

## HISTORY OF HOUSTON COUNTY

Jacob Masters, Senior was married to Elizabeth Shaw on February 28th, 1800. His sons Jacob and Henry evidently had families in Texas before the days of the Republic, for both received grants of leagues and labors of land from the Mexican Government as early as 1835.

### JOHN McCONNELL

Old Ireland furnished Houston County some valuable citizens, who contributed largely to the development of the county, but none more outstanding than the subject of this sketch. John McConnell was born in Ireland on January 28th, 1818, the son of Patrick and Bridget McConnell. He landed in New York on January 1st, 1839 and went from there to New Orleans and, after a short time, he moved to a place near Nacogdoches. From there he came to Crockett on his way to Galveston, September 27th, 1847, but found the place so inviting that he decided to locate, and immediately opened a blacksmith shop, being a blacksmith by trade. Soon afterwards he married Mary Jane Dickerson, daughter of a pioneer, William Dickerson, who lived near Crockett. After her death, he married Martha Lovelady, the daughter of Cyrus Lovelady, also a pioneer of Houston County.

He was successful in his business career and having accumulated a competency in his blacksmith business, he opened a hardware store and built up a large and successful business in that line. Although not a politician, he held the office of County Treasurer of Houston County for twelve years and later the office of city alderman for four years.

He was a prominent and influential member of the Baptist Church and a suit that he brought against a Baptist minister for a debt resulted in a division of the church. He was also prominent in Masonic circles, both in his local lodge and in the Grand Lodge of Texas. He was a member of Palestine Commandery, Knights Templar. He died in Crockett.

He died September 7th, 1898 and so highly was he esteemed by the people of Crockett that a public meeting was held at the courthouse at which Col. W. W. Davis was chosen Chairman and Geo. W. Crook, Secretary, and J. E. Downes, W. D. Pritchard, A. LeGory and A. A. Aldrich a Committee on Resolutions. In these resolutions he was commended as "having exemplified in his life all the best qualities of a citizen, and was by his