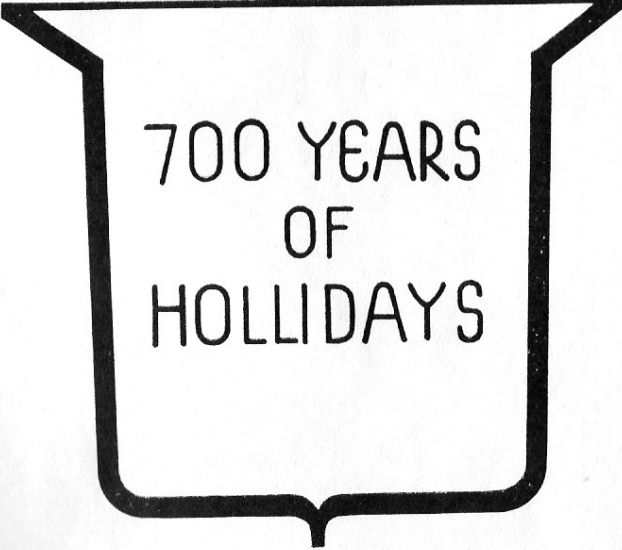




700 YEARS
OF
HOLIDAYS



700 YEARS
OF
HOLLIDAYS



*Home built by Allen T. Holliday in Wilkes County, Georgia,
about 1850. Picture 1939.*

100 YEARS
OF
HOLLIDAY



*Home built by Allen T. Holliday in Wilkes County, Georgia,
about 1850. Picture 1939.*

SOME HOLLIDAYS
OF
VIRGINIA, GEORGIA, MISSOURI
AND
CALIFORNIA
WITH FAMILIES ALLIED,
BY MARRIAGE OF OMAR HOLLIDAY
AND
ROSALIE WILLET HOLLIDAY
BY
OMAR HOLLIDAY
PALOS VERDES ESTATES (P.O.)
CALIFORNIA
1939

700 YEARS OF HOLLIDAYS

Was it Sir Walter Scott who wrote:

“What’s in a name?

The Devil’s in it

When a bard has to frame, etc.”

This is just as true when one is browsing in genealogy, as when one is trying to write verse. Especially is it true, when the same names are repeated over and over for nearly a thousand years. Amongst the Hallidays—Hollidays, such names as Allen, Thomas, Walter, John and Leonard are repeated many, many times.

Apparently Sir Leonard, whose name will be mentioned repeatedly in this record, was the first to adopt the Holliday spelling, and from here on writer will endeavor to stick to this spelling. The arms, crest, and motto, are recorded to him in both spellings of the name. In the official visitation of Middlesex (official record of the College of Heralds) made in the year 1663, the family, then living at Bromley, in Middlesex, the original arms, crest, and motto of Halliday were confirmed under the spelling Holliday.

Until around the year one thousand, men were given only one name, and were distinguished by calling one, Allen The Shepherd, Thomas The Carpenter, or John The Gold-Smith. Tradition has it, that sometime before the year 1200, possibly long before then some Allen or Thomas was blessed with a male child born on a Sunday—a "Holy-day," and the innocent and helpless little thing became Thomas Holyday.

Sir Matthew Hale in "The Norman People," says Haliday is from Halyday, Normandy France, and mentions Philip and Reginald De Halyday, as residents of England in the year 1194. There is still another legend as to the origin of the name Holliday. Burke, a most voluminous writer on genealogy, in his History of Commoners, says:

"Sir Malcom Wallace, 1295, of Ellerslie, had a son Malcom, who had two daughters; the elder married the father of Thomas Holliday, a celebrated patriot, who had considerable property in Annandale, Scotland. (Note that the father of Thomas is not named.) The Holliday family, which is of remote antiquity, bears one of the earliest British surnames upon record:—familiar now for more than six hundred years.

The people it came to designate are represented by the same authority, as a portion of the Ulster Cruithene, which, about the beginning of the Ninth century, crossed the Irish Channel, and reconquered from the Saxons, the greater portions of their possessions in the south of Scotland. The conquered country was divided amongst their leaders. This is the country surrounding Annandale. The clan, when provisions became scarce, were summoned to make a Holy-day. Any day was holy that was spent in ravaging the enemy's country. A hill where the troopers were accustomed to collect is still known as, "Halliday Hill." The evidence is complete that the chieftain who first assumed this surname had his castle, or strong tower, near the source of the river Annan—two or three miles from the flourishing village of Moffat,—celebrated for its mineral waters."

Still quoted: "Certain it is, that almost every man able to bear arms—of Annandale, joined the standard of the Earl of Huntingdon, and accompanied Richard the Lion-hearted, to the Holy Land." A foot note after the above quotation says: "of the 5,000 men sent by William of Scotland to join King Richard, 1,000 were

from Annandale and *almost all* were Hallidays.”

Richard the first, 1157-1199, known as “Richard The Lion-hearted” (Couer de Leon), was king of England from 1189 until his death, 1199. He was most active in the Third Crusade of the Holy Land, which began immediately after he was crowned king. Thus it would appear that if the Halliday Clan had increased to 1,000 men, able and willing to fight in a far away land, the name must have started several hundred years before the third Crusade, which began in 1189. So the name, must truly be amongst the oldest of surnames.

It would seem, from all that we are able to learn of our very ancient ancestors, that to say the least, none of them were “Pacifists,” but were ready to fight for any cause they thought just, and especially were they ready to fight when hunger was in sight. Trying to live on the other man’s accumulations you will note is not new. I wonder if there was a party in those faraway days who favored “*a free pig every Friday.*”

Speaking seriously, it did not seem necessary for them to fight for meat. The records show that there was an abundance of deer and wild boar in the immense wooded area (then) around Annandale. Knowing how to use well, bow and arrow, *was* necessary.

Now dear Holiday reader, believe it or not, history records that you came to have the name you bear, in one of these ways. I choose the born on a Sunday theory. As already stated, another remarkable thing about our ancestors is the many ways they invented of spelling the name Holliday. Writer has found the name spelled more than twenty different ways. Even way out here in California I find in the 1939 Los Angeles telephone directory, as follows:

1 Haliday, 1 Halladay, 19 Halliday, 5 Holaday, 1 Holiday, 8 Holladay, and 24 Holliday. Of these I have met three, a hotel manager, the business manager of the Los Angeles Herald and Express, and the other, retired, about my age. He married a sister of Mr. Henry E. Huntington, donor of the splendid library and art museum at San Marino, bearing his name. The newspaper man came west from central Mis-

souri. I did not learn where the others came from.

In the old family burial ground at Raysville —(a dead town)—Lincoln County, Georgia, the names on the tombstones are spelled several different ways, yet it is said they were all cousins when they came to Georgia.

The name Holliday was more or less common in several counties of England—Buckingham, Suffolk, and York, also in the city of London. It is also mentioned in several counties of Scotland, as well as in Ireland.

The Media Research Corp., Washington, D. C., says: "The Hollidays were for the most part of the landed-gentry, and nobility of Great Britain." The Virginia Magazine of History, Vol. 18, mentions some families of Royal or Noble Ancestry. In the list I noted the names Holliday, Lee and Roosevelt, etc. Not wishing to start an argument, no comments.

It is interesting to note here some information, and some names the writer secured from records published by George Cabell Greer, who was a clerk in the Virginia Land Office. The

book is called Earliest Recorded Settlers in Virginia. Following is the list of Hollidays. William arrived in Virginia in 1637. George and John in 1638. Thomas, George and Eliza arrived in 1650. This should be accepted the same as an official record, in this writer's opinion, but it does not tally with the statement made by more than one writer, that "Colonel Thomas, Col. Leonard, and William Holliday were passengers on the second vessel to land on these shores."

The William Holliday who arrived in 1637 evidently acquired lands at once. He was deeded land in 1637. Said land located on the James river, adjoining lands of William Mills and others. Another deed to him for lands on Morgans Creek and Mannings Sly, adjoining lands of William Smith, is recorded in 1650. Greer is authority for the arrival dates, and Nugent's "Cavalliers and Pioneers" for the deed records.

Hayden's Virginia Genealogies, notes that Thomas Holloday of James City County, was granted 120 acres in 1716, and John of same county, 800 acres in 1724. Another record says that Col. John Holliday was granted 93 acres for conducting safely into the country, Robert

Stuart and Hannah Hollyday in 1711. Two volumes of Georgia Revolutionary Land Grants show grants as follows:

Margaret Holliday, 350 acres in Wilkes County, Georgia. She was evidently the wife of Elijah William. William Holliday, also in Wilkes County in 1783-4. This William was no doubt Elijah William. Armstrong's Notable Southern Families, also mentioned a deed in 1795 to John Holliday. Armstrong also says that John had a son, Owen Thomas, around 1770, and that he also lived in Wilkes County, Georgia.

Concerning Thomas Holliday, who was the first to come from Virginia to Georgia, there is recorded an interesting document. It is copied as follows from the records in Rhodes Hall in Atlanta. "He was granted by the General Assembly at Augusta in 1781 a bounty of 278 acres. William James Holliday 200 acres in Burke County.

"State of Georgia, Wilkes County, These are to certify that Thomas Holliday was an inhabitant of this state prior to the reduction thereof by the British Army, and was a refugee from

the same, during which time he cheerfully did his duty as a soldier to this state, and the United States. Given under my hand, this 7th day of April, 1784. E. Clark Col, by his order H. Furman."

Capt. John Holliday, probably No. 7, whose marriage is recorded in 1702, is said to have brought the family court of arms to America.