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History of Texas. Biographical  
history of Tarrant

Dallas

1895

about 800 acres, 400 of which are under cultivation, a portion of it being rented. With his own force he cultivates 150 acres of wheat. He also raises horses, cattle and hogs. In 1890 he built a cotton gin for his own and public use, and has since operated it.

Mr. Hunter was married in 1875 to Miss Laura C. McAdoo, who was born in Illinois in 1859, daughter of Samuel and M. A. McAdoo, natives of Illinois. Her parents came to Texas at an early day, and later returned to their native State, where the father died. He was a school-teacher. The widow and children came back to Texas, and she afterward became the wife of Samuel Hunter. After his death the family scattered, and she now finds a good home with the subject of our sketch. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter have five children,—Cally, Ollie, Edgar, Cecil and Elmer,—all at home. Mrs. Hunter is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Mr. Hunter is a Democrat.

**A** O. EDWARDS, a representative farmer and stock-raiser of Tarrant county, was born on the farm adjoining the one he now owns January 29, 1851, a son of James L. and Elizabeth (Overton) Edwards, natives of South Carolina. In an early day Mr. Edwards moved to Missouri and married there in 1832, and followed carpentering and milling on the Big Blue. He conducted that mill until coming

to Texas, in 1848, having left his family in Grayson county, this State, until he could erect a cabin. He located on the place adjoining our subject's present home, and from time to time added to his original purchase until he owned about 2,500 acres. He purchased live stock from Nick Byers, and in the fall of 1860 moved his herd of from 5,000 to 6,000 head farther west, but from 1865 to 1867 the Indians and white men succeeded in driving most of them away. Mr. Edwards then returned home, again starting in that business, and in 1869 regained a few head of the lost stock. He was a man of good judgment and untiring energy. On coming to this State he built boats at the river, in which to cross when he found the stream swollen.

The maternal grandfather of our subject, Aaron Overton, was a native of Virginia, but moved to east Tennessee in an early day, where Mrs. Edwards was born November 13, 1812. He located in Howard county, then Missouri Territory, in 1817, where he cleared and improved a farm, built the first mills in Howard and Jackson counties, and also conducted a distillery and manufactured salt. He next conceived the idea of a mill in Texas, which he had made, and also made a wagon in which to carry the buhrs, they having weighed over 6,000 pounds, and brought all to this State with ox teams, having been among the first to emigrate to this locality. He built his mill near Dallas, which was in running order within a year, and was the first, except

horse mills, in this county. He spent his remaining days in this locality, dying about 1859. Mr. Overton's family consisted of twelve children,—four sons and eight daughters. The only surviving son, Perry Overton, resides in Dallas county. Mrs. Edwards, the oldest child, and Mrs. John Robinson, the youngest of the family, and Mrs. Maxwell and Mrs. Loveless, are the only daughters now living.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwards were the parents of seven children, namely: Thomas, who died while serving his country in the late war; Richard, who also died in that struggle; Sarah J., deceased in 1887; Martha A., wife of A. Criswell, a Tarrant county farmer; C. O., the subject of this sketch; Matilda, wife of J. W. Burford; Cynthia C., who first married W. W. Burford, deceased, leaving three children, and afterward married M. B. Sisk, of Tarrant county; and James L., engaged in the stock business. The mother, now eighty-two years of age, finds a good home with her son. She is a member of the Christian Church.

C. O. Edwards, the subject of this sketch, engaged in the stock business after reaching a suitable age, and after his father's death he took charge of the farm and stock, with his younger brother. He has purchased his mother's interest in the estate, to which he has added, from time to time, until he now owns about 4,000 acres. He owns the best timber land on the river, and the entire farm is located in the valley of the Clear fork of Trinity river. In addi-

tion to general farming he is extensively engaged in the live-stock business, also owning an interest in stock in the West.

In December, 1874, Mr. Edwards was united in marriage with Mrs. Sally Weddington, a daughter of John F. Petty, a native of Kentucky and a prominent tobacco-raiser in that State. After his death the widow came, with her family, to Texas in 1857, locating in the White settlement of Tarrant county, and died at the home of her daughter in 1878. She had four children, of whom Mrs. Edwards was the youngest. Our subject and wife have one son, Crawford, attending college. By her first marriage Mrs. Edwards also had one son, John T. Weddington, a farmer of Tarrant county. Mr. Edwards has never aspired to public office, but holds steadfast to the principles of the Democracy.

**J** W. CARDER, one of the most enterprising men of Tarrant county, was born in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, June 22, 1839, a son of Robert and Elizabeth (Sedwick) Carder, natives of Frederick, Maryland, and of English descent. The maternal grandfather, Benjamin Sedwick, also a native of Maryland, was a prominent slave-owner and farmer, and both he and his wife were noted Methodists. His death occurred at his homestead in Virginia. Robert Carder died when our subject was five years of age, and his widow afterward married Daniel Cullies, and