

**DR. J. S. BRUCE**  
 This successful medicine man of Eagle Lake has practiced the art of healing the sick since 1859, during which long term of years he has met with a more than average degree of success, and his name is a familiar household word throughout this section. Dr. Bruce was born in Winchester, Virginia, in 1836; came to Texas in '59, located in Colorado county and moved into the town of Eagle Lake in '70. He was merchandising part of this time, but has been practicing medicine since that year. At the breaking out of the civil war he enlisted in the Fifth Texas Hood's Brigade Army of Northern Virginia, and served as a private until the Second Battle of Manassas, where he was wounded, a bullet striking him in the left side of the neck and coming out at his right shoulder, and the scars are still visible.

Dr. Davidson returned to his home in Alabama and went to bookkeeping in order to lay aside enough money to enter a medical



college. He graduated from the Medical College of Alabama in 1873, and came to Texas and located in Colorado county in '75. He entered the practice of his profession soon after his arrival here and has enjoyed a wide and successful practice ever since. Dr. Davidson was mayor of Eagle Lake for four consecutive terms, and has also served the city in the capacity of alderman for five or six years. He was elected Justice of the Peace of this precinct in 1890 and has retained that office with credit to himself and to the office ever since. Dr. Davidson is a gentleman of the true Southern type. He possesses a very wide circle of friends in the county and is one of the most popular men in this section. He is a man of high principles and enjoys the friendship of all who know him.



After entirely recovering from this wound, he received a commission as assistant surgeon, and was assigned to 47th Virginia Infantry. As acting surgeon of his regiment, Dr. Bruce was present at all battles in which the Army of Northern Virginia was engaged, except the Battle of Sharpsburg. He was at the Seven Pines Battle, Gaines Mill, Malvern Hill, Second Manassas, besides participating in other bloody battles in Maryland and Virginia, and in numerous skirmishes. He surrendered at Appomattox.

**DR. F. O. NORRIS**  
 Dr. Frank O. Norris was born on the 11th day of November, 1850, in Fulton, Dallas county, Alabama. Dr. Norris was educated in Wilcox county, Alabama, and when quite young, at about the age of eighteen years, he began the study of medicine, attending lectures in Mobile, Ala., and graduating in 1876 from the Medical University of Alabama. The doctor was but a young man when he was breaking out of the civil war, and his youth is all that kept him out of the conflict, however, he had four brothers who fought on the Confederate side. Dr. Norris came to Colorado county in '75, then an undergraduate. He practiced medicine one year at Alletton, then returned to Alabama and completed his medical course



**DR. J. K. DAVIDSON**  
 Dr. Davidson was born in Clark county, Alabama, in 1842. Went to the war in '61, enlisting from Mobile, and joining Company I of Wirt Adam's Cavalry. He served through the entire war. Was wounded while skirmishing before Vicksburg. While his arm was in a shocking position a bullet struck him in the left hand, passing through the arm and lodging in his left side. His hand is still crippled from the wound, and his left arm is yet practically useless to him. At the close of the war,

and child in the community and one whose word is as good as his bond. Mr. Anderson was born in Marshall county, Alabama, in 1844; came to Texas in '55, locating in Wharton county, moving to Colorado county the following year, having settled in the southwest end of the county. He joined the Confederate Army in '61, enlisting at Galveston in Attison's company of cavalry. This company disbanded in '62 and he then joined Brown's Battalion and "messed" with his life-long comrade, "Uncle Tom" Roberts, of our town. Mr. Anderson served all through the four years' conflict and after the war ended settled at Columbus, where he had the contract of running teams between Alletton and Columbus. In 1870 he rented a farm four miles above Columbus, and engaged in farming. In the spring of '78 he went to Mexico, where he bought horses, driving them back to Eagle Lake and for a time bought and sold horses for a livelihood. He has been living here since that time.



**MR. J. P. ANDERSON**  
 Mr. J. P. Anderson, who is familiarly known to his friends as "Uncle Pink," is one of the most popular men in Colorado county—a man who enjoys the friendship of every man, woman

and child in the community and one whose word is as good as his bond. Mr. Anderson was born in Marshall county, Alabama, in 1844; came to Texas in '55, locating in Wharton county, moving to Colorado county the following year, having settled in the southwest end of the county. He joined the Confederate Army in '61, enlisting at Galveston in Attison's company of cavalry. This company disbanded in '62 and he then joined Brown's Battalion and "messed" with his life-long comrade, "Uncle Tom" Roberts, of our town. Mr. Anderson served all through the four years' conflict and after the war ended settled at Columbus, where he had the contract of running teams between Alletton and Columbus. In 1870 he rented a farm four miles above Columbus, and engaged in farming. In the spring of '78 he went to Mexico, where he bought horses, driving them back to Eagle Lake and for a time bought and sold horses for a livelihood. He has been living here since that time.



**MR. T. J. ROBERTS**  
 Mr. Roberts was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1840. His parents died when he was but seven years of age, leaving him in the world alone to battle for himself. He came to Colorado county, Texas, in 1851, and settled on the Bernard. He remained in this county until

zons of our town. He has been president of the Colorado County Medical Association, and is also a member of the State Medical Association. He is a general practitioner and stands high in the profession.

Colorado river. He sold cotton in '75 for 17c, the price for the fleecy in those days ranging all the way from 15c to 20c. The leaf worm, Mr. Anderson says, made its first appearance in this country in '73 and that year the crop was almost destroyed by that pest. In the following year he commenced poisoning with Paris green, and the crop of '74 was a bumper one. Mr. Anderson says that deer were so plentiful in those days that hunters would kill only the biggest and fattest of bucks. Deer, he says, went in droves and more could be seen on the prairies than you can see cattle now. Mr. Anderson says running wild turkey down on horseback was a great sport, and that he has killed countless numbers of prairie chickens right where the business portion of Eagle Lake now stands. Quail were seldom hunted in those days, and in his opinion, there are more quail today than there were then. The prairies were covered with thousands and thousands of wolves, and cattle could be seen, especially in the southern part of the county, in bunches just as wide as your eyes would let you see.

ranks, which exploded and killed the major and several of the men, and a piece of the shell struck Mr. Roberts on the calf of his leg, rendering a very severe and painful wound, the scar from which he will carry to the grave with him. The first real fight of the year in which Mr. Roberts took part was at West Point, on York river, in Virginia. He was under Gen. Joe Johnston on his retreat from Yorktown to Richmond. He took part in the Seven Pines battle and was also in the seven day fight before Richmond. After being wounded and unfit for service, he was furloughed and sent back to Texas. After recovering from his wound he started back to Virginia, but was retained at Shreveport in the fall of '63 on account of not being able to do infantry service and was assigned to cavalry in Brown's Battalion, and here served until the close of the war, returning to Colorado county when the war was over. Mr. Roberts tells of a very interesting incident before the war which caused the people of Western Texas a great deal of uneasiness and excitement. It was in 1858, when Gen. Cortina, a Mexican with his company started over into Texas to invade the State. John Mackey, who lived in this county at that time and who was afterwards county clerk, formed a company to go to the assistance of the people of Western Texas. Mr. Roberts joined the company, which made a doublequick time march across the State to meet the Mexican invasion, but on the other side of Wilson county, they were informed that the Mexicans had learned of their movements and had crossed the Rio Grande back into Mexico.

Mr. Roberts is one of Eagle Lake's most useful and influential citizens. He has often served in the capacity of alderman and was strongly urged to become a candidate for Mayor of the City of Eagle Lake at the last election, but declined the honor. He is at present County Commissioner from this precinct and a more efficient one would be hard to find anywhere, and we doubt if there is a man in the precinct that could beat him for the office as long as Mr. Roberts desires to hold it.

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### MR. J. C. COOPER

Mr. Jonathan C. Cooper, better known to his friends as "Uncle Rhodie," was born on Johnson's Bayou, Calcasieu Parish, in Louisiana, in March of 1839, and came to Texas in 1846, locating in Orange county, which at that time was a part of Jefferson county. The boat on which Mr. Cooper landed in Orange was made of a huge cypress tree, having been dug out and made into a boat. On this boat were his father and seven children and two other men, and all their household goods—but Mr. Cooper casually remarks that household goods in those days didn't require a great deal



of space. There were only two houses in Orange when Mr. Cooper landed. Other people living there were in camps and small tents. Was residing there when Jefferson county was divided, making Orange county with Orange the county seat. This was in 1850. Mr. Cooper says when he first came to Texas, as a mere boy, thousands of wild cattle, owned by no man, roamed the prairies, and that buffalo, panthers and wild cats

were everyday scenes, and he says in those days deer were plentiful. He enlisted from Orange county at the breaking out of the civil war. Joined Daily's battalion, Ragdale's Company F, and served throughout the war, fighting for the cause he loved. After the war was over, Mr. Cooper was elected Sheriff of Orange county, he being the first sheriff of that county. Served in this official capacity for one year, from '66 to '67, resigning his office and moving to Wharton county, where he settled on the Bernard creek and engaged in stock raising with his brother, U. G. Cooper. He remained in the cattle business until '85, when he had his foot and leg crushed by a train at Randon Station, amputation of the leg being necessary. Since that time Mr. Cooper has been engaged in farming. He has been living in the town of Eagle Lake since '96, but has been a resident of this community since 1867. He remembers Eagle Lake when but a hamlet of a few houses, and can remember when there was not a house between Eagle Lake and East Bernard Station, with the exception of one section house.

### MR. J. A. HARBERT

Mr. James A. Harbert was born in Madison county, Tennessee, in 1839. He came to Texas at the close of the war in 1865, locating on a farm about five miles from Eagle Lake. In 1881 he moved from the country into Eagle Lake and engaged in the general mercantile business with Mr. J. R. Newsom, who was a brother of our townsman, Mr. F. P. Newsom. In 1872 Mr. Harbert sold out his business to Dr. Bruce and then entered busi-

ness in partnership with Mr. J. C. Harbert, father of Mr. Algernon Harbert. They remained still wears a scar on his hand received in the Battle of Palo Alto. He was also a member of the Confederate army and served throughout the civil war. Mr. Little's father, Wm. Little, was with Stephen F. Austin's party when they made their tour of Texas in 1821. In the party were Stephen F. Austin, Wm. Little, Joseph H. Polley, Chas. Beard, William Smithers and Henry Holsten. This party left Nacogdoches on the 15th day of July, 1821, and went to San Antonio. After traveling from San Antonio to the Colorado river, they crossed that stream and came to the lake, camping here for several days. While camp-

ing on this lake Mr. Little and Chas. Beard together killed a very large eagle, and the name of Eagle Lake has since been given the body of water. This party went from here to where the town of Columbus is now situated, then turned toward the Brazos and camped where the town of San Felipe was afterwards built, and about one-half mile above where the town of Richmond now stands they built a fort which was known as

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Fort Bend, and from which Fort Bend county derives its name. The party remained in this fort all winter and until the following spring. Mr. Little has lived in Eagle Lake for thirteen years, having moved here from La Grange, where he had been living since the year 1869.

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THE farmers in the Eagle Lake country are now in better shape financially than for many years, and this year's cotton crop was extremely short, too, being caused by the severe drought.

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LABOR has been very scarce in this section of the country for the past several years, and employment may be found in the Eagle Lake country by as many laborers as desire to come to this section.