

Established in 1872.

**BAKER & DOYLE,**  
THE OLDEST  
**Dry Goods and Clothing House.**

**LEADING SHOE DEALERS.**

**Everything Kept in a First-class  
Dry Goods Establishment.**

**Millinery Department Unsurpassed.**



**We Pander to the - -  
- - Best Class of Trade.**

Ewell, Thomas, I.

*(History of Hood County)*

# HOOD COUNTY HISTORY.

WRITTEN BY T. T. EWELL.

## CHAPTER I.—DESCRIPTIVE.

Everyone in some measure contributes to the making of history, but its perpetuity is for the historian; therefore lest the early events, and the men who made them, connected with the past of Hood county, shall all be forgotten, it is the design of the writer of these sketches to reclaim and endeavor to perpetuate some of the most interesting of them. It is to be regretted that some worthier pen had not long ago undertaken this duty. Just here I am overwhelmed with the responsibility of deciding when and where to begin, and lest I should incur the criticism of some Knickerbocker, I shall make no effort to search out the nebulous origin of the created matter from which my subject was evolved, but without any formal method, shall begin, continue and conclude as the subject matters may force recognition from my unpretentious pen.

A general description of the county may be appropriate, if not somewhat necessary to a proper understanding of the men and things which make its history:

Situated on the Brazos river in that favored part of Texas just north of the 32nd parallel of north latitude, where the Cross Timbers seem to struggle between mountain and valley for room; her surface is, therefore, well diversified with timber, prairie, rock-crested cliffs and silvery-winding streams; and long before the white man in his unremitting march toward the west, had found a resting place here, the Indian and the wild game, upon



period, now recalled, were Capt. J. R. Morris, Maj. C. H. Blake & Son, Thos. R. Blake, Capt. Wm. Allen, and J. A. Stephenson, A. P. Gordon, and a year or two later, F. C. Bush. Capt Morris still remains one of our reliable merchants. He was connected with the High School at its inception, being a member of its board of trustees, and is now Vice-President of the board for Granbury College. He was elected Clerk of the County Court in 1876 and held this office one term, and subsequently was elected Sheriff, which office, however, was resigned by him for the more satisfactory life of farming and merchandising, in which he has respectively engaged with assiduity for many years. Capt. Morris did service as a Confederate soldier, and has ever been esteemed for his high qualities of honor and courage as a soldier, public servant and citizen.

Maj. C. H. Blake belonged to the old Virginia class of gentleman of hospitable and benevolent character. He was a well educated and informed man; and began his career here as a school teacher, but soon quit this to engage with his sons, S. D. and T. R. Blake, in merchandising, the mercantile firm lasted under several changes for a number of years and prospering under the direction of its members, who were all men of broad business views and great energy. Maj. Blake delighted in politics, though never offered here for political office. He was elected County Judge in 1876, after a spirited contest, over questions of local politics. After serving one term, again turned his attention to mercantile business, and a few years later removed from the county, residing at Dallas and several other places since. He died in 1895 at Quanah, at an advanced age. He was a man of strong and decided views, had many friends, and possessed such fluent conversational powers as to readily overcome opposition to his views, which he pressed to the attention of all, with an earnestness of purpose, denoting sincerity and patriotism. He, too, was a gallant soldier of the "lost cause," having volunteered from Kentucky, where he then resided.

Capt. Wm. Allen did not remain long in business, but after a few years secured a farm, which he improved and for a number of years was among Hood county's most intelligent farmers. Subsequently removing to Somervell county, where he still lives and carries on his farming operations. Capt. Allen has frequently served in both Hood and Somervell counties upon the grand juries, and though he never held office, yet his prominence and character in all his affiliations and connections with his fellow citizens, growing out of his extensive information and high integrity, entitle him to mention here as a factor in our history. Stephenson, who was a business partner and brother-in-law of

Allen's, though a good citizen in all respects, did not remain with us sufficiently long to make marked impressions here.

A. P. Gordon came to Hood county in 1871, and like others of that time, engaged in school teaching till he acquired sufficient means to enable him to follow the more profitable employment of merchandising; his first experience in which was damp groceries, then so much more in demand than other kinds of merchandise. Gordon, however, by close economy and attention to business, soon began to grow out into larger business and to deal in more necessary articles of merchandise, till he discontinued liquors entirely. He has ever since remained steadily engaged in merchandising, and so prospered as to be among the foremost of merchants in the county. He has not held office, except as school superintendent in early times. He possesses a cool, calculating, undisturbed temperament, which has enabled him to baffle all difficulties and face all dangers and adversities presenting themselves, and which would have overcome most other men in his station. At the same time he has by the same characteristic of temper maintained himself in friendly relationship with his fellows in all the conditions through which our society has developed from the turbid times in our history to the present. During our early days, when game was plentiful, Gordon was fond of hunting, and with other noted hunters made several expeditions to the mountainous regions to our northwest, where bear, deer and turkey abounded. On one of these occasions, when he was accompanied by those old hunters, W. J. W. Powell, John Aston, A. S. McCamant and James Prestidge, they slaughtered, during a 10 days hunt, 13 bear and a great number of turkey, Gordon killing over 100. This occurred in 1873.

F. C. Bush has been a most reliable merchant, but a man of eccentric manners. He died in 1894, much lamented by his many friends.

#### CHAPTER XLIV.—THORP SPRING—THORP COLLEGE—CAPT. MILLIKEN—MAJ. DUVAL—DR. LANCASTER.

Let us now take a view of the condition of our village settlements during the first few years following 1870, aside from Granbury and Acton already noticed.

Thorp Spring, long noted for its healthful waters, was now settling up with a very substantial and permanent class of citizens. In the fall of 1871 Capt. Sam Milliken, an old and well-to-do citizen of Johnson county, came to this place, attracted by its desirable situation and excellent water, and invested largely, by purchasing the greater part of the Thorp property, including the Sulphur Spring. He at once set about the improvement of



these properties ; built a cotton gin, which he operated for several years, till it was destroyed by fire. He also by improvements and additions opened his house for the reception of fashionable visitors from the cities seeking summer resorts and recreation, and built a commodious spring house and bath rooms. Advertising the place extensively, Capt. Milliken and his accomplished wife were so well known for the generous character of their hospitality, as at once to bring the place into note as a favorite summer resort. But the season only lasted a few months in each year, and Capt. Milliken was too full of energy and resources to be willing to sit down in inactivity the remaining months, so he, co-operating with P. Thorp and other colleagues, set about to make the place one of educational importance. They built a commodious building on the prominent point northwest of the spring, which they had chartered as a College, and secured the services of Eld. H. D. Bantan as its President. But as this institution was opening with apparently hopeful prospects, under the influence and direction of that scholarly and pious gentleman, there seemed to come about 1873, a tide in the affairs of the place, which, happily was taken at its flood ; and Mr. Bantan graciously gave way to Eld. J. A. Clark, who, desirous of founding an institution of learning, based upon principles long studied and cherished by him, had been attracted to this place by its many desirable advantages. To follow the further career of the institution now here founded and culminating in Add-Ran Christian University, will be the work of future chapters.

Capt. Milliken, with undiminished energy, continued to work and spend his means liberally in building up the town, even to the extent of pressing its claims before the public, after the destruction of the court house at Granbury, as the most suitable place for the county site. By the popularity of his house and the commodious and pleasant accommodations afforded by him, he had succeeded in attracting a very large share of the patronage of the traveling public to the place, and made it the relay point for the United States mail coaches, upon the great Texas and Fort Uma route. But soon the development of western Texas, opening up so many great watering resorts, that the single handed little sulphur spring began to grow less important, and as a mere resort for recreation fell into decline, as its educational advantages developed under the magnificent handiwork of the Clarks. As a friend to education and civilizing influences, Capt. Milliken's memory will long live with us. He was of a noble family of Kentucky, used to affluence, and naturally of a bold temper. He had followed the business of steam-boating during the palmy days of that occupation prior to the general

building of railroads, owning and commanding several fine steamers plying on the waters of the Ohio and Mississippi, till it had become a part of his nature to lead and to command. He had settled in the eastern part of Johnson county, Texas, about 1856, and there engaged for several years in successful business, making lasting friendships among the best people. Indeed, Captain Milliken, though candid and plain to those with whom he could not agree to a degree amounting to bitterness, yet was of such generous nature to those whom he liked that none who enjoyed his friendship but cherish his memory as that of brother or father. He suffered a fall from a wagon several years after his settlement at Thorp Spring which crippled him for life, though diminished naught from his enterprising spirit. His health now began to decline from enforced inactivity, and in 1886, while endeavoring to check a run away team to a hack loaded with young people, he was run against and severely crushed, and after several days of suffering terminated a life of usefulness to his family, his friends and his country. His wife, so well and extensively known and loved for her social and amiable christian qualities, died in the year 1894.

Others of the men who became citizens of Thorp Spring about the period of which we are now treating are Maj. W. J. W. DuVal and Dr. J. R. Lancaster, each of whom have been prominent in its affairs and also in the public affairs of the county. The first named served several terms prior to 1876 as county commissioner and was noted for the intelligent and faithful attention paid by him to the financial affairs of the county, which at the time of going into office were in a most deplorable condition. Major DuVal has always taken a prominent and active part in our public affairs. Dr. Lancaster has, during all these years, been a popular physician with an extensive practice, exerting a large and wholesome influence in our county affairs. He has often been chosen as county physician, and health officer in charge of quarantine during small pox visitations, in all these capacities giving satisfaction. He maintains the character of a courteous christian gentleman. Both DuVal and Lancaster now reside at Granbury.

#### CHAPTER XLV.—JOSEPH CLARK, THE FOUNDER OF ADD-RAN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY—HIS SONS, ADDISON AND RANDOLPH CLARK.

J. A. Clark, with his mother and two sisters, left Jefferson county, Ky., traveling down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and on the gulf of Mexico, landed at Matagorda, Texas, in 1839. About three weeks after his arrival in Texas his mother died.



A short time after, his elder sister married. With his younger sister he went to Austin, arriving there during the first session of congress ever held there. Here he met with an old-time friend and benefactor of his boyhood, Geo. W. Bonnell. In connection with John Henry Brown and a Mr. Wing, he printed a "Topographical History of Texas," written by Maj. Bonnell. Mr. Clark took his share of the books to New Orleans to have them bound (there being no book bindery then in Texas.) From New Orleans he went on a visit to Ky., returning for Austin in the fall of 1840, landing at Linnville, on Lavaca bay, just after the Comanche Indians had sacked that place and laid it in ashes. From this point there was no way of getting to Austin, except to travel alone, on foot, 200 hundred through an Indian country. He must, of course, leave his books (Topographical History of Texas) behind. He has never seen or heard of one of them since. In February, 1841, he left Austin, with his young sister, in a single-horse hack, to return to Kentucky. They traveled as far as the eastern part of Nacogdoches county, where he was induced to stop and take a school. He here surveyed lots for a village, which its owner named Melrose, and which still exists. While teaching here he was engaged by Vail & Hotchkiss to divide up into small tracts a large Spanish grant of land. It was while surveying upon this grant of land that he became acquainted with a Miss Hetty D'Spain. This acquaintanceship resulted in marriage in January, 1842. Mr. Clark moved from Nacogdoches to Titus county, where he became a member of the Christian church in 1843. He then engaged in the practice of law, and met with encouraging success, considering the sparseness of the population at that time. His penchant for the publication of a newspaper caused him to be connected, at different times, with several enterprises of that character; one of which was assistant editor of the Galveston News, under Willard Richardson, in 1850. By the way, Mr. Clark is a printer by trade, a fine workman, and is now one of the oldest printers in Texas, having engaged actively in the business up to a few years ago.

Mr. Clark had to leave Galveston to preserve his wife's health. He had, for some years, preached when he could, and now—settled at Palestine—devoted still more of his time to preaching; but he found that preaching and the practice of law did not go well together—appointments for meetings and attendance at court frequently conflicted, and neither could be neglected without injury. The church at Palestine met with two other churches, and induced him to dispose of his law library and devote his time wholly to preaching, wherever he thought he could do the the most good; the churches guaranteeing a support for

his family. This they did, liberally, for three years—as long as he remained in their reach.

The increase and growth of Mr. Clark's family caused him to take a vital interest in education. Upon extensive travel and inquiry, he found no school such as he thought a school should be. He, therefore, determined, if his life should be spared, to build up a first class institution of learning. For twenty years he labored to this point, making all his engagements—such as educating his children, accumulating means, etc.,—auxiliary to his grand purpose. This resulted in his locating at Thorp Spring in 1873, and founding Add-Ran College—now Add-Ran Christian University. When locating at Thorp Spring Mr. Clark had liberal offers from citizens of Granbury to locate there; but we were then living under the state constitution imposed upon us by Federal carpet-baggers, in the days of so-called reconstruction; and there was a clause in that constitution which did not allow the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors at any county site. Perhaps those carpet-baggers thought the county machinery could not be run without whiskey. Consequently, Mr. Clark could not entertain the liberal propositions from Granbury to locate the college there; and determined, though solitary and alone—without a soul to give even a word of encouragement—to build upon the location of his choice. After conducting the college for six years, with three of his sons and one daughter, and others, as teachers, he turned it over to his sons, Addison and Randolph, who have since transferred it to the Christian brotherhood of Texas. Mr. Clark is now (1895) in his 80th year. He feels that his life's work is about over. There is very little more he can do. He is poor; has not a dollar income from any source. He has, living, five sons and two daughters. Two of them, Addison and Randolph, are still in the University; a third son is farming in Jones county; the fourth in Portland, San Patricio county, Texas, at the head of Bay View College; the fifth is practicing medicine at Caddo, Stephens county; one daughter, Mrs. Nisbett, is living at Thorp Spring, the other, Mrs. Rogers, is living at Portland. He always desired to keep his children together, that in his declining years they might all be engaged in some work beneficial to the community at large, and at the same time afford ample support for themselves and those dependent upon them. But "man proposes and God disposes." As for as this life is concerned, Mr. Clark's chief enjoyment is in the thought that his work has resulted in some good for the community at large. He rejoices that he has not lived for himself alone; but, to some extent, for the good of others. And though gear be light, and gold be scant,



there is richness in the gloaming.

Addison Clark was born Dec. 11, 1842, at Boggy creek, Titus county, Texas. His father and mother both being teachers and strong believers in thorough education, gave by personal labor and the employment of the best teachers of the state, all the educational advantages to their children which were in their reach. He entered the Confederate army early in the war, joining Fitzhugh's regiment, Capt. Patty's company, serving to the close and being advanced from private to 1st lieutenant. After close of the war he taught school for one year and then entered Chas. Carlton's school for a full course of study. At close of his school course he married Mrs. Carlton's niece, Miss Sallie McQuigg. In all these years the inseparable brethren, Addison and Randolph, were together in army, in college, in teaching. They taught five years at Fort Worth, building up a fine school. Since the Add-Ran enterprise was started, his work has been an open and well known book to Hood county and the state of Texas. Was President of Add-Ran College for a number of years, and when the charter was changed in 1890 to Add-Ran Christian University he was elected President, which position he still fills. Now in his fifty-third year, he is as vigorous as ever. His wife still living, true and faithful. Three children graduated and in school work in good position; three children yet in school.

Randolph Clark was born August 15, 1844, in Harrison county, Texas, near Marshall, and was educated with and along the same lines as his older brother, together with a special course at Bethany College, W. V. He served through the war along with his brother. Settled at Fort Worth in 1870 and began teaching and preaching. Removed to Thorp Spring in 1873, where he has since lived. He was married in 1869 to Miss Ella Lee, a daughter of Col. R. W. Lee, prominent in early Texas history. They have three sons and four daughters, the oldest son being a graduate of Add-Ran and preparing to follow the foot-steps of his father in useful works. Mr. Clark has always lead an active life, traveling extensively in the interest of the school, preaching in nearly every county of the state. A thorough Texan, he has an abiding faith in the moral, educational and material growth of his native state, which he loves so well.

Of Addison and Randolph Clark as preachers, teachers and citizens we speak collectively, because their characters, ambitions and lives of useful labor have been so harmoniously blended that any encomium upon the work of one applies with equal force to the other. Both are born leaders, and have naturally gone to the front as leaders in the work of higher christian education, leaders of thought in the Christian church, leaders in favor of good morals and useful citizenship. That their grand work has

not been appreciated at all times, is true, but the time has now come when not only their church, their students and the people of Texas are beginning to have a just appreciation of their services, but future generations will revere their memory and point with pride to the results of their life work. As the oak is the outgrowth of the acorn, so is Add-Ran Christian University the development of the minds and characters of these men. Without them, and their influence, it would be as the play of "Hamlet" with the melancholy Dane omitted.

#### CHAPTER XLVI—A SUCCINCT HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ADD-RAN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY.

In 1873 Randolph Clark moved from Fort Worth to Thorp Spring, and in the fall of the same year opened the first session of the school, which afterward became Add-Ran College. Only thirteen pupils were enrolled the first day. In 1874 Addison Clark came to Thorp Spring and entered the work with his brother. Mrs. R. Clark also taught for some time. It was the purpose of the brothers to found a college that would really be a college, both in curriculum and in thoroughness of work done. Thorp Spring was selected on account of its picturesqueness, healthfulness, and as it was comparatively free from the evils of the city. The first time the name "Add-Ran" was used in connection with the school was during the first session. R. Clark was sitting in what is now known as the "old college," and having just finished a letter to his brother, signed it "R. Clark of Add-Ran College," knowing that the name would be especially dear to A. Clark, as it was the name of his oldest son, then dead. In replying, his brother wrote: "I accept the suggestion and enter heartily into the plans."

J. A. Clark entered enthusiastically into the enterprise, teaching, using his means freely, and was for several years proprietor and business manager.

The attendance rapidly increased and in a few years the average enrollment was 350. In a few years new and larger buildings became a necessity. They were undertaken without a dollar in the pockets of the proprietors, but with an unshaken faith in the enterprise. In 1876-7 a three story building 40x60 (two stories of stone), was erected, and also a wooden building for the primary school. In a few years it became necessary to have more room, and wing two stories high, 60x80, was erected. In the meantime dormitories for young men were erected, and also a commodious building for accommodation of the young ladies. This is known as Add-Ran "Girls' Home." It was first presided over by Mrs. M. E. Taliaferro, afterward by Mrs. Wideman,



who is still Matron. These ladies, assisted by the lady teachers, have made it an ideal home in many ways.

In 1890 the proprietors made a donation of Add-Ran College, with all its buildings and property, to the Christian Church of Texas. A new charter was procured under the name of "Add-Ran Christian University." A new board of Directors was elected, Maj. J. J. Jarvis being chosen President. Immediately he began the erection of a large four story stone addition, mainly at his own expense. This is known as the "Jarvis Building." As yet there is no endowment. A full and efficient faculty has been maintained by tuition fees, and supported by their faith and devotion to Christian work. The courses of study are Classical, Scientifical, Literary, Biblical, Music, Art, and Commercial. There are also nine first-grade courses leading to A. M., LL. D., Sc. D. and Ph. D.

There have been about ninety who have taken the Bachelor's degree, besides Business Course graduates, and those who have taken past work. Tools have been procured for a Mechanical department, but means for its thorough and practical operation have not yet been secured. The University already ranks as one of the seven first class institutions of the state, and is fast becoming one of the leading educational factors in the South. Its influence for good, for higher education, Christianity and moral reform is wide-spreading and almost incalculable. It now employs twelve regular teachers, and also a Matron and University Physician. Its courses have been enlarged and made more comprehensive from time to time, until they are among the most thorough in the South. Now in the twenty third session of its work it is better equipped for service than ever before.

CHAPTER XLVII—GRANBURY HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE—  
ORIGIN—BURNING—RE-BUILDING—NEW CHARTER—OUT-  
LINE OF WORK—ITS PRESIDENTS—PROF. W. J. MOORE.

In the early part of 1873 Granbury's population and importance had so increased as to give it the aspiring thoughts of something more than a frontier village, whose destinies were to be held down by the dominating influences of six-shooter and spur, and the several churches common to the county taking deeper root, their wholesome influences on society was felt and appreciated.

The veteran Methodist circuit rider of the frontier, visiting here as Presiding Elder of the Weatherford District Conference, was "Uncle" Jimmy Jones, as he was widely and familiarly known. It now became known that a District High School for his District was contemplated. Weatherford, the most import-

ant town in this District, was naturally enough expected to become the site of this institution. But the intelligence of Hood county had already discerned, within its picturesque scenery, abounding in wholesome waters and climatic conditions, an educational destiny; and such men as E. A. Hannaford, J. R. Morris, C. H. Blake, P. H. Thrash, and B. F. Williams of Granbury, and V. S. Anglin and Rev. James Hiner of Acton, seeing the opportunity, began with energy and enterprise to advance the claims of Granbury as the proper city for the Methodist school. The result was that at the District Conference, held at Acton in the summer of 1873, this plucky little town presented financial and other splendid inducements before that body, so out-stripping all other competitors as to at once secure for it the vote of that Conference as the proper and most suitable site for the institution. The men who composed this Conference were of the most thoughtful, sincere and practical men, many of them long familiar with the frontier work of their church, and fully appreciating its needs. Among those now recalled to memory were Revs. Milton James, W. O. Menefee, James Hiner, V. S. Anglin, and other kindred spirits of those times, presided over by their venerable Elder, Rev. James Jones. They at once appointed a building committee consisting of V. S. Anglin, C. H. Blake and P. H. Thrash, authorized to select the particular site at Granbury, secure title to the grounds, and with the generous contributions offered, to design and build a suitable house for the institution. They also selected a Board of Trustees, consisting of V. S. Anglin, B. F. Williams, J. R. Morris, James Hiner, Judge Thomason, T. T. Ewell, and the Presiding Elder as President of the Board, authorized to manage the affairs of the school. It was decided to open the first school in September in the rock building at the southeast corner of the square, pending the work of the building committee; so for this purpose Rev. W. P. Wilson, A. B., was chosen President, organized the school and attached to it a Musical department, at the head of which Miss Bettie Black, of Jefferson was placed. Soon a small frame building was erected and occupied for two or three sessions, but the increasing patronage and growing importance of the work required for it a more roomy and comfortable building. The citizens of Granbury raised the money and erected a handsome stone building, 42x62 feet, three stories high, in which the school was taught, with its several departments as occasion required. Passing step by step from its small beginning, it became a chartered institution on the 6th of July, 1875, with the power vested exclusively in its Board of Trustees (to be provided annually by the District Conference of the church), to transact all of its secular