

JESSE NEAL MESSER, M. D.

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON

912 MEDICAL ARTS BUILDING

HOUSTON, TEXAS

May 15, 1936.

OFFICE F. 8495
RES. H. 8768
IF NO ANSWER
CALL F. 9191

OFFICE HOURS:
11 TO 1 A. M.
4 TO 6 P. M.

Mrs. H. H. Ueckert,
3227 Avalon pl.,
Houston, Texas.

Dear Mrs. Ueckert,

Allow me to thank you for the services you rendered in obtaining the Texas flag for the Past Masters of Gray Lodge No. 329 A.F. & A. M. We presented the flag on May 6, with appropriate ceremonies. I was glad to explain that your services had been rendered in honor of Bro. J. L. McCrocklin.

The following information was received by me from Bro. N. B. Pearson, Grand Sec. of Grand Lodge of Texas, Waco, Texas:

"McCrocklin, J. L., Milam Lodge No. 11, Independence, Texas. First time on report as Tiler 1843, S.D. 1843, but does not appear on reports after 1857. Suppose that he demitted for we find the following:-

McCrocklin, J. L., Twin Sister Lodge No. 216, Blanco, Texas. Master Mason List 1857, Junior Deacon 1865, 1868, 1870-1871. The Charter of Twin Sister Lodge was granted Aug. 3, 1857. This Lodge was originally located at Hodges Mills, Comal Co., Texas. Lodge petitioned for change of name from Twin Sister Lodge No. 216 to Blanco Lodge No. 216, since the name of Twin Sister did not identify the location of the Lodge. Blanco Lodge was destroyed by fire 1876. However a complete file of records and reports of all Lodges from 1837 to the present time are on file."

From a manuscript history of Blanco Lodge No. 216 at Blanco written by Joe A. Speer for the Committee, the following data is taken:

"Blanco Lodge was first organized at a Settlement called Curry's Creek at Hodge's Hill in Comal County, and was called Twin Sisters Lodge, being named after two prominent mountain peaks nearby which were called "Twin Sisters" by the early settlers. The original petition was signed by J. L. McCrocklin, dated August 3, 1857. Jesse L. McCrocklin was buried with Masonic honors on March 22, 1888. His biographical sketch, was given in this history is: "Colonel Jesse L. McCrocklin was born in Kentucky Nov. 6, 1800, moved to Texas in 1833 and soon joined the fight for the ~~independence~~ independence of Texas. He was a participant in the bloody and decisive battle of San Jacinto. Removed to Blanco County in 1854.

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Was made a Mason in Owensboro Lodge, Kentucky. He was a charter member of Holland Lodge No. 1, also a charter member of Twin Sister Lodge No. 216 (now Blanco Lodge). Bro. McCrocklin was an earnest zealous Mason for 57 years. Died at His home near Blanco, Texas, March 22, 1888.

The statement Blanco Lodge history gives as to his being a charter member of Holland Lodge seems to be a mistake, as Kidd's, History of Hollan Lodge does not include his name in the list and the Grand Secretary's records do not show that he was ever a member of Holland Lodge. The Grand Secretary's Office will send you all the information they have about his membership in Milam Lodge No. 11, etc."

The following is taken from the Heroes of San Jacinto by Dixon and Kemp, which you have doubtless already seen:

"McCrocklin, Jesse Lindsay. Born in Shelbyville, Kentucky, November 8, 1800. He was married March 20, 1830, to Isabella Harris at the home of her parents at Owensboro, Kentucky, and the emigrated to Texas in 1832 and settled at Washington-on-the-Brazos.

Mr. McCrocklin first entered the Texas army in 1835 and participated in the siege of Bexar. In Service Record No. 4727 it is stated that Mr. McCrocklin enlisted in Captain Hill's company March 3; fought at San Jacinto; and was discharged May 3, 1836.

In 1842 Mr. McCrocklin was colonel of a regiment from Washington county on the Somervell expedition. He did not join the Mier expedition but obeyed instructions, and on December 11, 1842, started on his return to Gonzales where his regiment was disbanded.

Colonel McCrocklin died March 22, 1888, while a member of the Texas Veterans Association. His wife, who was born August 12, 1812, died January 12, 1902. Their graves in the cemetery at Blanco, Texas, are marked".

Do you know whether McCrocklin was active in other Masonic organizations or rather degrees? As he was not a Master of Blanco Lodge I judge he did not become an officer in the other degrees. If you think he may have, I shall be glad to search some of the histories of other degrees to see if his sketch is included.

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Have you asked for data about him at the Houston Public Library, etc? They have books this Library does not attempt to have. Tell them he was at San Jacinto."

Thanking you again for the interest you have shown and the favors you have rendered, I remain,

Yours Very Truly,

Jesse N. Messer Jr. P.M.