

## **History of Holly Springs** from <http://visithollysprings.org/timeline.htm>

### **1700's**

This area was home to the Chickasaw Indians. During the early 1700's settlers moved to the Mississippi area. In 1736, the Chickasaw and British soldiers defeated the French who were attacking the Indians for raiding the settlers in southern Mississippi. In Northeast Mississippi, this led to the French and Indian war.

### **1756-1763**

The treaty of Paris signed after the French and Indian war gave England all the land east of the Mississippi River. The land was divided into two parts, the southern region was called west Florida and the rest was given to the Georgia Colony. The original Mississippi territory created by the US congress in 1798 was a strip of land that consisted of 100 miles north to south and from the Mississippi river to the Chattahoochee on the Georgia border

### **1800-1840**

The territory was increased in 1804 and 1812 to reach from Tennessee to the gulf in 1817 the western part achieved statehood as Mississippi on December 10, 1817 Mississippi joined the union and became the 20 state with the population of about 60,000 people.

In 1830 the Chickasaw nation ceded their lands to the US, William Randolph is credited for founding the town in 1835 Holly Springs was created February 1836, and according to legend a young chieftain Onohon and a princess of a rival tribe drowned themselves here at a stream surrounded by holly trees. Holly Springs was incorporated in 1837 and for a short time the name was changed to Paris but due to political pressure the name was changed back to Holly Springs. By 1838 Holly Springs was flourishing and had 14 law offices, 6 doctor offices, 2 banks, 9 dry good stores, 5 grocery stores, 5 churches, 3 hotels, and several private schools. In 1840, the population was 1,117

### **1841-1860**

One of the remarkable women of Holly Springs was Sherwood Bonner. She was born on February 26, 1849. The 1850's were the lavish period for Holly Springs and most of the grand houses were built at this time. Hamilton Place, Linden Terrace, Fleur deLys and other grand houses long gone were built. There were various houses not as large and Holly Springs was emerging into a showplace of a town. Holly Springs was considered the un-official capital of north Mississippi. Holly Springs had a distinguished bar of lawyers and was a personification of culture and sophistication. Cultured folks from near and far sent their sons and daughters here to be educated in one of the 6 schools located on college avenue and military schools on both ends of town. November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1853 was the Mississippi Railroad groundbreaking ceremony and fair. Colonel H. W. Walter, who turned the first spade of dirt to start the railroad, drove in the last spike for the railroad in January 1860.

### **1861-1870**

The first volunteers from Holly Springs left March 28<sup>th</sup> 1861, as the Jeff Davis Rifle and Home Guards. Holly Springs felt the first sting of war on July 1, 1862 when the cavalry rushed through town pursued by Brigadier General J. W. Denver and a rumbling or artillery battery. Ida B. Wells, a black newspaper editor and journalist was born July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1862 On November 13<sup>th</sup>,

1862 Holly Springs suffered occupation under Col. Albert L. Lee, 7<sup>th</sup> Kansas Cavalry. Grant set his headquarters and wife in Walter Place. The occupation lasted until December 20<sup>th</sup> 1862 . When Major General Earl Van Dorn came into town, blew up, burned the Union supply, and took many arms and about 1500 prisoners. Holly Springs occupation was fairly permanent by mid 1863. Holly springs suffered 60 distinct raids during the civil war. At the end of the war there was little left after the looting, pillaging, and burning by both sides. Three companies of Federal Troops occupied Holly Spring in 1865, which was reduced to 162 by 1866. Rust College was established in 1866. The headquarters of the military government in 1867 was located in the St. Thomas Hall, a boy's school. In December 1869, the state passed a new constitution by granting black people their right to vote. Mississippi was allowed to return to the union by February 23, 1867

### **1871-1880**

The 1870's were a time of great strife for Holly springs during reconstruction. Hiram Rhodes Revels was the first black senator 1870-1871. Frank B. Coffin author of two books of poems was born in 1871; James Hill a former slave from Holly springs became secretary of state for Mississippi in 1874. The final blow came in 1878 when yellow fever found its way into the city. Since there was no hospital in Holly Springs, citizens and churches took in the ill. There are many stories of the unselfish acts of the citizens to help those sick with the fever who lost their lives in the end. The Walter family men stayed and Harvey died on Wednesday one son dies the next day, and the other two by the end of the week. At the peak of the illness, men thought to be immune were sent to knock on doors and if there was no answer, they went in to remove the bodies. The bodies were coming in so quickly a massive grave was open. And early frost in November stopped the spread of the disease from many citizens had been lost including the father and sisters from the Catholic church.

### **1881- 1890**

Sherwood Bonner died July 22, 1883 in a home in Holly Springs. Due to the inability of the white minority to accept a bi-racial culture a new constitution was drawn to take away voting rights from most black people in 1890. Segregation began within schools busses and many public places. The KKK was organized to terrorize the black people.

### **1891-1900**

Wall Doxey was nobody's fool. Born in Holly Springs Mississippi on August 8, 1892 he earned his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Mississippi. After being admitted to his states bar, in 1914, he opened a law practice in Holly Springs and for the next 15 years served as county prosecutor and then district attorney.

### **1900's**

There are been several movies filmed in Holly Springs, including Heart of Dixie in 1989 and Cookies Fortune in 1998. In 1964 Marshall County population was 28,000 of which 2/3 were African Americans. Farming was the primary occupation and the principle crop was cotton much of the land was owned by white landowners, and rented or sharecropped by black farmers.