

After that she would sneak out to her cabin and cook things in the fireplace. It took our family a long time to get her to use the stove."

A. T. Monroe was one of the most enterprising men who ever lived in Crockett. Soon after moving to Crockett from Alabama Crossing he built a home on the main street of Crockett—the very house is still standing in good condition. It is now the home of Geo. W. Crook and was built in 1854. The large hewed oak sills in the house are as sound today as when the house was built. The outer walls were weather boarded with good, heart lumber, sawed by H. F. Craddock and dressed by hand. The ceiling was of the same character of lumber. The space between the walls was filled with brick and lathing placed on the inside for plastering, which was never completed. In 1880, a daughter of Uncle Dan Coleman sold the place to Oliver C. Aldrich, who lived there until his death in 1889. After that the author became the owner of the property and sold it to Geo. W. Crook and his wife in 1911. The author has heard the old man Salathiel Robert, a brick mason, say that he built the chimneys to the house, and they are standing today in good condition.

JUDGE GEORGE F. MOORE

Houston County is justly proud of one of her most distinguished citizens, the eminent jurist, Judge George F. Moore, who came to Crockett as a young man and lived there for eight years.

He was born in Georgia on the 17th day of July, 1822, being the seventh son of his parents. Growing up in Alabama, he studied in the University of that state, and the University of Virginia, though he was a graduate of neither. At the age of eighteen he began the study of law, and received his license to practice from Judge Shortridge, then a circuit judge of Alabama. I am informed by Gov. Roberts who first knew him as a boy, that in his youth he was distinguished by a taciturn, retiring manner, and an application to study that marked him through after life.

Removing to Texas in 1846, he brought with him poverty, that priceless gift to the young, which made labor a necessity, and gave spurs to his desire for independence. He first settled in Crockett, and made that his home until 1854 when he removed to Austin, and afterwards to Nacogdoches where he resided until appointed a reporter of the decisions of the Supreme Court. After the breaking out of war between the states, he was

elected Colonel of the 17th Texas cavalry, which position he resigned in 1862 on receiving news of his election as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. In 1866, when Texas was in the process of what was termed Reconstruction, he was again elected to the supreme bench, and was by his Associate Justices made Chief Justice, from which position he was removed by military power, on the 10th day of September, 1867, in a period of profound peace, and under circumstances which redound to his credit.

On November 17th 1883, before the Supreme Court of Texas, Judge A. W. Terrell paid a wonderful tribute to Judge Moore, from which the following excerpts are taken:

"From 1867 to 1874 he practiced his profession in Austin, and when in 1874 the people for the first time in nine years after the war resumed peaceful control of the State, he was appointed again associate Justice of the Supreme Court. After the constitution of 1876 was adopted he was elected to the same position by the people. In 1878, on the resignation of Chief Justice Roberts, he was appointed to succeed him, and soon afterwards was elected Chief Justice by the people by over one hundred thousand majority."

Again he says: "An ardent love for this mighty State, that had honored and elevated him, was a part of his nature. Her soil, climate and expanding greatness, as an undivided empire from the mountains to the sea, I have often heard him refer to, with pride and exultation. But as a Supreme Judge of Texas, his most lasting reputation was achieved. We know not which most to admire in him, a rigid regard for established law, or the boldness with which he would attack its semblance, whether reposing in precedent or fortified with the names of great men. I am not alone in believing that he was the best chancery practitioner in Texas; and thus when justice required that what seemed the harshness of law should not prevail, his quick sense of right recognized the demand, while his knowledge of equity applied the remedy."

The following tribute was paid his memory by his long time friend, Col. A. T. Monroe, of Houston County, which was published in the Austin Statesman on September 5th 1883:

*"I seek, however weak, with heart sincere,
To twine one wreath to deck his honored brow,
Whose memory bright, the country will revere,
While love of worth controls mankind, as now,
His name is written on her proudest page,*

*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

northwest of Crockett, and he later moved to the home where he died on the Palestine road.

He was an elder in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and must have been a prime mover in organizing the Bethel Cumberland church on the Palestine road, about four miles north of Crockett. After Judge S. M. Thompson came to Houston County in 1855, he was also an elder in the Cumberland Presbyterian church and he and Daniel Murchison often met in the meeting of Presbytery, where each represented his respective church.

The oldest daughter of Daniel Murchison was Angeline, who married H. F. Craddock, and who was the mother of a large family of children. Her oldest child was Miss Alice Craddock. The next was H. F. Craddock, Jr. who is still living in Commerce, Texas. She had a son by the name of Ben, who died without ever having married; a son, Thomas D. Craddock, born in 1861, and who married Jennie Numsen, who still lives in our community. Other children of Mrs. Angeline Craddock were: Goodwill Craddock, Peacewill Craddock, Stonewall J. Craddock, Miss Minnie Craddock, Sue Craddock, who is the wife of Dr. J. S. Wootters, and Daniel Craddock, who now lives in Dallas. Another son of Daniel Murchison was Weldon J. Murchison, who conducted a mercantile business on Neville's Prairie, and gave his name to the town of Weldon. He died some years ago, leaving two daughters, Mary Belle Murchison and Ella Murchison both of whom removed from Houston County.

Another son of Daniel Murchison was Daniel M. Murchison, generally known as Mack Murchison, who conducted a large mercantile business in Crockett and who died many years ago, leaving as his descendants Mrs. Hallie Crook, wife of George W. Crook; Sydnor L. Murchison, a prominent merchant in Crockett today, and Mrs. Birdie O'Dell, wife of D. W. O'Dell, who spent most of her life in Cleburne and Fort Worth, and who now lives at Handley, Texas, near Fort Worth. Another son of Daniel Murchison, Thomas F. Murchison, lived and died in Athens, Texas.

DANIEL McINTOSH MURCHISON

Daniel McIntosh Murchison was the son of Daniel Murchison and Mary Killough Murchison, and was born near Holly Springs, Marshall County, Mississippi, October 16th, 1841 and died in Cleburne, Texas, in 1882, at the home of his sister, Mrs.