**Some Notes on a West Alabama Family** by Laura Vonceil Duckworth, Reform, Alabama.

“My great grandfather was the famed Civil War veteran Elijah Holliman, born on 12 July 1839 in Newtonville, Fayette County, Alabama. He was the son of Charles and Barbara Walters Holliman who emigrated from South Carolina in 1836.



*Elijah Holliman in his Confederate uniform during the Civil War*

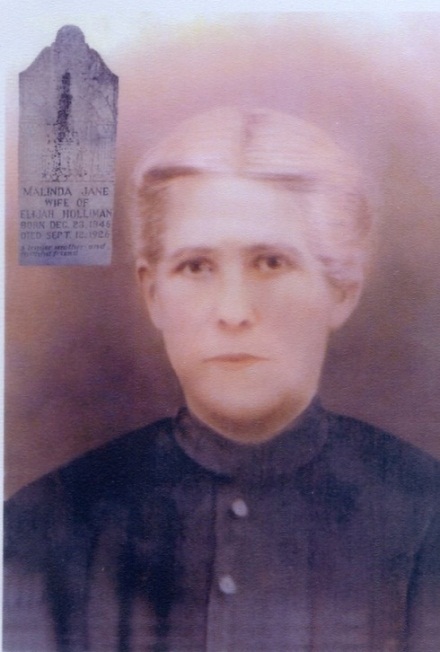
Elijah married three times. His first marriage was to Mary Shaw of whom three children were born: Sarah Melisa Holliman, Mary Elizabeth Holliman and Peter Aaron Holliman.



*Mary Shaw Holliman above*

His second marriage was to Permelia Gibson ( 1834 - 1910). She is my great grandmother. From this union there were two children: William Green Holliman and Laura Jane (Jannie) Holliman, my grandmother. Unfortunately I do not have a photograph of Permelia or even know where she is buried.

Elijah’s third wife (*photo below*) was Malinda Elmina Levisa Jane Johnson, born 23 December 1846 and died September 12, 1926. She is buried in Springhill Southern Baptist Cemetery, five miles west of Millport, Alabama next to Elijah.



Charles Holliman had migrated with his two brothers, Warren and Cornelius, from the family home of their father, James Grantson Holliman (1850 – 1836) in 1836 who had lived in both North and South Carolina.

Elijah’s Civil War record would take pages to tell. For now, I share my family tree below with several photographs, the first being young Elijah (1838 – 1937) in his Confederate uniform from the War. His second wife, Permelia Gibson Holliman was the 7th child of Tillman Gibson of Fayette, Alabama.

My grandmother, Laura Jannie Holliman (29 August 1873 – 6 December 1936) married Virgil Constantine Clemmons, son of Woodson Clemmons and Rebecca Reece Clemmons. Jannie is buried at Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery, Reform, Alabama, Pickens County along with her husband. These are my grandparents, Jannie and Virgil Clemmons. *Their photographs are below.*



Their children are Melinda Elizabeth ‘Lizabeth’ Clemmons (1893 – 1895), William Edward Clemmons, Thomas Tillman Clemmons, Elvin Elijah Clemmons, Charlie Dennis Clemmons, Minnie Lee Clemmons and Mamie Lou Clemmons.

On July 12, 1935, the extended family gathered in Lamar County, Alabama for Elijah Holliman’s 96th birthday. He was the oldest Confederate veteran in his county when he died May 11, 1937.

*Below the family of Elijah Holliman, center for his birthday in Reform, Alabama in 1935. Assistance is sought from his family to identify persons in the photo below. Please email* [*glennhistory@gmail.com*](mailto:glennhistory@gmail.com) *with names.*



One of the children of Virgil and Jannie Holliman Clemmons was my mother, Mamie Lou Clemmons (14 August 1918 – 13 January 1984) who married my father, Dewey Delmer Bonner on 29 December 1937.

Their seven children were Dewey Max Bonner (13 June 1939), Laura Vonceil Bonner Duckworth (18 December 1941), Shelby Marie Bonner McDaniel (13 June 1944), Johnnie Mae Bonner Babb (20 January 1946), Jimmy Keith Bonner (25 November 1950), Clayton Gregory Bonner (5 November 1953), and Frances Marilyn Bonner Elmore (12 March 1956).

Dewey Max Bonner married Dorothy Faye Holliman, daughter of Kenneth Holliman, son of Frank and Kesta Howard Holliman in June 1958. Their children are Wanda Faye Bonner Hicks (13 May 1960), Franklin Max Bonner (12 April 1964), Camelia ‘Millie’ Diane Bonner Elkins (15 September 1961) and Jeffrey Dale Bonne r 8 December 1965).

*Vonceil Duckworth at Caine’s Ridge Baptist Church, April 2011, Fayette County, Alabama.*



Laura Vonceil Bonner married Lonnie Morris Duckworth on 14 December 1962. These are their children – Kenneth Morris Duckworth (7 February 1964) and Michael Keith Duckworth (19 November 1967).

Shelby Marie Bonner married Allen Wilson McDaniel. They have one child, Allen Mitchell McDaniel.

Johnnie Bonner married Charles Babb, and their children are: Steven Gregory Babb, Kristen Michell Babb Hill.

Jimmy Keith Bonner’s two children are Amanda McDaniel Sullivan and Bandon Keith Bonner.

Clayton Grergory Bonner married Linda Ann Junkin Bonner (now divorced). Their children are Jason Gregory Bonner and Lezlee Ann Bonner.

Frances Marilyn Bonner married Jimmy Donald Elmore. Their children are: Jacy Elmore, Jared Donald Elmore and Jala Dawn Elmore.



*Tyler Duckworth, Fayette County, Alabama 2011*

Tyler Duckworth, grandson of Vonceil Duckworth, is the son of Kenneth Morris Duckworth and Judy Renee Gray Duckworth and the twin brother of James Timothy Duckworth. Tyler (*photo above)* is of the latest generation descended from Christopher Holyman, Sr. (1618 – 1691) who was born in England and died in Virginia.

Photo of Mamie Louis and Virgil Clemmons to be added

My mother, Mamie Lou Clemmons, a descendant of Hollimans, had a great influence on my life. She always was at home taking care of seven brats. Very few times was a switch used, but she used her soft voice for corrections, teaching us that it was wrong to talk about others.

‘If we couldn’t say anything good about other people, it was best we didn’t say anything. Never take anything for granted. Always give a helping hand when you can, as you never know when you might need help. Learn and use your mistakes when you have children of your own. Always tell the truth and then you don’t get into trouble because your daddy has checked the mileage of the old car. Other people will look at you and know what kind of parents you have by the way you act. Your education can never be taken away.’

Mom’s parents passed away while she was still a teenager. She dropped out of school in the ninth grade, and she married at the age of nineteen. Dewey D. Bonner was fourteen years older, but he provided well for her. He always said she was different from any of the other women he had dated.

Never in my life did I hear my mother utter a curse word. One of the most wonderful things I ever heard her say was, “The greatest thing I get out of life is helping others.” What a tribute to leave behind.

She passed away on January 13, 1984 in UAB Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama from complications of acute leukemia. She was diagnosed two weeks before while in a hospital in Columbus, Mississippi. She had a heart attack the day she left that hospital and a stroke the same night. What a defeat. Or was it? She longed to see her husband whom had passed away 16 May 1979. I say she was received with open arms.”