

ciated with his relatives Thomas P. Collins and James P. Collins in business for many years. He was manager of the large business of Collins & Douglas for many years and as long as said business lasted. On February 14th, 1860 he married Miss Hattie Bond Stokes, a daughter of the pioneer lawyer, William B. Stokes, the ceremony having been performed by the distinguished Presbyterian Preacher, Dr. Samuel A. King. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church at Crockett almost from its beginning and was Superintendent of the Sunday School from January 1871, when Rev. S. F. Tenney came as pastor of that church, until his death November 14th, 1887. His two daughters, Rydie and Carrie preceded him in death. He was survived by his wife and his four sons, Robert Lee Collins, James Stuart Collins, Douglas Stokes Collins and Thomas Bell Collins. Only the last two still survive and both reside in Dallas. He was Quartermaster in the Southern Army during the Civil War.

JAMES P. COLLINS

James P. Collins was one of three brothers who were born in Cookstown, Tyrone County, Ireland, and all came to Texas in an early day, associated with Moses Warden, under the firm name of Collins & Warden. He was born on August 12, 1809, and died on Monday, May 9, 1881. His oldest child was John Collins, born July 17, 1838, and who married Lucy Atkinson, who taught school in Crockett for many years and was generally known as Mrs. Lucy Collins up to the time of her death. His oldest daughter was Eliza Collins, who married William McLean, and was the mother of the late Dan McLean, Judge Will McLean, Jim McLean, Mrs. Mary Davis, wife of W. A. Davis; Mrs. Daisy McConnell, who was the wife of W. V. McConnell, and Jennie McLean, who married W. V. McConnell, and Eula McLean, who married Rev. Riall.

James P. Collins, was also the father of Janie Collins, who married F. G. Edmiston, and was the mother of Charlie and F. G. Edmiston. He also had a son by the name of William Peacock Collins, who married Virginia Smith, whom we now know as Mrs. Virginia Collins. His second son was named Samuel B. Collins, who was born in August, 1844, and who served in the Civil War. His second oldest daughter was Susan B. Collins, born in 1846, and who married John W. Prewit. Many of our people today will remember James V. Collins, who married Miss Fanny Denny, and who was the father of Alfred Collins, Denny Collins, Brownie Collins and Mattie Col-

lins, who married Will Ike Kennedy. These was not all of his children, but will give the reader some idea of the large family he raised in Crockett, and how many of them are still with us.

DOCTOR JOHN COLLINS

Among the three brothers who emigrated from Cookstown, Tyrone County, Ireland, about 1839, was Dr. John Collins, who was born August 24, 1811. He came to Crockett about 1839 and at once took high rank among the pioneers of the county. In 1840, he was serving as Chief Justice of the county, and from that time until he decided to move to Athens, in Henderson County, about ten years later, he was an influential citizen. His first wife was a daughter of Ed Wingate, one of the soldiers of the Texas Revolution, who fell with Fannin at Goliad.

The records show that on February 9, 1841, he was serving as deputy Clerk of the County Court of Houston County, under Jacob Allbright, the first County Clerk of Houston County.

While in Houston County, before moving to Athens, he engaged in the mercantile business and later practiced medicine. After moving to Athens he continued to practice his profession of medicine and also engaged in many business enterprises. In fact he became one of the leading citizens of Athens and Henderson County.

His first wife having died he married again and raised a large family of children in Athens. One of his daughters married Judge Gooch, who held the office of District Judge for the Third Judicial District for many years. One of his sons, W. E. Collins, now lives in Dallas, and is the manager of the large business of Padgitt Brothers Company. One of his sons was named Jim Tom, evidently for his two brothers, James P. Collins and Thomas P. Collins. A large picture of Dr. John Collins now hangs in the courthouse in Crockett, to preserve his memory as a former Chief Justice of the County.

He died on January 3rd 1890, in Athens and is buried in the cemetery there. He was highly educated and a lover of poetry, which he could quote by the page.

JOHN COLLINS, JR.

John Collins, Jr. was the son of James P. Collins and Amelia Vann Collins and was born July 17th, 1838. He received his education in Tennessee and later attended Baylor University at

Independence, Texas, where he met and later married Miss Lucy Atkinson on November 29th, 1866. He and his bride came to Crockett soon after his marriage and made that his home until his death. He was admitted to the Bar July 21, 1866, showing great promise of being a successful practitioner, when he died in the prime of life, August 16th, 1869.

There was a meeting of the Crockett Bar to take proper notice of his death, which was attended by all the members of the Bar, which included at that time Col. Steward A. Miller, Col. W. A. Stewart, Col. D. A. Nunn, Edward Currie and Judge William M. Taylor, and suitable resolutions were passed extolling his fine and amiable character. These resolutions were prepared by Col. D. A. Nunn, his law partner, and the original copy is still in existence. Later on October 11th, 1869, resolutions were passed by Lothrop Lodge, of which he was a member, the resolutions having been presented by a committee, of which Col. S. A. Miller was Chairman, and Richard Douglass, secretary.

He left surviving him his wife, Mrs. Lucy A. Collins, one daughter, Amelia, his father and mother and a number of brothers and sisters.

GENERAL THOMAS P. COLLINS

The subject of this biography was the oldest of the three brothers, who about 1839, left their native Ireland, and sailed for America, choosing Crockett, as his destination. He was probably the first merchant to begin business in Crockett, and built a large log store house, on the northeast corner of the public square, where the Crockett Hotel now stands. He was born in Cookstown, Tyrone County, Ireland, on January 12, 1800. He first married Miss Adaline Bishop, who was born July 3rd, 1809 and died July 24, 1861. He afterwards married Emma, sister of his first wife, who survived him. By his first wife he had one daughter, Mary, who first married Billy Moore, and after his death, she married Zacheus Wilson. Later she married Charles Douglas, who was killed in March 1883, accidentally. Mrs. Douglas was associated with her stepmother, in carrying on the business of her father, Thomas P. Collins, first under the firm name of Collins and Wilson and later under the name of Collins & Douglas.

Thomas P. Collins died July 6th, 1869. He first established his home in Crockett, where Mrs. Maud McConnell now resides, where his daughter, Mary, was born, on November 7th,

1842. He later built one of the notable residences of Crockett, about one mile west of the town, which was ever after one of the show places of the town, known as "Park Hill," and is now owned by Col. Fain.

Gen. Collins was a man of high ideals. Mrs. Douglas, his daughter, was fond of repeating a statement made by her father, on many occasions, "Truth is such a beautiful thing."

He had a fine sense of humor and employed this in his business advertising. He was partial to the "Crockett Argus" and the following is a specimen of the humor that he mingled with his advertising in that paper:

"Nole Me (or My Property) Tangere, I implore you!

"The State of Texas, Houston County:—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—and 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, enfeoffing and otherwise conveying my lands and hereditaments, and my colored bipeds, vulgarly yclep'd "niggers." Now, although I am a shade over twenty-one years of age; think I have a pretty good modicum of hard horse sense; consider myself strictly compos mentis, as there has not been a writ of "delunatico 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 tempore forturo, unless it suits me! Lest there should be misconceptions, anxieties, tribulations, or other bad feelings, impressed 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 had in my noodle, for some time past, some crude notions of peringrinations 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 Tuscombia, 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 a 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 taking out letters of administration on my estate, as had been done in our vicinity; for, if my health and life 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!"

MRS. LUCY ATKINSON COLLINS

For much of this biography the author is indebted to an obituary, by Hon. J. W. Madden, published in the *Crockett Courier* in July 1925. The subject of this sketch was born in Middleburg, Tennessee, February 11th 1841, and died at Crockett, Texas, on July 18th 1925. When she was only a few years of age the family moved to the old town of Independence, Texas. There she received her finishing education, graduating from Baylor University in 1859, at the age of 18 years, and in which institution she taught during the Civil War. In 1866, she married Lieutenant John Collins, of Crockett, Texas, who later became a member of the Crockett Bar. Coming to Crockett as a bride she continued to reside here the remainder of her life. After two and one half years of happy married life her gifted and promising husband died. Thereafter she devoted her life to the honorable and useful profession of teaching, until the infirmities of old age compelled her to give it up. She taught school for about forty years. When she was a school girl she united with the Episcopal Church. In 1887, she united with the Crockett Methodist Episcopal Church South and continued a faithful member until her death. She left surviving her only child, Miss Amelia Collins, who still resides in Crockett; one sister, Mrs. Annie Peyton, of Trinity, who has since died. She has a nephew still living, Richard Atkinson, the son of her brother R. M. Atkinson, who was for many years a prominent business man of Crockett. Many members of her husband's family still live in Crockett.

JUDGE LEROY W. COOPER

Leroy W. Cooper was born of humble parents in Gwinnett County, Georgia, October 16, 1822, and died at his home at

Crockett, Texas, October 25th, 1900, being at the time of his death 78 years and 10 days old.

His parents being very poor, his educational advantages were exceedingly limited, laboring on the farm and in the shop in the day, and studying at night by the light of a pineknot. In March, 1845, he received license to practice law, and arose to prominence and success in his profession.

In March, 1846, he was married to Miss R. A. Brazier, who survived him. In 1856 he moved from Griffin, Georgia to Texas, and located at Crockett, Houston County, reaching here on November 18, where he continuously resided and where by a life filled with energy and industry he accumulated considerable property.

On his arrival at Crockett he at once took high rank in his profession, and as a criminal lawyer he had few, if any, superiors in the state, being regarded as an able advocate. The emancipation of the slaves, of which he owned a considerable number, instead of depressing him only served to stimulate his energies to the struggles of a business life.

He left surviving him, his widow and the following children: Mrs. Nettie Wall, wife of W. B. Wall; Mrs. Georgia Moore, wife of H. W. Moore; Judge Louis N. Cooper, generally known as Nat Cooper; and Dr. J. L. Cooper of Fort Worth. All of these have since died, but a number of grandchildren still survive.

Judge Cooper was an admirer of Henry Clay, whom he had often heard speak and in whose policy of government he believed. Being a Whig, at the organization of the Republican Party, he drifted into it, and was a life long believer in the policy and principles of that party. In 1866 he was chosen a state senator, and in 1870 he was elected to the lower house of the legislature. During the administrations of Governors Hamilton and Davis, he was judge of the district court of this district, and dispatched the business of his office with rapidity and efficiency.

He was the nominee of his party for congress and for associate justice of the supreme court, and in 1876 was a Blaine elector. In the Seventies the governor offered him the position of associate justice of the supreme court, but the same was declined; the district judgeship which he was occupying at the time, being preferred.

He was a delegate to the national convention of 1876, which nominated Mr. Hays for the presidency and differed from the Texas delegation as to a suitable candidate, casting the only

vote in his delegation for Roscoe Conklin of New York.

It is said of him that he never drank a drop of intoxicants, as a beverage in his life.

Among his descendants who are with us today, are: Mr. William C. Wall, Mrs. Ruby Decuir, wife of A. M. Decuir, and Judge Leroy Moore, present County attorney, and former County Judge.

Although he died forty-two years ago, many of our older citizens remember him.

DOCTOR W. F. CORLEY

Dr. W. F. Corley, was a practicing physician in and near Crockett during the years 1851 and 1852, and probably earlier than that time, and we know that he lived here much later than 1852. At one time he lived at the place four miles east of Crockett on the Kennard Road, at one time known as the John H. Burnett place and later known as the Sam Platt place. Later he moved into Crockett and lived in a brick residence where Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Decuir now live, generally known as the H. W. Moore place. This was the only brick residence in Crockett at that time. Before moving to Crockett and during the early days of the Civil War, W. F. Corley not only practiced medicine, but was a farmer and the owner of a number of slaves. One of his slaves was accused of entering the home of a white family here in Crockett and endeavoring to choke the wife of the owner, which resulted in a mob taking him and hanging him to the limb of a tree on the courthouse square. As Dr. Corley resented this action of the people, it is probable that this incident had something to do with his moving away from Crockett. At various times he was the owner of many tracts of land in the county and seemed to have been a first-class business man, as well as farmer and physician. While living at the Burnett or Platt place his children, Josie and Kit, attended school a short distance away at a school house in the Monk and Douglass neighborhood, probably known as the Monk School House at that time.

It seems appropriate at this time to take up and discuss the family of Dr. W. F. Corley, because his oldest daughter is still living in Kosse, Texas, and has recently celebrated her 87th birthday. This celebration was mentioned in a number of Texas papers. I think the following report of the celebration of her 87th birthday will be of sufficient interest to the people of Crockett to have a place in this history. It is as follows:

"Kosse Pioneer Believed Oldest Baylor Graduate."

"Mrs. Josephine Ann Burleson, 87, has diploma dated 1870 and signed by school officials.

"Kosse, September 7 (spl.)—Mrs. Josephine Ann Corley Burleson, 87, long-time resident here, is believed to be the oldest living graduate of Baylor University, having a diploma dated June 23, 1870, for the degree of "Maid of Honor," signed by Dr. Rufus C. Burleson, President of Baylor, with the entire members of the faculty, indicating the degrees they held and the subjects taught in the school."

JAMES M. DANIEL

We do not have information showing when or where this pioneer was born, but we do know that he was a real pioneer, for the record shows that he was a member of Captain John L. Hall's Company in the Mexican War and that he enlisted as a private on June 19th, 1846. The next record that we have is where his name appears on Thomas P. Collins' day book on October 2nd, 1851. It is known that he married Sallie Platt, a sister of James Platt and Mrs. Adeline Hill. He was a member of Captain Isaac Adair's Company in the Confederate Army and was killed at the Battle of Mansfield, Louisiana, in the latter part of 1864. He left surviving him, his wife, and the following children: David Ratcliff Daniel, commonly known as "Dick" Daniel, who married Miss Sallie Thompson, the daughter of Judge Samuel M. Thompson. He was survived by no children. The next child was Jennie Daniel, who married Ike Smith and whose children are living in and near Crockett. The next child was A. F. Daniel, generally known as Frank Daniel. The next child was Albert Daniel, who never married and died a few years ago at Crockett. He was a large planter on a river farm. The next child was Mary Daniel, who married Bob Hardin and was the mother of Mrs. Sally Arledge, Mrs. Augusta Knox, Mrs. Effie Baker, Mrs. Clara Smith and Mrs. Buenna Foster. The next child was Isaac Adair Daniel, who was generally known as Ike Daniel and who was a prominent citizen of Crockett and Houston County and held both the offices of sheriff and representative of the Texas Legislature. His widow, Mrs. Ruth Daniel, still lives in Crockett, and a son, Hon. Albert K. Daniel has followed in his father's footsteps and recently served as representative in the Texas Legislature. Other sons are: Ike Daniel and Morris Daniel. There were two daughters: