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# BIOGRAPHIES

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## CAPTAIN ISAAC ADAIR

Captain Isaac Adair was born in 1823 and married Augusta Louise Smith, daughter of Captain John T. Smith about 1852. He died at Santa Fe, New Mexico while serving as Captain of a Company in the Confederate Army, on April 7th, 1862, at 4 P. M.

He held several important offices in Houston County during his life including the office of District Clerk for a short time.

A muster roll of his Company appears elsewhere in this history. He was survived by his widow, who later married James M. Porter. He was survived by two children, John Adair, who married Miss Alice Walsh, and Emma Adair, who married Alfred Brown.

All of these are now dead.

Altogether, he was a good citizen, a brave soldier and died a patriot in the service of his country.

## COL. EARLE ADAMS

Col. Adams was born in Edgefield District, South Carolina, on September 7, 1847, being the son of a Baptist minister, Rev. Thomas Adams, and with his parents went to Louisiana in 1853. He enlisted as a volunteer in the Confederate army at the age of 14 years and served four years under General Nathan B. Forest, the great cavalry leader, surrendering in Alabama at the close of the war. Col. Adams laid the foundation of a classical education in a select school maintained by the patronage of Louisiana planters at Clinton, of which a Dr. Dembinski, a Pole and graduate of the German University of Heidelberg, was the head. His advanced education academic and professional, was secured at Centenary College, then located at Jackson, Louisiana from which he obtained his Master's degree and at 20 years of age he married Miss Emma Miller, a daughter of a Lutheran minister, a Rev. J. J. Miller, and a niece of Rev. J. C. Miller, president of Centenary College. He was admitted to the bar in

1869 and practiced law for five years in Louisiana, coming to Crockett on January 14, 1875, where he has since made his home. For two years, 1878-80, he served as county attorney of Houston County, and for six years as district attorney of the third judicial district. He then retired from active politics and engaged in the private practice of his profession, and at his death was recognized throughout the length and breadth of Texas as one of the foremost lawyers, one almost without a peer in criminal practice. At the time of his death he was president of the Houston County Bar Association. Col. Adams united with the Baptist Church in early life, and in his more mature years was a very active member of that denomination.

Col. Adams was survived by his wife, who has since died; two daughters, Mrs. Emma Castleberg and Mrs. Denny Arledge and one son, Earle Adams, who has since died. His oldest son, Hon. Joe Adams, who was his law partner, preceded him in death. He is buried in Glenwood Cemetery, Crockett, Texas.

## THE ALDRICH FAMILY

### BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Armistead Albert Aldrich, the author of this history, was born in Crockett, Texas, on the tenth day of April, 1858, the son of Oliver Cromwell Aldrich and Eliza Jane (Masters) Aldrich, being the same day on which his father was first elected County Clerk of Houston County. The house in which he was born then occupied the site of the present Tenney Memorial Presbyterian Church. His first school was taught by Miss Margaret Hall, later Mrs. John S. Shivers, where he learned his alphabet. Later his teacher was Mrs. Jane Blair, the wife of Colonel John Blair, a veteran of the Mexican War. His next teacher was Mrs. Lucy Collins, who was his teacher in 1870.

In 1871, he was a student under Major John Spence, one of the noblest men who ever taught school. One year, 1874, he studied with George P. Miller. After that from 1875 to 1877, he was a student under Hon. W. B. Page, one of the ablest instructors who ever followed the profession of teaching. He finished his high school work under Mr. Page, and at his suggestion in 1877, attended the University of Virginia during the session of 1877-1878. He then began the study of law, in the well known offices of Nunn & Williams, and was admitted to the bar in 1883. His political life began as alderman of the City of Crockett, in

1890, and he is now the only surviving member of that city council. In 1892, he was elected County Judge of Houston County and held the office for two successive terms. In 1900, he was elected as Representative to the 27th Legislature and served one term only, not offering for a second term. He attended many State Democratic Conventions and was chosen Presidential Elector in 1936, and attended the second inauguration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

He is a member and elder of the Tenney Memorial Presbyterian Church, a life member of the Knights of Pythias, an honorary member of the board of directors of the Crockett Chamber of Commerce, a charter member of Crockett Lions Club, and was for nearly thirty years a member of the board of trustees of Austin College, who conferred on him the honorary degree of LL. D on May 31st 1937.

### ALBERT AUGUSTUS ALDRICH

The second son of Collin Aldrich, Sr. was born on Mustang Prairie about 1837 and spent his boyhood there, with but few school advantages. In 1860 he boarded with Tom Vaughan at Old Randolph and went to school to Judge S. M. Thompson. On July 4th he became a member of Currie's Company of Volunteers and marched away with that company on that day and reached Virginia in time to become a member of Company I of Hoods Brigade. He served for four full years in the Confederate army, and participated in the battles of Fredericksburg, and other hard fought battles including the battle of Gettysburg, where he was wounded and made a splendid record as a brave and fearless soldier. After the end of the war he returned to Crockett and engaged in the mercantile business for many years. About 1879 he married Miss Josephine Coleman, the daughter of Uncle Dan Coleman, soon afterwards they removed to Athens where his wife and their only child, a son named John died. He then returned to Crockett and for several years lived in the home of his brother Collin Aldrich, Jr. His last years were spent in the home of the A. A. Aldrich, where he died on March 18, 1917, at the age of eighty years. He is buried in the Old Crockett Cemetery by the side of his mother.

### COLLIN ALDRICH

Collin Aldrich was born in Menden, Massachusetts, on Sunday May 2nd, 1801, the son of George Aldrich, a soldier of the

War for Independence of the United States. He came to Texas in 1829 where his first son, Oliver Cromwell Aldrich, was born on January 5th, 1830 in what is now Red River County, near Clarksville. He removed to a place, then in Nacogdoches District, and now known as Houston County, where he located on the league of land, known as the Collin Aldrich League, and near the spot where his grave is situated. He was a volunteer in the army for Texas Independence, and Albert Sidney Johnston, Secretary of War in the days of the Republic, certified that "he fought bravely at the Battle of San Jacinto." His name appears on the San Jacinto Monument.

He had an active part in the creation and organization of Houston County on June 12th, 1837, and was elected the first Chief Justice of the County in September, 1837, which office he held until 1840. He married Mrs. Elizabeth Crownover, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Lawrence. He died in June 1842. He was survived by his widow who died in 1875, and the following children: Oliver Cromwell Aldrich, Albert Augustus Aldrich, Collin Aldrich and Ann Aldrich.

#### COLLIN ALDRICH, JR.

Collin Aldrich, Jr. was the third son of Collin and Elizabeth Aldrich, was born on Mustang Prairie, Houston County, 1840. He received his education in the country schools of Houston County and had scarcely reached his majority when he was mustered into the Confederate army on July 4th, 1860, at Old Randolph in Houston County, and marched off on that day as a member of Currie's Company and became a member of Hood's Brigade. He remained in the army until the end of the war and in 1865 returned to Crockett. In 1866, he married Bettie Kyle, a daughter of Matthew G. Kyle, of Augusta, and began business as a merchant at Augusta, with his father-in-law, under the name of Kyle & Aldrich. During his residence at Augusta his wife, Bettie, died leaving an only child, a son who was named Wace, a peculiar name, composed of the initials of his friends, who served as waiters at his wedding, Billy Wingfield, Gus Aldrich, John Collins and Dan Egbert. After the death of his first wife he married her sister, Julia Kyle, who survived him and they were the parents of three children, George, who died without having married, Jesse Kyle Aldrich, who married Ruby Godsey and Charm, who is the wife of B. L. Satterwhite, a prominent business man of Crockett.

#### OLIVER CROMWELL ALDRICH

Was born on the 5th day of January 1830, in the Mexican State of Coahuila and Texas, on Red River, near where the City of Clarksville now stands, the son of Collin Aldrich, and Elizabeth Aldrich. In that early day he had scant opportunity for an education, and attended country schools for a few months, but was self educated and by his own efforts acquired a fairly good education and became what could be called a well informed man. When a young man he clerked and kept books for A. T. Monroe, a leading merchant of Crockett, and in that way became an efficient business man. In 1855 he was chosen County Treasurer of Houston County and served in that capacity for only a short time. On the 5th day of January 1857, he married Miss Eliza Jane Masters, daughter of Henry Masters, in the old Double Log house, where Henry Masters lived, on Masters Hill, about three miles east of the courthouse in Crockett, now known as Campbell's Hill. On the 10th day of April 1858, he was elected County Clerk of Houston County for the first time and held the office until 1868, when he was removed by the Reconstruction Administration. In 1873, when the Democrats regained control of affairs in Texas, he was elected District and County Clerk, the offices having been combined and held that office until the offices were separated under the constitution of 1876, when he was elected County Clerk and held that office until 1886. He was for many years a member of Lothrop Masonic Lodge and also a member of Palestine Commandery of Royal Arch Masons. His wife preceded him in death in 1874, and he died on September 1889, at the age of fifty nine years, and is buried in the Old Crockett Cemetery. He left surviving him the following children: Armistead Albert Aldrich, Mary Aldrich, later the wife of A. P. Moore, of Tyler, Collin Isaac Aldrich, Rush Oliver Aldrich, Elizabeth Aldrich, who married C. M. Newton, and Robert Lee Aldrich.

#### JACOB ALLBRIGHT

This pioneer was here before Houston County was erected or organized. In fact he was one of the organizers and was elected the first County Clerk of the county in September 1837 and held the office for more than one term. He later filled the offices of Notary Public and tax assessor and collector. His father, John Allbright, was also a pioneer and brought a large family with him to Texas in the early thirties. His father met a tragic death,

soon after his arrival in Texas, at the hands of the Indians. Jacob Allbright was one of ten children of John Allbright, Sr. His brothers were:—Edward Allbright, William Allbright, Solomon Allbright and John Allbright, Jr. His sisters were: Sarah Strand, Margaret Ware, Mary Long, Nancy Long and Catherine Kirchoffer.

Jacob Allbright settled on a bluff on the East bank of the Trinity River and established a town there known as Alabama. This town became the business center of a thriving population and a commercial business. He established and conducted a ferry and did a warehouse and commercial business there. Trinity College was located there and he was one of the trustees, composed of the most notable pioneers of that day. The history of Trinity College is given elsewhere in this history. Jacob Allbright lived and died at Alabama and his grave is in sight of his old home.

#### MURDOCK McINTOSH BAKER

Murdock McIntosh Baker was born April 1st, 1838 in McNairy County, Tennessee near the town of Purdy. His parents were Archibald Baker and Mary Murchison Baker who had emigrated to Tennessee from Moore County, North Carolina. His father died when he was eight years old, leaving him the mainstay of the family consisting of his mother, his sister and himself. In 1852 when he was fourteen years old, the family came to Texas, overland from their home to Memphis, down the Mississippi by boat to a point below Natchez, thence overland to Crockett bringing their livestock, wagons and household goods with them and settled on a small farm three miles northwest from Crockett near Cook's mountain. Three years later he bought a farm 3½ miles north from Crockett on the Grapeland road where he made his home the rest of his life. He joined the 13th Texas cavalry soon after the beginning of the War Between the States, furnishing his own horse and saddle, and trained with the regiment for a few months on Mustang Prairie before leaving for the front. Soon afterward the cavalry regiment against the North regarding the War but he never forgot he being assigned to Capt. John Smith's company in Col. John H. Burnett's regiment, Walker's brigade.

At the close of the war he came home and again engaged in farming. In the later years of his life he felt little if any resentment against the North regarding the war but he never forgot or forgave the carpet baggers and their acts in the reconstruction period following the War.

He joined the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in his early boyhood and was a consistent member as long as he lived and often walked from his home to Crockett to attend Sunday school and church services in the little brick church located where Miss Amelia Collins' home now stands. He married Miss Mittie Royall, of Athens, Texas, Feb. 8th, 1868 to which union seven children were born. He built and operated for many years a cotton gin and grist mill on his farm and it was always his practice to never charge a widow for ginning her cotton or grinding her corn. He served Houston County as County Treasurer for six or seven terms during the 1880s and 1890s. His wife died Oct. 26th, 1882 and in Sept. 1885 he married Mrs. Minnie Harris Murchison to which union two children were born. He died Feb. 6th, 1906 survived by the widow and nine children, as follows:

The first born, Dick Baker, who married a daughter of Judge, E. Winfree, and is now dead; Arch Baker, the President of the First National Bank of Crockett, is still living in Crockett; John F. Baker, who married Blanche, a daughter of Hon. F. H. Bayne, and is now dead; Tucker Baker, who married Miss Hattie Crook, and is still living; Rev. Henry Baker, a distinguished minister of the Presbyterian Church, is now dead; Lucy May, who married George H. Denny, a prominent citizen of Crockett, is still living in Crockett; Mittie, who married Rev. O. C. Payne and is now dead; Alwilda, who married Carter Anderson and is still living and Harry Baker, who still survives. Altogether they were a distinguished family.

#### DOCTOR JAMES G. BARBEE

Mrs. Fannie Mae Barbee Hughes of Wharton, a granddaughter of Dr. Barbee, gave the author the following family history:

"Dr. J. G. Barbee, came to Shelby County when quite a young man, practiced medicine there during the feud of moderators and regulations. In 1851, they were living in Crockett. My father, J. G. Barbee, Jr. was born there that year. The Barbee's were French Huguenots, and came to the United States from France, seeking life and liberty from religious oppression. Chappel Hill University, Chappel Hill, N. C. was largely promoted by our great, great grandfather, Christopher Barbee. He gave the first 241 acres. East and West Halls, the first buildings, were erected on this acreage and stand today in a fairly good state of preservation. Christopher Barbee's old law office building is

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standing nearby the campus, as is the old homestead, a gift from the Barbee family to the university.

"In Memorial Hall, the large center tablet was erected to the memory of Christopher Barbee. The Barbee history included in the history of Chappel Hill University, was written by the father of Dr. Battle, at one time president of the University of Texas. I visited the University of Chappel Hill last summer and felt quite humble, but had a thrill I shall never forget.

"My father, J. G. Barbee, met my mother at the home of her aunt, the wife of Col. M. C. Gallaway. Col. Gallaway served on Forrest's staff during the Civil War.

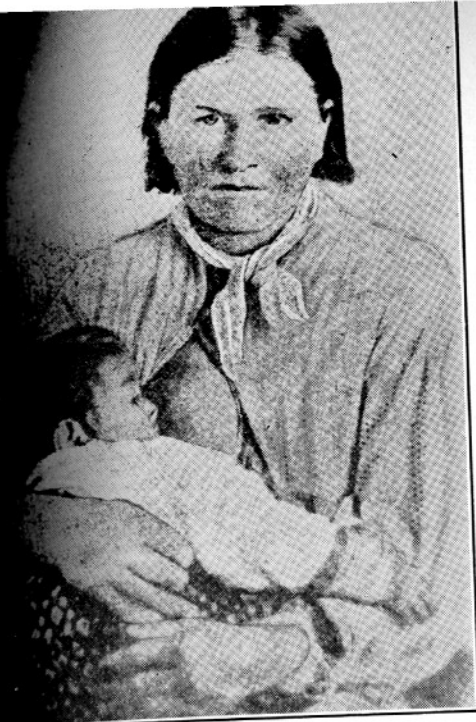
"The first Ku Klux uniforms were made and worn in Memphis. My mother's aunt, Fannie Gallaway, and other Memphis ladies made them. Being unable to finish them in time for the parade, my mother, Fannie Barker Fifer, and other Memphis girls, were sworn in, to sew on the buttons.

"Colonel Gallaway was the owner and editor of the Commercial Appeal and advocated the choice of Col. N. B. Burrow for the presidency of the Confederacy. Colonel Burrow was an uncle of Mrs. Miranda Burrow Barbee, wife of Dr. J. G. Barbee, and mother of my father, J. G. Barbee, Jr. Miranda Burrow was thrice married. At the age of 15 she married Dr. Barbee in Tennessee. They came by horseback to Texas. After Dr. Barbee's death, near Caldwell, she married a Mr. Keene, and after his death a Davidson.

"Mrs. Virginia Wall-Frymier was a sister of my father, Col. N. B. Barbee was his oldest brother. Another sister, Mary, married Tom Gay, a son of Tom Gay of Texas' heroic pioneers, at San Felipe, and Old Washington. Ab Keene, a half-brother, was nephew of George Keene of Jefferson, one of the Mier prisoners. He and a brother drew white beans in the lottery for life. I think you are undoubtedly acquainted with the many valorous deeds of George Lawson Keene in the World War, and know the story of how those medals, that were stolen from him, were replaced by the United States.

### FIELDING HARVEY BAYNE

Fielding Harvey Bayne was born in San Augustine County, December 5th, 1846. His parents were Grafton H. Bayne and Harriet Kinley Bayne. They came to Houston County in 1854 and bought and settled on a farm on White Rock Creek, when Harvey was only eight years of age. Here he was raised from his early boyhood until he was sixteen when he volunteered in the Confederate Army and served in Company H, Fifth Texas Bri-



Cynthia Ann Parker  
and  
child



Hon.  
Isaac Parker