



UPPER LEFT: Mrs. Helen Williams Nunn. UPPER RIGHT: Col. David Alexander Nunn. LOWER LEFT: Judge Frank A. Williams. LOWER RIGHT: Mrs. Corinne Nunn Corry.

gade, Green's Cavalry. He fought in the battles of Baton Rouge, Monets Ferry, Mansfield and Pleasant Hill and participated in the Louisiana campaign.

In 1868, he worked on the farm of Wash and Porter Holley, near Pennington, and in 1869 and 1870, he attended Steel's Academy, at Pennington, taught and conducted by the celebrated teacher, Dr. Steele.

In January 1871, he came to Crockett and clerked for Major J. C. Wootters and resided there until his death on December 18th, 1937.

On January 5th, 1876 he married Miss Elizabeth Jones Long, a granddaughter of Col. John Long, a pioneer of Houston County.

He was elected Sheriff of Houston County in 1876 and served for fifteen years, during the greater part of the period his office included the duties of tax collector.

He was elected Representative to the Twenty-Third Legislature.

He is survived by his four children, Mrs. Narcie Crook, Mrs. Blanche Baker, Mrs. Josephine Barnes and his only son, Harvey Bayne.

In his earlier life he was a member of the Baptist Church, but later affiliated with the Presbyterian Church and was made an elder in the Tenney Memorial Church at Crockett, which office he held up to time of his death. His wife preceded him in death by several years.

DOCTOR STEPHEN THOMAS BEASLEY

Doctor Stephen Thomas Beasley was born at LaGrande, Georgia, March 11th 1840, the son of Dr. William Parks Beasley and Louisa Edwards Beasley. He was educated at the University of Georgia and graduated in 1858. He first studied law and taught school for a while. He then entered The Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia in 1859, and was among the seceding students, caused by John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry. He continued his medical education at Augusta, Georgia, then at Atlanta, Georgia, where he delivered the valedictory at his graduation. From there he went to New Orleans and became a private student of Doctors Schopin and Schupert, and was at the same time a student of the New Orleans School of Medicine, graduating in 1861. Immediately afterwards he entered the Confederate Army, as assistant surgeon of the Thirteenth Georgia Regiment, being a commissioned surgeon at 21 years of age. He

was in a campaign in West Virginia with Generals, Floyd, Wise and Lee. On April 1st, 1862, he was wounded at White Marsh Island, near Savannah, Georgia. He afterwards joined his regiment and served until the end of the war.

Doctor Beasley came to Texas in 1865, and settled at Marshall for a year. From there he came to Porter Springs, in Houston County, where he carried on a successful practice. In 1885 the family moved to Crockett, where they resided until his death, December 3rd, 1916. He was married in 1862 to Miss Elizabeth Crook, who died in 1864. In 1867 he married Miss Grace Smith, of Porter Springs, a daughter of Captain John T. Smith. She died in 1872, leaving two children, Ada Louise, now Mrs. W. H. Denny, of Crockett, and Stephen T. Beasley, Jr., of Sealy, Texas. In 1874, he married Miss Kate Smith, of Huntsville, Texas. To this union there were born seven children, including the following: Mrs. John C. Millar, Mrs. G. Q. King, John Gordon Beasley, Sr. generally known as Jack, Miss Nell Beasley, of San Antonio. He was a member of the Methodist Church. He was Mayor of Crockett from 1887 to 1901, and his son Jack served for several terms later. He was County Health Officer for Houston County for several years.

H. W. BEESON

H. W. Beeson lived within three or four miles of Crockett for many years and a great many of his descendants are living in and around Crockett now. Although he had a large family of children, I believe that only three of these are now surviving. From these I have by diligent effort, obtained the information that follows:

He was born October 29, 1812, and died April 15, 1890. His full name was Horeston Wilson Beeson. He came to Texas from Alabama in 1847, and spent the remainder of his life at his farm home about three or four miles South of Crockett, a farm that was later owned and operated by his son-in-law, Bill Austin.

He was twice married and by his first wife, had the following children: Argayle Beeson, Billy Beeson, Walter Beeson, Jehu Beeson, Jennie Beeson, who married G. W. Woodson; Alvis Beeson and Cal Beeson. The last named died near Crockett only a short time ago.

His second wife was a daughter of Dr. W. A. Murchison, who once was a prominent citizen living northwest of Grapeland on Elkhart, near Dailey. His younger children were: Mrs. Willie

Lovell, Mrs. Mack Hale, Mrs. A. M. Langston, Mrs. Anna Austin and Wilse Beeson.

One of his sons, Jehu Beeson, married a daughter of Judge R. N. Read, and lived on the old Read home place on Nevills Prairie, near what is now known as Prairie Point. The author is indebted to Dr. Sam P. Beeson of Weldon for much of this information. One of the remarkable facts in connection with his history is that both of his grandfathers, H. W. Beeson and Judge R. N. Read, were seventh sons. H. W. Beeson is a pioneer whose memory deserves to be perpetuated.

DR. JEHU ARMISTEAD BEESON

Dr. Jehu Armistead Beeson, pioneer doctor of Houston County, son of John and Priscilla Saunders Beeson of Guilford County, North Carolina, came to Texas about 1838 and settled near Crockett, Houston County, two miles north of Hurricane Bayou on the old Palestine, Texas, Road, about five or six miles from Crockett. He practiced medicine in what is now the Murchison Neighborhood and also practiced in the small town of Houston and in its Fort Houston, which was then in operation. He took out his headright grant in what is now Anderson County. He brought with him his mother, a widow, Priscilla Saunders Beeson, whose headright was in Rusk County, four miles north of the town of Henderson, and he also brought his niece Ann Eliza Lindsay, daughter of Jane Beeson, his sister. Ann Eliza married later Wm. Young Lacy of Cherokee County, son of Martin Lacy of Fort Lacy.

From all accounts his brother, Harston W. Beeson, had preceded him by several years, and had settled in Houston County about 1836, bringing with him his wife, Jane Shelley (of Mansfield, La.) and two children, Argyle and John, being one of the very early settlers of the district.

In 1844 Jehu Armistead Beeson went back to North Carolina, Guilford County and married Paulina Catherine Tatum. She was a niece of Richard G. Beeson's wife who lived near Greenboro and owned a tobacco plantation. She was reared by her aunt and uncle and educated at old Salem College, N. C.

Dr. Beeson did not live a year after he was married. He died from pneumonia, the effect of his swimming the Trinity River on a freezing night that froze his clothing. He left one child, Jane Armistead Beeson, who was born about two months after he died, which was on April 30th, 1845.

His widow, Mrs. Pauline Catherine Tatum Beeson, married

Dr. W. G. W. Jowers (another pioneer doctor of Houston County) in Crockett, May 13th, 1846, and soon after they moved to Palestine in the newly created county of Anderson. She died on the 27th day of September, 1862 and is buried in Palestine. Her daughter, Jane Armistead Beeson, grew up in Palestine and married Nathaniel Wyche Hunter, a lawyer of Palestine and the son of a pioneer family, on September 6th, 1865.

WILLIAM V. BERRY

If a man's importance to his community is to be measured by his accomplishments, then W. V. Berry is to be rated as one of the outstanding citizens of Crockett and Houston County in his day. He was born in Louisiana on June 2nd, 1856, and came with his father, Dr. Henry Berry, to Houston County when only sixteen years of age. His father bought and settled on a farm near Dailey, and W. V. Berry worked there for a short time. Before he reached his majority, he was employed by Frank Edens, a merchant of Grapeland, at ten dollars per month and out of this meager salary, he saved enough money to send himself to Soule Commercial College at New Orleans, where he qualified himself for a business life, and returned to Grapeland and worked for B. F. Edens in an important capacity, until he went into business with Major Jas. F. Martin at Grapeland. This continued for a short time, after which he came to Crockett and bought out the Henry Grabenheimer stock of merchandise and went into the mercantile business, which he carried on for many years. On October 16th, 1888 he bought the Walter Coleman Farm about 4 miles southeast of Crockett and began farming operations on a large scale. This farm was later sold to some northern people and is now known as the Stockton Farm or Ranch.

Mr. Berry was instrumental in assembling a large body of land about five miles north of Crockett, at a place on the railroad, then known as Stark's Switch and which is now known as Latexo. He also purchased the old J. J. Woodson Place about three miles south of Crockett which later was known as the Clinton Farm.

In 1890 he purchased the hotel property previously known as the Collins & Douglas store and changed the name to the Pickwick Hotel, and operated the same for many years and as a hotel proprietor was known all over the State of Texas.

He had a unique and varied career. His mother was a devout Catholic and eloped from a convent to marry his father, who

as a physician attended many a case of yellow fever. Mr. Berry as a boy served as altar boy to a Catholic priest in a famous church in New Orleans.

He died in Crockett on the 6th day of September, 1926, and is buried in Glenwood Cemetery. His widow, Mrs. Alice Lively Berry and his children still survive, and his son, Mayes Berry is a prominent business man of Crockett.

JOHN ANDREW BOX

This pioneer is worthy of a place in this county's history, for he was a veteran of San Jacinto, and his name is inscribed in both bronze and marble, for it is listed with the other heroes, in the lofty San Jacinto Monument, and the Centennial Commission of Control has provided him a handsome marble marker at his grave.

He was born in Tennessee on July 2nd, 1803, and died at his home near Crockett on August 2, 1874. He is buried in the old Box-Beeson Cemetery about three miles south of Crockett. The author is proud of the fact that he assisted in locating his grave and in procuring the marker for it. He was a devout Methodist preacher and attended services in the Crockett Methodist Church. He was recognized also as a man of business ability, and when his friend, Col. William B. Stokes, died, he was made administrator of his estate as shown by the Probate Records of this county. He was a member of a large family of pioneers, his brothers being: Rev. Thomas G. Box, Stillwell Box and Nelson Box, all of whom were San Jacinto Veterans. The Box family was a distinguished family of Houston County pioneers.

C. W. BRACKEN

He was commonly known in his day as Charley Bracken. He and his family lived in Crockett for many years. His old home site is now owned by Thomas Self and is situated just east of the old W. B. Wall home. None of his family or descendants now live in Crockett. He belonged to one of the oldest and most prominent families in Houston County. His father was James R. Bracken, who lived and raised his family about 18 miles Northeast of Crockett, on the old San Antonio Road. Willie Holcomb now owns the old Bracken place, and lived there quite a while with his family. The old cedar trees that

stood in the Bracken yard are still there. The creek just beyond this place is still known as Bracken Creek.

The history of the Bracken family would be a good subject for historical treatment by the students of Glover School, for the old home stood almost in sight of where that school is located. James R. Bracken was justice of the peace for the Augusta precinct in an early day. His oldest son, B. M. Bracken, commonly known as Ben Bracken, was a soldier in the war between Mexico and the United States and was a member of Captain John L. Hall's company. He married a daughter of G. W. Wilson, a pioneer, who lived and died on his headright league on which the town of Augusta is situated.

C. W. Bracken was born in Alabama, August 16, 1827, and came to Texas with his father in 1839, and served in both the Mexican War and the Confederate War. He was married to Betty Cummins on Valentine's day, February 14, 1858. They had several children; the oldest, Emma Bracken, born December 8, 1858; Dick Bracken, born October 21, 1866; Estelle Bracken, born August 15, 1871. All of the above were born in Crockett and the youngest, Bert Bracken, was born at Lampasas, August 10, 1879. In 1865 C. W. Bracken was deputy tax collector of Houston County under H. G. McDaniel. In 1875 he was deputy sheriff under J. L. Sheridan. This is just another case of a pioneer family whose history should be perpetuated.

MENDEL BROMBERG

One of the enterprising citizens of Crockett, who deserves to be remembered is Mendel Bromberg, who was born in Meretz, Russia, September 16th, 1844. He spent his boyhood in the City of Bromberg, Poland, (now annexed to Germany). He arrived in the United States in 1860, and lived first in Syracuse, New York. He married January 5th, 1868, and he and his family moved to Crockett in 1873, where he lived until his death on January 12th 1919. During his residence in Crockett, covering a period of 46 years, he was engaged in business and took an active part in the civic affairs of the City and County.

In 1890, when the City of Crockett was re-organized, he was chosen one of the alderman and served faithfully in the establishment of an improved public school system, and was a member of the city council, which also served as trustees of the public schools, and under its direction a splendid new school building was erected, which stands today as the Grammar School building.

He accumulated a large estate and at his death owned many farms besides some very valuable city property.

He was survived at his death by his wife and the following children: Solomon Bromberg, (generally known as Sol) who is still living in Galveston; Mose Bromberg, who has ever been a forward looking citizen of Crockett, and had much to do with its advancement. His real interest in this city may best be illustrated by the fact, that when he was offered the position of manager of the Crockett Chamber of Commerce, at a handsome salary, he declined all compensation and actually served for a considerable period without compensation. Another son of M. Bromberg, was Doctor Perry Bromberg, who attained a very high rank in his profession and died in 1939, while at the height of his brilliant career. His three daughters are Mrs. Lena Klein, long an able teacher in our public schools, Sarah, who is now the wife of Hyman Harrison, of Los Angeles, California, well known business man of Crockett, before his removal to California. Pauline, the wife of Harry Weiss, who still makes her home in Crockett. Altogether Mr. Bromberg was one of the most enterprising citizens that Crockett ever had.

JUDGE JAMES RUSSELL BURNETT

James Russell Burnett was born in Summerville, Georgia, on June 20th, 1843, son of Silas E. and Malinda Howell Burnett. J. R. Burnett arrived at Crockett, Texas in April 1860 (An elder brother, Col. J. H. Burnett, had moved to Houston County, Texas, in 1854). He was at Rondo, Lafayette, County, Arkansas (where an elder brother, E. P. Burnett resided), a short time before the Civil War began. He volunteered as a private in the first company that was organized in Lafayette County, known as the "La-Fayette Guards" and commanded by Capt. Sam H. Dill who had served in Jefferson Davis' regiment in the Mexican War. He was elected second-lieutenant of his company. The venerable and gallant Capt. Dill was killed in the Battle of Shiloh and J. R. Burnett was unanimously elected captain to succeed him.

In August 1862 Capt. Burnett was compelled, on account of disability contracted in the service, to resign. Recovering, he again entered the service as adjutant of the 13th Texas Cavalry, organized by his brother, Col. J. H. Burnett and which had been made an infantry regiment. In the latter part of 1863 he was again compelled by disability to resign.

He returned to Lafayette County, Arkansas, where in 1864 he was married to Miss Mollie McCollum, daughter of Hon.

A. M. McCollum. Her brothers were confederate comrades of his. They moved to Crockett, Texas, where, in 1864, he established the Crockett Quid Nunc and published it until after the close of the war. In the meantime he read law in the office of Judge Wm. M. Taylor. At the first term of the district court held at Crockett after the War, September, 1865, he was admitted to the bar and was associated in the practice with Judge Taylor.

In 1868 he was elected a delegate with Gen. A. T. Monroe, to the Constitutional Convention held at Washington, D. C. and was a member of the judiciary committee. He moved to Huntsville, Walker County in 1870. In August, 1870 he became judge of the 30th district embracing Walker, Grimes, Madison and San Jacinto counties, and served six years. He was elected state senator in 1878 from these counties and among other bills that he introduced was the one establishing the Sam Houston Normal Institute at Huntsville, Texas. This was the first normal college in the State. Judge Burnett returned to Crockett in 1880 where Mrs. Burnett died on September 4th, 1881, leaving four daughters and one son.

The family moved to Galveston in 1883. In 1888 Judge Burnett was appointed attorney for the I & G N Railway Company at Palestine and held this position until receivers were appointed for the company. He was elected district judge of Anderson, Houston and Henderson counties in 1894 to fill the unexpired term of Judge W. Q. Reeves, deceased. After the expiration of the term, December 1896, he removed to Galveston. In July 1889 when the bankruptcy law went into effect, he was appointed referee in bankruptcy for the Houston and Galveston Division. He held this position until 1904. Early in 1900 he moved to Houston, Texas. In 1907 he was appointed Special Master in Chancery for the Kirby Lumber Company which was in the hands of receivers until 1909.

In June 1903 Judge Burnett and family moved to Kerrville, Texas, a change to a higher climate being necessary on account of ill health in the family, but he retained his office in Houston until the close of the receivership of the Kirby Lumber Company.

He organized the First State Bank at Kerrville in 1905 with which he was actively connected, most of the time being its president.

Judge Burnett died at Kerrville on April 30th, 1907. Two of his daughters had died previously at Kerrville. The two younger daughters still reside there. The son, Judge McCollum Burnett, resides in San Antonio where he has been County Judge of Court-at-Law No. 1, Bexar County, for twenty years.

DANIEL M. COLEMAN

The subject of this sketch was born in Perry County, Alabama, on the 23rd day of August, 1818 and came to Texas with his mother, Nancy Dean Coleman in 1851, and settled on a plantation, about 4 miles southeast of Crockett on the Crockett and Sumpter (now Pennington) Road, which became known as the Coleman Plantation, and now known as the Stockton Farm or Ranch. His brothers, Frank and Lawrence, with their mother, settled in Anderson County and his brother, Nat Coleman, settled on a plantation in Henderson County, near Athens.

About 1858 or 1859 Mr. Coleman, then and ever after, known as "Uncle Dan" bought the house of A. T. Monroe in Crockett and lived there until 1880, when he sold the same to Oliver C. Aldrich, and moved to Henderson County and lived with the family of his brother, Nat Coleman, until his death on February 6th, 1895.

Before and during the Civil War, he was a planter on a large scale, and before his slaves were freed, he was very prosperous, and was surrounded by every luxury. Before coming to Texas, he married Louisa Matlock, and they had a large family of children, several of whom died while they lived in the country, and only three of them lived in the Crockett home. The oldest of these was Cornelia, who married Captain Albert Alford, who first moved to Galveston, and moved from there to Rice, Texas, and later to Wills Point, Texas. The second daughter, Josephine, married Gus Aldrich, and she died at the home of her uncle, Nat Coleman, near Athens. The third child, Walter Coleman, sold the Coleman plantation to W. V. Berry and moved to Houston, where he enlisted as a soldier in the Spanish American War, in 1898. Later he lost his health and entered the Veterans' Hospital in Kansas, where he died about ten years ago.

Many of the older people of Crockett will remember "Uncle Dan," when he lived in his old home in Crockett, and grew flowers, because he loved them, and spent his time in friendly greetings to his neighbors and friends, and delighted in making others happy. He was truly an apostle of sunshine.

JAMES COLLINS

James Collins was born in Ireland May 29th 1834, being the oldest of a large family of children. He came to the United States when only 12 years of age and lived in Philadelphia for seven years. He came to Crockett about the year 1854 and was asso-