

HISTORY OF HOUSTON COUNTY

A. M. McCollum. Her brothers were confederate comrades of his. They moved to Crockett, Texas, where, in 1864, he established the Crockett Quid Nunc and published it until after the close of the war. In the meantime he read law in the office of Judge Wm. M. Taylor. At the first term of the district court held at Crockett after the War, September, 1865, he was admitted to the bar and was associated in the practice with Judge Taylor.

In 1868 he was elected a delegate with Gen. A. T. Monroe, to the Constitutional Convention held at Washington, D. C. and was a member of the judiciary committee. He moved to Huntsville, Walker County in 1870. In August, 1870 he became judge of the 30th district embracing Walker, Grimes, Madison and San Jacinto counties, and served six years. He was elected state senator in 1878 from these counties and among other bills that he introduced was the one establishing the Sam Houston Normal Institute at Huntsville, Texas. This was the first normal college in the State. Judge Burnett returned to Crockett in 1880 where Mrs. Burnett died on September 4th, 1881, leaving four daughters and one son.

The family moved to Galveston in 1883. In 1888 Judge Burnett was appointed attorney for the I & G N Railway Company at Palestine and held this position until receivers were appointed for the company. He was elected district judge of Anderson, Houston and Henderson counties in 1894 to fill the unexpired term of Judge W. Q. Reeves, deceased. After the expiration of the term, December 1896, he removed to Galveston. In July 1889 when the bankruptcy law went into effect, he was appointed referee in bankruptcy for the Houston and Galveston Division. He held this position until 1904. Early in 1900 he moved to Houston, Texas. In 1907 he was appointed Special Master in Chancery for the Kirby Lumber Company which was in the hands of receivers until 1909.

In June 1903 Judge Burnett and family moved to Kerrville, Texas, a change to a higher climate being necessary on account of ill health in the family, but he retained his office in Houston until the close of the receivership of the Kirby Lumber Company.

He organized the First State Bank at Kerrville in 1905 with which he was actively connected, most of the time being its president.

Judge Burnett died at Kerrville on April 30th, 1907. Two of his daughters had died previously at Kerrville. The two younger daughters still reside there. The son, Judge McCollum Burnett, resides in San Antonio where he has been County Judge of Court-at-Law No. 1, Bexar County, for twenty years.