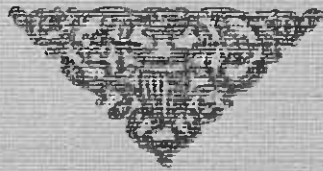


A HISTORY
OF BEE COUNTY
WITH SOME BRIEF SKETCHES
ABOUT MEN AND EVENTS
IN ADJOINING COUNTIES



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Mrs. I. C. Madray

History of Bee county, with some brief sketches about men and events in adjoining counties.

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A Word of Explanation and Appreciation

DURING 1934 it was my pleasure to publish serially in The Bee-Picayune a brief history of the early day men, women and events of Bee county, with some sketches about the adjoining counties—Karnes, Goliad, San Patricio, and Live Oak.

The material had been gathered by Mrs. I. C. Madray, the daughter of a pioneer minister, Rev. Reason B. Thames, who felt that many dates and details of interesting events of the early days should be recorded. Mrs. Madray spent many months going from home to home, from community to community, and from county to county.

Upon the completion of the publication of the historical information there were many expressions of appreciation. One day, as Mrs. Madray and I were discussing the matter, she expressed disappointment because the history was not more complete. I suggested that if she would revise the text, add to it and make such corrections and changes as were necessary, I would print it in book form, using such cuts as were available in The Bee-Picayune office. She readily agreed to the plan, but soon found that the text would be greatly enlarged. As she went around and it became noised about that the book was to be published, many pictures were made available and many other events were unearthed. Even after she had revised the text and made many additions, other information was obtained and she has found it difficult to close the book.

It has been my pleasure to work with Mrs. Madray in the arrangement of the text and pictures and in assembling some of the material. Neither of us are historians and the type of work, while interesting, was new to us. It was purely a work of love on the part of Mrs. Madray and she has given unsparingly of her time in an effort to present a record of the events, treated as accurately as possible. She is grateful to T. A. Simons for a most interesting account of the bringing of the railroads to Beeville, and to others for information furnished.

It has required a long time to get the book printed, much longer than anticipated, even though I had planned it as a spare-time job. Much time has been required in making changes and additions, all in the interest of accuracy.

Of course the book lacks much of being all that Mrs. Madray and I would like to have made it, but it has been through no fault of hers. Her heart has been in it since the day I offered to print it and I regret the delay that has seemed unavoidable without going to much greater expense that was justifiable. It was necessary to use the cuts on hand, in most instances, which accounts for the wide variety of styles, sizes, etc.

Mrs. Madray's greatest regret lies in the fact that she realizes there are many other men and women of the county who helped build our present civilization who are entitled to mention in the book, just as much so as any of those mentioned. She also regrets not having started the work of compiling the book 25 years or more ago, when it would have been easier to secure the information about the early-day events of Bee county, and about the men and women who came to settle up this great section of Texas. Mrs. Madray realized that many events which are treated in the book are lacking in the details so essential to make them breathe the atmosphere of the times in which they occurred, but the information was not available to her from any sources contacted.

The book, as it appears, is a worthy contribution to the history of the development of this section, and Mrs. Madray is due the sincere thanks of the citizenship generally, and especially of the descendants of those pioneers who blazed the trail for the development which has been made here.

GEO. H. ATKINS,
Editor, The Bee-Picayune.

195656

Foreword

IF THIS LITTLE BOOK, dealing with the early history of Bee and adjoining counties, is enjoyed by the pioneer men and women and their descendants as they read its pages, I shall be happy, indeed.

Love and respect prompted me to collect these facts to be preserved for future generations, and I trust each one who reads them will have a deeper feeling of gratitude for the brave men and women who, among savage beasts and still more savage men (Indians and Mexicans), laid the foundation for our present civilization.

There are only a few of these pioneers left today, and it has been my pleasure to meet some of them in this work, a number of whom have now passed on. Had it been possible, I would have had a brief sketch of each one who helped in settling these counties, as it is not my desire to be partial in any way.

In writing this history, I have refrained from touching on politics and religion, out of respect for the views of all.

In memory of my dear father and mother, Rev. and Mrs. Reason Beall Thames, this volume is lovingly dedicated.

THE AUTHOR

Beeville, Texas.
1939.



MRS. I. C. MADRAY

Mrs. Madray is the second daughter and third child of the late Rev. and Mrs. R. B. Thames. She was born and reared in Bee county. Her father was a Baptist minister and preached for more than 50 years throughout this section, and in his early ministry traveled to his appointments on horseback. He married Miss Josephine Harwell of La Grange, Texas, who died in 1904. Rev. Thames died in 1928 at Houston, Texas.

NOTICE

Please do not write in this
book or turn down the pages

A Marker

LET BEE COUNTY erect a suitable monument, or marker, to the memory of the pioneer men and women whose bravery and Christian faith was the solid foundation for the civilization we now enjoy.

Let the monument be placed on the courthouse square, and let it be made of Bee county sandstone, if such material is found to be suitable for the purpose. It is a beautiful material and was found to be useful in the building operations of our ancestors.

Such a monument would hallow the memory of those early-day settlers—the James Hefferman family (whose blood is said to mingle with the very soil on which the marker would be placed)—and would give suitable, although tardy, recognition to a woman, Mrs. Ann Burke Carroll, who donated the 200 acres of the original Beeville townsite, and would also honor other hardy pioneers who did their full part in claiming this section of Texas for the white man.

Let the county make amends for long neglect through the use of county funds, or let the citizens raise the funds by a campaign for subscriptions to meet the modest cost of such a marker.



MARY HEFFERMAN

Daughter of John Hefferman, and niece of James Hefferman, who settled on a grant of land on the Paesta creek in Beeville in about 1835. John Hefferman and family locatetd in San Patricio county. The story of the massacre of the James Hefferman family by Indians early in 1836 is told by Mary Hefferman in the pages of this book.

97646 Mrs. S. C. Madray
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A History of Bee County

With Some Brief Sketches About Men and Events in Adjoining Counties

SO FAR as there is any record, there were no permanent white settlers in this part of the country until 1834, when a boat from Ireland arrived "after having stopped at New York" with 16 or 18 families of settlers.

Two of these were the Hefferman families. (This name originally was spelled "Heffernan.") The Burke family also was included. The boat on which this perilous voyage was made had been three months crossing the Atlantic ocean and making its way through the Gulf of Mexico to the landing place on Copano Bay.

During the voyage cholera broke out and more than decimated the passengers. One of the men who died was the husband of Mrs. Ann Burke. He was buried at sea.

These families settled at San Patricio and near Refugio, as well as in the territory now known as Bee county.

The James Hefferman family settled on 4,605 acres of land located on the east bank of the Paesta creek on the site on which the city of Beeville later was built. His brother, John Hefferman, and family located his headright at San Patricio.

The families lived a more or less precarious existence for the next five or six years, in constant dread of Indians and Mexicans. They practiced—of necessity—the "live-at-home" precept, growing everything with the exception possibly of sugar and coffee.

These supplies, together with such luxuries as furniture, etc., were brought from the boat landing at old St. Mary's by ox teams.

In 1836 the settlers became involved in the war with Mexico, and their troubles increased.

We are indebted to Mary Hefferman, daughter of John Hefferman, who located at San Patricio, for the account of the

massacre by the Indians and Mexicans, on the ground where Beeville now stands. This is told in her own words:

"My uncle, James Hefferman, still lived on the Paesta when the war broke out. My father's family lived at San Patricio. My father and a cousin, John Ryan, went to James Hefferman to assist him in laying by his crop, so they all could join General Fannin's command at Goliad.

"The day before they finished plowing they were attacked by Mexicans and Indians in the field while at work and all were killed. The Indians then went to the house and killed the family of James Hefferman, which consisted of his wife and five children.

"The first intimation of the sad fate that had befallen these early settlers was received by relatives and friends at San Patricio when they found at their cowpen one morning the cows of James Hefferman, which he had taken from there to his home on the Paesta. This aroused the suspicion of the family, who at once sent their boys to find out what the trouble was.

"On coming to the site of the settlement and seeing no one, they returned to San Patricio and reported no one at home. Then a party of men went to investigate. They found the men dead in the field. They had been dead several days. The body of the eldest son of James Hefferman was lying between the field and the house, while the bodies of Mrs. Hefferman and the four younger children were found at the house.

"The remains were collected and placed in one large box and were buried near the scene of the murder, although the exact spot cannot be located.

"The calves of the cows which returned to San Patricio were dead in the pens, the only living thing on the place being a little dog.



MR. AND MRS. PATRICK BURKE

Mr. Burke's father died and was buried at sea, and he was born about two hours after his mother, an Irish immigrant, landed at Copano Bay. He became a prominent Bee county stockman and land owner and married Nancy Jane Ryan of Refugio county. Both are deceased, but several of their children survive and are prominent in Beeville.

"The field where the men were killed was located on the spot now occupied by the courthouse, while the house and pens were west of that location, about where the old Whitehead home formerly stood. The site is now occupied by the Mexican school."

These colonists left their homes in Tipperary county, Ireland, under contract with the Mexican government, and were required to come equipped with supplies enough, including arms and ammunition, to last them two years. The Mexican government agreed to furnish the head of each family with ten milch cows, one cart and a yoke of oxen, and a garrison of soldiers to guard and protect the colonists against incursions of hostile Indians. The government did send a lot of peon soldiers and a few makeshifts called carts. The colonists had to use a paste made of cactus root for axle grease to keep the axles of the rickety and screeching old carts from igniting and being consumed by fire. The cowardly soldiers were a nuisance. They lived upon the provisions of the colonists and were afraid to show their heads outside of the house when danger from Indian raids seemed imminent.

Copano Bay was the landing place of these immigrants in the summer of 1834. The vessel on which they made the voyage was too large to approach the shore nearer than three miles, making it necessary to transfer the cargo of immigrants and their two years' provisions to the shore on lighters. Imagine the scene presented in that wild and lonely country, when the vessel had finished discharging its miscellaneous cargo of human and material freight. Bedding, clothing, foodstuffs, cooking utensils, arms and ammunition, axes, spades, farming and various other implements and machinery were thrown in confused piles upon the beach.

Camp was pitched about one mile back from the water's edge on a treeless prairie. The weather was intensely hot, and the campers had to stretch quilts and blankets for awnings to protect the women and chil-

dren from the scorching rays of the vertical summer's sun.

IT WAS in the midst of all this confusion and these trials and discomforts, that Patrick Burke, now deceased, who became a prominent stockman of Bee county, first saw the light of day. But let him tell the story as he learned it from his mother, Annie Burke, and other members of the colony. In effect he is quoted as follows:

"My birth occurred about one hour after my mother set foot on Texas soil, and before she had gone one mile from the shore, where she and the other colonists were landed. Her breast rose and she was unable to nurse me. This section of the country was uninhabited, and it was out of the question to obtain milk, or nourishment suitable for an infant. But Providence, in His kindness and mysterious way, provided the relief. At this juncture an Indian squaw, who had left her babe with her tribe, entered the camp of the colonists, and her heart no doubt, being touched by my cries, came to my mother's bed, took me and nursed me. Thus as God sent the ravens to feed Elijah at the brook Cherith, so did he send this uncouth and uncivilized Indian squaw to nurse and furnish me, a starving infant, with nourishment in the wilderness of Texas. She carried me to her tribe and cared for me until my sick and bereaved mother was able to take care of me. Each day she brought me back for my mother to see me. Her manner of handling me was in striking contrast with that of my own mother; she would pitch and sling me about like I was a pup or a bundle of dry goods.

"During all the time the colonists remained in this camp this woman was the only Indian who came about us, or even came in sight of any one of the colonists. If others of the tribe ever came near our camp they kept themselves perfectly secreted."

From this camp the colonists went and

settled at and around San Patricio. They remained loyal to the Mexican government until 1836, notwithstanding the bad faith which characterized its dealings with them. When the revolution of 1836 developed, these hardy and noble pioneers from oppressed Ireland, breathing the true spirit of freedom, went east and joined the other colonists in the fight for liberty and political independence. Continuing the story of the trials and struggles of this colony, and in giving an outline of his own eventful life, Mr. Burke says in substance:

"Before annexation my mother married Pat Carroll, and they went to New Orleans but returned to San Patricio after the battle of San Jacinto. During the time intervening between this battle and annexation this part of Texas was subject to both Mexican and Indian raids, and we returned to a country without supplies. Our homes had been destroyed, and hard times stared us in the face. We soon constructed log houses, made picket fashion with dirt floors and thatched roofs, clapboards being used to stop the cracks between the pickets. Our pioneer architecture was simple and inexpensive and did not require the outlay of large sums of money for plans, specifications, material and construction, but doubtless as much peace, contentment and real happiness was found dwelling in our quaint old homes as we now find in the palatial homes in our towns and cities. Our table fare, bread and meat, was also simple, but our digestive organs were always good, and dyspepsia never interfered with the keen relish and fine appetites we always carried to the table with us. We drank water from the creeks, ponds, barrels and cow tracks, enjoyed good health and never heard of microbes, germ theories and diseases of modern times.

FREQUENT INDIAN RAIDS

"After we returned to our colonial homes Indian raids were still frequent. They invariably came on the full of every moon during the spring, summer and autumn months, and oxen coming home with ar-

rows shot in their bodies often admonished us that Indians were lurking in the neighborhood, and ready to surprise us by swooping down upon us. They frequently swept the country of saddle ponies, not leaving mounts enough in the community on which the men could pursue them. In making their escape when they were pursued they always had the advantage of their pursuers. They generally had already stolen the best horses and were returning with a large herd when discovered and could change mounts whenever the horses they were riding became jaded, while our men usually had to take for mounts such animals as the Indians left behind or had failed to get.

"Whenever the Indians succeeded in crossing the Nueces river, about ten miles above Oakville, they were safe from further pursuit. In order to prevent the Indians from stealing our horses, the settlers usually made a thick, high brush fence around their back door, without an entrance except through the house. About the full of the moon, or whenever an Indian raid was anticipated, the horses, oxen and milk cows were kept in this inclosure.

"One night the Indians stole Pat Corrigan's horse, which was tied to his gallery post. His wife heard them and told him the Indians were getting his horse. He picked up his gun, ran into the yard and snapped his old pistol at them three times. He just happened to see three Indians with their drawn bows hid in the grass in time for him to make a safe retreat into his house.

"When a boy I went under the care of Major John Woods, with others in pursuit of the Indians. A man named Mandola, who had been captured when a boy, and reared to manhood by the Indians was our guide. He was trained in all of their arts and cunning, and could even trail them by scent. It was hard sometimes for our men to distinguish between an Indian and a mustang trail, but Mandola was never at a loss to tell one from the other. We traveled that night until 12 o'clock and then

slept till daylight. Next morning when we awoke, Mandola arose and sniffed the balmy atmosphere a time or two, he said he smelt the fumes of cooking meat, and that our foes were not far away. We did not go further than five miles before we came upon and surprised our enemies while they were enjoying their breakfast of horse meat cooked on coals. Immediately a quick and spirited fight ensued. Major Woods kept me with him, the other men separating and taking advantageous positions in the scattering timber. One savage and ferocious old squaw attacked the major and me. We tried as long as possible to avoid the necessity of shooting her, but she could handle her bow and arrows as well and as accurately as a trained warrior, and was hurling the missiles of death at us so rapidly that we were compelled to exchange shots with her in order to save our lives. Major Woods received an arrow wound in the fleshy part of the thigh. This was the last Indian raid and the last fight of this unfortunate squaw-warrior. Our force numbered fourteen. I do not know how many Indians there were, but when the battle had ended we were the victors, with seven dead Indians stretched upon the field. A few old sore-back ponies and horses and the bows and arrows of the slain Indians were the spoils of our victory.

“ONCE I went with my stepfather to Long Lake, carrying a jug with which to bring back some fresh drinking water. We were in no particular hurry, and while walking leisurely about the lake we discovered the Indians in some timber a short distance above us, cooking meat. While they did not seem to see us, we were suddenly inspired with St. Paul's injunction to lay aside every weight and run with swiftness the race set before us, so casting our jug aside, we pulled off the prettiest race you ever saw, going back into town, San Patricio, with the old man possibly leading me a neck or two. The sulking 'redskins,' who always seemed

to need good horses in their business, made a call that night at the premises of several of the citizens, who found themselves without mounts and work animals next morning.

“In those days the country was full of deer, panthers and other kinds of game and wild animals. On one occasion while I was a boy I went with Major Woods, Bill Clark and Martin O'Tool (the last named being a San Jacinto and Mexican war veteran) to cut a road through the bottom. While we were at work the dogs treed a large panther which we killed with an ax.

There were also many wild mustang horses, and it was a sight to see them running when the settlers were trying to catch them. If we could manage to catch one of these old horses, we would tie an imitation man upon him and let him loose. Of course he would make for the herd, which would try to outrun him. This would start every mustang for miles around to running and the noise from these running horses, which sometimes numbered thousands, often sounded like the terrific roar of a passing cyclone. After they had run themselves down we could guide them into the pens with long wings which we had built for capturing them. It required strength and skill to rope and throw one of these old snorting, jumping, fighting horses. It looked like some of them could squeal, paw, kick and jump at the same time, and they could never be conquered until they were roped, thrown and tied down. We generally roached their manes and tails and used the hair for making ropes.

“After annexation the United States sent troops to protect us against Indian raids, and though only a boy I drove an ox wagon three years carrying supplies for the troops from Corpus Christi to Fort Merrill. I had to support my mother and my three little half brothers and two little half sisters, as well as my stepmother, who was nearly blind and could not work. He lost his eye when hit by a cork which flew from



MR. AND MRS. R. H. GILLETT

Roswell Henry Gillett was one of the younger sons of Rev. and Mrs. Roswell Gillett, a Methodist minister who moved to Bee county with his family in the late 1860's. After the close of the Civil War he was married to Miss Sallie Wilson on June 14, 1869, on the John E. Wilson ranch on the Aransas creek. Mr. and Mrs. Gillett moved to McMullen county in 1884 and for 18 years Mr. Gillett was in the cattle and ranching business. He disposed of his interests in that county and returned to Beeville in 1902, and they continued to make their home here until their deaths. After his return to Beeville, Mr. Gillett served as a member and president of the Beeville school board, and also as Justice of the Peace, holding these offices at his death. The Gillett family was long identified with the religious and civic life of Beeville and vicinity. Mr. Gillett died in 1925 and Mrs. Gillett passed away four years later.

a bottle of English port while he was opening it.

"I made \$30 per month, and that was considered good wages for a boy in those times. When I commenced on this job I was scarcely large enough to put the yoke on the oxen. I wore hickory shirts and red shoes, and it usually took me eight days to make the round trip. Sometimes an axle would break and then I was two weeks making the round trip. There were only two blacksmiths accessible, one being at each end of the route. I made these trips alone, sleeping at night by the side of my wagon. Finally John Ross bought me a good wagon at a government sale, paying \$30 for it. I worked it out."

Pat Burke died in August, 1912, at the age of 78 years.

STOCKMAN'S PARADISE

IN THOSE days this country was a wilderness, an empire of prairie land, the home of wild game, the hunting ground of Indians, a virgin wealth of pasture land, and a stockman's paradise. Wild game was in abundance, but the pioneer killed only what he needed, leaving the rest to roam at will.

Strange as it may seem, when a deer or beef was killed for food it was hung up in the shade of a tree, a crust forming over the meat which preserved it. There were no insects to bother the meat, so it hung until all was used.

Deer roamed the prairies in great numbers, often 100 or more being in a herd. Their backs and horns could be seen above the tall grass. Sometimes in the late sixties or early seventies a disease called "black tongue" broke out. The tongues of the deer swelled out of their mouths, causing hundreds to die.

Wild turkeys were without number and added greatly to the food supply of the rancher and farmer well up into the 80's.

Stock-raising began in what is now Bee county in about 1840, some men driving their cattle here from around Austin and

Gonzales. Mr. Dunlap brought between 600 and 700 head and settled in the bend of the Aransas creek, near a spring and deep pool of water, the stream running from there on down to the bay continuously. He also built a rock house, the walls of which are standing intact today. In later years Mr. Dunlap sold his cattle and the rock house to Joe Wilson. Mr. Wilson sold the house to Capt. D. A. T. Walton, who was living there when he was first elected sheriff of Bee county in 1875.

Mr. Dunlap's daughter, Miss Libbie, taught the first school for the pioneer children in a picket house a mile or two farther down the creek from her home. Little Sallie Wilson, who later became Mrs. Roswell Gillett and mother of Mrs. Tom Lyne, was one of her pupils. It was about the time she was going to this school that Sallie was visiting one day in the Page home six or seven miles farther down the Aransas creek where she saw three camels, the last of the herd brought to Texas in 1856 to act as beasts of burden. They were found unprofitable and were turned out to roam the prairies. The three camels came to the house. They looked very strange to her. The sight of them frightened the tiny girl of seven years.

During the winter of 1861-62 a troop of cavalry was stationed at Fort Camp Verde in Kerr county with a pack-train of about forty camels. These camels were used by the soldiers as pack animals only, in a few instances officers' wives rode them to Camp Ivey, several miles from the Fort. The camp was named for the Reverend Ivey, a Methodist minister, who held religious meetings there. Horses could smell camels a long distance away and often showed signs of alarm at the approach of these lumbering, humpback animals. When several of these camels came one Sunday to Camp Ivey, bringing officers' wives, six on a camel, the horses already hitched around the arbor became so frightened and unruly that the minister had to suspend his preaching until the women had dismounted and

the horses had been calmed.

LIVED BY GOLDEN RULE

THE STOCKMAN kept his cattle ranged around on the land on which he had settled as best he could, employing line-riding to keep them all together and away from other people's cattle. It was possible to do this as there was no timber or brush to obstruct the view and plenty of fine grass near the watering place.

The pioneer men and women tried to live by the Golden Rule, "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Their word was their bond, or note. If they borrowed money from a neighbor the transaction was just a verbal contract. There were no legal papers drawn up requiring the signature of friends. The obligation simply was kept in mind, and in most every instance the men were true to their word and honor.

Money was carried in money sacks. When the traveler camped out at nights, he threw the sack of money over a limb, or tree, or put it on the ground and used it for a pillow. If he stopped at a house or an inn for the night he left the sack of money on the porch until morning, with no thought of it being molested.

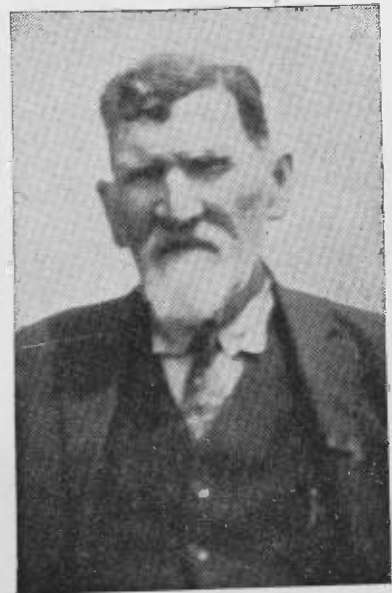
The first houses were made of straight poles stood side by side, the cracks being filled with grass or moss. The dirt floor was covered with white sand from the creek beds and the roof was made of split boards cut from big trees. The chimney was built of sticks and moss, plastered inside to make them fire-proof and outside to protect them from the weather. This plaster was made of clay, with moss which had been boiled to make it black and durable, for the filling or foundation.

Later the houses were made log-cabin style, the logs being hued so they would fit at the corners of the room or house. Then the men learned to make floors of boards split straight with the grain of the wood, using a sharp ax and dressing the top side down until the floor was smooth. The door was a half-door, although some-

times it was built to the top of the structure.

The corn crib and smokehouse were made of the same materials, and a rail fence was built around the home. If the home was away from a running stream a well was dug, a square box being built over it as a protection for man and beast. A pulley with two oaken buckets hung in the well. If the house was near a running stream, water was obtained from the stream. During dry spells sometimes the stream would stop flowing, but a shallow hole could be dug where the rocks were in the creeks and cool spring water obtained.

Later when conditions became better, with the enemy driven back, people began to build houses of rock dug from the ground



JERRY CORRIGAN

Mr. Corrigan, a son of John Corrigan, was born in San Patricio county September 13, 1853. He first married Ann Miller of the Papalote community and following her death was married to Mrs. Mary (Joiner) Moody of Victoria. He served as cattle inspector for many years and in early life was a stockman. He died January 16, 1936

on the rocky hills. These rocks were moist and easy to cut when taken from the earth. They were sawed into squares and left in the sun to dry and harden before being built into a house. Some of these houses

are standing intact today—strong evidence of some good brick and stone masons among the pioneers.

The first houses made of lumber were erected around 1845. The material was brought here by ox teams from St. Mary's.

John Corrigan, one of the colonists who came in 1830, father of the late Jerry Corrigan, settled on the Aransas river below the "V" where the Paesta and Aransas come together. The family had exciting times with the enemy and the wild life of this new country. On one occasion the wife was alone when the Indians came. The Indians killed the faithful dog and took Mrs. Corrigan's saddle pony, which was tied to the gate post near the door of the home.

At another time Jerome Murphy was on his way from Victoria to San Patricio and stopped on the creek near the Corrigan home for dinner. After preparing his meal and sitting down to eat, he saw the Indians coming. He ran to the house a short distance away. The enemy took his coffee, bacon and cornbread, and also his horse and saddle.

Mrs. Corrigan told Mr. Murphy to get her horse and go notify her husband, who was in the woods splitting rails, but Mr. Murphy would not go. She told him she would go, and tying a red handkerchief around her head and mounting her pony, she rode into the woods. The Indians watched her ride away. When she returned with her husband some rangers were there and engaged in a running fight with the Indians to the Mulis hills.

The Corrigan family was compelled to leave their home several times for safety. At one time before leaving they decided to hide their furniture and household belongings by digging a deep hole in the ground and burying them, feeling that if the enemy came they would not find the articles. "But they came and destroyed," digging up the furniture and breaking the articles into pieces. Only one piece—a table—escaped destruction, and it is an heirloom in the family today. It is said

pieces of dishes can be found on the ground there today.

COUNTY NAMED FOR NATIVE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

BEE COUNTY was named for Bernard E. Bee, who was born in 1787 in Charleston, S. C. Bee studied law and became prominent in the nullification troubles of South Carolina. In 1836 he came to Texas and joined the army. He was elected as one of three commissioners to accompany Santa Anna to Washington City in order that he might renew in the presence of General Jackson the promises he (Santa Anna) had made to the Republic of Texas in regard to independence and other matters.

The promises were renewed in General Jackson's presence, but they were never fulfilled. When the commissioners reached New Orleans, Santa Anna, being in want of funds, drew his draft upon his bank in Vera Cruz for \$2,000, and with the endorsement of Colonel Bee he obtained the money. Upon his return to Vera Cruz Santa Anna repudiated the draft on the grounds that he was a prisoner under duress when the draft was made. Colonel Bee made good the draft, and after waiting for some time was reimbursed by the Republic of Texas.

Colonel Bee was secretary of war under President Houston and secretary of state under President Lamar. Later he was minister to the United States from the Republic of Texas. He was subsequently commissioned as minister to Mexico. When his credentials were sent to Mexico Santa Anna politely returned them, with the statement that he would be delighted to receive Colonel Bee as his friend, but never as the official representative of the rebellious province of Texas.

Colonel Bee was opposed to annexation and after that act was consummated he returned to South Carolina, where he died in 1853.

While General Hamilton P. Bee was speaker of the House of Representatives of Texas the county of Bee was named in

honor of his father. To another son, Col. Bernard E. Bee, Jr., a graduate of West Point who was killed at the first battle of Manassas, the world is indebted for the prefix "Stonewall" to the name of General T. J. Jackson.

COUNTY ORGANIZED

BEE COUNTY was organized in 1858 and contains 550,000 acres of land. It was carved from Goliad, Refugio, and San Patricio counties. Most of the acreage, however, was taken from San Patricio county.

The first officers were: J. A. Martin, sheriff; W. B. Thompson, chief justice (or judge); Henderson Williams, county clerk; James Drewry, assessor (Mr. Drewry filled the office nine months, at which time J. B. Madray was elected to the office); S. B. Meriman, district clerk; John Phelps, Louis Campbell, Henry Clare, and David Craven, commissioners.

The first court was held under a tree on the Medio creek on February 10, 1858, seven miles east of the present town of Beeville, where the first townsite was located. It was called Marysville, in honor of the murdered Mary Hefferman. Jack Phelps, father of the late Nick Phelps, donated the land for the location. A courthouse was built of pickets with dirt floor. The furniture consisted of one table and two benches.

When time came to hold court, each man put his blanket in a roll on the back of his saddle, a change of clothes in the saddle pockets and eats in a moral on the horn of the saddle. He was off to be gone until court was over—and it took every man in the county to hold it.

There was some dissatisfaction over the location of the county seat. Some wanted to move it farther west, while others wanted it to remain where it was. After considerable debating they decided to run a line north and south, then east and west, to find the exact center of the county, drive a stake down and build the courthouse there. This location was on the hill about one and one-half miles northeast of where

the present courthouse is now standing.

Mrs. Ann Burke offered to give 200 acres of land to be used for the townsite. After considering the matter the commissioners decided to accept the offer, as it would save buying the land and at the same time the town would be only a short distance from the center of the county. So in 1860 the town was moved from the Medio to its present site on the Paesta. The name also was changed because an older town in the state had priority on the name of Marysville.

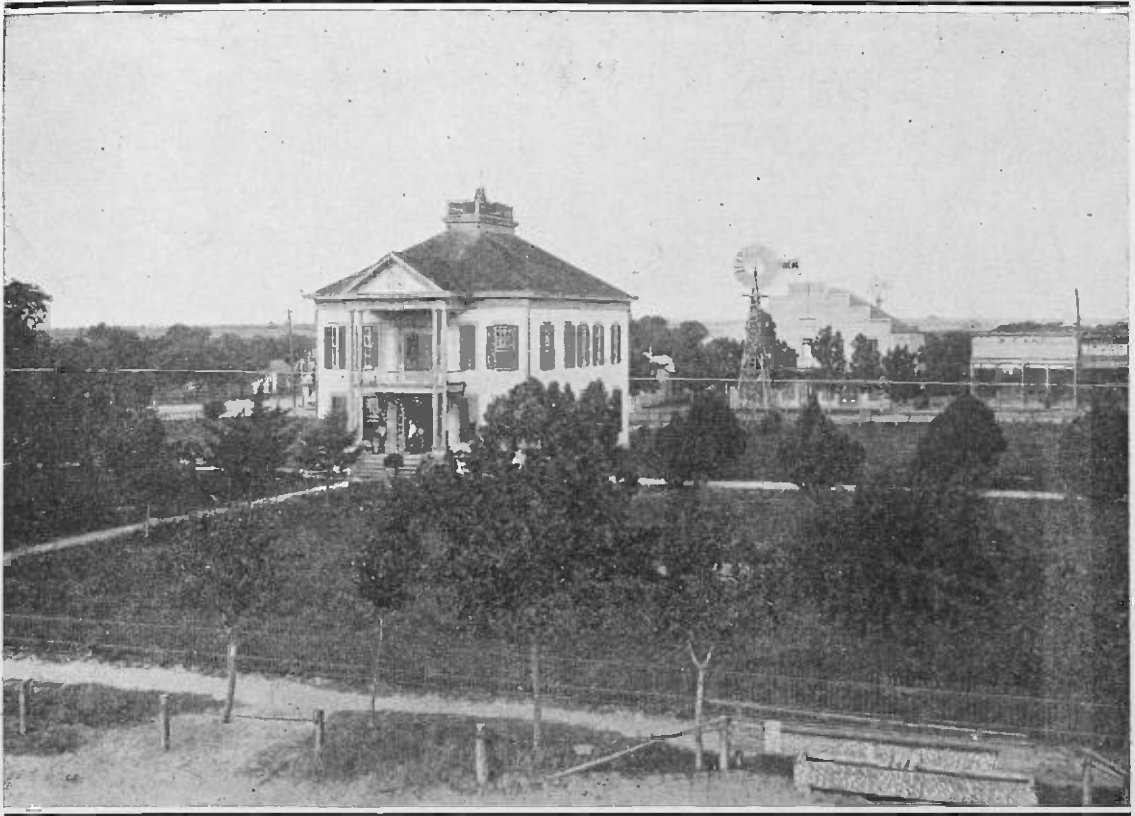
There was still some opposition to moving the county seat, and, in order to get the books with the first records in time for the first district court, which was held November 15, 1858, an officer was sent out to bring them in.

The first court held in Beeville was in a one-room house where the Southern Pacific depot now stands. This house also was used for church services, as a schoolhouse, and as a theatre when shows came to town. Most of the pupils came from outlying farms and ranches, as the population of the town was so small. J. W. Flournoy later taught school in this building.

The first courthouse in Beeville was built in 1861 by J. H. Toomey at a cost of \$473. It was located across the street west from the present courthouse, on the site now occupied by the Frels filling station. It was a one-room building, made of lumber. A well was dug near the building and furnished water for the public watering troughs for teams.

The court ordered that a subscription be taken for the building of this house. It also issued scrip for the amount subscribed by each man, dollar for dollar. The next winter a chimney was built by C. B. Hill and the fireplace was made by L. Clark. Both men took town lots as compensation for their labor.

The Masonic fraternity was allowed to erect a second story over the courthouse. Ewing Wilson and G. W. McClanahan had the contract.



SECOND BEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1879-1912

Picture shows frame courthouse building which served the county 33 years. Erected by Viggo Kohler, contract price \$3,425. Picture taken from northeast corner of the square, showing water trough in foreground and county's windmill on the west side. Large building in the rear is old opera house. Smaller building to the right had a vault that served the town as a safe place for money until the banks came. Courthouse was destroyed by fire after contract for the present building had been let.

Viggo Kohler was awarded the contract to erect the next courthouse built in Beeville. Bids were called for. C. F. Rudolph bid \$4,400, John Impson bid \$3,865, and Mr. Kohler \$3,425. The contract was let September 20, 1878. The building was completed and received May 12, 1879. Col. F. J. Malone and F. O. Conner were bondsmen.

LAST INDIAN FIGHT

ABOUT 1862 the last Indian fight to take place in this vicinity was won by the settlers near the Pettus ranch home. It was about this time that Sam Williams, eldest son of Henderson Williams, who lived in the Dark Corner, went out one day to hunt hogs—with a sack of corn tied to his saddle—and came upon a bunch of Indians. He saw them in time

to run his horse across the prairie to a mot of small trees. He jumped off, wrapped the bridle reins around a bush and ran into the thicket, then out on the other side before the Indians reached the mot. Mr. Williams crawled through the tall grass until he came to the creek. He swam the stream and made his way home by nightfall.

The Indians wanted his horse, but their war-like yells frightened the animal and he jerked the reins off the bush and ran away, reaching home some time during the night. Sam thought his horse must have run many miles, as the corn in the sack was all shelled off the cob.

Next day a band of armed men went to the scene and found the Indians had run their horses around and around the mot

until they had beat out the grass and made a road, thinking the boy was inside and would run out, and then they would capture or kill him.

As there were no railroads in this part of the state, freighting was done by wagon. There were two wagon roads crossing Bee county from Mexico City to Austin and other trading posts. Rich Mexican merchants sent their caravans of 50 or more wagons over these roads with coffee and other merchandise for sale and trade. These wagons were drawn by four, six and eight white mules to a wagon. Each mule wore fine harness with many tiny bells, the tinkle of which could be heard along the way.

The drivers carried mesquite beans as food for the mules. From these seed a growth soon sprang up which could be seen for miles over the prairie as the outline of the roads, and in course of time the mesquite has spread over the entire country that once was prairie, except for the trees on the banks of the streams.

There was no prickly pear in Bee county then, while today it is choking out the grass on black mesquite land and is considered a nuisance, except during dry winters, when it becomes valuable as food for cattle.

Freighting was one of the main means of livelihood for men who did not own cattle. Most of the supplies for Bee county were brought from St. Mary's. Austin also was a trading center.

The teamsters used covered wagons made of heavy timbers. Sometimes for safety in rainy weather when hauling salt and flour, cow hides were drawn over the sheet on top of the bows. A hide was used sometimes for a chuck box under the wagon, the four corners being tied securely to the vehicle. It was a "carry-all" and a safe place to carry the teamster's necessities.

JAY HAWKS IN BEE COUNTY

In the early days, before Bee county was organized, my grandfather, Chris Harwell, who lived at LaGrange, Texas, was a freight-

er between Austin and Brownsville. Late one afternoon some jay-hawkers overtook him somewhere in what is now Bee county and rode along with him until time to camp for the night. He knew, of course, they would take what he had, and possibly his scalp, but he stopped his team, built the camp fire, made coffee and prepared his meager meal. Then he asked the men to eat with him, which they did. They told him they would not harm him or take his goods because he had been kind to them.

Grandfather told them he was alone and at their mercy; that his wife and children needed the things he had bought for them, and that he needed the money he would get for hauling the freight. They thanked him for his kindness and rode away, leaving a better feeling existing between them.

When horses were used instead of oxen on these trips and the teamster had some wild ones to break, he hitched them in and at the end of the trip the wild ones were broken.

Some men were so skilled in handling horses that they could hitch in one, two and three "potros" to a wagon "with no help" and start on a trip. He would rope a wild horse, put the hacamore on, tie one end of a long rope in the loop of the halter and put the other end of the rope through the ring on the end of the wagon tongue, then draw the animal into place, even though he would fight and kick. The teamster would put the harness on the horse, then with a rope tied in the ring on the trace pull it around and hook it to the singletree. With a trusty lead team, two wild ones in the swing, the third wild one on the off-side and a trusty old wheel-horse for the freighter to ride, all was ready for the trip.

If oxen were used one or two saddle ponies or saddle mules were led behind the wagon to ride after the oxen every morning. At night each yoke of oxen was necked together. A bell was hung on one and rawhide hobbles fastened on their feet, then they were turned loose to graze. Some were well trained and knew what to do

when his master called "woe come," "gee ha" and "back."

DAYS OF OX WAGON

WHEN Tim Cude was a young man about sixteen years old, living at Oakville, he joined the army in 1862. He was honorably discharged and returned home at the age of twenty-three. As he traveled on, coming to Lapa creek near his old home, he came upon his father and mother with a load of freight from Corpus Christi, bogged down in the mud. After watching Mr. Cude for awhile trying to make the oxen pull the load, the soldier asked them to let him drive, saying that he could make the team pull. They refused and told him that the only other person who could drive those oxen was their son, and he had not returned home since the war. The young man again offered to drive, and Mr. Cude agreed to give him a trial. He took the long rawhide whip and gave it a ringing crack, calling to the oxen to come on. At once they began to pull the loaded wagon out of the creek and up the bank. When the parents heard him call to the team as he did when he was a boy at home, they knew he was their son. He had changed from a boy of sixteen to a man with long beard.

In later years, "Uncle Tim," as he was called by the young boys and girls, was selected by the citizens of Oakville, as an honest, trusty man, who they could depend upon to take a load of cowhides to Corpus Christi and exchange for flour, each man sending a sufficient number of hides to pay for a barrel of flour. The trip to Corpus Christi was made safely, although Indians still scouted over the country. The weather was very warm and dry. On the return trip when he reached the Nueces river, near where Mathis is today, the oxen, being hot and thirsty, ran down a steep bluff to the water, over-turning the load of flour into the water. Some of the oxen were killed, the wagon demolished, and the flour was a complete loss. Mr. Cude managed to get two of the oxen out alive, also the front

wheels and tongue of the wagon. It was with a heavy heart that "Uncle Tim" went home to tell the people the ill fate of the load of flour. They had been without bread for some time, as there was a severe drouth and no corn had been made. The settlers had plenty of meat and their wild game, but no bread.

BEEVILLE'S FIRST MERCHANT

GEORGE WALKER McCLANAHAN was born in Craig county, Virginia, in 1824. He graduated from Emory and Henry College in 1853.

The same year he came to Goliad, Texas, to become principal of Paine Female Institute. In 1858 he resigned because of bad health, and with his wife, traveled through the adjoining county, camping out in order to regain his health.

In 1859 or 1860 he settled in Beeville, which became a townsite at that time.

G. W. McClanahan was one of the first men to settle in Beeville. He came from Virginia and was a young man, capable and dependable in every way, taking an active part in the welfare and development of the town and surrounding country.

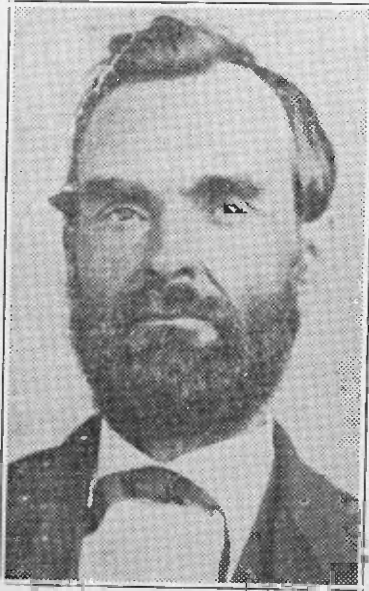
He owned and operated the first mercantile business in the town. This store was located in the vicinity of where the J. W. Brown home is today. He owned two blocks of land on which he planted corn and vegetables.

Several families of the first residents settled around in this neighborhood, each buying enough land on which to grow some corn and a garden.

When the townsite question was finally settled and the move from the Medio to its present location on the Paesta creek was completed, men began to buy land and build homes.

Mr. McClanahan bought some lots down on the public square, paying as high as \$11 for one lot in a horse trade. He sold it back to the man he bought it from for \$16 cash.

In writing to one of his brothers, Mr. McClanahan told him of the different oc-



GEO. W. McCLANAHAN
Beeville's First Merchant.



MRS. G. W. McCLANAHAN
Died of Yellow Fever in 1867.



McCLANAHAN STORE, BUILT IN ABOUT 1867

The above large building was the second, or possibly the third store Mr. McClanahan, Beeville's first merchant, erected here. It still stands on the east side of the courthouse square and is the home of Mrs. A. Q. Knight. The small store to the left was the first McClanahan store built on the square. The tree in front is gone.

cupations he was engaged in. He was storekeeper, farmer and gardner, deputy clerk in the county clerk's office, doing most of the writing, and sometimes was tavern keeper when anyone chanced to come this way and wanted a night's lodging. He owned a small bunch of cattle that grazed on the open range.

In a letter written to his parents on January 29, 1862, this pioneer made mention of the mild, healthy climate, no local sickness, rolling prairies, no river bottoms, no marshes, no dead or decaying timber, and mild winters. Up to that time there had not been sufficient cold to kill sweet potato vines and beans, he said. Grass was green, flowers were blooming on the prairie and volunteer corn was six to eight inches high. So far, this had been the mildest winter since 1829.

On account of the blockade during the war, it was impossible for this country to get any kind of seed to plant in the spring of 1862, so in this letter Mr. McClanahan asked his father to send him a small amount of lettuce, tomato, beets, radish and onion seed. Also a handful of beans and a half thimble-full of tobacco seed.

Although he loved his native state, this pioneer was loyal to his adopted state. In a letter written to his brother the last of February, 1865, Mr. McClanahan invited his brother to come to Texas and eat a fat wild turkey and breathe the air that had caused the remark, "We have no boys in Texas—all are men."

When the post office was moved from Medio Hill to Beeville it was established in the McClanahan store. Henderson Wilgams was postmaster for a short time. Thomas Martin was appointed and held the office until December, 1872, when he resigned. B. B. Atkins was assistant postmaster.

In resigning Mr. Martin recommended Mr. McClanahan for the position, stating that he had been doing most of the work in the office "and without pay" for around 12 years.

The mail came twice a week when the

roads were not bad, and one man could look after both the store and post office.

G. W. McClanahan was appointed postmaster in January 1873, and held the office until his death. He taught the short sessions of school when he first came to Beeville for the accommodation of the few children who lived there. He was superintendent of Sunday school and was secretary of the Masonic lodge.

Viggo Kohler had the contract to build the McClanahan store down on the east side of the public square in the summer of 1872. He moved into the building in September of that year.

In closing the letter to his brother (in 1865) Mr. McClanahan gave some war-time prices on bread-stuff and other merchandise. Because of a dry spring the previous year there was very little corn raised in Bee county.

A good corn crop was harvested on the Colorado and Brazos rivers, but the great distance to freight it to this coast country and the heavy demand from the government for supplies, raised the price to \$2 per bushel in the field. After hauling the corn to Goliad and Beeville it was sold for \$10 per bushel. At San Antonio it could be bought for \$7 because the hauling distance was shorter. At Corpus Christi the price that winter ranged from \$10 to \$25 per bushel.

Flour sold in Beeville at this time for from \$25 to \$35 per hundred pounds, coffee brought from \$2 to \$2.50 per pound, tobacco, "good leaf," \$3 per pound; plug tobacco, \$5 to \$6 per pound, \$2.50 to \$3.00 per plug; calico (cotton print), \$1.50 per yard; domestic, \$1.50 per yard; spool of thread, 50c to \$1; gun powder, \$15 to \$25 per pound. (At San Antonio powder could be bought for \$3 to \$5 a pound.)

Horses and beef cattle were scarce and very high. A yoke of steers cost \$100. The year before they sold for \$40. A two-horse wagon that sold for \$50 in 1864 brought \$140 to \$150 in 1865.

As corn was the only grain raised in this country for making bread, cornbread was

the principal bread used, and with the high price of flour, biscuits were made only once a week, usually on Sunday mornings for breakfast.

There was no baking powder or other leavening compounds in those days until soda was brought in, so the pioneer mothers made lovely beaten biscuits from whole-wheat flour ground at the mill. They made up the dough with the other ingredients, placed the dough on a wooden board, or "bread board," then beat it with a wooden pestle, or heavy piece of wood.

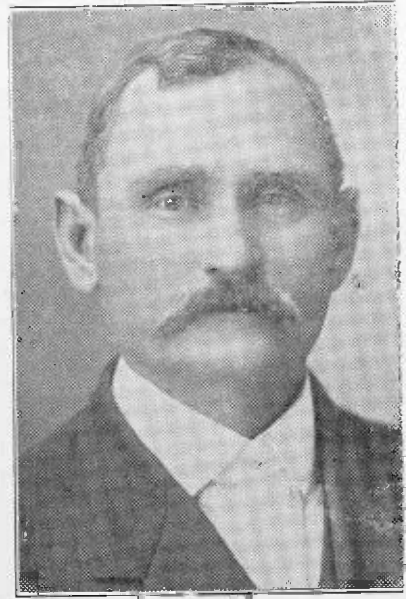
This dough was folded over and beat, then folded over again and beat until the dough became light and full of air bubbles, when it was baked to a golden brown in a dutch oven. This was fit to set before a king.

In 1866, Mr. McClanahan moved to Corpus Christi, where he entered the mercantile business. After the death of his wife in 1867, during a yellow fever epidemic, Mr. McClanahan with his four children, Mary, William, George, and James, returned to Beeville where he opened another store which he conducted up until his death in April, 1874.

After the death of their father, the children went to his native state, Virginia, to make their home with an uncle. During the years that followed, the daughter and sons, through love and respect for their parents, made occasional trips back to Beeville, the place of their birth, to visit the town their father loved so well and helped to establish, and also to place flowers on their graves. The father's body lies in the cemetery at Beeville, and the mother at Corpus Christi.

Mr. McClanahan's eldest son, William, now living in Oakland, California, was the first white child born in Beeville, which, was in January, 1861.

B. P. Stephenson, who is a resident of Beeville, where he has made his home the greater part of his life since his birth on June 14, 1861, was the second white child born there. He is a former mayor of this city and also served as mayor of Yoakum,



B. P. STEPHENSON

Second white child born in Beeville, served as Mayor of the city after a long residence in Yoakum, where he also served as Mayor. Mr. Stephenson was born June 14, 1861.

where he resided many years before returning to Beeville to make his home in 1905.

FREIGHTING IN THE EARLY SIXTIES

WR. HAYES was a freighter and made many trips to Austin for freight. Later he became judge of Bee county and served in that capacity sixteen years. On August 16, 1866, he left his home on the Aransas, eight miles south of Beeville, for Austin, with a wagon and four yokes of oxen. He also had two saddle ponies. He went by way of Victoria for a load of salt to sell on the trip. He camped the first night on Blanco creek. Mr. Hayes left camp early the next morning traveling on without lunch in order to reach Goliad by night, as heavy rains had fallen.

When he reached the San Antonio river however, the stream was very high and could not be crossed on the ferry, as driftwood was coming down. Mr. Hayes camped for the night near LaBahia mission, and next morning paid Hugh Tally \$1.50 to hit

ferry him across the river. He passed through Goliad, plodding his way through the mud, and when 15 miles out on the prairie a heavy downpour of rain came. The teamster stopped for the night and stayed in an old abandoned house. Although another heavy rain fell Sunday and the prairie was covered with water, he reached Victoria by night, camping near the depot with some other teamsters.

The following morning Mr. Hayes found that two of his oxen were missing, and as he had to wait for his supply of salt to be brought up on the cars from the bay, he rode all day in the rain in search of the oxen without finding them. His salt arrived next day. Mr. Hayes paid \$2.50 per sack and gave a negro 25c to help load it on the wagon. He was ready to start the



W. R. HAYES

Served as County Judge of Bee
County for 16 Years.

water. Sunday found him at Peach creek in Gonzales county. The stream was on a rise, so he camped there for two days. Having fallen in with some other freighters he traded off one of his ponies and got an oxen as boot.

Mr. Hayes started out again, but after traveling four miles and bogging down once, he camped for the night. With heavy rains all the way the roads were fearful, but he averaged from six to twelve miles a day, selling salt at stores on the way at \$4.50 and \$5 per sack. One day was so warm one of his oxen gave out when he became over-heated, and the driver was forced to leave him.

Making some repairs on his wagon, he traveled on to the river two miles from Austin. The stream was on a big rise and the ferry boat had sunk. There was only one thing to do and that was to go up the river two miles to a shallow ford. The road was very bad but the scenery was beautiful.

After crossing the river Mr. Hayes went down to Austin on September 4, where he sold the remainder of his salt, bought a bundle of papers and magazines and drove out to his old camp grounds. Next day he rode around to locate wheat which he bought at \$1.50 per bushel. He hauled it to the mill on the river, waiting three days to have it ground into flour.

With the heaviest rains he had seen for years, Mr. Hayes' camp became very disagreeable, and the teamster grew impatient and eager to be on his way home. But for the newspapers and magazines, he would have found the layover more irksome than it was.

Still raining on September 11 and the mill shut down for want of fuel, the driver was forced to remain another day until his wheat was ground. The day was spent in looking for an odd ox, which he found about sunset. A negro was paid 25c for helping load the wagon with "3,350 pounds of flour" that night, and with the oxen in the corral everything was in readiness for the next morning, which dawned bright

Following day. With three yokes of oxen the teamster pulled out with eighteen sacks, driving five miles on the Gonzales road to a camp ground.

Starting early the following day in search of his oxen, he hunted until 10 o'clock when he decided they had been stolen. He hitched up and traveled on over mud and

and clear.

Leaving the mill homeward bound the freighter passed through Austin, paid \$1 for ferrage at the river and \$1 to some negroes who helped him up the bank as the roads were in the worst condition they had been in 10 years. He traveled on, reaching Gonzales on September 20, finding the river too high to ford. There was no ferry, so the driver went down the stream 10 miles to Clinton and crossed, camping there.

The night was very blustery and quite cold for September. No rain fell after Mr. Hayes left Austin, although the roads were still bad, the mud being just stiff enough to pull heavy. It appeared as if everything had happened to detain him on this trip, despite the fact that he had made every effort to make good time. The trip on to Goliad was made without much delay, except when the bad creek banks had to be climbed. Arriving in Goliad the freighter sold some of his flour for \$7 per cwt. He then went down the river which he found low, but the banks were so bad the driver paid to be ferried across.

The driver proceeded five miles on the Beeville road, camping after dark, "with the usual appearance of rain in the north." At daylight a cold norther and heavy rain came up. Mr. Hayes waited some time, then became impatient and struck out in the downpour. The skies soon cleared away, however, and the freighter reached Hanse McKinney's place at noon, where he ate dinner. At the creek bank he stuck and was forced to partly unload. When he had made his way across the creek he reloaded his wagon and went on to Blanco creek, which he found too high to ford. He was forced to camp for the night.

Remembering his ax that he forgot to replace in the wagon when he made the last camp, Mr. Hayes rode back a distance of three miles after it, returning to camp after dark, cold and wet. Next morning he left early on what he thought would be the last day of travel before reaching home. He reached Beeville late in the afternoon, where he delivered some flour. He travel-

ed on about two miles, but the roads were in such bad condition he turned his oxen out with bells and hobbles on, left his wagon and rode home to spend the night. Next day he went back for his wagon, delivering flour he had bought for the neighbors and finally reaching home at night.

Due to floods and bad roads it required 42 days to make this trip. After a few days rest and looking after things around his home, Mr. Hayes began hauling rocks and posts at \$2.50 per day for Mr. Irvine, a sheep-man who was building a large pasture. The posts were cut in the Besados thicket on Olmos creek. A baby was born to bless Mr. and Mrs. Hayes' home shortly after his return from Austin with the load of flour. In summing up the work a man had to do on a ranch in those days without a servant, the following is what was accomplished in one day: One had to arise at daylight, make fires, pen calves, help to get breakfast, milk cows, restake horses, clog a mare, doctor two colts, get hired man off to work, do some washing, take hide off of an ox, make a lariat and drive the horses in at night—"a bunch of more than 100 head."

The experiences of Mr. Hayes on this trip to Austin and the cutting and hauling of fence posts and rocks are only a few of the privations and hardships our dear fathers and grandfathers endured when they were laying the foundation for the pleasures and comforts we enjoy today. May the memory of their honest toil live long in the minds and hearts of their children.

RECONSTRUCTION DAYS

IN THE YOUNG days of the county the men worked with thrilling interest, building their homes and conducting the county's affairs, trying to protect life and property along with their everyday work of making an honest living. In 1875-76 a number of outlaws who had been driven from other counties drifted in, giving the officers and settlers a great deal of trouble.

After their patience was exhausted and

their "ire raised," some of the best citizens decided the only prompt and effective way to deal with thieves and robbers was the old-fashioned one of a "short shift and a long rope," and for a time the outlaw in Bee county was in the wrong place.

When the war came on and most of the settlers volunteered for service in the army they left their cattle in charge of the men who remained at home. True to the proverb, "What's everybody's business is nobody's business," when the war broke up and the men came home they found a general mixup of their cattle. The cattle had not been kept around within a certain range as the owner had tried to do, and had had very little care during the three years. No man knew where his cattle were nor how many head he had. There were no fences and in the winter cattle and horses drifted to the coast.

Then came the reconstruction period for the stockman, when the rope and branding iron were used. The cowmen in the county rigged up a chuck wagon and cook to drive the wagon and do the cooking for the men. Each stockman furnished his part of everything, cowboys and ponies included.

The cowboy picked out his horses, about six or eight, for the trip. No one else rode them, as they were selected especially for the man to use as his mount for the entire trip. The ponies were trained for different classes of work. Some were cutting ponies, some were for working cattle during the day, while some were drilled for riding around the herd at night, and especially in a stampede.

A few of them may have been "portros," or unbroken horses. If so, some time was required to teach them the rope. A saddle was placed on the animal and the cowboy mounted, roped a two-year-old steer and tied the end of the rope to the horn of the saddle, then turned the wild horse and steer loose on the prairie to have it out. The experience taught the portro a lesson he never forgot.

With this done, everything was ready to

start on the "great roundup" to find their cattle and bring them home. Everything found in the herd was taken. The men made the rounds of the coast country, stopping for a few days at some good water holes while the hands scouted the country for more cattle.

After a few weeks they returned home, stopping on the Aransas, where the branding took place. There were no pens to put the cattle in, but the hands held the herd while others on good cutting ponies rode into the bunch, roped a calf or yearling and dragged the animal to the fire, where the men waited with red-hot irons to brand it like its mother. The boss had a book with each man's brand. A man was known by his brand more than by his name in the pioneer days.

In 1864-65 men began hauling poles to build pens for their horses. They watched after the horses during the day, but drove them home at night, placing the manatha in pens and leaving the remuda, or saddle ponies, on the range. In 1869 there were 7,980 horses in the county, 60,320 head of cattle and 10,020 head of sheep. The "die-up" in 1871-72 claimed more than half of the cattle, but the loss was much less among the horses and sheep.

Cattle sold from \$8 to \$30 a head after they had been driven to Kansas City. Horses sold from \$10 to \$35 each, while sheep brought \$1 a head.

About this time John Hynes owned a greater number of horses than any man in the county, the total being 750; J. A. Pettus led in cattle with about 4,000 head, while John King was the largest sheep owner, the number being 4,000.

COUNTY'S FIRST DROUTH AND FIRST FENCES

THE FIRST severe drought in Bee county of which there is any record was in 1863-64. It was followed by a severe winter and late spring, and with no protection from the cold a large percentage of the cattle died. As there was no trade in the country, due to the war,

hides were valueless and the animals were not skinned.

The years that followed were seasonable and good corn crops were raised, with one exception, when frost killed corn during the latter part of April. The corn was almost big enough to tassel.

In 1871-72 the most disastrous drought the stockmen ever experienced came on, no rain falling in this section. The drought area extended to the hill country around Austin and San Antonio. However, Bee county had sufficient rainfall to produce grass for their stock, but when winter came on all the cattle from the drought-stricken district drifted in, ate all the grass and drank the pools of water dry, roaming up and down the streams day after day lowing for water. They died by the thousands all over the country that winter.

When the cattle began to die men started skinning them, as their hides were worth \$3 each. A law was passed at first providing that a man could skin only cattle bearing his own brand, but later the cattle died so fast there was not sufficient time to look for one's own brand, so they took the hides off as they came to the carcasses. One man could remove eight or ten hides a day if he was efficient at the work. Some settlers paid for their land (at 12 1-2c to 50c per acre) with the money received from selling cow hides, and money was plentiful for the first time.

In 1866-68 the first fences were made in the county. They were built of rough heart plank, hauled over hog wallow or washboard roads with ox teams from St. Mary's. John Wilson, uncle of Turner and John Wilson, enclosed 600 acres at his home on the Aransas with three strings of plank. This was where the spring roundup and branding took place for many years. "Uncle John and Aunt Sis," as everyone called them, were among the first to improve a piece of land in the county. They had negroes to do the work, negro quarters and cabins being included in the improvements. Dennis was one of the negroes, and also Bill Williams, who was for many

years afterward a familiar figure in Beeville.

Mr. Wilson brought the first Durham cattle to the county, buying 12 or 15 head from a northern state, paying several hundred dollars each for them. The cattle soon contracted the Texas fever, or tick fever, and refused to eat. Most of the hair came off their bodies. Everything was done to stimulate an appetite in the cattle and by



JOHN E. WILSON

Mr. Wilson was born in Lebanon county, Tenn., in 1828. Came to Texas in 1832, first settling in Gonzales county. He came to Bee county in about 1853. He was an early stockman and resided on the Aransas creek while a resident of Bee county. His death occurred at San Antonio after the turn of the century.

experimenting it was found they would eat a few bites of cornbread. This food was made for them until the fever subsided when the cattle were able to relish grass. Only one cow and three bulls survived the epidemic.

This was a nucleus for the Durham cattle industry in this part of the country. Some years later Si Elliff purchased 40 or 50 head of half-breeds from Mr. Wilson for his ranch in San Patricio county.

Uncle John and Aunt Sis were very charitable, always lending assistance to anyone who was in need. They had no children but were ever ready to do something for their neighbors' children, frequently giving some youngster a mare, colt or heifer calf with the request that they keep the animal and the increase until the boy or girl reached maturity. This kindness stood as a monument to this dear old pioneer couple.

Mr. Wilson erected a large pen made of poles to be used for a roping and branding pen, where the spring roundup was held for a few years. All that is left to mark this once busy ranch home are four or five walnut trees, which grew from nuts brought from Mexico on horseback in a moral hung on the horn of the saddle in the early sixties.

The posts for building the fences were hauled from Bcsados thicket on the Nueces river in San Patricio county. When larger pastures were fenced only one string of plank was used, with two strands of sleek wire. These fences cost from \$200 to \$400 per mile.

After the land was fenced owners of large stocks of horses sold them at greatly reduced prices to buyers who drove them to eastern markets. In 1877 the total number of horses in the county was 10,600. As they required more grazing land than cattle they were not considered so profitable. The sheep business also decreased rapidly from 1876 to 1880, as sheep required about as much attention in pastures as on the open range.

The winter of 1881 was the coldest this country had experienced in fifty years. The effects were disastrous to the sheep industry, the losses ranging from 10 per cent to more than 50 per cent. About 5 per cent of the horses died, but cattle losses were small as grass was fine, and they were in good condition.

After the county was enclosed in pastures some stockmen drifted farther west to the open range. Jim Wilson, John Flint and W. A. Buttrill were among the num-

ber, settling in Presidio county. In 1883 there was an "epidemic" of fence cutting. About three miles of fencing was cut in the northern end of the county and about a hundred men assembled to look into it, subscribing \$2 each to be offered as a reward for the capture of the offenders. A resolution also was adopted at the meeting asking congress to class fence cutting as a felony act, and that the punishment for committing the offense be a term in the penitentiary or a heavy fine. The practice of fence cutting soon ceased, as the land rapidly was being put under fence.

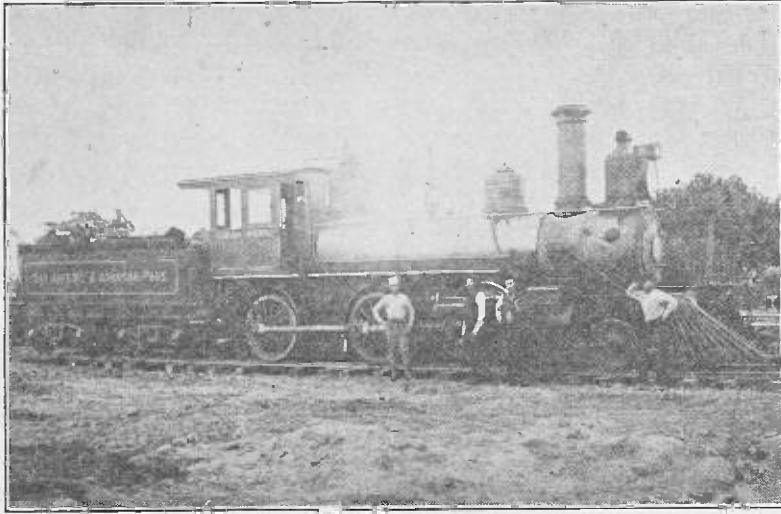
THE FIRST POST OFFICE

THE FIRST post office to be established in Bee county was under the name of Medio Hill, October 31, 1857, with Michael Seeligson as postmaster. The name of the office was changed to Beeville when the county seat was moved, and Henderson Williams was appointed postmaster on May 6, 1859. (This was taken from the records at Washington.)

In 1870 a post office was established in the home of W. R. Hayes on the Aransas and in 1880 a mail route from Rockport to Helena (Karnes county) supplied Papatote, Aransas, Beeville, and San Domingo with the Rockport newspaper, the "Transcript," and also other Rockport mail. The contract was let to one man to carry the mail through in two days. He sublet it to three other parties and they each carried the mail a certain portion of the way. When the roads were muddy it often required four days to reach Beeville. The original contract price, however, was sufficient only to pay one man.

A two-horse hack was used for conveyance and sometimes a two-wheeled sulky or cart was drawn by two horses. The ponies were only grass-fed and not able to travel many miles a day over wet and muddy roads.

When this mail route started there was only a dim trail over the territory. One day Mr. Hayes drug a heavy log with two yokes of oxen from the Aransas Creek to



ENGINE AND CREW WHICH BROUGHT FIRST TRAIN TO BEEVILLE

Papalote to make the trail plainer.

Trucking was a commercial industry in Bee county as early as 1849, engaged in by Patrick Fadden, who lived in the junction of the Paesta and Aransas creeks. He made a specialty of selling corn and vegetables to the soldiers at Port Merrill on the Nueces river. Capt. A. C. Jones had a general merchandise store in Beeville on the east side of the courthouse square and was the first man to bring a mowing machine to the county. He ordered the machine from Canton, Ohio, in 1879. When it reached San Antonio Mr. Jones sent Martin Reed there to bring it to Beeville and assemble it. When all was ready Mr. Reed cut a small patch of oats in part of the old cemetery which Mr. Jones had fenced and planted. He then cut prairie (or native) hay over all the ground where the town is today. The hay camp was where the Flournoy home now stands and a cyclone came one day, taking it all away and putting the boys on the run for shelter and safety.

The people voted the county dry at a local option election held in March, 1877. The law was strictly enforced with scarcely any opposition. In the same year a portion of the school lands belonging to the county was sold at Beeville. The amount sold was 15,667 acres and brought \$1 to \$2.50 per acre. The interest on the money received

was the available school fund, which, together with the apportionment from the state, made sufficient money to operate the schools from four to six months a year.

In 1880 there were 18 school districts, with school being taught in 12 of them, as the population of the county decreased after some of the stockmen drifted to the open range. There were 370 white children and 11 colored children of scholastic age in the county at the time. Eight hundred acres of school land was unsold, the county was out of debt and its scrip was at par. The population of the county was 2,300 at this time. Beeville did not attain a population of 500 until after the coming of the rail in 1886.

The San Antonio & Aransas Pass I. & N. W. Co. ran the first train into Beeville, Monday evening, June 14, 1886. Walter Barrett, engineer; J. E. Barker, conductor; M. L. Wooley, baggage master.

The first carload of lumber was received in Beeville by John Whitehead. The first carload of furniture was received by Kohl & Heldenfels on June 15.

Last rail on Paesta bridge was laid at 8:30 a. m., June 17, with J. P. Nelson as superintendent of construction, A. M. Steges, engineer of bridges, C. Corner, engineer in charge of grading.

On January 16, 1886, the president of the

San Antonio & Aransas Pass Railway came to Beeville, accompanied by Mr. Nilson, the chief contractor, to select a location for the depot grounds. The location selected was that occupied by the public school building. The trustees sold the building to the colored people for the sum of \$400 and exchanged the block with Mr. A. C. Jones for 10 acres of land in North Beeville, where the school buildings are today.

The third week in June of this same year was an eventful week in the history of Bee county. The arrival of the first train on Monday, June 14, then the arrival and reception of the board of directors and their invited guests, on a special train on Thursday, and the first shipment of cattle from the stockpens south of town by Messrs. Clare and Burke on Friday. The first cattle shipment made from the county by rail was from Pettus on May 11, 1886, by Giles Little. Cattle shipments for the first week in July from Beeville amounted to 5,450 head.

As track laying progressed from Beeville south, the company built a turn-table on the Aransas creek, two miles north of the present town of Skidmore. A 26,000 gallon tank was placed there and was supplied with water by a three-inch pipe 600 feet in length through which water was forced from a large pool in the creek by a steam engine.

Land advanced rapidly after the railroad came, and as high as \$2.50 per front foot was asked for lots around the square. A doctor by the name of Ragland, from Refugio, purchased a lot 50x150 feet on the east side of the square from L. F. Roberts for \$500, and erected a building on it for his drug store.

The tax rolls for the year of 1886 show 549,775 acres of land rendered for taxation, valued at \$1,340,891; 5,121 horses valued at \$79,212; 56,626 cattle valued at \$425,897; 1,546 sheep valued at \$3,716; 851 goats valued at \$831; 1,145 hogs valued at \$1,172; total valuation of property in the county \$2,049,702. The total rate of county taxes levied each year for five years past was 15

cents for each \$100 valuation. This amount was found sufficient to run the county, which was very little in debt.

PIONEER WOMAN

THE PIONEER woman played no small part in making Bee county what it is today. They were strong and brave, often staying alone with their small children for days and days while their husbands went for supplies or were hauling freight from the port to inland trading posts.

St. Mary's, the nearest trading place, was about 50 miles from Beeville, and in rainy weather the teams could make only about seven or eight miles a day over this low, flat country.

It was woman's part to wait and watch, and pick up the fragments that were in life's pathway. I'm sure she patiently waited and anxiously watched through the long days and nights, doing what her hands found to do. When her children were tucked in the trundle-bed at night and all was quiet, save for the howl of the coyote or the lonely hoot of an owl, she listened for the sound of her husband's wagon coming home, or the whistle of a friend and neighbor who might chance to come that way, for she knew the enemy would not come whistling.

They cooked on the open fireplace with hooks for hanging pots over the hot embers, baking bread in Dutch ovens on the hearth. Coffee was bought green and parched in an iron skillet over a hot fire, the housewife being careful to brown it evenly, not scorching a grain. Corn also was parched and used as coffee.

The mothers did the family washing at the spring down on the creek. Bluing was made from indigo weed raised in the garden, and soft soap was made from lye in the ash hopper. The women also made lye hominy. The wool, clipped from the sheep, was carded and spun into thread with which to knit socks and stockings for the family. There were no sewing machines, so the clothing was made by hand.

In 1866 two English women, the Misses

Cobb, bought land on the Olmos creek and erected a rock house that stands there today. They purchased 1,400 head of sheep, herding them day after day, wearing guns for protection, as the men did. They stayed out all night with their sheep if necessary to protect the lambs from the cold and from wolves.

Mrs. Sallie Skull was a horse trader, traveling most of the time, though her home was in "Dark Corner," which is Blanton today. This was the east corner of the county. There was a growth of post oak trees that formed a shade, hence the name "Dark Corner." The remaining part of the county was prairie.

Mrs. Skull made trips to Mexico, buying from 50 to 100 head of horses at a time, bringing them here to sell. She even took them to eastern states. She went on horseback, and alone, except for her "sixshooter." It is said she often wore two guns. A few trusty Mexicans drove the horses and also took the wagon with Mrs. Skull's money and camp outfit.

On one occasion when Mrs. Skull was taking some horses east, with a bunch of Mexican cowhands, they came to the San Antonio river and found it very high. The swimming was deep and the Mexicans balked on their job. Sallie placed a hand on her sixshooter and led the way across. The hired men proceeded to follow without further hesitation. She wore a long riding skirt, such as ladies used in riding side-saddles. Mrs. Skull was the mother of two children, who were reared and educated in New Orleans.

Mrs. Serena Phelps raised cattle. In 1874 she owned about 500 head.

With her husband and children she moved from Mississippi to Texas in the early part of 1850, and settled on the Medio creek. Two wagons, drawn by oxen, conveyed the necessities for the family on this long move, as well as some household articles for the new home. The mother and small children rode in a two-horse spring wagon. Three of the older children, who were in the teen age, walked

almost the entire distance to drive the cattle along behind the wagon. Mrs. Phelps was one of the first pioneer women to sell produce from her home. She made butter and cheese, also cured and smoked deer hams; for these she found a sale in Goliad.

When the county was organized, the first court was held beneath the shade of some small post oak trees on the Phelps land.

It was about this time (1874) that Mrs. Reeves, Mrs. Webster, and Mrs. Rawlings each owned about 500 head of cattle.

Bee county's first doctor was a woman—Mrs. Page, mother of Charles and Sid Page. She and her husband came here in 1854, settling on the Aransas creek eight or ten miles below Beeville. Her husband helped organize the county. The deed to the Page land was the first recorded in the county. Mrs. Page traveled on horseback over the country to see her patients, taking medicine with her to administer to any member of the family.

During the "die-up" in the early seventies, when men skinned their cattle for hides, they tied one end of a rope to the hide and the other end to the saddle horn, dragging it home where their wives stretched the hides over poles or fences to dry while the husbands went for other hides. This was one way the women could help pay for the land and build homes, which they did gladly.

During the summer an arbor was built of brush for a camp meeting somewhere near a creek, spring, or pool of water. The meetings lasted a week, and sometimes ten weeks, and were feasts, both spiritually or socially. Each mother prepared dinner and supper for her family on the grounds early in the day of the meeting. They listened to the word of God preached from the Holy Bible and sang the sweet songs of Zion from memory, while their little ones slept on pallets at their feet. Each year the pioneers looked forward with much interest to these meetings.

If I were an artist, I'd pick the most beautiful flowers while they were sparkling

with the kiss of the morning dew; with not a withered petal to mar their beauty, I would weave them into a lovely wreath and place it on the brow of the dear, sweet pioneer mothers, who trod over rough, thorny roads and endured hardships that we, their children, might inherit the freedom and comforts we have today.

"I honor those first women
Who forsook old friends and ties
For a wild and unknown country
With eager, longing eyes.

"They wanted homes, and were willing
To pay most any price
In privation, danger, hardship,
Or life-giving sacrifice.

"They faced their lot so bravely,
None ever made complaint,
Though trials and tribulations
Bore down without restraint.

"With never thought of tiring
They went about their tasks;
The tiniest bit of leisure,
Was not for them to ask.

"They thought that life was labor,
Their hearts were in their work,
Regardless of the outcome,
A task they wouldn't shirk.

"Many were the lonely vigils,
And many a sleepless night
Endured by these brave women,
While men went forth to fight."

THE FIRST SCHOOL

JOHN F. PETTUS, one of the earliest settlers of the upper part of Bee county, moved his family here from DeWitt county in 1855, and built a home near the old town that bears his name today. John Pettus was a native of Virginia, born in 1808, of Scotch-English ancestry, and came to Texas in his fourteenth year with his parents, who were among Austin's first three hundred colonists. He was one of Milam's 216 men, who were in the storming of San Antonio in 1835.

After moving his family to Bee county,

Mr. Pettus engaged in raising cattle and horses, and established a comfortable home. He also owned a number of slaves. As his cattle increased he became one of the wealthiest and most noted stockmen of this section of the country at that time. The Pettus ranch home was known from the San Antonio river to the Rio Grande.

In 1859 the first school house in Bee county was erected on the Dry Medio creek by Mrs. Sallie Pettus, wife of John Pettus. The lumber for this building was brought by vessel from Florida to St. Mary's and brought by wagon sixty miles over rough country to the site selected. The original dimensions of the house were 16x16 feet. Holes were cut in the sides to admit light and air, but there were no window panes, or even board shutters, and the cracks were not battened. A chimney was built of sticks and adobe, but in severe cold weather school could not be held in the building.

T. J. Smith taught the first school here in 1866. Joe, Lee, and Will Smith, Buck, Aleitha, and James Pettus, John and Mallie McCollom, Duncan and Mattie Turner, and Hinkle Roberts were his pupils. About 1867 the school house was moved over between the Medio and Dry Medio creeks, where it stood for a couple of years and was then moved down on the banks of the Toro creek. Mrs. Julia Lewis, Ed Allen, and Mrs. J. W. Flournoy taught school in this building while it was at this location. It was here Mrs. Flournoy first met the man she afterwards married, J. W. Flournoy, whose sole possession at that time was the mule he was riding and his saddle bags.

By this time the country was settling up somewhat, but settlers were still few. Mr. Porter, Eldrige Fuller, S. C. Davidson, and Robert Nutt located here about this time and their children attended this school. Later on, in the 70's, as the settlers increased along the San Domingo creek, the school house was given to this community and moved to its last location. Here an addition was built on one end, making the building eight feet longer than it was originally, and other

improvements were made. It was used for school, Sunday school and other religious services from the first year it was built, until the town of Normanna built up and more suitable places were erected.

The following incident will give an idea of the wilderness of this country about the time when this old building was first built.

"Just a short time before this Nick Stewart and a man by the name of Hopkins went from the San Marcos river in Guadalupe county down to Mr. Waller's on Waller's gully, near Oakville. On their return they came upon some Indians as they crossed a ravine. Hopkins was riding a fast horse and on seeing the Indians ran off from Stewart, who was mounted on a slower animal. The red men gave chase and Stewart, seeing he could not escape, reined his horse up at a thicket and fell off as though dead. On seeing this the pursuers passed him and kept on after Hopkins, whom they finally captured and killed, scalping him and cutting his tongue out. As soon as the Indians passed Mr. Stewart jumped up and ran off on foot, hiding in a mesquite tree and remaining there until the next morning, when he made his way back to Waller's. He was full of cactus thorns and nearly dead.

"After murdering Hopkins, the Indians went over towards the San Antonio river. Capt. Tom Tumbleson and a few men had struck their trail leading to the river and while following it came upon the body of Hopkins where he had been killed. They dug a shallow grave with their knives and buried him there and continued on their way. Seeing a smoke in the distance they went ahead cautiously and came upon the Indians camped at noon. One of them was stationed on a hill keeping a lookout toward the river from which they had just come. Capt. Tumbleson and his men fired upon them and killed all but one, but he was mortally wounded and was found dead a few days later in Atascosa county. Their bodies were left unburied, as they had left Hopkins, and their bones could be seen bleaching in the sun for many years after

this school buildings was erected. This occurred on the Dry Medio a short distance above the school house."

BAND OF THIEVES IN THE '70

WILLIAM ALBERT PETTUS, who was known as "Buck" Pettus in those days to his many friends over the state and especially in the southern part where he spent the greater part of his life, was born in Austin county in the year 1838, near the old town of Industry. He was the eldest son of John F. and Sallie Pettus, who settled in the upper part of what is now Bee county in 1855. "Buck" Pettus was in his seventeenth year at that time. He had but little schooling, as his father's cattle on the open range required his full time. When the war came on, "Buck" Pettus enlisted in the 21st Cavalry, under Captain Martin Kinney. At the close of the war he returned home and began the task of gathering their scattered cattle.

In 1866 he was united in marriage to Miss Mira A. Lott of Goliad county. He built a home in 1870 near where the Pettus railroad station is today. Shortly after locating in his new home, he rode out one morning about one mile in search of three horses that had been turned loose on the prairie the night before. He was poorly mounted on an ordinary, partly broken cow pony which was so afraid of fire arms that Mr. Pettus thought best to leave even his revolver behind. He anticipated no danger and, in fact, expected to be away from the house but a short time. He had gone hardly three-quarters of a mile when a campfire in a small group of bushes attracted his attention and thinking it a party of movers who had camped there the night before, he rode up to see what they were and to chat with them.

As he approached the trees three armed Mexicans rode out. They were mounted on the very horses he was in search of. To attempt to retreat would have been equal to a shot in the back, and such a course would have been against Mr. Pettus' principles. One of the Mexicans who seemed to be

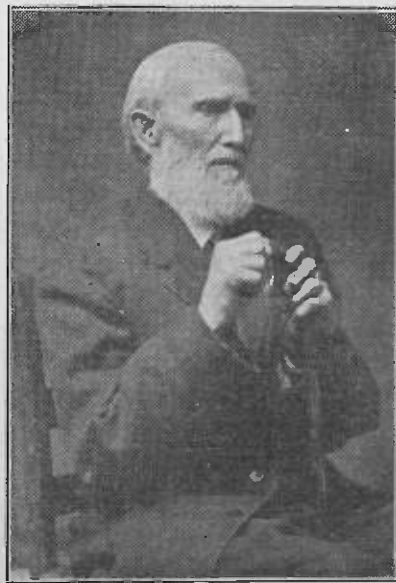
the leader, rode up within twelve feet of Mr. Pettus, halted and began plying him with questions, asking who he was, where he was going, and among other things, if the horses they were riding were his property, as the Mexicans had noted the horses bore a similar brand. Finally the leader of the three drew his six-shooter and fired at Mr. Pettus, but he dodged the shot by dropping forward on his horse's neck. The other Mexicans then closed in, but Mr. Pettus broke through them and ran his horse around the group of trees; one of his enemies followed, another turning in the opposite direction to head him off, while the third dashed straight through a clump of brush and fired at the fugitive, but this shot missed also.

By this time the leader was again coming straight to Mr. Pettus, and he turned to meet the danger. The Mexican fired as he approached, and once more missed at a distance of scarcely a dozen feet. Seeing his main enemy before him, with neither of his others close enough at hand to render assistance, Mr. Pettus determined to go forward and rely on his own strength to bring this contest to a close. Spurring his horse forward, he threw its entire weight against that ridden by the Mexican, while he grappled with his foe, at the same time wresting the revolver from his grasp. This decided the contest. The Mexican pulled himself loose from Mr. Pettus and calling to his companions, dashed away, leaving him with his revolver and hat as a trophy of the victory. Mr. Pettus afterwards had the satisfaction of hunting down these outlaws, two of whom suffered at the end of the rope; the third one was killed on the Rio Grande before Mr. Pettus could locate and reach him.

HELPED ORGANIZE BEE COUNTY

HENDERSON and Tom Allsup, better known to the early settlers as "Hen" and Tom Allsup, were natives of Lincoln county, Tennessee. Thomas Henry was born in October, 1828. After the death of their father, they came with

their mother, two older brothers and two sisters to Texas in 1851. They settled on Peach creek in Gonzales county until 1857, when "Hen" and Tom came to what was then Live Oak county and located on the Aransas creek seven miles south of the present town of Beeville. They brought around three hundred head of horses. J. B. Madray, a cousin of the Allsup boys, also came at this time. The three young men drove the bunch of horses through the country. These men were among the first to sign the petition circulated by Micheal Seeligson in 1857 for the creation of Bee county. Tom Allsup voted in every election in the county from the year it was organized until 1913. He was a member of the first grand jury empaneled in the new county, court being held in the picket courthouse on Medio hill. John Corrigan was foreman of the jury, which was composed of sixteen men in those days. John Sweeney and Abraham Odem were members of this first jury.



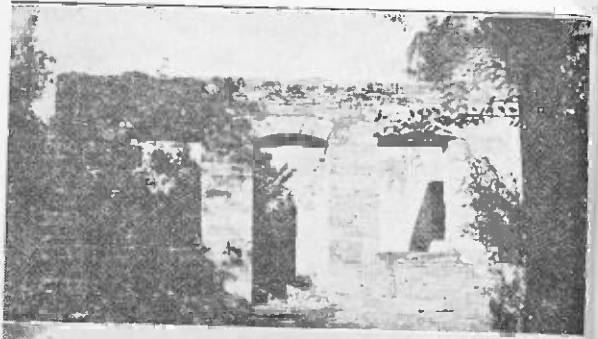
THOMAS H. ALLSUP

Born 1828; Died 1916
Lived in rock house on the Aransas
for 50 Years.

Thomas H. Allsup was a charter member of the Masonic Lodge, organized in Beeville in 1860. In the same year he built

his home (a rock house) on the bank of the Aransas creek, on an elevation among the oak trees. This creek was fed by springs, and in that day was a running stream. The house was built of large rocks dug from a rocky hill nearby, sawed into squares, and left in the sun to season before the walls were built. This house is standing today in very good condition. A new roof sometime in the '90's would cover all of the upkeep. Mr. Allsup was married in December, 1860, to Miss Caroline Smith of Goliad county, bringing his bride the following day to the new home. The trip was made on horseback, the bride behind her young husband. Her wedding clothes were carried in a small case or "ridacule," as they were called in that day, hung on the saddle horn. Later they returned to her parental home for the quilts and linens she had prepared for this home. The trip was made in a two-horse wagon. This couple lived happy in this home until 1882, when the wife passed away, leaving the husband with a family of young children to rear. He was a kind and devoted father, taking the place of the mother as best he could. As proof of the love for the father, each boy and girl remained under the home roof until they went out to make a home for themselves. Mr. Allsup lived in the house fifty years. He died in 1916.

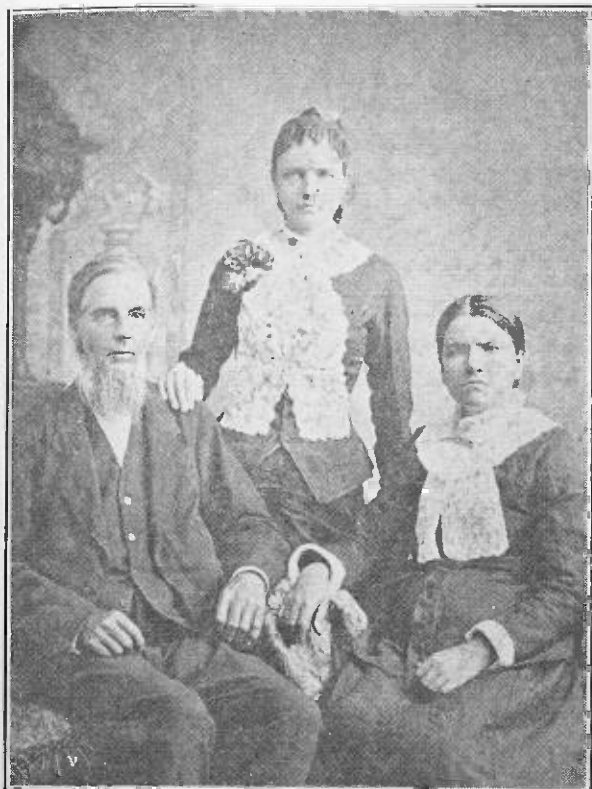
James Buckner Madray was born at Pulaski, Tennessee, in 1832, the youngest of ten children. During his early boyhood days he worked on his father's farm. At about twenty years of age he secured employment at a blacksmith shop where plows and wagons were made. One day a man by the name of Owens came to the shop to have a wagon made to go to Texas in. The woodwork was carefully made of heavy hickory timber, and the iron pieces were all shaped and put in place. During the time the wagon was being built, Mr. Owens talked of the trip he was planning to Texas and the golden opportunities there for



EARLY DAY ROCK HOUSES ON ARANSAS
NOW IN STATE OF DECAY

ABOVE—Old H. T. Clair rock house, built in 1862.
CENTER—Dunlap home, better known as old Walton home, oldest house in county, built in 1847.
BOTTOM—T. H. Allsup home, built in 1860. Mr. Allsup died in 1916. He lived in this house 50 years.

a young man. James Madray had decided not to make another crop on a rocky hillside farm in Tennessee, and he, too, came interested in going to Texas, so the two men planned the trip together. Mr. Owens was having the wagon built, but had only three mules. James had a good saddle mule. He was to be the wheel mule and for the driver to ride; each man was to drive half the time, taking turns about. When the wagon was finished, the next job was to get all the mules shod. Due to flint rocks on the hillside farms in that part



J. B. MADRAY, WIFE AND DAUGHTER

of the state, all work animals were kept shod. The pair of mules that were to be worked in the lead were young and wild, so after several attempts they failed to shoe them. The men decided to drive a few days until the mules became jaded and foot sore, when they would stand still while the work was done, but not so, for the little pair of mules made the long trip to Texas without shoes and seemed as fresh as when they started. James Madray was on his mule and drove the first few days. To his surprise, his partner was a man who drank liquor, had concealed his jug in the wagon and had it refilled at grog shops along the way. From this cause he was unable to drive wild mules over bad roads, and was compelled a great deal of the time to lie down in the wagon. The poor wife and the mother of four small children, decided to empty the jug, little at a time. But this method of trying to get her husband sober enough to drive proved worthless. Driv-

ing a four-mule team in a new country over bad roads with a helpless family was an adventure for a young man. Coming to a stretch of good road one day, he decided here is where the other man drives, so stopping the team and getting off the mule, he told Mr. Owens it was either drive a spell, or he would take his mule out and ride on to Texas. Well, there was nothing for the man to do but drive, or be left on the road with a three-mule team. After driving a few miles and coming to a bad river crossing, he asked James to please drive as he was afraid to drive further. The wife was kind and expressed a deep gratitude to the young man who brought the family safely to a new home.

J. B. Madray was born a prohibitionist, but he renewed his vows after his experience with this man on this long journey, and from that day on to his last day he stood for the "dry cause."

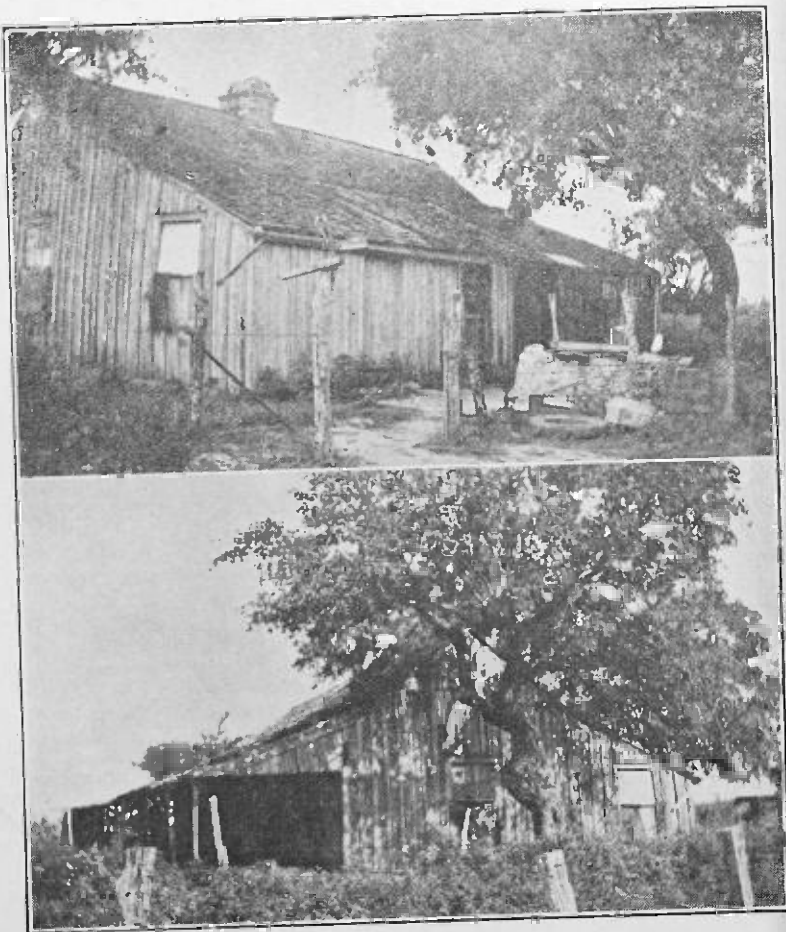
About six weeks was required to make the trip to Texas, reaching their destination on the Sandies creek in Gonzales county in the spring of 1854. He remained there for a couple of years, and sold his mule to a doctor at Lockhart for use in riding over the country in his practice. The doctor pronounced it the best animal a man ever rode. In 1856 he came to what is now Bee county and bought 250 acres of land on the Aransas creek where he built a picket house and enclosed a small farm with a brush fence. In the spring this field was planted in corn, the first to be planted in this vicinity. When it was harvested, Uncle John Wilson (as he was familiarly called) bought a portion to feed his saddle horse during the winter, paying \$2.50 per bushel.

In August, 1858, J. B. Madray went to Caldwell county for his bride, whom he wooed and won the previous year. On the twenty-sixth of the month he was married to Miss Martha Jane Williams, who was lovely in a dress of white lawn, freshly washed, starched and ironed, with a bow of white ribbon in her hair. After a few days

they left on horseback for the new home, a distance of 140 miles. He led a horse over for his bride to ride on their return; she had a side saddle and long riding skirt. This was the custom of women in those days who rode on horseback.

J. B. Madray, like T. H. Allsup, was one of the first men to sign the petition for the creation of Bee county, and was a charter member of the Beeville Masonic Lodge. Mr. and Mrs. Madray remained in this home for a few years, then sold the land and took up a homestead claim nearby.

In time, more land was purchased, some at the rate of 50c per acre, and stock raising was engaged in—cattle, horses and sheep. This was the family home, where the parents spent the evening



OLD J. B. MADRAY HOME ON THE ARANSAS, BUILT IN 1870

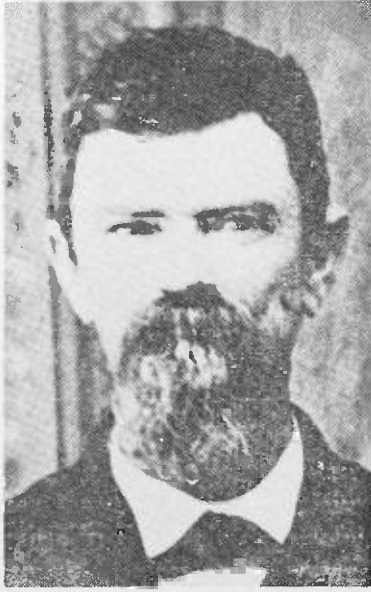


MISS PHOEBE JONES

of their long and useful lives. Mr. Madray died in August, 1912, at the ripe age of 80 years. His noble companion preceded him in death, she passing away in July, 1906.

Miss Phoebe Angeline Jones was born September 11, 1856, in DeWitt county. Her father was George Frances Jones, and her mother before her marriage to Mr. Jones was Clara Ann Turner. They were married May 10, 1855. George Jones' father, William M. Jones, was born in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1811, and was married to Miss Angeline Gould in 1833.

Mr. Jones in company with four other men, "through the spirit of adventure" came to Texas in the year 1835. He landed in New Orleans a short time prior to entering the state, then a part of Mexico. Trouble with Mexico started soon after their arrival and they enlisted in the army. Du



MR. AND MRS. MILAM GILL

ing the time Mr. Jones contracted malaria fever and for some time was seriously ill. He was in Texas fifteen months before it was possible for him to send for his wife and young son, George Francis. The family first settled in DeWitt county, where they engaged in stock raising. When Phoebe Jones was two years old, her parents moved to San Patricio county. In 1871, she was married to J. L. Smith. Her husband died in 1874. In 1876 she was married to W. H. Jones. She passed away in San Antonio in 1911.

Mrs. Milam Gill, nee Mary Gillett, was born at Rancho, Gonzales county, January 1858. She came to Bee county with her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Roswell Gillett, in her childhood days. As a young lady she taught one of the first schools at old Lebanon, on Lapara creek. She was married to Milam Gill, September 28, 1881, at the home of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Little, at their home on the Beeville-Oakville road west of Beeville.

Milam Gill was born in Winston county, Mississippi, July 4, 1849. Coming with his parents to Texas in 1852, they settled in Fort Bend county. After his marriage to Miss Mary Gillett at Beeville, Mr. and Mrs.

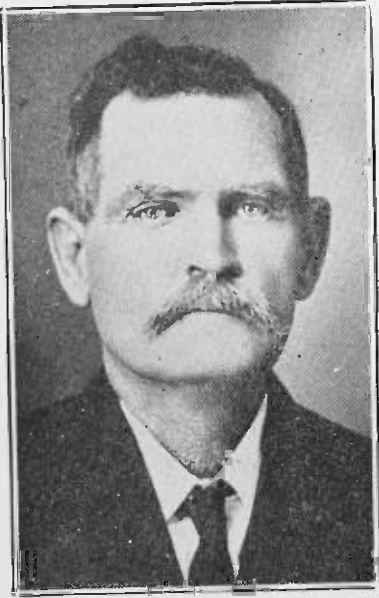
Gill moved to Live Oak county, having purchased the Lawrence Adams place, where they made their home for many years. Mr. Gill died in Beeville, February 4, 1931. Mrs. Gill passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. D. E. Bomar, in Three Rivers, February 28, 1936.

A MEXICAN BULL FIGHT IN BEE COUNTY

JOHN McCOLLOM was born in the state of Missouri in 1850, coming to Texas with his parents when about six years of age. His father, Greenberry McCollom, settled for a year or more near Seguin on the Guadalupe river, where he traded a negro girl slave for a tract of land valued at around \$1,000. In 1856 the family moved to the Medio, near where the Pettus oil field is today. Mr. McCollom was among the first to build a home in Beeville, buying about ten acres of land and building a home where he and his good wife raised their family and lived until their death.

As a youth of 16 or 17 years of age, John McCollom witnessed an unusual sporting event in Beeville, and related it in 1937 to the writer substantially as follows:

Probably the only regular Spanish style



JOHN MCCOLLOM

Born in Missouri in 1850. Lived 81 years in Bee county and was the oldest citizen of the county in point of residence at his death in 1938.

bull fight ever to take place in the United States occurred at Beeville. About 1870 a Mexican ox driver, or freighter, called Antonio, sponsored it and performed as the matador. The fight was planned as Christmas season entertainment and hundreds of people came from ranches many miles away to witness it, traveling over the few wagon roads and the many cattle trails to see this unusual affair. The whole of "young Beeville" was there, or at least there was a representative from each of the 30 houses then composing the residential section. Then, too, the business houses were closed for the fight, two stores, one saloon, and a blacksmith shop. The little courthouse, which was used as a church, school house, and lodge, also was void of activity. The courthouse was located on the present site of the Commercial National Bank. The bull fight took place on John King's property, which was on the Paesta creek near the present site of the lower Hall gin.

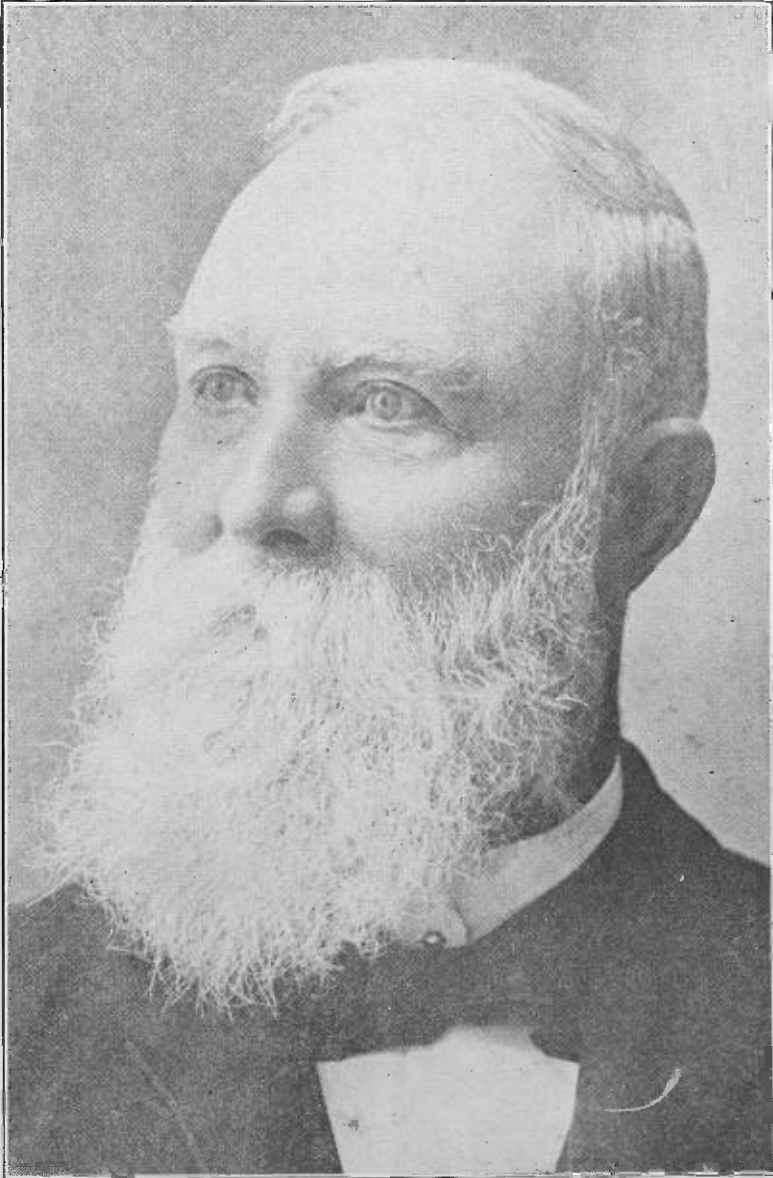
There being no bull ring, Antonio and his "amigos" rigged up an arena with mesquite logs. At several points around the

arena the Mexicans built dodge screens of mesquite brush, behind which he or his volunteer picadores could leap for protection if necessary. And it was necessary, for the bull was a bad one. Antonio was employed by A. C. Jones to drive a freight wagon. It was his boast that he could fight the most ferocious bull that could be found in Bee county. The most vicious bull was sought for throughout the county. It was found, a red paint one that had one crumpled horn, the other one having been broken in a fight with another bull. When the animal was wagoned to the arena, a murmur arose. No one wanted the responsibility of taking the "bull by the horn," and putting it inside the arena. Finally a brave young man belonging to a family of sheriffs, undertook to put the bull into the enclosure. Some one bet him that he wasn't old enough to do it. The bet was called, and after several narrow escapes the infuriated animal was inside the arena. John McCollom was unable to recall whether he was the young man or not. Anyhow, the brave young man collected the \$25 and



MISS ELLEN McDONALD

Who married John McCollom, is shown as she appeared in an early day picture. She died January 25, 1930. She was a daughter of John and Jessie McDonald.



CAPTAIN ALLAN CARTER JONES

Took the lead to bring the railroads to Beeville; served as first mayor of the city and was known as the "Father of Beeville"; early day merchant; former sheriff of Goliad county; served as captain throughout the Civil War; became large land owner and stockman.



MRS. ALLEN CARTER JONES

Mrs. Jones, the former Miss Jane Fields of Goliad, was the second wife of Captain A. C. Jones, who, at one time, served as sheriff of Goliad county. They were married in 1871. Following the passing of her husband, Mrs. Jones erected a two-story residence and established her home in Beeville, moving in from the handsome suburban home which Captain Jones had built north of Beeville. The country home was purchased by J. W. Flournoy, who moved it to his residence property on North St. Mary's street, where it stands today. The residence built by Mrs. Jones is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Jones. Mr. Jones is a son of Col. W. W. Jones of Corpus Christi and the grandson of Capt. A. C. Jones.

made a bet on the bull fighter. The fight itself did not last very long. When the matador waved the red flag before the bull, this was all the animal wanted to give vent to his fury. It charged and the fighter side-stepping, wounded the bull with his weapon. Finally the bull caught on to the turns of the Mexican and turning suddenly in the direction of the fighter, charged into him and had him down. The bull had won. The Mexican was not killed outright, but he died later from the injuries. This was the end of the first and only bull

fight in the United States, as far as countians know.

John McCollom went up the trail in 1871, to Solomon City, Kansas, with a head of cattle for L. F. Roberts, John Wils and R. J. Smith. The other cowboys on this trip were Will and Gum Smith, Hink and Beg Roberts and Duncan Turner.

John A. McCollom was married to Miss Ellen McDonald, December 10, 1874. They set up housekeeping some ten miles west of Beeville near what is now the Cadi community. Following the death of his



This picture of Capt. A. C. Jones was taken at his home south of the courthouse on the site of the present Union Producing Co. building. He was a merchant, large land owner, and civic leader at that time. Later he built a beautiful home north of Beeville. Capt. Jones died in 1904.

faithful companion, January 25, 1930, Mr. McCollom made his home with his daughters in Beeville. His death occurred in 1938, by which time he had attained the distinction of being Bee county's oldest citizen, in point of residence.

CALLED THE FATHER OF BEEVILLE

ALLEN CARTER JONES was born of South Carolina stock in Nacogdoches county in the year of 1830. His parents, A. C. and Mary Jane Jones, were among the earliest of American settlers in Texas while it was a province of Mexico. His ancestry reached back to the early settlement of America. Truly an American, then, was this young pioneer, though born a citizen of Mexico. Schools were few in Texas when he was growing up and the age of twenty-one found A. C. Jones, Jr., little acquainted with books and their instructive influence. His boyhood was spent among scenes of privation and danger—times when men had to labor and fight. Raids by Indians and bands of Mex-

icans were frequent and often the toiler had to lay aside the implements of peace for those of war. These hardships only served to strengthen the courage of this young man and so distinguished him that in 1858 he was elected sheriff of Goliad county, where his parents had moved while he was a young boy. This office he held until duty called him to shoulder arms in the war between the states. In 1854 A. C. Jones was married to Miss Margaret Whitby, by whom he had three children. The eldest, Mrs. James Scott of Corpus Christi, died a number of years ago. The two surviving are W. W. Jones of Corpus Christi and Mrs. Clara Berry of Beeville. The wife of his youth died in November, 1861. Shortly following her death he enlisted as a private in Company E, Waller's Battalion, in General Dick Taylor's command. After eighteen months of service he was promoted from the ranks to a captain, and ordered to report for duty in west Texas. He remained on duty in that section until the close of the war. In 1871 Captain Jones settled

in Beeville and engaged in merchandising. His store was located on a lot across the street north of the Higginbotham-McCord lumber yard, east of the courthouse, and his residence was across the street west from the lumber yard, on the site of the present Union Producing Co. building. In the same year he was united in marriage to Miss Jane Fields of Goliad.

A. C. Jones was a successful business man and in his success he never forgot to help those who were less fortunate. He was a friend to the poor and especially the negro and Mexican races of Bee county. He retired from the mercantile business in 1884, to direct his large cattle and farming interests.

Mr. Jones was always interested in the development of the town and county in general. In 1885 he was instrumental in bringing the Aransas Pass railway by way of Beeville instead of down the San Antonio river, as had been projected. Some of the citizens despaired of raising a cash bonus of \$60,000 and as much more in land, but he said it could be done, and showed the way by subscribing one-tenth of the total. This was his rule, to every enterprise of public good, large or small, he gave one-tenth.

The Aransas Pass road had greatly benefitted the county, but another road was needed to give an outlet to the east. He went to New York in 1888 and laid before C. P. Huntington the project of extending the Gulf, West Texas and Pacific lines from Victoria to Beeville. A bonus of \$60,000 was demanded as before. So confident was Captain Jones of his ability to raise the amount he accepted the proposition. On returning home he raised the bonus within forty days; the road was built and will remain a monument to his enterprising spirit.

Mr. Jones was one of the founders and principal stockholders of the First National Bank, and president and general manager of the Beeville oil mill. He served as first mayor of Beeville when the town was incorporated in the early 1890's. Thus

did a young man with limited literary training rise to positions of responsibility. Those who knew him in the mid-day of life found him measuring up to men of his time in information of the day. As he toiled he learned, as he read and listened he garnered, and the evening of life found him prospering and highly intellectual—a man of great leadership ability, and one who would stand near the top in any age. Mr. Jones passed away in 1904.

CAME TO TEXAS IN 1840

H. T. CLARE was a native of Missouri, coming to Texas in 1840 at the tender age of 12 years, when the country was an independent republic. He was one of the earliest settlers of the southwestern counties. Henry Clare began working on a ranch soon after his arrival and was in the saddle until the outbreak of the war with Mexico in 1846, when he joined Captain Jack Hays Company at Corpus Christi and was among the first to in-



H. T. CLARE

vade Mexico, being at the battle of Monterey and Resaco-de-la Palma, where the Mexicans were overwhelmingly defeated. He later joined the Rangers as a member of Captain Sutton's Company, and rode th

country lying between the Nueces and the Rio Grande. The object of the Rangers was the suppression of the Indians and white outlaws. After the war was over, Mr. Clare settled down to private life and was married in 1849 to Miss Ella Layton of Lavaca county where he engaged in raising cattle, but in 1856 he sold his interests in Lavaca county and moved to the vicinity of Beeville, which was established as the county seat of Bee county two years later. Mr. Clare settled seven miles southwest of Beeville on the Aransas creek where he began raising horses by catching mustang colts and raising them pets. Mustangs were wild horses and were in great numbers on the prairie in the early days; often 1,000 head were in a drove. They were fleet of foot, had better wind and better bottom than draft horses. A bunch of mustangs consisted of different ages and sizes, as well as color, and were very beautiful, with flowing mane and tail. The stallion was boss of his own bunch and if they became frightened he would take the lead in a wild run from the danger; should some in the rear begin to lag, this "boss horse" would drop back to make them run faster. Each horse well knew the meaning of his maneuvers, when he backed his ears and lowered his head, then each one ran his best. Three-year-old fillies were very swift and took the lead when the stallion brought up the rear. In dry weather they ate prickly pear and Mexican daggers for moisture instead of water. In those days saddle ponies were in demand, for Indians drove them off as fast as the pioneer could get them broke and ready to use. Sometime mustangs were captured by walking them down, two or three men on good ponies and food for a couple or three days, went early some morning to a watering place, (each bunch had a certain range and place to water). The men followed along slow and gentle, keeping the wild horses moving to keep them from eating or drinking. In a few days man and beast were tired, hungry and thirsty. Often the men were relieved by fresh recruits. By this

time the wild horses had become tame somewhat and easily driven into a corral; the colts were roped and staked out on grass; the older ones were broke to the saddle or wagon. It is said a "wild horse of the prairie" never pitched when the saddle was put on, but just sulled until he learned to be handled. They made good saddle horses, were easy kept and very hardy; if allowed to go back to the wild life, they were wild as before. A number of other men like Mr. Clare got their start of horses by catching mustangs.

In 1874 and '75, Henry Clare and his four eldest sons, John, Bud, Gus and Hillery, bought and fenced a large tract of land. It comprised the land from the old San Patricio road on the east to what is now Clareville on the west. The father and sons had separate brands but used the same range. They were very prosperous in the stock business, raising horses and cattle. In the early 80's, Mr. Clare and three sons, Gus, Hillery and Willie, a negro cook to drive the chuck wagon, and two extra negroes as helpers, trailed three hundred head of horses to Kansas City. From his wide experience with stock, H. T. Clare was appointed Live Stock Agent for the San Antonio & Aransas Pass Railway Company in 1887, a position he held until his death.

In the late 80's and early 90's Mr. Clare and sons cut a portion of their land up in small tracts and sold to farmers. The first to put in farms and establish homes named the settlement Clareville. This was rich farming land and has since been a prosperous community. He died in 1900.

BREEDER OF HEREFORD CATTLE

REV. C. C. Cook and family, also John Scott and family, came to Texas from South Carolina, leaving their native state in the late fall or early winter of 1845 with a train of ox wagons. One of the wagons conveyed the negro slaves. This negro man and woman were a gift to Mrs. Cook by her father when she and Mr. Cook were married. Some hardships were encountered on this long journey during the



MR. AND MRS. JOHN W. COOK

As They Appeared on Their Golden Wedding Day, November 13, 1916.

winter months. When this train of wagons crossed Red river into Texas, in Fannin county, a stop was made.

John Wesley Cook was born on March 16, 1846, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Cook, and the youngest of ten children. These emigrants remained in Fannin county until the mother and young son were able to travel on to Williamson county, where they lived about twelve years.

When John Cook was about five years of age, he came near being captured by Indians, but was rescued by a bit of forethought exercised by his mother. At the age of nine, John Cook came to Bee county with John Scott, his brother-in-law. He returned shortly to Williamson county, but in 1857 returned to Bee county to make his home. Two or three years later his father's family, also the Scott family, came to Bee county and settled on the Talpacat, a creek running east of Beeville. John Cook attended Southwestern University at Georgetown, while a resident of Williamson county. This school was some distance from his home but he made the trips on horseback for three years. At seventeen he enlisted as a Confederate soldier under Cap-

tain A. C. Jones, then of Goliad.

He and other youths were used as guards of ammunition and food supplies during the war. In November of 1866 J. W. Cook was united in marriage to Miss Frances A. Miller of Goliad, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Miller. She was born in September, 1843, at Warron, Ark., coming with her parents to Texas in 1850, settling at Goliad, where she attended Aaron Hamner college. Mr. and Mrs. Cook came on their bridal trip to Bee county on horseback, riding her own horse and saddle, as women in those days owned their saddle as did the men. Mr. and Mrs. Cook's first home was a one-room log house with a dirt floor, where they lived more than a year. Mr. Cook began early in life to raise horses; in later years he traded them for sheep, and owned 1,000 head in 1874. The walls of a two-room rock house had been built before the war on the land Mr. Cook settled on, near the site where he built his log house. In the spring, after the sheep were sheared and wool sold, the material was bought for the roof and floor of the rock house, then they moved into the new house, where they reared their family

five children and lived until 1897, when Mr. Cook built a lovely home on the site of the old one, where he and his devoted wife spent the evening of their lives. Andrew Cook, an elder brother of John, was a horse trader in Bee county in the '70's. He bought horses from some Mexicans one day and was sitting on his horse with his leg thrown over the horn of his saddle making out a bill, or the amount to pay them, when one of the party shot him, tak-

terest to raising cattle. In later years, he and his son, R. J. Cook, forming the firm of J. W. Cook & Son, built up the finest herd of Hereford cattle in this part of the state, even taking blue ribbons in the National shows. J. W. Cook was a Mason, was a charter member of Beeville Chapter No. 191. He lived to the age of seventy-nine years and died in 1922. Mrs. Cook passed away the following year.

R. J. Cook continued in the registered cattle business and was a leader in establishing and maintaining the Bee county fair until his death during the Fair on October 30, 1930. He was progressive and forward-looking and took active interest in all matters affecting the general welfare.

SHEEP INDUSTRY

ROSS MORRIS, father of Miss Lucy Morris, Mrs. Katie McCoy, and Mrs. Addie Adams, was a native of Montgomery county, Tennessee, born in June, 1821. When a young boy 16 or 17 years of age, he came to Texas, stopping at San Antonio, where he joined the Rangers in 1838, the first to be organized in Texas. About this time two small boys had been killed by Indians at San Pedro Springs, near San Antonio. When the Mexican war broke out, Ross Morris joined Taylor's army and went to Mexico with General Taylor and his men.

After this service he returned to his native state where, in 1851, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Starky, who was born in North Carolina in November, 1831. When nine years of age she moved with her parents to Tennessee, where she was reared. Ross Morris, with his young family, returned to Texas in 1861, and stopped at the old town of Helena, in Karnes county, for one year. Soon thereafter the Civil war broke out and he was detailed, with others, as Indian scouts to keep the Indians and Mexicans from depredating on the settlers.

In 1863 he moved his family to Bee county and was a squatter on land on the San Domingo creek where Mineral community



R. J. (DICK) COOK

Picture taken at about the time of his marriage to Miss Dora Welder, who survives him. He was a leading cattleman of South Texas and a public spirited citizen.

his money, horse and saddle, leaving where he fell. In the early days of county when a settler was shot down this, men became enraged and rode country over for days with guns loaded ready to make war on the outlaw, sometimes being in the saddle two days and nights without rest, for they were not denied the right to live "peaceably" in his fair land. When the sheep industry began to decline, Mr. Cook turned his in-



ROSS MORRIS

Born 1821; Died 1893
 Was among first of big sheep men
 in Bee County; served as deputy
 under Sheriff Walton.



MRS. ROSS MORRIS

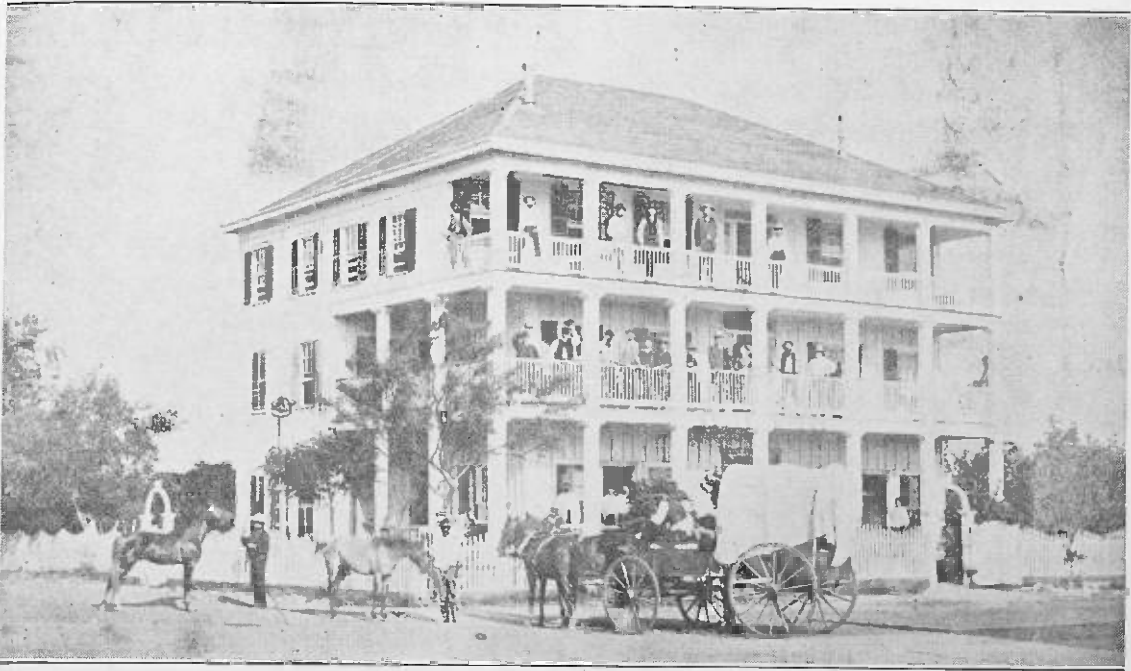
Born 1831; Died 1905
 A native of North Carolina, she
 married Ross Morris in his native
 state, Tennessee, in 1851.

is today. A house was built of mesquite pickets and covered with shingles split from blocks of wood. Mr. Morris, with the help of his eldest son, Nathan, dug a well nearby about thirty feet deep. There was an abundance of water which was very cold, but it was mineral and nothing would drink it except the sheep. This mineral deposit which is in this valley underlaid about 30 feet from the surface, is from bones of very large pre-historic animals. A rib bone eight feet long was taken from the ground when digging a well in the creek bed. This water was found to be of medicinal value and people came from the surrounding country to drink it, pitching their tents and remaining a few weeks. This place was named "Mineral City." A community began to grow around this well which bears the name of "Mineral" today.

Mr. Morris moved to Beeville in 1872, buying a large tract of land that joined the townsite on the northwest, where he kept from 2,000 to 4,000 head of sheep and was one of the first men to raise sheep on a large scale in Bee county. About eight

Mexican sheep herders were kept to herd them. He was one of the last men to retire from the business, selling his land and sheep in 1891. Mr. and Mrs. Morris were among the best early day citizens, leaving to their memory honest, christian principals that have stood as a monument down through the years. Mr. Morris died at his home in Beeville in 1893. His faithful companion survived him 12 years, passing away at the old home in 1905.

J. P. (Pony) Morris, one of the elder sons who now lives at Three Rivers, Live Oak county, was one of the young men who joined the "Cow-Man's Rangers" which was organized in the county in 1880, with D. A. T. Walton, who was sheriff of Bee county, as their captain. They were camped northwest of Mineral City. Fence cutting was a common occurrence in the 70's in south and southwest Texas mostly by cow thieves who wanted open range instead of pastures. Pony Morris and John Flint were sent on a scouting trip to Pleasanton, in Atascosa county, to catch some fence-cutters or "Blue Devils."



THE ELLIS HOTEL

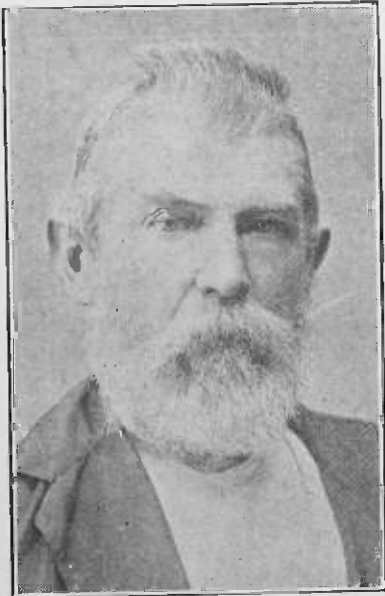
Which was moved by F. M. Ellis from St. Mary's to Beeville when Captain A. C. Jones offered a block of land worth \$100 as a bonus to the party building a hotel in Beeville. The third story was added after the S. A. & A. P. railway reached Beeville in 1886. The hotel was afterwards named Commercial Hotel and still later the Lindell Hotel. It occupied the site of the present Magnolia Super-Service Station. A livery stable, built and operated by Mr. Ellis, was located in the rear of the hotel at the railroad track. The covered wagon, horses, and patrons of the hotel who came out on the "galleries," were typical of the day.

OPERATED BEEVILLE HOTEL AND LIVERY STABLE

FRANCIS M. ELLIS was a native of South Carolina, and was born in September, 1830. After reaching manhood he was united in marriage to Miss Martha W. Melton, February 25, 1850. Shortly after their marriage this young couple moved to Mississippi, remaining there until 1857, when they emigrated to Texas, settling for two years in San Saba county. Due to an outbreak of Indian trouble in this locality, Mr. Ellis moved his family to St. Mary's on the coast, where he built a hotel and operated same until 1878, at which time he moved to Beeville. A. C. Jones, who owned business property around the courthouse square, donated a block of land valued at \$100, to any man who would build a first-class hotel. As Beeville was an important village between San Antonio

as they called themselves. These two men stopped at the old Bowyer Hotel. The fence-cutters heard they were there and sent them word if they did not leave that 100 of their tribe would be there that night and hang them with barb-wire. The two men sat up all night, each with a six shooter in his hand and a Winchester rifle by his side. Although the "Blue Devils" failed to show up, the boys were badly scared. At that time there was no law against fence-cutting, so the citizens sent in a petition to Governor Ross, requesting him to call a special session of the Legislature and pass a law to make fence cutting a felony, which was done, putting an end to this trouble. J. P. Morris was sworn in as a deputy sheriff about this time and served under Sheriff Walton about ten years.

and the coast, Mr. Ellis decided to accept the offer. John Impson, Sr., father of John and Grover Impson, who was a carpenter and contractor, was employed to take the hotel down and rebuild it in Beeville on the block of land donated for the purpose, which location was at Corpus Christi and Washington streets. Whit Parchman contracted to freight the lumber to Beeville, using eight and ten horse teams and large freight wagons. Each piece of timber was numbered in taking the building down in



FRANCIS M. ELLIS

Moved hotel from Old St. Mary's in 1878, and operated livery stable in connection with the hotel; got \$100 bonus.

order to rebuild it as it was. This hotel was about 50x50 feet square, with a second story, also a large hall in the attic, which was used for a ball room and for shows when one came to town. Not only did A. C. Jones donate the block of land for this enterprise, but he financed the move, lending Mr. Ellis money at 12 per cent interest.

When the work was completed and the hotel opened for business, Mr. Ellis was in debt to Mr. Jones for the sum of \$3,500.00 This amount with interest was repaid at the end of three years. In a short time more room was required to accom-

modate the patronage, so the roof was raised and a third story added to the building. This hotel was patronized by traveling men as well as local men. J. C. Beasley, before his marriage, was a boarder at the Ellis hotel, as were other young men of the town, possibly A. P. Smith, also Tom and Dick Skaggs. A livery stable was run in connection for the convenience of the patrons. It was built on the west side of the block, a severe storm in July, 1886, blew down the stable, wrecking some of the fine vehicles under the ruins. Shortly before the storm Mr. Ellis sold the hotel to Sid Howard, and later sold the wrecked stable to Tim Williams, who rebuilt it across the street on the block where the Commercial National Bank is today. A two-story house of Kohler & Heldenfels was also blown down in this storm. The house was filled with furniture and the loss was about \$2,000. The new school building, nearing completion, was damaged. John Impson, who was the contractor, was the heaviest loser.

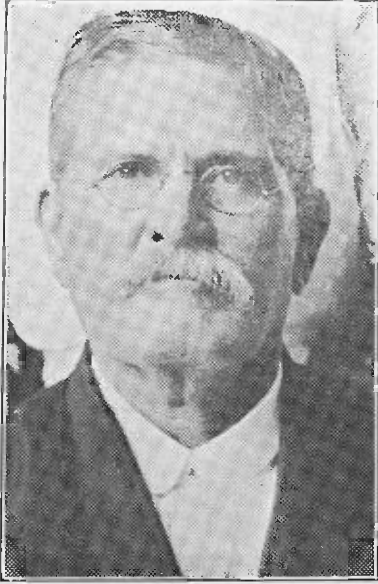
Mr. Ellis lost his companion by death in December, 1887. They were the parents of nine children.

In March, 1889, he was united in marriage to Miss Sallie O. Dunn. One child, a daughter, was born to this union, who today, is Mrs. Chas. Engle. Mrs. Ellis passed away in April, 1901. Mr. Ellis died in March, 1904.

T. J. SMITH

THOMAS JEFFERSON, or T. J. Smith, father of Will Smith Mesdames Maggie and Rachel was born in Georgia in 1815. In Mr. Smith moved to Blunt county, Alabama, where he served as assessor and collector of taxes. In 1854 he was an grant to Texas, stopping at Prairie on the San Marcos river, where he taught school until 1860, when he moved to Bee county, settling on the Toro creek, near what is now the town of Pettus. T. Smith built one of the first houses in that section of the county. G. B. McCollie who was a freighter, and son, John, w

was a young boy at that time, hauled the lumber for this house from St. Mary's. Mr. Smith moved with his family to Beeville in 1866, where he continued to reside the remainder of his life. He was elected commissioner in 1886 when Throckmorton was governor of Texas, serving also at different times as postmaster, county clerk,



WILLIAM M. SMITH

Mr. Smith was an early day merchant, being associated with his father, T. J. Smith. He later owned a saddle shop and served as county treasurer of Bee county for several terms prior to his passing.

and county judge. He and his son, Will, were engaged in the mercantile business in Beeville at the time of his death in 1874.

ELIJAH RAY

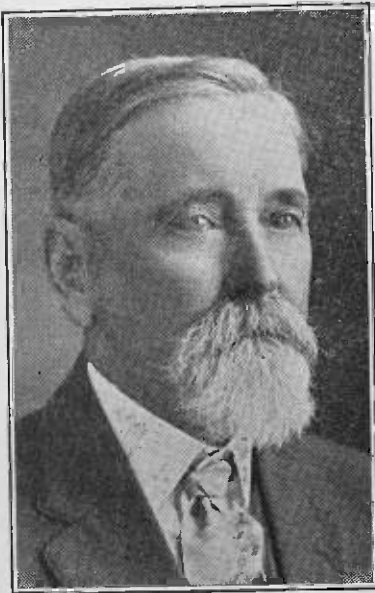
BEFORE coming to Texas, Mr. Ray was engaged in farming in the state of Mississippi, where he had spent the greater part of his life up to the time he came to Texas in 1850. His birth took place in Fayette county, Alabama, May 7, 1826. He was the father of James F. and George Ray. When he arrived in Texas at Port Lavaca, he was stricken with cholera and most of his money was spent. As soon as he recovered he went to Victoria, where he was employed by a farmer and began plow-

ing for the spring crop. He was engaged on this farm one year. From there he moved to Goliad county. In the fall of the following year, 1851, he bought his first cattle, around 100 head, with money realized from the sale of a negro slave. He kept this herd for more than two years and traded them for mustang and Spanish ponies. These in turn were traded for an interest in a herd of cattle belonging to Captain Peck, to take care of the cattle for three years for a certain per cent of the calves branded. At the end of the contract Mr. Ray had a herd of 950 head of young cattle. He kept this herd until the outbreak of the Civil War. His part in the struggle consisted of an enlistment in the home guard. As he was not required to leave the state, he became the agent for various parties in this vicinity, to keep up their brands and keep up their cattle as best he could under the circumstances, while they were away. During the closing year of the war and the following year, a terrible drouth prevailed in Southern Texas, and nearly one-half of the cattle perished from starvation. Following this disaster, Mr. Ray worked the remnant of his own herds, and still had charge of the brands of several other cattlemen until the years of 1872 and 1873, when another severe drought afflicted this part of the state and upwards of fifty per cent of the stock again perished. Becoming somewhat discouraged, Mr. Ray sold his entire herd for \$10,000 cash. He then embarked in sheep raising, and with the raising of fine horses on a limited scale. The first few years were very successful for the sheep industry, but the next three or four years were less favorable, so in 1880 he disposed of his sheep and again took up cattle raising. Besides his cattle, Mr. Ray also raised fine horses and mules on a successful scale up until his death.

CAPTURED BY THE ENEMY

W. J. POWELL, whose name was William John Powell, was born near Little Rock, Ark., March 4, 1844, coming with his parents to Johnson county, Texas, at the age of ten. He

enlisted at Cleburne in the Confederate Army as a volunteer cavalryman, and was mustered into service at Bonham at the age of nineteen years, being accepted on account of his fine physique and good marksmanship. "Billy" Powell, as he was familiarly known, served in that hazardous frontier warfare through Oklahoma and Southern Arkansas narrated in Texas history; was captured by the enemy and held prisoner at Rock Island, Illinois, where many of his comrades died of disease and exposure to the hardships of winter prison camps. He



W. J. POWELL

was exchanged with others in New Orleans, La., in 1865, and was sent to Shreveport for release, only to learn on arrival at Shreveport that General Lee had surrendered. The family moved to Aransas county soon after the war, and in 1870 W. J. Powell was married to Miss Virginia A. Williams. They made their home near Rockport until 1879, when he bought land in Bee county, settling near Mineral City, where he engaged extensively in sheep raising, shifting later to cattle raising. He was one of those who first built barbed wire fences in Bee county, hauling the wire from Corpus Christi, the nearest source of supply at that time. He was also one of those who

learned what fence cutters could do during one night to about two miles of new fence, every wire being cut midway between the second and third posts.

Mr. Powell bore the marks of a Texas pioneer, whose life is an outstanding example of what was required of rugged character for honor, honesty, modest bravery, and high ideals in the midst of outlawery, banditry and cattle thievery peculiar to those early days in Texas and in Bee county.

Mr. Powell purchased a home in Beeville in 1891, moving his family there for the benefits of the schools, where he and his beloved wife spent the remainder of their lives, surrounded by their five sons and one daughter, with whom Mr. Powell made his home after the death of his faithful companion September 9, 1912.

W. J. Powell passed away April 14, 1934, being ninety years and forty days old.

HELPED DIG SECOND GRAVE

REV. REASON BEAL THAMES was a native of Texas, born in Lavaca county in October, 1849, a son of James Thames and Catherine (Wright) Thames. He was left an orphan at a tender age. His mother died when he was four years old; he was eleven years of age when his father died, leaving him and a brother, Joe, two years younger. After the death of their father in 1860 the two boys came to Beeville to live with their uncle Jimmie Wright. As soon as these boys were older, they began to do odd jobs of work for men, and on one occasion they helped to dig a grave in the old cemetery. It was the second grave to be made there, and was for a child who was bitten by a rattlesnake. There were two things about this work that made an impression on these young minds. The first was, the man who took the contract to dig the grave laid it off north and south instead of east and west; the other incident about the work, the man agreed to pay them 50 cents each, but the debt was still unpaid. When about seventeen years of age, Reason took a job as overseer of a sheep ranch for Mr. McKinsey on the

Nueces River, remaining with this work three years, during the time herding sheep with Mexican sheep-herders and learning to speak Spanish well. Reason and Joe Thames were self-made men, like so many of the

herding sheep they carried the New Testament to read during the long, tedious day's work. Both of these boys in young manhood became ministers of the gospel, which calling they followed the remainder of their lives, which marked a period of more than fifty years.



REV. R. B. THAMES



MRS. R. B. THAMES

During the three years spent on the sheep ranch he saved his money and bought a wagon and four horses and began to freight. His first work was to cut and haul mesquite pickets for Pat Burke. A camp was made a few miles north of Beeville, where the pickets were cut. It required two days to cut, peel and haul a four-horse load—"about thirty-five posts." He furnished more than half the posts to fence the Burke land at around 25 cents each. In 1870, Reason Thames went up the trail to Kansas City with around 1000 head of cattle for R. J. Smith, John Wilson, and Leroy Roberts. Other cowboys on this trip were Will and Gum Smith and Hinkle Roberts. In 1871 R. B. Thames was happily married to Miss Josephine Harwell of LaGrange, Texas. Shortly after their marriage the couple came to Beeville in a two-horse wagon. The money earned and saved from the sale of pickets to Mr. Burke, together with that received from the trip to Kansas City, was used to buy an acre of land in Beeville, where Klipstein Park is today. A house was built later, as soon as lumber could be hauled from the port at St. Mary's. This self-made pioneer, with his faithful wife, made Bee county their home until 1898.

R. B. Thames died in 1928. His wife preceded him in death a number of years, she having passed away in 1904.

Robert A. Ezell, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Ezell, was born in Missouri September 16, 1845. He moved with his parents when young to the state of Kentucky, where they remained about eleven years, coming from there to Sherman, Texas. Robert Ezell found work helping to make brick to build the first courthouse in Grayson county. He also helped to build the two-story courthouse. In 1865, Connie Kelow operated a train of ox wagons, hauling cotton (ten

ns of Texas, having no advantages in early life. Most of their knowledge was gleaned from the pages of the Holy Bible, which was their daily guide in later years. While

bales to the wagon) from Cameron, Texas, to the Davis Ranch on the Rio Grande. Robert Ezell, at the age of 18 years, drove one of these wagons on one trip, starting in March, the war closed in June, and they returned from this trip in August. They were attacked on the return trip by outlaws, who were in search of food. They asked about coffee. Robert was taking two sacks of coffee to war widows and their families. When they were told who it was for, the



R. A. EZELL

jayhawkers said they would take only a small amount to last them until more could be found.

In 1866 the Ezells left Milam county for Tuspan, Mexico, driving their stock, cows and horses along. When they reached Goliad they stopped to await the coming of other home seekers who were to go in this party. After staking their horses one night and putting hobbles on the oxen—when everyone was asleep and all was quiet—their stock, including the oxen, were stolen. This caused a delay of about one month as more teams must be bought. Then they traveled on to Refugio county, and again their ox teams were stolen, whereupon they abandoned the trip to Mexico. The

robbers were thought to be a band of organized thieves who were working through this country at that time, instead of Indians. A team of horses were bought this time, and, after a few weeks, they strayed off, never to be found.

In 1872 R. A. Ezell was united in marriage to Miss Sara Jane Camp at Meansville, on the Nueces River. Following their marriage, they moved to Goliad county, where Mr. Ezell established the first grist mill in this coast country. It was located near where Berclair is today. Corn was bought from farms on the San Antonio River at \$1.50 and \$2.00 per bushel and ground into corn meal. Some of this meal was sold at the Dick Jones store in Beeville, but Mr. Ezell or his brother peddled a large part of it through the adjoining counties. This was in the days when there were no banks in Beeville, so when a stockman sold his cattle he put the money in a shot sack took it to the Jones store and placed it on the floor under the counter to stay until the owner needed the money. Dick Jones store was the principal store in Beeville then but he had no safe at that time, so this place under the counter was reserved for sacks of money.

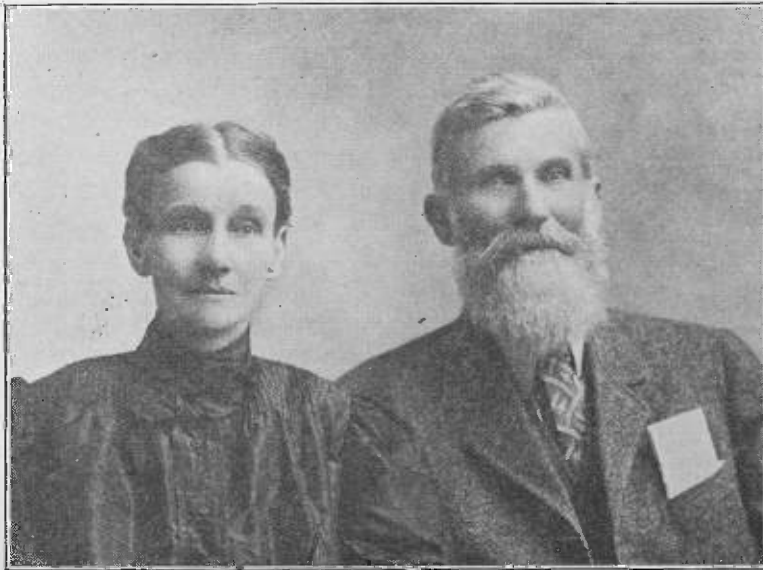
Mr. Ezell was a brick mason by trade, having followed his profession for 64 years. He moved his family to Beeville in 1860 and engaged in the windmill and well-drilling business as a side line. This "young" old man of 91 years, during the year of 1860 did not have enough brick mason work to occupy his full time, so he decided, with the help of his Mexican hired man, to raise a corn crop. He prepared the ground, dug the spring, later planting the seed, cultivated and gathered the corn. August was the proper time to harvest corn in this country, as the weevil that eats the grain seem to bother it less if harvested about that time. The ten-acre corn crop was put in the barn by these two workmen when the days were very warm, taking only one hour off for rest each day at noon. R. A. Ezell held a noteworthy record in his long span of life in that he never had a case in court that was never sued by a man, nor prosecuted

one at law. If he hired a man to work, he always had money enough to pay off when the work was done. Mr. Ezell was a small man, not weighing more than 125 pounds. When he was a young man he used tobacco that he raised in his garden, but for 65 years he had refrained from using it in any way except a cigarette on Sunday his rest day. He took Saturday afternoons off and walked to town, a distance of about two miles, to get a shave.

R. A. Ezell was a Mason for 65 years and an Odd Fellow for 35 years. He did not drink strong drink, or liquor of any kind.

reliance, and in 1852, though only a lad, he carried the mail from San Antonio to Columbus, when there were only four post offices on the route.

In 1855 he joined a ranger company and for three months pursued the marauders (outlaws) who roved through the country in search of loot, keeping on their trail, and crossing the Rio Grande at Eagle Pass into Mexico, where a fight was staged. They defeated a force of Mexicans outnumbering them ten to one. This stopped depredations for a few years. While the fight caused quite a stir at Washington and in the City



CAPT. AND MRS D. A. T. WALTON

fine old man attributed his long life and unusual health to moderation in all things.

SHERIFF EIGHTEEN YEARS

D. A. T. WALTON was a native of Moulton county, Ala., where he was born in 1837, the son of Mr. John A. Walton. A few years after his father died and Dave Walton moved to Texas with his mother in 1847, settling in Guadalupe county.

Here the young son became acquainted with the hardships of pioneer life that fitted him so well for the place in life that he later filled. Early in youth he learned self-

of Mexico, the matter was finally dropped, but it served as a lesson to the Mexicans that they could not depredate on Texas soil and escape to the other side without being punished.

On returning from the ranger service Mr. Walton settled in Bandera county and in 1857 was elected tax assessor of the county. At the time of his election he was away in pursuit of Indians and did not qualify for the office. Later he settled in Atascosa county, where, in 1860, he was united in marriage to Mrs. Amanda McAde-Lee. Shortly after their marriage they moved to Bee county, locating in the northern part where he engaged in stock raising.

When the clouds of the Civil War spread over the country, D. A. T. Walton was among the first to offer his service to the Confederate cause. He enlisted in Captain McKinney's troop, Wood's Regiment of Cavalry, and was elected first lieutenant. He was later breveted captain on the field of battle, and served the entire period of the war.

After the war, Captain Walton moved to Beeville, locating on land known today as the Mrs. Chambliss place. He later traded this home to Joe Wilson for the Dunlap place on the Aransas creek. Mr. Dunlap settled on this land (about 500 acres) sometime in the 40's, building a rock house. So far as can be learned this is the oldest house in the county. It is in a crumbling state today, partly due to treasure hunters. The house has not been occupied for more than twenty-five years.

After locating on this land, Mr. Walton took up stock raising again, and in 1874 the county records show him to own around 600 head of horses.

In 1876 he was elected sheriff of Bee county and was re-elected for eight successive terms, serving the county eighteen years in that office. He left a record of never having wounded a man, or being wounded himself.

After his election to office, he made the eight-mile trip to and from his ranch home each day on horseback, but later sold his home and moved his family to Beeville to be near his office, and to give his children the benefit of a good school.

Mr. Walton built the two-story house in west Beeville, which is known today as the old West house.

Following his defeat in 1894, he moved to Brewster county where he was elected sheriff two successive terms, but resigned in favor of his son, Allen, who was later elected to the office and served Brewster county seventeen years as sheriff.

Mrs. Walton was born in Shelby county, Tenn., in 1836. She was the Widow Lee when she and Mr. Walton were married in 1860, and was the mother of one son, Jack Lee (now deceased). Eight children, three

sons and five daughters, came to bless this union. They are Dave, (deceased) Baylor, (deceased) Allen of El Paso, Mrs. Paloma Malone, Marfa, Texas, Mrs. Ella Wilson, Alpine, Texas, Mrs. Nannie Dugat, (deceased), Mrs. Lula Kilgore, San Antonio, and Mrs. Nora King, Denver, Colo.

This pioneer Bee county couple spent the evening of their lives in the quiet little town of Sabinal, Uvalde county, where Mrs. Walton passed away October 3, 1914. Captain Walton died June 8, 1915. They were laid to rest at Alpine, the home of a daughter, Mrs. J. P. Wilson.

TWO LEGAL HANGINGS

Two legal hangings are recorded in Bee county.

The first one was December 22, 1871. A Mexican by the name of Bartola Guerra was hanged for the murder of Alexander H. Reed, over the loss of a \$20 gold piece. Mr. Reed was a ranchman, residing in Goliad county.

The second execution was that of James Edward Singleton on the morning, about 11:30 o'clock, of April 27, 1877, for the murder of John C. Dwyer in July, 1875.

The story of the Singleton hanging records a sad page in the county's history. He was a young man between the age of 21 and 23 years, a member of a highly respected, Christian family. However, he was a victim of circumstance, having fallen in with bad company.

Both men were drinking when the crime was committed. D. A. T. Walton, sheriff at the time and, fearing a mob, secretly kept the prisoner at his ranch home on the Aransas creek, seven miles south of Beeville, where he was confined for several months before being taken on horseback to the Bexar county jail.

For a time Singleton was kept in the box or log crib, at the Walton ranch, after which he was moved to a hackberry mott covered with mustang grape vines, directly across the creek, where he was chained to a hackberry tree.

Two guards, Frank Boggus and John Young, were placed in charge. The sheriff

and his family (whom Singleton learned to love,) was kind to him, and he, too, won a place in their hearts. Mrs. Walton prepared and carried his meals to him during the time he was kept in the barn, being aided by Ella and Nannie, two of her little daughters.

The guards and prisoner became fast friends and for pastime they practiced target shooting, the gun being in the hands of the prisoner as often as it was in the hands of the guards.

Mr. Singleton wrote a beautiful letter to his widowed mother two days before his execution, and in some providential way it has been preserved down through the years, and was recently found among old papers of the late County Judge W. R. Hayes, who was county judge at the time of Singleton's execution. The letter was given to me to be used in this history. I first wanted to get permission from the family. Some time was consumed in locating W. M. Singleton, the only living member of the family. The brother was not willing to have the letter printed, for he said it was not written for the public to read. However, in a brief way and with respect to the dead, I want to mention the fact, that in his letter he spoke sweet, comforting words to his mother, telling her he "did not commit the crime with malice or aforethought in my heart nor was I actuated by any hope of gain," that it was "caused from a quarrel over a trifle." He tenderly assured her it was not the consequence of home training that he was now under the influence of death, and that she had taught him the right way to live, but he had been weak and sinful, and did not heed her teaching.

In closing the letter, he asked God in His infinite mercy to bless, comfort and console my dear mother, and may we meet in a better world beyond the grave," was the prayer of her unhappy son.

Some of the facts above stated I quote from Mrs. Ella (Walton) Wilson of Alpine, Texas, a daughter of Sheriff Walton, with whom I have been in communication in regard to the Singleton case. Mrs. Wilson

further states she read the beautiful letter and heard the mother tell of the comfort it brought to her in her great sorrow.

In this case, likewise other cases in court during the early days of the county, the jury was governed by the law and the evidence.

Sheriff Walton offered a liberal sum to anyone who would cut the rope, but no one would accept the offer.

No one could be found who understood how to tie a hangman's noose, except the condemned man, who said he knew how, so he tied the hangman's knot for his own execution.

The last words of Mr. Singleton, spoken from the gallows, was "Good-bye, Mr. Walton," and the same farewell to Holland and Tucker, his "guards."

The sentiment of the people in Bee county was strongly in favor of prohibition. Liquor was credited with being the cause of the crime, and on January 20, 1877, an election was held to prohibit the sale of liquor and medicated bitters in Bee county. The election carried by a vote of 113 to 76. Although two attempts were made to vote liquor back in the next two years, the people still favored prohibition and it remained in force for some time.

MARSDEN EARLY DAY SHERIFF

T H. MARSDEN was born in the state of New York, July 27, 1846. He came to Bee county in the early 50's. At the age of 15 he enlisted in the Civil War.

In June, 1866, Mr. Marsden was married in Beeville and the marriage service was read by Judge W. R. Hayes.

Mrs. Marsden was born in Grimes county, Texas, in 1842. When a small girl she came to Bee county to make her home with her sister, Mrs. Giles Carter, on the Carter ranch, six miles west of Beeville, where she continued to reside until her marriage.

Mr. Marsden served as sheriff of Bee county one term, and was in office when the first legal hanging took place in the county. A Mexican by the name of Bartola Guerra was hanged. The gallows was



MR. AND MRS. T. H. MARSDEN AND CHILDREN

This Marsden family group picture was taken at Brady, Texas. Mrs. Marsden, who was a sister of the late Captain A. C. Jones, is shown with her husband, the early day sheriff of Bee county, at the top of the picture. In the second row are, left to right, Mrs. J. P. Jones, Brady; Mrs. M. Jones, Austin; Willie Marsden, deceased, and Miss Clara Marsden, Brady. In the middle row are Duke Marsden, Galveston, and T. T. Marsden, Beeville, who is holding a picture of Allan C. Marsden, the only member of the family not present, now deceased. In the bottom row are Dick Marsden, Brady, and Crosby Marsden, deceased.

erected in the middle of the street. "directly in front of where the Commercial National Bank is today." This public execution took place December 22, 1871. Guerra was convicted of the murder of Alexander H. Reed, a Goliad county ranchman, over the loss of a \$20 gold piece.

Mr. Marsden moved to McCulloch county in 1884 in search of range for his cattle, moving the animals on foot through the country. He returned to Beeville in 1896, remaining a few years before returning with his family to Brady, McCulloch county, at which place the family has since resided. Allan and Tom, the two eldest sons, remained in Beeville. Allan passed away in 1917. Tom continues to make Beeville his home.

Mr. and Mrs. Marsden were the parents of nine children, six of whom are living.

Mr. Marsden died at the family home in Brady in 1910. Mrs. Marsden survived her husband five years.



MRS. HUGH MAY

Eldest Daughter of Henry B. Williams

BUILT FIRST STOCK PENS AT ROCKPORT

HENRY B. WILLIAMS came to Texas in 1855 from Mississippi, settling on the Mission river a few miles above the town of Refugio. He pur-

chased land and engaged in the cattle business. The severe drought of 1863 and 1864 reduced his herd from 175 to about 40 head.

In 1861 Mr. Williams' wife passed away, leaving him with the care of six young children. In a short time the war between the states came on. His eldest son was in the conscript age and was drafted and remained in the army 17 months, with only one furlough home.

Fearing Mr. Williams would also be called to serve as a soldier, some of his friends signed a petition asking that some army work be assigned him so that he could remain with his children. Pat Shelly circulated the petition and the children ever remembered this kind act with love and gratitude, especially for Mr. Shelly.

The government detailed Mr. Williams to look after the war widows and their children. His duty was to kill beeves the government furnished and distribute the meat among the people. It was his duty also to haul flour and corn for their bread. He went to New Braunfels for flour and to Old Caney on the Colorado river for the corn. As coffee was very scarce here during the war, parched corn was used instead.

Frances, Mr. Williams' eldest daughter, learned to cook, spin and weave wool and cotton into cloth; she also learned from her mother in early childhood to make garments. With this training, it was easier to take the place of the mother in the home. She made her brother's clothing that he wore in the army, spinning and weaving the cloth and making the garments by hand. There were no uniforms for the Grays, except for the officers. When her brother came home on the furlough she wove a piece of cloth and exchanged it with a neighbor for a hat made of tully grass, for him to wear back to the army. This grass grew around lakes and on creek banks and some of the pioneer women learned to weave the long blades into hats.

Mike West, who lived near Refugio, tanned hides, both cow and deer hides, and made shoes for his family; also for the neighbors, during the war. They were made

to lace, but the shoes had no heels. Bags or sacks for flour and meal were made of home spun sewed by hand. There was only one grade of cloth made, it was heavy and durable. Sewing them by hand was no small task, the greater part being done by candle light.

During the severe drought of 1864 and 1865, the loss of cattle was great and the government's demand for the soldiers was heavy. This caused a shortage in meat for the folks at home. But a kind Providence provided a bountiful crop of acorns, both live oak and post oak, so the hogs got fat and there was plenty of meat and lard for the mothers and children at home.

Miss Frances Williams was married to Hugh May in 1866. Speaking of war times, she once said they were hard times, as well as sad times, and many nights her pillow was wet with tears when word came that some friends or loved ones had fallen on the battlefields, realizing at any time her brother might lose his life there. It was one month and two days from the time he was killed in battle until the news reached them, however.

Some of the early settlers living in Refugio county built a house for school and church services and Mrs. May recalls one Sunday when James Ferguson, who was presiding elder of the Methodist church, came to preach. He walked down the aisle with a double barrel shot-gun in one hand and his saddle bags in the other hand. He laid them down by the side of the pulpit and, kneeling down, lead in prayer. He was the father of Ex-Governor Jim Ferguson. In these days men carried guns to defend themselves and family, also the church services from the enemy.

Henry B. Williams built and operated the first stock pens at Rockport, operated in connection with the slaughter pens at Fulton, five miles from Rockport. The slaughter house and pens were owned and operated by northern capital. Mr. Williams built the pens of rough heart lumber in 1868 and 1869. He moved to Rockport the following year and was in direct charge of the work.

Cowboys were hired to gather cows that were for sale throughout the south half of Texas and drive them to these pens. At times there would be more cows than the three large pens would hold, so the cowboys would graze them on the prairie.

Hugh May was in charge of other cowboys who drove from 100 to 200 cows each day from these pens to the slaughter pens at Fulton, where they were killed for their hide and tallow and shipped by boat to Boston. Steers and calves were also shipped by boat about every three months to northern markets.

This industry was in operation more than two years and ran day and night. Thousands of rough cows were consumed by this company and the supply under this heavy draft began to diminish and, with the advance in price, it did not justify continuing this mode of selling cows. With the closing of this venture, the era of slaughtering cattle in Texas for their hide and tallow passed to return no more.

As stated before, Miss Frances Williams was married to Mr. Hugh May in 1866. Mr. May was born in Belfast, Ireland, where his mother died when he was three years old. At the age of seven he came to America, stopping for a time in the state of New York, afterwards moving to Kentucky and Louisiana before coming to Texas. During the gold rush in 1849 he went to California. Returning to Texas, he made his home in Refugio and later, in Bee county, where he died in 1915.

It was the author's privilege, a number of times, to go to "Mother May," (as she was lovingly called) for some facts and dates of early-day happenings in Bee and adjoining counties, as well as the accounts of her father's family and her own family. A sweet Christian character, she seemed always happy to do the task that each brought. Her memory was unusual for one of 92 years and she could recall the date of each incident without hesitation or having to refer to old manuscripts.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. May made her home in Beeville with her

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daughter, Mrs. J. T. Borroun, until her death on June 14, 1937, at the ripe age of 93 years.

WAS CIVIL WAR COLONEL

FREDERICK J. MALONE, SR., father of County Clerk F. J. Malone and Mrs. G. M. Stephens, was a native of Limestone county, Alabama, where he was born June 12, 1826. His parents were Nathaniel B. and Mary Jackson Malone, natives of Virginia. His father was of Irish descent, a prominent planter in Virginia, and died in 1828 in north Alabama. His mother was of English descent and lived to the advanced age of 98 years, passing away

returned to Oxford, Miss.

In 1850, he was united in marriage to Miss Abbie Humphries, near LaFayette Springs. The same year, and one month after their union, they moved to Texas, settling at Sweet Home, Lavaca county. In 1861 he moved his family to Goliad county, where he engaged in stock raising.

In 1869 he settled at Rockport, continuing in the cattle business, and in 1875 located in Bee county, where he purchased a large tract of land, and stocked it with good cattle.

Colonel Malone, at the time of his death in 1891, was a member of Bee County Commissioners' Court. Mrs. Malone died in



MR. AND MRS. F. J. MALONE, SR.

Beeville, Texas, in 1898.

Frederick J. Malone received his preparatory education at Holly Springs, Miss., and was a student at Oxford University at the break of the Mexican war. He enlisted in the United States army as a volunteer soldier, and was promoted to a first lieutenant. He was wounded at Buena Vista, and engaged in many battles during the campaign. His term of service, under General Zachary Taylor, extended over a period of twelve months.

During the war between the states, Mr. Malone served in the Confederate army as Colonel in Hawp's brigade.

After the Mexican war he went to California (during the gold rush of 1849), and

1932. She, too, lived to see her 98th birthday, as did Mr. Malone's mother.

IMMIGRANTS FROM ILLINOIS

AS THE RESULT of the Texas War for Independence, this great territory was thrown open for settlement and the slogan was, "To Texas For Cheap Land." This was a great enticement for home seekers who wanted to raise stock.

In 1874 Johnson Ross and two sons, Will H. and Clayton, and a nephew, Lewis Cass Ross, came from Illinois to buy land on which to raise sheep. They came by train to Houston, taking the boat around to Indianola, again by train up to Victoria, then



L. C. Ross



MRS. L. C. ROSS

by wagon on to Beeville.

Will Ross, father of the late Mrs. Annie Cowie, purchased the state land lying in the western part of the county, known today as the Kinkler land. Johnson Ross and son also bought state land nearby. Cass Ross went further to the southwest and purchased land from the Cobb women who owned a sheep ranch.

When the land deals were finished, the Ross men returned to their native state for their families. On February 21, 1875, L. C. Ross was married to Miss Alice Pound and they left immediately with the Ross colony, fourteen in number, for their new home in Texas. When the immigrants reached Victoria, the women and children stopped over and the children were placed in school while the men came on to Bee county to improve their land.

After buying a wagon and team and going to St. Mary's for lumber, a two-room house was built on the Will Ross land. The home was built on a rock foundation with a basement, or cellar. Will Ross also dug a well. When the necessary improvements were finished, Henderson Allsup with his freight wagon and ox team was employed, and with their own wagon and team, the men went to Victoria for

their families. The return trip to the Will Ross home required two days.

This colony remained in this home until lumber could be brought from St. Mary's for each man to build a small house on his own piece of land. When all was finished some of the men went out near Laredo to buy a few hundred head of sheep, driving them back to their homes, where they employed sheep herders until such time as the land could be fenced.

Part of the wool from these sheep was sold in Beeville, but a large amount was freighted to San Antonio. A dipping vat was built on the Johnson Ross land, and long-leaf tobacco purchased by the hog head in Corpus Christi was used to make the dip, each barrel weighing about 100 pounds. A solution was made by boiling it in a large iron kettle and the liquid mixed with water in the proper form. The sheep were dipped for scab, a parasite that attacks the wool.

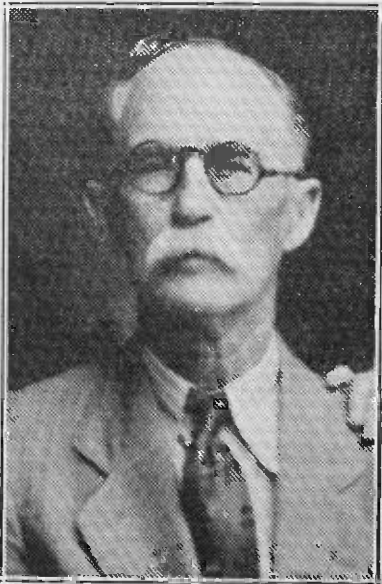
These men and their families were among the best in the country, standing for high moral principals, and for law and order in the county affairs.

In the course of a few years the sheep industry became unprofitable, then all of this colony sold their Bee county interest

and returned to their native state. except L. C. Ross. He and his devoted wife remained in their home on this land, rearing their three children, two sons and a daughter there. Mrs. Ross passed away in 1922. L. C. Ross lived to the ripe old age of 82 years. He died in 1932.

A NATIVE OF BEE COUNTY

DAVID RICHARD MAY, a native Bee countian, where he spent most of his life, was born near Blanconia, June 14, 1855. He was the eldest of three children born to Hugh and Charlotte (Williams) May, who were pioneers in this im-



DAVID RICHARD MAY

mediate section of the state.

When around 15 years of age, Dave May worked as a cowboy at the stock pens at Rockport, (operated by H. B. Williams in the early 70's). He was one of the hands to drive the cows to the slaughter pens at Clinton, five miles distance.

On June 15, 1881, Mr. May was united in marriage to Miss Ella Jane Nutt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nutt, also a member of a pioneer Bee county family.

They erected their home on a farm near Clair, where he successfully engaged in stock farming. At the time of his passing June, 1936, David Richard May was the oldest native citizen of Bee county.

CAPTURED BY INDIANS

TIMOTHY HART settled near the town of Refugio in 1852. Early one morning he sent Jimmie, his eleven-year-old son, to drive up the pair of oxen in order to begin the day's work. He was returning with the oxen when suddenly Jimmie saw Indians coming towards him. They captured the boy and drove the oxen off, taking the boy and oxen to Camp San Saba in San Saba county.

This camp seemed to be headquarters for the Indians who raided this part of the state. They lived mostly on raw horse meat. Jimmie had never eaten horse meat and he became very hungry.

One day, on seeing the boy was getting frail and weak, an old squaw got an ax and taking the boy by the hand, led him away to the woods. He was helpless to defend himself and thought the worst had come, but instead, this old Indian woman knew where there was a bee tree in the woods nearby and was taking the ax to chop into the tree to get the honey. The boy ate this pure food with a genuine relish, and later in life related how this honey had saved his life and put him on the mend. He was traded for different wares among the Indians, but after three years he made his escape and returned to his parents.

When he reached manhood, Jimmie Hart was married to Miss Jane Hinds. Two children were born to this union, both girls; one daughter died when young, the other one married John O'Brien.

Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien live in the town of Refugio today and have large holdings in the Refugio oil fields.

SAMUEL CYLE SKIDMORE

SAMUEL CYLE SKIDMORE was born in the state of Virginia in April, 1821, and was a cousin of Stonewall Jackson. He was of English ancestry, his parents being among the early immigrants to America, and settled in Virginia.

In 1841 S. C. Skidmore was married to Miss Elizabeth Ann Kyser and in 1853, with his young family, left Wheeling, Va., for Texas by steamboat to New Orleans, and

across the Gulf to Galveston on the old Mexican steamboat, "Mexico."

The last lap of this journey was by ox team to Bastrop county where, with the aid of John Whitehead, who was a young man and came with Mr. Skidmore from Virginia, he made a crop each year of the four they remained there.

In 1857 they moved to San Patricio county, where he entered the stock business, raising horses and cattle. Mr. Skidmore made a trip to Virginia to buy two fine horses which were his foundation stock.

He built a log house and burned a kiln of lime to make whitewash to paint or whitewash the house. This location was three miles from the Nueces river. Water was hauled from the river in barrels for home use.

Mr. Skidmore was an early day sheriff of San Patricio county. At the outbreak of the Civil War he joined the army in Donley's Company and was sent down on the Rio Grande for a year, riding one of the horses he had raised. He rode this horse four years through the war and both came home without a scratch.

Mr. Skidmore's two oldest sons, Cal and Tel, as they were called, who were in their early teens, joined the infantry and went through the four years, returning home safely.

At the close of the war, John Whitehead married and settled in Beeville where he spent the remainder of his life. Mr. Whitehead accumulated considerable property and was one of Bee county's best citizens.

After the war and eight years spent at Rockport, Mr. Skidmore, with his family, located on the Aransas creek in Bee county. Here he purchased a large tract of land and some years later he bought a like amount of land on the Olmos creek.

Mr. Skidmore died about a year before the railroad came to Bee county and his son, Frank O. Skidmore, came in possession of a large part of the land and, according to his father's wishes, donated to the S. A. & A. P. Railway the right-of-way across his land, also the streets and every other block of land for the townsite of

Skidmore.

Starting life as a cowboy on the prairies of San Patricio county, Frank Skidmore attained wealth and leadership by thrift and keen business management. In the early 80's he was one of the largest cattle dealers in this section.

Frank Skidmore went to Mexico in 1903 to develop some mining interests. The location was at Oaxico, beyond the City of Mexico on the Pacific coast, where he spent 12 years. Mr. Skidmore died in 1915 and was buried in the city of Oaxico.

LAST SURVIVOR OF REFUGIO POSSE

JOHN E. KELLEY is a native "Texan." He was born in Karnes county May 6, 1854. His father, William Green Kelley, came from Mississippi to Texas in the early days, stopping first in DeWitt county on Coleta creek for a few years. He had been an overseer on a large plantation in his native state.

In making preparations to plant corn after moving to DeWitt county, he was advised by the few people who were living there not to plant corn as it would not grow in this country. The family moved to Karnes county where Mr. Kelley purchased land, raising horses and sheep. He is said to have fenced the first pasture to be fenced in Texas, consisting of 400 acres. This was near old Helena, where the son, John E. Kelley was born.

On November 26, 1874, John E. Kelley was married to Miss Minnie Camp of Atascosa county, who was born in February, 1859, a daughter of Colonel and Mrs. L. B. Camp. Mr. Camp was a member of the Texas Legislature at the beginning of the Civil War. In making the trips to Austin, he rode horseback accompanied by his negro, also on a horse, who lead the pack mule with Mr. Camp's clothing and other necessities, the negro returning home with the horses and mule.

J. E. Kelley and family located in Beeville in 1891. He is the last survivor of a posse of 200 men he joined when 18 years old to search the country for three Mexicans who murdered Thad Swift and wife at



MR. AND MRS. JOHN E. KELLEY

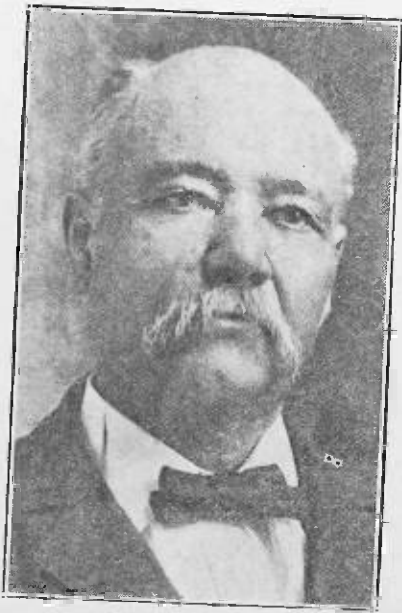
Refugio in 1870. Mr. Swift raised sheep and had a Spaniard, Juan Flores, as herder. In those days Mexican labor came over in great numbers to work on the sheep ranches during the shearing season. When the sheep were sheared this time, Mr. Swift took the load of wool to market at St. Mary's. While he was away this hired man planned with two Mexicans to rob him on his return, thinking he would bring the money home. At usual Mr. Swift left the money at the John Wood store, as there were no banks at that time. The Mexicans came in the house that night, as was planned, to get the money, which resulted in a bloody hand-to-hand fight through the house and out into the yard where they succeeded in killing Mr. Swift; also his wife, who was an expectant mother. Their three small children, (little girls) were left unharmed.

On awakening the next morning and finding the parents lying in the yard, the children went to the nearest neighbor and told about their papa and mamma being asleep and they could not wake them. This neighbor went to the Swift home and found

a horrible scene. The news spread rapidly and soon the men were organized under Captain Coon Duffman and Jim McFadden to search the country from San Antonio to the Rio Grande. One of the posse, Dan Holland, was killed from a bullet shot through the door of a Mexican house when a band of men rode up to search the house. In their rage, there were some innocent Mexicans killed.

One of the three men being sought by the posse was killed, but Juan Flores escaped into Mexico. About one month later he was captured at a small town across the river from Rio Grande City by Frank Bogus, and with the aid of a Mexican guard he succeeded in getting him across the river, where Captain Henry Scott, Frank Swift and Albert Kennedy awaited to bring the fugitive to Refugio where he was tried and hung. The third man made good his escape and was never found.

Juan Flores told the people before he went to the gallows to be executed that his parents were good, honest people and they had reared him to live right, but he had kept company with the lawless element



W. S. DUGAT



MRS. W. S. DUGAT

and now was paying the supreme penalty. He warned young men to keep good company and live honest, upright lives.

Mr. Kelley moved to Beeville about 1891, at the beginning of a very severe drought in this part of the state which lasted until 1898. Old live oak trees on the rocky ridges died, strong south winds in the spring drifted sand several feet high in places, and some fences were covered with drifted sand. Stockmen cut down trees for cattle to eat the leaves and moss. Corn and other crops were very short.

Mr. Kelley, who is now in his 85th year, has followed the well and windmill business since locating in Beeville and is another "young" old man who is quite active, considering the number of milestones he has passed. He attributes his good health and advanced age to moderation in all things. He is spending the evening of his life at his home in east Beeville, surrounded by good friends and neighbors. Mrs. Kelley died in March, 1937.

SERVED THROUGH CIVIL WAR

W. S. DUGAT, familiarly known to his friends as Major Dugat, was born in Liberty, Texas, in November, 1849, where he grew to young man-

hood. In his early youth he was employed to operate a beef packing plant on the Bayou a few miles below Houston.

When the Civil War came on he was one of the first to enlist, and at the siege of Vicksburg was taken prisoner by the Federals, but was later exchanged. He returned after the war to his old home, at Liberty, where in 1870, he led to the altar Miss Ellen Mitchell.

After taking up the study of law he moved to Houston, where he served the H. & T. Railway as attorney for several years. Being advised by his physicians to seek a different climate, in 1878 he moved to Beeville and opened a law office.

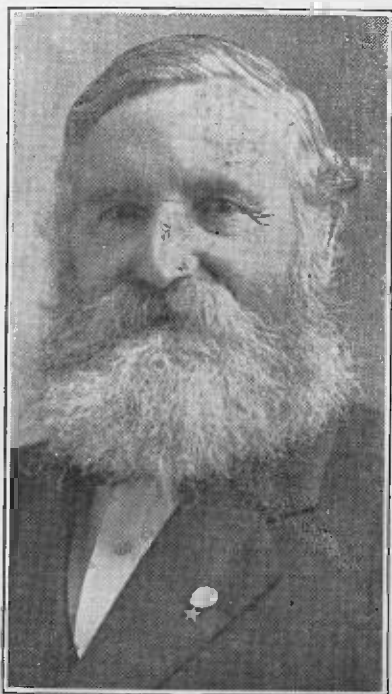
Mr. Dugat was elected county attorney in 1880, which office he held a number of terms, declining to again become a candidate, and for many years conducted a law and real estate office. In 1900 he was elected county judge.

At the time of his death in 1903, he was serving his second term. Mrs. Dugat survived her husband some 26 years, passing away on February 1, 1929.

CAME FROM SCOTLAND

JOHN GALLOWAY, SR., and wife, Mrs. Isabella Galloway, were natives of Scotland. Mr. Galloway was born October 4, 1857, in Burnhouse. His wife was born April 30, 1861, in Broxburn. They were married August 29, 1884, and sailed for America the following month, September 10, having purchased tickets in Scotland direct to San Antonio, Texas, via New York and New Orleans, and arrived at the Frank Skidmore ranch, October 10, 1884, just one month from the day they set sail from the home land.

In making a hasty business trip to San



JOHN GALLOWAY, SR.

Antonio, Frank Skidmore went on the narrow gauge railway, by way of Laredo. Banquette was the nearest railroad point, to which he drove in a two-horse surrey, or hack.

When Mr. Skidmore reached San Antonio, he found this young couple who had just arrived at the station. They came to America to make their home and Mr. Galloway wanted employment. A deal was soon made between the two men. The

return trip was made on the narrow gauge to Banquette. From there a day's travel was required in the new two-horse surrey to the Skidmore ranch where Mr. Galloway was employed for a number of years. Later he purchased farm land and farmed for a few years.

Mr. and Mrs. Galloway were of the highest type citizenship, standing for true American principles.

At the time of his death, August 17, 1917, Mr. Galloway was Justice of the Peace at Skidmore, where he had continued to make his home. Mrs. Galloway survived her husband nineteen years and passed away on July 22, 1936, at the family home in Skidmore.

NATIVE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

ROBERT E. NUTT, when a young man starting out in the world for himself, left South Carolina, his native state, where he was born June 29, 1829, and settled in Mississippi for a short time. Here he met and married Miss Amanda Bird, who was a school teacher. After their marriage plans were made to come to Texas, and each saved their earnings until enough money to pay the expense was in hand. The trip was made in an ox wagon, a saddle horse for emergency being led behind the wagon.

This young man and his bride arrived in Texas about the year 1857, settling east of the present town of Beeville, on the west side of the Blanco creek, where he purchased 200 acres of land and engaged in raising sheep and cattle.

Mr. Nutt was a juryman when the first Bee county court was held under the shade of trees on the Medio creek.

In five short years after he established this home, the bride of his youth passed away, leaving the father with two small girls and a baby boy, and the little son was taken away shortly after the death of the mother.

Around 1866, Mr. Nutt was again united in marriage, this time to Miss Mary Ellen Sheives. To this union five sons and one daughter were born.

As his cattle and sheep increased Mr. Nutt invested in more land, becoming very prominent in farming and ranching. At one time his herd consisted of 10,000 sheep.



ROBERT NUTT



MRS. ROBERT NUTT

When the decline in sheep came he sold and invested in more cattle.

In the late 90's Mr. Nutt sold his land and cattle holdings in Bee county and moved his family to Wichita Falls, where he

entered the mercantile business. He was successful up until his death, which occurred November 11, 1912. His wife passed away some years later in Austin. The remains were brought to Beeville and laid to rest.

NATIVE OF LOUISIANA

MRS. E. E. HARRELL, who was Miss Elizabeth Cook before her marriage, was born in Louisiana on August 31, 1851. With her parents, Samuel and Rebecca Ann Cook, she moved to Texas when a child of about four years, the family settling in Live Oak county. Here she grew to young womanhood and



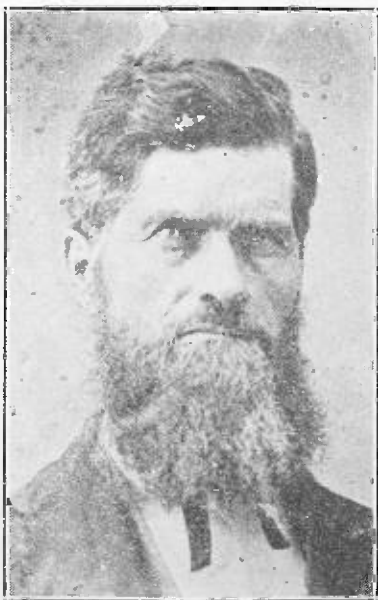
MRS E. E. HARRELL

was united in marriage to William Henry Harrell at Lagarto on November 13, 1879.

Many were the hardships of the early settlers but Mr. and Mrs. Harrell, filled with the spirit of adventure and with pioneer grit and courage, established a pioneer home. They were the parents of three sons and five daughters.

Mr. Harrell died on January 7, 1895, at Mathis, leaving the mother to rear and educate the children, and with Christian fortitude she succeeded well.

Mrs. Harrell was a resident of Live Oak county 43 years. In 1898 she moved to



REV' JOHN N. McCAIN



MRS. JOHN N. McCAIN

family to Bee county, settling in Beeville where she continued to reside until her death, which occurred October 15, 1935.

WAS PRESIDENT OF ARANAMA COLLEGE
AT GOLIAD

IN JANUARY, 1869, Rev. John N. McCain, with his wife and young children, moved from Georgia to Texas, coming by train to New Orleans, then by boat to Harrisburg, via Galveston. From this point they traveled by ox wagon to Clinton, DeWitt county, where the family located for a short time and Mr. McCain made a crop. This being a seasonable year, fine crops were made. Due to heavy summer rains and overflow on the San Antonio river, the crops were all washed away.

In August of this same year Rev. John McCain was appointed president of Aranama College, a Presbyterian school at Goliad. Some of the young men who attended this school under his tutelage, were Ed and Will Lott, Jim and Tom Pettus, W. W. Jones and Ed Lassiter. The youngest son of Mr. McCain was born at this college and was named Henry Ross for the famous Betsy Ross family, who were relatives of the McCain family.

Mr. McCain was born June 19, 1820, in

North Carolina. He received his education in the state of his birth before moving to Georgia, where on April 12, 1849, he was married to Miss Sara Amanda Hearst, whose mother was a sister of William Randolph Hearst's father.

After a few years at Aranama College he resigned this work and moved his family to Bee county, settling near Normanna, where he spent the remainder of his life and where he died in February, 1904. His beloved wife passed away just one week from the day her husband died.

Rev. John N. McCain was president of Aranama College in Goliad two years, 1869-1870—before coming to Bee county in 1871.

BORN IN ENGLAND

ROBERT P. WILKINSON was born at Weamouth, England, in 1831. Coming to America at the age of 18, he spent part of the first year in Montreal, Canada, where he worked at his trade—that of carpenter.

In 1849 he came to Texas and settled on Matagorda Island. Here he took up sheep raising as a business. In January, 1859, he was married to Miss Mary Brown, who was the daughter of a minister. Two chil-

dren, both daughters, were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson on the Island. Mrs. Etta Terrell, who resides at Berclair, fourteen miles east of Beeville, was the younger of the two. Her birth occurred in 1861.

Due to severe coast storms, the young couple planned to move to the mainland, and with this move in view, Mr. Wilkinson purchased lumber to build two small houses. When the northern soldiers ordered the island evacuated, he moved inland to Goliad county and settled on land that is known today as the Weiss ranch.

Here he hurriedly built a shelter for his family with part of the lumber, but the major portion was confiscated by the Union soldiers to build a boat, the "Mary Burkhardt."

He entered the Confederate army and served with honors until the close. Upon his return he again took up sheep raising and like other sheep men, when the industry began to take second place, Robert Wilkinson launched out in the cattle business. He was also in the mercantile business, at one time operating three stores in Bee and Goliad counties.

Mary Wilkinson was no less energetic than her husband. In addition to caring for the home and her eight children, she kept store and lent a hand at sheep herding. When her husband was in the army a severe drought over this part of the state multiplied her hardships. Not a drop of rain fell from November until the following June, so this pioneer woman hauled water from the creek, chopped and hauled wood for her home and on one occasion killed and dressed a hog that had escaped the Indians watchful eyes. One pair of horses was saved by keeping them hobbled around near the door. When the drought was broken there was an abundance of rainfall and the sheep had to be bedded down on different ground each night; the sheep pen, made in panels, was moved each day, but Mrs. Wilkinson proved herself equal to the task.

Mrs. Etta Terrell recently built a beautiful home at Berclair, of steel structure, to stand as a monument to the memory of her

pioneer parents.

The father died in 1906; the mother passed away in 1925.

WAS FLAG BEARER IN CIVIL WAR

JOSEPH P. WILSON, father of Turner and John Wilson, was born at Lebenon, Tennessee, in 1830. In 1832, his parents, with their young family, emigrated to Texas, settling first in Gonzales county on Peach Creek near Wealder.

In 1852 the three Wilson brothers, Jim, Joe, and John, who were then young men, moved to Live Oak county, locating in a section which was later part of Bee county on the Aransas creek.

At different times they served as frontier guards on the Mexican border. Joe, as he was more frequently called, married and settled on the Dunlap place. His first wife died during the war.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, the brothers joined the army. Joe enlisted in Company D, 36th Regiment, Texas Cavalry, on March 27, 1862, at Belmont, Texas, at the age of 31. He was flag bearer in Captain Hood's Brigade, Colonel Millet's Regiment, and carried the flag with the end of the staff stuck down in his boot top. During the time that this flag was carried in the service, the staff was cut twelve or fifteen times from bullets.

The brothers went through the war and returned home safely and took up stock raising as before, from the remnant that had survived the dry years. Joe looked after the horses while Jim and John worked the cattle. The loss of horses from Indian raids was heavy.

In 1866 Joseph P. Wilson was married to Miss Dorothy Alice Marsden, who was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1846. However, her parents were English and lived in London. They came to America when Dorothy was young. Her father, Turner Marsden, was killed at Sandy Point, at the outbreak of the Civil War, when a cannon exploded.

During Mr. Wilson's last illness, in 1890, Colonel Millett made him a visit at home in Beeville. In token of his love and respect for his old officer, Mr. Wilson

quested that after his death his wife send the flag he had carried in the army to Colonel Millett. In deep appreciation of the gift, Colonel Millet gave Mrs. Wilson



JOE WILSON



MRS. JOE WILSON

Millett Station at Dimmit in Castro county, on the plains, to get the calf. Her young son, John, a boy of about ten years, was eager to go on this trip. After long debating, the mother consented to let him go along under Mr. Reed's watchful care. The long trip was made in a wagon and the calf loaded on and brought part of the way home. After taking him out of the wagon one time they were unable to load him on again and he was driven on foot the rest of the way.

After 55 years, the battle scared, time worn flag was presented to the Daughters of the Confederacy at San Antonio in May, 1916. It was the flag that waved in the 43 days campaign in the Sabine Pass crossroad and Pleasant Hill fights, in the Red river expedition in Arkansas, where the Jenkin's Ferry fight occurred and General Scurry was killed with many others from Texas.

BEEVILLE'S EARLY MEDICAL DOCTORS

DR. LEANDER HAYDEN was the first doctor to come to the settlement where Beeville is today. He was a relative of G. B. McCollom, moving here from near San Antonio in the early 50's. Dr. Hayden bought the land where Mrs. Chambliss' home stands, with considerable acreage adjoining. He soon became dissatisfied, selling his land and moving back to his former home.

Dr. McGrew was also an early-day practitioner in Beeville.

Dr. A. T. Brandis was the next to come. He and his wife came from Indianola and walked from Goliad to Beeville. They settled on land out about three miles from town, near the Pat Burke home. In those days men's clothing were made by hand, too, as the women's were; and girls were taught, when young, the art of sewing by hand.

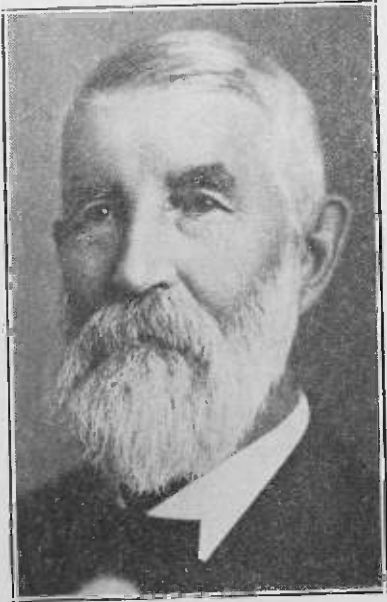
Miss Ellen McDonald, a girl of about 16 years then, who in later years became Mrs. John A. McCollom, made a pair of genes pants for Dr. Brandis. She received \$1 for her work. In the summer of 1874, when it was discovered Dr. Brandis was missing from the village, a search was made and

Hereford bull calf, the first to come to Bee county.

In 1855, shortly after the death of her husband, Mrs. Wilson sent Martin Reed to

his body was found on the roadside near his home, where it had lain for three days. His wife and young son were away from home at the time. Dr. Brandis was an excellent physician and a good citizen, except that he had become a slave to strong drink. The coroner's verdict was "death from intemperance."

In 1879, Dr. T. W. Nott, who was a young single man, came from St. Mary's to Beeville and opened an office in a small building on St. Mary's street. The front of the building was used for a line of drugs and the back part he used for sleeping quarters. The location was across the street



DR. T. W. JOHNSON

from the Major W. S. Dugat home, where Dr. Nott took his meals. The building was last used as a Mexican restaurant in 1938.

In 1885, Dr. T. W. Johnson, father of Mrs. Mary Stone, moved to Beeville from Corpus Christi.

Before moving here, however, Dr. Johnson had practiced some in the county, as he had resided at Papalote before moving to Corpus Christi. Shortly before moving to Beeville, a member of the H. T. Clare family was seriously sick. Mr. Clare sent to Corpus Christi for Dr. Johnson and he was employed at \$100 per day to stay at the

child's bedside for something like two weeks. About this time some of the citizens prevailed upon Dr. Johnson to move to Beeville, as the county needed another doctor. As an inducement, John Clare built a house and included an office in the plan. This house is standing today and is the home of Mrs. T. C. Buerger. Dr. Johnson later moved his office to a location in the business part of the town and built a comfortable home in the eastern part of Beeville. He practiced his profession until one year before his death, which occurred in 1911. Dr. Johnson's first wife, and the mother of Mrs. Stone, died while the family lived in Corpus Christi. His second wife, after the death of her husband, returned to her native state, Ohio. She passed away in recent years.

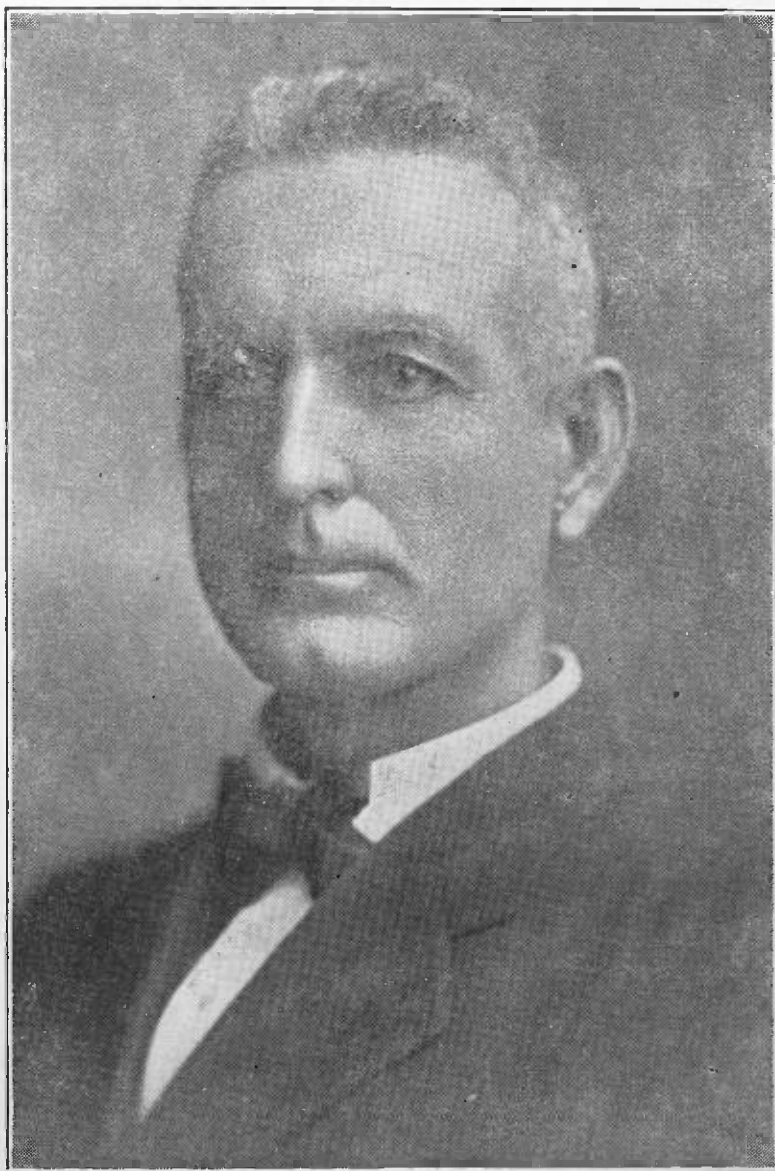
WAS EARLY DAY SCHOOL TEACHER

JOHAN W. FLOURNOY was a son of Francis and Elizabeth Ann Flournoy and was born at Lockhart, Caldwell county, Texas, on July 21, 1854. He was of French descent, his grandfather with four brothers coming from France to America some time in the early part of 1800. The voyage was made in a boat which was the property of the five brothers.

John Flournoy attended school in his youth at Seguin, near his home, where he completed the course of study. He was then sent to Emery and Henry College in Virginia. After his graduation in 1879 he returned to South Texas and taught school a few years.

In 1874 Beeville had no school building, but a deal was made that year with the Methodist congregation to buy their building for a school. A new church was built and the old one moved to the site of the present Southern Pacific depot, the school trustees having purchased this land for a school, and it was used for that purpose until the railroad came, when the land was sold to the railway company for a depot.

In 1880, Mr. Flournoy was employed to teach this school. In 1881, John W. Flournoy was united in marriage to Miss Gus Hitchens, at the Vasbinder ranch home



JOHN W. FLOURNOY

the San Domingo creek, west of the present town of Normanna. This young couple came to Beeville to make their home and Professor Flournoy was employed to teach this school of about 90 pupils, with two assistants, Mrs. Flournoy being one of them.

In 1884, Papalote had the greatest number of children in the scholastic age in the county, with Aransas school second. During this year these school buildings were enlarged to the amount of about \$150. In 1884 Mr. Flournoy resigned as school teacher to take up the practice of law.

In 1885 Professor J. P. Holtsclaw was in charge of the Beeville school. The following year Professor T. E. Royal was superintendent of schools with about 100 pupils enrolled. The trustees were John W. Cook, L. F. Roberts and John I. Clare.

In 1886 Mr. Flournoy was appointed postmaster, with R. W. Archer assistant and T. R. Atkins as clerk. In 1887 he entered law partnership with John C. Beasley, their office being in the courthouse.

Mr. Flournoy was a successful business man. At one time he and Mr. Beasley

owned a herd of fine Hereford cattle on what is today the Beasley farm south of town.

Mr. Flournoy was always interested in the welfare and upbuilding of Bee county. He was sent with A. C. Jones as a committee to represent the people in signing a contract for the railway through the county to the coast. In 1910 he was elected to serve in the legislature and was reelected in 1912. He died June 26, 1916, while on a business mission in Three Rivers and was buried in Beeville. He was president of the Commercial National Bank at the time.

TAUGHT IN BEEVILLE SCHOOLS 27 YEARS

MRS. JOHN W. FLOURNOY (Miss Gussie to her pupils) continued teaching many years after her husband left the school room.

Her devotion to all children and her outstanding success as a primary teacher won the love and respect of many of the prominent men and women of Beeville and this section, who began their education in her classroom. She remained in the local school more than a quarter of a century, teaching many years after it was unnecessary for her to do so from a financial standpoint. She taught through love of her profession and a deep love for children.

So successful was her work as a primary teacher that she was given a place in several Beeville summer normals to instruct the teachers in primary work.

Mrs. Flournoy taught in the Beeville public schools 27 years, resigning in May, 1908.

For seven years prior to her death she had been a sufferer from creeping paralysis, being a semi-invalid during the time. She passed away at her home in Beeville June 14, 1932.

CAME TO BEEVILLE BEFORE THE FIRST RAILROAD

JOHN C. BEASLEY was born in Petersburg, Va., January 7, 1854. His parents were John Collier and Martha Elizabeth (Jones) Beasley. After attending the public school of his native state he entered the

University of Virginia, where, at the early age of 20, he was awarded his law degree. He came to Texas two years later, stopping first at Ennis, where he entered into partnership with an attorney. He was low on funds, he afterwards related, and gave his last 50c to a Negro boy to buy a broom and



JOHN C. BEASLEY

sweep out the office. He did not remain long in Ennis, however, coming on to the Texas coast, where, at Rockport, he taught school one term. He located in Beeville in 1876—ten years before the first railroad was built here—to resume the practice of law, and continued to make his home in Beeville until his death, which occurred March 29, 1937.

Mr. Beasley married Miss Annie Mary Gramman of Victoria, Texas, December 7, 1881. They were the parents of four sons, three of whom, John, Robert and Browne, and his companion of 56 years survive. One son, William Henry, died in infancy.

For many years Mr. Beasley was associated with John W. Flournoy in the practice of law and in real estate. They purchased Washington street property and were largely responsible for the development of this street as the main business thoroughfare of Beeville in the early 1890's.

He continued active in the practice of

law until a few years before his death, and was associated with his eldest son, John R. Beasley, after 1904, the firm being known as Beasley & Beasley. Mr. Flournoy had in the meantime entered the banking and cattle and ranching businesses, but these pioneers continued their city real estate holdings together under the old firm name of Beasley & Flournoy.

Mr. Beasley was not only recognized for his great ability as a civil lawyer, but was also successful in business ventures and was forward-looking and progressive. However, according to Mrs. Beasley, he was a stranger to manual labor. She relates that on one occasion, when it was still the law

for each man from 18 to 45 years of age to work annually from two days to five days, if necessary, on the roads in the county, or pay one dollar for each day on road work, Mr. Beasley was told his services were needed—not his money. The county judge appointed an overseer each year for each precinct in the county, and it was his duty to summons the men to work the roads. If it had been a year of light rainfall there would be little work except to cut the brush back from the roadside, but in case of heavy rains, washing out gullies and creek crossings, then the men took picks, hoes and shovels to fill in these places and make them smooth, so a wagon and team could travel over them. When asked to report for work, Mr. Beasley—then a young lawyer—took his gun and ammunition, along with the pick and shovel, when he left for the Carter windmill on the Mineral road, where the men were to meet. Hunting birds and shooting at targets was more to his liking than using a pick and shovel to make the

road smooth, and Mrs. Beasley stated she doubts if her husband worked a lick that whole day.

Mr. Beasley loved nature and the great out-of-doors. His favorite pastime was hunting and fishing. His daily occupation kept him closely confined, so for the sake of good health, when there was a time to get out in the open, he made it a day of pleasure instead of a work day.

Mrs. Beasley recalls that when Grover Cleveland was elected President, Beeville had no outside communication nearer than Victoria. H. T. Clare, father of Tom Clare, operated a livery stable in Beeville at that time and drove a



MR. AND MRS. JOHN C. BEASLEY

At Home Shortly Before His Death in March, 1937

pair of big bay horses to a fine new buggy. These horses made about the best time of any pair in the county, so Mr. Clare made the trip to Victoria to get the election returns.

In that day, as a rule, women were not so interested in politics, but the men of Beeville were, so they anxiously awaited the return of Mr. Clare to bring the news. It was around 2 o'clock in the morning when he got to the top of the hill (where the Phil Welder home is today.) He began to call in a loud voice, "Mr. Beasley, Oh! Mr. Beasley! Cleveland is elected; Mr. Beasley, Cleveland is elected!" By the time Mr. Clare reached the Beasley home (which was on the block the Mrs. Maggie Ray home occupies now) nearly all the men in Beeville had collected there, as they had heard the call in the stillness of the night as it floated down over the town.

They planned to celebrate the occasion by having a dance "just for the men" the following night. D. A. T. Walton was sheriff

then. He wore a pair of new boots; they proved to be too small and very uncomfortable, so he pulled them off and danced in his stocking feet until the dance was over. Then he pulled the boots on again and, with two or three other men, took a lantern and climbed to the top of the two-story courthouse up a steep winding stairs to the balcony or look-out on top of the building, where they sang and yelled and waved their hats in the air. Sheriff Walton then took the lantern, waved it around his head a few times and let it fall to the



JOHN C. BEASLEY

As a Boy in Virginia Shortly
After the Civil War

ground. As the light went out he said, "Hurrah, the Republican party is dead."

Mr. Beasley, always interested in politics, was never a candidate for any office, although in his prime he could have held any office in the gift of the people of this section, where, for more than 60 years, he was prominent in all walks of life. He was a charter member of the Beeville First Presbyterian church, a Master Mason, a past Worshipful Master of Beeville Lodge, No. 261, and a Knight Templar.

FIRST LODGING HOUSES IN BEEVILLE

G. B. McCOLLOM was the first man to operate a hotel in Beeville. He was the father of John and Will McCollom. He moved his family to the Poesta creek settlement in the early part of 1857, where he bought about 25 acres of land. Only a few houses were here at that time, his being one of the first to be made of lumber. The McCollom house was a stopping place for freighters and men who traveled up and down the country; also for a few regular boarders. John W. Flournoy, when a single man, lived at the McCollom house.

During the spring and fall term of court, meals were served here to the jury and others who attended court. Neighbor women always came in to assist Mrs. McCollom in preparing and serving meals at this time, some women coming from as far as the Page settlement, about fifteen miles away, to help feed the men while court was in session. In connection with his hotel, Mr. McCollom had a two-horse hack to carry people to and from different places over the county.

The Barclay hotel was built in 1874—a two-story building located across the street from the present post office. This hotel was built by Mr. Barclay, father of J. Wilce Barclay. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Barclay leased the building in 1887 to Benjamin Brown, who conducted the business for a short time. He was the father of the late W. S. Brown and the grandfather of Austin Brown.

Bob Nations was the next man to take over this hotel. He was from Mississippi, coming to Texas in 1843 and settling first in Gonzales county, where he remained until 1873 when he moved to Oakville.

In 1888 Mr. Nations moved his family to Beeville and purchased the Barclay hotel. He moved the house 150 feet north to the corner of the block where the Beeville Clinic stands today, and built an annex to the south. Mr. Nations operated a profitable business here up until his death in 1908. Mrs. Nations passed away in 1913. After the death of the parents, the son continued the business until 1914, when the build-



"UNCLE BOB" AND MRS. NATIONS AND THEIR HOTEL GUESTS IN 1906. "ANNEX" TO THE RIGHT

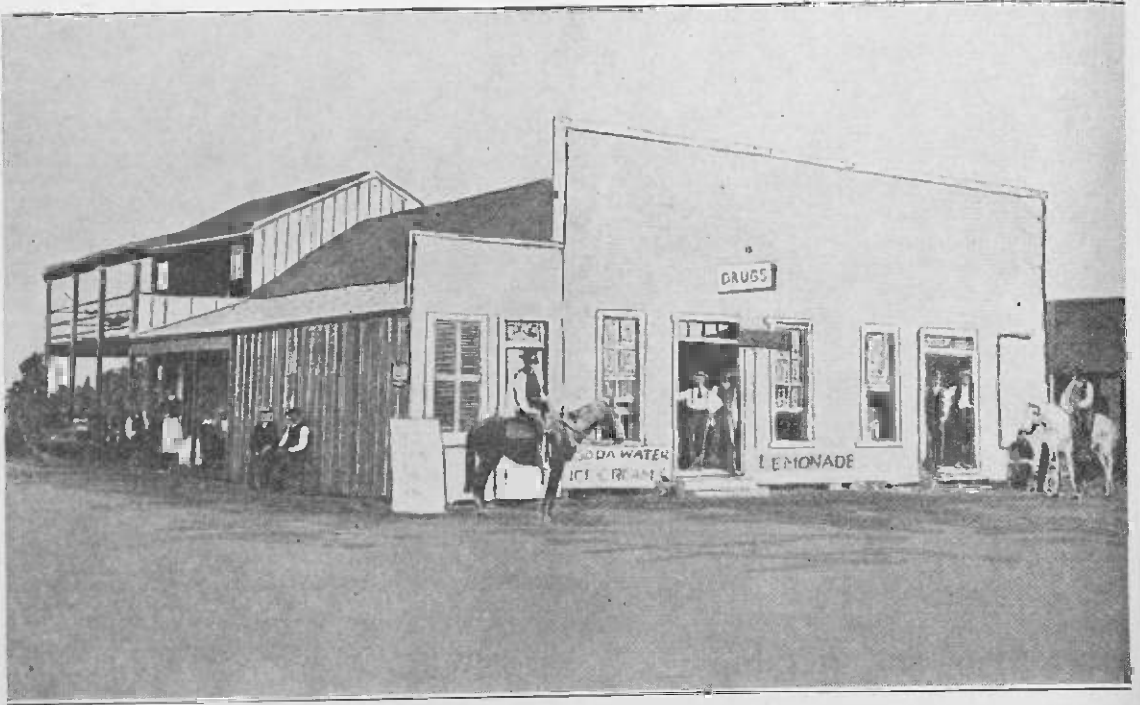
was destroyed by fire. The accompanying picture of the hotel and annex shows Mr. and Mrs. Nations seated, their son and his wife standing by; two Negro waiters, Sherman Hayes and Ed Greenwood, wearing white aprons. Others in the picture are brick masons and other workmen who were building the A. Praeger hardware store in 1906, and who, with their wives, were stopping at the Nations Hotel.

In the spring of 1886, H. T. Clare and sons erected a livery stable on the corner of St. Mary's and Corpus Christi streets. The building was two stories with a ground floor space 92x49 feet. They had drilled a good well of water and put up a windmill on a 40-foot tower with a 5,000-gallon cistern placed in the tower 25 feet from the ground. The Barclay hotel was supplied with water from this well and cistern. When the livery stable was ready for the opening, the

Messrs. Clare gave a free excursion to Pettus on May 11, and a large number of men and ladies took advantage of the occasion to ride in new vehicles drawn by good teams.

BEEVILLE'S FIRST DRUG STORE

R. B. (DICK) SKAGGS owned and operated the first drug store in Beeville. The business was established before the first railroad came and was located on the north side of the courthouse square. The picture shows the drug store and grocery store. The two-story building in the rear was the home of Mr. Skaggs and family. Those in the picture, reading from left to right, are Brown Skaggs, Mrs. R. B. Skaggs, Mrs. Ann Skaggs, mother of the Messrs. Skaggs, R. B. Skaggs (with young son in his arms), Dr. Philips, the town's first dentist and un-



BEEVILLE'S FIRST DRUG STORE OCCUPIED PRESENT CITY HALL PROPERTY

cle of W. O. McCurdy, Tom Skaggs and Ross Dugat (on bay horse). The two men in the drug store door are drug clerks, Messrs. Joiner and Williams. In the grocery store door are Ben Hodges and Percy Mitchell, proprietors of the business. Bob Little is on the white horse. Dr. Phillips, the dentist, had office space in the drug store. The small room on the corner was used for some time as sleeping quarters by Dr. D. M. Thurston.

The first ice cream made in Beeville was made in this drug store in August, 1886. Mr. Skaggs went each day to get the ice to about where Normanna is today. That point was as far as the railroad track had been laid, supplies being brought by rail that far and freighted on to Beeville until the road was completed to the county seat.

WAS COUNTY CLERK FOR 16 YEARS

DAN TROY was a native of Jacksonville, Ill., where he was born January 19, 1848. In his youth he moved with his parents to St. Louis, where he received his education.

As a young man, Dan Troy was somewhat

frail and had a slight throat ailment. In those days any throat trouble was pronounced tuberculosis, so the doctor advised this young man to go to Texas and get work on a ranch out in the fresh air.

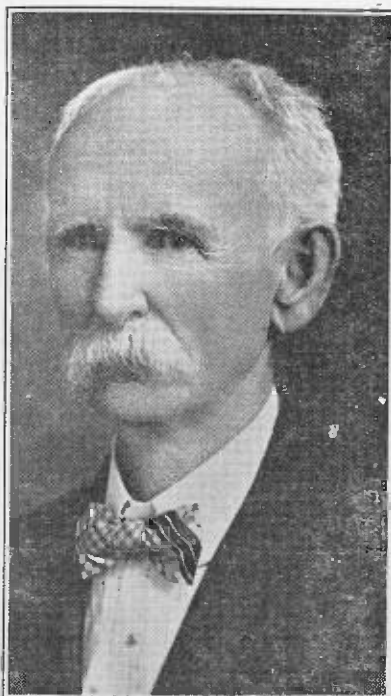
According to this advice, young Troy set sail for Texas down the Mississippi river, landing in old St. Mary's in 1872. He went direct to San Antonio, stopping at the Southern Hotel, making inquiry of the day and night clerk in regard to a job on a Texas ranch.

A. C. Jones was in San Antonio at the time and was stopping at the same hotel.

Through the kindness of the clerk, the two men met and a trade soon was made. Mr. Jones employed Dan Troy as bookkeeper and clerk in the Jones general mercantile store at Beeville and the two men left for that point. As the end of the trip was about in sight, coming over the brow of the hill on the north, the village, with its few scattering houses, could be seen, and Dan Troy said to himself: "I may stay in this place a day, or possibly a week, but no longer." Time went on and the young bookkeeper remained eleven years in the

employ of Captain Jones, one of the best men he had ever known.

In those times there was no bank in town, so a place for sacks of money was provided under the counter in the Jones store. When a man came in to get some money, it us-



DAN TROY

ually was Mr. Troy's duty to get the sack bearing the man's name. After the owner had taken the amount of money he needed, the drawstring was pulled up and the money bag returned to its place until its owner needed money again.

In 1881, the post office was located in the Jones store. A. C. Jones was postmaster and Dan Troy assistant.

On the 14th of March, 1883, Dan Troy was united in marriage to Miss Sallie E. Malone at the Malone home on the Aransas.

Mr. Troy was very active in the business and political life of the town and county, serving as county clerk from 1900 to 1916. At one time he was county surveyor, but served only one month.

Mr. Troy's throat trouble was of short duration. The Texas climate was the remedy and he lived to see his 83rd year. He died March 18, 1931. His faithful compan-

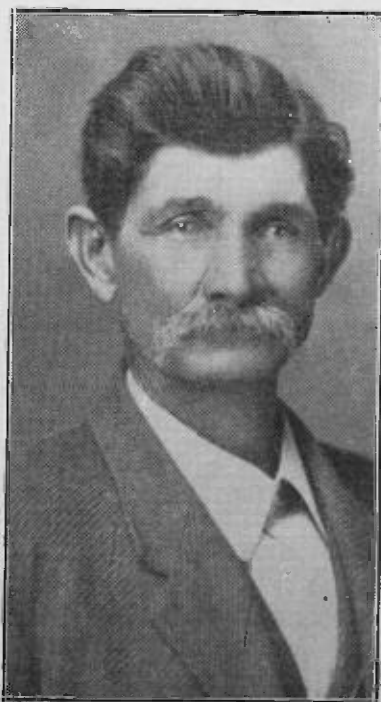
ion passed away December 23, 1928.

Mr. and Mrs. Troy were the parents of three children, one son and two daughters. The son, Chas. F. Troy, studied law and served as county attorney and county judge of Bee county, and as district attorney. He and his father also owned and operated an abstract office.

CAME TO TEXAS FROM MISSISSIPPI

BERRY DUNCAN TURNER came from Mississippi with his parents when a child of two years. He was born June 29, 1850.

In company with other families they loaded their household goods and children in crude wagons drawn by oxen, and, looking for the last time on the old home and familiar scenes, set out for a land of freedom and plenty, traveling towards the



DUNCAN TURNER

sunset. Through hot and cold weather they moved on. By day they traveled through mountains, often breaking paths through new countries, camping at night by streams, often waiting for them to subside. They constantly watched for savages lurk-

ing in the wilderness. At night they listened to the sad call of the forest animals, as well as the long, quivering call of the coyotes. No doubt they were fascinated by the adventure. At last the mountains dropped away in the distance and the caravan entered Texas under a blue sky. Perhaps it was her preference that one of the girls rode horse-back most of the way to Texas. In later years she became the wife of B. B. Atkins.

The colony settled in Leon county the first year, the following year they moved to DeWitt county, and in 1856 they located in what was later Bee county on the John Pettus ranch.

In 1859, a school house was built on the Dry Medio creek and the following year a short school term was taught by F. J. Smith, father of Mrs. Maggie Ray. The pupils who attended this school included W. A. James and Aleetha Pettus, John and Mallie McCollom, Duncan and Mattie Turner and Henkle Roberts. These children became some of the county's best men and women in later years.

Duncan Turner went up the trail in 1871 with 1,000 head of cattle, leaving Bee county on April 1, and on the return trip reached home December 24 of the same year. The cowboys on this trip were Leroy and Beg Roberts, Will and Gum Smith, John Wilson, John McCollom, a Mr. Bingham and a man the boys called "Cotton." This drive was made to Solomon City, Kansas, on Smoky river.

Duncan Turner's father, George Turner, served on the first jury in Bee county when court was held on the Medio under a tree.

Berry Duncan Turner was married to Miss Melissa Ann Walker January 21, 1873, at the old George Turner ranch 11 miles west of Beeville. Mrs. Turner was a native of Missouri, where she was born April 4, 1849. Her parents died when she was quite young and she was reared by an uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Shelby Welch, who brought her to Texas in 1853, landing at Indianola. From there they came to Goliad, where she grew to womanhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Turner made their home

west of Beeville, where they reared their children.

The Turner family was among the substantial citizens of this section of the country.

PROMINENT AS PHYSICIAN AND CITIZEN

DR. G. M. STEPHENS was a resident of Beeville for 44 years. He was born at Springfield, Limestone county, Texas, January 15, 1861, and was the second youngest of five sons. There were three daughters in the family.

When a young man he attended school at Mexia, where he was reared, and later went to Tulane University at New Orleans, where he obtained his M. D. degree in about 1886.



DR. G. M. STEPHENS

As He Appeared in the Clothes
He Wore in Alaska.

In the same year on December 16, Dr. Stephens came to Beeville and was married to Miss Mattie Malone, whom he had met when she was visiting in Mexia three years earlier. After their marriage they returned to Limestone county, where he took up the practice of medicine, residing in that section of the state about 18 months before returning to Beeville, where they made their permanent home.

In his practice, Dr. Stephens traveled over



JOHN C. WOOD

this entire section in a buggy and on horseback, but was among the first to adopt the automobile upon the advent of that mode of travel.

When the Klondike gold rush occurred in 1898, he went to Alaska and was gone seven months, but failed to find the coveted gold. Upon his return he resumed his practice and continued it actively until about 1920, when he retired to enter the drug store business.

During the World War, Dr. Stephens served as chairman of the Bee County Exemption Board, and in 1922-24 was county commissioner of Precinct No. 1. In both of these offices he was known for his zeal,

ability and devotion to duty.

Dr. Stephens died at his home in Beeville on September 18, 1932.

BORN IN ST. MARY'S

JOHAN C. WOOD, a son of Major John H. and Nancy (Clark) Wood, the youngest of a family of twelve children, was born in old St. Mary's in July, 1854. He was united in marriage to Miss Emelia Sullivan of San Patricio county on May 10, 1879.

Mr. and Mrs. Wood made their home in St. Mary's until 1888, at which time they moved to Beeville, where their four children were reared. John C. Wood was one

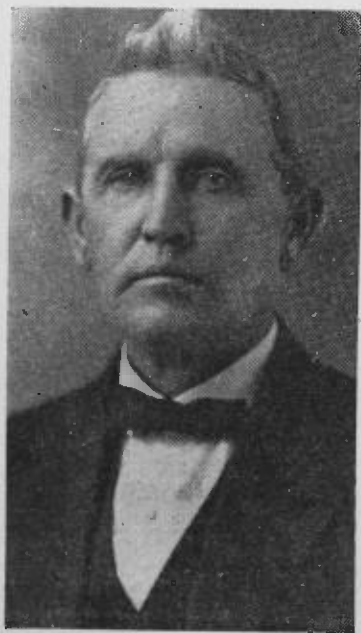
of Bee county's most prosperous stockmen, having large holdings of land and cattle. Mrs. Wood passed away January 28, 1891.

On June 18, 1895, Mr. Wood was married to Miss Mattie Collins. Three children came to bless this union. John C. Wood died October 27, 1919. He was president of the First National Bank at the time. Mrs. Wood survives her husband and continues to reside in Beeville.

WAS PROMINENT STOCKMAN

MOSSES McKINNEY, better known to his many friends in this immediate section as "Mac" McKinney, was a prosperous stockman in the 1870's. He was born in Rankin county, Miss., June 5, 1849.

In 1855, at the age of six, he came with his parents to Texas, the family settling first in Gonzales county. In 1857 they moved to Goliad county. During his young



MOSES (MAC) McKINNEY

manhood, "Mac" McKinney made trips up the trail with cattle to northern markets.

On March 4, 1868, he was happily married to Miss Harriett Myers of Goliad, who also was a native of Mississippi, where she was born in Panola county in 1849, the same year in which her husband was born.

In 1879 Mr. and Mrs. McKinney moved to Karnes county and in 1882 they came to Beeville for the advantages of a good school for their children.

They were members of the Methodist church and Mr. McKinney was a Mason. He was a promoter of all things honorable,



MRS. MOSES McKINNEY

moral and upright and the Christian influence of Mr. and Mrs. McKinney was felt in the community where they lived.

Mr. McKinney owned valuable farm and ranch property in Goliad and Karnes counties at the time of his death, November 30, 1925.

The devoted wife and mother preceded her husband in death more than a year, she having passed away in January, 1924.

They were the parents of seven children, four sons and three daughters, as follows: Mrs. Ada Hodges (deceased), Mrs. Lena Powell, Mrs. Almeda Miller, W. E. McKinney (deceased), Claude A., J. J. and F. M. McKinney, all of Beeville.

PAPALOTE IS OLD SETTLEMENT

PAPALOTE is one of the oldest settlements in Bee county. It is located on the railroad and State Highway 16, about 17 miles south of Beeville, the

county seat.

Among the first white men to settle there was Robert Carlisle. A deed was made to him from Jos'e Jesus in 1827 for a portion of land lying on the south side of the Papalote creek. The deed was recorded in December, 1834, in Refugio county, as Bee county was not organized at that time.

Robert Carlisle was the grandfather of R. J. (Bob) Carlisle, who was engaged in stock raising at Papalote until his death in November, 1939.

Among other settlers of that community in that early day were the following: Mike Luque, who was foreman of the J. J. Welder ranch for many years, holding the position at the time of his death. Luke Hart was a stockman and served as justice of the peace for some time. Mr. Dee, who was a stockman. George Craven was a merchant. Pat Quinn farmed and raised cattle. W. B. Hatch had a general merchandise store. Mrs. Garrett and her son raised sheep. Mrs. Garrett was an aunt of Mrs. Charley Page of Mineral. Dr. T. W. Johnson had a drug store and was a practicing physician in this community for a few years. He later moved to Corpus Christi and in 1885 located in Beeville.

Tim Hart lived at Papalote, but owned a sheep and goat ranch in Live Oak and McMullen counties. Early one morning in 1880 or 1881 he left his home on horseback for Beeville with some money, "a few hundred dollars in silver," to pay Leroy Roberts, a merchant. The day before his wife and a neighbor girl, who is today Mrs. John Hart of Beeville, sewed the money, dollar by dollar, into a belt or bag so it could be more easily carried and at the same time would not rattle. Mr. Hart left home with the view of going on to his sheep ranch, but for some unknown and mysterious reason he did not reach Beeville.

The officers and citizens searched the entire county, but no trace of him was ever found except a saddle stirrup, found between the Aransas and Skidmore. He and the horse and saddle were never found. The night following the day Mr. Hart left home,

a pack train was seen to pass through the settlement, but whether that had any connection with his disappearance was never known.

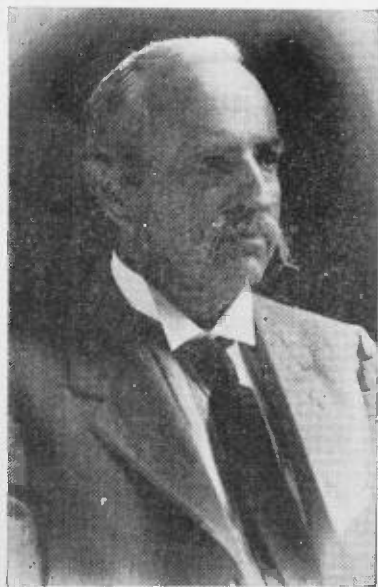
In 1877, Papalote was the "banner temperance precinct" of the county. A prohibition election was held on the 20th of January, with 48 votes cast for prohibition and none against. A few years previously this was the largest voting precinct in the county and had the greatest number of children enrolled in school.

When the stockman began to fence pastures a great many families moved farther west to the open range.

WAS NATIVE OF TENNESSEE

THOMAS RAGSDALE ATKINS was born in what was known as "The Dugout" in Franklin county, Tenn., November 17, 1841, and was the son of John Atkins and Susana (Renfro) Atkins. His early ancestors came to America before the Revolution and his great grandfather, who settled in Virginia, was a Revolutionary soldier under George Washington and was killed or died while in the army.

When nine years of age, Thomas R. Atkins moved with his parents from Tennessee to Cherokee county, Texas, in the fall of 1850. In 1860, the family moved to what is now Bee county. At that time this section was an open prairie. In 1862, Thomas and his brother Lorenzo, enlisted in Captain M. M. Kinney's company of the 21st Texas Cavalry, Col. Carter's Regiment. They went to Goliad and from there to Hempstead, where they were assigned to Steel's Brigade which was afterwards called Carter's Brigade. All of their fighting was done on the west side of the Mississippi river, in the states of Louisiana, Arkansas and Missouri. However, they went as far north as Cape Girardo, Mo., where a fierce battle of four days duration was fought. These two brothers served through the entire war and were honorably discharged at Goliad May 8, 1865. When the company was mustered in at Hempstead it was composed of 125 strong young men; when mustered out at Goliad but 35



T. R. ATKINS



MRS. T. R. ATKINS

answered roll call.

After returning from the army, Thomas R. Atkins was married in Beeville to Miss Julia Bowles Gillett on January 16, 1868. In 1870 he was elected Justice of the Peace of Precinct No. 1; Ross Morris of Precinct No. 2, R. E. Nutt of Precinct No. 3, and D. W. T. Nance of Precinct No. 4, and, together, they constituted the police court of Bee county, which system remained in effect until 1876, when the county commissioners' court was re-established.

It was before Justice Atkins that the Mexican who killed Alex H. Reed (a stockman of Goliad county) in 1871, was first tried. The Mexican was afterwards hung and both slayer and victim were buried in Evergreen cemetery.

For eight years Mr. Atkins was owner and publisher of the Beeville Picayune. He was the first historian of Bee county. In 1908 he wrote and published a valuable series of historical articles on the early days and citizens of the county, where he was a resident for more than half a century.

His death occurred at the family home in Beeville September 20, 1915, at the age of 74.

Mrs. Atkins was born in Grimes county, Texas, November 22, 1845. She was a

daughter of Rev. Roswell and Martha (Bowles) Gillett. The family moved to Gonzales county prior to the Civil War, and remained there during that struggle. At the close, Rev. Gillett moved his family to Bee county.

Several of Mrs. Atkins' brothers entered the Confederacy and one of them, Samuel, died of fever on the Aransas creek below Beeville as he was returning to his regiment after a short visit home during the Civil War.

Mrs. Atkins, like her husband, spent most of her life in Bee county. She passed away January 17, 1926, in San Antonio, where she was making her home with her youngest daughter, Mrs. R. W. Barron.

Mr. and Mrs. Atkins were the parents of nine children, three sons and six daughters, six of whom survive.

WAS PROMINENT STOCKMAN AND LAND OWNER

CYRUS B. LUCAS, a son of Richard M. and Louisa W. Lucas, was born at Stratford, Canada, in 1856. When he was three years old his parents came to Texas and located on land in Goliad county, where they built a ranch home that in later years was known as "Fair Oaks"—

the present Lucas ranch home.

After the death of his parents, the property fell to the son who continued to dispense true southern hospitality, for Cyrus Lucas was known as one of the most courteous and hospitable men of the great South-



CYRUS B. LUCAS

west section of Texas. Friends and strangers alike found a hearty, sincere welcome at his home. He was married February 13, 1889, to Miss Elizabeth Scott of Charco, Goliad county. To this union a son and daughter were born to bless the home.

Mr. Lucas owned more than 50,000 acres of ranch lands in Bee and Goliad counties, well stocked with high grade cattle. He served as president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattlemen's Association one term, and was a prominent member of the organization for many years.

Although he resided a few miles over the line in Goliad county, where he served as county commissioner some years ago, he also felt a great interest in the affairs of Bee county.

Mr. Lucas passed away March 28, 1937. His wife preceded him in death several years. Their remains were laid to rest in a San Antonio cemetery.

A SUCCESSFUL STOCKMAN

JESSE THOMAS BORROUM was born in Goliad county, Tex., June 29, 1862, the son of James Beverly Borroum and Ellen (Avant) Borroum, both natives of Mississippi. His father, born near Corinth, Miss., came to Texas shortly after his marriage, settling first in Lavaca county and later moving with his family to Goliad county, where he was an outstanding ranchman at the time of his death.

Jesse Thomas Borroum was reared in the atmosphere of his father's ranch and as a child attended the common schools of Goliad county. Upon attaining the age of 21 he moved to the northwestern part of Bee county to engage in ranching for himself. He was successful from the first and as the years passed his ability became recognized over a wide area. The experience gained on his father's ranch, together with his own experience, prepared him for a successful career. Mr. Borroum was married to Miss Rose May, a native of Bee county, on De-



JESSE T. BORROUM

ember 14, 1887. Mrs. Borroum is a daughter of the late Hugh May, a native of Ireland, who came to America with his parents when only seven years of age.

He lived in New York, Kentucky, and

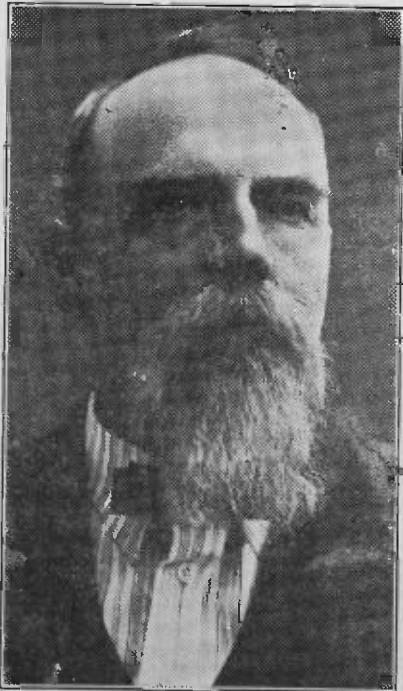
Louisiana before coming to Texas, and during the gold rush went overland to California. After the gold rush he returned to Texas, settling in Bee county, where he was married to Miss Frances Williams.

Mr. and Mrs. Borroum were the parents of two sons and two daughters. Mr. Borroum's death occurred August 18, 1923. He was one of the county's most influential ranchmen. Mrs. Borroum survives and with her sons and one daughter resides in Beeville. One daughter, Mrs. O. E. Egbert, and her family, resides in El Paso, Texas.

NATIVE OF TEXAS

WILLIAM JASPER MILLER was a native son of Texas. He was born in Lavaca county March 2, 1846, a son of James F. Miller and Mary (Charles) Miller.

James F. Miller was a son of Samuel



WILLIAM JASPER MILLER

Miller, who came from Virginia to Texas with Austin's colony and settled in Washington county. In about 1853, Samuel Miller moved his family to Nueces county and

established a ferry on the Nueces river at San Patricio.

William Jasper Miller grew to manhood in this locality and in December, 1873, was married to Miss Sarah Ann Franklin at Goliad, Tex.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller continued to reside in Goliad county for some years, and their three eldest sons were born in Goliad county.

In 1887 the family moved to Beeville. Mr. Miller was identified with the livestock industry of this section throughout his entire life, and enjoyed a wide acquaintance from the Brazos river to the Rio Grande and across the border in Mexico.

Mr. Miller died March 21, 1914. Mrs. Miller preceded her husband in death, she having passed away February 22, 1904.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller were the parents of eight children—five sons and three daughters.

PIONEER PAPALOTE MERCHANT

WB. HATCH moved his family to the Papalote settlement in 1874. He was born in Chattanooga, Tenn., June 17, 1838, and came to Texas with his parents at the age of 10. His father, G. C. Hatch, lived in east Texas, near Columbus, a few years. From there he moved to Ingleside, where he took up trucking as a business. He specialized in growing grapes and fine watermelons, transporting them by boat to Corpus Christi where he found a ready sale. Mr. Hatch was murdered by Mexicans at Portland (near his home) in 1872.

The son, W. B. Hatch, a young man of about 22 at the outbreak of the Civil War, enlisted in the army and served four years.

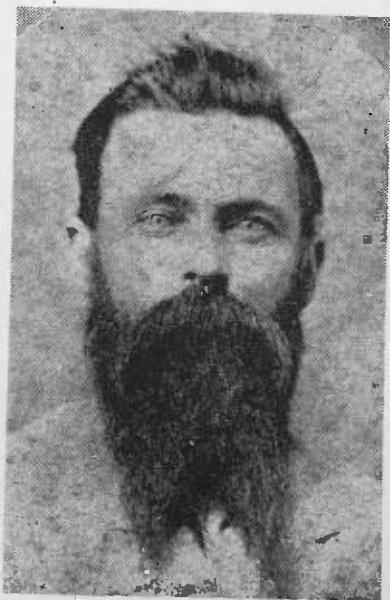
In 1868 he was married to Miss Ann Eliza Bridge at Goliad. His bride was born in Virginia on February 4, 1844, and came with her parents to Texas when a babe one year old. Mr. and Mrs. Hatch began housekeeping on the Chillipin creek, near the Coleman-Fulton ranch in San Patricio county, where he had acquired 600 acres of land.

When the stockmen began to fence pastures, Mr. Hatch sold his holdings to the

Coleman-Fulton interests and moved to Sharpsburg, where he entered the general mercantile business with Sidney Borden. In 1874 he moved his family to Bee county and opened a branch store at Papalote, Mr. Borden remaining with the store at Sharpsburg. This store was successfully operated by the owner for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Hatch continued to reside in this home where they reared their family of seven children, three sons and four daughters.

Mr. Hatch died at the family home in Papalote, July 29, 1926. Mrs. Hatch pre-



W. B. HATCH

ceeded her husband in death 21 years, she having passed away October 12, 1905.

The sons and daughters were Irene Hatch Seymour (deceased), George C. Hatch, (deceased), Alice Hatch Skidmore, William B. Hatch, Jr. (deceased), Minnie Hatch Thomas, Anna Bell Hatch Hart (deceased), Herbert A. Hatch, and Ella Hatch (deceased).

EARLY DAY STOCKMAN AND BANKER

JAMES F. RAY, a native of Texas, was born in Goliad county, near Helena, Oct. 4, 1851. He was the eldest son of Elijah and Mary (Davis) Ray, who were among the earliest pioneer emigrants from

Mississippi to this district in 1849—long before the Civil War.

They brought with them their slaves, as did many of the emigrants, and some of the slaves were traded for cattle and horses.

Mr. Ray was a pioneer stockman and at the time of his death, August 20, 1907, had accumulated 26,000 acres of land, stocked with cattle and horses. He also was one of the organizers of the Commercial National Bank of Beeville.

Mr. Ray was married to Miss Rachel Smith at Beeville, December 18, 1878. His bride was a daughter of Thos. J. and Lugana (Roberts) Smith. She was born in Bee county September 3, 1861.

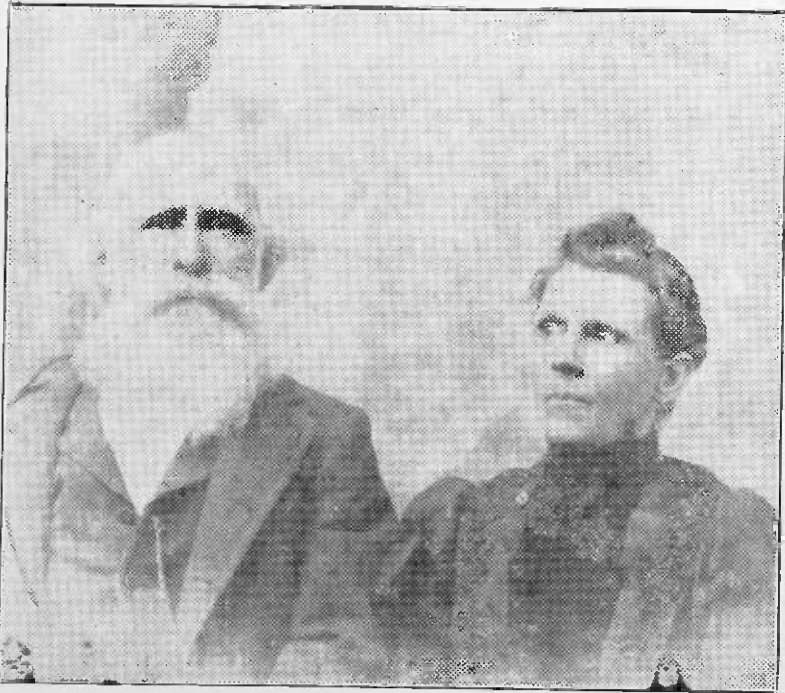
Mr. and Mrs. Ray made their home in Goliad and Bee counties, their home being at Pettus for many years. They were the parents of five children.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Ray and children continued their residence at Pettus until 1909, at which time they came to Beeville, where she made her home until her death June 28, 1936. Mrs. Ray was survived by her five children—four daughters and one son; also twelve grandchildren and one great grandchild. One grandchild preceded her in death.

WAS BORN IN VIRGINIA

EDWIN DAVIDSON CROW, a native of Virginia, was born in Aleghany county, near White Sulphur Springs, on April 2, 1832, where he grew to young manhood. His father, Colonel John Crow, owned and operated a hotel, or inn, on the main road half-way between Richmond, Va., and Washington, D. C. The hostelry was a three-story building and well equipped to care for the traveling public, which went by stage coach in those days.

The "Crow Inn" was noted for its generous hospitality and well prepared food, and the locality was noted for hunting and fishing. The nobility of the world who came to Washington, often came to hunt and fish on the Crow estate. The hunter would take a stand and the old negro slaves would take the hounds and run the deer by the hunter. If they wanted more ex-



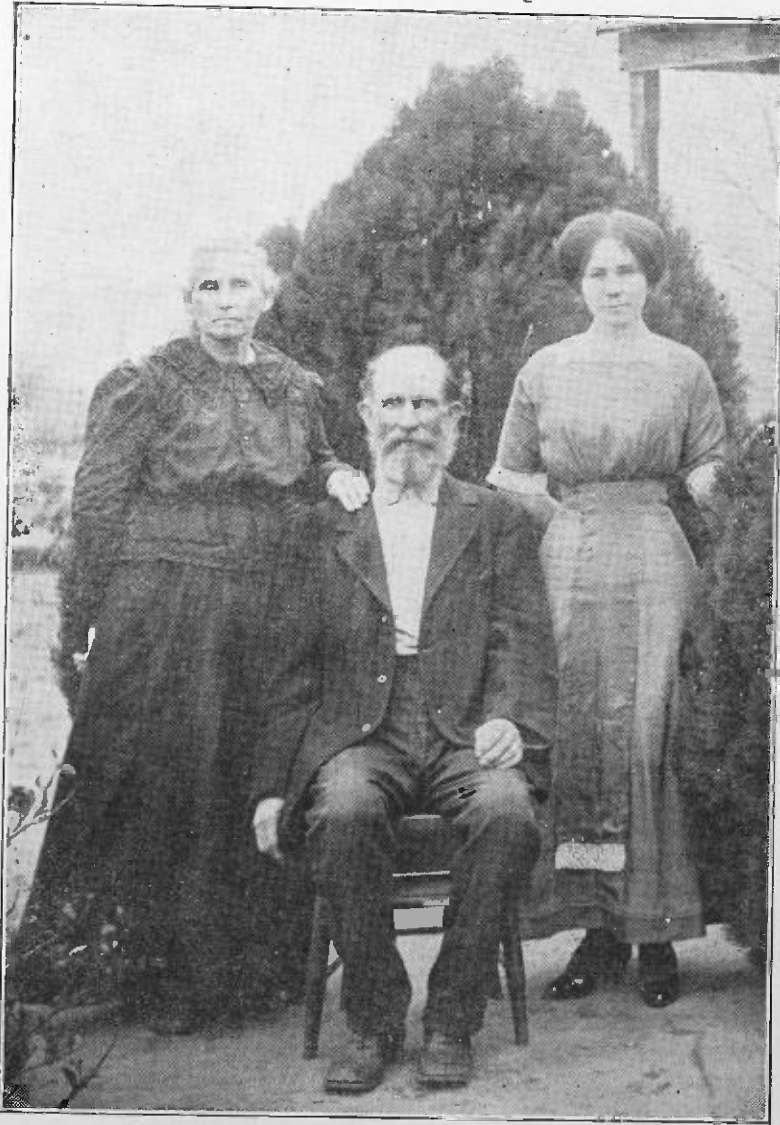
MR. AND MRS. E. D. CROW

citement, bears were plentiful. On some occasions the people for miles around would come for a chase. The sport would close at night with a dance in the big dining room. This was the environment of E. D. Crow in his early life. After the outbreak of the Civil War he came to Texas, remaining two years. He then returned to Virginia, and on October 18, 1866, was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Frances Hardy at Dunlap Creek, Alleghany county, who was born March 26, 1849, the daughter of Thomas and Sophie Hardy. This bride was the only daughter in the home. She was tenderly nourished and with slaves to do her every bidding. This young man and wife, like many others, left homes of plenty and came to Texas where they established homes amid many hardships. Mr. and Mrs. Crow came by train and boat to the port of Indiana and from there they traveled by ox wagon to a point on the Nueces river, near Barlow's Ferry, in the vicinity of Gussettville. They settled on a tract of land, made a house of pickets and began raising sheep and cattle. This young pioneer woman,

so far away from her own mother and loved ones, found a mother and friend in her neighbor, Mrs. Johnson (mother of the late Sid Johnson of Beeville.) Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Crow in this home, a little son and daughter. In 1872, Mr. Crow and family moved to Bee county and settled on the Aransas creek about two miles east of the present town of Skidmore, where he acquired some acreage, and established one of the old pioneer ranch home of the county. He continued in the sheep and cattle industry, and the county tax rolls of 1874 show him to own 300 head of cattle and 850 head of sheep.

When Frank, the third child, was only three days of age, in some way, the house caught on fire and burned to the ground. The mother and child were carried to safety, but were left with only a live oak tree for a shelter. Kind friends and neighbors came with willing, helpful hands and soon a new house was built. Four sons and four daughters came to bless and make this home happy. As they grew, more room was needed, so a pretty, two-story house was built on the hillside a short

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MR. AND MRS. JAMES MORGAN MOORE AND YOUNGEST DAUGHTER,
MRS. BYRON CHENEY

distance away. Here the children grew to young manhood and womanhood and went out from the parental roof to make homes of their own.

E. D. Crow died at his ranch home in 1908. Mrs. Crow continued to make her home on the ranch until 1920, at which time she broke up housekeeping and went to make her home with her youngest son, Courtney, and his wife, at Boerne, in the hill country above San Antonio. A few years later she went to San Antonio to make her home with her daughter, Mrs. W. N. Holland, where she passed

away on October 23, 1938, at the age of 89.

Other sons and daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Crow, besides the two above mentioned, are A. B. (deceased); Frank, San Antonio; Ed, Colorado, Texas; Mrs. Thompsie Holland (deceased); Mrs. Myrtle Baldeschwiler, San Francisco, Calif., and Mrs. Dixie Robinson (deceased.)

A NATIVE TEXAN

JAMES MORGAN MOORE was a native of Texas. He was born in Dallas May 16, 1855. He came to Bee county when a young man (about 1878), and settled on

the San Domingo creek, near where Normanna is today.

On September 16, 1877, Mr. Moore was married to Mrs. Emma Smith, a widow with three small children. The wedding took place in the home of R. J. Smith, and the marriage service was read by W. B. Roberts, who was a justice of the peace at that time.

Eleven years were spent in Goliad county after their marriage, and upon returning to Bee county they located again at Normanna, where they spent the remainder of their lives.

Eight children were born to this union.

Mr. Moore, a resident of Bee county for 46 years, died at the family home March 25, 1935, at the age of 80 years. His wife preceded him in death 15 years, passing away September 27, 1920.

NATIVE OF DEWITT COUNTY

SAMUEL OVERTON PORTER was born in DeWitt county, Texas, near old Meyersville, October 23, 1851, the first child of William Jefferson Porter and Mary Porter.

William Jefferson Porter came to Texas from Tennessee when nine years of age. His mother was of the stock that came with Stephen F. Austin when he was bringing his colonies to Texas, and first saw the light of day in that colony before Texas gained her independence from Mexico.

Samuel Porter came with his parents to Bee county at the age of 16 (in the fall of 1867). They settled on the banks of the Medio creek, slightly more than a mile south of what is now the town of Pettus. Here Samuel grew to manhood. He rode the range and shared the hardships of the ranchers.

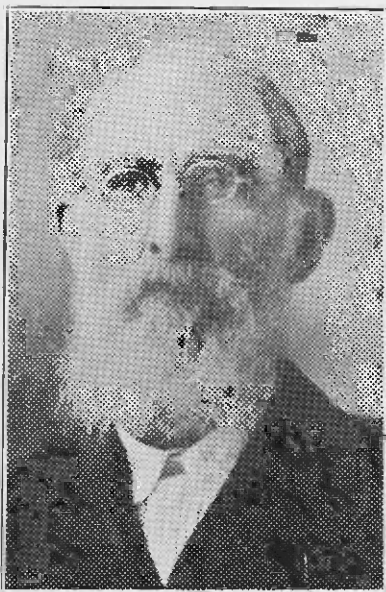
Mr. Porter was married to Miss Mary M. Tipton, November 22, 1876. The wedding took place in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Roberts on the Medio creek, west of Normanna. Mr. Roberts, justice of the peace at the time, performed the ceremony.

The following year Mr. and Mrs. Porter moved across the San Antonio river into

Karnes county, and in the early 1880's they established one of the pioneer ranch homes a few hundred yards from the corner of Karnes, Bee, and Goliad counties where farming and stockraising was successfully carried on for many years.

Mr. Porter was not a "trail-driver," but assisted in driving cattle rustlers out of this section. He was always interested in politics and the affairs of his community, serving as justice of the peace for a number of years, which office he held at the time of his death.

Mr. and Mrs. Porter were the parents of



SAMUEL O. PORTER

five children, two sons and three daughters. Mary and Tom died in infancy, Susie, Guy and May Bell survive.

When failing health came, Mr. Porter sold his stock and, leasing the ranch home, moved his family to Pettus in the fall of 1914. Here he died September 4, 1932. The beloved wife and mother passed away on October 10, 1929.

WAS BORN IN GERMANY

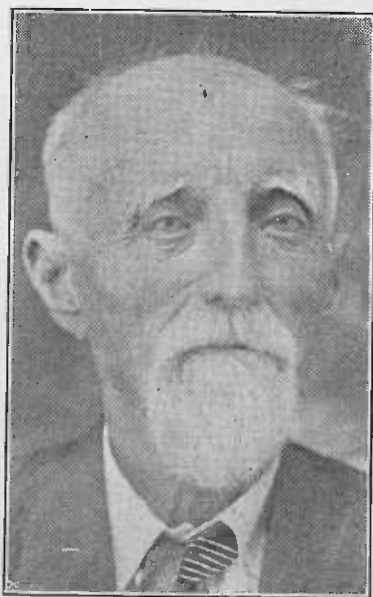
HENRY CHRISTOPHER DAHL was a native of Germany, where he was born at Hanover, April 19, 1838.

At the age of 15 he came to America, paying for his passage on a freighter vessel by peeling potatoes during the voyage.

Arriving in New York he found employment as clerk in a store, where he remained until the outbreak of the Civil War. He enlisted in the Confederacy, being a member of the famous Sibley's Brigade.

At the close of the war, Mr. Dahl came home with Frank Nusom, an army comrade, whose home was near Runge, Texas. He secured employment at Yorktown, a nearby village, where he met Miss Welhelmina Kaufman and they were married March 18, 1867.

His bride was also a native of Germany, being born near Baden-Baden, on the Rhine, October 2, 1842. She came with her parents to America when four years of age.



H. DAHL

Three months was required to make the voyage across the Atlantic ocean and down the coast to Indianola, Texas. As they were nearing the landing port, a severe coast storm drove the boat back and destroyed Indianola.

For some time after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Dahl lived at Cabaca, and Mr. Dahl was ferryman over the San Antonio river.

On February 2, 1882, he moved his fam-

ily to Bee county, and settled about five miles west of where Pettus is today. Here Mr. Dahl engaged successfully in farming and stockraising. He and Mrs. Dahl were very domestic. They practiced the live-at-home precept, not of necessity, but for thrift and economy, living mainly from the products of their own farm.

Mr. Dahl often remarked that during the 59 years of their married life, they had never bought a pound of bacon, or lard, or a bar of laundry soap.

Since Mrs. Dahl had been the only helper in her parents' family, many and varied were the kinds of work for her to perform, as she assisted both father and mother. So eager was she to learn, when a young girl, she frequently carried a book tucked under her arm, and when the work permitted would look within its pages, to read and memorize a paragraph now and then.

As she grew to womanhood she learned the various housekeeping arts, as well as carding, spinning, and weaving. She was an artist with her needle in lace work and embroidery, and many were the quilts she helped neighbors to make, and would aid in any extra weaving they wanted done. Many were the suits she had a part in making during the war, for the men who "wore the gray." At eighty years of age she took the prize at a Bee county fair for carding cotton. With Christian fortitude to meet every issue in life each day, she lived a long and useful life.

In speaking of the old days in comparison with those of recent years, she often remarked: "There were no luxuries in the old days, yet they were happy days; friends were truer, hospitality more generous, and contentment reigned supreme."

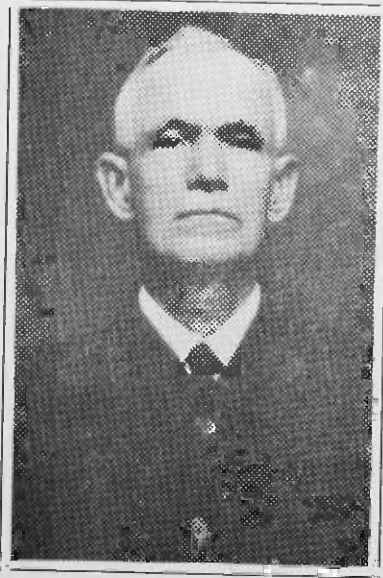
Mr. Dahl died at the family home September 2, 1926, at the age of 88. Mrs. Dahl attained the ripe age of 92. She passed away August 18, 1934.

NATIVE OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

STEPHEN KUBALA was born in Mistek, Czecho-Slovakia, December 26, 1853. He was the eldest son of Andrew and Veronica (Jurena) Kubala.

At the age of seven he came to America with his parents. After a stormy voyage of nine weeks at sea, with a stop at Havana for a fresh supply of drinking water, the vessel on which they sailed landed at Galveston about the year 1860. The family located first at Mulberry, in Fayette county.

On November 20, 1877, Stephen Kubala was married to Miss Mary Holub. Four



STEPHEN KUBALA

sons and three daughters were born of this union. They moved to Colorado county in 1881, and to Bee county in the fall of 1889, locating in the Central community where Mr. Kubala purchased land and engaged successfully in farming and stock raising.

He was a man of good judgment, high ideals, a loyal citizen and friend.

Mr. Kubala died at the home of a daughter in West Columbus, March 3, 1932. Mrs. Kubala survives her husband and continues to reside at the ranch home.

CAME TO TEXAS FROM GERMANY IN 1882

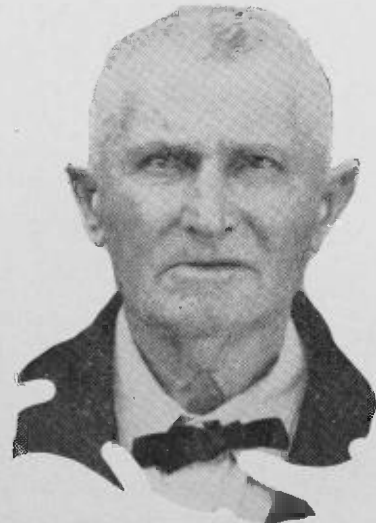
EILERT MUELLER, a native of Germany, was born May 2, 1860, at Rostede, Oldenburg, in a farming district near the coast on the north sea. His parents were Eilert Mueller, Sr., and Gesina (Muensterman) Mueller.

The father died when his son was only three years old, and at the tender age of 12 Eilert began working for himself by herding cows in the afternoon, after attending school in the forenoon.

At 14 his guardian made a three-year contract with a blacksmith for the youth to learn the blacksmith trade. At the end of the three-year period his boss gave him 200 German marks, for good behavior and strict attention to business. This amount was about equal to \$50 in American money.

In previous times it was a law in his country for a boy, after he had learned his trade, to tramp over the country for two or three years before being allowed to accept a job or open a shop. However, this was no longer a law but a custom still in use. No doubt it was meant as training in different sections and with different people.

In this way this young man spent about three years of hardships, traveling over the country on foot, eating when there was anything to eat and sleeping wherever night overtook him. When around 17 years of age



EILERT MUELLER

he took up his trade and worked in different large cities in Germany.

During this time he was in the army-age law, for each young man served two or three years in the army. They were not in training, but their names were kept on file

in case of war.

At the age of 21, young Mr. Mueller wanted more adventure, and this time his goal was Texas, U. S. A. Some of his friends and relatives had previously come here. At first a passport was denied him, as the government was preventing any more of the young men of military age leaving Germany. However, during the following year, he was granted a leave of two years. In the event of war during that period he was to return to his native country for military service. A passport was issued and a ticket sold him for sailing on September 3, 1882. The ticket included the entire voyage from Bremen, Germany, to Weimar, Colorado county, Texas.

Owing to some of the ships crew being sick during the voyage a few of the passengers were asked to lend a helping hand. It was young Mueller's lot to fire boilers down in the boiler room, working two hours and sleeping two hours. In this way he was not aware of a severe storm the ship encountered at sea, until, in later years, he was told about it by C. L. Blaschke, who lives at Skidmore today. He, too, was coming to America on the same ship and was in his sixteenth year. Mr. Blaschke told how he propped himself in his bunk to keep from being tossed to the floor as the waves tossed the ship on the sea.

On September 21, 1882, the ship anchored at the bar, out about eight miles from Galveston, and the cargo was brought in by tugboat, as Galveston had no deep water harbor at that time.

In appreciation of Mr. Mueller's services in firing boilers, the ship's captain offered him papers to be a sailor on any ship that sailed the seas, but he preferred to remain on land. Then, too, it was disloyal for one to abandon his trade.

By train he traveled to Weimar, near where a Colony of German immigrants had settled. He worked two years at Weimar, then went to LaGrange, in Fayette county, where he opened a shop, and purchased some land with \$350.00 in gold brought from his native country. Part of this amount was from his own hard labor

and the remainder was his portion from his father's estate.

At first he did not appreciate living in a small town, for he had lived and worked in a city, but as time went by he could see the freedom and advantages for a young man in rural America.

In December, 1884, Mr. Mueller was married to Miss Mary Beken of Weimar.

In 1886 he made application in county court in Fayette county to become a citizen of the United States of America, and received his citizenship papers in that county at the November term of court, 1891.

In 1893 he sold his property in Fayette county and moved his family to Bee county, where he purchased a farm from the J. C. Thompson estate, about six miles southwest of Beeville. His companion passed away in 1901, leaving him alone with the care of six small children.

In 1903 he was married to Miss Minnie Weitzel, who died in 1905.

Mr. Mueller engaged in farming and stockraising after he came to Bee county. He is a "young" old man today at the age of 80, enjoys good health and oversees his farm and ranch interests each day.

Mr. Mueller, his wife and daughter, Edna, live quietly in a comfortable rural home. He is the father of seven children, and has 10 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

On January 20, 1915, he was married to Miss Helen Weitzel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Weitzel of El Campo, Texas. One child, a daughter, was born to them.

September 3, 1939, marked the 57th anniversary since he left his native land.

CAME TO AMERICA IN 1856

CHARLES SUGAREK, SR., was born October 27, 1849, in a small town named Male Kunice, in Moravia, located in the republic of Czecho-Slovakia in Europe.

His parents were Frank and Magdalia Sugarek.

When Charles was two years of age his mother died, leaving him and a sister, five years older, motherless. Their father mar-

ried again and in the spring of 1856 the family came to America in a sailboat.

These "new-comers" went to Bluff, a little town near La Grange, where many Bohemian immigrants settled and farmed.

The father was killed in the Civil War and Charles was left an orphan at the age of 12. He acquired his education from the hard knocks of life on the cattle and wagon trails between Central Texas and the Rio Grande river.

After years of roaming he settled on a farm in Fayette county in 1875, and on January 9, 1877, was married to Miss Mollie Horak.

In 1890 Mr. and Mrs. Sugarek, with four children, moved to Bee county, settling about six miles southwest of Beeville, where



CHARLES SUGAREK, SR.

they purchased and improved a tract of farm land.

Mr. Sugarek was a prosperous farmer, a loyal citizen, a good neighbor, and true friend. The evening of his life was spent quietly in his comfortable home, where their children were reared and where he passed away October 22, 1932.

He was the father of six children, five sons and one daughter. One son died in infancy and another son, Eddie, was killed in action during the World War.

The wife and surviving members of the family all reside in the Central community, except the daughter Mrs. R. R. Longino who lives at Ingleside.

PARENTS CAME TO TEXAS IN 1836

IN AN EFFORT to obtain material for a chapter which would reveal something more of the conditions in the early history of Papalote, at one time the largest town in Bee county, the writer of these sketches had the pleasure of a visit in the home of B. S. Cornett in March, 1939. Mr. Cornett, in his 86th year at that time, possessed a memory most unusual for a man of his years. He could relate incidents in his early life, giving the exact day of the week, the month, and the year. Several years previously he lost his eyesight, but had kept abreast of the times, thanks to the radio, and discussed current topics interestingly.

Bartley Stanchfield Cornett is a real Texan. He was born in Wharton county October 11, 1853, the son of James and Susan Cornett of South Carolina, who came to Texas in 1836, and settled in Wharton county.

When quite a young man, Mr. Cornett left the parental home to start in life for himself. He went to the Henry Bend ranch in San Patricio county. This ranch was in the bend of the Nueces river, near where the town of Mathis is today. It was used in the days of the desperado as a stockade for protection from Indians.

This land was the western boundary of what was known in those days as the Coleman-Fulton-Mathis land. The corporation owned thousands of acres of land in Refugio and San Patricio counties, stocked with longhorn cattle.

Tom Mathis was one of the stockholders but he wanted to raise a better grade of cattle, so he withdrew from the company and took his share of land (28,000 acres) along the Papalote creek and up the Nueces river, around the town that bears his name today.

While working on this ranch, Mr. Cornett was employed by Mr. Mathis to build

a dam across the Papalote creek about three miles south of where Tynan is today. This formed a lake and provided water for cattle. It required about two months to build the dam, with fifteen pairs of mules and scrapers, Mexican and Negro labor being used. A large dirt tank was also built on the east side of the Mathis land, near Papalote, for stock water.

Mr. Cornett moved to Papalote in 1883, and on September 17, 1884, he was united in marriage to Miss Rachel Stroman. Miss



MR. AND MRS. B. S. CORNETT

Stroman was born in South Carolina, a daughter of Emanuel and Adella Stroman. She came with her parents to Texas in 1870. The family resided at Clinton, DeWitt county, until 1879, when they moved to Papalote.

In 1886, when the San Antonio and Aransas pass railroad was built through Bee county from San Antonio to the coast, Mr. Cornett took the contract to build one mile of roadbed at Papalote, with mule teams and scrapers. Later he built eight more miles of roadbed with the same equipment down near Ingleside. He continued in this line of work for different railway companies over the greater part of Texas for about 20 years. In 1900 he abandoned the work, returning to his home at Papalote and for two and one-half years was road overseer

for Bee county.

Mr. and Mrs. Cornett reside in the same community where they were married and where they reared a family of sons and daughters. In their comfortable home, with good health, the love and tender care of their children and grandchildren, surrounded by kind friends and neighbors, they are happily spending the evening of their lives.

BEEVILLE IN 1887

THE BEEVILLE BEE of Feb. 24, 1887, reveals the following churches, lodges, hotels, professional men, and merchants, as well as a report on the business transacted by the post office during the previous year. There were other businesses represented here at that time, likely, but the news and advertising columns revealed only the following:

CHURCHES—The Methodist church building was on Block 50, with a comfortable personage, Rev. J. P. Rodgers, pastor, with 46 members.

The Baptist church building, being on the railroad right-of-way, was sold to the railway company, and the building of a new house deferred until the next summer. Rev. G. H. M. Wilson, pastor, with 45 members. The Baptist congregation held service in the Methodist church until a building could be erected.

Rev. Chas. Dougherty was priest of the Catholic church; they held services in private homes, but expected to erect a building during that year.

POST OFFICE—The post office was located on the north side of the public square. Jno. W. Flournoy was postmaster, R. W. Archer, assistant, T. R. Atkins, clerk. Number of money orders issued the previous year, 222; postal notes, 168; registered packages sent, 135. The money order business aggregated between \$4,000 and \$5,000 per quarter; stamps cancelled, \$218.62.

LODGES—Beeville Lodge, No. 261, A. F. & A. M., owned a two-story building on the west side of the square. The lower story was rented for a warehouse. The lodge had 50 members, and officers were: W. M.

Smith, W. M.; J. C. Beasley, S. W.; J. O. Taylor, J. W.; F. M. Ellis, treasurer; R. C. Eads, secretary; R. W. Archer, S. D.; T. J. Skaggs, J. D.; A. R. Dugat, Tyler; met third Saturday in each month.

Aransas Pass Council No. 538, of United Friends of Temperance. The organization was three months old with a membership of 80.

HOTELS, BOARDING HOUSES, ETC.—The Howard House, W. Sid Howard, proprietor. Large, new, three-story building, corner Washington and Corpus Christi streets.

Brown Hotel, Mrs. Barclay, owner, Benj. Brown, lessee, a substantial building on St. Mary's street.

Mrs. T. C. Mahoney, two-story boarding house on west side of railroad.

Restaurant, owned by Louis Schrader, on railroad, near depot.

A. J. Fore, fresh fish and oysters on ice, north side square.

PROFESSIONS—W. S. Dugat, county attorney, office in courthouse.

J. C. Beasley and J. W. Flournoy, attorneys-at-law, office in courthouse.

H. J. Nott, medical doctor, office on St. Mary's street.

T. W. Johnson, physician, office on north side.

D. M. Thurston, physician and surgeon, office north side square.

C. S. Phillips, dentist, office in residence in Tyson building on Bowie street.

TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS—Mrs. Emma Buck, milliner, McCullom building, north side.

Mrs. H. B. Cunningham, milliner, east side.

Mrs. Mary Moody, milliner and dress-maker, at residence of H. J. O'Reilly.

F. Slavetshek, boot and shoe maker, west side.

R. M. McMenemy, blacksmith and machinist, Houston street, near railroad.

W. C. Brealey, shoe shop, north side square.

J. J. Carmichael, wheelwright with McMenemy.

C. F. Rudolph, blacksmith and wood workman, Monroe street.

L. C. Schillings, barber, north side.

G. W. Bailey, watchmaker and jeweler, north side.

Tom Sonley, saddler, north side public square.

MERCHANTS—Will Smith, dealer in groceries, boots and shoes.

T. W. Johnson & Company, groceries, crockery glassware, etc., Walton building, north side.

A. Praeger, hardware, stoves and tinshop, north side.

Zowarka & Cready, City Market, north side.

Little & Mitchell, groceries, hardware, wagons and buggies, north side.

Will Brown, groceries, fruits, etc., McCullom building, north side.

John R. Martin, drugs, medicines, books, sewing machines, etc., McCullom building.

Don Teas, general merchandise, McCullom building.

M. Lichtenstein, dry goods and clothing, Archer building.

R. W. Archer, stationery and books, at post office.

C. B. Archer, hardware and tinshop, in post office building.

T. J. Skaggs, dry goods, carpets and matting; also dealer in hides and wool; west side of public square.

J. H. O'Connor, groceries, dry goods, etc.; also dealer in hides, wool and country produce; Jones building, east side.

L. F. Roberts, dry goods, notions and clothing; east side.

Beeville Drug Store, Harry L. Fowler; drugs, garden seed, papers; Marsden building, east side.

H. T. Clare & Son, dealer in feed and grain; St. Mary's street.

Kohler & Heldenfels, lumber, shingles, barb wire and furniture, on railroad above depot.

Louis Schrader, fruit and vegetables, near depot.

Baylor & Thompson, meat market, Corpus Christi street.



A REMINDER OF THE GAY NINETIES

Top row: John Wilson, Ed Corrigan, Stonewall Ellis, Dick Cook, Harry Fowler, John Dunn, Ed Thompson; middle row, Georgia McKinney, Rachel Armstrong, Mollie McCollom, Mary Wilson, Lillian Parr; bottom row, Nellie Archer, Annie Armstrong, Turner Wilson, Nona Potter.

This picture was taken at Victoria during the Christmas holidays in the gay nineties. The young people had gone by train to Goliad to attend a dance and the following day went to Victoria, where they attended another dance that night, returning home the third day. There were probably others from Beeville at the Goliad dance who did not make the Victoria trip. In those days (probably 1891) getting about was not as easy as it is now, and it was quite a jaunt these young people took and it served to brighten up the holidays season.

HOW BEEVILLE OBTAINED ITS RAILROAD

(The writer of these sketches of men, women and events of Bee and adjoining counties, is grateful to T. A. Simons for the use of this interesting and accurate account of the bringing of the railroads to Beeville. Mr. Simons is now residing with his daughters in Washington, D. C.)

THE YEAR 1880 opened with few railroads in Southwest Texas. Since ranching was the principal industry, and San Antonio the nearest shipping point, getting cattle to eastern and northern markets was a problem which confronted the ranchmen.

In 1882 the Southern Pacific railroad extended its lines west as far as Victoria. Telfinor, an Italian count, supervised the building of this road and he employed Italians to do the work. Their main article of food was macaroni and for years that road was called the "Macaroni Road."

This line was regarded as an encroachment on San Antonio, so in 1884 an organization was perfected for the purpose of building a railroad from San Antonio to the Gulf of Mexico. The proposed route was to follow the San Antonio River Valley via Helena, then the county seat of Karnes county, through Goliad, and on to Rockport. San Antonio was headquarters and from there representatives were sent out to obtain right-of-way and bonuses.

A meeting was called at Goliad and it was attended by some of the leading citizens of Bee county, who promised their help. At this time committees were appointed, some to solicit the required bonus, others to secure the right-of-way. Conspicuous among the workers were men of Bee county.

There was much enthusiasm and the committees worked hard, but they found considerable opposition. Some landowners objected to a railroad coming over their land, so they did nothing. Others agreed to donate the land, but would give no bonus.

Many thought the road would be built regardless of bonus or right-of-way, and that the proposed route, down the fertile San Antonio river valley, was the only feasible one.

The final meeting was held in the old

courthouse in Goliad. It was well attended and the various committees brought in their reports and presented them to the railroad representatives.

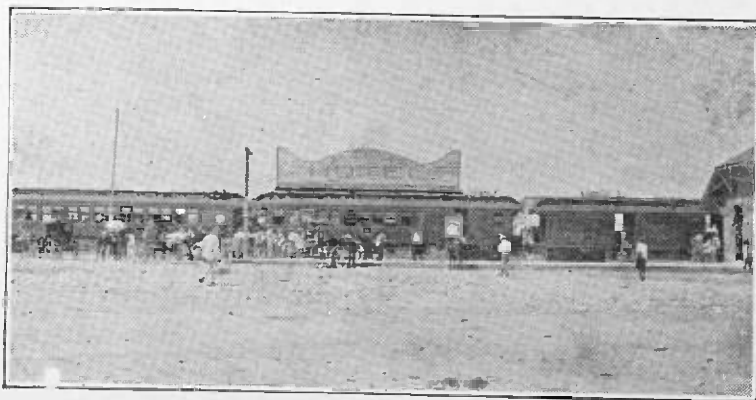
On final count it was found that the committees had failed so completely that the matter would have to be abandoned.

When they were about to adjourn, Captain A. C. Jones, who acted as spokesman for his associates from Bee county, arose and asked all to remain seated. He stated that he was sorry the citizens had failed to meet the requirements. He said he thought Bee county had done her part in helping Goliad. He then asked the representatives not to abandon the idea of building the road, but to consider re-routing it, having it pass through Wilson, Karnes, Bee, and San Patricio counties, thereby reaching both Rockport and Corpus Christi; that by so doing they would pass over the Coleman-Fulton-Mathis properties, in the last named county. (This land was afterwards acquired by John Welder, Mr. Sinton, father-in-law of Chas. P. Taft, brother of President Taft, and others.) He urged that they keep the matter alive, return to San Antonio, and as soon as possible make the property owners on this route a proposition. He promised that the Bee county committees would not disband but would continue to work on the new proposition.

The result of this was that the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad was built, reaching Beeville in 1886. (I think the bonus was \$75,000.) B. F. Yoakum and Mifflin Kennedy were the principle financiers. Uria Lott was the engineer.

It is worthy of note how very crooked this road is from San Antonio to Beeville. It was said, at the time, that the road was so built to avoid the expense of cutting and filling; and also to lengthen it, since it was bonded to a holding company in New York for more money per mile than it cost to build it. The deepest cut made in Bee county was the hill as the road entered the town, just above the present S. P. crossing.

The first recorded instrument I find is dated February 12, 1886, Book K, page 345, Deed Records of Bee county. It concerns



AN EARLY DAY TRAIN IN BEEVILLE

This picture, taken from a point just west of the First National Bank building, was made when trains were a novelty in Beeville, probably in 1886. This train was headed north. In the background may be seen the St. Charles hotel. It occupied the present site of the Grant Lumber Co.

a conveyance of land by Mr. H. M. Wilson to "The San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad Company."

With this railroad in operation the citizens began to realize the benefits derived from it and felt that another railroad would lend further aid in the development of this section, and that competition would be of benefit both in accommodations and in freight rates. Freight cars were scarce and often it was difficult to get them. Even though orders were placed weeks in advance there was no assurance that the cars would be here to receive the cattle, and often the herds had to be held to the detriment of the cattle and the inconvenience of the owners.

The railroads were not, at that time, under state supervision, as they are today. Bee county citizens felt that if anything was worth having it was worth working for, so quietly, with few knowing of his intentions, Capt. Jones again took the initiative and went to New York City for the purpose of asking the Southern Pacific to extend its line from Victoria.

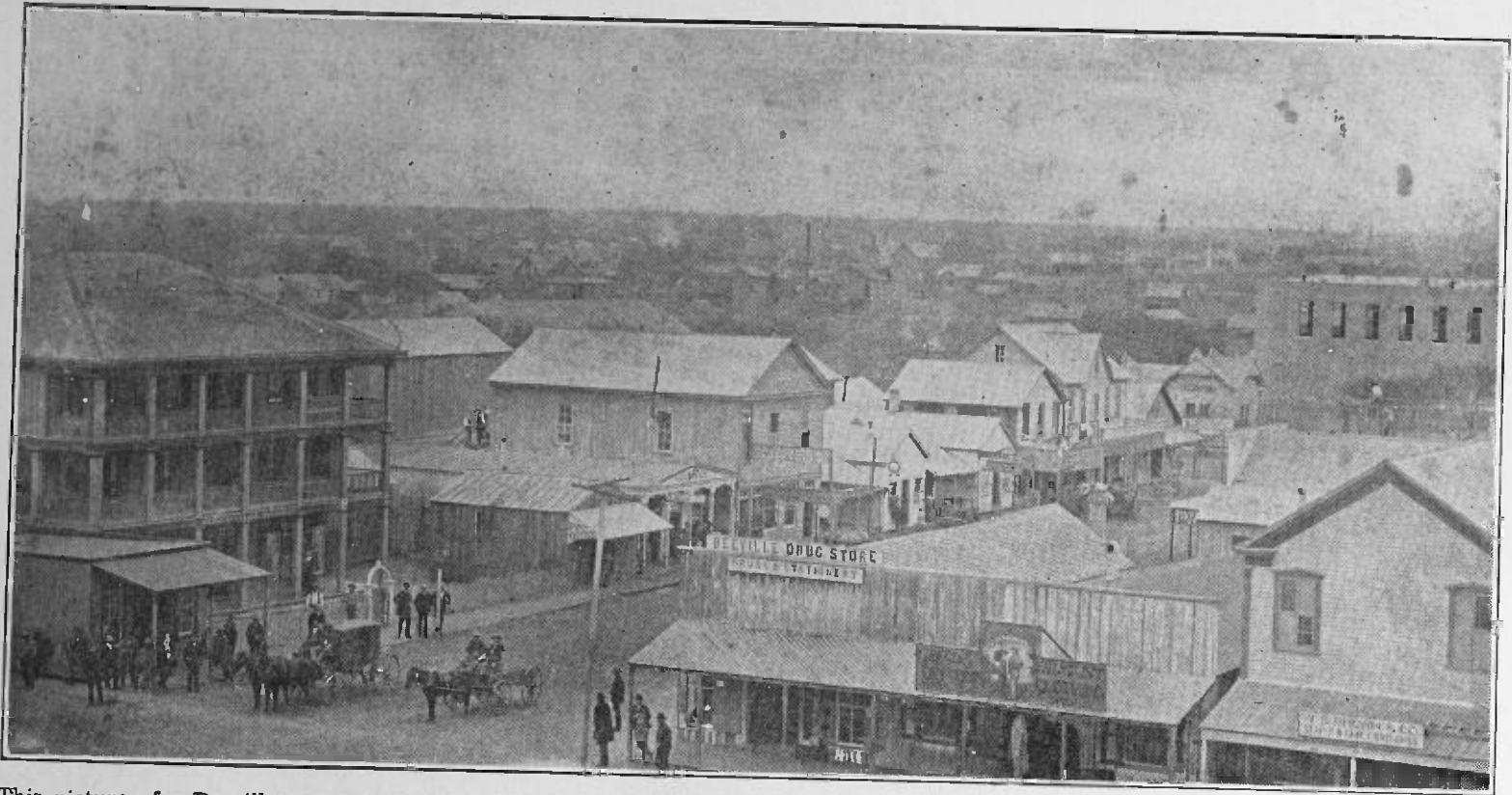
C. P. Huntington was then president of this system, and the Captain's announcement of his business was the first intimation Mr. Huntington had that an extension of his road had been contemplated by anyone. (It was interesting, indeed, to

hear the Captain tell of the difficulties he experienced in trying to get an interview, and of what transpired at the meeting.)

The result of this interview in New York was that a proposition was soon sent to Bee county, stating that the road would be built upon their compliance with the usual conditions—bonus and right-of-way.

Construction was soon begun and by 1890 this second railroad was operating in Bee county. One requirement was that right-of-way be provided through the town and across the Poesta creek. This was for a two-fold purpose: first, that the "turn-table" could be located out of town, to avoid accidents, by children playing on it; and second, so that when they wished to extend the road west and into Mexico, they would own the right-of-way through the town. (An extension to Laredo was determined upon in 1921, and the state granted permission, but the I. & G. N., out of San Antonio, and the Tex-Mex. out of Corpus Christi, took the matter up with the inter-State Commerce Commission, with the result that the road was not built. To get into Mexico they were forced, later, to buy the San Antonio and Aransas Pass, and go by way of Brownsville.)

One of the first recorded instruments in connection with this road—The Gulf, Western & Pacific Railway, as it was then



This picture of a Beeville business section was taken in the early 1890's, and was made from the old courthouse, looking west. The 3-story building was the Ellis hotel, moved here from St. Mary's by F. M. Ellis' father. The third story was added during the "boom" days which followed the coming of the railroads in 1886 and 1890. The small building to the left was a saloon, while the first two-story building on the left was the original home of The Picayune. It occupied the lot on which the present home of The Bee-Picayune is located. A. P. Smith's dry goods store occupied the lower floor. In the distance is the Masonic building, then under construction—a two-story brick building which still stands. The Rex theatre occupies the street floor. The Beeville Drug Store and Gregory & August dry goods store, in the immediate foreground, occupy the site of the present Sam C. Mitchell hardware store. The first telephone in Beeville was installed in the Beeville Drug Store, then owned by Harry Fowler and Dr. L. E. Parr. The two-story building to the right was the home of the W. S. Brown & Co. grocery store. The upstairs was used as a lodge hall. The frame building in the rear of the Beeville Drug Store was the post office for many years, but the small building just north of the hotel was the post office when this picture was taken. Most of the buildings on both sides of Washington street in this block were destroyed by two fires in 1906, and the hotel, which escaped then, burned in 1908 or 1909. It was known as the Lindell hotel at that time. J. C. Short was the manager.

called—appears on page 31 of Book M., in the Deeds Records of Bee county, under date of September 29, 1888, and is signed by several of the citizens. It reads as follows: "We do forever release, acquit and hold harmless the said railway from any and all damage or suit for damages by reason of the noise, smoke, or other dis-

attention of some of the best farmers, and other business men, not only from other portions of the state but from other states, and her population increased rapidly.

The first cotton gin in the county—built by Robert P. Little—was near the S. P. right-of-way, just west of where the two railroads cross.

An account of early railroad activities in Bee county, especially in connection with the Southern Pacific, with Beeville as its terminus, would be incomplete without referring to some of the "old-timers" who came with the road and made their home continuously in Beeville until their retirement.

D. B. Saffold was the first agent that the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway had in Beeville. He was known as the "Old Man." Soon after the Southern Pacific came he resigned and accepted a similar position with that road. He was a good agent and telegraph operator. One man had to attend to both duties. He made many friends, both personally and for the company, and he remained in their employ until after retirement age.

Mr. J. H. Harrison (Uncle Joe), genial and kind, was one of the first conductors on this branch. He married a Bee county girl (Miss Collins, sister of Mrs. J. C. Wood), made his home and reared his family in Beeville.

William (Jolly Billy) Whalen was fireman for Harry Rathbone, one of the engineers who brought the S. P. into Beeville. I think he ran one of the engines used by the construction gang. Mr. Whalen also married a Beeville girl (Miss Fenner), lived in Beeville and remained with the company until, having reached the age limit, he retired.

It was interesting to hear Mr. Whalen relate some of his early experiences, after leaving Beeville, east bound, on the early morning freight. The railroad right-of-way was not fenced and the track was a favorite bedding ground for cattle. They were methodical in their habits, using the same place every night. Being naturally cautious, he avoided many accidents. One



D. B. SAFFOLD

Mr. Saffold was the first railroad agent in Beeville, coming here with the SA&AP Ry. in May, 1886. He resigned to accept a similar position with the Southern Pacific Lines when the "Macaroni" was extended to Beeville from Victoria in 1890, and remained in that position until he reached retirement age. He continued to make his home here until his death March 25, 1931. Mr. Saffold was affectionately known as "The Old Man."

turbances which are natural to the construction and operation of a railway through a town, and we bind ourselves to forever release the railway from any claim or lawsuit."

With the advent of these two railroads, Bee county with its abundance of rich, virgin soil, good water at shallow depth, and excellent climate, began to attract the



Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Cyle Skidmore and two granddaughters, Lillie (Dickens) Kyser, standing, and Maude Skidmore, sitting. Mr. Skidmore was a native of Virginia, but came to Texas in early life and served as sheriff of San Patricio county before the Civil War. After serving the full four years of the war he located on the Aransas in Bee county. He died just before the railroad reached Skidmore. His son, Frank, carried out his wishes by donating the townsite at Skidmore, which was named for the family. A sketch of Mr. Skidmore's interesting life appears on pages 55 and 56.

engineer (Mr. Cook) however, was not so fortunate. Early one morning, between Berclair and Goliad, he "crossed his engine with a large bull," a real wreck, and was killed.

Mike Mock, the faithful engine-wiper, is not least to be remembered. He took possession of the engine, on its arrival in the afternoon, and was its constant body-guard during the night, and until it was taken over by the engineer the next morning. The engine stood out in the open, on the side track, with no protection whatever

from the elements. No matter how hard the down-pour of rain, how penetrating the north wind, nor how intensely cold was the ice and sleet that covered the engine, Mike Mock remained on the job. His only protection was the engine cab with its flimsy curtains, and often they were lacking.

After many years, the railroad company built a small, one-room tool house on the right-of-way at the wiping stand. This was very fortunate for Mr. Mock for it afforded him welcome protection.

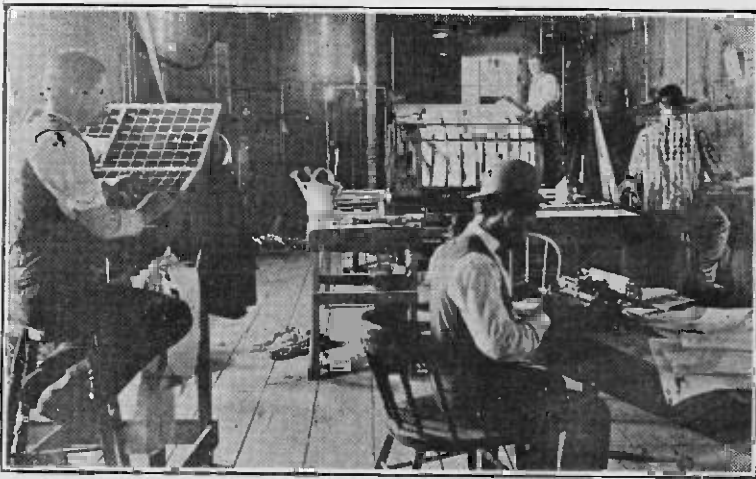
WILLIAM OSCAR McCURDY ESTABLISHED
FIRST BEE COUNTY NEWSPAPER

NO HISTORY of Bee county would be complete without a chapter giving some of the details of the establishment of the first weekly newspaper in Beeville. This paper, The Beeville Bee, was first published on May 13, 1886, and its editor was a young Mississippian, William Oscar McCurdy, who had been a printer in his native state before coming to Texas the previous year to visit relatives. He had found employment in Victoria, and

commission, chairman of the Bee County Democratic Executive Committee, and generally recognized as one of the most influential citizens of Southwest Texas. He was perhaps the most successful small town newspaperman in Texas.

Mr. McCurdy married Miss Elizabeth Wood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Wood, prominent pioneer citizens of Beeville. Mrs. McCurdy, three daughters and a son, W. O., Jr., survive him.

The Bee, owned continuously by Mr. McCurdy from the day of its establishment



An interior view of The Beeville Bee in its first home erected by Publisher W. O. McCurdy. Mr. McCurdy is writing on a Blickensderfer typewriter, one of the earliest models. Chauncey Powell is seen "kicking" the job press at the right. Mike Haskell is the boy feeding the big press in the rear of the shop. The press was a Potter cylinder and was powered by steam. The man on the left at the type case was a "bum printer"—a floater—who had been given a few days employment by Mr. McCurdy. The sprinkling cans were used to sprinkle water on the floor before sweeping the office to prevent the dust from rising and settling in the type cases. The floor was standard for printing shops in those days, the early 1890's.

later at Goliad, before coming here to interest local citizens in the establishment of a weekly paper.

Mr. McCurdy was only 20 years old when he came to Beeville, but he was mature far beyond his years and soon earned a high place in the journalistic field of Southwest Texas . . . a place he held for 27 years, or until his untimely passing at the age of 47 on June 19, 1913.

In the intervening years Mr. McCurdy had created an estate valued at \$50,000, was a director in a bank, a member of the city

just before the S. A. & A. P. Ry. reached Beeville, until his passing, was purchased by R. W. (Whizzie) Barry, who had been employed as local editor by Mr. McCurdy. He continued as editor until about 1925, selling the paper to Arthur Shannon, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shannon of Wharton. Frank Shannon had worked as foreman on The Bee under Mr. McCurdy for a number of years before leaving Beeville. Arthur published the paper until The Bee and The Picayune, then published by Geo. H. Atkins, were purchased by a



WILLIAM OSCAR MCCURDY

The youthful Editor McCurdy, Beeville's first newspaperman, posed with a copy of the first issue of The Beeville Bee in his hand. The picture was taken shortly after May 13, 1886, the date on which the paper was first issued.

corporation, The Beeville Publishing Co., and combined as The Bee-Picayune. The merger was effected in May, 1928. Mr. Shannon retired from the newspaper business and returned to Wharton, Mr. Atkins, who had purchased the Picayune in 1907,



WILLIAM OSCAR MCCURDY
Beeville's First Editor

This picture of Mr. McCurdy was taken by Powell, San Antonio Photographer, who, at one time, operated a studio in Beeville. It shows him as he appeared late in life. He was still the hard-working editor, but on occasions found time to participate in the social affairs of his adopted city. Well informed, genteel, courteous—he was welcomed in the highest social circles, yet few men were closer to the common people, understood their problems better, or sympathized with them more and fought harder for them than did this pioneer Bee countian, who established a newspaper and remained at its helm until his death, 27 years later.

remaining to head the corporation formed to effect the merger.

Thus, for the first time since 1890, when the McFarland Bros. came to Beeville to establish The Beeville Picayune, Beeville again had but one newspaper. The consolidation was in line with the trend of the day . . . consolidations and one paper in smaller cities, rather than two or three,

being the newspaper program in most small cities.

At one time Beeville had three weekly papers, The Bee, The Picayune, and The Young Reporter, published by Powell Bros., and The Bee County Banner, a monthly magazine, published by H. F. Marr.

When Mr. McCurdy came to Beeville in 1886 he was given a hearty welcome by Captain A. C. Jones, "Father of Beeville," Sheriff D. A. T. Walton, and others of influence in that period of the country's development. They assisted him financially and in securing subscribers for the paper.

The value of the paper in publicizing the county was soon felt. Beeville grew rapidly and the fame of the city and county was enhanced by the type of newspaper Mr. McCurdy published.

The original home of The Bee was in the loft of a building, located on St. Mary's street midway between the present Hoco Service Station and the Beeville Clinic. The building faced west and adjoined, or was part of, a livery stable. A patched-up George Washington hand press, a much used small job press, and two cases of type composed the original equipment of The Bee. The quarters were so small Mr. McCurdy could stand in the center and reach almost anything he needed.

Later Mr. McCurdy moved his office to a location on the north side of the public square—in the second story of the building occupied on the lower floor by the T. J. Skaggs store. The building was immediately east of the present Sam C. Mitchell hardware store. When Mr. McCurdy had accumulated sufficient funds he purchased a lot and constructed his first printing office a block further west on Corpus Christi street. Here the business remained, while under his ownership, but still later the frame building was supplanted by a concrete block building (now the John Teague store), and as time went on Mr. McCurdy purchased modern equipment, including a linotype machine, and his plant was operated by electricity, following the periods of steam and gasoline power.

Oscar William McCurdy was the second

son of William and Mary (McDonald) McCurdy. He was born at Clairborne, near Heidelberg, Jasper county, Miss., May 10, 1866. His father had been a captain in the Confederate Army, serving the entire four years of the conflict. William had an elder brother and two sisters, all of whom preceded him in death. His mother came here to make her home with her son and his family and was a resident of Beeville when Mr. McCurdy died. She returned to Mississippi following Mr. McCurdy's death and died, largely of grief, shortly afterwards.

PIONEERS OF THE PETTUS COMMUNITY

WILLIAM THOMAS ROBERTS was born in Meriwether county, Georgia, November 30, 1837. When little more than a baby his parents moved to Florida, where they resided until he was about 13 years of age. The family came by boat from Tampa, Fla., to Indianola, Texas, in 1850, and settled in Bexar county, living in and around San Antonio



W. T. ROBERTS

for several years. He later moved to Shiloh, where he resided several years. He vividly recalled the passing of the Indians in 1857 for the last time in that vicinity, where they killed several people.

He was married on June 23, 1859 to Ann Eliza Park. She was born on March 2, 1840 in Missouri. Her family came to Texas when she was a baby, settling in Wilson county. They met there and were married in Wilson county. They had 10 children. All the children died in rather early life except three. Only two are living today. They are Wiley and Leroy Roberts of Pettus. The other son, Richard, lived at Normanna, where he reared a family. He has been dead about 30 years. These are the only three of their children who had families.

When the war between the states started, W. T. Roberts enlisted in Captain Sanders' company of the 15th Texas (Colonel Sweet's regiment), where he served about one year when sickness sent him to a hospital in Little Rock, Ark., where he remained for several weeks. He was discharged from the army and sent home. This was in 1862 and he and his family then moved to Wharton county where he became the overseer of slaves on a plantation until the slaves were freed.

Mr. Roberts moved to Bee county in 1868, settling in the San Domingo community. While residing there he served eight years as justice of the peace and several years as county commissioner. In 1888 the family moved to Pettus where, in 1891, he started a mercantile business which still operates today, bearing his name.

William Thomas Roberts died October 19, 1929, at Pettus.

Ann Park Roberts died September 20, 1918, at Pettus.

COMMISSIONER 20 YEARS

TOM WELDER was born in Texas, on the Aransas, (down near where the stream flows into the bay in Refugio county), on May 17, 1854. He was the only son of Thomas Welder, who was born in Bavaria, near the Rhine, in Germany, in 1827, coming to America with his parents and other members of his family in 1830. They stopped for a short period of time in New York City. From there they went to Mexico and at Matamoras the father, Francis Welder, who was a

hatter by trade, established a business for a few years. Becoming dissatisfied with conditions there, the Welder family came back into the Republic of Texas and settled in Refugio county.

Thomas Welder was a boy around 10 years of age when the battle of San Jacinto was fought in April, 1836. A few years later he was in the service of the Confederacy, stationed at Corpus Christi and other places along the coast.

He was married at Victoria, Texas, in 1848 to Miss Louisa Hennenburg, who was born in Hanover, Germany, and came to Texas with her parents in 1846.



TOM WELDER

After their marriage they went to Refugio county where Mr. Welder entered the cattle business, and where he died in 1865, at less than 40 years of age. He was the father of two children, a son and daughter, Tom Welder and Mrs. Jno. H. O'Conner, both of whom were residents of Bee county later in life.

Tom Welder came to Bee county in 1874, and, like his father, took up ranching as a business. On October 31, 1882, he was married to Miss Alice Ryan at the old John Clare ranch home on the Aransas, southwest of Beeville. His bride was born

on Hynes Bay, 20 miles below the Mission in Refugio county, February 1, 1859. She was a daughter of James Augustine Ryan, who came from Pennsylvania to Texas and settled first at "Old Sweet Home," in Lavaca county, later coming to Bee county. Mr. Ryan died in 1872. Her mother was, before her marriage, Miss Matilda Howard, a native of Missouri. She died in 1869 and was laid to rest in the Corrigan ranch cemetery.

In 1873 Mr. Welder drove 100 mules and some horses to Lake Charles, La. It required five months to dispose of them. He continued to make drives to that section of Louisiana every year until 1878. Two years later he drove a herd of 2,500 cattle for J. J. Welder to Dodge City, Kansas, and in 1882 he made another trip to Dodge City with 400 head of his own, and 5,000 head for J. J. Welder.

There were many hardships on these long drives, including hailstorms and Indian trouble. On one trip the herd stampeded every night for 10 or 12 nights before they learned to travel.

Tom Welder went up the trail several times. Mr. Welder was in the stock and cattle business his entire life and was successful. In November, 1894, he was elected county commissioner of Precinct No. 1 and served in that office continuously until 1914. The present courthouse was built during his term of office. He was vice president of the Beeville Bank & Trust Company for a number of years.

Mr. and Mrs. Welder were the parents of six sons, four of whom are living; three daughters died in infancy.

Mr. Welder died at the ranch home east of Beeville May 18, 1934.

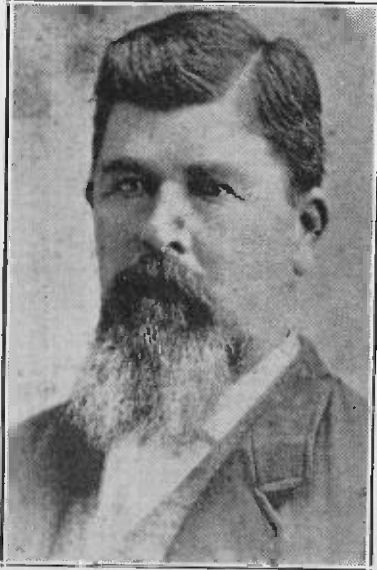
Mrs. Welder came to Bee county with her parents when only nine months old and has resided in the county continuously, and lives at the old family home today.

SERVED IN CIVIL WAR

JOHAN SUTHERLAND HODGES was a native of Alabama, where he was born August 28, 1834, coming to Texas in his youth. His wife was born in Texas

August 2, 1842. She was a daughter of John Freeman Pettus and Sarah (York) Pettus.

Mr. Pettus' father and three of his brothers came from England to America when they were young men and settled in Virginia. John F. Pettus came to Texas in



JOHN S. HODGES

1830 with one of Austin's colonies and settled in Austin county. He was married to Miss Sarah York, the marriage service being performed twice. The first time was by a protestant minister, and the second time by a Catholic priest, as that was a law when Texas was under the Mexican government.

Yorktown was named for one of Sarah York's brothers, Johnathan, who was a captain in the Civil War, serving in the Confederacy.

During the time the Pettus family were living in Austin county and when John Pettus' mother, Elizabeth Pettus, was a girl of about 16, she and a girl friend started to ride to a neighbor's one day on horseback. The trail they were traveling crossed a deep ravine. They were unaware of the presence of Indians until suddenly the girl friend and her pony were captured and were never seen nor heard from again. The girl who, later in life, was John Pettus'

mother, made her escape by making her pony jump the ravine, or gorge, then, putting whip to him, she made her way home safely, suffering only the loss of one of her slippers.

Mr. Pettus' family was the first white family to move to the section of country where the town of Pettus is today. He brought a number of slaves with him and during the four years the men were in the army Mrs. Pettus, with the assistance of the slaves, looked after his family and the ranch home. Aunt Eliza, or "Black Grandma," as she was called, was the main cook and was the first one to see the three men at a distance when they returned home after the war. She recognized them and exclaimed, "Lausy Massy! Dar comes Mas John Hodges, Mas John Pettus and Mas



MRS. JOHN S. HODGES

William Pettus (father and son) cummin' frum de wa."

There was much rejoicing in the home among both races on account of the safe return of the loved ones from the war.

John S. Hodges married Miss Sarah Pettus in 1861. Mr. and Mrs. Hodges

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MR. AND MRS. C. I. SWAN

made their home at the Pettus ranch until 1881, when they moved to Beeville and purchased a number of acres of land. Some of the Pettus "freed slaves" came to Beeville later to reside. Among them were Uncle Anderson and Aunt Eliza, who Mrs. Hodges provided with food and clothing during their declining days.

After a short residence in Beeville, Mr. Hodges moved his family back to the ranch, and when the S. A. & A. P. railroad came through in 1886, he gave the right-of-way and the land for the depot, as well as considerable acreage for the townsite for the present town of Pettus.

During the time the family resided in Beeville, W. M. Smith married Miss Martha Virginia Hodges in 1882, and Mr. Smith purchased the Hodges homestead and land which is known today as the Mrs. W. M. Smith home and where Mrs. Smith has resided continuously since her marriage.

R. L. (Bob) Hodges, a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Hodges, was a successful cattleman and made his home in Beeville many years before his death. He married Miss Ada McKinney, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

Mac McKinney, who survived him a few years, her death occurring in 1938.

J. S. Hodges died in July, 1889, and his wife passed away in Beeville, March 17, 1924, at the ripe age of 82 years.

NATIVES OF ILLINOIS

C. I. (CHRISTOPHER IRVING) SWAN, SR., was born in Chambersburg, Pike county, Ill., February 10, 1850. He was a son of Burr Harrison Swan of Kentucky. His mother was Sophia (Loer) Swan.

C. I. Swan was married to Miss Caroline Dunham in Newburg Corners, Pike county, Ill., August 1, 1875. The bride was born at Newburg Corners, August 1, 1851, a daughter of John Dunham and Mina (Redfield) Dunham. Shortly after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Swan moved to Pittsburg, the county seat, where Mr. Swan taught school four years and was county school superintendent for a like period, and for a few years published a weekly newspaper. He also served as county clerk of Pike county and while in that office issued a marriage license to William Jennings

Bryan, who married a Pittsfield girl.

In 1896 his health failed and upon the advice of his physician to seek a milder climate, he came to Texas. The change proved a great benefit and in 1898 he was joined by his wife and children and a home was established in Bee county at Normanna.

Mr. and Mrs. Swan identified themselves with every enterprise for the up-building of their adopted state and county. Mr. Swan went to Normanna as manager of the farm and ranch lands of T. N. Hall and R. T. Hicks, Pittsfield (Ill.) capitalists, a position he held until his death.

Mr. Swan was a leader in his community and was elected county commissioner of Precinct No. 2 for two terms, and was serving in that capacity at the time of his death, which occurred in Beeville on August 18, 1918.

Mrs. Swan was also a teacher, and for 10 years she taught in the Bayview College at Portland, down near Corpus Christi, while her younger children were being educated there, and also taught in the public school at Normanna. She was an outstanding club woman and organized the Normanna County Woman's Club, the first such club to be organized in the United States. Mrs. Swan learned to love her adopted state and wrote a song entitled "Texas Land," which was adopted as the official song of the Bee County Federated Clubs. She passed away in Beeville May 9, 1935, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. I. F. Cherry.

Mr. and Mrs. Swan were the parents of five children, three sons and two daughters.

EARLY DAY EXPRESS AGENT IN BEEVILLE

THE FIRST regular agent for the Wells-Fargo Express Company at Beeville was Herman F. Otto, who served in that capacity from September, 1890, to the early part of 1894.

John H. Potts succeeded Mr. Otto as agent and remained from 1894 to January, 1895, when he was succeeded by George M. Engle.

Mr. Engle remained in the office from January 15, 1895, until 1921. Prior to 1890 the express business in Beeville was handled by the freight agent. Mr. Engle was sent from the main office in Houston to take charge of the express office in Beeville, arriving on January 13.

The office at that time was in the rear of a building located on the lot now occupied by the Mrs. A. F. Rees building at the corner of Washington and Bowie streets.

However, it was shortly moved to a sample room near the "Little Queen" hotel. This location was about where the A. F. Castle store is today.

According to Mr. Engle, bushes were growing in the middle of Washington street



GEORGE M. ENGLE, SR.

when he came, and occasionally wagons and teams bogged down in the street during a rainy season.

Beeville's population at that time was around 1,500. J. O. Taylor was sheriff; J. E. Wilson, chief deputy sheriff; F. J. Hart, county judge; Frank Howard, county clerk, and Sid Howard, postmaster.

Mr. Engle recalls a snow storm that came February 13, one month after the day he arrived in Beeville with his family. Snow

covered the ground to a depth of about six inches.

George Madison Engle, Sr., was a native of Tennessee. He was born December 1, 1866, at Columbia. At the age of 14 he was employed by Wells-Fargo Express Company as driver, and a few years later he was express messenger on trains in different southern states, and still later served as clerk in the office headquarters at Houston, Texas.

After coming to Beeville and serving as agent for many years, he was sent as traveling auditor for the company over Southwest Texas, but was later returned to Beeville as agent for a few years. He was then sent to San Antonio for one year, but his family remained in Beeville.

In 1917 he went as a representative to New York City and was awarded a forty-

year gold service badge. More than fifty years of Mr. Engle's life was spent in the service of Wells-Fargo Express Company.

He was married to Miss Loraine Helen Judd June 28, 1889, at Ashwood, Tenn. His bride was also a native of Tennessee. She was born in Shelbyville, March 23, 1869, a daughter of Charles and Helen (Crane) Judd. Eight children were born to this union, two of whom died in infancy. Mrs. Engle passed away in a hospital in San Antonio February 16, 1925.

Mr. Engle survives his wife and resides at his home in San Antonio. The surviving sons and daughters are as follows: Charles Stuart Engle, Beeville; George Madison Engle, San Antonio; Laird Frierson Engle, Temple; Helen Loraine Engle, Dallas; Mrs. Margaret Douglas, San Antonio, and Frank Judd Engle, Moorhead, Minn.



In 1913 the Beeville Volunteer Fire Department, above, was headed by R. H. Berry, shown at the extreme right. This picture was taken in front of the iron clad fire station located on North Washington, between the present Hotel Kohler and the railroad. The big building was the old Walton livery stable. Driving the horses as the department prepared to join the Bee County Fair parade was Charlie Wright, and others on the truck are, right to left: Alfred Zowarka, Camp Ezell, Clarence Miller, Sid Kring, Grover Heldenfels, and Sam McCarty. On the ground, right to left: Ellis Quinn, Eugene Taylor, Dave Stockbridge, Frank McKinney, Stanfield Thompson, right, and Austin Brown, left, in the extreme rear. Dangling under the truck are buckets, which were used to douse out the fire, if water was available and if the fire did not have too great a start.



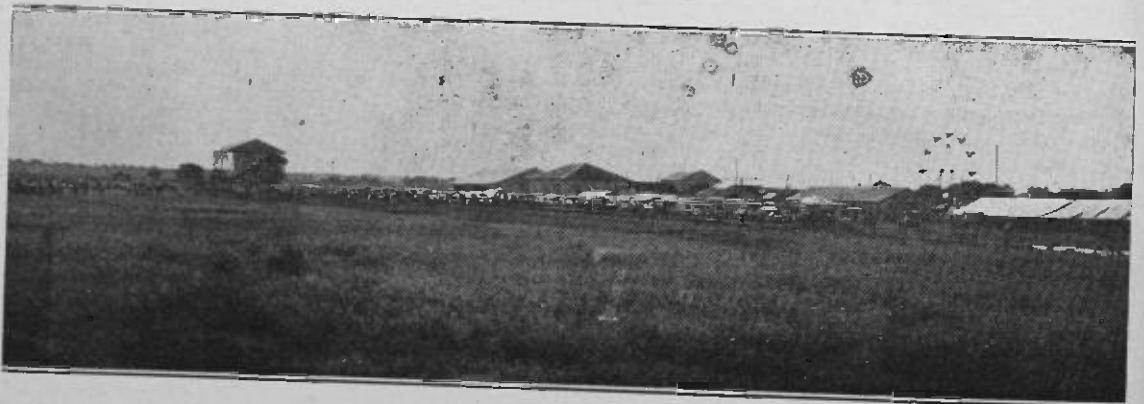
In the early days of the Young Men's Progressive League (now the Chamber of Commerce) the business men of Beeville operated automobile "trade excursions" to various communities of the county. In the top picture is shown the start of one such trip, and, below, a stop of the caravan at Mineral. There was no pavement in the county at that time and few automobiles. The Beeville Brass Band made all the trips and played at each stop while the trade evangelists visited with the merchants and citizens who had gathered to greet them. These pictures were taken in about 1912.



In the fall of 1903 a group of Beeville residents were held in a smallpox detention camp at a point west of the railroad about 2½ miles north of Beeville. They had been in San Antonio and were supposed to have been exposed to smallpox while attending a circus. In those days it was the custom to quarantine all people suspected of having been exposed to almost any contagious disease. This camp was in existence only a few days, however. In the group, standing, left to right, are: Will Nutt, a Mr. Smith, Paul Bauer, Dr. G. M. Stephens, W. T. Thompson and sons, Leo and Cecil, Jewell Malone, a Mr. Ball, Hubert Timon, Will Blesse, Mrs. M. E. Brauer, F. C. Miller, W. W. Jones (with arm around Jim O'Connor), Mrs. W. T. Thompson, Tom Sonley, W. L. Nations, G. W. Black, Jim Martin, Mrs. Mollie Irwin, Mrs. W. L. Nations, Cyrus Nutt, Miss Donna Irwin, Homer Hayes. Front row: C. P. Eidson, Eda Brauer, Roy Star, Will Atchley, Mrs. Atchley, Miss Lella Thompson, Dr. B. F. Seymour, Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Marsden, Mr. Riser and Lindsey Courtney. The lady with a shawl over her head and the lady peeping around from behind Jim Martin's big hat could not be identified by W. L. Nations, who owns one of the pictures. While it lasted the group made the best of the situation. Mr. Jones served a turkey dinner one day. The picture was taken by Mrs. S. S. Dugat, who was then Miss Jennie Rust.



A group of business and professional men, county officers and a few patrons of the Commercial Hotel gathered in the late 1880's for this group picture in front of what was later known as the Lindell Hotel. It occupied the site of the present Magnolia Super Station on Washington street at Corpus Christi. The building was set back a few feet from the property line. It was a two-story hotel when moved here from Old St. Mary's by the father of F. M. Ellis and was first operated as the Ellis Hotel. Some of those who can be recognized in the picture are: Nick Phelps, extreme left; middle row, beginning second from the left, sitting on the bench, B. W. Klipstein, D. A. T. Walton, and J. C. Crisp, and on the opposite side of the post, J. O. Taylor. Guy Staples leans against the post on the extreme right, and Miss Julia Cole is the tall lady partly behind the post.



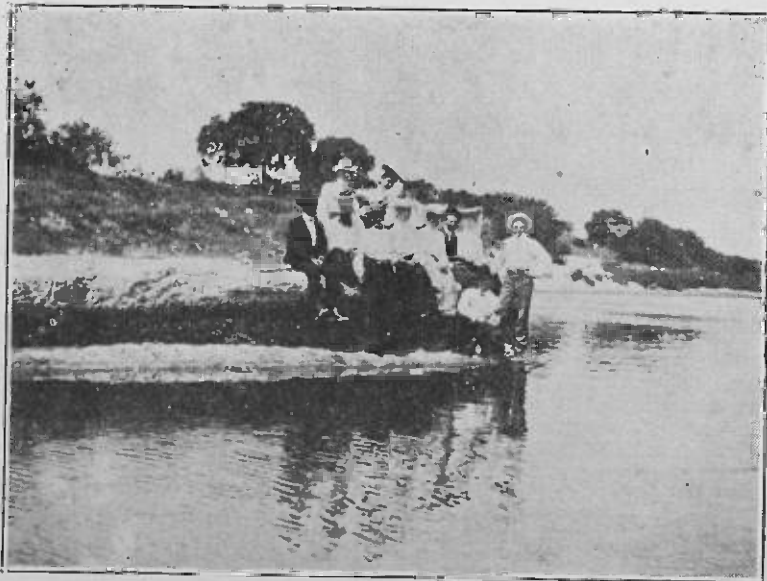
This picture, taken from the southeast corner of the grounds, was made in the early 1920's at the old Bee County Fair. It shows the grandstand in the background, cars lined up at the race track fence, the auditorium, agricultural building, poultry house, and cattle barns to the right, with the carnival grounds in the vicinity of the ferris wheel. At the time this picture was taken the Bee County Fair was the oldest and possibly the largest county fair in the state. It faded after the war and passed out with the depression era. The grounds now have been divided and part of it has been converted into a residential subdivision. The South Texas Breeder-Feeder Association auction sales building occupies the site of the cattle barns and the rodeo grounds are immediately west of it.



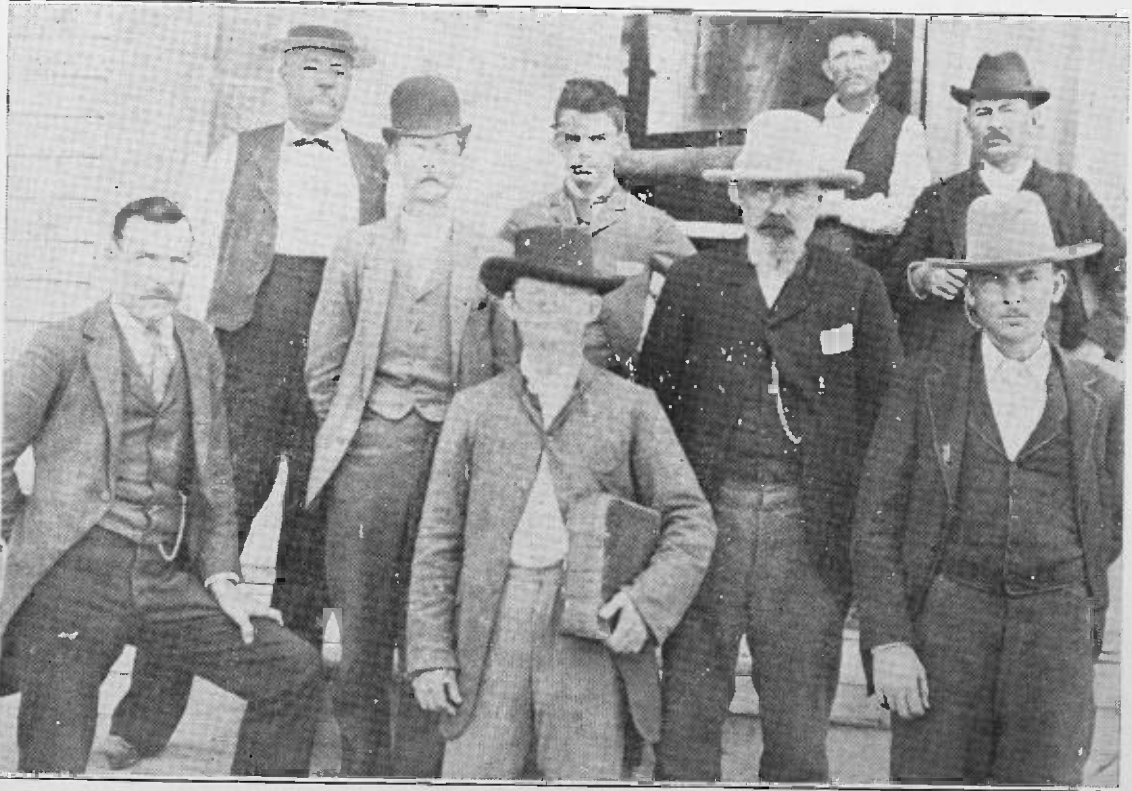
In the late 1890's and early 1900's, Summer Normal Schools were conducted in Beeville with Prof. T. G. Arnold and later W. E. Madderra, his nephew, serving as conductors. In this picture Mr. Arnold, in black suit on the second to the bottom row, fifth from the right, is shown with L. W. Bell, on his left, and Miss Mattie Mussett, next to Mr. Bell, as the instructors. Some in this group taught in schools of this section for many years. They were graduates of Beeville high school and of other schools of this section, and many were older teachers who attended the Normal and renewed their teacher's certificate at the end of the term by taking the examinations. The Normals were taught in what is now the Junior High School building. At that time it was Beeville's only brick school building and one of the finest in Southwest Texas. When the Normals were discontinued in Beeville, Mr. Madderra taught for year in the Summer Normals at San Antonio. He continued to serve Beeville schools as superintendent until his death in 1936.



Pictured above on the far side of the table are the first three Bee countians to register in the Selective Draft on June 5, 1917. The Historical event occurred at the courthouse in what is now the Sheriff's offices. Left to right are H. A. Stephenson, Will Allison, and Will M. Lawson. The draft board was composed of Sam C. Mitchell (part of his head next to Stephenson), D. A. Barber, and I. J. Miller, nearest the camera. All except Allison and Barber are still residents of Beeville.



An early day group of Beeville young people enjoying an outing at the Corrigan Hole, on the Aransas Creek, seven miles east of Skidmore. The "swimming hole" was the favorite recreation spot for many young people of this section. It was deep and several drownings are said to have occurred there. Among those in the picture are Mrs. W. L. Nations, W. A. Francis, John Lockett, and Miss Mary Nations. Mr. and Mrs. Nations chaperoned the group and Mr. Nations took the picture.



When J. R. Dougherty came to Beeville as a young attorney he had not reached his majority and it was necessary to have his disabilities of minority removed through court action before he could enter upon practice. He is shown here in the back row in the center of this group of court-house officials. The picture was taken in 1896, it is believed. Mr. Dougherty arrived in Beeville the previous year. Others in the group, left to right, front row, are H. T. O'Reilly, deputy in the tax assessor's office; Judge Sam Jack, Justice of the Peace; J. O. Taylor, Sheriff and Tax Collector, and J. E. Wilson, Deputy Sheriff. Second row: W. S. Dugat, County Attorney; Frank Howard, County and District Clerk; Joe A. Thornton, Constable, and Felix J. Hart, County Judge. Judge Jack, the South Texas counterpart of Judge Roy Bean, "The Law West of the Pecos," was the law on both sides of the Poesta. At one time he informed the youthful Attorney Dougherty, in open court, that he was going to rule in favor of his client, but he told him also that he had a weak case and advised him to seek a compromise.

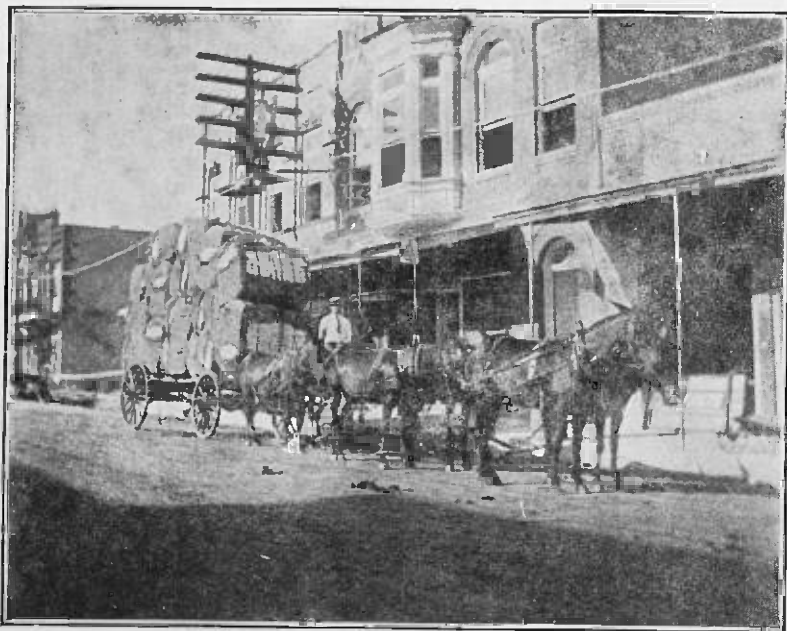


History was made on August 3, 1918, when this group of Beeville ladies appeared as delegates and participants in the Bee County Democratic County Convention. The vote had previously been granted to women in primary elections only, the validity of the act later being upheld in a test case tried in Bee county. Standing in the picture are Mrs. A. J. Turner and Mrs. J. B. Risenhoover. Seated, Mrs. T. M. Cox and Mrs. John R. Scott.

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In the "horse and buggy" days of the late 1890's and early 1900's this picture of young beaux and belles was one which might have been duplicated almost any Sunday afternoon or special day occasion. It so happened that this group of young ladies and young gentlemen were picnic bound, their destination being the Corrigan swimming hole, seven miles east of Skidmore. In the front buggy are T. M. Cox and Miss Lillie Stovall. Back of them, near the saddled horse, are Marvin Stovall and Miss Carrie Howard (later his wife.) In the left center the man is believed to be Ed DuBose, but the lady cannot be identified. Neither of the occupants of the right center buggy can be identified, but the couple on the extreme right are Mr. and Mrs. Z. T. Partain. She was then Miss Cecille Dugat. In the deep background are W. E. Madderra and Miss Estelle Dugat. Ed Thompson is the man in the buggy to their left, but the lady with him could not be identified. The picture was taken from the roof of the Berry building, now occupied by the Nu-Way Laundry. The Commercial National Bank and the Lindell Hotel are in the extreme background.



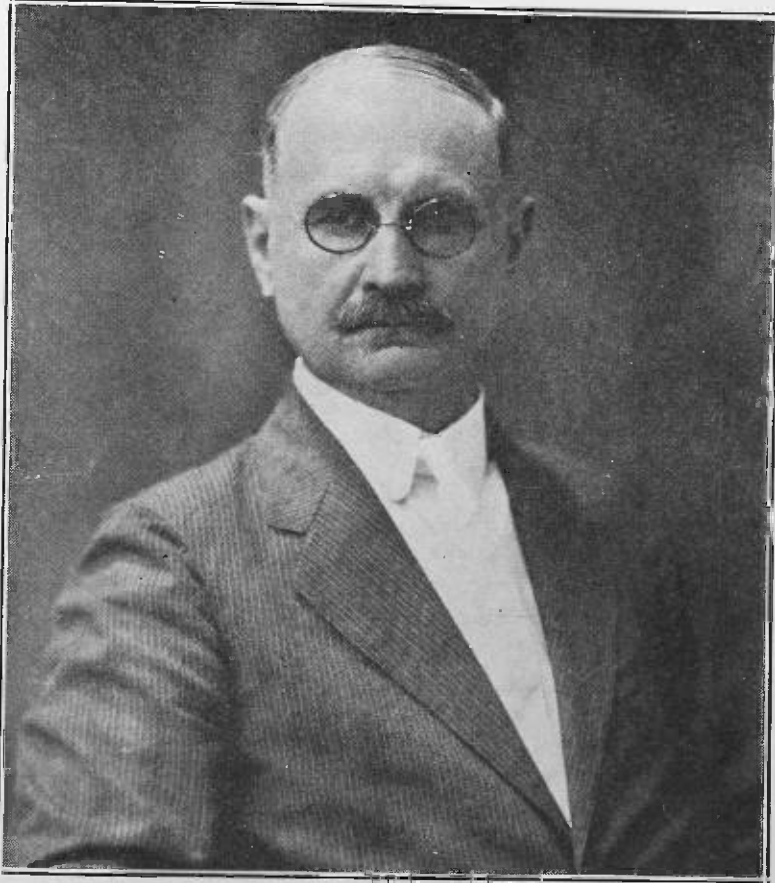
Just before the 1920's, scenes like this were common in Beeville. This load of cotton was brought in from Clareville and similar loads were hauled from other points in the county. The wagon and six-mule team were photographed in front of the Jewel Drug Store building, the Chittim building, and the Burrows Hardware Co. store (now the Perry Bros. store.) The vacant space between the buildings back of the wagon is now occupied by the J. S. Hall & Bro. building. Cotton was king, indeed, during that period in all this section, and scenes similar to this were being enacted in many localities. Clareville was one of the principal cotton sections of the county and was a prosperous community, with good general stores, a gin, good school, churches, etc. Some of the best farmers of the county lived there.



The faculty of the Beeville Public School in the late 1890's is shown above. Reading from left to right, front row: Mrs. J. W. (Miss Gussie) Flournoy, L. W. Bell, Superintendent T. G. Arnold, Miss Mattie Mussett, and Mrs. Ida Nations. Top row: Miss Tempie Lux, Miss Estelle Dugat, Miss Lelia Lawley, Miss Susie Norvell, Miss Claudie Purtile, and Miss Edith Dugat. The Misses Dugat, Miss Norvell and Miss Purtile were teachers of music, elocution and art.



This picture was taken in the yard of the Nations Hotel in the late 1890's and all the people can be identified. "Uncle Bob" Nations and Mrs. Nations sit at the opposite ends of the front row, with their grandchildren, left to right, Roberta, Clara, Guy and Clyde Nations, sons of John Nations, between them. Walter Nations stands behind his mother. Reading, to his right, are Miss Lelia Lawley, Frank Newcomb, Miss Dot Skidmore, and T. F. Hammet, later the husband of Miss Lawley. Riley McCarty, the Negro cook, gets in the picture from a position in the background.



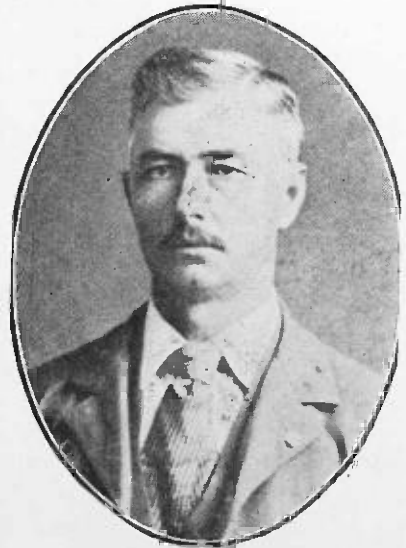
WILLIAM E. MADDERRA

Mr. Madderra served the Beeville city schools as superintendent for 36 years, having been elected first in 1900. He was a native of Kentucky and came here in the late 1890's to teach in the high school when his uncle, T. G. Arnold, was superintendent. He later served one year as superintendent of the Nacogdoches schools, returning here as superintendent upon the resignation of his uncle and remained at the head of the schools until his death in 1936. He married Miss Donna Irwin of Beeville, who survives him.



DR. D. M. THURSTON

Dr. Thurston was a native of Ohio. He located in Beeville about the time the first railroad came in 1886 and remained until his death in the 1920's. He was a lover of fine horses and always drove good animals. He was among the very first, however, to adopt the automobile for use in his practice.



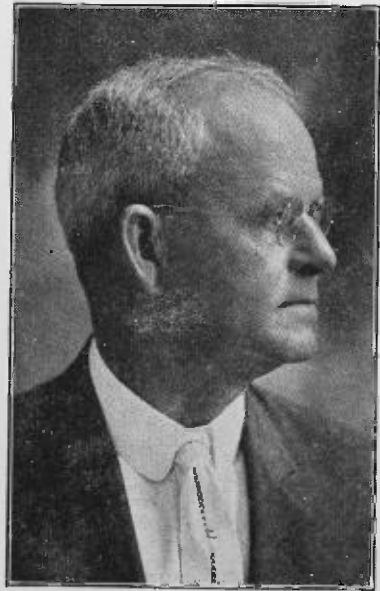
A. F. LUTTS

Mr. Lutts came to Beeville in the middle 1890's. He was a carpenter and house mover, later became a merchant, first a druggist and later selling men's wear, being associated with J. T. Ballard in the former business and W. E. McKinney in the latter. Mr. Lutts served as commissioner and mayor of Beeville.



J. J. BECK

Mr. Beck was a native of Norway. He and his family settled in the Normanna section in about 1895. Mr. Beck established the first broom factory in the county on his farm, later moving the plant to Beeville. He died in 1922.



N. B. WALKER

Mr. Walker was a native of Ohio. He came to Beeville as a young man in 1892, after serving in an army band at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio. He was a barber and followed that trade until 1907, when he entered the undertaking business. He died in 1932.



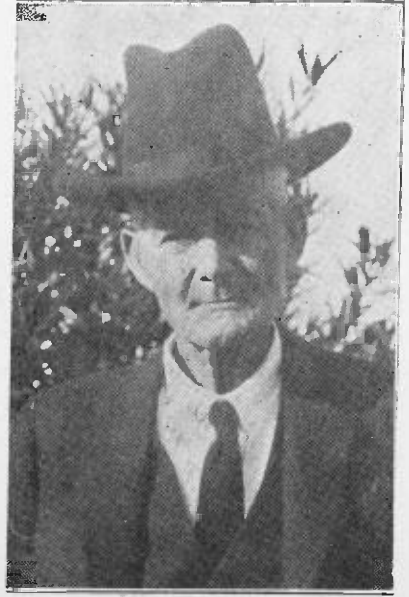
PAUL BAUER

Mr. Bauer, a native of Yorktown, was a pioneer saddle and harness maker, coming to Beeville from Oakville in the late 1890's. He remained in business until his death in 1935.



HON. H. S. BONHAM

Mr. Bonham came to Beeville shortly after receiving his law degree and was in the office of Dougherty & Dougherty for a number of years. He had taught school before entering upon the practice of law. He served as State Representative for several terms from the 70th Representative District. He moved his law office to Corpus Christi in about 1935 and his death occurred a few years later in a Baltimore hospital.



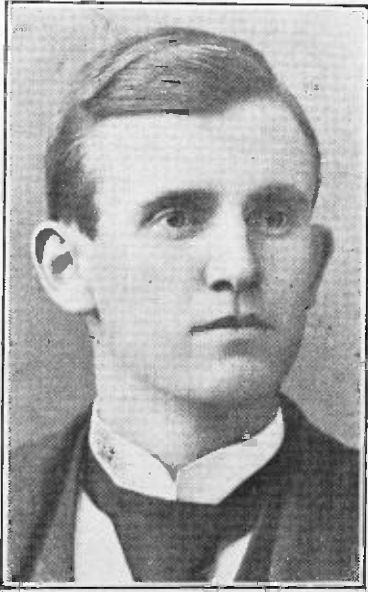
WILLIAM J. McMURRAY

Mr. McMurray was a Live Oak county ranchman who moved his family to Beeville in the late 1890's for the benefit of the schools. He spent much time here for a number of years, but returned to his ranch and died there December 18, 1926.



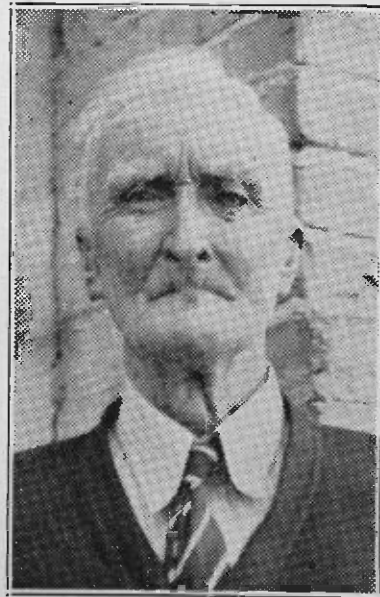
ALLAN C. MARSDEN

Mr. Marsden was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Marsden, the former an early day sheriff of Bee county. He was a member of the first board of aldermen when Beeville incorporated in 1908. He entered the automobile business several years prior to his death in 1917. At one time he served as a deputy sheriff of Bee county.



FRANK NEWCOMB

Mr. Newcomb, a native of Iowa, was engaged in the "Racket Store" business in Beeville for many years, after first being employed as a bookkeeper by Burrows Hardware Co. He operated a rain gauge for years and the records are now kept by Mac Powell. He never married. His death occurred in May, 1926. He was interested in astrology and owned a telescope which he willed to Austin College at Sherman, Texas.



JAMES M. GRANT

James M. Grant, who served as a private in the 12th Mississippi Cavalry, Confederate State of America, is believed to have been the last surviving veteran of the Civil War in Bee county. He died January 24, 1940. He was a native of South Carolina, where he was born April 29, 1848. He enlisted when only 15 years old at DeSoto, Miss., in 1862, and saw action until the war ended in 1865. He made his home in Beeville during the closing years of his life.



JAMES BLAINE BARRY

Mr. Barry attended the local schools and entered the First National Bank upon graduation, remaining with the bank until his death on August 3, 1937, by which time he had succeeded B. W. Klipstein as cashier. Mr. Klipstein had been one of the organizers of the bank in 1890, and remained as cashier until his death. Mr. Barry was the elder son of Mrs. Lizzie (Timon) Barry, who still makes her home in Beeville.



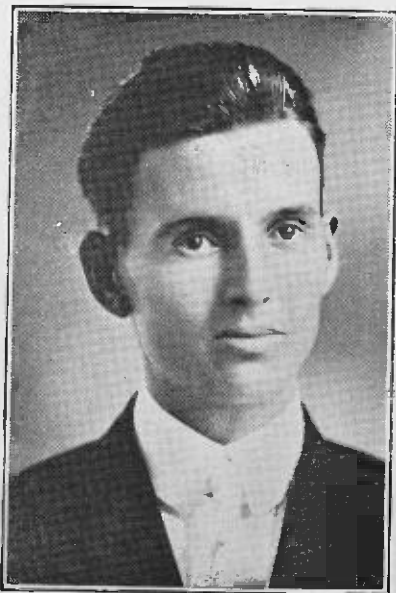
JOE A. THORNTON

Mr. Thornton was an early day peace officer, serving first as Constable of Precinct No. 1, and later as a Deputy Sheriff under J. E. Wilson. He succeeded Mr. Wilson as sheriff when that office was separated from that of tax collector, and was reelected for a number of terms, finally declining to seek the office again. He operated a rooming house several years after his retirement. His death occurred in Corpus Christi in 1940.



TOM SONLEY

Tom Sonley was a native of England. He came to America in early life and located in Beeville, where he continued to make his home until his death in 1937. He and Mrs. Sonley rode the first train run out of here over the S. P. Lines, going as far as Goliad. That was in 1890. He was a saddler and harness maker, being employed first by Will Smith, later purchasing the business and continued to operate it until his eyesight failed, some years before his death.



BOYCE MILES

Mr. Miles was the first Bee county World War soldier to die. He was a member of a band which had been recruited from the Beeville band, largely. He was a victim of pneumonia at the training camp located at Fort Worth. His funeral was one of the largest ever held in Beeville, the services being at First Baptist church. He was the youngest son of W. G. Miles, who still resides in Beeville.



J. W. BROWN

Mr. Brown came to Beeville as a young man shortly after the turn of the century and entered the insurance business, in which he remained until his death. Mr. Brown was a good roads advocate and was serving as president of the Chamber of Commerce when he died March 13, 1936.



MISS LIDA DOUGHERTY

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dougherty, was the first county school superintendent of Bee county, serving until she voluntarily retired from office to return to the old family home at old San Patricio.

GOLIAD COUNTY

GOLIAD COUNTY, lying east of Bee county, has an area of 652,800 acres of land and was one of the original counties of the Texas Republic. The territory in which it is located has been successively under the control of at least one-half dozen governments, namely: France, Spain, Mexico, Republic of Texas, United States and the Southern Confederacy.

Goliad is a name familiar to every man, woman and child in the state and is enshrined in the hearts of Texans. The word "Goliad" was coined by transforming the letters in the name "Hidalgo," the Mexican patriot, dropping the "h" and starting with "g."

Goliad's birth may be dated as 1749, as it was in that year the Spanish government established the missions. LaBahia was built on a high hill on the south side of the San Antonio river and Aranama on the north side of the river adjacent to the present town of Goliad.

LaBahia was the scene of the Fannin massacre and near by is the grave of Colonel Fannin. Aranama mission in later years was used for one of the earliest schools established after Texas gained her independence. Aranama College, located at this site, was a thriving school for boys until the Civil War, when the entire student body went out as soldiers for the Confederacy.

Connecting these old missions is an ancient ford crossed by Colonel Fannin on his retreat, and it was near this ford that part of Fannin's command was massacred. A brass cannon recently was dug out of the ground in this immediate vicinity.

Fannin and his men were incarcerated "for a few days before their execution" within the walls of the fort at LaBahia mission, which was the scene of the massacre.

These old missions were built of sand rock obtained from the river banks. Mexican labor was used to transport the building material. The rocks were carried on the backs or shoulders of the Mexicans

quite a distance up grade to the building site, there being no oxen and wagons in the country at that time.

The first records of Goliad county were destroyed by fire. However, the records of 1870 show the following named men who constituted the commissioners court that year: E. M. Cassel, sheriff; A. M. Wiggington, presiding justice and county clerk; James Martin, county attorney, and J. O. Dial, Joseph Sparrow and M. B. Cassel, commissioners.

REFUGIO COUNTY

REFUGIO COUNTY was organized in 1837. It has an area of 802 square miles and, like Goliad county, is rich in historical interest. The county's history and early settlement dates back to the days when Power and Hewitson and McGloin and McMullin brought to Texas the first families that gave to this coast country its first development.

By offers of big grants of land to these pioneers in this frontier land, the Mexican government secured their assistance and cooperation, giving them the official title of "emprisario." To these men was offered 4,600 acres of land for each family they brought to this part of the country, and about 1,600 acres was granted them for each single man they brought.

One of the most important events in the early history of Refugio county was the massacre of Captain Aaron B. King and 27 of his men in 1836. An account of this is given by Lewis Ayers, one of the party who was spared. Two Germans also were released, due to the fact that the leader of the attacking party was of German birth. The account of the massacre is as follows:

"My family was living about one mile from the village of Refugio. Our household goods were loaded on two carts, and, protected by Captain King, the family was taken safely to the Mission. They were fired at by the enemy on the way but fortunately escaped injury, although some of the household goods were cut by the ball.

"After King had gotten all the families remaining in the place safely within the

mission he sent an express to Colonel Fannin asking for more forces to protect them on the route to Goliad. At about 1 o'clock on the morning of the 12th the express reached Goliad and Colonel Fannin dispatched Lieut.-Col. Ward with about 720 men to their assistance. I volunteered as a member of the party. We reached the mission about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, a distance of about 27 miles, finding our friends and loved ones safe.

"We had a skirmish with the enemy that evening, driving them off. This, however, was mere sport as compared with what followed the next day. The following morning a party of about 100 men went out to hunt the enemy. I was in command of Captain King's men and our party consisted of 28 men. The remainder of the men under the command of Lieut.-Col. Ward went in another direction. The division of forces was due to a dispute as to priority between Captain King and Lieut.-Col. Ward.

"After marching for several hours without seeing anything of the enemy, visiting several ranch houses that were deserted, about noon we came within sight of the mission, where to our surprise we discovered the whole of Urrea's division of 1,500 men in possession of the town. The moment we saw the enemy we were discovered by them, and a party of horsemen numbering upwards of 100 men galloped to cut off our retreat to a piece of woods about 600 yards away toward which we were hastening.

"When we reached there we found our number reduced to 22 men by the desertion of six. We had time before being attacked to choose a good fighting position and for each man to have his station assigned to him, which was maintained throughout an engagement of about one-half hour, when the enemy retreated with about 20 killed and a large number wounded.

"After an interval of about one hour more we were attacked again by about 200 of the enemy in two parties. They opened a cross-fire upon us. We still maintained our ground and after about an hour's hard

fighting compelled them to retreat. One of our party was killed within three feet of me and four were wounded. The number of the enemy killed and wounded was very large. Toward night we were attacked a third time from the direction of the river.

"Captain King then directed us to lie close, protecting ourselves as much as possible by the woods, telling us not to fire again. He said we must hold ourselves for an expected attack from our side of the river, which, however, did not take place. The enemy, after wasting all their powder and ball without doing us personal injury, went away.

"When night came on it was very dark. Not a star was to be seen. We crossed the river at the battle ground, where it was not considered fordable, the water reaching our chins. There was a ford just below and another just above us, but we expected the enemy would guard them. The banks were so steep we had to assist each other in the ascent. The wounded accompanied us, suffering much pain.

"We wandered about all night, trying to reach Goliad, but when day dawned on the 14th we found ourselves only about three miles from the mission, having lost our way. We hurried on about two miles farther, when we were attacked by a party of Mexicans and were compelled to surrender, our guns being wet and we having no chance to retreat. We were marched back to the mission, tied two by two, the rope at the same time connecting all together. We were then marched about one mile where a body of the enemy was lined up to receive us.

"We also found a few of our friends who had been picked up, one by one, making a total of 33 men. The soldiers loaded their guns to shoot us, but there being two Germans among the prisoners, the execution was postponed at the request of a colonel in the Mexican army who was a German by birth.

"Our treatment during the next 24 hours was most brutal and barbarous. After defending the church from several attacks

made upon it and killing 50 or 60 of the enemy, Lieut.-Col. Ward made his retreat at night. The enemy had for hours fired a piece of artillery at the church, 17 bullets penetrating the roof. The walls were too strong to be battered down.

"Several families besides mine were there, but none were injured. The two Germans and myself were the only survivors of 33 men and one of the Germans died in a short time from the effects of his wounds. The rest of our party was barbarously shot, stripped naked and left on the prairie about a mile from the Mission."

In later years a marble shaft was erected to the memory of Captain Aaron B. King and 27 of his brave men on the public

July, 1829, by both "empresarios" going to New York and chartering a brig and schooner, and in September of the same year they started the voyage with about 100 families, taking most of them at their own expense. They arrived at the port of Aransas and when they reached the mission they stopped for provisions, that being the most convenient place to obtain supplies.

A few days after their arrival they were visited by a tribe of Indians called Lippans. The chief demanded presents from McMullin, who refused to give them. McMullin ordered Captain Kelly, one of his men who had organized the men into a company of civil militia, to fire the cannon. When the Indians heard the noise of the



James McGloin home, built in 1855. He died here in 1856. This was the first house built in San Patricio and is the only home of an empresario standing today.

square in Refugio by the State of Texas, and the names of the gallant men who sacrificed their lives in the cause of freedom were inscribed on the shaft.

SAN PATRICIO COUNTY

THE COUNTY to the south, San Patricio, was colonized by McMullin and McGloin. The charter was granted them by the government of Coahuilla and Texas on August 18, 1828, on condition the land would be settled by Europeans and North Americans.

The first expedition was commenced in

shooting cannon they left, the chief saying they had to find a good camping place for the night.

In July, 1830, a company of the colony, with McGloin as their leader, prepared to explore the country on the Nueces river, taking with him the cannon for his defense. The second day after their arrival at their new location a company of about 50 or more Comanche Indians came. Although they seemed friendly, the settlers took every precaution to prevent an attack.

On observing their cautiousness, the chief told McGloin they were friendly to all

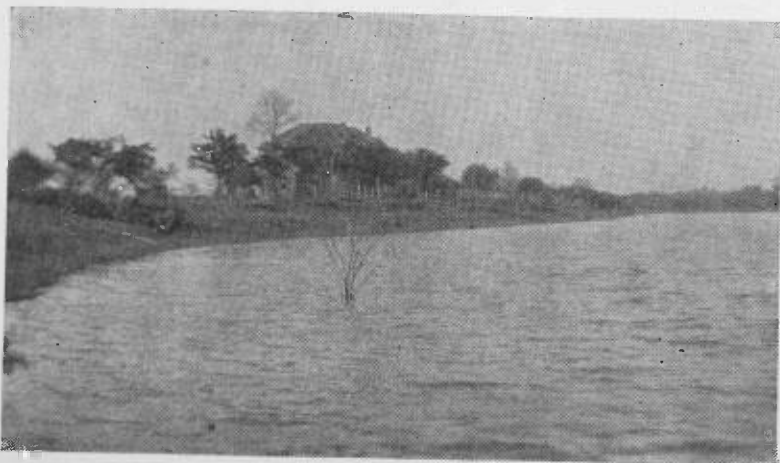
whites and that they were in search of another tribe called Casancuasos, who were enemies of the Comanches.

At 10 o'clock the same night five of the Indian scouts came into camp with the word that they had found the enemy, and in less than 10 minutes every Indian was on his horse ready for the long ride, which was about 40 miles. They attacked the enemy about daylight, killing two men and taking all their horses.

Some of the settlers became dissatisfied with the country "as it was a continual warfare," and returned to the United States,

him have the cannon a few days to exercise his men. He promised to return it within a few days.

McGloin refused to lend the cannon, stating it was his private property and that he had purchased it for the purpose of protecting his family from savages and any other enemies that might attempt to molest them. Upon receiving this answer the Mexican officers decided to send a company of men to take the cannon, and also the owner. The men were instructed to lash McGloin for refusing to let the Mexicans have the gun. However, one of the Mexi-



ROUND LAKE AS IT APPEARS TODAY

In the distance is the old Robert Dougherty home, which has been thoroughly reconditioned in recent years. It was in this building that Robert Dougherty, early day Texas educator, established St. Paul's Academy, after first founding Hidalgo Seminary for Boys in Corpus Christi. Round Lake and the Dougherty home are prominently connected with the early history of Southwest Texas.

while the rest moved to the Nueces and called it the town of San Patricio.

When the news came of the capture of Goliad by the Texans on October 10 (some Mexican officers who had made their escape brought the word) it was learned that the Texans were coming to take the garrison of Lipantitlan. The Mexican commander, in company with those from Goliad, held a counsel to determine the best means of defense. They decided "as a pretense" to send to McGloin at San Patricio for the piece of cannon, and a note was sent the following morning from the commander to James McGloin, requesting him to let

can officers said he would go to the Ayuntamiento of San Patricio (meaning all the people) and get them to take the cannon from McGloin, which was done. The gun was taken to the Mexican garrison.

The Mexican officers, with about 80 men, were out hunting when the Texans arrived from Goliad and found the garrison manned with only 30 men, principally "rancheros." On arrival of the Texans the fort was surrendered without firing of a gun.

The commander, on hearing of the surrender, was determined to retake it, even at the cost of his life. The Texans prepared to burn the garrison. They started to cross

WAS PROMINENT EARLY DAY TEXAS
EDUCATOR

the river, which was only a short distance away, taking McGloin's cannon and another piece of cannon, several muskets and a great deal of ammunition. When part of the men had crossed the river they heard the enemy coming, giving Indian yells as they advanced. The Mexicans were repulsed by the fire of the riflemen, however, and Lieut. D. Marselino, one of the bravest Mexicans in the army, was killed and about 10 were wounded. The damage to the Texans was the loss of three fingers, which were shot from William Bracken's hand.

During the skirmish a heavy rain fell, making it impossible for the Texans to carry their weapons of defense. They threw the cannon, muskets, and ammunition into the river, marching or "trudging" on in the mud to the town of San Patricio for a few days, where they were received with great joy by their friends and loved ones.

The portion of the country which now comprises Live Oak was settled by an exceptionally fine type of people—law-abiding and honest; people who came from eastern countries or states to make a home for themselves and their families.

They lived and endured the hardships of a frontier life, and during all those strenuous times these early settlers maintained their integrity, kept faith with their neighbors, and strangers always found a welcome in their homes.

When a traveler stopped for a night's lodging at a ranch home he was given plenty to eat and a comfortable place to sleep. His team was fed and cared for. Next morning the traveler's grub box was replenished with food for the remainder of the journey. In the event he was short of funds, oftentimes a few dollars was given him, which was more often paid back than not.

There was no building material except pickets and rocks, so the first houses of the county were made of these materials, with prairie grass used for roofing.

ROBERT DOUGHERTY was a native of Derrylaghan, Kilcar Parish, County Donegal, Ireland. He came to America in 1847, at about the age of 19 years.

From New York City (the place of landing) he went to Louisville, Kentucky, and to Bardstown, where he entered St. Mary's College, remaining in this school five years.

Upon coming to Texas this young man settled in Live Oak county, joined the Confederacy, and after the war taught school at Gussettville.

On November 14, 1864, Robert Dougherty was united in marriage to Miss Rachel Ann Sullivan of San Patricio county, who was a native of Pleasant Run, Hunterdon county, New Jersey, a daughter of John and Eliza (Schampe) Sullivan.

Mr. Dougherty founded Hidalgo Seminary for boys in Corpus Christi in 1867. In 1876 he founded St. Paul's Academy at Round Lake, in San Patricio county, and it became one of the foremost schools in the southwest in that day. He ranked among the best educated men of the state and was admired for his fine traits of character.

Mr. Dougherty died in Corpus Christi August 20, 1881. After his death the school at Round Lake was closed, but the home has been occupied continuously by some of the family and is known today as the Dougherty home at Round Lake.

Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Dougherty was left alone in the wilds of Texas with seven small children to rear, but, like many other pioneer mothers, she went about her task with sterling Christian character to rear and provide for her growing boys and girls, rearing them to manhood and womanhood without the loss of one, and all except one son are living today to bless the memory of their mother. They are, Catherine, now Mrs. Vincent Bluntzer, Corpus Christi; Jas. R. Dougherty, Beeville; Miss Lida Dougherty, San Patricio; Miss Mary Dougherty, San Patricio; Mrs. C. R. Nogueira, San Antonio; and Francis X. Dougherty, Lagarto, Live Oak county.

LIVE OAK COUNTY

LIVE OAK COUNTY joins Bee county on the west and has an area of 715,888 acres of land. By an act of the Texas Legislature, on February 2, 1856, it was carved from the northern portion of San Patricio county. A few weeks later the citizens had their first meeting under a large live oak tree at Gussettville, "an Irish settlement," on the east bank of the Nueces river.

At this meeting the people selected their officers. J. W. Mays was appointed sheriff, John Powell, chief justice or county judge; Henderson Waller, William Gamble, J. T. James and James B. Lewis, commissioners; Walter Merriman, tax collector; Joshua Hinton county treasurer, and A. T. Baker, clerk of the court. Samuel Cook was the first sheriff to be elected in the county. He held the office one term, from November, 1860, to February, 1863.

At this first meeting the question of locating the county seat was discussed and after considerable debating they agreed to meet on August 18, 1856, on the north bank of Sulphur creek and the east bank of the Nueces river. This location was on a hill where giant oaks stood, so the name of Oakville was suggested as the name for the county seat. The county was named Live Oak because the many live oak trees there were the most beautiful in this section of the country. This location was about nine miles above where the first meeting was held and the land on which the town of Oakville was built was donated by Thomas Wilson.

On January 14, 1857, a contract was let for the construction of a courthouse, 20x40 feet. The building had four doors and four windows and the furniture consisted of one table and 12 benches. Six of the benches had backs. The judge's chair was hand-made. Most of the carving was done with a pocketknife and the pieces were fastened together by the aid of wooden pegs. One table measured 3x6 feet.

The first Sunday school in the county was organized at Oakville. The pioneer settlers had only a few books, and among

them were some Bibles. When the Sunday school was organized each one was requested to bring such books as they had, even though it might have been a "Blue Back Speller," until the leaders were able to obtain Sunday school literature.

Cuero was the nearest trading point for this section of the country, and groceries were obtained there. Cotton and wool, also, were purchased and hauled home, where the products were spun into cloth and thread and then made into clothing by hand for the people. Often this work was done by candle light.

A wagon road extending from Brownsville to San Antonio ran through this country, crossing the Nueces river on a natural rock bridge about two miles above the present town of Oakville. Santa Anna came over this road and crossed his men over this bridge on his way to the battle of the Alamo.

Mexican ox carts drawn by six or eight yoke of oxen in caravans of 40 or 50 carts freighted over this road from Mexico to San Antonio, bringing coffee, pelonce sugar and other supplies from that tropical climate. These freighters carried their money in wide belts, which they opened at one end to pour money into, then strapped it back around their waists for safety.

Jim Drury carried the first United States mail on horseback from Corpus Christi to San Antonio through Live Oak county over this old wagon road. He, too, carried the money in a belt. He stopped at appointed places on the way to change horses.

On one occasion, when word came that Cortez and his army were coming through the country, the citizens of the community around where Dinero is now located came together for safety at the ranch home of Bob Johnson, Sr., on the east side of the Nueces river. These citizens comprised the families of Grandpa Shipp, Putman Shipp, Matt Givens, Grandpa Dodson, Sam McWhorter, George Wright, Sam Cook, Sr., and Henry Wright. Also three boys, Ed, Jim and Bill Crow. Calvin Wright and family were the only ones in the community who stayed at their home. These

families remained together at this home for a week, during the time a severe snow storm came, causing much suffering from cold. Their food supply ran low, which added materially to their hardships.

Those early settlers brought fine horses, some of racing blood, and for a time horse racing was about the only amusement for



DR. CHARLES H. REAGAN

Son of G. P. Reagan, an early day physician of Live Oak County

the men—except the duty of keeping a “lookout” for the Redskins. Often this “amusement” was more work than play, however.

G. P. Reagan was one of the first doctors of Live Oak county. He located there when a young man, working as a cowboy on a ranch during his vacation and going back to college during the school term.

After completing his medical course he returned to his home county and took up the practice of his chosen profession. He traveled over the country on horseback to administer to the sick.

This was in the days when fever powders “and the like” were placed in small papers and neatly folded. Later when the capsules came into use Dr. Reagan was called to see a sick woman. He left some fever powders in capsules. On his return the

lady asked him to please leave the powders in papers, as it was very difficult to get the medicine out of those “little glass bottles” when time came to take it. Dr. Reagan told her to swallow “glass bottle and all,” explaining that this was the new way of taking medicine.

Mrs. Reagan often went with her husband as nurse, riding behind him on his horse. He was surgeon of his company in the army and was moved to near the Rio Grande river. One night some Indians took most of the company’s horses. The soldiers followed the Indians into Mexico and discovered that the Redskins had killed and eaten some of the horses. The soldiers gave up the chase and returned to camp.

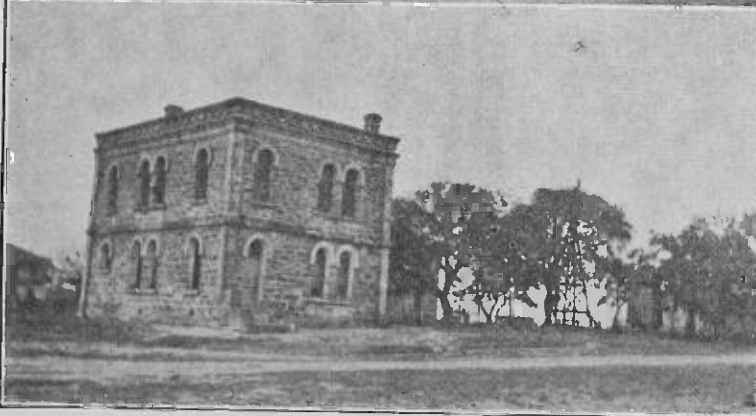
The first cotton gin in Live Oak county was owned and operated by Elisia and



MISS PATTIE REAGAN

Daughter of Dr. and Mrs. G. P. Reagan, was a public school teacher, and served for a period as Bee county school superintendent.

Pete Lawley. It was operated under the name of E. & P. Lawley Gin. These men brought the first cotton seed to the county and divided the supply among the people, who planted them, raised cotton, had the staple ginned, spun the lint into cloth, and made clothing.



TOP—The old brick courthouse building at Oakville as it appeared in 1938. It was used as a general meeting place for the community after its abandonment and until it was sold and razed in 1940.

CENTER—“Old Eagle House” in Oakville, so called from a brass eagle on the roof. This house was the home of the Andrew Tullis family during the school terms. The second-story was used for a Masonic Lodge.

BOTTOM—The old county jail at Oakville, built in late 1870's or early 1880's. It is located in the southeast corner of the public square and has recently been converted into an apartment house.

This gin was a true type of the first gins. The cotton was loaded from the wagon into baskets, carried up and fed into the ginstand by hand. Cotton seed were considered worthless and were used in the furnace as fuel with which to run the gins.

Oakville was a prosperous town for a number of years, with a dozen or more stores, two hotels, livery stable, saloons and everything that went to make a town in those days.

After the railroad was built through this county from San Antonio to the Rio Grande Valley the citizens held an election on January 18, 1919, and decided to move the county seat to George West on the railroad.

The Mexican name for Oakville is "Pueñta Puidra" and many of the older Mexicans of the county call the town by that name today.

The town of Oakville still stands, and the people maintain the same hospitality for which the community was famous in the long ago, with good schools, churches and a fine citizenship.

FOUGHT IN BATTLE AGAINST INDIANS IN
DECEMBER 1872

ANDREW M. TULLIS married a daughter of Charles O. Edwards. Both families were among the first permanent settlers in Live Oak county.

They, too, had the spirit of adventure, and greatly aided in the development of the county.

Mrs. Tullis' father, Mr. Edwards, fought under General Sam Houston in the war of 1836, just before the battle of San Jacinto.

Andrew Tullis was a member of a band of white men, who, in December 1872, won what was believed to be the last battle in Texas with Indians.

Young Andrew Tullis, living about 14 miles west of the then famous cowtown of Oakville, buckled on his pistol and knife one morning and rode out alone, on a hog hunt. He had not gone far, when far out on a distant slope he sighted a large herd of horses, guarded by two men whom he took to be Mexicans. He rode in a gallop

towards them and had no difficulty in singling out several fine horses that belonged to his father. Calmly he started cutting them out of the herd.

The two men opened fire, and Tullis, not to be outdone, returned shot for shot, and only the long range prevented casualties. Suddenly he became aware he had only three cartridges left.

At this point there came into view over the brow of the hill, a band of savage Indians, with feathered head-dress streaming in the air and a gaudily painted shield on their left arms. Tullis turned and ran his horse but the best he could hope for was to reach a granjena bush in the distance for protection and there, if need be, make a last stand and sell his scalp for the price of one screeching Indian for each of his last three cartridges.

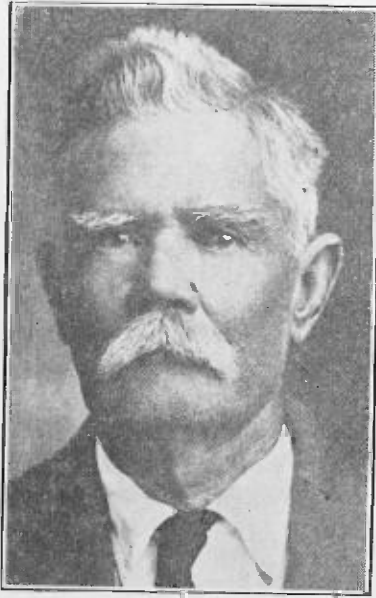
But the thundering hoofs and the shots and war hoops of his hell-bent pursuers sent his little paint pony, Foxy, at a pace his rider did not know was in him. They made the edge of the prairie and safety, far in the lead of the pursuing Indians.

On the Oakville road Mr. Tullis met Tim Cude, his brother-in-law, and together they hurried to the ranch on Spring Creek where the two young wives and the two babies were gathered up and taken to Oakville to the Rans Tullis home.

It was later learned the Indians had appeased their wrath at losing Tullis by halting at a ranch where they tortured a Mexican sheep herder, by dragging him by the neck with ropes tied to their running horses, then leaving him for dead.

Early the next morning a dozen men under the leadership of Rans Tullis, father of Andrew, left Oakville bent on revenge and the recovery of the stolen horses. Although a light snowfall had dimmed the trail, they picked it up about noon and followed it until nightfall before camping.

In the saddle at dawn the next morning, they rode straight ahead over the line into McMullen county. At sunup a thread of smoke from the bed of Turkey Creek revealed some sort of a camp. The approach was silent and deadly swift. The Indians



MR. AND MRS. ANDREW TULLIS

were caught lolling about their camp at breakfast, with no guards posted. The surprise was complete. The exact number of Indians was not known, but only one was seen to escape. The battle lasted only a few minutes, and at the conclusion, after putting up a fight that won the admiration of the white men by reason of their gameness and courage, every Indian in the camp was dead. Among them was a squaw. One white man, Sebastine Bell, was wounded, an arrow striking him in the mouth, which cost him a front tooth.

Turkey Creek, on which the battle was fought, is now known as Hill Creek. It is midway between the old Encino ranch and the Nueces river on what is now part of the Shiner ranch. A short distance to the southeast is San Cajo Mountain, and into one of its caves the bones of the slain warriors later were placed. Still later the bones were removed, supposedly by members of their tribe.

The tribe was never identified but they spoke some Spanish and it was presumed they were from Mexico.

The following list of the men, given by Andrew Tullis, took part in this battle: Rans Tullis and two sons, Andrew and Woodie; Tim Cude, Caleb Coker, Bob

Nations, Pleas Waller, John Wilson, John Edwards, Cullen Anders, Sebastine Bell, Sam Nations, and Tobe Odom.

KARNES COUNTY

KARNES COUNTY was organized by virtue of an act of the Texas legislature on February 4, 1854. The area of this county is 1,004 square miles. Helena was the original county seat. It was a thriving town a short distance east of the present county seat, Karnes City. After the S. A. & A. P. railroad came through in 1884 from San Antonio to the coast the county seat was moved to Karnes City.

In 1878-79 the population of the county was around 4,000 and consisted of about 3,000 Americans, 50 Germans, 800 Polanders and something like 150 negroes. These people were very moral, peaceful and law-abiding, attending strictly "as a general thing" to the worship of God and the proper education and training of their children.

Karnes county was named for Henry Karnes, who was a native of Tennessee. Early in life he attached himself to a company of trappers on the Arkansas frontier. The company disbanded on the head of Red river. Karnes and three companions cross-

ed the country to the Trinity river, where the Indians stole their horses. The men constructed a canoe and traveled down stream to Robbin's Ferry. From there Karnes crossed over to the Brazos and for some time found employment as an overseer on the Groce plantation.

He responded to the first call for volunteers at the outbreak of the revolution in 1835 and distinguished himself in the taking of the city of San Antonio. Karnes seized a crowbar, dashed forward and dug a hole through a stone wall into a house for a new and advanced position.

Karnes proved one of the best cavalry scouts and spies. He also commanded a company of cavalry at San Jacinto. After the battle he went to Matamoros to effect an exchange of the prisoners and was him-

self thrown into prison. However, he soon made his escape.

In 1837 Karnes was an Indian agent and in 1838-39 he was in the ranger service. In 1839 he sustained a severe wound while engaged in a single combat with an Indian chief. At one time he was taken prisoner and the savages attempted to wash his red hair until it would become white. Karnes died in San Antonio in 1840 from the effects of a wound he had received the previous year.

Captain Karnes was uneducated and it is even doubtful that he could spell his own name, which in early documents is "variously spelled." He was cool, reticent, watchful, unafraid of hardships and a stranger to the sensation of fear. . . . One of a class of men to whom Texas owes a lasting debt of gratitude.



IN MEMORY

IT IS with sadness and a broken heart that I write this last page in my humble book. My dear husband and mate of 41 years has just departed to the Great Beyond. He was a help and inspiration to me in collecting some of this material, which meant a lot of work as well as pleasure. My husband was a son of pioneer parents and remembered many things they told him in his youth about this frontier land. He wanted to see the book finished and printed, and now that he has been taken from us, I wish to dedicate this page to a devoted husband, a kind and loving father and a loyal Christian citizen—one who never allowed anything to influence his desire to do what he believed to be right. Soon we'll join him in that Home Above, and may we, too, be ready.

—HIS LOVING WIFE.

I want to sincerely thank each one who so kindly gave me assistance in any way, in collecting this early county history, for without the many contributions, both verbal and old manuscripts, as well as the many pictures, I could not have accomplished the work.

In compiling this history there was no attempt at fine writings, and if the style is plain and earnest, so was the experience of the early settlers.

—THE AUTHOR.