of their only child, my grandmother Esther Elizabeth Ramsey. She was born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia on August 23, 1851 and after her mother's death lived with her paternal grandmother, Esther Ziegler Ramsey, until her 15th year.

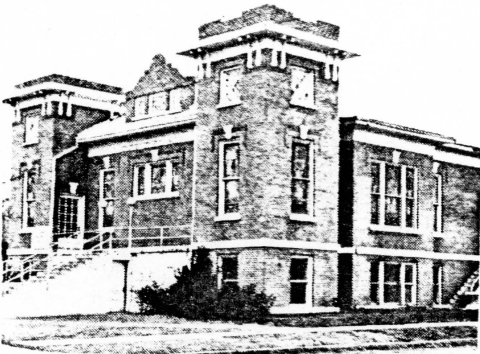
During these intervening years, probably around 1855, John Ziegler Ramsey remarried, his new wife being the former Judith E. Gilbert. Four of their ten children were born in Virginia: Gustavus Adolphus, Feb. 24, 1857; Mittie E., Dec. 4, 1859; Missie, Oct. 23, 1861; and Lucy L., Aug. 23, 1863.

In 1866 at the close of the Civil War when many families were leaving the devastated regions of the Old South, the John Ziegler Ramsey family, including the daughter of his first marriage, migrated by wagon train to Texas settling first at Honey Grove in Fannin County, but later moving to a farm in Grayson County near Bells. In and around Honey Grove and Bells the last six children were born: John S., Jan. 6, 1867; Archer D., Sept. 16, 1869; Kate, July 7, 1871; Loudeema, Oct. 11, 1873; Thomas H., July 11, 1876; Henry A., Nov. 21, 1878.

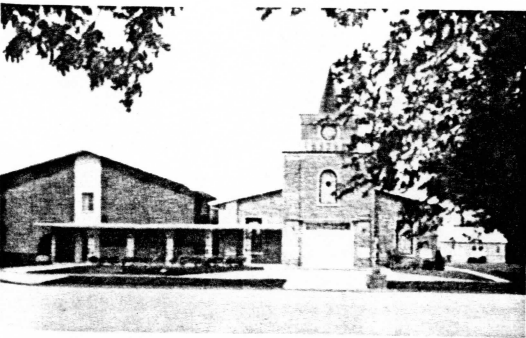
# WHITESBORO FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



1885



1918



First Baptist Church — Whitesboro, Texas

In 1859 the First Baptist Church of Whitesboro, Texas held a centennial celebration marking its 100th birthday.

From humble beginnings in a log cabin on what is now North Union Street and later in 1859 to a building on West South Street, the church has become an important part of the community.

The earliest recorded church roll was in 1889 with an enrollment of 85 members. The first name to appear on the roll was A.B. White for whom Whitesboro was named.

Through the years the membership has grown until now according to Rev. Harold Watson, the present pastor (1978) there are 1,031 resident members.

In August, 1884, Rev. S.A. Beauchamp was called as pastor and by August, 1885 a new church building had been erected and dedicated.

May 20, 1906 the church was named First Baptist.

Rev. Stokley Dennis Hillman Steed was the churches' first pastor, in fact is the one accredited with the earliest organization in 1856.

Soon after the organization of the church, A Sunday school was organized and has continued to grow.

In 1890, under the leadership of Rev. T.J. McClanders, the first mid-week prayer service began.

Rev. McClanders also organized in 1890 a "Ladies Aid Society." Through the years, this organization has grown to fully graded WMU.

During the pastorate of W.C. Carver in 1898, the B.Y.P.U. was organized. In 1922 Rev. J.W. Epting, pastor organized a Laymen's Union. In 1936 Rev. F.A. Tippen, pastor, organized the men into a Brotherhood.

In 1912 under the leadership of Rev. L.L. Johnson, plans were made to construct a brick building. In 1918, while Rev. A.B. Ingram was serving as pastor, these plans materialized. A brick church was erected on the same site as the original building.

Rev. Nat Farley, in 1948, led the church in making plans for an education building. In November of that same year, Rev. Farley died. Rev. I.L. Whetsell was called as pastor. Under his leadership, plans were completed and an educational building was erected at a cost of about \$11,000.

During the 29 months that Rev. R.D. Copeland was pastor, a two-story annex to the educational building was erected at a cost of about \$10,000.

In 1957, under the leadership of Rev. Leon Chumbley, a brick auditorium with central cooling and heating was constructed.

Pastors who have served the church include: Rev. S.D. H. Steed, Rev. S.A. Beauchamp, Rev. H.W. Campbell, Rev. T.J. McClanders, Rev. W.B. Bernden, Rev. Austin Crouch, Rev. W.C. Carver, Rev. J.D. Ballard, Rev. G.O. Key, Rev. W.L. Payton, Rev. A. Finch, Rev. J.R. Carmichael, Rev. H.L. McLeandon, Rev. Leazer, Rev. L.L. Johnson, Rev. A.B. Ingram, Rev. W.J. Epting, Rev. W.W. Goss, Rev. C.B. Darby, Rev. E.T. Smith, Rev. S.F. Aiken, Rev. Paul Brinkley, Rev. F.A. Tippen, Rev. Nat Farley, Rev. I.L. Whetsell, Rev. R.D. Copeland, Rev. Leon Chumbley, Rev. Ralph W. Hovey, Rev. H.D. Freeman and Rev. Watson.