

Miss Nell Daniel, who married Max Hardy and Miss Carol Faye Daniel, who married Harvey Doran Oatman.

Another daughter of James M. Daniel was Augusta Daniel, who married H. F. Craddock. She is now dead and left the following children: Frank Craddock, Dan P. Craddock, Ike Craddock. The above sketch of James M. Daniel, a pioneer, shows how closely the past history of Crockett is connected with the present.

### BRADFORD DAVIS

A pioneer, who met a tragic death, at the hands of Indians, came to Texas in 1839 from Jefferson County, Mississippi and settled upon a tract of land near what is now known as Ash, in Houston County. He owned two farms in Mississippi and about one hundred negro slaves, but brought only 22 with him to Texas. The story of his death is briefly this: He and his friend, Joel F. Leathers, were not only farmers, but bee hunters. They had baited the bees with some honey placed on a pole. Early one morning as they visited the bait, Leathers discovered that the Indians had been there and told Davis to run for his life. Leathers mounted his horse and made his escape. Davis not acting so rapidly was too slow and the Indians killed him. He sleeps in an unknown grave on Mustang Prairie. He left three children: John A. Davis, Bradford Davis, Jr. and James Franklin Davis. The oldest son, John A. Davis attended school in Crockett, and after the death of his father, Judge A. E. Gossett became his guardian and he lived in his home for a time. John A. Davis, son of Bradford Davis, at his death left six children, one being John A. Davis, Jr., who was Justice of the Peace at Grapeland for many years, but is now dead. A son, Ed W. Davis, still lives in Grapeland and is a patriarch himself, with children and grandchildren gathering at his home frequently. The Davis Family had an important part in the development of Houston County.

### COLONEL W. W. DAVIS

Colonel W. W. Davis was a native son of Houston County, born of pioneer parents, his father, Wm. P. Davis, coming from Mississippi to Texas in 1828, and his mother, Elizabeth Davis, was a native of Tennessee. Colonel Davis was born in Houston County near the present town of Weches, on what was known

as the old Davis place, on March 15, 1831. He was an only son and the youngest of four children. His parents died when he was quite young and his three sisters were reared by their maternal grandmother. It is a part of the family history that his oldest sister was to have been married to the famous Jim Bowie, but she died before the marriage was consummated.

Colonel Davis was married to Lucy Margaret Penick on August 25, 1850, when he was only 19 years of age. The Penick family were also Houston County pioneers and came to Houston County from Missouri. He spent his entire life in Houston County, where he was born.

He was a capable business man and when a young man he was a partner with William McLean in a mercantile business at Augusta, which continued for many years. After coming from Augusta to Crockett he also engaged in the mercantile business for many years.

He was a man of unusual intelligence and ability and represented Houston County in the Legislature. He died on June 22, 1910, and left surviving him a son, John Davis, a daughter, Miss Betty Davis, still living in Crockett, and Mrs. Alice Long, who resides in Tennessee, being the wife of a prominent business man, and statesman, who represented his district in the Tennessee Legislature. His son, Wm. A. Davis, who preceded him in death, was one of the outstanding lawyers of the Crockett bar, and held the offices of County Attorney and County Judge before his death. Colonel Davis was noted for his amiable qualities. His memory will be revered in Houston County for generations to come.

### MISS ADINA De ZAVALA

Miss Adina De Zavala, research historian, was born at De Zavala's Point, Harris County, Texas. She was the daughter of Augustine and Julia (Tyrell) De Zavala and granddaughter of Lorenzo De Zavala, vice-president of the Republic of Texas.

She attended Ursuline Academy at Galveston, Texas; Sam Houston State Teachers College; and studied music in Chilli-cothe, Mo. She was the founder and president of the Daughters and Sons of the Heroes of the Republic of Texas; member of the Descendants of Signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence; Scientific Society, San Antonio; Texas State Historical Association (fellow and councillor) United Daughters of the

Confederacy; Witte Museum Art League.

She is the author of History and Legends of the Alamo and other Missions of San Antonio, as well as of various historical and biographical sketches, and edited collation of Kingsborough's Antiquities of Mexico. Her hobbies are perpetuation of Texas liberty, writing, travel. She is a member of Catholic Church and lives at 141 Taylor Street, San Antonio, Texas.

While she never resided in Houston County, she is entitled to a place in this history on account of her interest and activities in connection with the location of the site of Missions San Francisco and Santissimo Nombre de Maria, and of having obtained through the Historical and Landmarks Association the imposing markers that mark the sites of these missions.

### WILLIAM DICKERSON

This pioneer was born in 1796 and came to Houston County some time prior to January 11th 1841, for on that date he purchased the place on which he established his home and on which he lived until his death on October 7th, 1861. He owned a number of slaves and opened and cultivated a large plantation about two miles northeast of Crockett on the old Crockett and Rusk road. That place has gone by the name of the Old Dickerson Place ever since, and has been one of the landmarks of the County.

He brought some of his children with him when he came to Houston County, for his oldest daughter, Mary Jane, married John McConnell as early as 1851, for during that year the old day book of Thomas P. Collins shows that items were purchased by the wife of John McConnell.

When he died he left surviving him his widow, Jane, who lived only one week longer and died on October 14th, 1861. He also left surviving him six children, Mary Jane McConnell, wife of John McConnell; Elizabeth, who first married Burton Clark, and after his death she married W. E. Mayes; Susan, who married Salathiel Robert; his sons were John H. Dickerson, Van G. Dickerson and Charles Martin Dickerson, all of whom are now dead.

He still has many descendents living in Crockett and Mineral Wells, including the children of William V. McConnell, who are conducting the McConnell Dry Goods Company, and the children of John McConnell, for many years, a leading merchant of Crockett, and the children of Elizabeth Rice, who married Joe Rice.

Mrs. Jennie Sample, a granddaughter of William Dickerson, and a daughter of John H. Dickerson, still resides in Crockett.

### COLONEL GEORGE ENGLISH

Col. George English was born in Tennessee in 1808 and came to Texas in 1830 and settled in what is now Shelby County. On November 29, 1835, he was appointed First Lieutenant of Infantry of the general council of the provisional government of Texas. He commanded a company at the storming and capture of Bexar, on December 5 to 10, 1835, and for his service, he, on January 27, 1840, was issued Donation Certificate No. 1006 for 640 acres of land. At the same time he received Bounty Certificate No. 730 for 320 acres of land for having served in the army for a period of three months. On May 31, 1837, President Houston appointed him captain of a company of mounted gunmen for duty in Shelby County. He commanded a company of volunteers in 1839, and was at the same time president of the Board of Land Commissioners of Shelby County.

Captain English was lieutenant in Captain A. M. Truitt's Company in the Monterrey campaign in the Mexican War."

The name of Col. George English was already been recorded in history. In the history written by Dr. George L. Crockett, called Two Centuries in East Texas, the name and achievements of this hero are mentioned on several occasions. On page 84 of said history, the following statement is made:

"Neighbors of Jonas Harrison were the English brothers, one of whom, George English, was the first sheriff of the district in 1827, and was also first sheriff of San Augustine County under the Republic of Texas."

After having acquitted himself so bravely during the War of Texas Independence in 1836, and the Mexican War of 1846, this patriotic pioneer was ready for the third war and enlisted in the Confederate service and fought in the Civil War of 1861 to 1865. At that time he had long been a citizen of Houston County, having removed to Houston County from San Augustine County at an early day and spent his later years in this county. After the death of his uncle, Arch H. English, he took care of his children and widow, the children being Miranda English, who later married E. E. Barlow and died in Houston County only a short time ago. Another daughter of Arch English was Miss Lizzie English, who also died in Crockett not many years ago. A third child of Arch English is Elisha English, who

recently died near Trinity, and was present at the family reunion held on September 1st, 1940. Colonel George English was a second father to these nieces and nephews, and Elisha spoke in the most loving terms of his noble qualities and goodness to his kindred.

He died in Houston County and was buried in the old English cemetery, about 11 miles East of Crockett, located on the old James English homestead tract of land, and the author was instrumental in securing a monument for his grave and in locating the same where a splendid marker now stands, showing the last resting place of this patriotic Texan. It is a shrine worthy of a pilgrimage by the present generation, who delight to honor the noble and the good.

### CAPTAIN JOHN ENGLISH

The following sketch of Captain John English was furnished the author by Mrs. John E. Wright of San Antonio, who is a granddaughter of Captain John English.

"English, John—Born in Virginia, July 5, 1793, and came to Texas about 1825. In 1833 he was a delegate to the second convention of Texas, held in San Felipe. The following account of Captain English's life was written at his death by W. P. Sansom and published in a newspaper. It was pasted in a scrapbook by his daughter, Mrs. S. P. Tucker:

"Died at his residence in Houston County on Wednesday evening, December 30, 1868, at 4 o'clock P. M., Captain John English.' For several years Captain English has been laboring under a chronic disease by which he was greatly reduced. On Saturday night previous to his death he was attacked with acute pneumonia, which terminated fatally, after severe suffering, on Wednesday following. The subject of his life notice was one of the oldest living Texans. He was born at English's Ferry on New River, Virginia, on the 5th of July, 1793, his parents emigrating to North Carolina, thence to Tennessee, where he was married to Miss Elizabeth Choate in 1824, and immediately moved to Texas. In 1815 Captain English was a soldier under General Jackson and was captured by the enemy a few days before the memorable 8th day of January and was detained a prisoner for several weeks. In Texas he was a participant in all her early troubles. He was a member of congress of the Republic and always took deep interest in everything that concerned Texas or her welfare. No man excelled him in patriotism, in kindly feel-

ing for his fellow men and in genuine social hospitality. His good qualities always shown out, his gentleness of heart, his disposition to hide or extenuate the faults of others. His accurate knowledge of the early history of Texas made his company very entertaining in the last years of his life, when the present was all forgetfulness, the past ever present in his mind. He bore a painful sickness without complaint and died at the advanced age of 75 years, 5 months and 25 days, surrounded by children, grandchildren and friends at peace with all men."

The following clipping from "The Sentinel" published Tuesday, January 5, 1868, in Crockett, was also found in Mrs. Tucker's scrap book:

"An Old Texan Gone, Last Wednesday Captain John English, an old Texan, valuable citizen, a good man and a survivor of the Texas revolution, departed this life at his residence 12 miles east of Crockett. Captain English was an old man and had for the past year been in feeble health. His last illness which culminated in his death, only lasted a few days. The announcement of his death carries sorrow to man."

Mrs. English was born in Tennessee, January 5, 1807, and died July 30, 1857. She was buried in what is now known as the Hicks cemetery, ten miles east of Crockett, Houston County. At his death, Captain English's remains were placed beside those of his wife. The State of Texas erected a joint monument at their graves in 1937.

Children of Captain and Mrs. English were Captain John C. English of the Confederate Army, who first married Jane Stuart of Crockett and after her death, Emma Day of Austin; Elvira Jane, who married Thornton Hollis; Eliza, who first married Dr. Dozier, and after his death, Baylor Owens; Irene, who married Thomas Hicks; Evlyne, who married Dr. Edward Curie; Willie, who married Robert Beavers; Elizabeth, who married Seth P. Tucker; Rufus English, who married Maggie Calhoun, and James Denton English, who married Ella Beavers.

Emma English, a daughter of James English, married Barker Tunstall, but is dead and is survived by her husband, Barker Tunstall, and the following children: Erin Carnes, Vicory Durst; Beth LaBat; Elvira Bennett; Dolly Porter; Rebecca Orchard; Eugenia Francis; Barker Tunstall, Jr.; Thomas James Tunstall and Bobby Ray Tunstall.

There are other descendants of Captain John English living in other parts of Texas.

## THE GOSSETT FAMILY

The only surviving child of Andrew Edwards Gossett, Mrs. Josie Gossett Newton, of Galveston, has furnished such a complete history of the lives and families of her grandfather, Elijah Gossett and her father, Andrew Edwards Gossett, and their families that I have adopted the same for this history, as follows:

"My paternal grandfather, Elijah Gossett, was born on Rutherford Creek, Tenn. (I do not know County) Feb. 1st, 1788. He was married to Elisabeth Stone Edwards, who was born in Tenn. Sept. 1st, 1789. (Her mother was a Miss Lackridge). They reared a family of ten children, moved from Tenn. (date unknown) to Ill. where they lived for a short time (the city of Cairo, Ill. was later located upon his farm, so I have been told). They returned to Tenn. and in 1833, accompanied by his entire family, moved to Texas.

"They traveled with a large party, as was necessary in those days because of danger from marauding Indians, wild beasts, etc. They were more than 2 months en route, were camped on 'Grand Prairie' Ark. when the 'Stars' fell. I do not know what became of others of the party, but 'The Gossetts' settled in what was later to become Houston County, but was then a part of Nacogdoches County (and of course, all belonging to Mexico). Elijah selected a site for his home, on the Hurricane Bayou five miles Northwest of present town of Crockett, and lived there until 1837. He and his three oldest sons, namely, James Lackridge, Andrew Edwards (my father) and John Van Dyke, served in the 'Texas Revolution' for its entire duration as Volunteers under Capt. William Spurlock, Brigadier General Thomas J. Rusk, commanding. After Texas became a Republic they all four joined Capt. Elisha Clapps Company of 'Texas Rangers,' and served on the frontier. (These facts were furnished me by Miss Harriet Smither, Archivist of the Texas Library in the Capitol Bldg. Austin.) She also gave me copies of their Discharge Papers.) All rec'd Bounty Warrants for 320 acres of land for their military service. (Some of this information was copied from Comptrollers Military Service Records, Numbers 4909 and 4911. Some from Pension Papers, Archives.) They also rec'd Land Grants from the Mexican Government as Settlers.

"My grandfather, Elijah Gossett was elected Chief Justice (County Judge) in 1841 and he was one of the eleven trustees appointed for Trinity College, which was first established at Alabama in Houston County by the Senate and House of Rep-

representatives of the Republic of Texas in Congress assembled Jan. 30th, 1841. The act was signed by David S. Kaufman, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Anson Jones, President Pro Tem of the Senate, approved Jan. 30th, 1841, signed David G. Burnet. (Volume 2, Page 146, *Gammel's Laws of Texas.*)

"Elijah Gossett made a business trip to Van Zandt Co. where he owned land in Nov. 1848, became ill and died there Nov. 24th, 1848. His body was conveyed to Crockett in an ox wagon and he was buried in the first old cemetery there, as was his wife who died the following year, July 6th, 1849. In 1937 the Centennial Commission placed a beautiful marker at their graves.

"My father, A. E. Gossett, built his first little log cabin home at top of the hill North of the present Town of Crockett, where the Mary Allen Seminary, Negro college is now located; he chose that site because of the convenient spring at foot of the hill. (The Barbee pond). His nearest white neighbor was his father, five miles away; when he needed a pound of coffee or other supplies, he rode his Indian pony 63 miles over a rough dim trail to Nacogdoches, the nearest trading post. It was a hard day's journey, and necessitated his absence from home one night each time he made the trip. His wife and little children were thus left alone but friendly Indian squaws would go to her home and sit with her for company, though they were unable to converse, as neither could speak the other's language.

"My father built the house now standing  $1\frac{3}{4}$  miles East of Crockett and still referred to as 'The old Gossett Place' in the spring of 1837. It is said to be the first weather-boarded house built in the Republic of Texas. The house is still in a good state of preservation and is occupied as a home. (The present owner has repaired and painted it). My father, however, didn't occupy his new home until 1848, because his parents were victims of malaria whilst living on the Bayou. He moved them to his new home where they remained until their deaths in 1848 and 1849.

"Houston County was created from a part of Nacogdoches County on June 8th, 1837 and organized the same year. Crockett was incorporated Dec. 29th, 1837. My father, A. E. Gossett, donated the site for the town and because of this gift, he and his father were given the privilege of naming both county and town. In as much as both had served under General Sam Houston, hero of San Jacinto, they decided upon the name of Houston for the county, and, as David Crockett, Elijah's boyhood

friend and neighbor in Tennessee saw and recognized Elijah as he passed through the village on his ill-fated journey to San Antonio where he met a tragic death but a few weeks later, Elijah suggested that the town be named 'Crockett,' which was done. (David Crockett spent the night with his old friend en route to San Antonio, but I do not know the date.)

"Andrew Edwards Gossett was born July 19th, 1812, in Maury County, Tennessee; married Rhoda E. Mulder, daughter of Koder and Rhoda Mulder, who was born in Halifax, N. C. Jan. 14th, 1812, and died at her home in Crockett, April 14th, 1853. They were married Dec. 27th, 1831 in Tennessee and were the parents of nine children.

"A. E. Gossett and Mary Margaret Murchison were married Jan. 22nd, 1857. She was the daughter of Simon Murchison, and Elisabeth Daily Ross, and was born in McNary County, Tennessee. Feb. 17th, 1832 and died Dec. 20th, 1904, age 72 years. Their children were: Andrew Edwards Simon (Tony) born Aug. 4th, 1858, died April 28th, 1928, age 69 years, 8 months, 24 days; and Margaret Josephine, born Dec. 22nd, 1862."

#### EDWARD ALEXANDER GAUSE

Edward Alexander Gause, was born August 8th, 1819 in Mobile, Alabama, of Welch and Scotch-Irish parentage. He graduated from a college in Ohio, where he had as his friend, the distinguished James A. Garfield, who later became President of the United States. It was through the influence of this eminent statesman that Mr. Gause was appointed Postmaster at Crockett on October 16th, 1879. He was married to Miss Catherine Neal Hall, a granddaughter of Huguenot refugees. Mrs. Gause was born in Wilmington, North Carolina, and died in Crockett on October 16th, 1883, being the 23rd anniversary of her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Gause came to Crockett soon after the Civil War and he and his sister, Mrs. McCall, engaged in teaching school. At that time Crockett was noted for the unruly character of some of its older students, and they had hitherto fought and intimidated the teachers. In Mr. Gause they met their match. He was fearless and resolved not to be overrun by any of his students, however large physically. When it became necessary to punish one of these bullies, he brought his revolver to school and laid it on his desk. While his sister held the gun he thrashed

the disobedient student and thereafter had no trouble in school.

He established a newspaper at Crockett, **THE CROCKETT PATRON**, and conducted it for several years. While thus engaged, he was associated for a time with R. M. Johnson, who moved to Houston and became prominent in newspaper work.

He was a devout Christian, an enterprising citizen, and a kind and devoted husband and father.

He was survived by three daughters: Mrs. Anna Gause Phillips, Mrs. Johnnie Dawes, and Mrs. Flora Gause Murchison.

#### JAMES H. GILLESPIE

Just when or where this pioneer was born the author has no information, but he was living in Crockett as early as 1841, as shown by records. They show that at that time he was serving as deputy County Clerk of Houston County, under C. H. Nelson, the second County Clerk of the county. In 1846 he succeeded C. H. Nelson as County Clerk and continued to hold that office until 1858, when he was succeeded by Oliver C. Aldrich.

He died in Houston County and William Wortham was appointed Temporary Administrator of his estate on January 29th, 1861.

He was a close friend of the family of Daniel Murchison and frequently paid his attentions to his daughter, Angeline, who later married H. F. Craddock.

An interesting bit of history connected with him is the fact that he followed the gold rush to California in an early day, and brought back with him a gold nugget, from which a ring was made that is now owned by Miss Minnie Craddock.

The deed Records of Houston County attest the fact, that during his more than ten years of tenure of the office of County Clerk, he wrote a good hand, took numberless acknowledgements to deeds and other instruments and recorded them in long hand. He seems to have died a bachelor as no relative is mentioned in the administration proceedings of his estate.

#### JAMES MADISON HALL

This pioneer was the son of Joshua J. Hall and was born February 22nd, 1819, probably in Maryland. He came with his father to Houston County as early as July 1st, 1839, for at that time he made out a deed to a large tract of land in Houston