



UPPER LEFT: Mrs. Isabelle Taylor. UPPER RIGHT: Rev. R. Gage Lloyd.
LOWER LEFT: W. M. Taylor. LOWER RIGHT: Hon. Nat Patton.

were away, his wife Mary, being one of them, and only nineteen years of age.

In a letter to his father in North Carolina, soon after they arrived, Dr. Hunter states that he and one other man furnished the meat for the inmates of the Fort by hunting, while other men were ploughing the fields.

He practiced medicine in and around the Fort and gave succor to the sick and wounded—the depredations of the Indians were at their height at this time. He died September 26th, 1840, less than a year after his arrival, of what they called “the fever.” His father-in-law, General Smith, and his wife, both died the year following, 1841. They are all buried in Fort Houston Cemetery. While in Texas such a short time, Dr. James Hunter left his impress on Texas by a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren who are loyal Texans.

His wife, Mrs. Mary M. Hunter, after his death, married Col. James Carr, a pioneer lawyer of Crockett, Texas. She lived to a good old age, rearing the two sons of James Hunter, both of whom served in the Confederate Army. Mary M. Carr was co-founder (with Col. J. J. Word) of the Episcopal Church in Palestine, and there is a tablet in the church to the memory of her and Col. Word. She was a woman of rare strength of character and accomplishments.

Miss Mary Kate Hunter, of Palestine, a lineal descendant of Dr. James Hunter, furnished the author with the above biography, for which he acknowledges his indebtedness.

TILMAN INGRAM

Probably few now living in Houston County ever heard of this pioneer, yet he lived here in 1862, and probably much earlier. The record shows that on February 22, 1862, he was enrolled at Crockett, Texas, as a private in Captain George English’s Company, Burnett’s Regiment Confederate States Army. At that time he was 35 years of age. He has a grandson, J. C. Ingram, now living at Groveton, Texas.

WILLIAM JOHNSON

This pioneer of Houston County, who was a cousin of President Andrew Johnson, came to this county in 1853, with his wife and one child, Florence Josephine, who was only 2

months old at the time. This family came from Greenville, Tennessee, the home town of Andrew Johnson, in company with his brother-in-law, Alfred Bitner, and Susan Bitner, the sister of William Johnson.

For a short time both families settled and lived near old Shiloh where Bitner and his family lived, and where Bitner died after raising a large family, who still live in the same neighborhood. Mr. Johnson came to Crockett some time about 1855 and boarded with A. T. Monroe, in the house where George W. Crook now resides, and where his son, Samuel Hays Johnson was born on December 26th, 1856.

Mr. Johnson moved to a two-story house where B. F. Chamberlain now lives, and made that his home until he erected a new ten-room dwelling house just across the street where the Henry Arledge home now stands. He engaged in the mercantile business in Crockett for many years and also operated a gin and grist mill on his home place, about where the home of Dr. J. S. Wootters now stands. During the Civil War he held the office of County Treasurer.

He was born on May 25th, 1825 and was married to Mary Isabella Dunwoody on June 3rd, 1850 in Tennessee. Their first child, Florence Josephine (later Mrs. Florence J. Arledge) was born on November 6th, 1852. They had eight children, only two of whom are now living: Miss May Johnson and Walter Everett Johnson, both of whom now reside in Marlin. William Johnson and wife both died in Crockett and are buried in Glenwood Cemetery.

DOCTOR WILLIAM GEORGE WASHINGTON JOWERS

Dr. W. G. W. Jowers, prominent citizen of East Texas during the days of the Republic, and after, was born in Wadesborough, North Carolina. In 1835 he was graduated from Transylvania Medical College, Lexington, Kentucky. In 1839 he came to Texas and stopped at Nacogdoches, enlisting in the Texas Militia for six months. During this same year he accompanied Martin Lacy, of Fort Lacy, Cherokee County, Indian Agent, and John H. Reagan, as bearers of the letter to Chief Bowles, of the Cherokee Indians, from President Lamar, saying that the Cherokee Indians must go. He was married to Ann Lacy, daughter of Martin Lacy, May 20th 1840, and soon thereafter moved to Crockett, where he practiced the profession of medicine. Ann Lacy died and he married Pauline Catherine Tatum

Beeson, widow of Dr. Jehu Armistead Beeson, May 13th 1846.

When Anderson County was cut off from Houston County in 1846, and Palestine made its county seat, he removed thereto, with his family, which consisted of his wife, Pauline, her daughter, Jane Armistead Beeson, one year old, and Annie Jowers, daughter by his first wife, Ann Lacy, near the same age. Here he practiced his profession, but just before the Civil War went into the merchandizing business. When the Civil War broke out he raised and was Captain of a company from Anderson County. His wife, Pauline, died during the Civil War, in 1862. Before this, in 1848, he was elected Representative of Anderson County and served in that capacity and later in the State Senate for sixteen years.

In 1863, he married Mrs. E. W. Gardner, widow of Judge Gardner. By this union there were no children.

In 1865, he was commissioned Adjutant General by President Houston. In 1869, he married Mrs. Bettie A. Lamon Hill and from this union there were five daughters, all real Daughters of the Republic of Texas and all now living: Mrs. Frank T. Rennie, Mrs. Sam S. Smith, Mrs. W. B. Flanagan, Mrs. R. E. Doyle, Mrs. Waites Bowdon.

Dr. Jowers probably held public office as long and as continuously as any man in Texas. After his service for sixteen years in the Legislature of Texas, he was elected County Judge, which office he held until he died. From 1868 to 1892, he was County Judge of Anderson County. Daughters of his son, Richard Beeson Jowers, are living: Mrs. George D. Hunter of San Antonio; Mrs. D. B. McKenna, and Mrs. J. P. Burkhead, of Palestine, and Mrs. Ed Burkhead, of Houston, and a great number of great grandchildren are citizens of Texas. Doctor Jowers, or Judge Jowers, as he was called, later in his life, was a prominent Mason. Being a member of the first lodge organized in Palestine.

He is buried in the old (pioneer) Cemetery of Palestine. He died after his long and useful life, on July 30th, 1892.

The author is indebted to Miss Mary Kate Hunter, of Palestine, for the above biography of Dr. Jowers, and is glad to have this opportunity of helping to preserve the memory of a worthy pioneer of Houston County.

The location of Dr. Jowers home, while he lived in Crockett, is not definitely known, but there is a strong probability that he lived where the Schmidt House now stands, as the author has in his possession an original unrecorded deed, from Dr. Jowers to J. H. Gillespie, dated July 2, 1852, conveying lots 138 and 140 in Crockett. J. H. Gillespie in turn conveyed the same to John

E. Helms the same year, and that is where John E. Helms lived and where his widow lived many years later.

ADAM COLUMBUS KING

Was the son of Adam King and Fanny Glass King, and was born in Virginia May 3, 1813 and married Jane Catherine Bone, in Rutherford County, Tennessee, August 15, 1837. Their children were: Athelia Ann, who married Dr. Samuel Alexander King; Harriet Rebecca, who married W. M. King, Jr.; James Cadwallader Jones King, who became a prominent physician in Waco, Texas, John Bone King, who enlisted on February 22, 1862, at Crockett, Texas, in Company B, 13th Texas Cavalry, of the Confederate Army. About June 1, 1862, he was transferred to Captain McLean's Company C, Gould's Battalion, Randall's Brigade, Walker's Division, Texas Volunteers. James Cadwallader Jones King, enlisted at Crockett, April 15, 1861, Co. A, 2nd Texas Cavalry, Hood's brigade and served until the end of the war. Christina Jerusha married William Coleman. Other children were David Williamson, Catherine Maclin, who married C. T. Hogan, Andrew Columbus and Mary Jane.

Adam C. King moved to Crockett about 1849 or 1850, and soon became identified with the business, social and religious life of the town and county. In 1852 he purchased a large and valuable tract of land, on the western edge of the town, and there built a substantial home, and reared his family. In 1853 he was serving as county coroner, an important officer in that day. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church. Before his death he moved to Waco, Texas, and died there October 26, 1893. Two of his daughters, Mrs. S. A. Burney and Mrs. H. A. Wilson, now reside at College Station, Texas. A granddaughter holds an important position in A. and M. College.

REV. SAMUEL ALEXANDER KING

The subject of this biography, although a citizen of Houston County and Crockett for only a few years, deserves a place among the pioneers of the County. He was born in Woodford County, Kentucky, October 11th, 1834, the son of Rev. William M. King, a Presbyterian minister, and Lucy Woodson King, a relative of Thomas Jefferson. He received his education through

academic and seminary courses conducted by his father, who was a teacher and preacher in Illinois, before coming to Texas in 1851. He was licensed to preach and ordained by Presbytery at San Marcos, Texas, on April 5th, 1856. He became stated supply for the new school Presbyterian Church in Crockett and the Old School Presbyterian Church in Centerville, and served both churches from 1857 to 1861, living at Crockett and preaching twice a month in each church.

It was during this ministry that he married Athelia Ann King, daughter of Adam C. King, an elder in the Crockett Church, and Jane Bone King. Athelia Ann King was born in Williamson County, Tennessee on September 9th, 1838, and died in Wisconsin on September 12th, 1913, and was buried in Waco, Texas. During the years 1861 to 1863, Dr. King engaged in evangelistic work, going out from Garden Valley, Smith County.

In 1863 he lived in Milford, Texas and was stated supply for the church there and also for the Waco Church. In 1864, he became a Mason while at Milford, and took the Royal Arch degrees. In 1867 he moved to Robinson, supplying Robinson and Waco Churches.

In 1875 he moved to Waco and gave his full time as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Waco. In 1877 he was sent as a delegate from the General Assembly to the Pan-Presbyterian Council which met in Edinburgh, Scotland. He completed a pastorate of forty years with the Waco Church in February 1903.

In the fall of 1902 he moved to Austin to fill the chair of Systematic Theology in the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, occupying that chair until he reached the age of 80 years, when he asked to be released from active duty. He remained as Professor-Emeritus until a short time before his death which occurred on September 21st, 1918 at Austin. He was buried in Waco.

THE KYLE FAMILY

When a single family can claim four pioneers of Houston County, that family deserves a place in its history. This is the claim of the Kyle family for a place in the sun. Mrs. Mary Kyle Tucker of Elkhart has so ably told the history of her family that it is adopted for use in this history. She writes as follows:—

"About 1842 four brothers, J. H. B. Kyle who was our grandfather, John Kyle, W. R. W. Kyle, and Matthew G. Kyle, to—

gether with their mother and the families of the two older brothers left South Carolina to come to Texas. They came to Pickens County, Alabama where they settled temporarily. In 1844 W. R. W. Kyle married a Miss Kirkpatrick and came on to Texas with members of that family. He settled by homesteading, the homesite and farm where John Reagan now lives.

"My father was born in Pickens County, Alabama on October 5th, 1845. When he was four years old his father and uncle Matthew came on to Texas and settled out near Augusta. About 1856, our grandfather, J. H. B. and Uncle Bill, W. R. W. exchanged farms. Later, W. R. W. moved west of Elkhart and his two remaining sons live there.

"These two of his sons are S. B. Kyle, aged 87 and T. J. M. Kyle, who is quite a bit younger. They aren't sons of the former Miss Kirkpatrick however.

"My father was the next to the youngest of the seven sons of J. H. B. and Lou Spencer Kyle. They were: James, Joe, Henry Eli, George Spencer, John, William Polk and Matthew. With the exception of the last named, all reared families, though I believe Uncle Eli had no sons. There were also in this family five daughters who were: Margaret Jones, _____Driskill, Betty Hallmark, Vina Clinton-Smith, Lou Smith and Willie Tunstall.

"My father and his five older brothers were in the same company during the Civil War. Uncle Jim was killed at Blair's Landing, Tenn. in the fighting preliminary to the Battle of Shiloh."

Matthew G. Kyle, mentioned above as one of the four pioneers, lived for many years near Augusta, and was such a factor in the development of that community, that the following additional facts are recorded about him: He was the father of five daughters and two sons. His oldest daughter, Betty, married Coll Aldrich, son of Collin Aldrich, San Jacinto Veteran. After her death he married her sister, Julia. His next daughter, Martha, married Zack Douglas, and was the mother of two daughters and Joe. His third daughter, Fannie, married D. S. Williams, and is still living. His youngest daughter, married Jim McLean, and is still living in Crockett. His oldest son, Jessie, died many years ago unmarried. His youngest son, Sam, is still living.

A. LeGORY

A colorful career was that of A. LeGory, who was born at Vicksburg, Mississippi, October 10th, 1840. His parents were

John B. and Margaret (Conley) LeGory. His father was a native of Genoa, Italy and his mother was a native of Ireland. As early as 1855, he came to Crockett with a man by the name of Daniels, and became a citizen of this place. Early in the days of the Civil War he enlisted, on February 1862, in the Lubbock Guards, a cavalry regiment which was later dismounted. As a member of Walker's Division he saw active service and was in the battles of Mansfield, Pleasant Hill, Carrion Crow, Lake Providence and Yellow Bayou. As a soldier he had never missed a day from the ranks of company.

After the war he returned to Houston County and lived with the family of Captain John T. Smith and while there traveled on steamboats plying their trade on the Trinity River. Among the boats on which he was engaged was Indian No. 2 and the Roof-born, besides he conducted business on a number of flatboats, plying their trade on the Trinity River. Later he operated a line of freight wagons between Crockett and Houston and between Crockett and Navasota.

He was a pioneer in the cultivation of the famous Stewart papershell pecans and also introduced a fine herd of Jersey cattle.

On January 7th, 1875, he married Miss Eliza Hortense Wortham, a daughter of Major John Wortham and his wife Cary Ann (Vaughan) Wortham.

A biography of Major Wortham will be found elsewhere in this history. To this union were born six children, John LeGory, a prominent citizen of Crockett, who has taken high rank in civic, fraternal, business and religious matters; A. LeGory, Jr., generally known as Gus; C. W. LeGory, generally known as Wortham; Lipscomb, who still lives in Crockett; Hortense, who is now Mrs. Hortense Sweet; and Cary Ann, who is the wife of our well known druggist, W. P. Bishop. These children and their families can well be proud of their noble father.

COLONEL JOHN LONG

In the old cemetery at Crockett there is a grave, marked with a large marble monument, covering the entire grave, which was once the most outstanding monument in the old cemetery. This monument has been broken and has lost much of its original attractiveness, but still attracts attention. On it is recorded the fact that Col. John Long was born May 7th, 1792 and that he died October 17th, 1859. The records show that on April 26th,