

## BIOGRAPHIES

first corporal; Thomas Hays, second corporal; Joseph Burnam, third corporal and George B. Lacy, fourth corporal.

On April 15th, 1849, he purchased from John I. Burton Lot No. 80 in Crockett on which his Hotel was afterwards located. This lot is now owned by Davy Crockett Chapter, Knights of Pythias and on which their castle hall is situated. This hotel, known far and wide as Hall's Hotel, was destroyed by fire in 1871.

John L. Hall was a prominent Mason and was buried with Masonic honors at his death on August 25th, 1857. He was survived by his widow, Mrs. L. L. Hall, a daughter of John I. Burton, and his two daughters, Mrs. Nancy Wortham and Mrs. Margaret Barbee, and two sons, Dr. John L. Hall and W. A. Hall. All are now dead, but his grandson, Bunk Barbee, is still living, and his great-grandson, Jack Barbee and great-granddaughter, Mrs. Charlie Neel, are still living in Crockett.

### JOSHUA J. HALL AND MAHALA L. HALL

Just when Joshua J. Hall, left his Maryland home for Texas, is not known, but as early as July first, 1839 the records show that he was the owner of more than twenty-three thousand acres of land, on which he located his home and on which he lived up to the time of his death. The author has no information as to who was his first wife and the mother of his oldest son, James Madison Hall. It is known that he later married the widow, Mahala L. Sharp, the daughter of Elisha Roberts, a pioneer citizen of San Augustine County. Soon after reaching Houston County, he established a warehouse and business at a point on the bank of Trinity River, near his home, which has ever since been known as Hall's Bluff. Before the advent of the railroad to Crockett, Hall's Bluff was quite a business place where cotton was shipped to market on steamboats that plied the river to and from Galveston. The business of hauling cotton to that point, and goods from that point, to Crockett merchants, was a regular trade before the coming of the railroad.

He was the owner of several slaves and improved a large plantation on his large tract of land. He was fond of amusement and made frequent trips to Crockett to attend balls and other festivities. He was fond of the dance. All of this appears from his diary, which he kept from 1848 to 1854. He may have kept diaries covering other periods, but this is the only one that has come to the attention of the author. Besides his son, James Madison, by his first marriage, he had a daughter, Roberta,