

and Jo, the subject of this biographical sketch.

Jo Abbott was reared in Freestone county, Texas, and was educated under the direction of the eminent scholar, Dr. Frank Yoakum, who then resided in Limestone county, and Prof. George F. Allison, who taught a classical school in Freestone county. He began reading law in 1859, and pursued this study until the beginning of the civil war, at which time he joined the Confederate army, enlisting in Company B, Twelfth Texas Cavalry; he was commissioned First Lieutenant of his Company upon its organization and served in the Trans-Mississippi Department; he was in the engagements at Scarey and Cotton Plant, Arkansas and Negro Hill, in Louisiana, and Pleasant Hill and Yellow Bayou, Louisiana. He was wounded at the last mentioned place and disabled for several months, but rejoined his command and was with it until the close of the war.

He returned home after the surrender and resumed his legal studies which had been for so long abandoned. He entered the office of Major L. J. Farrar, at Springfield, Limestone county, and received instructions from him and the Hon. D. M. Pendergast; in 1866 he was admitted to the bar by Judge Robert S. Gould, of the Thirteenth Judicial District, who was afterwards Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He began practice with his old preceptor, Major Farrar, remaining in Limestone county one year; at that time the courts of that county were disorganized under reconstruction measures; so he left, going to the western counties in search of other

employment. He came to Hill county in 1867, and taught a school here for five months, having made a tour of four or five other counties. The courts of Hill county were disorganized only a short time, and he was enabled to resume the practice of his profession there in 1868. He devoted himself to legal work in Hillsboro for many years, and from the first enjoyed a lucrative practice.

Recognizing his ability and peculiar fitness for legislative labors, the people of his county elected him a member of the Assembly in 1869, and he served during 1870-'71. He was chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee of Hill county for a number of years. In February, 1879, he was appointed by Governor O. M. Roberts, Judge of the Twenty-eighth Judicial District, composed of the counties of Hill, Johnson and Bosque; he held this position until November, 1880, at which time he was elected to the same office for a term of four years, which he filled very acceptably. His appointment was to a newly created district. In 1886 he received the unanimous endorsement of his own bar and the bar of a number of the counties in Central and Northern Texas for a vacancy on the Supreme Bench caused by the death of one of the members of that body. Although he developed considerable strength and received a very flattering vote, he was unsuccessful before the Convention. A month later, however, in September, 1886, he received the nomination for Congress from his Congressional District, was elected, and has been twice re-elected. He received at his last

election 29,982 votes against 5,001 for his opponents.

Judge Abbott achieved a high reputation as a lawyer as well as a judge, to which he has added in no small degree as a legislator. As a lawyer he is noted for his patient and persevering industry; he is gentle and conciliatory in manner, is a skillful logician and a smooth and graceful speaker. Upon the bench he was distinguished for the same industry which he showed as a lawyer; his opinions were noted for their profound legal learning; his instructions were always full, accurate and delivered with a calmness and deliberation worthy of his high and responsible position. As a legislator he has steadily grown in favor with his constituents. His career in Congress is more or less familiar to the people of Texas, and has so far been very satisfactory, as is proven by the repeated endorsements which he has received. He is a Democrat and stands high in the councils of his party, being an able champion of its principles on the public platform.

December 15, 1863, Judge Abbott was united in marriage with Miss Rowena Sturgis, a daughter of James W. L. and Martha Sturgis, and sister to George F. and W. W. Sturgis, of Hillsboro, sketches of whom appear in this work.

THE COURTS.

It is most interesting to note the beginnings of the history of a county by reading the record of the early transactions of the various courts, including that of the county

commissioners, which by the way, is more a legislature than a judicial tribunal.

THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT.

The records of this body are complete. The first volume opens with the following certificate of election:

State of Texas, }
County of Hill. } I, Presley Donaldson,
Chief Justice in and for the County of Navarro and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that Thomas M. Steiner, Thomas Bragg and James R. Davis, elected as Commissioners for the county of Hill at an election being held on the 14th day of May, A. D., 1853, appeared before me and were duly sworn into office as required by law. I also certify that C. N. Brooks, who was elected as Clerk of the County Court of said Hill County at said election, was duly sworn into office as required by law, he having previously executed a bond with three securities in the penalty of \$2,000, conditioned as the law requires,—which Court members I now declare to be ["declared to"] lawfully constituted the County Court of Hill County, in accordance with the law passed at the late session of the Legislature, approved the seventh day of February, A. D. 1853.

To certify which I have hereunto set my hand and affixed a large scrawl by way of seal, having no county seal at hand.

P. DONALDSON,



Chief Justice N. C.

The next entry is a minute of the opening of the first county court, thus:

"Hill County Court, May 25, 1853. The County Court of Hill County met at the house of Harrison Ables in said county, on the 25th day of May, A. D., 1853. Rules of the Court. Present, Thomas M. Steiner, who was stated to preside over said Court; Thomas Bragg and James R. Davis, Commissioners, and C. N. Brooks, Clerk.

"The Court proceeded to appoint William Willson as Sheriff *pro tem.*, who proceeded to open Court according to law.

"Ordered that an allowance of \$12 be made to Presley Donaldson out of the first money that may be received into the treasury of the county; and the account is ordered to be filed.

"Ordered that the Court of [Hill County] is adjourned until the 3d day of June, 1853, which will be held at the house of James H. Dyer.

THOMAS M. STEINER,
pro tem.

"At a special session of the Honorable County Court of Hill County, begun and holden at the house of James H. Dyer, in the County of Hill and State aforesaid, on Friday, the 3d day of June, 1853,—present, the Hon. James H. Dyer, Chief Justice; James M. Sanford and Thomas Bragg, Commissioners; and C. N. Brooks, Clerk.

"The Court proceeded to appoint Haywood Weatherby, Sheriff, *pro tem.*, who proceeded to open Court according to law.

"Ordered that a petition be sent immediately to the Honorable County Court of Ellis County, begging them to have a called session for the purpose of adopting some means whereby the county line between said Ellis county

and Hill county may be immediately run.

"Ordered that the Honorable County Court of Hill County is now adjourned until the next regular term of said Court, August the 3d, 1853.

JAMES H. DYER,
Chief Justice."

At a special session held July 1, that year, the court ordered that the "county be laid off and divided into convenient and temporary precincts for the purpose of holding the August election in August next;" but there is no record of the result of the division. The election in precinct No. 1 was ordered to be held at the residence of James McCoy, and said McCoy to be the presiding officer; in precinct No. 2, the election was ordered to be held at William Gipson's, and he to be the presiding officer; in precinct No. 3, at Thomas Haley's, Archibald Robertson to be the presiding officer; for No. 4, at James Woods', William I. Cummings to be presiding officer; No. 5, at "Lenn" Williams', he to be the presiding officer; and for No. 6, at Vernoy's, with Mr. Vernoy as presiding officer.

August 15, that year, a list of talesmen was ordered to be drawn up wherefrom a jury could be summoned for the fall term of the district court. The list is recorded, which we here copy, premising that some of the names are probably misspelled, and that it was written at a day when it was fashionable to make no difference in manuscript between I and J: William I. Cummings, Thomas Kirvin, — Bynum, Martin Newman, Charles Duncan, Joseph Martin, James Chapman, John Crenshaw, John Scott, Russell Williams, William Kinsey, Benjamin Prior, Elias

McKey, William Burns, William Carr, John McCauley, John Ford, R. Frazier, H. Weatherby, Joel Mitchell, William Mitchell, John Randall, Joseph Smith, — Smith, F. S. (L.) Kirtley, C. Vernoy, Thomas Jackson, Jonathan Melton, James Gathings, James Truett, Drewry Kinard (Kennard), Preston Hartgraves, — Ridlin, Anger Price, Thomas Aytes, A. I. Mitchell, S. W. Taylor, Brazile Harris, Alfred Bragg, William Langford, John Morris, John Wornell, W. O. Smith, James McCoy, John McCoy, Thomas Hambay, G. W. Burchum, William Pace, A. G. Glenn, — Scott, — Scott, (two Scotts without given names;) W. B. Martin, — Martin, — Martin (two Martins also without specifics;) G. B. Faucher, Sam Morrison, Harvey Bonard, Henry Bieden, William A. Jones, — Monroe, John Welch, I. H. Bacey, Sam Crist, Stephen Crist, G. W. Sevier, — Baley, J. G. R. Turner, Jacob Graves, Valentine Severe, — Ronton, — Ward, David Cook, — Robertson, James Casaday, — Dulancy, Claton Williams, H. Harwick, H. L. Dyer, J. Price, John Caruthers, John Chapman, Harvey Young, — Cato, William O. Pryer, Henry Malery, Moses Stanley, M. C. McGilson, W. K. King, — Caruthers, — Roberts, Stephen Bright, — McKinney, William Bragg, N. Owen, Riley De Armon, John Cauble and Benjamin Green.

The next day, at the same term, the court ordered \$15 to be paid Haywood Weatherby "for his services in going to Springfield on his own expenses and getting a certified map of the county of Hill and State aforesaid, which map is to be brought forward and de-

livered to the Commissioners of said county within ten days from this date. Ordered that the sum of fifty cents be paid out of the treasury of Hill County to each one of the following persons, to wit: H. P. Ford, James H. Dyer, Thomas Bragg, J. R. Davis, A. R. Faucher and C. N. Brooks, for money which they paid for the above named certified map of Hill County, for the use and benefit of said county."

Only one of the foregoing — A. R. Faucher — is still upon the jury list of the county, and he is living upon the west bank of Jack's branch, about four miles from Hillsboro.

At a special session held August 25, 1853, it was ordered that "selections shall be made and nominations from the donations which have been proposed for the location of the county seat of Hill County." The next morning they met and selected the donation offered by John A. Caruthers and Thomas M. Steiner to be one of the situations of the county seat, — the donation offered by Jonathan Newby to be attached to and from a part of said donation. These donations altogether contained 230 acres of land. That offered by G. B. Faucher and H. P. Ford contained 185 acres, and the one offered by Samuel Morrison was the third selection made by the court on which the people were to vote.

At the special term of September 24, 1853, it was ordered that the town of Hillsboro be surveyed and laid off into streets, alleys, etc., by Arvin Wright, who should be paid \$2 a day for his services. Haywood Weatherby and Hugh McMullen were ap-

McKey, William Burns, William Carr, John McClanley, John Ford, R. Frazier, H. Weatherby, Joel Mitchell, William Mitchell, John Randall, Joseph Smith, — Smith, F. S. (L.) Kirtley, C. Vernoy, Thomas Jackson, Jonathan Melton, James Gathings, James Truett, Drewry Kinard (Kennard), Preston Hartgraves, — Ridlin, Anger Price, Thomas Aytes, A. I. Mitchell, S. W. Taylor, Brazile Harris, Alfred Bragg, William Langford, John Morris, John Wornell, W. O. Smith, James McCoy, John McCoy, Thomas Hambay, G. W. Burchum, William Pace, A. G. Glenn, — Scott, — Scott, (two Scotts without given names;) W. B. Martin, — Martin, — Martin (two Martins also without specifics;) G. B. Fancher, Sam Morrison, Harvey Bonard, Henry Bieden, William A. Jones, — Monroe, John Welch, I. H. Bacey, Sam Crist, Stephen Crist, G. W. Sevier, — Baley, J. G. R. Turner, Jacob Graves, Valentine Severe, — Ronton, — Ward, David Cook, — Robertson, James Casaday, — Dulancy, Claton Williams, H. Harwick, H. L. Dyer, J. Price, John Caruthers, John Chapman, Harvey Young, — Cato, William O. Pryer, Henry Malery, Moses Stanley, M. C. McGilson, W. K. King, — Caruthers, — Roberts, Stephen Bright, — McKinney, William Bragg, N. Owen, Riley De Armon, John Cauble and Benjamin Green.

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pointed chain-carriers, they to be paid \$1.25 a day; and this day it was also ordered that future sessions of this court be held at Hillsboro. It was also ordered that the town lots be sold on November 1, following, continuing from day to day, and that the boundaries of the precincts be particularly described.

The precincts were thus described:

No. 1, beginning where the Patton road crosses the Aquilla, thence south with the Aquilla to the McLennan line, thence east with the directions of said line to Elias McKey's, thence in that direction to the county line, thence to Conner's Station, thence west with the Patton ("Paton" was a surveyor) road to the beginning.

No. 2, beginning at the Aquilla where the Patton road crosses said creek, thence west with said road to Fort Graham, thence due west to the Brazos river, including Fort Graham in precinct No. 2, thence with the said river to the McLennan line, thence east with said line to the Aquilla, thence with said Aquilla to the place of beginning.

No. 3, beginning at the crossing of Aquilla creek with the Patton road, thence with said Aquilla to the boundary line of Hill county, including the territory of Hill county, thence west to the Brazos river so as to include the territorial part of Hill county, thence down said river to a point due west from Fort Graham, thence east with the Patton road to the place of beginning.

No. 4, beginning at a point north of Elias McKey's on the county line, thence south with said line to G. Hernendo's 1,250-acre survey, thence west to the southeast corner

of precinct No. 1, thence north with the east boundary line of precinct No. 1, to the place of beginning.

No. 5, beginning at the north boundary of G. Hernando's (or Hernendo's) 1,250-acre survey, on the Navarro county line, thence south with the said line to the southeast corner of Hill county, thence west with the south boundary of Hill county to where it corners with Limestone and McLennan, thence north with the line of said county of Hill to the south boundary of precinct No. 1, thence east to the place of beginning.

No. 6, beginning at the place where the Patton road crosses the Aquilla, thence north with said Aquilla to the Ellis county line, thence east with said line to a point north of Elias McKey's, thence west to Conner's Station, thence west with the Patton road to the place of beginning.

In precinct No. 2, an election was ordered to be held at the house of William Jones, who should be the presiding officer of said precinct, etc. Perhaps we have pursued this line far enough.

The first road laid out by the county court was on November 22, 1853, as follows; "To the county line in a straight line from Hillsboro to Waxahachie; said road shall be of the first-class and cut out according to law. The court appointed as reviewers of the road, John Randall, H. Harwick, Elias McKey, John McCauley and William Carr.

At the same session a road was ordered leading from Hillsboro to Waco, intersecting the Dallas and Waco road at the county line of Hill county, to be laid out as a first-class

road. Also a first-class road leading in a straight line from Hillsboro to Corsicana. Reviewers of the Waco road,—James McCoy, John Morris, Thomas Harby, Isaac Noland and R. Frazier; and of the Corsicana road, Haywood Weatherby, William Cummins, John Scott, James Bynum and C. S. Davis. Also a first-class road was ordered laid out to the north boundary line in a direct course to Birdville, Tarrant county, and the reviewers to be James Gathings, Alexander R. Fancher, F. L. Kirtley, C. Vernoy and William Jackson.

Ordered that an allowance of \$45 be made to H. McMullen for building a house for a clerk's office and a courthouse.

Then a road of the second-class was ordered from Hillsboro to Fort Graham. Reviewers, H. P. Ford, Harry Young, Anger Price, Alfred Bragg and G. B. Fancher.

November 23, the court ordered that a county tax be levied of one-half the State tax on all property subject to taxation, for the use of the county.

December 27, William C. Megee was appointed Clerk *pro tem.* of the Court, C. N. Brooks being excused because of "extreme family affliction."

As an example of the manner in which a new road was divided into sections for convenience of working and superintendence, we quote one paragraph of the proceedings:

"Ordered, that said road (to Birdsville) be laid off into precincts (sections) as follows: Precinct No. 1 to commence at Hugh McMullen's so as to include said McMullen and hands; from thence to where said road crosses

the second branch north of A. R. Fancher's; thence to Anger Price's, so as to include said Price in precinct No. 1; thence to the Aquilla creek; thence down the channel of said creek opposite Alfred Bragg's so as to include said Bragg; thence to Dorothy Newby's so as to include all the lands on her premises; thence to Richard Frazier's so as to include said Frazier; thence north to the beginning, so as to include Weatherby, Dyer, Chapman and Harwick and their hands; and that A. R. Fancher be appointed overseer of said road. No. 1 to begin at the courthouse, and cut and bridge and crossway the same to the south branch of the second branch, or west fork, of Hackberry.

"Precinct No. 2 to begin at Hugh McMullen's so as to leave out said McMullen and hands, and from thence north to Chambers' Creek, so as to include John Randall and premises; thence northwest to Aquilla so as to include all the settlers in the cross timbers; thence down the Aquilla to precinct No. 1; thence to the beginning; and James J. Gathings be appointed overseer of said road included in precinct No. 2, and that he be required to cut out and crossway and bridge said road according to law, and make report at the next regular term, to be holden the third Monday in February, 1854."

The roads were "classed" (numbered) as follows: to Birdsville, No. 1; to Waxahachie, No. 2; Turner's to McLennan, No. 3; and Hillsboro to Fort Graham, No. 4.

From this time on the county court continued to busy itself mainly with roads.

At present the county is divided into four

commissioners' precincts, as follows: A road running from Brandon to Hillsboro to To-wash, and the road running from Cleburne through Hillsboro to Waco, divide the county into four parts, numbered the northwest part No. 1, the southwest No. 2, the southeast No. 3, and the northeast No. 4.

The first license to retail spirituous liquors was granted by the county court October 22, 1857, to J. C. Goodwin, to sell in less quantities than one quart, "in the house on the south side of the public square in the town of Hillsboro, for the space of six months," the date of said license to commence from the 16th day of April, 1857. Thus it seems that the period covered by the transaction had expired before the license was issued! Possibly a mistake in the record. Goodwin's next license was issued in advance of the time for which it was issued.

First grand jury: "Ordered, that a grand jury for Hill county be selected from among the legally qualified jurors of said county, consisting of the following named persons, to wit: Elias McKey, James H. Dyer, Frank Weatherred, H. W. Ward, A. C. Graves, Samuel Caruthers, Joseph W. Bustian, Henry Treadwell, William Gipson, Henry Mally, S. C. Dyer, L. M. Hendon, O. T. Meadow, J. R. Davis, Benjamin Green, L. W. Cato, James McWright, Stephen Greenwell, Thomas Bragg and William E. Anderson.

The first case of naturalization was that of James Wood, a subject of Great Britain, in November, 1856.

At the May (1854) term of the county court the county was laid off into school

districts, as follows: No. 1, beginning on the Dallas road where the Waxahachie road leading from Hillsboro intersects the same; thence west to where the Patton road crosses the the Hackberry creek; thence south to Dorothy Newby's, so as to include A. R. Fancher and said Dorothy Newby; thence east to Cato's so as to include said Cato; thence north to the beginning. In this manner twelve districts were described. Next follows a description of the boundary lines of eleven election precincts.

June 10, 1854, the court ordered that \$200 be appropriated out of the treasury for building a temporary courthouse, to be of the following dimensions: A frame 30 x 25 feet; sills not less than eight inches in diameter, square, and at least four pillars of rock under each sill; plate not less than six inches square; corner posts not less than six inches square; studding not less than four inches thick after being hewed on both sides so as to admit ceiling; a sufficient number of cross girders; rafters not more than two feet apart. To be neatly weather-boarded with plank and covered with two-foot boards or shingles, and show not more than eight inches if covered with boards. Said house to be not less than ten feet high from the edge of the sill to the under edge of the plate; and two doors,—one in the side and the other in the end, with good shutters to the same, made of plank not less than one inch thick; one middle sill, and sleepers 4 x 6 inches thick, placed two feet apart; plank of the floor six inches wide and one inch thick; five windows, two on each side and one in the

end of the house, and said windows to be not less than four feet high and three feet wide; each window to have a double shutter, made of plank not less than one inch thick. A stand of sufficient size, and a convenient number of seats.

The citizens agreed to assist the court in building the house, and the court reserved the right of letting the contract, and have general control of said house until they should be able to build a permanent courthouse, after which time they should relinquish their interest in said house to the school trustees in school district No. 1.

At the November term the court ordered "that the courthouse by Owens be received if the ten seats are made good, with one additional brace to each seat, and that [court] be holden in said house at its next regular term."

In May, 1856, the court recommended Jesse R. Grover for license to practice law, thus: "Ordered by the court to be certified that Jesse R. Grover, who intends to apply for license to practice law, is a resident of this county, and that he has been a resident of this State at least six months, that he is twenty-one years of age, and that he has a good reputation for morals, character and honorable deportment."

In November, 1858, the court ordered that the county records be transcribed by the clerk or his deputy.

ACTS OF THE COUNTY COURT OCCASIONED BY THE
WAR.

February 19, 1861, \$10 was paid to Will-

iam Nunn, chief justice of the county, for ordering an election for ratifying or rejecting the secession ordinance.

July 1, 1861: "Application having been made by the citizens of Hill county for an appropriation of \$3,000 to equip the cavalry of Captain J. R. Goodwin for the service of the State of Texas or of the Confederates at the South, ordered by the Court that E. M. Wilder, John S. Schofield, David Womack, C. N. Brooks and J. M. Griffin (any three of whom can act) be and they are hereby appointed a military board for the county of Hill, for the purpose of equipping said company; and said board is to be governed by the following conditions: Whenever the muster roll of said company shall show that it numbers sixty-four men or a greater number, and evidence also be afforded said board that said company has been accepted by the Governor of the State of Texas, then said board shall convene at their earliest convenience and proceed to equip said company with the means hereinafter provided for.

"It is further ordered by the court that the bonds of the county of Hill shall be issued to the amount of \$3,000, bearing interest at the rate of ten per cent. per annum and payable after date, and that said bonds shall be placed in the hands of the board above appointed for the purpose above set forth," etc. The rest of the order pertains to the levy and collection of a special tax for carrying out the above measures, subject to an election which should determine whether the tax for that purpose should or should not be levied.

On the same day Thomas Bell was appointed captain of a patrol for precinct No. 1, - the patrol company consisting of N. W. Tanner, W. C. Mosely, J. L. Garrett, T. B. Smith and H. W. Carter.

August 19, 1861, ordered that the appropriation made at the July term for equipping Goodwin's cavalry be diverted to the equipment of Captain J. P. Wier's company; that the military board be notified to examine all accounts made by the members of the military company to be equipped by said board; and that the board is hereby ordered not to pay for any article that is not essentially necessary for the equipment; and further, that the board be required to report at the next regular term of the court.

The next day the court ordered the assessor and tax collector to collect the tax levied for the equipment of the voluntary company.

April 12, 1862, the court ordered that bonds be issued of the denominations of \$1 to \$3 to satisfy the appropriation made at the July term preceding, of \$3,000, for the purpose of equipping the above mentioned companies. Also "patrols" were appointed in certain districts.

August 18, 1862, \$1,600 was ordered to be paid out of the county scrip on hand for the purchase of clothing for the soldiers then in the Confederate service from Hill county. A committee of eight was appointed to superintend this appropriation.

August 31, the court petitioned that P. M. Smith be furloughed to remain at home and work at his trade, as he was the only wagon-maker in his neighborhood, and the farmers

would be greatly inconvenienced by his absence in the army.

November 17, 1862, ordered that John S. Schofield be authorized to make arrangements to procure the powder, lead and percussion caps proposed to the county by the State, transporting said ammunition to said county, and pay for the same; also that J. T. Ratcliff pay to the justice of each precinct (excepting one) the amount of money that may be necessary for the yearly support of soldiers in the Confederate service that may actually be in need.

At the May (1863) term a tax of twenty-five cents on each \$100 in the county was ordered for the assistance of soldiers' families.

Measures were adopted from time to time during the remaining period of the war for those families of soldiers who were dependent upon the public for support. Cards were issued to the dependent women by the court, for the convenience of distributing supplies; and cotton, corn and beef were purchased by the county for the relief of soldiers' families, and every measure was taken to maintain them during the war.

In April, 1865, the court ordered one-half the accounts of soldiers' families, when credited, to be paid in county scrip of five for one, and the other half to be paid out of any other moneys as soon as they should come into the hands of the treasurer, under orders from the court. It was further ordered that two-thirds of J. D. Doak's account be paid because he had been keeping a soldiers' home much longer than other keepers of such homes.

There are no minutes of proceedings between April and September, 1865; these were the first five months after the termination of the war, disastrously to the cause which had been so heartily espoused by Hill county.

PROBATE COURT.

The first volume of the probate record opens thus;

"Hill County Court. At a regular term of the Honorable County Court of Hill County for the transaction of probate business, which was held at the house of James H. Dyer on the 27th day of June, A. D. 1853, present, the Hon. James H. Dyer, Chief Justice, and C. N. Brooks, Clerk of said Court.

"Ordered by the Court, that letters of administration of the estate of E. S. Wyman be granted to Martha Wyman.

"Ordered by the Court that James Chapman, J. R. Davis and Esquire Richardson be and they are hereby appointed by the Court appraisers of the property which were of E. S. Wyman, deceased.

"Ordered that Court is adjourned until the next regular term of said Court.

JAMES H. DYER,

Chief Justice.

"The estate of E. S. Wyman, deceased. Filing of application on the tenth of June, 1853. There was filed in the County Clerk's office of Hill County, the application of Martha Wyman, praying for letters of administration of the estate of E. S. Wyman, deceased.

"The estate of E. S. Wyman, deceased. Granting of letters of administration. The application of Martha Wyman, filed the tenth of June, 1853, praying for letters of administration on the estate of E. S. Wyman, deceased, in the words and figures following, to wit:

"State of Texas, }
Hill County. } To the Honorable Judge of the Probate Court: The undersigned, widow and relict of E. S. Wyman, deceased, would respectfully represent that the said E. S. Wyman departed this life on the 26th day of January, 1853; that he died without any will or testament known to the petitioner; that there has not been any administration upon said estate. She therefore prays your Honor to grant her letters of administration upon the estate of said E. S. Wyman, deceased, at your next term of your County Court for probate business, and as in duty bound will ever pray.

MARTHA WYMAN.

"It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that the notice required by law had been given by the Clerk of this Court, whereupon, on due consideration of the premises, it is ordered that letters of administration of all and singular the goods, chattels, rights, moneys, credits and effects which were of E. S. Wyman, late of said county, deceased, be granted to Martha Wyman, upon her entering into bond, taking the oath prescribed by law.

"Whereupon said Martha Wyman entered into bond, with James Chapman and Harry Skiles securities, conditioned that the said Martha Wyman shall well and truly perform