

## HISTORY OF HOUSTON COUNTY

Dr. W. G. W. Jowers (another pioneer doctor of Houston County) in Crockett. May 13th, 1846, and soon after they moved to Palestine in the newly created county of Anderson. She died on the 27th day of September, 1862 and is buried in Palestine. Her daughter, Jane Armistead Beeson, grew up in Palestine and married Nathaniel Wyche Hunter, a lawyer of Palestine and the son of a pioneer family, on September 6th, 1865.

### WILLIAM V. BERRY

If a man's importance to his community is to be measured by his accomplishments, then W. V. Berry is to be rated as one of the outstanding citizens of Crockett and Houston County in his day. He was born in Louisiana on June 2nd, 1856, and came with his father, Dr. Henry Berry, to Houston County when only sixteen years of age. His father bought and settled on a farm near Dailey, and W. V. Berry worked there for a short time. Before he reached his majority, he was employed by Frank Edens, a merchant of Grapeland, at ten dollars per month and out of this meager salary, he saved enough money to send himself to Soule Commercial College at New Orleans, where he qualified himself for a business life, and returned to Grapeland and worked for B. F. Edens in an important capacity, until he went into business with Major Jas. F. Martin at Grapeland. This continued for a short time, after which he came to Crockett and bought out the Henry Grabenheimer stock of merchandise and went into the mercantile business, which he carried on for many years. On October 16th, 1888 he bought the Walter Coleman Farm about 4 miles southeast of Crockett and began farming operations on a large scale. This farm was later sold to some northern people and is now known as the Stockton Farm or Ranch.

Mr. Berry was instrumental in assembling a large body of land about five miles north of Crockett, at a place on the railroad, then known as Stark's Switch and which is now known as Latexo. He also purchased the old J. J. Woodson Place about three miles south of Crockett which later was known as the Clinton Farm.

In 1890 he purchased the hotel property previously known as the Collins & Douglas store and changed the name to the Pickwick Hotel, and operated the same for many years and as a hotel proprietor was known all over the State of Texas.

He had a unique and varied career. His mother was a devout Catholic and eloped from a convent to marry his father, who