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THE HANDBOOK OF GHOLSON

McLennan County

Gholson Historical
Society 1992

#1475

GHOLSON TELEPHONE COMPANY. Dr. Henry Shelhorse started the first telephone exchange in Gholson probably around 1907, first at his home and then the old Woodman Hall.

W. A. Sandlin tried to enlarge the system. When he asked Billy Umberson to join, Mr. Umberson promised that if Mr. Sandlin could get 24 members that he would be the 25th subscriber, which he did.

Due to a storm in 1917, which almost blew the old Woodman Hall away, the switchboard was moved to W. A. Sandlin's home and operated by sisters, Cora and Ruth Salters.

In 1920, when Virgil Sandlin came home from the service after World War I, the switchboard had already been moved to his father's home.

The system was badly in need of repairs according to Virgil. The telephone poles, which were post oak saplings, needed replacing. The Sandlin brothers were not interested in cutting the post oak poles and repairing the lines. At this time there were only 10 - 12 connections. For several years Gholson was without telephone service.

Bibliography: W. A. Sandlin; Lelia McDugal.

KELLUM, EDWARD, JR. Edward Kellum, Jr., was born in Alabama on January 19, 1826, to Karonhapoch Tabor and Edward Kellum. He was one of ten children. The Kellum family came to Texas in 1854. Ed was married to his first wife Virginia Clementine Moorehead who was born in Alabama in 1831 and died in Waco in 1862. They lived in Navasota in 1860 and came to Waco in 1861. Ed and Virginia had four living children and several died in infancy.

Their daughter Molly H. was born in Mississippi on November 28, 1850, and died on September 27, 1883, in Gholson and is buried in the Gholson Cemetery. She married W. H. Landingham on April 21, 1869, in McLennan County. Their children were William E., Charles K., Dee C., Lula Virginia, and Thomas Stewart.

Their daughter Lura Jane was born in Mississippi on January 2, 1853, and died in Faulkner County Arkansas on September 6, 1890. Lura married William Alexander High on October 20, 1870. They had eight children. Their children were Blanch, Charlie, William Robert, Ada May, Malcome Henry, Etna, Sam B., and John T.

Their son Edward Parker was born in Mississippi on August 9, 1855, and died in Proctor, Texas, on November 16, 1926, and is buried in Proctor Cemetery. Edward married on December 27, 1877, in McLennan County to Mary Frances Mosley. She was born in Sabine Parish, Louisiana, on March 29, 1857, and died on November 16, 1926, in Proctor, Texas. They had twelve children. They were Joseph Jolly, Robert R., Abert, Nora, Sallie, Clemma, John, Edward Parker, Jr., Frank Sammie, Mary B., and Hattie Lorane (Abert and Nora were buried in the Gholson Cemetery known at that time as Caldonia Cemetery).

Their son Thomas Smith Kellum was born in Texas on February 29, 1860, and died in Gholson on April 8, 1915. Thomas Smith's first marriage was to Rena Emma (Irene) Zimmerman in about 1888-89. They had three children. William Henry was born on May 19, 1890, in Gholson and died on January 18, 1960, in Waco and is buried in Gholson. William married Ruth Eva Payne on September 16, 1911. She was born in Shover Springs, Arkansas, on July 17, 1893, and died in Corpus Christi on June 13, 1966, and is buried in Gholson Cemetery. A daughter, Pearl Margaret, married Frank Baughn, and they had two children: Coleen Johnson and Elizabeth Irene Howard. An infant son was born in 1895 and is buried in Gholson.

Thomas' second marriage was to Mrs. Mary Cook in Hill County on April 3, 1901. Mary was born in 1862 and died on April 24, 1917, and is buried in Gholson. Mary Cook had one daughter, Leuner Cook, who married Jess Walker.

MARRIED? Edward Kellum, Jr., (Ed) second marriage was to Mrs. Nancy E. Cobb Weaver (born on October 3, 1864) in McLennan County. Nancy Cobb Weaver had three children by her first marriage to Henry Weaver. Her children were Henry Weaver who married on November 21, 1871, to Josephine Emline Strickland. They were divorced in 1895. He married Rena Emma (Irene) Zimmerman Kellum on July 28, 1896, and they had one child, Bessieeugene Weaver Yates. Nancy had a daughter, Alice, who married R. C. Johnson and a daughter, Ada, who married W. E. Bobbett.

KELLUM, EDWARD, JR. CONTINUED.

Ed and Nancy had three children. Virginia C. C. (Jennie) who married W. F. Carter. Lillie Lee who married James B. Hatford, and Lawrence Jefferson, born on March 22, 1875, who married Ruthie Carolina Honea. Lawrence died on February 28, 1918, and is buried in the Gholson Cemetery.

Ed Kellum was married a third time to Mrs. Sarah E. Wadlington. They had no children.

At one time, Ed owned 1,000 acres of land on the west bank of the Brazos River just past the Smith Kellum Crossing in Gholson and 103 acres on the east bank just below Smith Kellum Crossing in Gholson at the time of his death in 1891. He was described as a kind person always willing to lend a helping hand day or night.

Bibliography: Mervin Kellum, Family History Records; Lelia McDugal.



KELLUM, EDWARD, SR. Edward Kellum, Sr., was born in Virginia on February 28, 1787. He was of Scottish decent. He fought in the War of 1812 under Capt. Barhart's Co., 1st Regiment Tennessee Militia. He was drafted on November 13, 1814, at Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee, and discharged in May 1815 in Furmpers, Davidson County, Tennessee.

He married on November 9, 1812 to Karonhapoch Tabor. She was called Karon and was born on April 23, 1795, at School Creek, Oconee County, South Carolina. She died in 1869 at Waco.

Several of Edward's children were born in Alabama. Edward Jr. was born on January 19, 1826, and William R. was born in 1818 in Alabama. Edward and Karonhapoch had ten children. The children were:

Elizabeth Umberson
Nancy Lockhart Rheuson
William Riley
Polly Ann Kirkland
Thomas Smith
Edward, Jr.
Susan M. Williams
Lieury Jane Williams
Lydia Mariah Brown Putman
Emily Caroline Puckett

In 1832, the family moved to a farm in East Chickasaw, Mississippi, and in 1854 they came to Texas and settled on the rich Brazos soil.

Bibliography: Mervin Kellum, Family History Collection; Lelia McDugal.

KELLUM SCHOOL. The Kellum School was the first public school building in what we call the Gholson Community. It was located in what is known as the Gholson Cemetery original two acres.

On December 24, 1869, W. F. Umberson purchased a 98 acre track from W. J. Clements for \$400.00. That 98 acres was a part of the 1/3 League originally granted by the State of Coahuila to Narcisso Dees. Although it is not established by whom or when, a log cabin was built on the land (which is now the Gholson Cemetery). It was called the Kellum School and used for church, school, and civic meetings.

It was used as a school in the 1870's. The school may have been called the Kellum School because for six weeks a year, for three years, Daniel Brown was a teacher living with the Kellums in the 1860 Census. Three of William Wiles Westmoreland's children (Ann Ophelia Westmoreland, Mary Louisa (called Mollie), and W. H. Westmoreland) attended school at the Kellum School under Brown.

NOT POSSIBLE

On September 1, 1872, John Dunn, W. F. Umberson, H. S. Dunn, J. C. Minix, P. H. Philips, M. F. Minix, Nancy E. Dunn, Elizabeth Umberson, Delia E. Dunn, and Pauline C. Worrell became the charter members of the Caledonia Baptist Church. The church met at the Kellum School.

In 1885, W. F. Umberson gave a plot of this Dees Survey for burial purposes. He specified that he would give four acres or that part which was fenced. There was no mention of a building. The part which was fenced was chosen. It was two acres.

Bibliography: McLennan County Records, Vol. 54, pg. 547 - 548; Gholson Baptist Church Records; John A. Westmoreland, Coahoma, Texas; Lelia McDugal.

Friendship is an open door,
Compassion, kindness, grace, and more.
Friends, though few and far apart,
Bring thoughts and kindness to the heart.

A. Scott-Donnelly



*ann O. Westmoreland
was first married
in 1860 and again
in 1866. She died in
1875.*

KELLUM, THOMAS SMITH, SR. Thomas Smith Kellum was born in Alabama on April 28, 1923, son of Karon and Edward Kellum. His first marriage was to Pheby Lipsey and they had two children.

The first child, Marion H., was born in East Chickasaw, Mississippi, in December 1845 and married in McLennan County Texas in October 1866 to Delila Lockhart. Marion was a butcher by trade, went to Mangum Greer County Oklahoma Territory on July 27, 1897. They were in Berlin, Roger Mills County, Oklahoma, in 1900. They had four children. The second child of Thomas Smith and Pheby was William Edward born in Mississippi on November 9, 1848. He married Elizabeth (Lizzie) Cagle on September 5, 1868, in McLennan County Texas. She was born in Mississippi in 1848. They went to Indian Territory Greer County Oklahoma after 1873. They had two sons.

Thomas Smith's second marriage in East Chickasaw, Mississippi, was to Martha Elizabeth Wilson who was born on December 14, 1828, in South Carolina. She died June 9, 1877, and is buried in the Kellum Family Cemetery at Waco. They had six children. Margaret J. was born in Mississippi and died between 1861 and 1870.

Charles R. (Doc) was born in Mississippi in 1853 and married on December 2, 1873, to Mary Peters who was born on January 5, 1857, in Louisiana. Charles R. died on March 28, 1925, and Mary died June 15, 1939. They are buried at Coon Creek Cemetery in Bosque County Texas.

Annie H. was born in Mississippi in 1854 and died after 1880. She married a High.

James Smith was born in Mississippi in 1855. He married on October 26, 1874, to Addie Louise Ivy who was born in 1857 in Georgia.

Thomas Smith, Jr., was born in Texas in 1858 and married on August 25, 1887, to Martha Allphin. Their death date is unknown.

Phebie was born in Texas on November 28, 1862, and died on October 14, 1914. She married Robert S. Palmer on December 22, 1879, in McLennan County. They are buried in Coon Creek Cemetery.

Thomas Smith Kellum, Sr., settled in the Gholson area after May 1855. The 1860 McLennan County Census list the post office at Sardis (Gholson). A school teacher by the name of Daniel Brown was living with them at the time and was probably teaching six weeks out of the year at the Kellum School. Thomas Smith's homestead consisted of 86 acres which was on the west section of the now Russell's pecan grove.

After 1867, he went under the name of Smith Kellum. He owned approximately 1,400 acres of land beginning at Smith Kellum Crossing on the Brazos River land now owned by Tommy McCartney and Ted Allen and meanders down the Brazos River to the Gholson survey across to Aquilla Creek.

In 1870, Smith Kellum had land value of \$10,000.00 dollars. It is stated to be authentically related that Smith Kellum raised as much as three bales of cotton per acre in the Brazos bottom. At the time of his death, he owned the cotton gin in Gholson plus 800 acres on Tehuacana Creek east of Waco, Texas.

He was murdered on June 7, 1873, and is buried in the Kellum Cemetery.

Bibliography: Mervin Kellum, Family History Records; Lelia McDugal.

KELLUM, WILLIAM R. William R. Kellum was born in Alabama on December 27, 1818. In 1832 his family moved to a farm in Mississippi. In 1854, he and his Scottish born father, Edward Kellum, brought their families and settled on rich Brazos soil.

His first crop was cotton. He hauled the cotton to the City of Houston on ox wagons and sold his crop for .07 cents a pound, realizing the profit of three hundred gold dollars in hand.

He built a general store in East Waco where Elm Street and Old Dallas Road intersect. It sold everything from pills to pulpits. He built his first store in 1867. He employed Edward Rotan, a Speegleville school teacher, as clerk on Saturday. In 1871 they became partners.

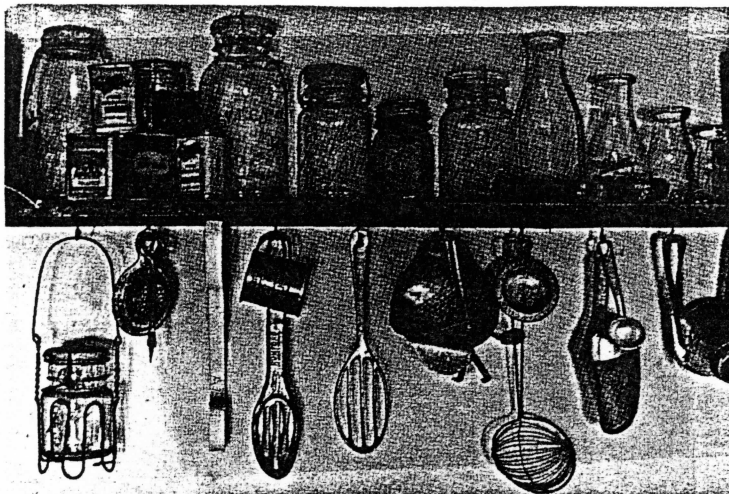
Kellum was elected Justice of the Peace, for the precinct including East Waco, in 1874. He was elected director of the Waco Bridge Company in 1876 and in 1883 became vice president of the company. He resigned in June 1888. He was a leader in the Mason Lodge and the Baptist Church. During the Civil War, he served in the Confederate Quartermasters Corp.

He was a director in the cotton factory in East Waco until the time of his death on October 23, 1890. He was survived by five children. His wife became ill during the trip and died soon after their arrival in Texas.

When W. R. Kellum died, it was a day of official mourning for a hard-working, successful businessman, the likes of seen only on two previous occasions: the death of President Jefferson Davis and Captain S. P. Ross.

W. R. Kellum was the uncle of W. F. Umberson and owned land in Gholson. W. F. Umberson was the overseer of the Gholson property for several years before he bought it in 1860.

Bibliography: *Waco Daily News*, October 30, 1949, page 23; *The Handbook of Waco and McLennan County, Texas*; Lelia McDugal.



UMBERSON, CARROLL LEONARD, MR. AND MRS. Carroll L. Umberson was born on January 16, 1896, in Gholson to W. R. (Billy) and Ola Chatham Umberson.

He attended Gholson School. He was a deacon in the Gholson Baptist Church and a trustee of the Gholson School for fifteen years. He was active in community affairs. He was a farmer and a member of the Agricultural Stabilization committee, Farmers Home Administration committee, and the Farm Bureau. He was Democratic chairman of the Gholson precinct and a Navy Veteran of World War I.

He married Lois Bell Sullenberger in Chalk Bluff. She graduated from Waco High School and played banjo and piano. She taught for a short while and substitute taught in the Gholson School. She helped to organize the first Gholson Parent-Teacher Association. She was a member of the Gholson Home Demonstration Club and Gholson Baptist Church, where she played piano and taught class. She was an active member in the Gholson Cemetery Association and was the first memorial chairman.

The Umbersons owned one of the largest homes in Gholson with running water, pumped by a windmill near the house. They often entertained the youth of the community.

They had two sons: William (Billy Lewis) and Jack Truett. After the death of Carroll on February 5, 1955, Mrs. Lois lived alone until her death in July 1976 at the age of 76. In those years, she taught music in the school, gave lessons at home, and for many years played the piano for the church.

After her death, the Umberson homestead was sold.

She was buried beside her husband in the Gholson Cemetery.

Bibliography: Cemetery Records; PTA Records; Death Notice; Lelia McDugal.

UMBERSON, ELIZABETH KELLUM. Elizabeth, the oldest of ten children, was born on March 30, 1814, to Edward Kellum Sr. and Karonhapoch Tabor Kellum in Davidson County Tennessee.

The date when the Kellum family moved to Alabama is not clear, but her brothers William P. Kellum, born in 1818, and Edward Kellum, born in 1826, were born in Alabama.

Jerome

Elizabeth married on August 18, 1835, to Jerone George Umberson, an orphan who was being reared by Mrs. Urial (Malinda) Berry, Karon Tabor Kellum's sister. They had seven children. Jerone George died sometime before 1854, as well as two infants. They are thought to be buried in the old Denton Cemetery without markers.

W. R. R. R. In 1832, Elizabeth and her five children moved to a farm in East Chickasaw, Mississippi, with her father's family.

In November or December of 1854, she and her five children came to Waco with her father, Edward Kellum, and family and settled on the rich Brazos soil in East Waco. One of her sons was William Franklin Umberson. (Refer to separate entry) They moved to Gholson around 1867.

She was Baptist and in a meeting recorded on September 1, 1872, she and others met at the Kellum School and organized the Caladonia Church. (Refer to Gholson Baptist Church)

She died on November 19, 1889, and is buried in the Gholson Cemetery. Bibliography: Kellum History, Mervin Kellum; Lelia McDugal.

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UMBERSON, WILLIAM FRANKLIN. W. F. Umberson was born on May 11, 1837, in Winston County Mississippi, son of Jerone George and Elizabeth Kellum Umberson. His father, Jerone George Umberson, was an orphan raised by Karon Tabor Kellum's sister, Mrs. Urial (Malinda) Berry.

He married Elizabeth Kellum, oldest child of Karon and Edward Kellum Sr., on August 18, 1835. Elizabeth Kellum was born in Davidson County Tennessee on March 30, 1814. Elizabeth Umberson came to Texas, with her father Edward Kellum and family, in November or December 1854 from Mississippi. He was baptized by Elder G. L. Jennings of the First Baptist Church and later became a member of the East Waco Baptist Church before settling in Gholson.

William Franklin and his mother Elizabeth Kellum were charter members and organizers of the Caledonia Church, which later became the Gholson Baptist Church. The organizational meeting was held on September 1, 1872, at the Kellum School on the cemetery grounds. He is believed to have been the first deacon of that church.

He was married in October 1866 to Ann Ophelia Westmoreland (Neal), the oldest of the William Wiles Westmoreland children and widow of James B. Neal who was killed in the Confederate Army Service in November 1862. She had one child, Pernecia Evie, when they came from Chickasaw County to Gholson in 1859. Evie married J. L. Walker. W. F. served as an overseer for his uncle W. R. Kellum in 1860. He settled in Gholson about 1867.

He was a member of the Woodmen of the World Fraternal Organization. In October 1885, he legally set aside a tract, a part of the 98 acre Narcisso Dees Survey, to be used as a public burying ground called Gholson Cemetery.

W. F. and Ann Ophelia had the following children: William Riddle (Billy), born September 21, 1867; Smith Elnatham born May 1869; Mary Ophelia Umberson (Garrett) born June 1872; and Josia Frank born November 27, 1873. Ann Ophelia died on December 14, 1875, at the age of 32. The oldest son, Billy, was eight years old.

The following year, June 5, 1876, W. F. married Mary Jane Singleton Presnall, who was born on October 31, 1844. She had three children by her first husband C. C. Presnall: Phoebe, Joseph and Calep Presnall. W. F. and Mary Jane's children were: Ollie O.; Emma born June 5, 1879 - died November 24, 1888; Ruffie born April 9, 1881 - died October 1889; and Eddie B. born June 27, 1886 - died November 8, 1889. The Umbersons acquired more land and built a beautiful home. They were civic-minded, Christian people - an asset to the growing Gholson Community.

Bibliography: Mrs. Lois Umberson; John A. Westmoreland, Coahoma, Texas; Mervin Kellum; Gholson Baptist Church Records; Gholson Cemetery Records; Lelia McDugal.

UMBERSON, WILLIAM RIDDLE. William Thomas Riddle (Billy) Umberson was born on September 21, 1867, in Gholson. He was the oldest child of William. F. and Ann Ophelia Westmoreland Neal Umberson. He was only eight years old when his mother died, and he was reared by his stepmother who gave him a good education.

He was a deacon in the Gholson Baptist Church. He was active in Sunday school work and the Woodmen of the World organization.

He married Miss Ola Chatham of Waco. She was born on January 9, 1874, and died in September 1947. Their children were: Carroll L. 1896 - 1955; Mabel May 7, 1899 - September 9, 1900; and Ethel April 17, 1897 - September 26, 1913.

Billy bought all the Umberson land and farmed. Cotton and corn being the major crops. It was recorded that logs in the J. T. Rogers (Rogers Hill) log cabin were hauled by oxen across the Aquilla Creek to the Umberson sawmill where notches were cut in the logs to secure a tight fit.

Billy Umberson, his father before him, and his son Carroll after him, were identified with every movement made by the people in the Gholson Community in the line of progress.

Around 1927, Billy Umberson, along with several businesses in East Waco and other rural farmers, signed a petition to get the Gholson Road to Waco graveled and made more passable.

He died on November 22, 1932, and was buried in the Gholson Cemetery. Mrs. Ola Umberson died at the age 73 on September 9, 1947, and was buried beside her husband.

Bibliography: *Gholson Cemetery History 1871 - 1981*, Lelia McDugal; Family History.