

Harry Fishburne Estill

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Read by Cheryl Spencer, Library Associate in Special Collections.

“Harry Fishburne Estill.” Read by Cheryl Patton, Library Associate at Newton Gresham Library at Sam Houston State University.

Harry Fishburne Estill was born August 12, 1861, the son of Charles Patrick and Catherine Fishburn Estill, in Lexington, Virginia. Charles P. Estill was graduated from Washington and Lee University and the University of Virginia. He and his family moved to Texas around 1870, where he served as a member of the faculty of Austin College, then located in Huntsville. He and his wife are both buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Huntsville, Texas.

Harry Fishburne Estill received his education at Austin College and Sam Houston Normal School. He began teaching in Navasota at the age of eighteen. He was principal of Navasota High School during 1881/82. He returned to Huntsville and became professor of Latin and History at Sam Houston Normal. In 1907, Austin College conferred upon him the degree Doctor of Letters. He was instructor of the State School of Methods at Austin in 1888. He taught summer institutes all over the state for many years.

In 1908, he succeeded H. C. Pritchett as President of Sam Houston Normal. He held this position until he resigned in 1937. He was a member of the Texas State Teacher's Association, where he served as president in 1902. He was also a member of the National Education Association and the Southern Educational Association. He was active in the Texas Historical Association.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Shrine, and Knights Templar. He was a past president of the Rotary Club, a director of the Chamber of Commerce, and a trustee of the Huntsville Public Schools. He was a Democrat and a Presbyterian. He was author of *History of Our Country*, a textbook used for many years in the schools of Texas and nearby states. He co-authored several books on history.

In 1892, he married Loulie Sexton of Marshall, Texas. She was the daughter of Judge Frank B. and Eliza Richardson Sexton. Her father was an attorney and a member of the Confederate Congress of Texas. Dr. and Mrs. Estill had five children: Frank, Katherine, Mary, Harry F., and Ruth.

Loulie Sexton Estill died in 1935, and Dr. Harry Fishburne Estill died in 1942. Both are buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Huntsville, Texas.