

THE GOSSETT FAMILY

The only surviving child of Andrew Edwards Gossett, Mrs. Josie Gossett Newton, of Galveston, has furnished such a complete history of the lives and families of her grandfather, Elijah Gossett and her father, Andrew Edwards Gossett, and their families that I have adopted the same for this history, as follows:

"My paternal grandfather, Elijah Gossett, was born on Rutherford Creek, Tenn. (I do not know County) Feb. 1st, 1788. He was married to Elisabeth Stone Edwards, who was born in Tenn. Sept. 1st, 1789. (Her mother was a Miss Lackridge). They reared a family of ten children, moved from Tenn. (date unknown) to Ill. where they lived for a short time (The city of Cairo, Ill. was later located upon his farm, so I have been told). They returned to Tenn. and in 1833, accompanied by his entire family, moved to Texas.

"They traveled with a large party, as was necessary in those days because of danger from marauding Indians, wild beasts, etc. They were more than 2 months en route, were camped on 'Grand Prairie' Ark. when the 'Stars' fell. I do not know what became of others of the party, but 'The Gossetts' settled in what was later to become Houston County, but was then a part of Nacogdoches County (and of course, all belonging to Mexico). Elijah selected a site for his home, on the Hurricane Bayou five miles Northwest of present town of Crockett, and lived there until 1837. He and his three oldest sons, namely, James Lackridge, Andrew Edwards (my father) and John Van Dyke, served in the 'Texas Revolution' for its entire duration as Volunteers under Capt. William Spurlock, Brigadier General Thomas J. Rusk, commanding. After Texas became a Republic they all four joined Capt. Elisha Clapps Company of 'Texas Rangers,' and served on the frontier. (These facts were furnished me by Miss Harriet Smither, Archivist of the Texas Library in the Capitol Bldg. Austin.) She also gave me copies of their Discharge Papers.) All rec'd Bounty Warrants for 320 acres of land for their military service. (Some of this information was copied from Comptrollers Military Service Records, Numbers 4909 and 4911. Some from Pension Papers, Archives.) They also rec'd Land Grants from the Mexican Government as Settlers.

"My grandfather, Elijah Gossett was elected Chief Justice (County Judge) in 1841 and he was one of the eleven trustees appointed for Trinity College, which was first established at Alabama in Houston County by the Senate and House of Rep-