

HISTORY OF HOUSTON COUNTY

county seat, which Crockett had. Probably an election was held to move the county seat, but lacked the necessary two-thirds vote to move it. Crockett had the county seat and kept it. Randolph flourished a-while and began to dwindle. The winds now blow through the tall trees where once stood a flourishing town.

Having entered politics at the age of 23, papers found in Judge Randolph's box, certifying his election to various offices were signed by President David G. Burnet, President Sam Houston, Governor Albert C. Horton, Governor P. H. Bell, Governor T. Wood and Governor Richard Coke.

The oldest document found was dated February 13, 1841, which certified his appointment to an office to which he had been elected Dec. 21, 1840. Another document was signed by Anson Jones, then Secretary of State, which certified his election to the "office of Chief Justice, in and for the County of Houston, in said Republic," and the closing paragraph reads: "Given under my hand, at Washington, the Fourth day of December, A. D., 1843, and of the Independence of the Republic, the eighth."

Judge Randolph was granted a license to practice law by the District Court of Houston County, and the document was signed by "O. M. Roberts, District Judge," who later became governor.

JUDGE ROBERT N. READ

His full name was Robert Newton Read. He was one of seven sons. We do not have the date of his birth, but he came to Texas in 1843 and settled a few miles south of Crockett, on the Huntsville Road. He cleared and put into cultivation a large plantation, which, even today, is known as Read's Opening. His children were: Ben F. Read, who was associated with him in business and who moved with him to Mineola when he left Crockett. His daughter, Lizzie, married H. A. Long. A daughter, Julia, married Nelson Garner; a daughter, Emma, married Dr. Wortham. A daughter, Corinne, married P. F. Comba; a daughter, Louella, married R. N. Stafford, who served many years in the Texas senate; a daughter, Louise, married R. P. Jiles; his other sons were John Read, Bob Read and Sam Read. John Read was born October 16, 1844, and died August 2, 1899. Sam Read was born December 25, 1847 and died September 19, 1919.

In 1870, Judge Read purchased a stock of merchandise from