

HISTORY OF HOUSTON COUNTY

and a son, Horace, by his second marriage. This diary is worth far more than its weight in gold. The author is indebted to his grandson, Jim Hall, of Groveton, for a copy of this wonderful diary.

THE HALLMARK FAMILY

The progenitor of the Hallmark family in Houston County was George Hallmark, who lived on Mustang Prairie, and for whom a small creek is named. He was a prominent man in his day and accumulated a large estate during his lifetime. He made his will on August 16, 1848, which was probated in the County Court on October 25, 1852, and same was recorded in Book "I," of the deed records of Houston County, Texas. His estate was appraised at \$17,000. In this will he bequeathed to his three youngest children, Richard M. Hallmark, Ephriam L. B. Hallmark and Alexander C. Hallmark, three negroes, named Solomon, Charity and Little Tom, stating that Little Tom was the youngest negro that he owned, and provided in said will that said negroes should work for the use, benefit and support of said three children until they shall be of age, or the youngest one marries, at which time they shall be equally divided among them. Just how this could be accomplished, the will does not undertake to provide. The rest of his estate is bequeathed to his children, Polly Box, William C. Hallmark, George W. Hallmark, Lee Anna Rosser, John B. Hallmark, James M. Hallmark, Alfred Hallmark, Aveline Hallmark, Stidham, Matthew D. T. Hallmark, together with Stillwell Box's six children, who, out of their part, shall put in \$640, which, if they do, shall be entitled to an equal share of the property, together with seven negroes, Peggy, Big Tom, Harriett, Charles, Simion, Elizabeth and July. This same George Hallmark, in 1843, was postmaster at Mustang Prairie.

The William C. Hallmark, mentioned in said will, was a San Jacinto veteran and the Centennial Commission erected a marker at his grave, in the old Bynum graveyard near Shiloh. He also left a will, one item of which read as follows:

"I give and bequeath to Shiloh church, three acres of land, including the house of worship."

Some of these sons of George Hallmark deserve separate mention.

In addition to the above mentioned William C. Hallmark, his brother, Alfred Hallmark was also a veteran of San Jacinto, and his name appears in the report of the Centennial Commis-