

# APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

Texas Historical Commission  
History Division  
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711

Title of Marker (subject to revision by THC staff)     ▶     O.H. Methvin	County ▶     Gregg
Marker Location (from nearest town on state map)     ▶     O.H. Methvin grave Greenwood Cemetery Longview, Texas	
Distance and direction of subject from marker site     ▶     Placed at grave site	If not on post, type of surface to which marker     ▶     comes w/ mounting will be attached (wood, stone, etc.)     bar
Owner of Marker Site     ▶     Descendants of O.H. Methvin	Address     City, Zip 117 W. Edgefield     Longview, TX 75602
Sponsor of Marker     ▶     Beth Holloway Dodson	Address     City, Zip 117 W. Edgefield     Longview, TX 75602
Signature of County Chairman     ▶ <i>Norman H. Black, D.D.S.</i>	Address     City, Zip 417 S. Mobberly     Longview, TX 75602
Person to whom marker is to be shipped* ▶     Beth Dodson	Address     City, Zip 117 W. Edgefield     Longview, TX 75602

*\*NOTE: Freight companies cannot ship to route or box numbers. If street address is unavailable, please provide a phone number. If marker is to be placed on highway right-of-way, it will be shipped to your district highway engineer.*

Please consult the back of this page for specifications of the markers available. Check the items desired below. Approval of the application and narrative *must* be obtained from the county historical commission, as indicated by the county chairman's signature on this form, before forwarding the material to the Texas Historical Commission. Please *do not* send payment if ordering subject or building markers; funds will be requested once the application has been approved by the State Marker Committee. Sales tax of 6% must be added to the price, except if purchased by a tax-exempt organization. Applicants may order a marker with a socket to attach to their own post; however, the cost is the same as a marker furnished with a foundry post.

## SUBJECT MARKERS

- |   |          |                |
|---|----------|----------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) . . .  | With tax | \$225 \$238.78 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" subject marker with post . . . . .                       |          | \$650 \$689.81 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" subject marker without post . . . . .                    |          | \$600 \$636.75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" subject marker with post . . . . .                       |          | \$375 \$397.97 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" subject marker without post . . . . .                    |          | \$300 \$318.38 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I(We) request that RTHL designation be considered for this marker. |          |                |

## BUILDING MARKERS

- |   |          |                |
|---|----------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building marker with post . . . . .    | With tax | \$350 \$371.45 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building marker without post . . . . . |          | \$300 \$318.38 |
- Applications for building markers will automatically be considered for the RTHL designation. Please read carefully Texas Marker Policies 13 through 18, and indicate that you have done so by signing below.

Signature of owner \_\_\_\_\_

## PAPERWEIGHTS

Please indicate quantity desired.

- |   |          |              |
|---|----------|--------------|
| _____ 3" x 4" plastic paperweight<br>mounted with replica of marker . . . . . | With tax | \$90 \$95.51 |
|---|----------|--------------|

*Allow two months from completion of marker  
for receipt of paperweight*

- |                                       |          |              |
|---------------------------------------|----------|--------------|
| _____ Medallion paperweight . . . . . | With tax | \$41 \$47.95 |
|---------------------------------------|----------|--------------|

## DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

Please indicate quantity desired and give location(s) on form above:

- |   |          |              |
|---|----------|--------------|
| 24" x 24" Historical Markers In City sign . . . . . | With tax | \$80 \$84.90 |
|---|----------|--------------|
- These will be shipped to and placed on your town's city limits signs by the District Highway Engineer.*
- Black and White (for farm-to-market roads, state and U.S. highways)  
 Green and White (for interstate highways)
- |  |          |              |
|--|----------|--------------|
| 18" x 22" Historical Marker directional sign . . . . . | With tax | \$80 \$84.90 |
|--|----------|--------------|
- In black and white only. For city and county roads.*
- Applicant must supply post and be responsible for placement.*
- With arrow pointing straight ahead  
 With arrow pointing left  
 With arrow pointing right

## OTHER

- |  |          |                |
|--|----------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Register plaque . . . . .                                    | With tax | \$ 50 \$ 53.06 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12" x 6" supplemental plate . . . . .                                 |          | \$110 \$116.74 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building marker plate only<br>(see policy #15) . . . . .    |          | \$190 \$201.64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement medallion (see policy #15) . . . . .                      |          | \$110 \$116.74 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze stars (for replacement on 1936<br>granite markers) . . . . .   |          | \$ 25 \$ 27.14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze wreaths (for replacement on<br>1936 granite markers) . . . . . |          | \$ 25 \$ 27.14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze seals (for replacement on<br>1936 granite markers) . . . . .   |          | \$ 65 \$ 68.98 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze plaques (for replacement on<br>1936 granite markers) . . . . . |          | \$110 \$116.74 |

# History of O. H. Methvin

by Beth Holloway Dodson  
117 West Edgefield  
Longview, Texas 75602

This history of O. H. Methvin has previously been documented and accepted by the Texas Historical Commission on the occasion of the placement of an official Texas Historical marker on the grounds of the Gregg County Courthouse in Longview, Texas.

On April 7, 1870, O. H. Methvin and wife, Margaret R. Methvin, deeded 100 acres to the Southern Pacific Railway for the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) for the purpose of laying their line, and opening up and developing the resources of the county. This land was in the Hamilton McNutt Survey, and was situated in Upshur County at that time but it later became a part of Gregg County in 1873.<sup>1</sup> The deed was filed on July 15, 1872, recorded in Volume 0, page 672 in Deed Records of Upshur County.<sup>2</sup> The deed was later recorded in Gregg County, Volume 59, page 301 in Deed Records of Gregg County.

We have, in our family, the original deed signed by O. H. Methvin, dated April 7, 1870.

We do not know the full name of O. H. Methvin, since he always signed it with only his initials. Records of several deeds listing him as O. H. Methvin have been found. His son, O. H. Jr. is listed as Ossamus on the census records, therefore, we believe his name was Ossamus Hitch Methvin.

O. H. Methvin was born March 10, 1815, in Lowndes County, which later became Baldwin County, Georgia. He was the son of Richard R. Methvin, who was the son of Nathan Methvin, the first Methvin to come to America from Edinburgh, Scotland in 1790.

Richard R. Methvin and his son, O. H. Methvin, Sr. came to Texas about 1848 and settled in Upshur County. On microfilm of the National Archives Library, the 1850 census of Upshur County lists Richard R. Methvin, age 56, born in Maryland; O. H. Methvin, age 35, born in Georgia; Margaret R. Methvin, age 32, born in Georgia.<sup>3</sup> Margaret was the wife of O. H. Methvin, and they had three sons born in Texas. They are listed in the 1860 census of Upshur County as Alexander, age 10 years; Ossamus, age 8 years and Jefferson, age 7 years.<sup>4</sup>

O. H. Methvin bought many acres of land, reported to be 1200 acres up East Texas and farmed part of the land. Joseph Mark Sparkman came to this area in the 1860's, and he said the first person he met was O. H. Methvin plowing his cornfield where the courthouse now stands. This land was in the Hamilton McNutt Survey of Upshur County, and was granted by patent from the State of Texas in 1848.<sup>5</sup> It was originally owned by James Earp.

In April 1870, O. H. Methvin and a railroad surveyor were standing on the porch of Methvin's home on Rock Hill looking out over the land. The surveyor exclaimed, "My, what a long view you have from here!" Methvin replied, "That's it! We'll name the new town Longview, and I'll deed you the land for it."

## Footnotes

- 1 Patent to Hamilton McNutt by State of Texas - 1848 Upshur County Deed Records
- 2 Deed to Southern Pacific Railway for 100 acres Upshur County Deed Records, Volume 0, page 672
- 3 Upshur County Census Record of 1850
- 4 Upshur County Census Record of 1860
- 5 Upshur County Deed Records, Volume B, page 420

## Bibliography

Gregg County History. Longview Junior Chamber of Commerce, 1957.

Longview Morning Journal Centennial Edition, May 3, 1970.

Longview Daily News, February 23, 1984.

Longview, Texas Centennial 1870-1970.

Southwestern Bell Longview Telephone Directories, 1964, 1967, 1969, 1970, 1971.

The Gregg County Courthouse is located on a portion of the land that was donated for the founding of Longview. On February 29, 1984, a Texas Historical marker, sponsored by descendants of O. H. Methvin, was unveiled on the grounds of the courthouse.

Printed in the foreword of the Longview Telephone Directory it stated: "Longview was founded in 1870, by O. H. Methvin, incorporated in 1871, and became the county seat of Gregg County in 1873." This statement can be found in directories dated 1964, 1967, 1969, 1970, and 1971.

The final resting place of O. H. Methvin is in Greenwood Cemetery in Longview, Texas, under a large, very old cedar tree. His grave is marked by a granite stone reading O. H. Methvin, Born March 10, 1815 - Died February 9, 1882. We, as descendants, feel, this being the Sesquicentennial of Texas, this gravesite of this early Texas pioneer, deserves this honor of placing a Texas Historical marker to commemorate the founder of Longview.

Texas Historical Commission Staff (MHM), 3/7/83, revised 5/5/83

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Gregg County (Order #7099)

Location: Courthouse lawn, E.Methvin St., Longview

O.H.METHVIN,SR.\*  
FOUNDER OF LONGVIEW\*\*\*

ABOUT 1848,O.H.METHVIN<sup>\*\*\*</sup>(1815-1882)AND  
HIS FATHER RICHARD CAME TO  
TEXAS FROM GEORGIA,O.H.METHVIN  
BOUGHT ABOUT 1,200 ACRES IN EAST  
TEXAS,INCLUDING THIS SITE,WHICH  
WAS HIS CORNFIELD,HE BUILT A  
HOME ON NEARBY ROCK HILL FOR HIS  
WIFE MARGARET AND THEIR CHILDREN.  
IN 1870 METHVIN DEEDED 100 ACRES  
OF HIS LAND TO THE SOUTHERN  
PACIFIC RAILROAD,THE TOWN THAT  
DEVELOPED ON THE RAIL LINE WAS  
NAMED LONGVIEW WHEN SURVEYORS  
WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE LONG-  
RANGE VIEW AFFORDED THEM FROM  
ROCK HILL,WITH THE FORMATION  
OF GREGG COUNTY,LONGVIEW BECAME  
THE COUNTY SEAT IN 1873.\*\*

(1983)\*\*\*

\*3/4 inch lettering  
\*\*1/2 inch lettering  
\*\*\*1/4 inch lettering

Incise on back: SPONSORS-GREAT AND GREAT,GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

History of The Methvin Family  
And The Founding of Longview

by Ruth Holloway Sandridge  
2116 Tryon Road #S-5  
Longview, Texas 75601

This history of the Methvin family is based on research and tradition; stories handed down through the family as told to me by my mother. She was a grand-daughter of O. H. Methvin, Sr., founder of Longview in 1870.

On April 7, 1870, O. H. Methvin and wife, Margaret R. Methvin, deeded 100 acres to the Southern Pacific Railway for the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) for the purpose of laying their line, and opening up and developing the resources of the county. This land was in the Hamilton McNutt Survey, and was situated in Upshur County at that time but it later became a part of Gregg County in 1873. The deed was filed on July 15, 1872, recorded in Volume 0, page 672 in Deed Records of Upshur County.<sup>2</sup> The deed was later recorded in Gregg County, Volume 59, page 301 in Deed Records of Gregg County.

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We do not know the full name of O. H. Methvin, since he always signed it with only his initials. I found records of several deeds listing him as O. H. Methvin, and he is listed that way on census records, but his son O. H. Jr. is listed as Ossamus on the census. Therefore, from this and other sources such as family papers, we believe his name was Ossamus Hitch Methvin.

O. H. Methvin was born March 10, 1815, in Lowndes County, which later became Baldwin County, Georgia. He was the son of Richard R. Methvin, who was the son of Nathan Methvin, the first Methvin to come to America from Edinburgh, Scotland in 1790.

Richard R. Methvin and his son, O. H. Methvin, Sr., came to Texas about 1848 and settled in Upshur County. On microfilm of the National Archives Library, the 1850 census of Upshur County lists Richard R. Methvin, age 56, born in Maryland; O. H. Methvin, age 35, born in Georgia; Margaret R. Methvin, age 32, born in Georgia.<sup>3</sup> Margaret was the wife of O. H. Methvin, and they had 3 sons born in Texas. They are listed in the 1860 census of Upshur County as Alexander age 10 years, Ossamus age 8 years and Jefferson age 7 years.<sup>4</sup> We have Margaret R. Methvin's will listing these same 3 sons as her heirs. The will is dated April 20, 1883, and is signed with an X, her mark.

O. H. Methvin bought many acres of land, reported to be 1200 acres, in East Texas and farmed part of the land. Joseph Mark Sparkman came to this area in the 1860's, and he said the first person he met was O. H. Methvin plowing in his corn field where the courthouse now stands. This land was in the Hamilton McNutt Survey of Upshur County, and was granted by patent from the State of Texas in 1848.<sup>5</sup> It was originally owned by James Earp. Methvin built a 3 story house on top of Rock Hill, also called Methvin Hill. The Rock Hill was a solid bed of rock covering several acres of ground, and was located between what is now High Street

on the West and Center Street on the East, and extended northward. The rock was quarried out of the hill, and was used for building purposes. It was used in the foundations of the First Presbyterian Church built in 1874, and the first Courthouse in Longview built in 1876, and many other early buildings in Longview.

In April 1870, O. H. Methvin and a railroad surveyor were standing on the porch of Methvin's home on Rock Hill looking over the land. The surveyor exclaimed, "My, what a long view you have from here!" Methvin replied, "That's it! We'll name the new town Longview, and I'll deed you the land for it." It was said that one looking southward could see certain objects quite a distance away, even beyond the Sabine River.

The Court House is located on a portion of the land that was donated for the founding of Longview. We believe that an appropriate location for the Historical Marker would be in front of the Court House, facing Methvin Street, which is named in his honor. The Gregg County Commissioner's Court have granted their permission to place the Marker on this site.

Printed in the foreword of the Longview Telephone Directory it states, "Longview was founded in 1870 by O. H. Methvin, incorporated in 1871, and became the county seat of Gregg County in 1873." This statement was published for many years in the Longview telephone directories. I have copies of 1964, 1967, and 1969 issues, also 1970 and 1971. In the 1970 issue it states, "Longview, founded in 1870 by O. H. Methvin will celebrate its Centennial Anniversary in 1970." In the 1971 issue it states, "Longview, founded in 1870 by O. H. Methvin, celebrated its Centennial Anniversary in 1970."

The final resting place of O. H. Methvin is in Greenwood Cemetery, under a large, very old cedar tree. His grave is marked by a granite headstone; the lettering on it is almost illegible. The dates on it are March 10, 1815 - February 9, 1882. This year, 1982, is the centennial of the death of O. H. Methvin.

*Ruth H. Sandridge*

## Footnotes

1. Patent to Hamilton McNutt by State of Texas - 1848 Upshur County Deed Records
2. Deed to Southern Pacific Railway for 100 acres Upshur County Deed Records, Volume 0, page 672  
Gregg County Deed Records, Volume 59, page 301
3. Upshur County Census Record of 1850
4. Upshur County Census Record of 1860
5. Upshur County Deed Records, Volume B, page 420

## Bibliography

History of the Creation of Gregg County, Texas  
by Richard B. Levy - Nicholson Memorial Library, D.A.R. Library

Longview Morning Journal Centennial Edition, May 3, 1970

Southwestern Bell Longview Telephone Directories



**O. H. Methvin.** Born March 10, 1815 in Baldwin County, Georgia he came to Texas about 1848 with his father, Richard R. Methvin, and settled in Upshur County. Methvin purchased 518½ acres of land which previously had belonged to James Earp, founder of adjacent town of Earpville (1841) April 1, 1869. In 1870, Methvin sold 150 acres of this land to the Southern Pacific Railroad (later purchased by the Texas and Pacific Railroad) for \$501.00. This land was platted by the railroad for the new town of Longview. Methvin, thus, has often been called the "founder" or "father" of Longview. Many descendants remain in Longview. Methvin Street is named for him. Although a son was named O. H. Methvin, Jr., Methvin always signed his name, "O. H.". His family supposes his name was Ossamus Hitch Methvin, Sr. He died in Longview in 1882.

NWB - 12-1-99