

## BIOGRAPHIES

representatives of the Republic of Texas in Congress assembled Jan. 30th, 1841. The act was signed by David S. Kaufman, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Anson Jones, President Pro Tem of the Senate, approved Jan. 30th, 1841, signed David G. Burnet. (Volume 2, Page 146, *Gannett's Laws of Texas*.)

"Elijah Gossett made a business trip to Van Zandt Co. where he owned land in Nov. 1848, became ill and died there Nov. 24th, 1848. His body was conveyed to Crockett in an ox wagon and he was buried in the first old cemetery there, as was his wife who died the following year, July 6th, 1849. In 1937 the Centennial Commission placed a beautiful marker at their graves.

"My father, A. E. Gossett, built his first little log cabin home at top of the hill North of the present Town of Crockett, where the Mary Allen Seminary, Negro college is now located; he chose that site because of the convenient spring at foot of the hill. (The Barbee pond). His nearest white neighbor was his father, five miles away; when he needed a pound of coffee or other supplies, he rode his Indian pony 63 miles over a rough dim trail to Nacogdoches, the nearest trading post. It was a hard day's journey, and necessitated his absence from home one night each time he made the trip. His wife and little children were thus left alone but friendly Indian squaws would go to her home and sit with her for company, though they were unable to converse, as neither could speak the other's language.

"My father built the house now standing  $1\frac{3}{4}$  miles East of Crockett and still referred to as 'The old Gossett Place' in the spring of 1837. It is said to be the first weather-boarded house built in the Republic of Texas. The house is still in a good state of preservation and is occupied as a home. (The present owner has repaired and painted it). My father, however, didn't occupy his new home until 1848, because his parents were victims of malaria whilst living on the Bayou. He moved them to his new home where they remained until their deaths in 1848 and 1849.'

"Houston County was created from a part of Nacogdoches County on June 8th, 1837 and organized the same year. Crockett was incorporated Dec. 29th, 1837. My father, A. E. Gossett, donated the site for the town and because of this gift, he and his father were given the privilege of naming both county and town. In as much as both had served under General Sam Houston, hero of San Jacinto, they decided upon the name of Houston for the county, and, as David Crockett, Elijah's boyhood