

## HISTORY OF HOUSTON COUNTY

gress. Isaac Parker, the famous pioneer citizen of Houston County, represented his district in several sessions of the Congress of the Republic from 1837 to 1845, and the next time that Houston County had one of its citizens so honored was when Nat Patton was elected to the 74th Congress in 1934, succeeding Hon. Clay Stone Briggs.

According to his own statement, prepared for the Congressional Record, Nat Patton was born in a log cabin at Tadmor, in Houston County, on February 26th, 1884, the son of Frank M. Patton and Bessie Bland Patton. He received his early education in the common schools of Houston County and in 1901, the author of this history, while a member of the 27th Legislature of Texas, gave him an appointment to Sam Houston Normal, at Huntsville. Later he was a member of the Texas House of Representatives and attended the law school of the University of Texas. He was admitted to the Bar in 1918, and practiced law at the Crockett Bar. He served two terms as County Judge of Houston County, and was a member of the Texas State Senate during the Forty-first, Forty-second and Forty-third Legislatures. He was tendered the appointment as comptroller, but declined. He was elected to the Seventy-fourth Congress in 1934, and has been reelected to each succeeding Congress. He is known both nationally and internationally as "Cousin Nat." An incident in his career is quite characteristic. When the King and Queen of England made their historic visit to Washington, he met them at a reception and greeted them as "Cousin George" and "Cousin Elizabeth." He was married to Miss Mattie Taylor, his childhood sweetheart in 1907, and they have four children: Bessie Louise, the wife of Joe Gus LeGorv; Weldon, who has just been admitted to the bar; Nat, Jr., a practicing lawyer of the Crockett Bar; and Bonnie, the baby of the family, who still lives with her doting father and mother.

### MRS. MAUD SIMS PENCE

Among the educators of Crockett, one who deserves to take a high rank is Mrs. Maud Sims Pence. She was born in Mississippi on November 8th, 1874, and on the death of her father, came to Crockett about 1886 and lived with her Aunt and Uncle, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. R. French. In 1887, she returned to her mothers home in Illinois, and was married there. In 1902, she came to Crockett and soon thereafter was selected as a teacher in the Crockett City School. She was noted for her efficiency as a teacher and also for her scholarship and brilliant intellect. She