

Celebrate Wedding Anniversary; Lives Interlinked With History



REV. W. B. STIRMAN AND WIFE.

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS.

Athens, Tex., Dec. 26.—The above picture of Rev. W. B. Stirman and wife was made Nov. 16, 1908, the sixtieth anniversary of their marriage. Mr. Stirman was born in Shelbyville, Ky., June 1, 1825. His father was employed and sent out by the United States Government in removing the Cherokee Indians to Arkansas, which necessitated his removal to that State with his family. While en route the family camped on the banks of the Mississippi River the night the stars fell in 1833, which stupendous phenomenon in nature Mr. Stirman remembers quite well. In 1843 he crossed the Red River into Lamar County, Texas. Paris was then known as Pin Hook. He and Gov. Throckmorton, as young prospectors, spent the night together in Dallas in 1843, when Dallas was only one or two log cabins on the Trinity. In March, 1847, he settled in Henderson County, where he has since resided. He was elected bailiff in the first election in Henderson County and had to go thirty miles to qualify and give bond. He was married on Nov. 16, 1848, to

Miss Newbern, for whose father the city of Newbern, N. C., was named. She was born in North Carolina Oct. 22, 1830. Five children were born unto them, four of whom survive and live in and near by Athens. After the Civil War and during the trying days of Reconstruction Mr. Stirman served his county and country well as an arbitrator or mediator, which old-timers well remember. He was elected to the Legislature in 1870 and to the Senate in 1874. He has been a preacher in the Christian Church for more than forty years. He is an honorary member of the Athens Masonic Lodge. He is the oldest man, in point of residence at least, in Henderson County, and is, and has been from its organization, president of the Old Settlers' Association of the county. He is quite interesting, of course, when in a reminiscent mood. He enjoys the confidence and respect of a large circle of friends and acquaintances throughout Texas. He is hale and hearty for a man of his years and bids fair to witness the rising and setting of the sun many times yet. He often walks down in town and spends a while chatting his friends, who always enjoy his visits.