

(Source:) Domestic Correspondence Archives, Texas State Library.

Even before Houston County was created as a county and Crockett designated as its county seat, there was some post-offices and a mail service in the territory that is now known as Houston County. The first of these was known as Aldrich in 1836, before the organization of the county and the post-office records show that Collin Aldrich was postmaster. This post-office later became known as Mustang Prairie, for we find from the records that in 1840 Mustang Prairie was named as a post-office, but no name of the postmaster was given. However, in 1843, Mustang Prairie named as a post-office and George Hallmark as postmaster. This George Hallmark was the ancestor of all the Hallmarks in Houston County.

In 1843 Alabama is listed as a post-office in Houston County and James M. Caldwell was postmaster. In 1840 Crockett is named as a post-office but no one is named postmaster. In 1843 Thomas P. Collins appears on the record to have been the postmaster. In 1838 Randolph, in Houston County, is named as a post-office with Nathan as postmaster. If there were other post-offices in that early day the author is unable to find any record of them.

OFFICERS

The first county officers of Houston County, probably elected or chosen in September, 1837, were Collin Aldrich, Chief Justice; James Madden, sheriff; Stephen White, clerk of the district court; Jacob Allbright, county clerk; John Grigsby, John Gregg, Elijah Gossett and John Box were chosen as justices of the peace, but it is probable that they did not serve.

Later officers selected January 1, 1839, were S. E. Kennedy, William Dillard and R. W. Box, justices of the peace. Martin A. Walker was chosen as sheriff; John H. Kirchoffer was president of the Board of Land Commissioners of Houston County, and Elijah Gossett and John Wortham were associate land commissioners for the county. Samuel G. Wells was clerk of the Board of Land Commissioners and George Aldrich, County Surveyor. On January 23, 1839 P. O. Lumpkin was chosen chief justice for Houston County, and was commissioned on January 25, 1839, but promptly resigned. After his resignation, on

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March 12, 1839, John H. Kirchoffer was chosen and commissioned as chief justice of Houston County and resigned in June 1839. On February 4, 1839, G. W. Browning, C. T. McKenzie and R. R. Russell were chosen as justices of the peace. On June 28, 1839, John Collins was chosen and commissioned as chief justice of Houston County. On June 22, Mobley Rhone and Stephen White were chosen as justices of the peace on Beat No. 4, and were Commissioned on July 4, 1839. On June 22, 1839, A. T. Hallmark was constable for some unnamed precinct in Houston County.

On February 3, 1840, John Collins was chosen Chief Justice and resigned on January 24, 1841. On February 4, 1840, Andrew E. Gossett was commissioned as sheriff of Houston County, having been elected on September 14, 1839. On February 4, 1840, Waller Dickerson was commissioned as district clerk of Houston County, having been elected September 14, 1839. On February 4, 1839 Edley T. Powell and John Pettitt were chosen justices of the peace for Beat No. 9, and held the same until January 8, 1842. On February 12, 1842, Elijah Gossett was again elected chief justice of Houston County. On February 4, 1840 Stillwell Box was elected justice of the peace for the Crockett district. On February 3, 1840, Barton Clark and Leonard Williams were appointed commissioners to inspect the land office in Houston County. On April 18, 1840, John S. Martin was elected sheriff of Houston County, and Eli Meade at the same time was elected clerk of the district court. At the same election William S. McDonald was elected justice of the peace for the first precinct. On February 19, 1841, Jowell Clapp and W. D. Longstreet were commissioned justices of the peace for beat No. 3, having been elected on October 24, 1840. On February 13, 1841, T. D. Tompkins and G. G. Alford were commissioned justices of the peace for Beat No. 5, having been elected November 7, 1840. On February 13, 1841 Y. G. Dollahite and W. M. Johnson were commissioned justices of the peace of Beat No. 4 of Houston County, having been elected Nov. 7, 1840. On February 13, 1841, George Hallmark and W. Hallmark were commissioned justices of the peace for beat No. 2 of Houston County having been elected on November 14, 1840. On February 13, 1841, Cyrus H. Randolph was commissioned as justice of the peace of Beat No. 1, having been elected December 21, 1840. On April 26, 1841, George Aldrich was commissioned as county surveyor, having been elected on September 7, 1840.

On October 6, 1841, George H. Prewitt, was commissioned as justice of the peace, Beat No. 3, having been elected September

6, 1841. On October 27, 1841, Stephen H. Hatten and Nathaniel D. Acock were commissioned justices of the peace for Beat No. 10, having been elected September 18, 1841. On December 25, 1841 Lodovik E. Downs was elected district clerk of Houston County. On September 5, 1842, George Aldrich was elected County Surveyor of Houston County and was commissioned on April 11, 1843. On September 24, 1842, Samuel G. Wells was elected justice of the peace of Precinct No. 6, Houston County; He was commissioned April 11, 1843 and resigned March 18, 1844. On December 24, 1842 George W. Grant was elected justice of the peace of Precinct No. 3 of Houston County and was commissioned April 11, 1843. On December 24, 1842, David Barrett and G. G. Alford were elected justices of the peace, Precinct No. 5 of Houston County and were commissioned on April 11, 1843. On February 6, 1843, Joseph P. Burnett was elected sheriff of Houston County and was commissioned April 11, 1843. On February 6, 1843, Cyrus H. Randolph was elected coroner of Houston County and was commissioned April 11, 1843. On February 4, 1843 Turner S. Parker was elected justice of the peace, Precinct No. 7 of Houston County and was commissioned on April 11, 1843.

On February 18, 1843 George Luster was elected justice of the peace, Precinct No. 1, Houston County, and was commissioned April 11, 1843, and resigned February 7, 1844. On March 4, 1843 William M. Johnson was elected Justice of the Peace for Precinct No. 4 of Houston County; was commissioned on April 26, 1843 and resigned on January 13, 1844. On March 4, 1843 William Z. McLane was elected justice of the peace of Precinct No. 4, and was commissioned April 26, 1843. On March 18, 1843 Christopher Ellis was elected justice of the peace of Precinct No. 10, and was commissioned April 16, 1843. On April 8, 1843 S. E. Kennedy and James J. Thomas were elected justices of the peace, Precinct No. 8, Houston County, and were commissioned April 26, 1843. On April 8, 1843 James R. Bracken was elected justice of the peace for Precinct No. 9, and was commissioned April 26, 1843. On May 20, 1843, Jacob Allbright was elected justice of the peace, Precinct No. 3, and commissioned July 31, 1843. On November 13, 1843, Waller Dickerson was elected county surveyor of Houston County and commissioned on December 4, 1843.

On November 13, 1843, Cyrus H. Randolph was elected chief justice of Houston County and commissioned December 4, 1843. On December 23, 1843, William Lane was elected justice of the peace Precinct No. 1, commissioned December 29, 1843. His term expired and he was re-elected. On December 23, 1843,

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F. D. Bodenhamer was elected justice of the peace, Precinct No. 8, and commissioned on December 29, 1843. On January 1, 1844, George W. Grant and George G. Alford were elected as associate justices for Houston County. On January 20, 1844, H. W. Neville and Alexander C. Thornberg were elected justices of the peace, Precinct No. 10 and commissioned February 1, 1844. On February 17, 1844, Horatio Nelson was elected justice of the peace Precinct No. 1, and commissioned March 8, 1844. On March 18, 1844, Clinton A. Rice was elected justice of the peace, Precinct No. 4 and commissioned April 6, 1844. On March 30, 1844, Richard R. Powers was elected justice of the peace, Precinct No. 6, and commissioned April 6, 1844. On May 16, 1844, John Blair was commissioned as assessor of taxes and on May 14, was appointed county treasurer. On September 21, 1844, Samuel G. Well was appointed justice of the peace and commissioned October 31, 1844. On December 24, 1844, Albert G. Barnett and Henry W. Ward were elected justice of the peace for Precinct No. 5 and were commissioned February 17, 1845. On December 24, 1844, Robert W. Caldwell was elected justice of the peace for Precinct No. 3, and commissioned February 17, 1845. On December 30, 1844, R. G. Green was elected justice of the peace Precinct No. 1 and commissioned February 17, 1845. On January 6, 1845, Thomas P. Collins was elected county treasurer and commissioned on January 21, 1845. On February 3, 1845 Joseph P. Burnett was elected sheriff and commissioned November 22, 1845. On February 3, 1845, James R. Bracken was elected coroner and commissioned on November 22, 1845. On February 3, 1845, George Hallmark, Sr. was elected justice of the peace, Precinct No. 2, and commissioned February 27, 1845. On June 4, 1845, John Blair was elected justice of the peace, Precinct No. 10, and commissioned July 4, 1845. On June 4, 1845 George H. Prewitt was elected justice of the peace, Precinct No. 3 and commissioned July 4, 1845. On October 4, 1845, James H. Gillespie was elected County Clerk of Houston County and commissioned December 17, 1845. On November 13, 1845, Waller Dickerson was elected county surveyor of Houston County. On January 7, 1846, William Lane was elected justice of the peace, Precinct No. 1 and commissioned February 4, 1846.

REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

In the senate, Isaac W. Burton served in the Third and Fourth Congresses as senator; Isaac Parker of Houston County,

served as senator in the Eighth and Ninth Congresses.

In the House of Representatives, Isaac Parker served in the Third, Fourth and Sixth Congresses. G. H. Harrison served in the Fifth Congress as representative. S. L. B. Jasper of Houston County, served in the Eighth Congress and W. T. Sadler of Houston County served in the Ninth Congress. W. T. Sadler at that time lived in what is now a part of Anderson County, but then a part of Houston County.

After January 1846, Texas was admitted to the Union as a State, and early representatives in the Congress of the United States will be given later.

OFFICERS

STATE SENATORS

After the admission of Texas into the Union, Houston County was placed in a district composed of Nacogdoches, Rusk and Houston Counties, and elected two senators.

Isaac Parker of Houston County and Joseph L. Hogg of Rusk County represented the district in the First Legislature covering the years 1846 and 1847.

In the Second Legislature David Gage and Isaac Parker represented the same district.

In the Third Legislature the District consisted of Houston, Anderson and Cherokee Counties and was represented by Benjamin Selman in 1850 and 1851.

In the Fourth Legislature the senatorial district consisted of Houston, Nacogdoches and Angelina Counties and Adolphus Sterne of Nacogdoches was the senator in 1852 and 1853.

In the Fifth Legislature the district consisted of Anderson and Houston Counties and was represented by Senator W. G. Jowers in 1854 and 1855.

In the Sixth Legislature, consisting of Anderson and Houston Counties, and in the Seventh Legislature consisting of the same counties, Wm. M. Taylor of Houston County was senator from 1856 to 1859, covering two terms.

During the Ninth Legislature the senatorial district consisted of Houston, Anderson and Trinity Counties, and John H. Burnett of Houston County served as senator during 1862 and 1863.

During the Tenth Legislature the district, being the same,