

County, which shows that he was living in the County then.

He married Cornelia A. Bracken, a daughter of James R. Bracken, as early as 1851, for during that year Ben M. Bracken, a brother of Cornelia, conveyed to her certain slaves as shown by a bill of sale still in existence.

He was elected District Clerk of Houston County in 1847 and held the office until 1857, when he was succeeded by Isaac Adair. He was the second District Clerk of the County, his predecessors having been L. E. Downes.

About 1858 he and his first wife were divorced and he later married his stepsister, a daughter of his Stepmother, Mahala Hall, with whom he lived until his death November 12th, 1866.

The most unfortunate experience in his whole career was when, in a fit of anger, he killed his friend, Isaac Peacock, who had assisted John McLemore in eloping with his daughter, Margaret. He was acquitted of the charge of murder for this killing.

He deserves to be remembered for having kept one of the most complete diaries that the author has ever seen. It covers the entire period of the Civil War, from 1861 to 1866. In this he has preserved some valuable history of that trying period.

CAPTAIN JOHN L. HALL

Captain John L. Hall was born on October 25th, 1809, and came to Texas in the days of the Republic. He was here as early as July 1st, 1839 and probably earlier. On that date he conveyed, as agent of his kinsman, Joshua J. Hall, 23, 654 acres of the Roman de la Garza Grant to James Madison Hall, a son of Joshua J. Hall. On February 28th, 1844, he purchased from Jesse Walling, a San Jacinto veteran, 76 acres of the A. E. Gossett Headright Survey and probably made his first home in Crockett there. Soon afterwards he raised a company of volunteers for service in the Mexican War, and the muster roll of this company shows that it was a part of the Second Regiment, Texas Brigade of Texas Mounted Volunteers Riflemen Militia, commanded by Col. George T. Woods, and ordered into service of the United States by the Governor of Texas from June 9th, 1846 to December 19th, 1846.

The names of the subordinate officers in Captain Hall's company were: George English, first lieutenant; Wilbur B. Young, second lieutenant; Selden L. B. Jasper, first sergeant; Samuel A. Burton, second sergeant; John A. Moncrief, third sergeant; John P. Saunders, fourth sergeant; Robert C. Dickson,

first corporal; Thomas Hays, second corporal; Joseph Burnam, third corporal and George B. Lacy, fourth corporal.

On April 15th, 1849, he purchased from John I. Burton Lot No. 80 in Crockett on which his Hotel was afterwards located. This lot is now owned by Davy Crockett Chapter, Knights of Pythias and on which their castle hall is situated. This hotel, known far and wide as Hall's Hotel, was destroyed by fire in 1871.

John L. Hall was a prominent Mason and was buried with Masonic honors at his death on August 25th, 1857. He was survived by his widow, Mrs. L. L. Hall, a daughter of John I. Burton, and his two daughters, Mrs. Nancy Wortham and Mrs. Margaret Barbee, and two sons, Dr. John L. Hall and W. A. Hall. All are now dead, but his grandson, Bunk Barbee, is still living, and his great-grandson, Jack Barbee and great-granddaughter, Mrs. Charlie Neel, are still living in Crockett.

JOSHUA J. HALL AND MAHALA L. HALL

Just when Joshua J. Hall, left his Maryland home for Texas, is not known, but as early as July first, 1839 the records show that he was the owner of more than twenty-three thousand acres of land, on which he located his home and on which he lived up to the time of his death. The author has no information as to who was his first wife and the mother of his oldest son, James Madison Hall. It is known that he later married the widow, Mahala L. Sharp, the daughter of Elisha Roberts, a pioneer citizen of San Augustine County. Soon after reaching Houston County, he established a warehouse and business at a point on the bank of Trinity River, near his home, which has ever since been known as Hall's Bluff. Before the advent of the railroad to Crockett, Hall's Bluff was quite a business place where cotton was shipped to market on steamboats that plied the river to and from Galveston. The business of hauling cotton to that point, and goods from that point, to Crockett merchants, was a regular trade before the coming of the railroad.

He was the owner of several slaves and improved a large plantation on his large tract of land. He was fond of amusement and made frequent trips to Crockett to attend balls and other festivities. He was fond of the dance. All of this appears from his diary, which he kept from 1848 to 1854. He may have kept diaries covering other periods, but this is the only one that has come to the attention of the author. Besides his son, James Madison, by his first marriage, he had a daughter, Roberta,

and a son, Horace, by his second marriage. This diary is worth far more than its weight in gold. The author is indebted to his grandson, Jim Hall, of Groveton, for a copy of this wonderful diary.

THE HALLMARK FAMILY

The progenitor of the Hallmark family in Houston County was George Hallmark, who lived on Mustang Prairie, and for whom a small creek is named. He was a prominent man in his day and accumulated a large estate during his lifetime. He made his will on August 16, 1848, which was probated in the County Court on October 25, 1852, and same was recorded in Book "I," of the deed records of Houston County, Texas. His estate was appraised at \$17,000. In this will he bequeathed to his three youngest children, Richard M. Hallmark, Ephriam L. B. Hallmark and Alexander C. Hallmark, three negroes, named Solomon, Charity and Little Tom, stating that Little Tom was the youngest negro that he owned, and provided in said will that said negroes should work for the use, benefit and support of said three children until they shall be of age, or the youngest one marries, at which time they shall be equally divided among them. Just how this could be accomplished, the will does not undertake to provide. The rest of his estate is bequeathed to his children, Polly Box, William C. Hallmark, George W. Hallmark, Lee Anna Rosser, John B. Hallmark, James M. Hallmark, Alfred Hallmark, Aveline Hallmark, Stidham, Matthew D. T. Hallmark, together with Stillwell Box's six children, who, out of their part, shall put in \$640, which, if they do, shall be entitled to an equal share of the property, together with seven negroes, Peggy, Big Tom, Harriett, Charles, Simion, Elizabeth and July. This same George Hallmark, in 1843, was postmaster at Mustang Prairie.

The William C. Hallmark, mentioned in said will, was a San Jacinto veteran and the Centennial Commission erected a marker at his grave, in the old Bynum graveyard near Shiloh. He also left a will, one item of which read as follows:

"I give and bequeath to Shiloh church, three acres of land, including the house of worship."

Some of these sons of George Hallmark deserve separate mention.

In addition to the above mentioned William C. Hallmark, his brother, Alfred Hallmark was also a veteran of San Jacinto, and his name appears in the report of the Centennial Commis-

sion of Control and both names are engraved on the tablet of the San Jacinto Monument. Alfred and William C. Hallmark are simply listed among the veterans of San Jacinto. The inscription on the marker at the grave of William C. Hallmark reads as follows:—

"WILLIAM CALVERT HALLMARK

A veteran of San Jacinto. Born
in Tennessee, May 20, 1804.

Died January 26, 1880."

(Cemetery, 10 miles S. W. Crockett)

JUDGE JAMES T. HEFLIN

The following autobiography of Judge Heflin was written by himself:

"I, J. T. Heflin, was born August 19, 1816, in Smith County, middle Tennessee. My family moved to North Alabama, Lawrence County in 1821, and settled one and one half miles from Moultain, the county seat. My father died soon after settling here.

"I moved to Texas in the fall of 1846 and settled in Crockett, Houston County and with four others and my wife, organized the present Baptist Church.

"I was elected justice of the peace in 1848 and in 1850 was elected sheriff of the county. I refused to serve a second term as sheriff. I then was elected justice of the peace a second time by salutation of the precinct and in 1860 I was elected county judge. In 1861 I joined the confederate service and was elected captain of Company "E" of Gould's Battalion and at Camp McCollough was taken sick and had to resign.

"After I was able to attend to business I was appointed confederate assessor of Houston County and served as such to the close of the war. In 1867 I was again elected sheriff of Houston County. In May 1886, I moved from Houston County to Travis County."

In later life Judge Heflin moved from Crockett to Austin, where his sons, Frank and James lived, and resided there until death at the age of 84 years, six months and five days.

His oldest son, Frank, had moved to Austin, where he married and lived until his death. His younger son, James R. G. Hef-

lin, also moved to Austin and lived there until his death. His oldest daughter, Emma, married a man by the name of Heath and moved away from Crockett and died elsewhere. Another daughter, Letitia, was adopted into the family of Dr. J. J. Woodson and lived many years in Crockett. Another daughter, Della, married Charles Ellis and is still living in Crockett. Another daughter, Mrs. T. J. Gossett, lives in Topeka, Kansas. A son, Mordeau, is still living at Panhandle, Texas.

In 1846, Judge Heflin organized the Baptist Church in Crockett, with six members, consisting of himself, his wife and four others, whose names are not known. He has a granddaughter, Mrs. Alta Heflin Wilder, still living in Austin and has a position in the Registrar's office of the University of Texas. Judge Heflin left his impress on Houston County.

DR. JAMES HUNTER

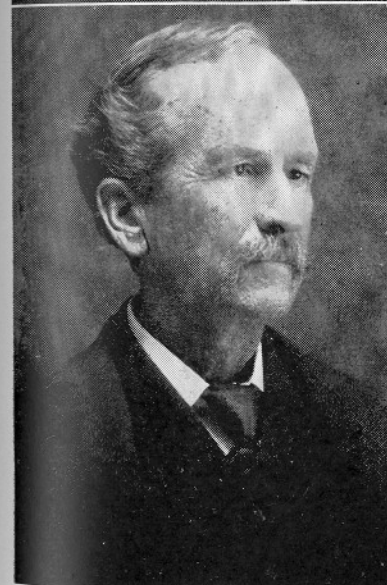
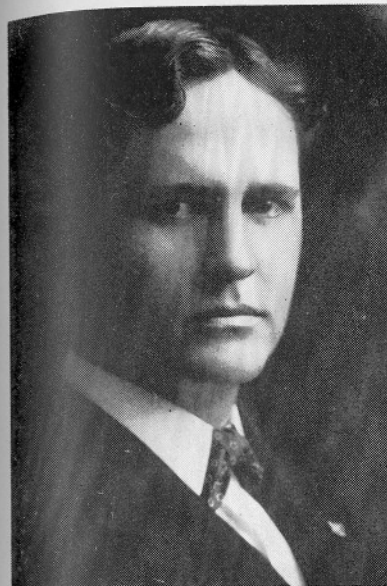
Dr. James Hunter, a pioneer doctor of Houston County, was born in the State of Georgia on April 23rd, 1812, and came to Texas with the retinue of General Nathaniel Smith in the winter of 1839. Dr. Hunter belonged to the Virginia (Fredericksburg) Family of Hunter, coming from William Hunter of Duns, Scotland, who married Martha Taliaferro in Spotsylvania County in 1744 by his son James (R. M. T.) Hunter of Virginia of Confederate fame, came from the other son, William Hunter.

He brought with him, his wife, Mary, daughter of General Smith, and two sons, Malcolm Kenmore Hunter and Nathaniel Wyche Hunter, the latter being only six weeks old when they started to Texas. They arrived at Fort Houston, then Houston County.

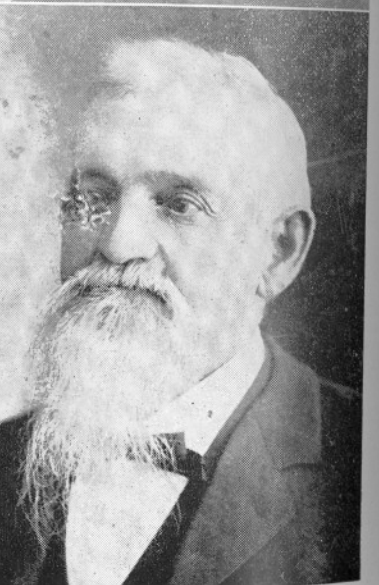
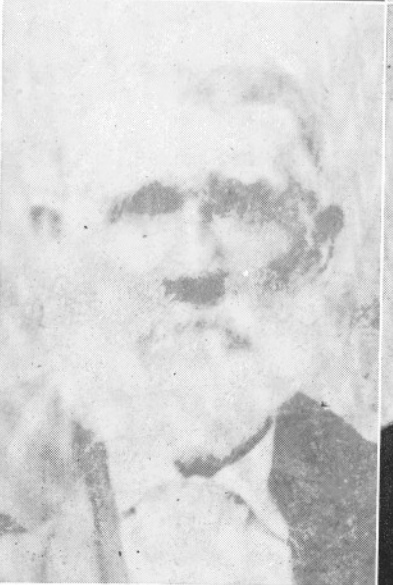
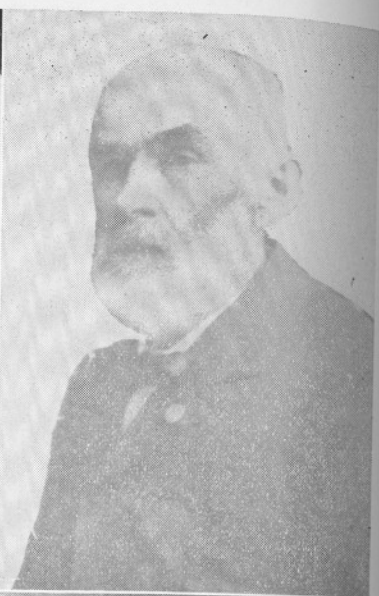
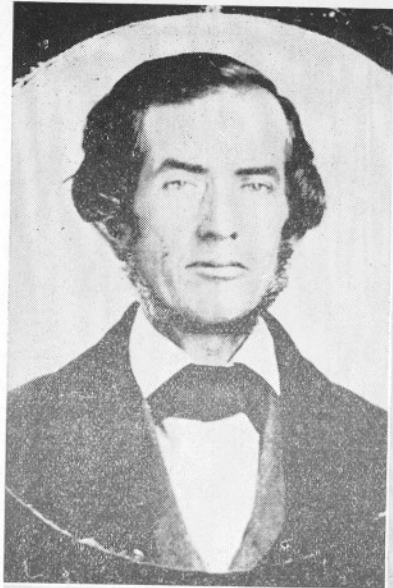
Dr. Hunter was the son of Archibald Russell Spence Hunter, and Elizabeth Wyche Lucas Hunter of Georgia. He was sent to school to study medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and his brother Nathaniel Wyche, went to West Point Military Academy the same year, 1831.

He was married to Mary M. Smith, daughter of General Nathaniel Smith of Athens, Tennessee on May 31st, 1836 in Athens.

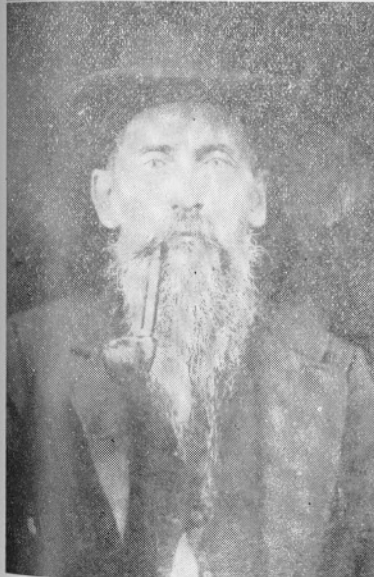
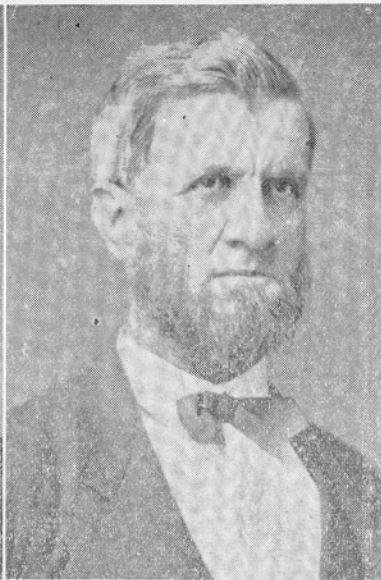
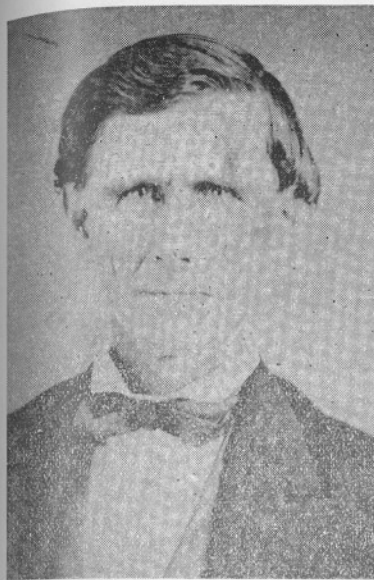
In February 1837 he was appointed physician to the Cherokee Indians of East Tennessee. When they arrived in Fort Houston there were a number of families living in and around the Fort. The times were so troublous that sentinels were stationed to guard the Fort and women stood at the guns while the men



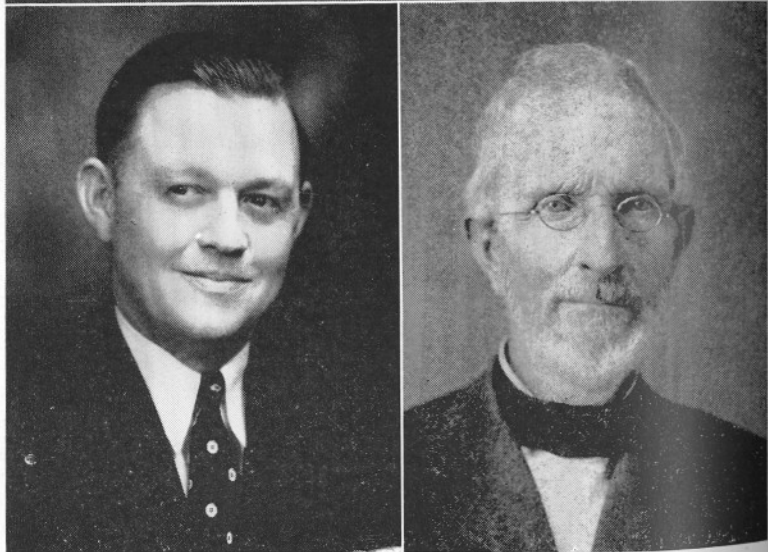
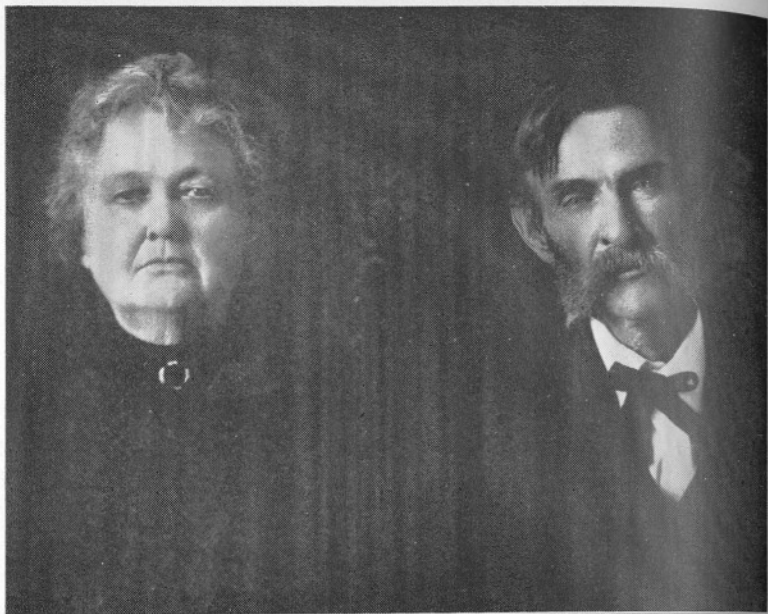
UPPER LEFT: Hon. Charles Collins Stokes. UPPER RIGHT: Mrs. Lucy Hancock Stokes. LOWER LEFT: Charles Stokes. LOWER RIGHT: Dr. Edgar B. Stokes.



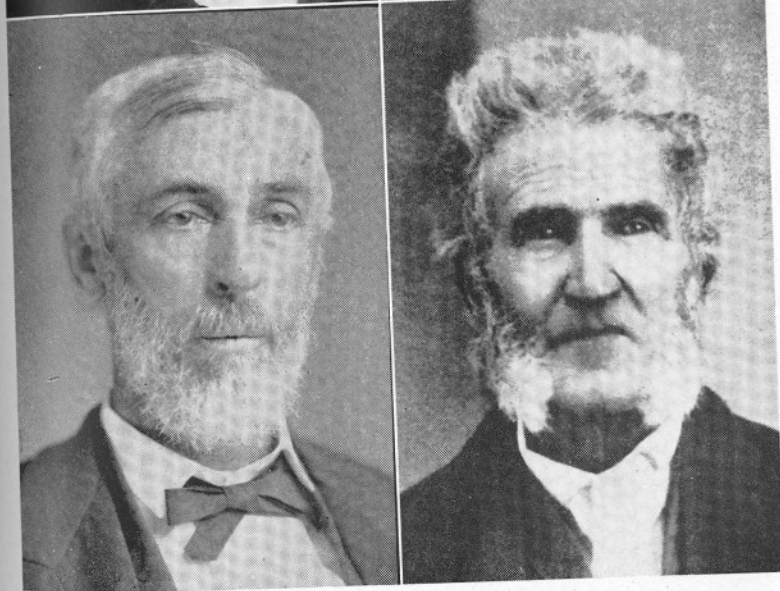
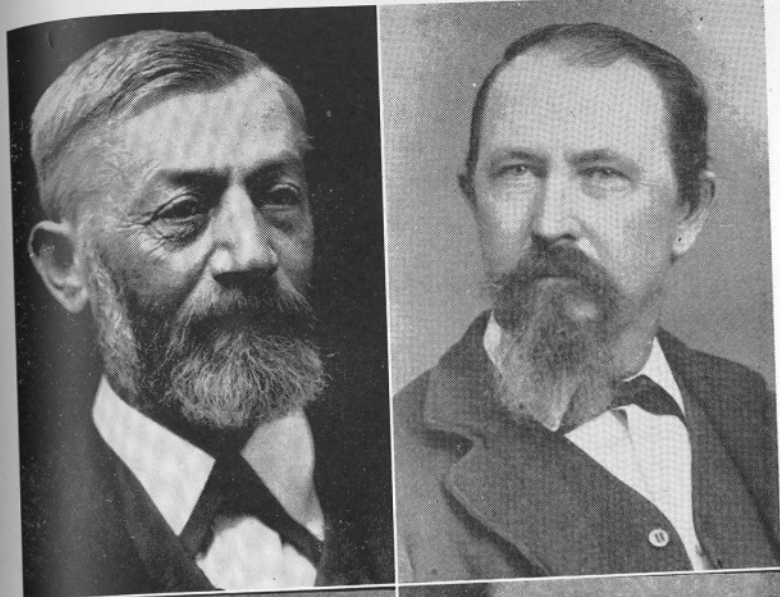
UPPER LEFT: Lodowick E. Downes. UPPER RIGHT: Major James C. Wooters. LOWER LEFT: Judge James Taylor Heflin. LOWER RIGHT: Dr. S. J. Collins.



UPPER LEFT: William Johnson. UPPER RIGHT: Col. Armistead Thompson Monroe. LOWER LEFT: J. R. B. Barbee. LOWER RIGHT: Wilson Edwin Hail.



ABOVE: Mrs. Emma Adams and Col. Earle Adams. LOWER LEFT: Rev. J. L. Spears. LOWER RIGHT: Dr. John Collins.



UPPER LEFT: Mendel Bromberg. UPPER RIGHT: M. M. Baker. LOWER LEFT: Judge George F. Moore. LOWER RIGHT: Daniel Murchison.