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RECTOR, CLAIBORNE - Born in Tennessee in 1805, a son of Rev. Morgan and Amelia Carter Rector. In Headright Certificate No. 21 issued to him for a league and labor of land by the Fort Bend County Board of Land Commissioners, February 6, 1838, it is stated that he came to Texas in January, 1830. He was a first cousin of Elbridge Gerry Rector, who also participated in the battle of San Jacinto.

In Service Record No. 328 it is stated that Mr. Rector served in the army from March 1 to September 1, 1836. On September 2, 1847 he was issued Donation Certificate No. 87 for 640 acres of land for having participated in the battle of San Jacinto. Claiborne and Pendleton Rector are shown on the muster roll of Captain Byrd Lockhart's Company at muster in July 4, 1836.

Mr. Claiborne Rector was twice married. By the first marriage three children were born, James Rector, Mrs. Emily Rector McClung and Mrs. Eveline Rector Tiner. His second wife, was Mrs. Nancy Kirkman Milborn and to this union no children were born. Mr. Rector died at Lavernia, Wilson County, Texas, March 23, 1873 and his wife died shortly afterwards. The two are buried in the Concrete Cemetery near Lavernia, but in Guadalupe County.

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In a letter to Mr. J. B. Graves, Cameron, Texas, dated at Merced, California, January 2, 1902, Mr. Rector gave a brief sketch of his life: "Your friendly letter came duly to hand about one month ago, please excuse me in not answering at once. I at that time was unwell is my excuse for not answering at its reception.

"I was on the vessel that was wrecked at the mouth of the Brazos River, the precise date of which I can not remember, that was early in April 1835. I remember your mothers family being on board the same vessel, and I shall never forget the terrible storm that we encountered on the Gulf of Mexico, between New Orleans and the mouth of the Brazos River, I presume that you have heard your mother rel ate. On board the same vessel was Mr. Nibling whom I remember well. What wonderful changes since that date I have passed through. I have passed through many scenes of pleasure and many hardships as well. I will give you short line of my wanderings. I was in Brazoria County at the breaking out of the war with Mexico. On the receipt of the news that Santa Ana had entered San Antonio, I with others started in that direction. This news we received through the Travis letter, who was at the Alamo. I was on the Guadalupe river at Gonzales when General Sam Houston arrived; He the same day sent out a small squad of men to learn the fate of the Alamo. In a short time they returned bringing the sad news of the fall of the place. There were forty two women at Gonzales waiting to hear the news who had husbands in the Alamo. Language can not describe the heart rending scene which still lives vividly in my brain. I was in the battle of San Jacinto and was wound-

ed in the arm and side, the wound in the side is hurting me at this writing. I joined Capt. Ben McCulloch's company of scouts in the war between the United States and Mexico; was out only three months. On the second of May I left Texas for California by the Southern route. After some hardships landed in Mariposa County then in all its mining glory. I did not succeed as did many in mining, so I left the mines in 1853, and tried my hand at farming on a small scale. In 1855 Merced County was formed. I was then elected County Clerk, holding that position seven years. I was then elected Sheriff of the county. After this I farmed a shorttime, then tried raising Angora goats until 1877 when I sold out and returned to Texas settling in San Saba County. After five years in Texas we returned to Merced County when we still reside. I was elected after my return County Treasurer, which office I held for three years. I was married in 1880. We have five children, three boys, and two girls. One son is a journalist, the other a farmer, and the third is the Superior Judge of this county. My daughters are both teaching school. On the 19th of next February I will be 86 years of age. I may never see Texas again, but I am interested in everything that affects the welfare of the people of that grand state. I thank you for your kind wishes and the clippings sent me. I sincerely trust and pray that your years may be lengthened into old age, and that health and prosperity may be your reward."