



WILLIAM K. SEYMOUR, one of the representative citizens of McLennan county, was born February 9, 1827, a son of George R., and Rebecca (Brown) Seymour, natives of Virginia and Kentucky, respectively. The father was a prominent farmer and slave-owner before the war, and in 1876 he traded his land in Missouri for a Texas farm. He never occupied his land in this State, but resided with his son until his death, which occurred January 10, 1878. His widow, who was born October 10, 1802, resides with a daughter in this neighborhood. The parents reared a family of nine children: John, who came to Texas in 1876, and died in Lamar county in 1882, leaving a family: William K., our subject; Richard A., who also came to this State in 1876, and now resides at Patton, this county; James C., who came to McLennan county, Texas, in 1855, and died in 1870, leaving a family; and Sarah, who was married in Missouri, to James Cochran, came to Texas in 1878, and now resides in McLennan county.

The subject of this sketch removed with his parents to Lincoln county, Missouri, where he grew to manhood. He farmed on rented land six years, and then purchased a tract of unimproved land. In the early part of 1869 he crossed the plains to Pike's Peak, but the same year came to Texas, locating where he now lives. He bought 155 acres of land, built a cabin of rawhide, and proceeded to make a farm. After improving a small tract of land, he was obliged to volunteer to protect the country. In 1862 he enlisted in the Western frontier service, in Whiteside's company, McCord's regiment, and served to the close of the war. He participated in many skirmishes with the Indians, was in the battle of Dove Creek, with the Kickapoos and Pottawattomies, which numbered about 3,000, and they had only about 666 soldiers. The Indians were victorious, and over 100 of the soldiers were killed or wounded. The force then fell back, and, owing to cold and bad weather, were obliged to abandon the fighting. Their provisions became exhausted, and they were compelled to live on ponies, dogs, or anything that could be gotten to eat, for about seven days, when they found cattle and buf-

falo. At one time forty-seven days passed without a bite of bread or salt. After the close of the war the company went to Colorado Fort, where they disbanded and returned home. Mr. Seymour found his wife and children in almost destitute circumstances, his stock and money gone, and he was obliged to work at any labor he could find to do. The following year he put in a small crop, and since then has had plenty.

Mr. Seymour married Miss Rebecca Fenton, a daughter of Richard and Clarissa Fenton, natives of England and Bourbon county, Kentucky. The mother is a daughter of Burton Palmer, who moved to Missouri in an early day, when the smoke of the wigwags could be seen curling in the air, and there Mr. Fenton found and married his wife, in 1834. One sister besides herself came to Texas, who married a brother of Mr. Seymour, and they now reside in Mitchell county, Texas. Mr. Fenton died in Missouri in 1862, and his widow now resides in California, aged seventy-six years. Mr. and Mrs. Seymour have had eleven children, as follows: Clarissa, born September 30, 1853, married Dr. Frank Saunders, a practicing physician of Hamilton; George, born November 9, 1855, is a farmer and stock-raiser of Mitchell county; Alice, born December 21, 1857, married William Carpenter, a farmer of this county; James B., born May 20, 1860, is a farmer and stock-raiser of Fisher county; Emma, born November 14, 1862; Martha L., July 30, 1865, died March 5, 1867; William, born December 5, 1867, was married July 23, 1891, to Miss Elizabeth Tubb; Lella and Lulu, born March 29, 1870, and the former married A. J. Compton, of this county, and the latter married T. Barnett, a grandson of D. Barnett, a farmer of this county; Susan, born July 25, 1872; and Horatio L., October 16, 1874. Mr. and Mrs. Seymour have eighteen grandchildren, fourteen of whom are boys. The parents and all but four children are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and our subject is a Democrat in his political views. He was the first white man to plant the American flag on the peak of a mountain in western Texas, and when the county was organized it was named in honor of the subject of this sketch.

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