

was named in the will of George Hallmark as Adeline Stedham.

The records show that on February 1, 1856, Zachariah Stidham received a patent from the State of Texas to 232¾ acres of land, situated about five or six miles southeast of Crockett, where he resided for many years thereafter.

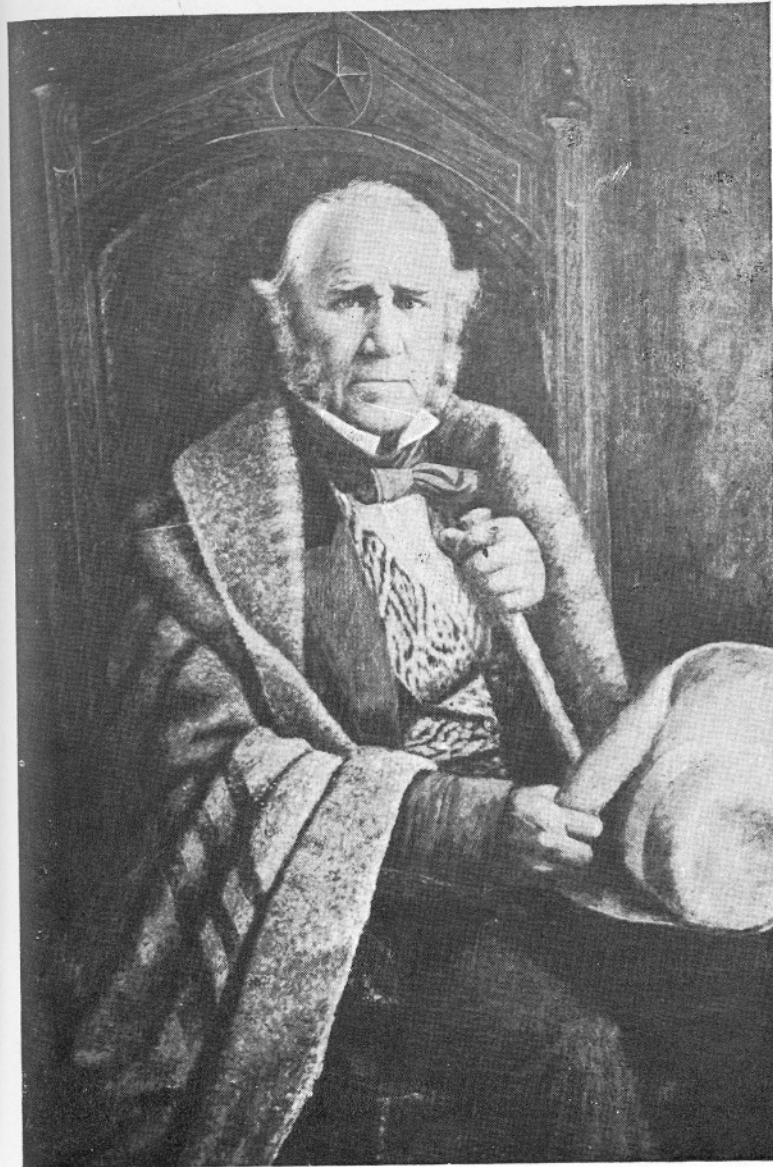
In later life Mr. Stidham moved to West Texas and was visited there by Mr. George Taylor of Austonio, who remembers seeing him and his family after they had removed from Houston County. It is supposed that he died in West Texas.

### THE STOKES FAMILY

So many members of this pioneer family have left their impress on the business, social and religious life of Houston County that the author has decided to give a history of the family, rather than single out some individual member for treatment.

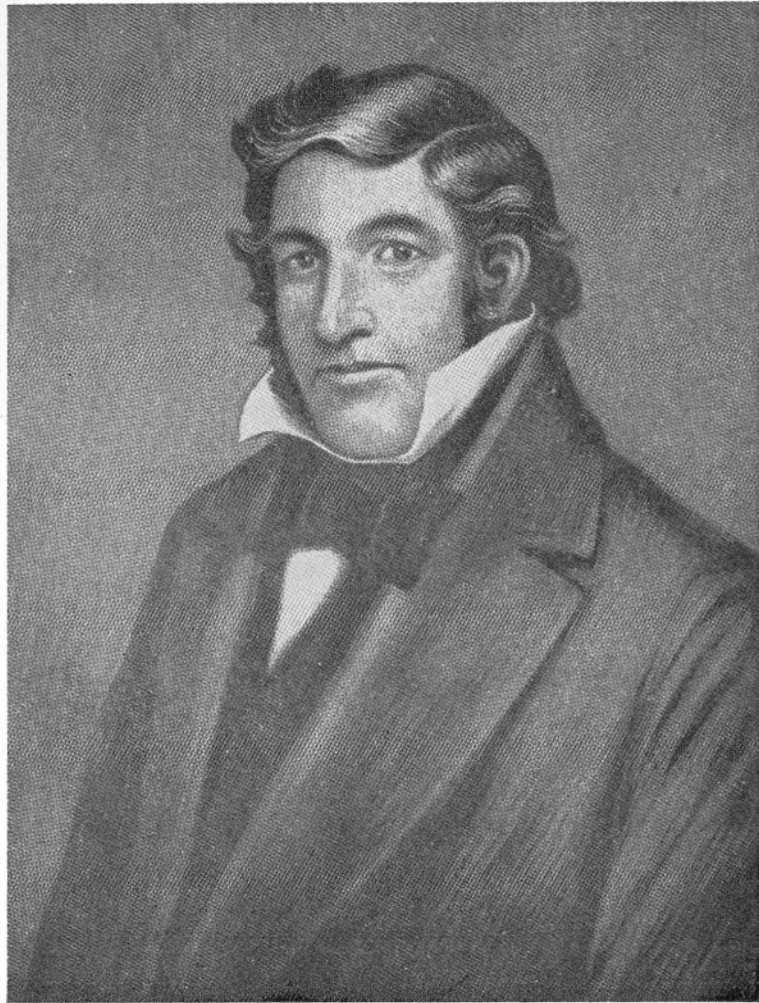
The patriarch of the family was William Benson Stokes, who was born in Georgia on June 4th, 1804, and came at an early day to Texas and located in Crockett, where he practiced his profession as a member of the Crockett Bar and was recognized in his day as a leading lawyer. He was noted for his physical energy and when he had occasion to come to Crockett he cared nothing for a conveyance and made the journey on foot. At his death his estate was administered by his pioneer friend, John Box, and when his land was sold, it was purchased by his fellow lawyer, Col. S. A. Miller. He was survived by one son, Charles Stokes, and two daughters, Harriet (generally called Hattie) who married James Collins, and Mary, who married Joseph Atmar.

His son, Charles Stokes has a distinguished career of his own. He was born in Georgia on the 15th day of May, 1834, and came to Texas with his parents in his young manhood and engaged in both farming and the lumber business. At the beginning of the Civil War he enlisted as a Confederate soldier and served in both Texas and Arkansas. About 1880 he was elected tax assessor for Houston County, and held the office for eighteen years. About 186— he married Lucy Hancock, daughter of Major J. R. Hancock, an extensive planter and slave owner, and a more congenial couple would be hard to find. There were born to them eight children, five of whom lived to maturity and had families of their own. First, there was Dr. Edgar B. Stokes, who, after spending his early years on a farm, became one of the leading physicians of Houston County and East Texas. He



SAM HOUSTON

After whom Houston County was named.



DAVID CROCKETT

After whom Crockett (County seat Houston County), was named.

graduated from the University of Louisville in 1892 and practiced his profession for a while at Elkhart in Anderson County, where he met and married Miss Cora Davis, an accomplished and attractive lady, who still survives him. He died at Crockett, December, 1931, and besides his widow left a son, Dr. Paul B. Stokes, himself an eminent physician, who with his partner, Dr. John L. Dean, owns and operates a magnificent hospital in Crockett. A daughter of Dr. Edgar B. Stokes, Alta, is the wife of the genial proprietor of the Crockett Hotel, Raymond Cornelius. Another daughter, Mrs. Hattie Stokes Wootters is a teacher in The Crockett High School. Another daughter, "C. C." married E. A. Ellison. Robert C. Stokes, a son of Charles and Lucy Stokes is a prominent business man of Crockett, who has raised an interesting family, and has acquired large property interests in the city and county.

Mrs. Hattie (Stokes) Young, is a daughter of Charles and Lucy Stokes and has always been regarded as one of the most attractive ladies of our community.

Hon. Charles Collins Stokes, gifted as lawyer and statesman, died in the prime of a promising career, while serving his state as senator.

Lucy, another daughter of Charles and Lucy Stokes, married T. R. Deupree, and raised an interesting family.

Annie, a daughter of Charles and Lucy Stokes, married Rev. George W. Davis.

Charles Stokes died at Crockett on August 15th, 1916 and his wife, Lucy Hancock Stokes died January 22nd, 1927 and both are buried in Glenwood Cemetery.

### JUDGE WILLIAM M. TAYLOR

He was born in Lancaster, Ohio, in 1817, and finished his education and was graduated from Miami University of Ohio. He came to Texas in 1844 and first located in Houston. Later he moved to Huntsville and in 1848 formed a law partnership with Col. Henderson Yoakum, author of the well-known *History of Texas*. This partnership continued until the death of Col. Yoakum, their professional card appearing in the Crockett Printer, the firm having offices in both Huntsville, where Col. Yoakum resided, and Judge Taylor residing at Crockett and carrying on the law business of the firm there, he having moved to Crockett in 1850. In 1854 he was elected to the state senate and served as senator for four years. He was a delegate to the

A GROUP PICTURE: Mrs. T. D. Craddock, Mrs. Dan McLean, Mrs. Lucy Collins, Mrs. W. A. R. French, Mrs. H. J. Castleberg, Mrs. S. F. Tenney, Mrs. Emma Adams Castleberg, Mrs. A. R. Spence, Mrs. Gussie Worthington Shivers, Mrs. Mabel Hail, Mrs. Denny Wootters, Mrs. Hennie Millar, Mrs. Mary C. Douglas, Mrs. Virginia Eymier, Mrs. Angeline Craddock, Mrs. Bettie Chamberlain, Mrs. J. L. Lipscomb, Mrs. Nannie Morrison, Mrs. J. H. Wootters, Mrs. Geo. W. Crook (with back to camera), Mrs. Florence J. Arledge, Mrs. John R. Foster, Mrs. Margaret Grace, Mrs. Mary Wootters Morris, Miss Missouri Adcock, Mrs. Julia Barbee, T. D. Craddock, Alfred Lee Foster, Marian Foster, Mrs. Margaret Woodson.

Reconstruction Convention in Austin, which was under the supervision of Governor Jack Hamilton, the military governor.

During the Civil War he was appointed brigadier general and recruited a brigade for service, but on account of other duties did not enter the actual military service. In 1862 he was elected district judge and held that office until he was removed by the military government, which removed all civil officers.

In 1850 Judge Taylor married Miss Isabella A. Moore, daughter of S. M. Moore and Eliza Houston Moore, her mother being the youngest sister of General Sam Houston. She bore a strong resemblance to General Houston and was nicknamed "Little Sam."

Judge Taylor was one of the most outstanding Masons in the history of masonry and held high office in masonic circles and died while attending the general encampment of Knights Templar on September 23, 1871, at Baltimore. As a member of the Grand Lodge of Texas, he traveled over Texas as lecturer and inspector and compiled Taylor's Monitor, which is still recognized as authority among Masons everywhere. His wife survived him for many years and spent the latter part of her life in the home of James W. Hail, an old friend of the family. She died in Crockett at the advanced age of 92 and is buried in the old Cemetery in Crockett.

### MONROE THOMAS

Many people of Crockett and Houston County will remember this venerable, kindly old gentleman, who died in the home of his son, Dr. M. A. Thomas, in Crockett, more than twenty years ago. He was born in North Carolina, January 5th, 1814, and moved from there to North Mississippi, when very young. He married Amelia Howell, in Mississippi, and came to Houston County in 1878. He first occupied a place on Nevils Prairie, belonging to Dr. S. J. Collins. He next moved to a place belonging to W. J. Murchison, also on Nevils Prairie.

Later he purchased his home on Nevils Prairie from Charles Little, where he lived until he came to Crockett, to live the balance of his life with his son.

He died at the home of his son, January 18th, 1918, at the advanced age of 89 years, full of honors and good deeds.

He and his wife are both buried in Antioch Cemetery about five or six miles west of Lovelady.

He left surviving him three children, Fletcher Thomas, who still lives on Nevils Prairie; Dr. M. A. Thomas, a well known physician of Crockett and a daughter, Mrs. Sallie Magee.

### THE THOMPSON FAMILY

In November, 1853, a covered wagon caravan set out from Lawrence County, Alabama for Texas, consisting of twenty-nine persons, old and young. Among the older members of this caravan were David Thompson and his family and William Vicory Tunstall and his family. Among the members of the Thompson family were Samuel Morris Thompson, and three of his children: William Porter Thompson, Thomas Wilson Thompson and Sallie Thompson, the first born October 11th, 1845, and the latter August 6th, 1852. Elsewhere in this history, the biographies of the Tunstall family appears.

Samuel Morris Thompson, son of David Thompson, was born in East Tennessee on July 13th, 1813, and died at Crockett, Texas, February 23rd, 1894. He married Caroline Tunstall, daughter of William Vicory Tunstall and Dollie Vaughan Tunstall, about 1845. He moved from Tennessee to North Alabama in 1820 and resided there until he came to Texas in 1853. On arriving in Texas he first stopped at Larissa in Cherokee County, and taught school there in 1854. During Christmas week, 1854, he moved to Houston County and settled in Old Randolph, about twelve miles east of Crockett. There he lived in a log house and taught school during the years 1855 and 1856. He later taught school at Cochino and other places in Houston County. In 1869 he was Chief Justice of Houston County and also served as Deputy District Clerk under R. J. Blair. He moved to Crockett in 1870 and first occupied the Dr. James A. Corley home, where the Ritz Theatre now stands and later moved to the McDaniel place in South Crockett, where he resided until he returned to his home in the country.

He was a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and an elder in said church before coming to Texas. Later he joined the Crockett Presbyterian Church, when Rev. S. F. Tenney became pastor in 1871 and served as elder in that church until he moved back to his home in the country in 1875. He then became a member of the Concord Presbyterian Church and served as Superintendent of the Sunday School there and was the Bible teacher also.

He left surviving him the following children: Thomas W.

Thompson, Mrs. Sallie M. Lundy, Mrs. Dollie V. Worthington, Mrs. Emma Freeman. Since his death Mrs. Sallie M. Lundy has died and the other three children are still living—Mrs. Freeman making her home in Denver, Colorado, and in Texas. Thomas W. Thompson and Mrs. Dollie V. Worthington are the two oldest members of the Tenney Memorial Presbyterian Church in Crockett.

### WILLIAM VICORY TUNSTALL

William Vicory Tunsall was born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, on December 19th, 1785. He was educated at Danville, Va., learned the printing business in the old State Gazette office at Nashville, Tenn. He was married at the age of 25 years in North Carolina to Miss Dolly Hall Vaughan. He edited and published the first newspaper in Halifax, N. C., called the "Informant," established in 1812. From North Carolina he went to Kentucky, and his uncle Buck Tunstall being Clerk of the Federal Court, he became his deputy. From Kentucky he went to Indiana and published a paper in Vincennes. From thence he again went to Kentucky. During his second residence there, he taught school in Frankfort. From Kentucky he went to Fayetteville, Tenn. where in 1823 he established, edited and published the "Post Boy." At the time of his death he was perhaps the oldest printer in the United States. From Tennessee he went to Alabama, where he resided 25 years, and then came to Texas in 1853. Here he spent his time in teaching, with his son-in-law, Judge S. M. Thompson.

He died at Crockett, Houston County, Texas, at the residence of his son-in-law, Judge Thompson (the house Dr. Corley lived in and where the present Ritz Theatre now stands) on December 14th, 1870 at the age of 85 years. He was the father of Thomas B. Tunstall and Caroline U. Tunstall, the wife of Judge Thompson, who was the mother of Thomas W. Thompson.

### JUDGE WILLIAM BENJAMIN WALL

Judge William Benjamin Wall deserves to be remembered as a fearless, tireless, determined man, who had a will of his own and was uncompromising in support of his judgment. He was born in Amite County, Mississippi on August 3rd, 1837,

the son of Rev. William B. and Sarah (Holden) Wall. The author of *Texas and Texans* pays this tribute to Judge Wall: "Reared under the sturdy and invigorating discipline of the old homestead plantation and in an environment of distinctive culture and refinement, Judge William B. Wall waxed strong in mental and physical powers, gained full appreciation of the precepts and example of his honored father and mother and found his ambition quickened by his purpose."

As soon as he reached his majority, in 1859, he left the old homestead and sought greener fields and enlarged opportunities in the comparatively new state of Texas. He landed in Houston County and for a year taught school, at the same time pursuing his study of law. Then came the call to arms, he entered the Confederate Army and became a member of the First Texas Infantry in General Wigfalls Battalion, which eventually became a part of General Hood's famous brigade. He was promoted to the rank of Captain after he had received a serious wound from a shot in the arm which necessitated the amputation of his thumb. After the close of the war he entered the mercantile business with Col. John H. Burnett and carried on this business for several years.

In 1878 he was elected County Judge of Houston County and held this office for eight years. During his incumbency of this office, the courthouse was destroyed by fire and he managed the erection of a new courthouse, which was completed in 1883.

In 1896 he was elected to the Texas Legislature and was instrumental in securing the submission of a constitutional amendment in favor of increased pensions for Confederate Veterans, and later in having a plank in the Democratic Platform in favor of a Home for Confederate soldiers and their widows.

He was a Mason and a member of Lothrop Lodge and of Trinity Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. He was a member of Crockett Camp of Confederate Veterans, and held the office of commander for several years.

On December 6th, 1866, he married Miss Nettie Cooper, the daughter of Judge Leroy W. Cooper, who was born in Monroe County, Georgia, March 30th, 1847. Of this marriage there were six children, the following five having lived to maturity: Miss Minnie Evelyn, a gifted musician who died without having married; William Cooper, who was a leading business man for many years, and still survives; Annie Pauline, who married Reeves Jordan, and is dead; Charles J. who is also dead and