

PROGRAM  
DEDICATION OF AN OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL GRAVE MARKER  
FOR  
MARTIN HAYS

Grace Hill Cemetery  
Longview, Gregg County, Texas

6:00 P.M.  
August 6, 1967

- Master of Ceremonies.....F. Lee Lawrence, Tyler  
President  
Texas Historical Foundation
  
- Invocation.....Dr. W. Morris Ford, Pastor  
First Baptist Church, Longview
  
- State Marking Program.....Charles R. Woodburn, Amarillo  
President, Texas State  
Historical Survey Committee
  
- Remarks.....Sheriff Earl C. Franklin  
Marshall, Texas - Past  
President, Sheriffs Association  
of Texas
  
- Grave Marking for Texas Lawmen.....Mr. F. Lee Lawrence  
President  
Texas Historical Foundation
  
- Martin Hays - The Man.....John Ben Shepperd, Odessa  
Director, Texas Historical  
Foundation
  
- Unveiling of Marker.....Mrs. Martin Hays, Longview  
Mrs. Bob Cargill, Longview

\*\* \* \*\*

1/20/67 ELaine Bostic  
corrected per DP notes

16"x12" Law Enforcement Grave Marker  
Gregg County

1362

MARTIN HAYS\*  
(1883-1958)\*\*\*

RESPECTED LONGVIEW CITIZEN.

MARRIED CLARA HARRIS, DAUGHTER  
OF GREGG COUNTY PIONEER FAMILY.

ACTIVE IN CIVIC AFFAIRS, FIRST  
ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE, 1910, AS  
CITY MARSHAL AND DISTRICT CLERK.  
COUNTY SHERIFF 1924-1932. SELDOM  
CARRIED A GUN--ENFORCED LAW IN  
A SOFT-SPOKEN MANNER.

WAS AMONG FIRST TEXAS SHERIFFS  
TO ORGANIZE JUNIOR DEPUTIES.

MEMBER, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,  
A ROYAL ARCH MASON; AND WOODMAN  
OF THE WORLD.\*\*

RECORDED, 1967\*\*\*

\*1/2" lettering  
\*\*3/8" lettering  
\*\*\*1/4" lettering

FILE COPY DO NOT REMOVE

RECEIVED  
READY FOR

MAR 24 1967

SOUTHWELL ORDER  
TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

APPROVED  
3-23-67  
T.L.

MARTIN HAYS

1362

Martin Hays was a citizen of Longview for 50 years and was married to Clara Harris on February 9, 1908, the daughter of pioneer residents of Gregg County. He had a most outstanding record of public service, being first elected to office in 1910 and held 11 consecutive terms as a public official: as City Marshall and District Clerk, and in 1924 was elected to office of Sheriff of Gregg County where he served with distinction until retiring in 1932.

Mr. Hays was a substantial landowner, having considerable acreage in the East Texas Field and was sometimes referred to as the "Oil Magnate Sheriff of Gregg County". He organized the Juvenile Peace Officers Association of this county and enrolled many young men into his Junior Officers Association. He was a Royal Arch Mason, Woodman of The World, member of the First Baptist Church for 50 years, served on the City Commission of the City of Longview from 1932 to 1938, was a member of the Gregg County Draft Board and the War Rationing Board during World War II and received citations from President Roosevelt and President Truman for outstanding service to his nation.

Mr. Hays was recognized as a foremost authority on county and state politics in East Texas and rendered a life time of dedicated service to his fellowman.

(Remarks of Earl C. Franklin, past-president of the Sheriffs Association of Texas, at the dedication of the Martin Hays marker, Longview, Aug. 6, 6:00 p.m.)

I AM INDEED PRIVILEGED TO BE HERE TODAY ON BEHALF OF ALL THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF TEXAS AND PARTICULARLY THE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS. . .AND TO EXPRESS, ON THEIR BEHALF, APPRECIATION FOR THIS NEW MARKER SERIES. WE BELIEVE THESE MARKERS WILL GIVE RECOGNITION, LONG-OVERDUE, TO OUR FELLOW COMRADES.

IT HAS LONG BEEN THE FEELING THAT SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE TO TELL THE STORIES. . .SOMETIMES COLORFUL, SOMETIMES HEARTBREAKING. . .OF TEXAS' PEACE OFFICERS.

DURING THE EARLY DAYS OF THE FOUNDING OF OUR GREAT STATE, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFTEN FELL ON THE SHOULDERS OF LOCAL CITIZENS.

AS CIVILIZATION PUSHED WESTWARD ACROSS THE STATE, COUNTIES ORGANIZED AND SHERIFFS AND DEPUTIES WERE ELECTED. . . ON THE UNSETTLED FRONTIERS, TEXAS RANGERS METED OUT LAW AND ORDER AND PROTECTED SETTLERS FROM HOSTILE INDIANS AND OUTLAWS.

AS CITIES AND TOWNS GREW, EACH HAD THEIR OWN SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS. . .THE OFFICES OF CHIEF OF POLICE AND CITY MARSHAL WERE ESTABLISHED.

TODAY, HIGHWAY PATROLMEN TRAVEL OUR ROADS ENFORCING LAW AND ORDER WHILE OUR COMMON BORDER WITH MEXICO IS GUARDED BY MEN OF THE BORDER PATROL.

IN EACH PHASE OF THIS IMPORTANT WORK THERE ARE MANY  
DEVOTED MEN. . . MEN WHO EACH DAY UNFLINCHINGLY FACE DEATH  
AND YET, RECEIVE LITTLE LASTING RECOGNITION.

WE, THE LAWYERS OF TEXAS, ARE GRATEFUL FOR THIS  
OFFICIAL RECOGNITION.

(Remarks of A. W. Riter, Jr., Director, Texas Law Enforcement and Youth Deveolpment Foundation at Martin Hays marker dedication, Longview, Aug. 6, 6:00 p.m.)

ON BEHALF OF THE TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THE TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION AND THE TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE FOR THEIR COOPERATION IN MAKING THE "LAW ENFORCEMENT" MARKER SERIES A REALITY.

IT HAS LONG BEEN A DREAM OF OUR ORGANIZATION THAT A LASTING PERMANENT RECORD SHOULD BE MADE OF THE CAREERS OF OUTSTANDING TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO MADE "KEEPING THE PEACE AND ENFORCING JUSTICE" THEIR LIFE WORK.

UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE FELT THAT SUCH A RECORD WAS JUSTIFIED. . .MANY OF OUR FELLOW OFFICERS MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE, GIVING THEIR LIVES IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

BUT THE QUESTION WAS HOW TO MAKE THE DEEDS AND EVENTS SURROUNDING THESE MENS' LIVES PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE.

FUNDS FOR THIS SERIES OF GRAVE MARKERS WERE PROVIDED FROM THE JOHN BEN SHEPPERD SCHOLARSHIP FUND ADMINISTERED BY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION.

THE JOHN BEN SHEPPERD SCHOLARSHIP FUND WAS ESTABLISHED BY FRIENDS OF SHEPPERD WHEN HE LEFT THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL IN 1957.

THE MARKERS WILL COMMEMORATE THE LIVES OF TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEXAS AND ITS HISTORY AND/OR WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY. THIS WILL INCLUDE MEN ACTIVE IN ALL PHASES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT.

THE INSCRIPTIONS FOR THE MARKERS WILL CITE THE LAWMENS' CAREERS, NOTING HIGHLIGHTS OF THEIR LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE AND GALLANT ACTION.

FRONTIER TEXAS PRODUCED A UNIQUE BRAND OF LAWMEN, AS IT LONG WAS A BORDER REGION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

DURING THE YEARS OF COLONIZATION, TEXAS SETTLERS RALLIED DEFENSIVELY AGAINST INDIANS AND BADMEN. . . DURING THE REPUBLIC AGAINST INVADING MEXICAN TROOPS. AS A RESULT, THE TEXAS RANGERS AND OTHER FAMOUS OFFICERS OF THE LAW ROSE TO THE CHALLENGE AND WORKED HEROICALLY TO KEEP THE PEACE.

THIS MARKER COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MARTIN HAYS, GREGG COUNTY SHERIFF, TAKES NOTE OF HAYS' DEVOTION TO DUTY AND THAT HE WAS AMONG THE FIRST TEXAS SHERIFFS TO WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE ORGANIZING THE JUNIOR DEPUTIES.

(Remarks of Charles R. Woodburn, President of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee at dedication ceremonies of grave marker for Martin Hays, August 6, 6:00 p.m. in Longview.)

WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY TO WITNESS THE PLACEMENT OF AN OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL GRAVE MARKER TO COMMEMORATE THE OUTSTANDING DEVOTION TO DUTY SHOWN BY A VETERAN PEACE OFFICER. . .MARTIN HAYS. THIS MARKER WAS THE FIRST AWARDED IN A NEW MARKER SERIES TO COMMEMORATE TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

IT IS INDEED A PRIVILEGE AND PLEASURE TO HAVE WORKED WITH THE TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS NEW MARKER SERIES.

THIS NEW SERIES IS BUT ONE FACET OF A BROAD-BASED INTERPRETATION PROGRAM UNDERTAKEN BY THE TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE AND ITS PRIVATE AFFILIATE, THE TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION TO TELL THE STORY OF TEXAS.

THESE TWO AGENCIES. . .THROUGH THE USE OF HISTORICAL MARKERS. . .ARE ATTEMPTING TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE OF TEXAS MEN AND WOMEN, AND TO TAKE NOTE OF GREAT EVENTS AND DEEDS THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL, CULTURAL, ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF OUR STATE.

THIS MARKER SERIES FOLLOWS OTHER SERIES WHICH GIVE RECOGNITION TO. . .HISTORICAL TEXAS HOMES AND BUILDINGS. . . THE HIGH PUBLIC OFFICES OF OUR STATE. . .AND TO MODERN TEXAS STATESMEN.



UNDER THE PROGRAM PROVIDING RECOGNITION TO HISTORIC TEXAS HOMES AND BUILDINGS. . . OVER 1200 SUCH STRUCTURES HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE COVETED TEXAS HISTORICAL MEDALLION AND WITH IT, THE RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION.

RECOGNITION. . . THROUGH THE USE OF MARKERS. . . HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC OFFICES OF GOVERNOR, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, SECRETARY OF STATE, ATTORNEY GENERAL AND SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

THE MODERN TEXAS STATESMAN SERIES HAVE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE OUTSTANDING CAREERS OF FORMER GOVERNORS WILLIAM P. HOBBY, ALLAN SHIVERS AND COKE STEVENSON.

IN ADDITION, THE TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION IS WORKING IN COOPERATION WITH THE MOODY FOUNDATION TO MARK "EARLY TRAVEL, TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION IN TEXAS."

WITHIN THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, THE TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE IN COORDINATION WITH THE TEXAS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS HAS INITIATED ANOTHER NEW OFFICIAL MARKER SERIES TO COMMEMORATE "OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF TEXAS".

WHILE MARKING IS IMPORTANT, IT IS BUT ONE PHASE OF A DYNAMIC FIVE-POINT PROGRAM CALLED "RAMPS". THE "RAMPS" PROGRAM CALLS FOR THE RECORDATION, APPRECIATION, MARKING, PRESERVATION AND SURVEY OF TEXAS HISTORY.

THE TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE IS ASSISTED IN THIS VITAL AND IMPORTANT WORK LOCALLY BY THE GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE TOGETHER WITH OTHER COUNTY GROUPS REPRESENTED HERE TODAY.

SIMILIAR MARKERS COMMEMORATING THE OUTSTANDING CAREERS OF TEXAS RANGERS, SHERIFFS, MARSHALS AND BORDER AND HIGHWAY PATROLMEN ARE BEING PLACED THROUGHOUT THE STATE UNDER THIS MARKING PROGRAM.

First In Texas Series

# Dedication Aug. 6 For Hays Marker

The first of a series of state markers honoring Texas law officers will be dedicated Aug. 6 in Longview, honoring the late Longview peace officer Martin Hays.

F. Lee Lawrence of Tyler, president of the Texas Historical Foundation, will be the keynote speaker at ceremonies at Grace Hill Cemetery.

The marker notes that Hays was among the first Texas sheriffs to organize junior deputies.

Also scheduled to speak are Charles R. Woodburn of Amarillo, president of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, and John Ben Shepperd of Odessa, member of the historical foundation.

Meanwhile, a Texas Historical Building Medallion has been approved for the old Finch home at 2010 East Cotton Street.

According to Amelia Belding, Gregg County chairman of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, the marker has been reserved for the house which was built by John Landrum Finch, father of the present occupant, John Markham Finch, in 1898.

John L. Finch came to Texas, a Civil War veteran, from Spartanburg, S.C., in 1869. Among his

possessions brought from South Carolina which have survived him, is a unique melodeon, now owned by a granddaughter, Elaine Markham Clanton. The Finches from South Carolina first settled in Hallsville, but moved west as the railroad did. They came to Longview in 1872, the year that the city was incorporated.

John L. Finch was active in the newly organized First Baptist Church and remained a member all of his life.

The old Finch home was built to replace a log cabin in which John Markham Finch was born. (See DEDICATION, Page 2-C)

Sunday, July 30, 1967

## DEDICATION--

(Continued From Page 1)

He has lived on the old home place "on an off" all of his life and now occupies the house with his wife, Myradel Howard Finch. He is the father of Eva Jean Finch Blount, wife of former Gregg County Judge R. E. Peppy Blount.

The medallion marker will be inscribed: "FINCH FAMILY HOME, EARLY VICTORIAN COTTAGE, BUILT 1898 BY JOHN FINCH ON SITE OF FAMILY'S LOG CABIN. DESCENDANTS ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY LIFE."

The Dalai Lama of Tibet is the only ruler in the world who is regarded as a god by his people.

*The Texas State Historical Survey Committee  
The Gregg County Historical Survey Committee  
The East Texas Peace Officers Association*

*invite you to Attend*

*The Dedication of an Official Texas Historical Grave Marker  
for*

**MARTIN HAYS**

*Sunday, August Sixth, Nineteen Hundred and Sixty Seven*

*6:00 P.M.  
Longview, Texas*

*Grace Hill Cemetery  
Gregg County*

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