

## CAPTAIN FRED A. BROCK

This History of Texas (Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1895) together with a Biographical History of the Cities of Houston and Galveston contains a concise history of the state with biographies of prominent citizens of the above cities and personal histories of many of the early settlers and leading families ---

"Biography is the only true history" --- Emerson

"CAPTAIN FRED A. BROCK, deceased, was a native of the Island of Jamaica, having been born in Kingston, one of the chief seaport towns of that Island. His ancestry runs back to England which was the birthplace of his father, WILLIAM BROCK, and of both of his grandfathers, ADMIRAL BROCK and LIEUTENANT THOMAS TAYLOR, of the English navy. ADMIRAL BROCK was a man of note, having devoted his entire life to the service of his country and won an honorable name in its history. LIEUTENANT TAYLOR, after quitting the navy, took up his abode in the Island of Jamaica and devoted the rest of his life to land pursuits.

WILLIAM BROCK followed the sea until he was 28 years of age--engaged in the English and West India trade. He settled in Jamaica, married Mary Ann Taylor, daughter of Lieutenant Thomas Taylor, and became a large and successful coffee planter.

FRED A BROCK, of this article, son of William Brock, went to sea at an early age and sailed for several years in the employ of the Atlas Steamship Company between N. Y. City and the Southern Coast towns until 1870, when he came to Galveston.

From 1870 to 1873 he was engaged in coast-wise trade along the Gulf, but in the last named year took up his permanent residence in Galveston. Here he embarked in the mercantile business, which he pursued at first with success, later with considerable loss until 1879, when he gave it up altogether and went to work on the government jetties in Galveston Harbor. He was so employed for four years, at the end of which time he began government contracting on his own--to which he devoted his time and attention with the most satisfactory results, making out of it considerable money and establishing by means of it an excellent reputation as a deep sea engineer and a man of business.

On September 20, 1874, CAPT. BROCK married Miss LOIS BRISTOL, a native of Galveston, born in Sept. 1849--a daughter of William and Mary Ann Bristol early settlers of Galveston. The issue of this union was five children: FRED A., JR. born Aug. 15, 1875; MINNETTE born June 23, 1879; GRACE born July 23, 1883; HAZEL born April 4, 1885; and HAROLD born April 3, 1893.

Early in January, 1895, CAPT. BROCK, who was then engaged on a government contract at Velasco, Texas, had occasion to make a business trip to Tampico, Mexico, on which he took with him his wife, who on many sea trips accompanied CAPT. BROCK, and two of his children--GRACE and HAROLD. The object of the trip was to get a dredge-boat, the property of CAPT. BROCK, to be used on the work then in progress at Velasco. The boat, the MT. WALDO, was passed and considered sea-worthy. CAPT. and MRS. BROCK and two children and a crew of 12 men left Tampico on January 8, 1895. A severe storm came up and for 24 to 30 hours the MT. WALDO was buffeted before heavy seas, which usually run with high winds in that locality at that season of the year--until it was finally abandoned in a sinking condition, all on board taking to the yawl. They were at sea until the following day at 2 o'clock when they tried to land at Lobos Island or on one of the reefs near that Island below the entrance to Tampico harbor.

Two miles off shore the yawl capsized and CAPT and MRS. BROCK and two children and five of the boat's crew lost their lives. The seven remaining crew members succeeded in reaching the reef in an exhausted condition.

News of the loss of CAPTAIN and MRS. BROCK and children was received with sadness by their many friends in Galveston, and every assurance of sympathy and condolence was extended to their bereaved family."

CAPT. BROCK, who was a 33rd. degree Mason, also laid the first cable from Galveston to Mexico.