

Holligan Chapel
compiled by Bill Page
24 August 2007

This community was located east of Bryan, near Steep Hollow, in the Richardson Perry league. It was named after the Holligan family, who gave land for a school and a Baptist Church in 1898.

J.J. Holligan and his wife A.E. Holligan sold D.E. Thompson, Thomas Hall, and W.P. Bulloch, trustees of Holligan school district no.8, two acres of land in the Richardson Perry league for \$1; to have one house erected on the land for use as a school house and another building to be used as a Primitive Baptist Church; dated 9 August 1898. Brazos County Deed Records, Book 17, pages 379-380.

“Holligan School House,” (weekly Bryan Eagle, 18 January 1900, page 3

“Holligan School House,” (weekly Bryan Eagle, 25 January 1900, page 3

“Holligan School House,” (weekly Bryan Eagle, 1 February 1900, page 3

“Holligan School House,” (weekly Bryan Eagle, 8 February 1900, page 3

“Holligan School House,” (weekly Bryan Eagle, 22 February 1900, page 3

“Holligan School House,” (weekly Bryan Eagle, 1 March 1900, page 3

“Holligan School House,” (weekly Bryan Eagle, 22 March 1900, page 3

“Holligan School House,” (weekly Bryan Eagle, 29 March 1900, page 3

*Mrs. Mattie Thompson died, aged 31; wife of I.F. Thompson of Holligan; buried at Steep Hollow; left husband & 5 children; left sister Mrs. Mary Graves of Center and brother Rev. W.N. Crenshaw of Iola; Mr. G.B. Risinger of Village Mills was ½ brother. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 12 April 1900, p.6, col.4

“Holligan School House,” (weekly Bryan Eagle, 3 May 1900, page 3

“Holligan School House,” (weekly Bryan Eagle, 24 May 1900, page 3

Alvin Thompson, the 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. I.F. Thompson of the Holligan community, died Friday night and was buried at Steep Hollow yesterday. The bereaved have the sympathy of all in their great loss. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 1 December 1904, page 9

Mr. and Mrs. M.L. Morehead were here from the Holligan neighborhood yesterday trading. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 23 March 1905, page 5

Rev. J.W. Baker returned to Caldwell County yesterday after filling his appointment in the Holligan community. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 18 January 1906, page 2

I.F. Thompson of the Holligan neighborhood was in the city yesterday and shipped a fine Poland-China hog to Village Mills, Texas. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 25 January 1906, page 2

“Death of Mrs. Bassie Morehead,” Bryan Weekly Eagle, 15 February 1906, page 1. Wife of L.E. Morehead; died at Holligan community.

Kurten ... The boys from Holligan Chapel came and furnished nice music at the entertainment at Mr. Tobe Tobias’ Saturday night which was enjoyed by a small crowd. Brazos Pilot, 8 March 1906, page 1

C.L. Eden of the Holligan community was here yesterday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 22 March 1906, page 2

W.A. Mims returned to Round Rock yesterday after a visit to relatives. He was accompanied home by Miss Laura Mims of the Holligan community. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 9 August 1906, page 2

“Brazos Farmers Union,” Bryan Weekly Eagle, 10 January 1907, page 2. Delegates from Holligan school house were L.F. Thompson, T.W. Reed and Isaiah Sawyer.

T.A. Hensarling, Columbus Risinger, George Terry and others were in from the Holligan community yesterday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 10 January 1907, page 5

“Death of Mr. Owen Shaw,” Brazos Pilot, 18 July 1907, page 2.

A.D. Moorehead of Palestine attended the marriage of his brother Leonard Moorehead, and Miss Lila Holligan at Steep Hollow last night. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 5 December 1907, page 7

Miss Ida Holligan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I.J. Holligan, died Wednesday night at the family home in the Holligan community from the effects of an attack of pneumonia. Her death was a great shock to the family, and friends who have known and loved her from childhood. She was reared in that community and was a young lady of a most lovable character and a member of the Primitive Baptist Church. In her death the devoted family circle is deprived of the association and sweet influence of her Christian character. The funeral was held yesterday afternoon at Steep Hollow, Rev. J.M. Bulloch conducting the service in the presence of many sorrowing friends. Pretty floral tributes were laid upon the grave by loving hands in testimony of the tender affection in which she was held. Miss Holligan leaves her parents, two brothers and three sisters, Messrs. Will and Luther Holligan, Mrs. W.F. Terry, Mrs. Leonard Moorehead and Miss Leila Holligan. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 13 Feb. 1908, p.5, col.6

Mr. Luther Holligan is building a new home at Holligan Chapel. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 10 November 1910, page 5

An important school meeting was held at Steep Hollow yesterday afternoon which resulted in the consolidation of the Steep Hollow and Holligan Chapel school districts. The meeting was attended by County Superintendent T.W. Parker, the trustees and patrons of the two schools. Superintendent Parker addressed the meeting, explaining the new law relative to rural high schools. A great many questions were asked and talks were made by others, after which a resolution was adopted uniting the two districts for the purpose of building up a rural high school, and they will ask the county school board to so classify them. The patrons of the two schools at the meeting subscribed about \$600 to build up and equip the school, and under a provision in the new law, will ask the state to donate a like amount. The building will be added to and new equipment of different kinds purchased. It is likely that a course in agriculture will be added. Bryan Daily Eagle, 8 July 1911, page 2, col.2

Mr. John Neal of Tyler County and Miss Lillie Holligan were united in marriage at 8 o'clock last night at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. I.J. Holligan, in the Holligan Chapel community. Rev. J.W. Baker of Lockhart, a Primitive Baptist minister, officiated. It was a very quiet home wedding, only relatives and a few special friends of the contracting parties being present. The bride is the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I.J. Holligan, and was reared in the Holligan Chapel community. She is a gentle, sweet-spirited, Christian young lady, polished and refined, and dearly beloved by all who know her. The groom is a comparative stranger here, but is said by those who know him to be an excellent citizen of Tyler County, a thorough gentleman, and an active, industrious young man. Mr. and Mrs. Neal will leave tonight for the home of the groom in East Texas, and The Eagle joins their many friends in best wishes for a long and useful life. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 14 Dec. 1911, p.1

Tobe Greer, an aged Negro of Holligan Chapel, dropped dead while planting corn yesterday afternoon. The old man was about sixty-five, and worked on the C.M. Risinger place. When found he had been dead for several hours, and his mule was patiently standing, the Negro having a plow line wrapped around his wrist. Justice Albert Keith of Harvey held an inquest this morning and pronounced a verdict of death due to natural causes. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 6 March 1913, p.7, col.5

Mrs. M. Mims, an old and highly respected lady of the county, residing at Holligan Chapel, died this morning after a brief illness. She was stricken with paralysis yesterday and never rallied, expiring during the night. She was laid to rest at Steep Hollow this afternoon at 5 o'clock, Rev. J.M. Bulloch conducting the funeral services. She is survived by her husband and several children. The death of Mrs. Mims is a great loss to the community in which she lived. She was a daughter of the late Mr. Frank Jones of Harvey. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 5 March 1914, page 8

C.M. Risinger and son, Billy, were in the city today from Holligan Chapel. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 25 June 1914, page 5

C.M. Risinger of Holligan Chapel was in the city today. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 23 July 1914, page 5.

Pink Mims was in today from Holligan Chapel. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 30 July 1914, page 5.

C.M. Risinger, a leading farmer of the Holligan Chapel community, was in the city today. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 27 August 1914, page 5.

I.F. Thompson of Holligan Chapel was in the city today. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 10 September 1914, page 5

C.M. Risinger was in the city today from Holligan Chapel. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 24 September 1914, page 5

C.M. Risinger and daughter, Misses Buna and Birde, were visitors to the city today from Holligan Chapel. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 3 December 1914, page 5

I.F. Thompson was in the city today from his home at Holligan Chapel. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 17 December 1914, page 5

T.A. Hensarling was in the city today from Holligan Chapel. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 24 December 1914, page 5

Victor Andrews of Holligan Chapel was in town today. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 19 August 1915, page 5

Billy Risinger of Holligan Chapel was in the city today. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 30 September 1915, page 5

Lila Belle Holligan married Leonard E. Morehead (later Brazos County sheriff) as his second wife. Lila B. Morehead achieved prominence as Brazos County's first female sheriff. After her husband's death, Lila married Mr. W.A. Withers. She died on 16 March 1975.

"Mrs. L.E. Morehead Appointed Sheriff," Bryan Weekly Eagle, 3 April 1924, p.1

"First Arrest Ever Made by Texas' Only Woman Sheriff Made Mrs. Morehead," Bryan Weekly Eagle, 3 July 1924, p.3, col.3

"Mrs. Morehead Fell and Hurt Self in Houston," Bryan Weekly Eagle, 21 January 1926, p.2, col.8

"Mrs. L.E. Morehead Hurt," Bryan Weekly Eagle, 4 March 1930, p.5, col.2

Syptak, Virginia, "'That Lady Sheriff' Remembers the Past," Bryan Daily Eagle, 8 February 1959, section 1, p.6, col.1