

## Benjamin Franklin Clark Giving the County a Home

Clark a native of St. Louis Missouri, was born on April 26, 1809, and in his obituary, it stated he arrived in Texas in the 1830s.

On September 30, 1839 he was issued a land certificate for 320 acres in Gonzales County which he exchanged for property in Lavaca County in 1850.

On July 26, 1843, he married Mary Ann Murphy in Jackson County, Texas, and was had a home in Petersburg.

When Lavaca County was organized the two most difficult problems were acquiring funds for the county treasury and providing housing facilities for the county offices and court. In 1846, the home of Franklin Clark was selected as the location for the meeting of the courts and the office of the County Clerk until a courthouse could be built.

Clark remained a citizen of Lavaca County for the remainder of his life. He died on April 16, 1894, at his home near Hallettsville and his remainder were interred at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery.