

HISTORY OF HOUSTON COUNTY

was named in the will of George Hallmark as Adeline Stedham.

The records show that on February 1, 1856, Zachariah Stidham received a patent from the State of Texas to 232¾ acres of land, situated about five or six miles southeast of Crockett, where he resided for many years thereafter.

In later life Mr. Stidham moved to West Texas and was visited there by Mr. George Taylor of Austonio, who remembers seeing him and his family after they had removed from Houston County. It is supposed that he died in West Texas.

THE STOKES FAMILY

So many members of this pioneer family have left their impress on the business, social and religious life of Houston County that the author has decided to give a history of the family, rather than single out some individual member for treatment.

The patriarch of the family was William Benson Stokes, who was born in Georgia on June 4th, 1804, and came at an early day to Texas and located in Crockett, where he practiced his profession as a member of the Crockett Bar and was recognized in his day as a leading lawyer. He was noted for his physical energy and when he had occasion to come to Crockett he cared nothing for a conveyance and made the journey on foot. At his death his estate was administered by his pioneer friend, John Box, and when his land was sold, it was purchased by his fellow lawyer, Col. S. A. Miller. He was survived by one son, Charles Stokes, and two daughters, Harriet (generally called Hattie) who married James Collins, and Mary, who married Joseph Atmar.

His son, Charles Stokes has a distinguished career of his own. He was born in Georgia on the 15th day of May, 1834, and came to Texas with his parents in his young manhood and engaged in both farming and the lumber business. At the beginning of the Civil War he enlisted as a Confederate soldier and served in both Texas and Arkansas. About 1880 he was elected tax assessor for Houston County, and held the office for eighteen years. About 186— he married Lucy Hancock, daughter of Major J. R. Hancock, an extensive planter and slave owner, and a more congenial couple would be hard to find. There were born to them eight children, five of whom lived to maturity and had families of their own. First, there was Dr. Edgar B. Stokes, who, after spending his early years on a farm, became one of the leading physicians of Houston County and East Texas. He