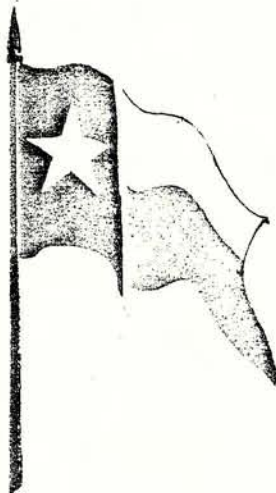


# *A page from Texas history . . . people, places, events*



*Montgomery County's proud contribution to the life and history of Texas*

## DR. CHARLES B. STEWART

Statesman, physician, scientist, scholar, philosopher, and patriot

Dr. Charles Bellinger Stewart, born in Charleston, South Carolina on February 18, 1806, came to Texas by boat in 1831, landing in Brazoria. Around 1831, he moved to Montgomery County, where, as a licensed physician practicing medicine, he served a wide community.

Entering wholeheartedly into the exciting life of the Texas colonists,

he soon became one of the most prominent young men of Texas. He held many important offices of public trust—all of which demanded a tremendous measure of self-dedication.

In 1836 Dr. Stewart was elected delegate to the convention where the Independence of Texas was declared, and he was the first to sign that "startling and sublime document." His firm signature stands out today as boldly on the manuscript as does that of John Hancock on the Declaration of 1776.

Dr. Stewart provided the Provisional Government with its first seal. . . a button his father had brought from England, a treasured keepsake that had been in the family for many years.

The original draft of the Lone Star Flag of Texas, designed in 1839, was the work of Dr. Stewart. This actual sketch rests among his papers in the Hall of Archives at Austin.

Many words of tribute have been written about this outstanding pioneer of Texas, and his contribution to his fellow man and to history is indisputable. The late Governor E.M. Pease said of him, "He was one of the most brilliant and intellectual men of his day. As a lawmaker he was cautious and prudent but stood firm in his convictions. He was never influenced by popular clamor nor was he easily led to embrace policies of doubtful wisdom. Possessed of a strong and well-stored mind he was conceded to be one of the best informed men in the State. Honored and respected for his high integrity and uncompromising adherence to principle, he won the admiration and confidence, if not the friendship, of all with whom he came in contact. For decision of character he was remarkable. Strong and true in friendship, a determined and unyielding enemy, bold and outspoken against what his judgment condemned, he gave to charity with an unsparing hand."

He dwelt for more than half a century within the borders of his beloved adopted State, serving the people among whom his lot was cast, honored for his patriotism as well as his more intimate service as a friend and neighbor. On July 28, 1885 he drew the draperies of his couch about him and quietly went to his rest. An ardent patriot, he has left his imprint boldly written in the constitution and statutes, in the institution and history of his country.