

The following appearing in said issue of The Crockett Printer, deserves a place in Ancient History:

"NEGROES TO HIRE.—Two or three likely negroes to hire. Apply to Jas. A. Corley." (This ad is accompanied by pictures of two negroes with hoes in their hands.)

The officers and teachers in our public schools will find considerable interest in the following, which appears in this issue of The Crockett Printer:

"NOTICE TO SCHOOL TEACHERS

"Attention is directed to the following order of the county court, under the late school law. Teachers in the county who expect a benefit from the school fund, must come forward and receive a certificate, from the school board appointed by the court, to entitle them to receive from said fund.

"The State of Texas, Houston County: County Court pertaining to roads, revenues, etc. May term. May 18, '58.

"Ordered by the Court, that L. W. Cooper, William M. Taylor and Oscar Dalton be, and they are hereby appointed school examiners for Houston County to examine all persons proposing to teach public schools within the limits thereof, and upon examination, if finding them qualified to discharge the duties as such, shall grant him or her a certificate stating the branches he or she is qualified to teach.

"A true copy of the minutes.

"Given under my hand and seal of office at Crockett, this 22nd day of May, A. D. 1858.

"(L. S.)

O. C. Aldrich, Clerk"

"Our Methodist bretheren will be interested in the following item:

"The last Methodist Episcopal (Eastern) Conference, which was held at Jefferson, Cass County, appointed upon the Crockett Circuit, the Rev. J. A. Scruggs and the Rev. W. C. Collins. The late pastor on this circuit, the Rev. Samuel Lynch, has been assigned to the Mount Enterprise Circuit. It will be seen that we are to have a double 'parson power' the coming year to plough up the hardened sinners in these dry diggens of the Lord's great cotton patch."

In this issue of The Crockett Printer, of date November 11, 1860, Dawson Moore & Chapman advertise that they have made "extensive arrangements for the manufacture of brick, and are

prepared to take contracts to do brick-laying, plastering and mason work."

E. Currie advertises that "the partnership theretofore existing between him and C. E. Ford, under the name of Currie & Ford, in the mill business is dissolved." Under date of April 4, 1860.

W. D. Hicks, professor of vocal and instrumental music advertises that he will "re-open his singing school for the winter at the Baptist Church."

In said issue of the Crockett Printer, William E. Moore advertises as attorney-at-law and land agent, office upstairs in the courthouse.

Groves M. Brazier advertises as attorney-at-law, office in the courthouse, in Col. Cooper's room.

Dr. A. J. Dawson advertises as an eclectic physician, having permanently located in Wigfall, Houston County, office at Mrs. Kennedy's.

Dr. W. H. Edwards announces that he has permanently located in Crockett and solicits a share of the public patronage, with office in the City Hotel.

Dr. J. W. Meredith announces that he has determined to make Crockett his home and offers his services to the public in the various branches of his profession, office upstairs in the house opposite Hall's Hotel.

Dr. W. L. McNeill, surgeon dentist, advertises that he has extended his regular circuit so as to embrace Crockett and will remain in Crockett during the September term of court. Office at Col. Long's Hotel.

The following advertisement may prove of interest to the many friends of early days of Judge R. N. Read:

"THE CROCKETT HOUSE

"The undersigned having recently become the proprietor of this well-known hotel, beg leave to say to the traveling public and everyone else that he intends to use every effort in his power to make it a first class No. 1 hotel.

"The table will always be furnished with the best the country affords.

"At the stable will always be found attentive hostlers to take charge of horses.

"As this will continue to be the State House, travelers will find it to their interest to put up at it.

"In addition the proprietor will keep a good supply of hacks.

"Horses and buggies to hire at all times, for the accommodation of those going off the stage route, in the country.

"Trusting that the old friends of the House will not forsake it and new ones give it a trial.—R. N. Read."

Dr. W. T. Taylor advertises as physician and practical dentist, office in Long's Hotel.

F. T. Sawyer advertises four-horse mail stages from Galveston to Crockett, and that Col. John Long is his agent at Crockett.

W. R. Smith advertises that he is the proprietor of the new stage route from Crockett to Palestine with fine four-horse coaches and careful drivers, leaves Crockett every Monday, Thursday and Saturday, and that Col. John Long is his agent at Crockett.

H. F. Craddock advertises Steam Mills, five miles East of Crockett, on Conner's Ferry road. Price of lumber \$1 per 100 feet cash; \$1.25 per 100 feet on credit, and will grind Wednesdays. He also advertises that he will grind wheat into the highest grade flour for one-sixth toll. He states his mill will saw 32-foot lumber if necessary.

Another advertisement is of Wortham's Steam Sawmill, five and a half miles Northwest of Crockett, near the Navarro Road. His prices are for cash: select \$1.25 per 100, sheeting 50 cents per 100. He also advertises that he has a grist mill for grinding corn, and that he will grind every Saturday.

W. J. Foster & Brother advertise their cabinet shop where they keep on hand a good assortment of furniture, consisting in part of wardrobes, bedsteads, lounges, safes, cribs and tables and state: "the ladies are particularly invited to call and examine our work."

"Coffins are made at shortest notice in any style desired."

John McConnell, general blacksmithing says: "Mac considers himself too well known to praise his own work or promptness."

S. Box & Brother advertising a blacksmithing business "East of Wright's ten-pin alley, on the Nacogdoches Road," and have set "Old Claiborne to work. Claib's work is too well known to need further commendation from us."

L. C. Richardson advertises that he is prepared to execute all orders for wagon making, repairing and all kinds of cabinet work. His shop is on the corner of Rusk and Nacogdoches streets.

J. M. Wingfield and J. F. Butts advertise a blacksmith business at Augusta.

T. W. Craddock announces to the public that he is prepared for carriage-making in all its branches. Also blacksmithing, harness-making, painting and trimming, and says that his shop is well known as "Craddock's Wheelright Shop."

The following personal item of the editor of the Crockett Printer, Oscar Dalton, sheds some light upon the controversy that resulted in his tragic death:—

"ATTACK NO. FIVE:—Another Champion in the Field: My attention has been called by a friend to an article published last week in a sheet I seldom notice, signed by one B. F. Davis. The object of the writer seems to be to impeach my evidence given at Palestine, in the case of the State against Hepperla, as well as to abuse me individually and generally for divers things I might do, as postmaster, or that I could do, would or should do in some past, present or future time.

"As far as my evidence as a witness at Palestine is concerned, the verdict of the jury is sufficient to show how twelve honest men regarded me. Then my conduct and management of the post-office has been represented and mis-represented as the department of my friends and foes, with a result quite satisfactory to me. I took and keep charge of the post-office at the request of two hundred and eighty-seven persons who signed a paper to that effect. It is well known that the profit or pay of the office is a mere nothing—at most, not equal to the expense.

"I have never been guilty of, or charged with a breach of trust or confidence reposed in me, and I do not believe that my character in this community, or any other in which I have lived can be injured by every waif that the tide of chance may drift in our midst. Therefore, I shall decline any further notice of those who wantonly, and without cause, make an attack upon me, unless I have reason to think they have some other object than mere notoriety in view.—Oscar Dalton."

The second newspaper to be published in Houston County was:

THE CROCKETT ARGUS

which began publication about the year 1857. The author has never seen a copy of this paper, and after diligent search has

failed to locate a copy of same. Having information that there was a newspaper published in Crockett in 1860, by a rival editor to The Crockett Printer, an extensive search was begun to learn the name of the paper, which has been completely lost so far as the author knows.

The first information we received was from the diary of J. M. Hall, in which he mentioned the fact that the proprietor of the Argus was indebted to him for office rent. With that simple clue, search was begun for further information about the paper, and it was learned that items from the Argus had been quoted in the Clarksville Standard. After much effort, some of these were obtained and will be of sufficient historic interest to be included here. The following reference to a unique method of advertising in The Crockett Argus is taken from the Clarksville Standard under date of October 30, 1858:—

“There are people who unwisely imagine that advertisements in a newspaper, are either not read at all, or only carelessly glanced at. Our experience gives us an impression exactly the opposite of this. In agricultural communities especially, the advertisements are all carefully conned (sic).

“This brings us to the point—that the Crockett Argus, are the best papers in the State, has an advantage over most of its conferees in possessing an advertising contributor, who adds interest to its columns and pays for the privilege. We append some of his emanations—such advertisers would be valuable to any country journal, if to be found generally.

“Nole me (or my property), Tangere, I implore you!

“THE STATE OF TEXAS

“County of Houston

“Be it known to all men (and the petticoats also) by these presents, that whereas certain persons, at the instigation of—I will not name the old rascal—are not having the fear of anything good before their eyes, have, in place of saying their prayers like good boys, concocted and put in circulation reports to this effect, viz: That I have been selling, alienating, enfoeffing and otherwise conveying my lands and hereditaments, and my colored bipeds, vulgarly yclept ‘niggers.’ Now, although I am a shade over twenty-one years of age; think I have a pretty good modicum or hard horse-sense; consider myself strictly compos mentis, as there has not been a writ of ‘de lunatico inquirendo’ instituted in the premises, yet I will acknowledge their authority and plead guilty. ‘I have done the deed,’ but will promise not

to do so pro temporat futuro, unless it suits me! Lest there should be any misconceptions, anxieties, tribulations or other bad feelings, impress on the minds of my good friends and self-constituted guardians, on my behalf, I conceive it my duty to apprise them that I have in my noddle for some time past some crude notions of perigrinations by ‘flood and field,’ and it is highly probable that I shall carry some of them into execution.

“Imprimis: I think of taking my daughter to Live Oak Seminary, in Washington County—a first rate school—and the principal is a genuine Presbyterian. But hush! not a word about the pig, for some of my hard-shell or methodist friends may be taxing me with sectarianism!—Again: In my cogitations and ratiocinations, I have concluded it to be my duty to accompany my wife on a visit to her mother (very old and infirm) in Tuscumbia, North Alabama in November proximo, but fully calculate on achieving the trip within twenty-five days, as business matters will imperiously demand my presence at home, for I am importing a bully stock of goods—you’d better believe it—and, as for prices, I will astonish the ‘natives.’

“As I have made clean breast of it, I beg you will not, during my absence, be harpies snort usis, fiery faces, or coram boguses issued against me—nor yet be taken out letters of administration on my estate, as has been done in our vicinity, for if my life and health be spared, I will come back to you like a bad six-pence! As one of my neighbors is reported to have said ‘I will stay with you until a certain hot place (which shall be nameless) will freeze over four feet thick! Like poor old Joel D. I was here first, and it will not be my fault if I am not here last.

“THOMAS P. COLLINS.

“N. B.—I was one of the ‘vagrants’ who voted for James H. Bell, for associate judge to the captain’s office and settle, or at least make a good showing. ‘Necessitus legem nullam habet.’

“THO. P. COLLINS.

“Crockett, Texas, April 17, 1858.”

“Request—Special and earnest.

All persons writing to me, would confer a superlative favor by addressing their letters thus, ‘General Collins,’ and this stretch of courtesy would cost them nothing, at least in a pecuniary point of view. I have never really ranked as high as a corporal yet the title, or prefix, of General is a very pleasing

handle to a man's name, particularly when traveling and it costs the donor nihil; my reasons for this request is there is a person named J. P. Collins residing in Crockett, and frequently newspapers and letters, although intended for me, but not plainly superscribed, fall into his hands and are opened.

"Now, although I am a married man, and nearly up to the notch of three score years, and do not of course, look for any love letters, billet-dous, or other such morceaux, nor is there anything treasonable in my correspondence, but it is somewhat unpleasant to have the cream taken off my papers and letters before they reach my hands, and I feel under a Himalaya of gratitude to all those acceding to my request.

THO. P. COLLINS."

"Crockett, Texas, May 1, 1858."

These are only a part of the writer's contributions, to be found in the Argus of the 16th.—Journalists sometimes go back to papers issued in revolutionary, or anti-revolutionary times, for quaint advertisements, tending to show the peculiarities of the people of those days. These are quite as amusing as any of the old researches that we have seen.

Under date of July 10, 1858, the Clarksville Standard has this to say about The Crockett Argus:

"We find on our table, the Crockett Argus, and the Indianola Courier, both but a few weeks old, and both journals of creditable appearance and well edited. We wish them success in the not unusually very profitable path of journalism."

During the year 1859 there was a warm political contest between Sam Houston and H. R. Runnels for the governorship of Texas. The Texas Republican, a paper published at Marshall, Texas, under date of September 10, 1859, published a list of Texas newspapers showing their support for the respective candidates. The Crockett Argus is listed as supporting Runnels for governor, and as surprising as it may seem, the Huntsville Item is also listed in the Runnels column. The Trinity Advocate and Tyler Reporter are also placed in the Runnels column while the Centerville Herald, the Nacogdoches Chronicle, the Henderson Era, the Rusk Enquirer, are placed in the Houston column. As a matter of history in that campaign, Sam Houston was successful, after having been defeated by Runnels in a former campaign.

Succeeding the Crockett Printer and the Crockett Argus, the next paper published in Crockett was

THE CROCKETT SENTINEL

This paper began publication about September, 1865. The following appears in an issue, under date of March 3, 1868:

"The Crockett Sentinel, A. D. Elam, editor; Leaverton & Hall, publishers. New series. Crockett, Houston County, Texas, March 3, 1868. Vol. III, No. 21."

The editor, A. D. Elam, married the oldest daughter of A. T. Monroe, Sara Jane Monroe, and later was elected a member of the Texas Legislature. He was an ardent Democrat while his father-in-law, A. T. Monroe, was a prominent member of the Republican party.

The publishers, Leaverton & Hall, were G. W. Leaverton, or Wash Leaverton, as he was generally known, and Charlie Hall, a brother of Mrs. John Shivers. The proprietors were A. D. Elam & Company. We do not know who constituted the members of the firm, except A. D. Elam. The terms of subscription were one copy, 12 months, \$2.50; one copy 6 months, \$1.50; one copy 4 months, \$1; single copies, 10c.

The rates for announcements of candidates were \$10 for State and district offices, and \$5 for county offices. U. S. currency taken at market rates.

The agents of the Sentinel were Z. B. John, Cochino Bayou; C. H. Davis, Shiloh; Kyle & Aldrich, Augusta; and Col. C. C. Taliaferro was requested to act as agent at Sumpter, in Trinity County.

The following significant statement is made in this issue of the Sentinel:

"To meet the stringency of the times and to extend the circulation of The Sentinel we will in future receive corn, pork, bacon, potatoes, eggs, chickens, or butter for subscription."

The following item reflects the labor situation at that time:

"In the State of Mississippi the best hands hire for from five to seven dollars currency per month, with three and a half pounds of meat and a peck of meal per week, the laborers furnishing their own families. This is quite as much as they are worth, although our farmers pay from twelve to fifteen dollars specie. This is ruinous, as has been clearly proven by the experience of the last three years. Notwithstanding the proofs the high prices for labor are maintained, and unless soon corrected the planting community will be universally bankrupted."

The following personal item relating to one of Crockett's most prominent citizens and his family, will be of interest not

only to the family of that citizen, but also to all the people of Crockett:

"PERSONAL—After an absence protracted over three months, of Capt. D. A. Nunn, lady and child, on a visit to friends in the State of Mississippi, they reached Crockett on Saturday last, all much improved in health by the trip. They met a warm greeting from their many friends on their return. The Captain will be on hand at our district court to attend to the interests of his clients. He represents affairs in a most unsatisfactory state in Mississippi. The people are despondent, taking no interest in politics, and of money, there is none. On the route home he noticed some improvements on farms going on, with an apparent desire on the part of freedmen to make a living. He thinks Texas far better off than any part of the country that he has seen."

When it is remembered that so many Crockett citizens and citizens of Houston County were members of Hood's Texas Brigade, including W. D. Pritchard, W. B. Wall, Gus Aldrich, Col. Aldrich, G. B. Lundy, W. J. Foster and many others, and that also included in this brigade was Russell Crawford Mitchell, the grandfather of Margaret Mitchell, who enlisted at Alto, Texas, the following item from this issue of the Crockett Sentinel will be a matter of interest to the present generation:

"PERSONAL—General John B. Hood was in town the past week. His health seemed quite good. On political subjects the general has but little to say,—but exhibits an evident feeling of despondency. And well may be, for never has the political horizon of any nation been so overspersed with lowering clouds of destruction as ours. The old ship of State has got among the breakers and if she does not go to pieces and become a complete wreck, the multitudes have not judgment."

The following advertisement will furnish news to the majority of the people of Crockett, who never knew that the dissolved firm ever existed:

"DISSOLUTION

"From and after this date the co-partnership heretofore existing between Murchison and Rainey, is this day by mutual consent dissolved and will be continued by Murchison & Arledge who will settle all claims with the late firm. Please call and settle up. We will pay the gold for cotton and hides. Crockett, Texas, Jan. 1, '68."

The Crockett Sentinel was fearless in dealing with violations

of the law. A killing had occurred in Crockett and the Sentinel gave the following straight-forward opinion of the matter:

"COLD-BLOODED HOMICIDE.

"On yesterday (Monday), about 4-1/2 o'clock p. m. our community was shocked by one of the most unmitigated and cold-blooded murders ever perpetrated in our midst. The life of Henry T. Driskill, an honest, whole-souled, hardworking clever gentleman was foully taken by a reckless wretch, named Ed. Wingate, a son of old Ned Wingate.

"Some three months since, Frank Wingate, a brother of the murderer was arrested on a charge of killing a negro by Maj. Reinhard the bureau agent of this county. On the representation of some of our citizens, Reinhard was induced to release Frank Wingate on bail. Old Ned Wingate becoming one of the sureties on the bond. This release was secured only that Frank Wingate might make an escape, which he did. Reinhard took summary action to recover the bond. An order was issued to Marshall McDaniel to seize upon the effects of old Ned Wingate, which, after calling to his aid proper assistance, Driskill being one of the party, the marshall proceeded to execute the order. And from that time he was spotted by the Wingate clan. Old Ned Wingate had threatened the lives of Maj. Reinhard, bureau agent; U. S. Marshall H. G. McDaniel, H. T. Driskill and E. L. Dorsett and there is no question but what with the third party, they came to town yesterday to execute that threat, and as the sequel proves too well, have accomplished their hellish purpose.

"Henry Driskill sleeps that last long sleep of death, while the foul fiend who ended his existence breathes in health and gloats over the blood he shed. His presence alone is a curse to our land and the honest indignation of the people should terminate his worthless existence and, if necessary, exterminate the party and thus vindicate itself from our rage and wrong.

"Mr. Driskill had been to the post-office and on returning, when about the saloon of M. Helms, some words passed between him and the murderer, he being on the opposite side of the street, and Driskill started across the street towards Wingate who threatened if he did not stop he would shoot him. Driskill, catching hold of both sides of his coat collar and opened it, told Wingate to shoot, that he had nothing. He was entirely unarmed and offered no resistance to Wingate, who as Driskill