

HISTORY OF HOUSTON COUNTY

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 Ellic, 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.