

HISTORY OF HOUSTON COUNTY

*Indented there in characters of light—
A soldier true, a jurist, just and sage,
He leaves no blot to dim his record bright,
Beloved the most by all who knew him best,
The first sad tear he ever caused—or sigh,
Was when he laid him down in death to rest,
And she who loved him dearest, saw him die.*

A. T. Monroe,

San Pedro, Houston County,

September 1, 1883."

DANIEL MURCHISON

Daniel Murchison was born on the 12th day of January, 1804 probably in the state of Tennessee, and died at his home about six miles north of Crockett on the Palestine road on the 5th day of June, 1882. He is buried in the old Crockett cemetery by the side of his wife, Lucindy Teague Murchison, who was born January 5, 1831, and died August 30, 1900. Before coming to Texas he removed from the state of Tennessee to Mississippi, and came to Texas in an early day.

He was chosen tax collector and assessor soon after coming to Houston County and the records show he collected taxes in 1851, in 1852, 1854 and 1855. At that time taxes were paid in specie, that is, either silver or gold, and there were no banks in which a collector could deposit his collections. Evidently there was not much robbery or burglary at that time and valuables were generally regarded as safe when kept in trunks or other places about the house. It is a tradition in the Murchison family that when Daniel Murchison had to transport his tax collections from Houston County to Austin, that he carried huge sums of money in his saddle bags and made the trip on horseback. The highjacker was unknown in that day and there was little danger of a traveler being molested by any highway robber. So far as we know the tax collections made by Daniel Murchison during the entire tenure of his office were transferred in a saddle bag and on horseback, and it is not known that any attempt was ever made to rob him.

His first home was near Cook's mountain, about three miles