

HISTORY

OF THE

WACO BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

OF TEXAS.

BY

J. L. WALKER AND C. P. LUMPKIN.

"We all have the glorious privilege of praying for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom, and each one of us can do something personally to advance His cause."—*Adopted by the Association in 1865.*

"Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."—*Matt. 28:20.*

WACO, TEXAS:
BYRNE-HILL PRINTING HOUSE,
1897.

harmonious growth. Her present membership is 80. Caledonia first joined Towash Association, and after the consolidation of Towash with Hill county, was a member of the consolidated body known as Hillsboro Association. United with the Waco Association at Geneva in 1893. This church was organized by Elders Jno. Dunn and W. W. Smith. The pastors have been Thos. Hooker, B. F. Tatum, J. W. Anderson, H. N. Reese, T. P. Speakman, Holmes Nichols, H. P. Tyra, S. R. Williams, C. D. Whitman, W. D. Bowen, present pastor. Bro. Bowman is a consecrated, amiable young man, and one of our most promising young preachers. They met for worship in the Kellum school house for several years. This school house was 15 miles north of Waco and one mile east of the Brazos river. The new house is one mile east of the old site.

DEACON WILLIAM FRANK UMBERSON

was born in Winston county, Miss., May 11, 1837. Moved to Texas in 1855, and has lived near Waco ever since. He was baptized in August, 1855, by Elder G. L. Jennings. Held membership in the First church, Waco, in 1857, and afterwards in East Waco. Was in the organization of Caledonia in 1872 as above narrated. Brother Umberson is a nephew of the late merchant prince, Deacon W. R. Kellum, of East Waco. Elder J. L. Walker's first wife was a step-daughter of W. F. Umberson.

ELDER THOS. HOOKER,

the first pastor of Caledonia church, was a native of Georgia; was a well-educated and faithful Baptist preacher. He still lives, near 80 years old, at Duffau, in Erath county, Texas. He sold whisky at an early day, but when the light of God's grace shined into his heart he emptied several barrels of spirits—his entire stock—in the streets, and has been an enemy to liquor ever since. A few years ago he was a powerful preacher, and served several churches in McLennan and Hill counties. His home was on a farm in the southern portion of Hill, near Patten's Mills.

CALVERT CHURCH

first appears on the minutes of the Association in 1870. There

life, have around them their nine children, all of whom he looks upon as God-given. Six of these have given their hearts to the Savior, and are members of the church. He counts it one of his choice blessings that God spared to him his venerable and venerated mother till her 86th year, January 4, 1895. The Lord spare to us this precious brother many years.

DEACON W. R. KELLUM.

William Riley Kellum came to Texas from Mississippi. He was born in Alabama, December 27, 1817. When a youth his parents moved to Tishmingo county, Miss. He grew up in that county, identified himself with the Baptist church, and married Miss N. J. Cooper, in 1843. In 1854 he came, with his own and his father's family, to Waco, Texas, where he resided till his death, October 23, 1890. His wife died soon after coming to Texas, and he was married again to Miss M. E. Jurney. Six children, one the child of the first wife, and five presented by his second wife, survive. He was in the organization of the East Waco Baptist church, and had his membership there till God took him. He was one of the earliest members of the First Baptist church at Waco. He was successful in business and accumulated large property. His home was two miles north of Waco, where he owned 900 acres of Brazos valley land. He was many years the senior partner of the firm of Kellum & Rotan, wholesale grocers. His devotion to his church and the Sunday school, of which he was many years the superintendent, deserves special mention. He never failed to attend when not providentially hindered. He was a liberal contributor. He was a deacon at the time the East Waco church was organized, and served the church in that capacity till his death. He was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of Baylor University in 1867. He was a firm friend of the University, and contributed largely to its success.

ELDER J. R. KELLEY.

Elder Kelley was born in Warren county, Ky., in July, 1847. His parents brought their church letters to Texas in 1854, and joined Five Mile church, in Dallas county. They had no Sunday school, but had preaching occasionally. His mother died in