By Glenn N. Holliman

July 2012

**Pearl Holliman’s Collage of 1947 and What it tells Us**

Those of us old enough to remember can still visualize the photographs, framed in a collage, hanging in her home at 2300 N. 3rd Street, Irondale, Alabama. After my grandmother’s death in May 1955, the collage of 55 pictures moved to Robert and Vena Daly’s house where many of us gazed at it for years, trying to identify ourselves as babies and our cousins. Pearl and Ulyss Holliman had 19 grandchildren.

In the mid-1960s, Mary and E.C. Herrin moved into the Daly house (Robert had died in 1959 and Vena became a sorority house mother at the Universities of Alabama and Mississippi) and lived there until 1968. Since that year, this family frame of pictures, almost a yard long and 8 inches high has hung in the Herrin kitchen in their Irondale home on Bryan Drive. Those of us old enough, still study the pictures, and marvel.

At the Ulyss and Pearl Caine Holliman descendants’ reunion at Al and Linda Herrin Bradley’s house this June, Mary brought the collage for viewing. I took pictures of it, and later scanned them into my computer. With the help of my 92 year old father, Clayton Herrin and others, I have identified the persons and have labeled their photos. Enjoy now and into the future.

1. Carolyn Ferrell Tatum, b 1938, daughter of Charles and Loudelle Holliman Ferrell.
2. Carolyn Ferrell Tatum in 1944 in Alabama. Her father was a United Methodist minister and the family moved often during 1940s serving churches in Roanoke, Jacksonville, Huntsville and Ensley, Alabama.
3. Carolyn Ferrell Tatum in 1946.
4. William Caine, Lula Hocutt Caine and Martha Jane Walker Holliman (1846-1931 – wife of John Thomas Holliman, and mother of Ulyss Holliman, photo taken in Fayette, Alabama). William Caine (1862 - 1938) and Lula Hocutt Caine (1861-1957) were the parents of Pearl Caine Holliman (1887-1955).
5. Jerry and Terry (Jerry 1940 – 2003) are the twins of Euhal (1912-1989) and Edna Westbrook Holliman (1916 – 1992).
6. Motie Chism Holliman (1925-2003), she is the first wife of William Ralph Holliman and mother of Pamela Holliman and Kathy Holliman. Rachel Harbour is Kathy’s daughter.

Ralph and Motie married in 1943, a month before Ralph was inducted into the U.S. Army and World War II.

1. Glenn Nelson Holliman, born 1946 in Birmingham, Alabama. This photo was taken in 1947 at the Irondale, Alabama home of his grandparents. The red brick Daly house is just visible in the background. Many pictures were taken on the Holliman lawn with the Daly home in the background due to better afternoon lighting.
2. Bishop and Geraldine Stansbery Holliman in June 1945 outside of the Methodist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. ‘Gerry’, a native of Bristol, Tennessee, lived in Philadelphia from 1941 to 1944, where she met an Alabama sailor on a three day pass. Three years later they married.
3. Melton Pearson Holliman (1908-1958) was inducted into the U.S. Army in August 1943, at the age of 34. This photo of him is at Camp Barkley in Texas where he did a grueling basic training and advance work as a medic. He served in France with a medical unit from July to November 1944. His health broke, and he was sent home to serve out his duty in Jackson, Mississippi hospital as a pharmacist. He suffered a major heart attack in 1955 and a fatal one in 1958.
4. Bishop Holliman (b 1919) came home to Birmingham in 1945 with his new bride. With the G.I. Bill, he finished Birmingham-Southern College and in 1947 started teaching school at Shades Cahaba Jr. High and later the new Shades Valley High School. This picture is of him as a history and civics teacher. (*Do you wonder where his son obtained his interest in family history?)*
5. Euhal Holliman looks snazzy in his cap, probably from the 1930s. Euhal had some tough timing in his life. He graduated from high school into the middle of the Great Depression. He went to work to help pay family bills in the only job he could find at the time that being a produce grocer, and there as his own family grew, he made a career. During his career at various stores in Gadsden and Birmingham, he was tapped by his co-workers to serve as their labor union representative. His leadership helped to achieve living wages for Alabama grocery workers.
6. Ralph Holliman (b 1924), looking dapper, and suave, poses in front of the Daly house in Irondale, Alabama sometime in the 1940s. Ralph served in World War as a clerk in an Army Air Corp unit, logging and scheduling air transport flights. He was praised for his administrative abilities during the war by his commanding officer. After time at Birmingham-Southern College, he put his skills to work with a post-war career at American Bakeries retiring as their national vice-president for operations.
7. Mary Daly Herrin (b 1931) is the daughter of Robert W. (1901-1959) and Vena Holliman Daly (1909-1990) and the first born of the 19 Holliman cousins. This photo is of her during school days and before she met the love of her life, Elliott Clayton Herrin whom she married in 1951.
8. The Charles and Loudell Ferrell family – back Charles Ferrell (1907-1999) and Loudell Holliman (1914-1996), married 1935. Left to right: Charles Halford Ferrell (b 1936), Carolyn Ferrell Tatum (b 1938) and John Melton Ferrell (b 1942).
9. Charles H. Ferrrell graduated from Birmingham-Southern College and Emory in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1963 as a United Methodist minister in the North Alabama Conference he wrote a letter to the then segregationist Governor George C. Wallace decrying his racial policies. The letter has been reproduced in a definitive biography of Wallace highlighting that the fact that not every white Alabamian supported Wallace’s racial intolerance during the troubled times.
10. Terry and Jerry Holliman, the twins, who left Alabama in the early 1960s and located to Anchorage, Alaska where Terry worked as a fireman for 25 years. Jerry made a career as baggage supervisor for Alaska Airlines. Unfortunately he died in 2003 of a heart attack while engaging in his favorite past time of salmon fishing.
11. In 1944, the family of Robert W. Daly, Sr. posed on the steps of the Ulyss family home at 2300 N. 3rd Street. Left to right, Robert W. Daly, Jr. (b 1943), Mary Daly Herrin (b 1931), Vena and Robert Daly. Of course, their home is in the background.
12. A snapshot of Ralph Holliman evidently taken while in high school at Shades Cahaba.
13. Glenn Holliman (b 1946) in the stroller with his young mother, Gerry Stansbery Holliman (b 1923) beside him in 1947.
14. Melton, wife Ida Hughes Holliman (19 – 1995) and Patti (b 1942), probably taken in February 1944 during a short leave Melton had before being shipped to England and France.
15. Mary Daly Herrin in the mid-1930s.
16. Mary Daly Herrin in 1940, Irondale, Alabama.
17. Pearl Caine Holliman (1887-1955) with Robert W. Daly, Jr. (b 1943) at her feet accepts the first door to door delivery of U.S. Mail at her home at 2300 N. 3rd Street in Irondale, Alabama. Due to her efforts, the post was delivered to Irondale homes, and one no longer had to cross the dangerous and busy railroad tracks to get to the post office. This picture ran in the Woodlawn newspaper in 1944. My grandmother was 57 at the time.
18. Dressed in their Sunday best, Ralph and his brother, Bishop pose by the Daly house, probably around 1937. I supect Ralph did not enjoy that suit too long. A growth spurt would soon send him towering over all his siblings, at 6’4”.

25. Bishop holding a football in the 1920s

26. Virginia Holliman Cornelius and a wagon in the 1920s.

27. Virginia Holliman Cornelius (1922-2011) clutches her doll. Virginia was the sixth child

born to Pearl and Ulyss, and the only daughter born in Irondale. Vena and Loudelle

Were both natives of Fayette, Alabama, 45 miles to the west near the Mississippi

border.

28. Anne Holliman Phillips (b 1942) was the first daughter born to Euhal and Edna

Westbrook Holliman.

29. This photograph of the entire Ulyss and Pearl family must have been made around

1930. Left to right, Ulyss, Ralph, Pearl, Virginia (eye obscured in picture), Melton in

Back, Bishop, Vena, Euhal and Loudelle on right.

30. Euhal and the family dog, Sport.

31. Ralph, meticulous as always, combs his hair for the photographer.

32. A studious looking Euhal presents a handsome portrait in this picture.

33. Melton was nicknamed ‘Rosie’ by his classmates while in high school. He graduated in

1927, and went to work in his Uncle Floyd Caine’s drug store. There he mastered the

pharmaceutical trade and stayed in it all his life. Floyd (18 – 19) as Lula Hocutt Caine’s

son.

34.Melton Holliman in sporty dress in the 1920s.

35. Vena Holliman Daly and her daughter, Mary Daly Herrin, on the Daly-Holliman lawn.

36. Ulyss and Pearl Caine Holliman on the lawn with grandson Glenn N. Holliman, Bishop’s

Son.

37. Far right stands Pearl Caine Holliman who in the 1940s entertained in Irondale her class for which she was a teacher. Ulyss and Pearl were very active in the Gospel

Tabernacle Church of The Rev. Glenn Tingly of Birmingham. Tingly was controversial,

And the first radio preacher in the city from the 1920s. While he preached against vice

and immorality, his emotional theology was not shared by the entire family. The Ferrells

in particular, moderate Methodists, were in disagreement with Loudelle’ parents

and their financial support of the Tabernacle. Robert Daly, Sr. wrote scathingly during

World War II how this ministry was taking resources from Ulyss and Pearl that could have

Been better used supporting Lula Caine, Pearl’s mother, who lived on a small rail road

widow’s pension.

38. Andrew ‘Eck’ Holliman was one of the six brothers of John Thomas Holliman, and the first to die (1882-1926). Interesting he is the only brother of Ulyss on the picture board.

39. Jerry and Terry Holliman.

40. Melton and Ida Hughes Holliman (1905-1995).

41. Euhal and Edna Holliman

42. Patti Holliman Hairston, daughter of Melton and Ida.

43. Ralph and his mother and father, Pearl and Ulyss, on a 1940 trip to western North Carolina.

44. Melton and Loudelle Holliman, taken approximately 1915 in Fayette, Alabama. In 1917, Ulyss would move the family to Irondale for economic reasons.

45. Pam Holliman

46. Nancy Carol Cornelius Morton, daughter of Virginia and Walter Cornelius (1922-2006)

47. Left to right – Loudelle, Vena, Euhal and Melton Holliman, perhaps 1915.

48. Virginia and Ralph

49. Patti Holliman Hairston, left, with unknown girl.

50. Pam Holliman

51. Virginia Holliman Cornelius and Ralph Holliman were posed in 1928, dressed up for a traveling photographer, at the time of Vena Holliman and Robert W. Daly, Sr.’s wedding in Irondale, Alabama. Ralph, age 5, perhaps to his shurgrim, was the flower boy.

52. Bishop and his oldest brother Melton met in New Orleans in the winter of 1942. Bishop was in the Navy, the only child yet caught up formerly in World War II. Ida and Melton had moved to Mobile, Alabama from Birmingham around 1940.

53. The photo is blurred but left to right are Jean, Anne, Jerry and Terry Holliman with their father, Euhal, behind them. This was made perhaps in 1946.

54. Ulyss and Bishop pose in Key West, Florida in early February 1942. Loudelle, Charles, Ralph, Pearl and Ulyss drove from Irondale to Key West, Florida (a long, long trip in that era) to visit Bishop during this critical time in World War II. They had no idea when (or if) they might see him again.

55. Taken in the late 1920s in Fayette, Alabama are John Thomas (1844-1930) and Martha Jane Walker Holliman (1846-1931). Interesting as the parents of Ulyss Holliman, this photo might be first, but Grandmother Holliman put it last. According to Rhodes Holliman, a Holliman family historian and a second cousin, Martha Jane was not a pleasant woman. John Thomas seems to have suffered Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome from his terrible experiences in the Civil War. John farmed all his life and died in poverty with no savings and before Social Security and Medicare.

Martha Jane’s father, Samuel Walker, went off to fight for the Confederacy in 1862 when she was 16 years old. This great, great grandfather of my generation (we have no picture of him) as at the Battles of Gettysburg, the Crater, Petersburg and Lee’s last retreat. Pearl’s grandmother who is picture at the beginning of this frame lost her father, Manasses Hocutt in after he died in 1863 from wounds at the Battle of Stone’s River, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. One can argue that the Holliman family did not recover from the Civil War until the advent of the generation of the children of Ulyss and Pearl Caine Holliman – Melton, Vena, Euhal, Loudelle, Bishop, Virginia and Ralph.