

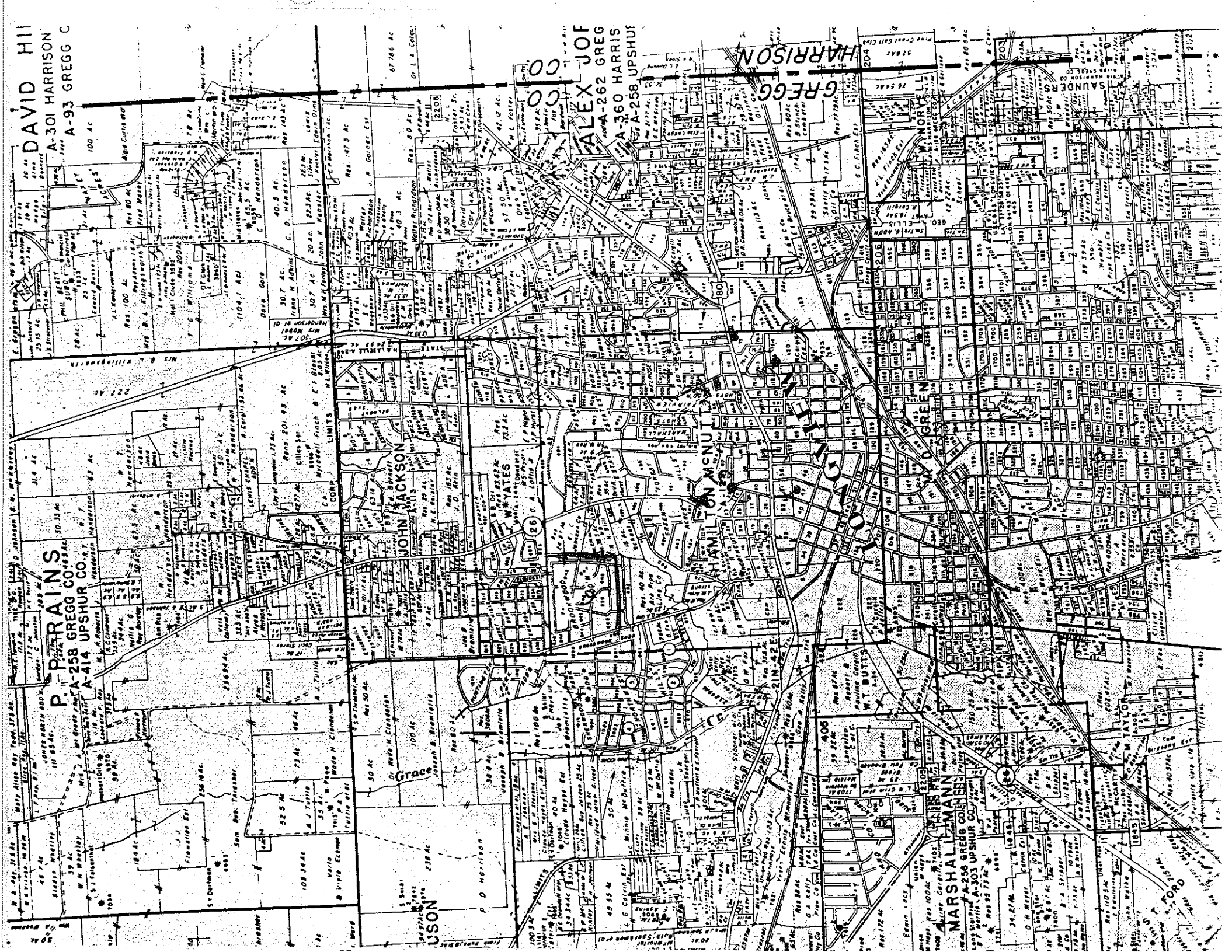
DAVID HILL  
A-301 HARRISON  
A-93 GREGG C

PERRAINS  
A-258 GREGG CO. INC.  
A-414 UPSHUR CO.

ALEX JOF  
A-262 GREGG  
A-360 HARRIS  
A-258 UPSHUR

GREGG  
HARRISON

MARSHALL MANN  
A-256 GREGG CO. INC.  
A-303 UPSHUR CO. INC.



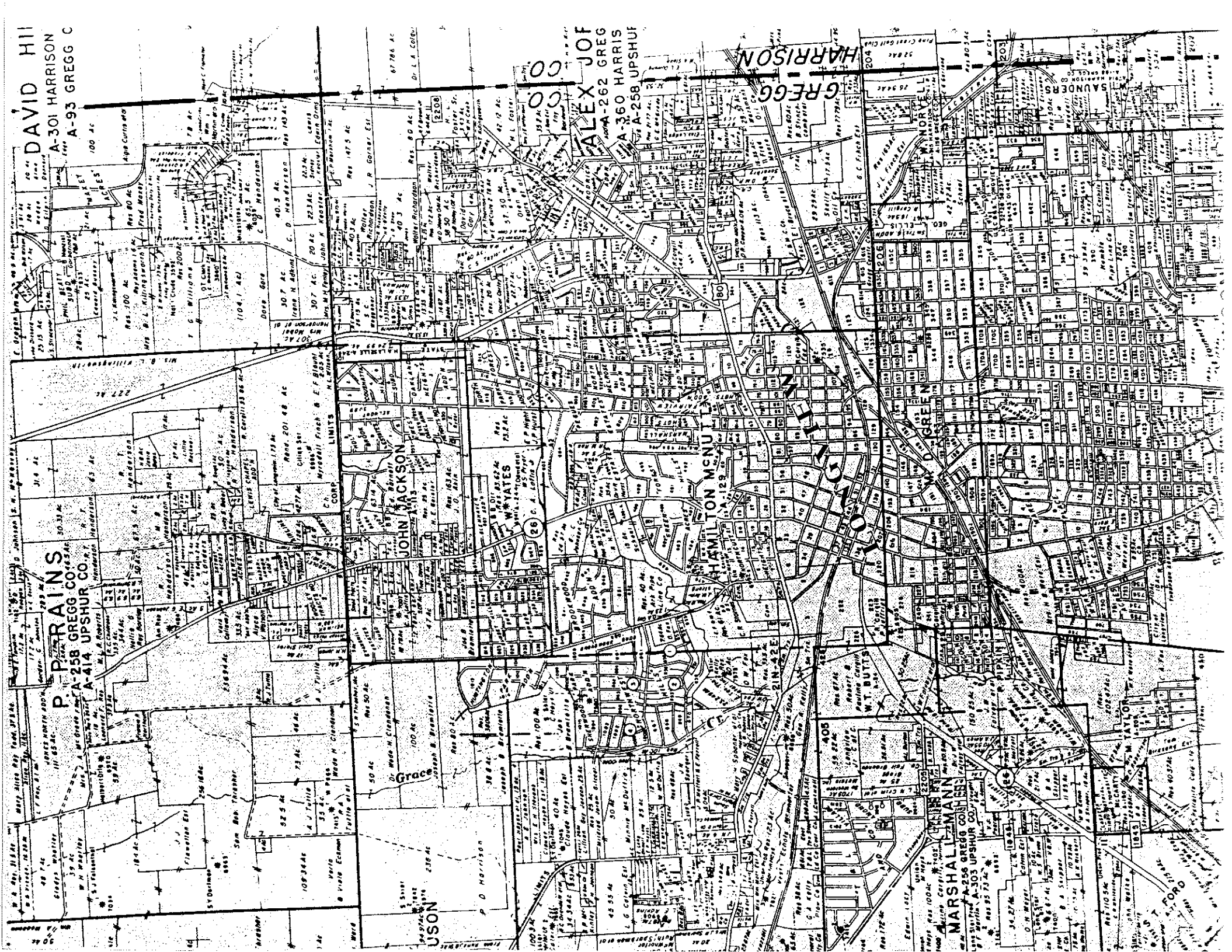
DAVID HILL  
A-301 HARRISON  
A-93 GREGG C

P. PERAINS  
A-258 GREGG CO. 3A  
A-414 UPSHUR CO. 7A

ALEX JOF  
A-262 HARRIS  
A-360 HARRIS  
A-258 UPSHUR

GREGG  
HARRISON

MARSHALL  
A-256 GREGG CO. 1A  
A-303 UPSHUR CO. 7A



*Earl Hill*

PRESS RELEASE TO LONGVIEW NEWSPAPERS, INC. DATED: Sept. 6, 1989

(Data taken from Texas Historical Marker Application. Researched, documented and written by Charlotte B. Teske, Member of Gregg County Historical Commission)

#### EARPVILLE TOWNSITE

In the mid-1840's portions of East Texas were sparsely settled. Indians had been the predominant occupants of this land until 1839. Anglo-Americans from the Deep South began to realize the advantage to moving to this new state and making a home among the forested, rolling hills. Many of these pioneers were farmers, betting their entire life on the inexpensive, rich, fertile land of southeast Upshur County. (This area became Gregg County in 1873.)

There were several roads scattered throughout Upshur County because of its proximity to the town of Jefferson and Shreveport. People from as far west as Dallas traveled the Marshall/Tyler Road - now U.S. Hwy. 80 - to these cities to sell their cotton, wool and hides and to purchase supplies. Many early settlers entered the eastern portion of Texas along this same narrow, clay road. Among this group was the Earp (Arp) family.

According to some of his descendants, James Earp came to Texas from Lawrence County, Alabama, about 1835. His brother, Benjamin Earp, made the trip with him. Benjamin died near "Saline" on January 25, 1837. Between 1845 and 1849, James Earp traveled to Alabama and returned to Texas with a number of family members. Some of James' older children had married and earlier established their own homes in different parts of East Texas.

William Earp moved his family to Texas with his brother, James' family. Their 78-year old father, Cullin Earp, came along with them.

The genealogical research papers of family descendants reflect the varied phonetic pronunciations of the Earp surname. "Arp" is on a Deed of Trust in 1820, Madison County, Alabama, and "Harp" on the Marshall County, Alabama 1840 Census.

After his return to Texas, the first land purchase recorded for James Earp was on June 30, 1848. He and his son-in-law, James Starkey, attended a public auction on the steps of the Upshur County Courthouse. They placed the highest bid for 1,031 acres of land being sold by the county for unpaid taxes. The amount - \$5.06 plus court costs. The acreage was part of the Alexander Jordan Headright. The eastern boundary was the Upshur/Harrison County line, and the western boundary, the Hamilton McNutt Survey.

Earp extended his land holdings on November 19, 1849, when he paid Hamilton McNutt \$462 for 936 acres of his Headright. This land adjoined the western boundary of the 1,031 acre tract. James Earp selected 518-1/2 acres of this land as his homestead. He chose to locate the family home near the Marshall-Tyler Road at the base of the largest rock hill in the area -- where Longview's water towers are now located. People referred to land located about one-half mile south of the home as "Earp's Flat Forty-Acre Field."

The recurring suggestion of a kinship between the Texas family and the notorious businessman, lawman and gunfighter, Wyatt Earp, seems to be unsubstantiated. The "Family History Of Cullin Earp, James Earp and William Earp and Some Of Their Descendants; 1763-1977" does not list Walter Earp. If they had shared a close common ancestry, this family

history would list Walter, Wyatt's grandfather, who was born about 1797 in Virginia.

The population of East Texas definitely increased upon the arrival of the Earp clan. With the influx of 40 members of one family, the settlement soon became known as Earpville. The community was on the stagecoach line that ran from Louisiana through East Texas and on to San Antonio.

Earp and Starkey sold the 1,031 acres of land they picked up at tax auction in 1848, to Job and Septimus Taylor on June 30, 1854.

Dr. Job Taylor, a practicing physician and lay-preacher, operated a stagecoach stop in Earpville. Taylor owned property on both sides of the Marshall-Tyler Road - now East Marshall Avenue in Longview. A small section on the south side of the road adjoined the Teague Property - a likely location for his stagecoach stop. The Texas Historical Marker on the Teague home at 322 Teague Street in Longview, shows the north boundary of that property to have been on the stagecoach line.

Earpville opened a post office shortly after authorities extended the post road on to Jefferson through Earpville to Winona and Tyler. Several records of early East Texas post offices list Earpville from 1850 until August, 1867. Officials dropped the Earpville post office on November 5, 1866, but reopened it on August 20, 1867. That same month, the doors of the Earpville post office closed permanently.

A Warranty Deed dated October 4, 1851, refers to Earpville, but May 17, 1854, is the first reference to lot numbers in the townsite.

Researchers have not located a plat for the town, but legal references list several lot numbers, the highest found - Lot No. 23.

By June 26, 1855, James Earp had acquired an additional 200 acres, extending the western boundary of Earpville to Grace's Creek.

Between 1850 and 1860, other businesses joined Earpville's stage-coach stop and post office. The little community grew rapidly and became diversified. In 1860 the Earpville post office served 276 people - 134 white males and 142 white females. Thirty-eight men continued farming, but there were several new occupations: One saddler, seven laborers, three merchants, one carpenter, one overseer, three blacksmiths, one wagon maker, and one minister.

James Earp abandoned farming and opened a small store. There were two other merchants in the community - W. W. Clark and W. S. Awalt.

Richard Methvin, a wagon maker, had a wagon shop in Earpville. (He was the father of O. H. Methvin.) J. Casselbury (Casselberry) was one of three blacksmiths. The saddler was W. C. McBride, husband of James Earp's daughter, Frances.

The Methodist congregation began holding religious services about 1840 on land located near the end of present-day East College Street in Longview. After 20 years of use, members considered the one room, log structure unsafe. The church leaders decided it would be more convenient to a greater number of people if a new church located closer to the stagecoach stop in Earpville.

Dr. Job Taylor led workmen in erecting a frame building on land located north of Marshall-Tyler Road, between present Eighth Street and

Ninth Street. Beginning in 1860, various denominations met in this building. In 1874, the dismantled frame structure moved to the corner of North Fredonia and East Whaley Streets in Longview, where it became the First Methodist Church of Longview in 1875.

Only a few Earpville children had attended school before 1850; by 1860, several of them were students. The early records do not list a school in Earpville. However, D. A. Dickard, postmaster for the community in 1861, was a teacher. Perhaps he held classes in private homes or the church building.

The Earp family entered politics in 1856. Residents elected Alexander Earp as County Sheriff in 1856. (They chose his son, Captain Alex Earp, to fill this same position in 1882.)

When the War between the States began, many Upshur County men enlisted. Most of the men in Company 10, Texas Dismounted Cavalry were from Upshur County. Alex Earp was their captain. Family members who served under Captain Earp were: Henry Earp, Richard W. Earp, James C. Earp, Cullin R. Earp, and Peter Rogers.

In late summer of 1862, Smith County established a Confederate Post four miles northeast of Tyler. This post, Camp Ford, served as a training post for Confederate inductees and a prison. Throughout the war, trainees served as guards for the Federal prisoners.

Amanda Magrill Whitelock, daughter of Jonathan R. Magrill, remembered watching the "Yankee" soldiers marching through Earpville on their way to the Tyler stockade. After the war ended, the prisoners, well-dressed officers and low-ranking, bedraggled soldiers,

followed the same route on their return to their northern homes. The residents of Earpville fed the hungry and allowed the tired men to sleep on their porches.

James Earp died on August 7, 1861. His daughter, Louisa Glasco, requested the home place become her portion of the estate. Per a Copy of a Court Decree, dated February 23, 1866, the Commissioners deeded her the 518-1/2 acres of land.

Louisa Glasco sold her father's home place to Orsamus H. Methvin and John R. Magrill on January 27, 1868, for \$1,300. On April 1, 1869, Magrill sold his portion to O. H. Methvin, Jr. for \$500.

Orsamus H. Methvin, Sr. and his son, O. H. Methvin, Jr. divided the land between them. Junior took the land north of the Marshall-Tyler Road; Senior took that which lay south of the road.

On April 7, 1870, Orsamus H. Methvin, Sr., sold 100 acres of his portion of Earp's original 518-1/2 acres to the Southern Pacific Railroad Co. for \$1. He sold them an additional 50 acres for \$500 in gold in September 1870. This tract adjoined the western boundary of the 100 acres previously purchased.

In 1870, railroad surveyors stood near the O. H. Methvin home on the high rock hill and looked out over the southern part of the land recently purchased from Methvin. As they scanned the terrain they saw land deeded by Methvin "for the purpose of aiding said Company in the construction of their said Road ... Believing that said Road will enhance the value of lands along the line and near the same and for the purpose of aiding therein and opening up and developing the recourses



of the County . . . . A member of the railroad group commented on the long view. This became the name of a new town built along the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way; the land of "Earp's Flat, Forty-Acre Field - Longview.

The piercing sound of metal spikes being driven into railroad ties interrupted the peace and tranquility of Earpville residents as the line moved westward from Hallsville. This signaled the beginning of the end for the community.

With the coming of the railroad, all attention focused on Longview, Earpville began to fade and lose its identity. Many new residents were unaware a thriving community preceded the bustling railroad town. One of the last references made to Earpville is a legal document dated September 3, 1877: "said lands in the old town of Earpville, and said to contain 10 acres..."

The entire community of Earpville was within the Hamilton McNutt Survey. The eastern boundary of that survey crosses East Marshall Avenue near Teague Street in Longview. A professional engineer, Mr. Lee Newman, reviewed old maps and legal documents to relate Earpville's location, as shown on C. W. Pressler's 1893 Map of Gregg County, to Longview's current city blocks. Mr. Newman, President of Hart Engineering Company in Longview, compared the location of the creek near Earpville to the same creek found on the 1933 General Land Office Map of Gregg County. The 1933 map shows the Port Bolivar & Iron Ore Railroad, which is now Cargill's Long Park in Longview. He also considered Earpville's location along the eastern boundary of the

Hamilton McNutt Survey. Newman concluded Pressler's map placed Earpville near the western boundary of Longview's City Block No. 72. This is the 1100 Block of East Marshall Avenue, north of the road.

Records show the approximate location for several of the residences of Earpville, its stagecoach stop and the Methodist church. Using documents and newspapers accounts, the past can connect with the present by placing some of Earpville's structures on a 1988 street map of Longview. These extended from Teague Street on the east to Grace's Creek on the west. The northern boundary was near Fairmont Street and the southern boundary, near Cotton Street.

The land boundaries of Earpville are not as important as the spirit of the people who made their homes within them. We can only speculate what might have been if the Earp family had not chosen this location. Land purchasers for the railroad must have preferred land near an established community over uncleared, uninhabited, forest land. Earpville furnished the foundation on which the town of Longview was built. The pioneers of Earpville deserve recognition as major contributors to early East Texas; especially to Longview and Gregg County.

LOBLOLLY JUBILEE

FIRST ANNUAL

in the

THE GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

and

THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Sponsored By

10:00 A.M.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1989

Longview, Texas

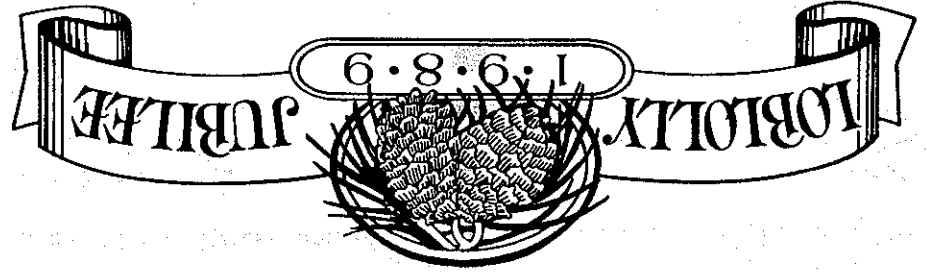
1107 East Marshall Avenue

SITE OF EARPVILLE

OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

of an

DEDICATION



GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

- Mrs. Mildred Wood Barker
- Mrs. Sally Gossett Barron
- Mrs. Amelia Belding
- Dr. Norman W. Black, Chairman
- Mr. Jack Buchanan
- Mrs. Pauline Cox
- Mrs. B. W. Crain, Jr.
- Sondra Daniel
- Mrs. Bill W. Dodson
- Dr. Ken R. Durham
- Mrs. Helen McHaney Griffin
- Mrs. Nelda Lewis

- Mrs. H.L. Long
- Mrs. Douglas Mackenzie
- Mrs. Gordon J. Mayer
- Mr. Eugene R. McWhorter
- Dr. W.D. Northcutt, III
- Mrs. John W. Osteen
- Mrs. Amanda Pratt
- Mrs. Nancy Ruff
- Mr. John Ben Shepperd
- Mrs. Charlotte Teske
- Mr. Joe L. White

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Paul Boorman, PALS, City of Longview
- Mack Brewton
- Don Canton
- Dr. Ellie Caston, Director, Gregg County Historical Museum
- Dorothy Hogan
- Lila Long Hughes Estate
- Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Long
- Amanda Perkins
- Bruce Teske
- Kevin Teske
- Traffic Department City of Longview

PROGRAM

- Master of Ceremonies . . . . . Dr. Norman W. Black, Chairman, Gregg County Historical Commission
- Invocation . . . . . Dr. Conrad W. Winborn, Jr., Minister First Methodist Church, Longview
- Posting of Colors . . . . . Sons of Confederate Veterans, Gen. Walter P. Lane Camp # 1455
- Introduction of Gregg County Historical Commission and Guests
- Recognition of Descendants of Earville . . . . . Dr. Black
- Unveiling and Reading of Marker Inscription . . . . . Mrs. Helen McHaney Griffin, Vice-Chairman, Gregg County Historical Commission
- Remarks . . . . . Hon. Lou Galosy, Mayor of Longview
- Address . . . . . Hon. R.E. "Peppy" Blount
- Presentation . . . . . Dr. Black
- Remarks . . . . . Mr. Bruce Cook, Chairman Loblolly Jubilee
- Benediction . . . . . Dr. Winborn
- Flag Bearers: Robert Edgington, James King, Jeffrey Owens, Ben Reynolds

INVITATION TO EARPVILLE MARKER DEDICATION  
MEMBERS OF GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mrs. E. G. Andress  
1507 Judson Road  
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Mrs. James Bond  
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Dallas, TX 75209

Mr. Edwin R. Booth  
106 Betty Drive  
Longview, TX 75602

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2014 Linden Ave. #4  
Nashville, Tenn. 37212

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Gladewater, TX 75647

Mrs. Beth Dodson  
117 W. Edgefield  
Longview, TX 75602

Miss Frances Edwards  
301 W. Hawkins Pkwy. #903  
Longview, TX 75605

Mrs. A. E. Fancier  
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Mrs. A. T. Glover  
806 North Seventh  
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225 South Club Drive  
Longview, TX 75602

Mrs. Barton Griffin  
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Mrs. Houston Harper  
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Longview, TX 75602

Mrs. John W. Harrison  
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Longview, TX 75601

Mrs. Mabel Henderson  
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Longview, TX 7501

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Malakoff, TX 75148

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Longview, TX 75601

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Longview, TX 75604

GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, PAGE 2  
Earpsville Dedication Invitations

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GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, PAGE 3  
Earpsville Dedication Invitations

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Mr. Lawrence Birdsong, Jr.  
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INVITATION LIST TO EARPVILLE MARKER DEDICATION

GREGG COUNTY OFFICIALS

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Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Crawford  
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Commissioner Jim Gray  
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Longview, TX 75606

Commissioner and Mrs. Nelson Tyl  
P. O. Box 516  
White Oak, TX 75693

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Harris  
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Longview, TX 75606

Mr. and Mrs. David Brabham  
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Longview, TX 75601

Mrs. Molly Barber  
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P. O. Box 12276  
Austin, TX 78711

Mrs. Frances Rickard  
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Austin, TX 78711

INVITATIONS TO EARPVILLE MARKER DEDICATION

GREGG COUNTY HERITAGE ORGANIZATIONS

Gregg County Historical Foundation  
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Longview, TX 75606

Gregg County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 542  
Longview, TX 75606

Gregg County Genealogy Society  
P. O. Box 4029  
Longview, TX 75606

Daughters of the American Revolution  
Aaron Burleson Chapter  
1212 Heather Lane  
Longview, TX 75601

Daughters of the American Revolution  
William Young Chapter  
1004 Delwood Street  
Longview, TX 75601

Daughters of the Republic of Texas  
John Tilley Edwards Chapter  
Lake Cherokee, SR 23  
Henderson, TX 75652

United Daughters of the Confederacy  
408 Hillmont  
Longview, TX 75601

Sons of Confederate Veterans  
P. O. Box 51  
White Oak, TX 75693

Colonial Dames of the XVII Century  
1212 Heather Lane  
Longview, TX 75601

Daughters of American Colonists  
P. O. Box 1428  
Gladewater, TX 75647

Magna Carta Dames  
East Colony Chapter  
803 Willow Blvd  
Gladewater, TX 75647

GREGG COUNTY HERITAGE ORGANIZATIONS, PAGE 2  
Earpville Dedication Invitations

Colonial Dames of the XVII Century  
New England Colony Chapter  
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Kilgore, TX 75662

Gladewater Historical Foundation  
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Gladewater, TX 75647

Daughters of the American Revolution  
Cherokee Trace Chapter  
803 Willow Blvd.  
Gladewater, TX 7562

Daughters of the American Revolution  
Samuel Paul Dinkins Chapter  
P. O. Box 201  
Kilgore, TX 75662

Kilgore Historical Preservation Foundation  
P. O. Box 1620  
Kilgore, TX 75662

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Marshall, TX 75670

Mrs. Audrey Kariel  
503 Lendsdowne  
Marshall, TX 75670

~~Mrs.~~ Virginia Knapp  
321 College Avenue  
Henderson, TX 75652

Loy J. Gilbert  
812 First Place  
Tyler, TX 75702

Dr. Greta Hinman  
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Gilmer, TX 75644

Dr. and Mrs. Archie McDonald  
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MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Smith 3 Iris Circle Longview, TX 75601	Mrs. Janet Brown 6 New Forest Longview, TX 75601
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Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Mooney 2 Stonegate Court #5 Longview, TX 756601	Mayor Lou Galosy 6 Huntington St. Longview, TX 75601
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene S. Coddou 1400 Noble Drive Longview, TX 75601	Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Long East Side Airport Longview, TX 75601
Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Modisette 18 Ramblewood Drive Longview, TX 75601	Mr. Kenny Hawthorne 410 N. Center Street Longview, TX 75601
Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hall 209 E. South Street Longview, TX 75602	Mr. and Mrs. Al Armstrong Route 8, Box 34 Gilmer, TX 75644
Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Hall 1906 Sunshine Square Longview, TX 75601	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Little 2010 Warwick Circle East Longview, TX 7501
Mr. and Mrs. Dewayne Beaty 403 Crystal Longview, TX 75604	Mrs. Flo Stevens 2013 Wood Place Longview, TX 75601
Mr. and Mrs. Don Ross 1313 Vanderbilt Drive Longview, TX 75601	Mr. Jim Giles 506 E. Loop 281, Suite 3 Longview, TX 75601
Dr. Ellie Caston P. O. Box 3342 Longview, TX 75606	
Mrs. Margaret Barnes P. O. Box 3342 Longview, TX 75606	

INVITATION LIST TO EARPVILLE MARKER DEDICATION

Information furnished by Mrs. Jack (Mary) Earp

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Mr. and Mrs. Scot Hewitt  
Box 532  
Gilmer, TX 75644

Mrs. Maevon Earp Honeycutt  
214 East Quitman  
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Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Clinnard  
Route 4, 101 Elm  
White Oak, TX 75693

Mrs. R. J. Sharp  
Route 6, Box 6  
Gilmer, TX 75644

Mr. and Mrs. George Clinnard  
Box 477  
Big Sandy, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Holmes  
Route 6, Box 46  
Gilmer, TX 75644

Mrs. Alice A. Hurt  
610 Mell  
Gilmer, TX 75644

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Allen  
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Huntington Beach, CA 926647

Mr. and Mrs. Henri Tatro  
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Irving, TX 75062

Ms. Anna Fay Petty  
Ms. Marie Baker  
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Alto, TX 75925

INVITATION LIST TO EARPVILLE MARKER DEDICATION

METHVIN/HOLLOWAY FAMILY

Mrs. Ann Holloway Moore & family 907 Sunshine Square Longview, TX 75601	Mrs. Frances Holloway & family 1500 O'Neal Longview, TX 75602
Ms. Carol Holloway 206 Cambridge Longview, TX 75601	Mrs. Ruth Sandridge 2116 Tryon Road Longview, TX 75601
Mr. Lowell Holloway & family 836 West Marshall Longview, TX 75601	Miss Gail Holloway 18790 Lloyd Drive, Apt. #915 Dallas, TX 75252
Mr. Robert Holloway & family 709 Orchard Longview, TX 75601	Mrs. Martha Duey Wright Road Longview, TX 75601
Mrs. Claire Holloway Hines & family 1401 North Willow Oak Longview, TX 75601	Mr. Marvin W. Hass, Jr. 1812 Clinton Longview, TX 75604

Mrs. Beth Dodson  
117 West Edgefield  
Longview, TX 75602

Information furnished by Mrs. Beth Dodson

INVITATION LIST TO EARPVILLE MARKER DEDICATION

EARP FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Earp  
P. O. Box 1129  
Gladewater, Tx 75647

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Earp  
3003 Hualati Mt. Road #51  
Kingsmen, Ariz 86401

Mr. and Mrs. Don C. Earp  
P. O. Box 1574  
Gladewater, TX 75647

Mr. and Mrs. Scot Hewitt  
Box 532  
Gilmer, TX 75644

Mrs. Maevon Earp Honeycutt  
214 East Quitman  
Gladewater, TX 75647

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Clinnard  
Route 4, 101 Elm  
White Oak, TX 75693

Mrs. R. J. Sharp  
Route 6, Box 6  
Gilmer, TX 75644

Mr. and Mrs. George Clinnard  
Box 477  
Big Sandy, TX 75755

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Holmes  
Route 6, Box 46  
Gilmer, TX 75644

Mrs. Alice A. Hurt  
610 Mell  
Gilmer, TX 75644

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Allen  
6082 Doyle Drive  
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

Mr. and Mrs. Henri Tatro  
3825 Eugene Court North  
Irving, TX 75062

Ms. Anna Fay Petty  
Ms. Marie Baker  
Route 2, Box 170C  
Alto, TX 75925

Information furnished by Mrs. Jack (Mary) Earp



Texas Historical Commission Staff (CJB), 4/11/89

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Gregg County (Job #01789)  
Location: 1107 E. Marshall Ave., Longview

SITE OF\*\*\*  
EARPVILLE\*

THIS SITE WAS ONCE WITHIN THE  
BOUNDARY OF THE COMMUNITY OF  
EARPVILLE, SETTLED IN THE LATE  
1840s BY JAMES EARP (d. 1861) AND  
MANY OF HIS RELATIVES FROM  
ALABAMA, LOCATED ON A STAGECOACH  
LINE, THE SETTLEMENT AT ITS  
HEIGHT BOASTED A POST OFFICE,  
STAGE STOP, METHODIST CHURCH, AND  
RETAIL BUSINESSES AND WAS THE  
COMMERCIAL AND SOCIAL CENTER  
FOR FARMERS IN THE REGION, PART  
OF JAMES EARP'S ORIGINAL HOME-  
SITE WAS SOLD TO THE SOUTHERN  
PACIFIC RAILROAD IN 1870. IT BECAME  
THE SITE OF THE NEW TOWN  
OF LONGVIEW AND SIGNALLED THE  
DECLINE OF EARPVILLE.\*\*

(1989)\*\*\*

\*3/4 inch lettering

\*\*1/2 inch lettering

\*\*\*1/4 inch lettering

# Site of Earpville to be remembered with new marker

Before Longview, there was Earpville.

And on Oct. 6, some 140 years after establishment of the community, Earpville will be remembered with dedication of a Texas historical marker.

The dedication will be 10 a.m. Oct. 6, at 1107 E. Marshall Ave., to mark the 150th anniversary of Earpville townsite, now a part of east Longview. Speaker for the event will be R.E. "Peppy" Blount of Longview.

Dr. Norman Black of Longview, chairman of the Gregg County Historical Commission, is in charge of the dedication ceremonies, which will be open to the public.

The dedication will be a part of Longview's 150th Anniversary activities.

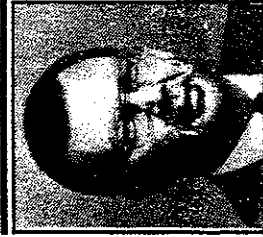
"The population of East Texas definitely increased upon the arrival of the Earp clan. With the influx of 40 members of one family, the settlement soon became known as Earpville. The community was on the stagecoach line that ran from Louisiana through East Texas and on to San Antonio," Teske said.

Dr. Job Taylor, a physician and lay preacher, operated a stagecoach stop in Earpville. A post office also was established shortly after authorities extended the post road on to Jefferson through Earpville to Winona and Tyler. The post office operated between 1850 and 1867.

According to Teske, researchers have not located a plat for the town, although there are records referring to townsite lot numbers.

In the decade following 1850, other businesses joined Earpville's stagecoach stop and post office, which served 276 people by 1860.

Farming was the main occupation of the residents, but the town also boasted three merchants.



**Van Craddock**

PREPARED FOR VAN CRADDOCK, LONGVIEW NEWSPAPERS, INC.  
DATED: September 7, 1989

(All data was researched, documented and written by Charlotte B. Teske, Member of Gregg County Historical Commission. Underlined text has not been printed in context with other information which was included in the Texas Historical Marker Application.)

#### THE PEOPLE OF EARPVILLE

James Earp and his brother, Benjamin, came to Texas from Lawrence County, Alabama, in 1835. John Gregg, for whom our county is named, was born in Lawrence County, Alabama, in 1828. The Republic of Texas issued Land Certificate No. 333 to James Earp for 4,605 acres (a league and a labor) on May 2, 1835, in Nacogdoches County. Benjamin received Land Certificate No. 331 for 1,476 acres (1/3 league) at the same time and place.

Benjamin died near "Saline" on January 25, 1837, and James became administrator of his estate. In an account made to the Court as administrator, James states a horse, valued at \$50 dollars was stolen by the Indians. He sold a cow and calf, sow and pigs, at private sale "in order to prevent their being stolen as was the horse."

James Earp traveled to Alabama and returned to Texas with a number of family members sometime between 1845 and 1849. The heavily wooded section along the Upshur/Harrison County line seemed an ideal location for their new home. They, along with many early settlers, crossed the eastern portion of Texas along the busy Marshall-Tyler Stagecoach Road. Oxen drawn wagons, often with as many as 100 wagons in a train, followed this trail. People considered the drivers, jolly and rough. Young children's eyes widened as they heard the sound of the drivers popping their long cow whips so fast that the clatter resembled a kettle drum.

THE PEOPLE OF EARPVILLE, Page 2  
Van Craddock

William Earp moved his family to Texas with his brother, James' family. Their 78 year old father, Cullin Earp, came along with them.

Some of James' older children had earlier married and established their homes in different parts of East Texas. The oldest child of James and Mary Earp, a daughter, married Benjamin A. VanSickle on January 30, 1838. VanSickle joined Captain Michael Costley's Company of Rangers on September 11, 1836. In 1853 he was issued 320 acres of land as bounty for his service. He commanded a company of volunteers in a fight with the Cherokees on July 15-16, 1839, in which Chief Bowles was killed. Appointed as a Deputy Surveyor for Nacogdoches County, his \$5,000 bond to President Sam Houston was approved Feb. 9, 1838. He also served in 1837 on the first Grand Jury in the county. The VanSickles settled near the Rusk/Cherokee County line close to Striker Creek on the Jacksonville-Henderson Highway. The VanSickle plantation was in Rusk County.

James' son, Robert Earp, married a widow, Martha Jordan, on November 30, 1844, at Henderson, Rusk County, Texas.

By 1850 there were quite a few Earps living within Upshur County. Cullin Earp was not a head of household after moving to Texas. According to an Alabama Census, he was father of three sons and three daughters. We know the sons were William, James and Benjamin, but his daughters' names are unknown. The 1850 Upshur County Census lists Cullin as a member of the J. Casselbury (Castleberry) household. One account by Earp family members suggests C. Casselbury, wife of J. Casselbury, may have been one of William's daughters. However, it is

far more likely she was a descendant of one of Cullin's daughters, since her year of birth does not correspond with any of William's children.

The population of East Texas definitely increased upon the arrival of the Earp clan. The following are known members of the Earp family, as recorded in the Upshur County Census of 1850:

House No. 180: James' 26 year old daughter, Louisa, and her 32 year old husband, J. M. Glasco, a surveyor. They had two young children.

House No. 300: William Earp, age 50, and his wife, Hannah, age 41, with nine of William's children. Five by his second wife, Betsy Vaughan, and four by Hannah. There were two other Earps in the household: C. Earp, a 24 year old male and E. Earp, a 22 year old female. Their relationship to the rest of the family is unknown.

House No. 301: J. Casselbury, 28 year old male, C. Casselbury, 25 year old female and four children. The oldest child was nine years old. Cullin Earp was a member of this household.

House No. 302: Alexander Earp, age 20, and a female, Lerula, age 22. Also, Elizabeth Earp, age 4 months.

House No. 324: James Earp, a 52 year old farmer, and his wife, Mary, 48 years old. The census shows five of their children in the home. A young man, 23 years old, W. Wilson, lived with them. His relationship to the family is unknown.

House No. 326: Robert Earp, the 30 year old son of James and Mary, and his 27 year old wife, Martha, and their two children. This was also the residence of B. Earp, a male, 21 years old.

Dr. Job Taylor, a practicing physician and lay-preacher, operated a stagecoach stop in Earpville. Travelers could enjoy a hot meal while the driver hitched up a fresh team of horses for the remainder of the trip to Shreveport. The Inn offered rooms if overnight lodging was necessary. There is a letter in the Gregg County Historical Museum, written by a traveler who visited the Inn at Earpville. She used no

kind words in describing these facilities.

The Earpville post office opened in 1850. Following are the names of the postmasters who served there and the dates on which they were appointed:

Septimus J. Taylor	June 10, 1850
James Earp	February 29, 1856
James Earp	July 12, 1861.
D. A. Dickard	August 24, 1861
Jonathan R. Magrill	January 24, 1862

The Confederate States of American made these last three appointments. Officials dropped the Earpville post office on November 5, 1866, but reopened it on August 20, 1867. Sidney McKinley was the appointed postmaster at that time. That same month, the doors of the Earpville post office closed permanently.

By 1860, James Earp had abandoned farming and opened a small store. Considered honest and hospitable, he led other settlers in making Earpville the social and commercial center for the farmers who lived along the stagecoach route. Each Saturday the men gathered at Earp's store, most of them with their rifles, for a day of target shooting. The most accurate marksman of the day took home a gallon of whiskey or a quarter of butchered beef as a reward for his skill.

Beginning in 1860, various denominations met in a new frame church building which had replaced an earlier structure located at the end of present day East College Street. The congregation was pleased to be at a location nearer the stagecoach stop in Earpville. The worshippers did experience one minor inconvenience at the new site - noise. The cause? Hogs squealing and grunting under the building. The solution?

Long poles stored under the church building to remove the animals before each service.

Amanda Magrill Whitelock, daughter of Jonathan R. Magrill, remembered watching the "Yankee" soldiers marching through Earpville on their way to the stockade at Camp Ford, a Confederate Post<sup>A</sup> near Tyler, established in 1862. After the war ended, the released prisoners followed the same route on their return to their northern homes. The residents of Earpville fed the hungry and allowed the tired men to sleep on their porches. Mrs. Whitelock recalled one of the officers being ill when he arrived in Earpville. The Magrill family took him into their home, placed him in one of their beds, and cared for him during the night. His only means of payment in gratitude were the words: "You and yours will never be molested by Northern soldiers,"—~~and~~ they never were.

Records show the approximate location for several of the residences of Earpville, its stagecoach stop and the Methodist church. Using documents and newspaper~~s~~ accounts, the past can connect with the present by placing some of Earpville's structures on a 1988 street map of Longview. James Harp's home was situated near the end of North Center Street. His son, Robert, and his family lived next door. The Harps nearest neighbor to the north was Hamilton McNutt and his family. The homesite of the McNutts is in the northwest corner of the McNutt Survey; perhaps, near the intersection of McCann Road and East Fairmont Street.

Early residents recall the home of O. H. Methvin, Sr., standing

THE PEOPLE OF EARPVILLE, Page 6  
Van Craddock

north side of the 100 block of West Whaley Street. The Methvins were James Earp's nearest neighbors to the south.

The John R. Magrill home, the Methodist Church and the stagecoach stop all occupied land near East Marshall Avenue between North Sixth Street and Teague Street.

James Earp died in 1861. His daughter, Louisa Glasco, sold the home place to O. H. Methvin, who later sold it to the Southern Pacific Railroad. It must have been inconceivable to James that <sup>the</sup> bustling city <sup>of Longview</sup> would stand on the land Earpville citizens referred to as "Earp's Flat, Forty-Acre Field." Louisa Glasco, and her husband, James, remained in the Longview area and are buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

William Earp and his family moved to northwest Upshur County. He and his descendants are buried in the Hopewell Cemetery near Gilmer.



The Texas Historical Commission

and

The Gregg County Historical Commission

invite you to attend

The Dedication of an Official Texas Historical Marker

for the

Site of Earpville

The Sixth Day of October

Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Nine

10:00 A.M.      1107 E. Marshall Avenue  
Longview, Texas      Gregg County

PROGRAM

OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION

SITE OF EARPVILLE

Friday, October 6, 1989, 10:00 A.M.

1107 East Marshall Avenue  
Longview, Texas

Master of Ceremonies

Dr. Norman W. Black, Chairman,  
Gregg County Historical Commission

Invocation

Dr. Conrad W. Winborn, Jr., Minister  
First Methodist Church, Longview

Posting of Colors

Sons of Confederate Veterans,  
Gen. Walter P. Lane Camp # 1455

Introduction of Gregg County Historical  
Commission and Guests

Recognition of Descendants of Earpville

Dr. Black

Unveiling and Reading of Marker Inscription

Mrs. Helen McHaney Griffin, Vice-  
Chairman, Gregg County Historical  
Commission

Remarks

Hon. Lou Galosy, Mayor of Longview

Address

Hon. R. E. "Peppy" Blount

Presentation

Dr. Black

Remarks

Mr. Bruce Cook, Chairman, Loblolly  
Jubilee

Benediction

Dr. Winborn