

Walton B. who is a banker in Stuttgart, Arkansas. Judge Wall died at Crockett and was buried in Glenwood Cemetery with Masonic honors.

### JUDGE FRANK ALVAN WILLIAMS

Houston County, in its one hundred and five years of existence, has furnished Texas with two members of the Supreme Court, George F. Moore and Frank A. Williams. For that reason the County should be proud of these distinguished jurists.

Judge Williams was born October 6, 1851, at Macon, Mississippi, where he received his education before coming to Crockett in 1872. Here he studied law under his distinguished brother-in-law, Col. D. A. Nunn, and on being admitted to the Bar became his law partner. This able firm carried on a large practice until 1884, when Judge Williams was elected District Judge of the then newly created Third Judicial District. He held this office until 1892, when he was elected to the judgeship on the Court of Civil Appeals, at Galveston. In this office he so distinguished himself, and showed such ability, that in 1899, he was elected Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

In 1911, he voluntarily retired from this position to re-enter the law practice, associated with Judge N. A. Stedman under the firm name of Williams & Stedman, at Austin, Texas. In 1913 he moved to Galveston to enter the newly created firm of Williams, Neethe & Williams, where he still resides.

On November 24th, 1880, he married Miss Laura Fisher, of Waverly and they are the parents of Bryan F. Williams, who is associated with his father in the law practice. Fred L. Williams, an able lawyer of Houston, Robert N. Williams, and two daughters, Rosamond and Helen.

Judge Williams takes rank among the ablest jurists of Texas.

### DR. ALBERT WOLDERT

Albert Woldert, physician, was born at Tyler, May 9th, 1867 son of John George and Alma Edalina (Richter) Woldert. He is a graduate of New York College of Pharmacy, 1889 and received his M. D. degree from University of Pennsylvania in 1893. He married Elva Buford on May 6th, 1923.

He was a pharmacist for 4 years and has been in private practice of medicine at Tyler since 1893. He was formerly asso-

ciated with patient departments of Howard Hospital; St. Josephs Hospital and Polyclinic, Philadelphia. He is a member of American Medical Association; is former councilor of Texas Medical Association and former president of Smith County Medical Association. He is also a member of Texas State Historical Society.

He has contributed to Gould and Pyles, Cyclopedia of Medicine and Surgery Journals, American Medical Association, Texas State Medical Association, Journal Medical Sciences, Investigation on Conveyance of Malaria by anopheles mosquito (Journal American Medical Association, 1901); believed to have been 2nd successful result in America. Was awarded 2nd prize by Texas Centennial Commission for oldest relic, "rabadoquines" (cannon, about 1690) found near location of Mission San Francisco de los Tejas; located sites of San Francisco, Santissimo Nobre de Maria missions, Houston County; also located several historic spots in Smith County where granite markers will be erected.

His recreations are: fishing and hunting. He is a Democrat, Episcopalian and his address is Gary Buildings, Tyler, Texas.

Dr. Woldert was never a resident of Houston County, but his contributions to its history entitle him to a place in any history of the county.

### MAJOR JOHN WORTHAM

Among the pioneer citizens of Houston County, who contributed to its development, no one stands out more prominently than John Wortham. He was born on May 10, 1800 and came to Texas in the early thirties. His ability and fine character were recognized at once and he was appointed to responsible positions. There are so many historic documents that tell the story of his early life that the author will let these speak for themselves.

The oldest of these is a commission signed by Sam Houston as President of the Republic of Texas, dated December 18th, 1837, as follows:

"IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME OR  
MAY CONCERN—GREETING.

"Be it known, That I, SAM HOUSTON, President of said Republic of Texas, reposing special trust and full confidence in the honor, patriotism, fidelity, skill and capacity of J. Wortham, do by these presents, constitute and appoint him the said J. Wortham to the office of associate commissioner of the Board of Land Commissioners for the County of Houston to which he has been duly elected by the joint vote of both Houses. Giving and hereby granting to him, the said J. Wortham, full power and authority as such, to exercise and discharge all and singular, the duties, obligations, and trusts to his said office, in anywise appertaining, by the Constitution and Laws of this Republic.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same and all and every the honors, fees, perquisites and dues thereunto belonging, for and during, and until the full end and term of his said appointment.

Given under my hand and the Seal of my office, at the City of Houston, this 18th day of December, A. D. 1837, and of the Independence of said Republic the Second.

SAM HOUSTON

By the President,

R. A. Irion, Secretary of State."

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The following document dated June 15th, 1839 should be of general interest:

"Crockett, June 15th, 1839.

"We, the undersigned appraisers by authority of Major John Wortham to judge a lot of beeves, furnished by Collin Aldrich & Jacob Allbright, for the use of Gen. Burlisons Command, do hereby certify that we have this day judged the weights of 31 beeves on said contract and judge them to weigh 15,460 lbs. and that we judge them to be sound and wholesome beef.

"GIVEN under ourhands this date above written.

A. E. Gossett"

On April 27th, 1839, he issued an appeal to the citizens of Houston County to enroll as members of a Battalion of Rangers which he signed: "John Wortham, Major, Houston County Rangers."

At the January Term 1846, Major Wortham was appointed road overseer by Order of the Commissioners Court as follows:

"REPUBLIC OF TEXAS  
HOUSTON COUNTY.

"Co. Com. Court.  
Jany. Term. 1844

"ORDERED BY THE COURT, That John Wortham be and he is hereby appointed of Precinct No. 1, Crockett & Ft. Houston Road from Crockett to Greenwood and the following hands are apportioned to work said road, to-wit: C. R. Pruit, A. E. Gossett; J. R. Brackin & son; John Wortham & hands; E. Cheatham; R. A. Walker; M. A. Walker; Mobley Roan; H. E. Roan; Widow Brents Hands; D. Doubt; E. T. Powell & hands; James Fortune; Alfred Range & S. Adams.

A True Copy.

C. H. Nelson, C. C. H. Co.

By H. Nelson, Depy."

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On July 1st, 1842, he was appointed Quartermaster of the 4th Regiment of the 3rd Brigade, Texas Militia by James Carr, Colonel Commanding said Regiment.

Correspondence shows that he was an intimate friend of Hon. Isaac Parker, Congressman from Houston County in the Congress of the Republic of Texas as early as 1839. He was one of the original trustees of Trinity College located at Alabama on Trinity River.

Later he married Miss Cary Ann Vaughan, and settled on a large plantation four miles northwest of Crockett, where he led the life of a country gentleman for many years and where he died November 10, 1867 and is buried. His grave is marked by a beautiful marker, erected by the Centennial Commission of Control. After his death his family moved to Crockett and acquired a good house, which was later known as the Brauner Place, now occupied by Smith Murchison. He and his wife raised a large family of children, the oldest being his son, Wil-

liam, known as "Billy" Wortham, who married Miss Nancy Hall, a daughter of Capt. John L. Hall; Jennie, who married John C. Lacy; "Bud," who met a tragic death in Crockett; Eliza, who married A. LeGory; and Lucina, who married Joe Long. Many descendents of this worthy pioneer are still living in Crockett.

### WILLIAM BRANCH WORTHINGTON

The subject of this sketch was born on the 22nd day of February 1848, in Arkansas. His father moved, with his family in 1863, to a farm near Old Sumpter, then the county seat of Trinity County, his farm located on what was known as Piney Creek. At that time Mr. Worthington was a boy of about fifteen years of age. There he grew to manhood, had many experiences of frontier life while living there. Such animals as panthers and other kinds of "varmints" were then abroad in the land. He resided in Trinity County during the Civil War and during Reconstruction days and during that time was a member of the original KU KLUX KLAN, and assisted in preserving law and order in the county. During this period he held the office of tax collector of Trinity County and carried his money to the State Capital on horseback.

In the early seventies he moved with his brother Jim and his mother to Nevils Prairie in Houston County and engaged in farming and later operated a saw mill and grist mill with his partner Ben Speer.

On September 13th, 1879, he married Miss Dollie Thompson, a daughter of Judge S. M. Thompson and she survives him. To this union there were born four children, Augusta, now known as Mrs. Gussie Shivers, Eleanor, known as Ellie, who died many years ago, Morris, who still survives and is a prominent business man of New York City, and has traveled to South America in pursuit of his business, and Ruth, who is now Mrs. Ruth Harris.

He was prominent in Masonic circles, having been first a member of Lovelady lodge and later a member of Lothrop lodge at Crockett. He was a devout, conscientious and faithful member of the Church of Christ, and often preached to churches of that faith, and was regular in his attendance on the services of his church. Altogether he was a good man, a good citizen, a good father, husband and friend.

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