

12" x 6" Medallion Plate  
Gregg County

DF, 4-1-65

\*\*\*  
HONEYMOON HOME, 1878, OF

THOMAS CAMPBELL, LATER  
\*\*\* \*\*  
(1907-1911) GOVERNOR OF  
TEXAS. NOW HOME OF MRS.  
BAILEY M. SALMON. \*\*

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK, 1965. \*\*\*

FILE COPY-DO NOT REMOVE

4/9/65  
ac  
JMS

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF GREGG

BEFORE ME, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County,  
State of Texas, on this day personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_

Ethel Smith Crain (Mrs. Bluford Walter Crain, Sr.)

to me well known, and who, after being by me duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am a niece of Miss Fannie Bruner, wife of the late Governor Thomas Mitchell Campbell. My Mother was Miss Sammie McKay Bruner and was a sister of Miss Fannie Bruner.

Thomas Mitchell Campbell as a young man worked in the County Clerk's Office in Longview, Gregg County, Texas. He had come to Gregg County in the early years of his life with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Duncan Campbell. He was born April 22nd, 1856. He was admitted to the bar in Longview in 1878 the year in which he married Miss Fannie Bruner. THEIR FIRST HOME IN LONGVIEW is now the residence of Mrs. Bailey Salmon, Sr. and is located at 521 N. Second St. I do not know whether they built this little home or rented it, but I do know that it is the first place they lived after their marriage. They lived there until about the year unknown.

I know the above to be true as I was living in Longview during my aunt and uncle's life time and we have talked of it many times. I have also discussed it with my Mother.

An article on Gov. Thomas M. Campbell can be found in a Gregg County History published in 1957 by the University Supply and Equipment Co., Ft. Worth, Texas, and sponsored by Longview Junior Chamber of Commerce, on page 13. It gives most of the facts stated above.

Thomas Mitchell Campbell was Governor of Texas 1907

Texas Historical Commission Staff (DKU), 3/18/83

Official Texas Historical Building Marker (replacement) without  
post for attachment to wood  
Gregg County (Order #7091)

Location: 500 N. Second, Longview

CAMPBELL "HONEYMOON HOME" \*

THOMAS MITCHELL CAMPBELL

(1856-1923), A NATIVE OF RUSK, WORKED  
IN THE GREGG COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE  
IN LONGVIEW BEFORE BECOMING A  
LAWYER IN 1878, THE SAME YEAR HE  
MARRIED FANNIE BRUNER. THIS SMALL  
FRAME COTTAGE SERVED AS THEIR  
FIRST HOME. CAMPBELL WAS LATER A  
RAILROAD EXECUTIVE BEFORE SERVING  
TWO TERMS AS GOVERNOR OF TEXAS,  
1907-1911. THE CAMPBELL'S FORMER  
HOME WAS MOVED HERE FROM ITS  
ORIGINAL LOCATION (ACROSS SECOND  
STREET) IN 1982. \*\*

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1965\*\*\*

\*3/8 inch lettering to contrast with text

\*\*3/8 inch lettering

\*\*\*1/4 inch lettering

The pictured house (below) is of neither of the Campbell houses in Gregg County. This picture is very familiar to me but unknown at this time. At least, it is not extant in Longview.

.....Norman Black, 6-6-1994.



FA red  
Proper caption for  
the J.N. Campbell House  
TB 6-6-94

**CAMPBELL HOUSE**—Mrs. C. C. Adams, owner of the 433 South Center home bought by her father, Judge J. N. Campbell, in 1885; Adams of Longview, was born there also. Judge Campbell kept open house for the Texas judiciary, clergy, and youth. An orchestra played from the balcony for dances held on the large porch. Her son, Dr. James

# PRESS CLIPS

TEXAS  
PRESS  
ASSOCIATION

718 WEST 5th ST. AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701 PHONE 477-6755

News-Journal  
Longview, Texas

JAN 27 1974

## Historical Sites Abound In City

The city of Longview, just as its name indicates, is a city of planning and progress. It was incorporated in 1871 with a charter granted by the Secretary of State.

It was while engineers were laying out the town and surveying the lots, that a surveyor standing on "Capps Hill" remarked what a "long view" there was from the hill. Then turning to O. H. Methvin, he suggested the townsite be called Longview.

The ground where the present county courthouse stands was donated by the Southern Pacific Railroad. Historic homes and sites marked with official plaques and monuments include:

**CONFEDERATE WAR INDUSTRY** — A war-time home industry in memory of "Uncle Ben," a slave of Joseph Sparkman. Uncle Ben served as foreman for a shoe factory making boots for Confederate soldiers. Located on the Gilmer Road (State Hwy. 300) two miles north of U.S. Hwy. 80.

**BROWN - BIRDSONG HOME** — Home of early Methodist lay leader and member of Texas Legislature, the Rev. B. W. Brown. Owned and occupied by Mrs. Lawrence Birdsong.

**CAMPBELL HONEYMOON HOME** — Governor Thomas

Mitchell Campbell built this home in 1878. It is located at 521 N. Second Street.

**J. N. CAMPBELL HOME** — Built in 1872, later owned by Judge J. N. Campbell, located 433 S. Center Street.

**DUNDEE ANGUS RANCH** — Oldest brick home in Gregg County now standing, was built by pioneer physician Dr. J. N. Allison. Dr. Allison transported some of the materials from Virginia. Nearby is the famous Lathrop Discovery Oil Well, the first in Gregg County. Located approximately one mile north of west city limits of FM 2605.

**FLEWELLEN EASON HOME** — Built in 1879 by Mayor T. A. Flewellen. This was the first home in Longview to be converted into apartments.

**FINCH FAMILY HOME** — The second home to be built in Longview. Built by John Finch. Descendants still occupy the home, located 2010 E. Cotton.

**ROBERTSON PLACE** — Located six miles east of Kilgore on FM 349, was built in 1855 on land originally owned by Hayden Edwards, a participant of the Fredonian Rebellion.

**EARLY TEAGUE HOME** — This is one of the few original

homes located in Earpville (forerunner of Longview). It was remodeled in 1880s.

**TURNER HOME** — Features the original latticed well-house, and walnut stairway. It is located at 503 E. Methvin St.

**F. L. WHALEY HOME** — Fourth house built in Longview, has a unique "preacher's" room for the visiting clergy. Located 101 Whaley St. (courthouse square). Descendants of the original owner are still in residence.

**WOMACK - LACY HOME** — Had the first "ginger-bread trim" in Longview was built in 1876 and is located at 411 S. Center St.

**LAST DALTON GANG RAID SITE** — First National Bank of Longview was the scene of a bloody gunfight in 1894. The robbery of this bank resulted in the ultimate capture of the gang.

**ROCKWALL FARM** — Two miles west of Gregg County Courthouse. It had the oldest house in the county until it was destroyed by fire in 1953. The original house was built in 1854.

**PINE TREE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** — Was organized 1847, the first Gregg County church. It is one of the oldest in the state and is still being used. Just north of Loop 323, Greggton.

Longview has an archaeological society for interested in history. For information call the County Historical and Logical Society, Mrs. Belding, 753-4534.

Moved about 1982 to 500 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. in Longview. — Norman Black, 6-6-94.

THE STATE OF TEXAS

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COUNTY OF GREGG

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Ethel Smith Crain

Affiant.

Ethel Smith Crain (Mrs. B.W., Sr.)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, this 11th day of

~~NOVEMBER~~ February, A. D. 1965.

# Tom Campbell's childhood dream came true

**T**om Campbell always figured he'd one day be governor of Texas. So did his childhood pal, Jim Hogg.

As a youngster growing up in rural East Texas, Tom often talked about his plans to become the state's chief executive. His best friend, little James Stephen Hogg, was politically ambitious, too.

Incredibly, the two country buddies grew up to become the first two native sons of Texas to sit in the governor's chair.

Thomas Mitchell Campbell was born in 1856 in Cherokee County on a farm not far from the Hogg family. Campbell loved politics. He decided at a young age that he would become a lawyer because that seemed to be the quickest path toward political office.

The story was told that whenever Tom couldn't be found at the farm doing chores, his mother would say, "Go to the courthouse. You'll probably find Tom there listening to the lawyers speak."

He attended school at Rusk, then enrolled at Trinity University to study law. However, the dirt-poor Campbell had to withdraw from school for lack of funds. The Campbells moved to Longview, where Tom's father, Thomas Duncan Campbell, served as a Gregg County justice of the peace and later as mayor.

Tom worked in the county clerk's office during the day and studied law at night. In



**VAN CRADDOCK**

1878 he was admitted to the bar and opened a practice in Longview.

He also married Fannie Bruner of Shreveport, and they established their home in a small cottage on North Second Street. (The happy couple eventually had five children.)

In 1891, Campbell was appointed receiver for

the ailing International & Great Northern Railroad. This required a move to Palestine, where he served as the line's general manager. It was during this time that he became sympathetic for the rank-and-file laborers and became a friend of organized labor. Several years later he resigned his railroad post and resumed his law practice.

The affable Campbell was popular with Democratic politicians, and in 1906 he decided to make his childhood dream come true. Endorsed by his old friend Jim Hogg (who had served as governor from 1891 to 1895), Campbell announced he would run for governor on the Democratic ticket.

## Railroad, prison reform

Campbell looked forward to having Jim Hogg (founder of Longview's first newspaper at age 20) campaign for him. Sadly, Hogg died in March 1906, before the election was held.

Previously, each party's candidates had

been nominated by state and county conventions. But the new Primary Election Law for the first time gave all of the state's voters a voice in selecting their party's candidates. Campbell was elected governor — not once, but twice. While governor (1907-1911) he initiated railroad regulation reforms, passed important drug and food laws, and increased tax support for public education.

However, Campbell's legacy was his reforming of the state prison system. For many years Texas operated a contract-lease system where convict labor was sold to private contractors. This system — where employers paid the state instead of the convicts for the work done — led to numerous cases of prisoner abuse. Campbell's reforms made the state the only employer of prison workers.

On a negative note, Campbell wanted a state income tax but failed to get it. He also was governor during the so-called National Panic of 1907. But the resulting shortage of ready currency wasn't felt as severely in agricultural Texas as in more industrialized parts of the country.

Leaving office in 1911, Campbell returned to private law practice in Palestine. The political bug wasn't completely gone, so in 1916 he ran for the U.S. Senate. He lost.

Thomas Campbell — the man who knew he was destined to become governor — died on April Fool's Day 1923.

Van "Recount" Craddock's e-mail address is [vancraddock@aol.com](mailto:vancraddock@aol.com).