

## BIOGRAPHIES

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