

## THE WILCOX FAMILY

In 1844 James M. Wilcox, then only sixteen years of age, came to Collin County to visit his brother George, who lived a few miles east of Lebanon. After a stay of only a few months, he returned to his home in Missouri, riding the entire distance alone on horseback. In 1849 he joined in the gold rush to California, riding his pony in a caravan of other 49ers. He soon returned to his home and entered the University of Missouri, from which he graduated with highest honors in 1852. In about 1855 he came back to Texas and bought out the heirs of his brother George. Soon thereafter he went to Galveston and purchased a stock of goods, including ten 100-pound sacks of salt, and took this merchandise by boat to Jefferson, thence overland to Weston, where in 1856 he established one of the first mercantile stores in that town. While at Weston he married Nancy Throckmorton, a sister of James W. Throckmorton. Later the family moved back to his farm. During the Civil War he was a member of Captain R. W. Carpenter's Company in Martin's Regiment. After the war he moved to Plano where he opened a lumberyard in 1872. This business was moved to McKinney in 1881 and the firm later established other lumberyards at Melissa, Anna, Princeton, and Allen. Mrs. Nancy Wilcox died in 1878 and he died on March 1, 1912. His children were George W., Frank E., J. H., Arthur, J. M., Mrs. S. W. King, and Mrs. Fred Bush.

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George W. Wilcox was born in Collin County on October 1, 1862. At the age of seventeen he entered the lumber business with his father and at his father's death he became president of the firm. He was one of the organizers and also president of the McKinney Building and Loan Association; one of the organizers, builders, and directors of the McKinney Cotton Oil Mill; and a director of the Collin County National Bank. He was a member of the McKinney school board for twenty years and was its president until ill health forced his retirement. He died on August 25, 1928. The following children survived him: Mrs. K. D. Allen, Mrs. John D. Reese, Mrs. Mary Oswalt, and Misses Maud Lake and Billy Jean Wilcox.

Frank E. Wilcox was born in Collin County on December 12, 1865. The first school which he attended was taught by Joseph W. Baines where the Rowlett Baptist Church is now located. He studied law at both the University of Missouri and the University of Texas, graduat-

<sup>67</sup> Wilson, Book 40, p. 21.