

issippi respectively, were old settlers of Louisiana and were married in that State. Her father was a planter and slave-owner before the war, and filled several official positions in his county. In 1874 he came to Texas, and is now a resident of Comanche county. His wife died in 1878. They reared a family of seven children, viz.: Joe E., wife of E. M. White; George A., of Hill county; B. F., ex-Sheriff of Coryell county; Phoebe, wife of O. L. Jones; H. R., of Coryell county; Samuel, M. D., of Comanche county, and Sallie M., wife of Mr. Harville. Mr. and Mrs. Harville have eight children, as follows: Bessie and Sina, twins; Cornelius A., who died when young; Josie; John H.; R. Q., who died when young; and Ethel and Effie, twins.

Mr. Harville and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.



W V. MILLER, manager of Buckley & Barton's extensive store at Gatesville, was born in Maury county, Tennessee, in 1856, a son of A. C. and Minerva (Akin) Miller, natives also of Tennessee. The paternal grandfather, Vincent Miller, was born in North Carolina, was a farmer by occupation, and became an early pioneer of Maury county, where he subsequently died. The maternal grandfather, William Akin, was a pioneer of the same county in Tennessee and was a farmer by occupation. The father of our subject served in the Confederate army, under Forrest, during the entire struggle. He moved to Obion county, West Tennessee, where he still resides.

W. V. Miller was reared in Middle and West Tennessee, and came to Texas in 1877, locating permanently soon afterward at Gatesville. He was first employed as clerk for S. D. Crittenden one year, then with Cumby & Chittum four years, was then engaged in business alone two years, next as a clerk for Schley Brothers two years, and then as manager for Buckley & Barton. The firm have a large general merchandise store on the east side of the square,

carrying a stock of \$30,000, and do an annual business of \$50,000. They also own a large and well stocked livery stable, the best in the county.

Mr. Miller was married in 1884, to Ora Murrell, a native of Coryell county, and a daughter of Lemuel Murrell, a pioneer of this county and a prominent merchant and stock man. He was assassinated about the close of the war. Our subject and wife have two children: Raby and Bruce. The family are members of the Methodist Church.



W B. HEDGPETH, County Collector of Coryell county, was born in Tennessee in 1839, a son of J. W. and Jane (Beavers) Hedgpeth, natives also of Tennessee. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Jeremiah Hedgpeth, was born in North Carolina, of English ancestry, and was a pioneer of Tennessee. The Beaverses came from Virginia, and are an old family of Welsh descent. The grandfather, William Beavers, was also a pioneer of Tennessee. J. W. Hedgpeth, the father of our subject, came to Texas in the fall of 1860, settling in Coryell county, where he died in July, 1890. The mother departed this life about 1876.

The subject of this sketch was reared in his native State, and was early engaged in agricultural pursuits. In 1861 he enlisted in the Confederate army, in Company C, Thirty-Second Tennessee Infantry, and at the battle of Fort Donelson was captured and held prisoner seven months. He was exchanged at Vicksburg, Mississippi, and his company was changed to Company A; was in the battles of Chickamauga, Chattanooga, in all the engagements of the Georgia campaign, then to Nashville with Hood, and was wounded in the hand at the battle of Murfreesboro. From the effects of this wound he was obliged to suffer amputation, after which he returned home. Mr. Hedgpeth then farmed and taught school for a time, was afterward elected Collector of Lincoln county, and held that office

two years. In 1872 he came to Coryell county, Texas, and, after teaching school and farming for a time he was elected to the office of Justice for the Central District, which position he held four years. He then purchased a farm, and also followed merchandising in Gatesville two years, and in 1887 was elected to his present office, and re-elected in 1889.

Our subject was married in 1860, to Miss Harriet Luna, and they have had seven children: Frances J., wife of J. W. Tyson; M. G., of this county; W. L., Deputy Collector of Coryell; Louisa, wife of E. P. Morgan; R. H. and J. D., attending the public school. The family are members of the Baptist Church, and Mr. Hedgpeth has always taken an active interest in everything for the good of his county.



ELI WILLIAMSON, of Pidecock Ranch, is truly a pioneer and a most highly respected, substantial citizen of Coryell county, Texas, was born in Washington county, Arkansas, in 1835. His father, Stephen Williamson, was born in South Carolina, in 1791, and when a young man emigrated to Mississippi, where he married Sarah, daughter of Dutton Sweeton. Their union resulted in the birth of the following named children: Joseph, a resident of Panola county, Texas; John, in Glasscock county, this State; Sereno, wife of Wilson Patterson; D. S., of Lampasas county; D. M., deceased; Eli, the subject of this sketch; Nancy, deceased, wife of Albert Jones; an infant son died in Arkansas; Mary Ann, wife of M. Hampton; Rachel, deceased, wife of W. R. Basham; Sarah, deceased, wife of Wilson Rogers; W. R., of Lampasas county. Stephen Williamson was engaged in stock and farming operations all his life. He moved to Arkansas from Mississippi, where he remained till 1833, and that year came to Texas. He first located in Rusk county, where, in addition to his other interests, he began trading with the Indians. In 1849 he located in Burleson county, a year later in Bell

county, and in 1854 came to Coryell county, settling on Bee House creek, on the farm on which his son Eli now resides. In 1863, when the Indians were numerous and very hostile, Mr. Williamson, in company with Mr. Hendrickson, crossed the mountains to gather up some stolen horses. On returning, they were pursued and attacked by the redskins. Mr. Williamson was killed, scalped and stripped, and found the next day by J. F. Basham.

Eli Williamson, the subject of our sketch, had very poor opportunities for an education, being all his life on the frontier. In those days school houses were a curiosity, and what schools there were here then were held in private houses. Running cattle and horses, and ranging furnished his employment for many years after coming to Coryell county. When the war broke out he joined a company and went to Waco for examination, but was discharged on account of asthmatic trouble. Since the war he has devoted his time to farming and stock-raising exclusively. He now owns 1,200 acres of fine land, 200 of which are under plow and in a high state of cultivation. He takes some interest in local politics, seeing to it that good, honest men are supported by him and his; but he has never sought office, never caring for those honors.

March 14, 1860, he married M. E., daughter of Enos Bone, of Tennessee. The children born to them are John Henry, who is dead; Stephen; Allie, wife of W. W. Robinson; Lucy Exar, wife of Bush Williamson; Mollie J., wife of Lewis Hill; M. W. and Percy. The family are identified with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.



JAMES M. CROUCH, of Bell county, was born in Georgia, July 24, 1852, a son of Thomas W. Crouch, also a native of that State. In 1863, the latter entered the Confederate service, and participated in all the principal engagements until the battle of Gettysburg, and was killed at what is known as the Mary-