

COMMISSIONERS OF GREGG COUNTY, TEXAS

none present at Earpville H.M. Ded.

Mr. Elmer Ferguson - Precinct 1.

Mr. Jim Gray - Precinct 2.

Mr. Nelson Tyl - Precinct 3.

Mr. Jack Bean - Precinct 4.

County Judge Henry Atkinson is at his regular Friday, 10:00 A.M. Docket - Regrets.

SITE OF EARPVILLE HISTORICAL MARKER
DEDICATION

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES:

M.C. Good morning ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the dedication of an Official Texas Historical Marker: THE SITE OF EARPVILLE, Texas. This historical marker is authorized by the State of Texas and sponsored by the Texas and Gregg County Historical Commissions.

INVOC. Please stand with me for the invocation by Dr. Conrad Winborn, Minister of the First Methodist Church of Longview - followed by the Posting of

POST. Colors by members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Dr. Winborn ---.

(color guard retire to right seats)(not of prog.: bearer: Barney Hibern)
GUESTS Thank you Dr. Winborn. The Gregg County Historical Commission is that

arm of the county government which is responsible for the preservation of our county's ^{historical} heritage and the encouragement of others to do the same. Would all members of the Gregg County Historical Commission please stand, or, if standing please raise your hand. (recognize each)

Also, we are pleased to have: (other county commission chairpersons:)

Mrs. Audrey Kariel, Harrison Co.; Mrs. Virginia Knapp, Rusk Co.;

Mr. Everett Holloway, Upshur Co.

There are a number of other guests I would like to recognize: The Hon. Lou Galosy, Mayor of Longview; Mrs. Molly Barber, Clerk of Gregg Co.

DESCEND. Dr. Ellie Caston, Director of the Gregg County Historical Museum is video-taping event. We are very fortunate to have in our presence, descendants of the founders

of Earpville: Mr. Jack Earp and his wife, Mary, of Gladewater. (ask to stand) Thank you Jack and Mary. We are also indebted to these two for making their History of the Earp Family available to Mrs. Charlotte Teske of the historical commission for her use in her research for this historical marker.

Now, I know we have people here whose ancestors lived in Earpville. I also know, that if I try to name all of you, I will surely miss many. So,

if you are a descendant of an Earpville resident, please raise your hand.

(comment, if necessary)

UNVEIL. The marker will now be unveiled and the inscription read by Mrs. Helen McHaney Griffin, Vice-Chairman of the Gregg County Historical Commission.
(after unveiling, ask Pudge to return to microphone to read inscription)

MAYOR Thank you, Mrs. Griffin. Now I present the Honorable Lou Galsoy, Mayor of Longview. (after remarks Mayor will introduce Peppy Blount, Speaker)

PRES. Thank you Mr. Mayor and Judge Blount, ^{stop - more introductions, flag bearer.} The penultimate part of your program is preceded by the word "Presentation". This is indeed a rare honor, shared by only one other member of the Gregg County Historical Commission, Mrs. Griffin. It is a citation presented to a commission member for contributions which led to the placement of this historical marker. Mrs. Teske, will you please come to the podium? (read citation). Mr. Tunnell regrets that he is unable to attend this ceremony.

LOB. As you know, today is the first day of the three-day LOBLOLLY JUBILEE and Mr. Bruce Cook, Chairman of the Jubilee has a few words for us: Mr. Cook. Thank you, Mr. Cook.

BEN. And now, Dr. Winborn will pronounce the benediction.

P.S. Thank you all for making this dedication a memorable one. Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Long and Mr. Richard Long, heirs to the Estate of Lila Long Hughes, and Mrs. Dorothy Hogan, Realtor, who has graciously permitted us the use of this lovely property would like any of you, who wish, to visit this beautiful house - now. Thank you.

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 SIGNED THE
DECLINE OF EARPVILLE.**

(1989)***

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



Gregg County Historical Commission

NORMAN W. BLACK
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone
214-757-2261

May 5, 1989

GLADEWATER

Barker, Mildred
Daniel, Sondra
Mayer, Nauty Byrd
Osteen, Elizabeth
Shepperd, John Ben

KILGORE

Griffin, Helen
Lewis, Nelda
Long, Virginia
Pratt, Amanda
White, Joe

LONGVIEW

Barron, Sally
Belding, Amelia
Black, Norman
Buchanan, Jack
Cox, Pauline
Crain, Ann
Dodson, Beth
Durham, Ken
Mackenzie, Ann
McWhorter, Gene
Northcutt, W. D.
Ruff, Nancy
Teske, Charlotte

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 old 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 Loblolly Jubilee activities, according to Black. The Loblolly Jubilee is scheduled for the first weekend in October, with a number of events planned.

"There have been so many erroneous articles about Earpville," said Black. "This is the first time it has been so thoroughly researched."

For a year and a half, Longviewite Charlotte B. Teske, a member of the Gregg County Historical Commission, did research on Earpville to qualify it for the marker from the Texas Historical Commission in Austin.

"We're trying to correct all the inaccuracies," said Teske.

For example, legend has it that the founding Earp family was related to famous western lawman Wyatt Earp. But Teske says such kinship "seems to be unsubstantiated."

Research, she said, has revealed that old Earpville covered an area from Teague Street west to Grace Creek, and from near Fairmont Street south to near Cotton Street.

The area lay along the Marshall-Tyler Stagecoach Road (now U.S. 80), and among the earliest settlers were members of the Earp family.

James Earp (the last name often was pronounced "Arp") bought 1,031 acres of land in the area in June 1848. The land was being sold at highest bid by Upshur County — the county of Gregg wasn't created until 1873 — for unpaid taxes.

Earp bought the acreage for \$5.06, plus court costs.



Van
Craddock

"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, a minister, a saddler, a carpenter, an overseer, three blacksmiths, one wagon maker and seven laborers, Teske said.

James Earp abandoned farming and opened a small store. Richard Methvin, the father of O.H. Methvin (who is considered Longview's founding father) had a wagon shop in Earpville.

Although early records do not list a school in Earpville, D.A. Dickard, the community's postmaster in 1861, was a teacher and might have held classes in private homes or in Earpville's lone church building, Teske said.

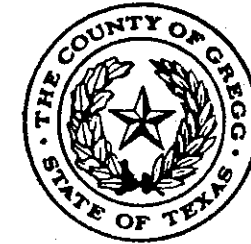
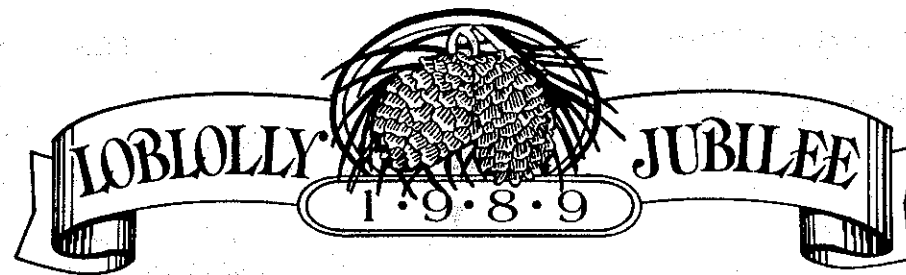
Earpville thrived, but progress eventually proved to be the downfall of the little town.

With the railroad expanding from Marshall and Hallsville past Earpville and on to Longview, "Earpville began to fade and lose its identity," Teske said.

It wasn't long before Earpville was only a memory.

"We can only speculate what might have been if the Earp family had not chosen this location," said Teske. "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," she said.



**DEDICATION
of an
OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER**

**SITE OF EARPVILLE
1107 East Marshall Avenue
Longview, Texas**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1989
10:00 A.M.**

Sponsored By

THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

and

THE GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

in the

**FIRST ANNUAL
LOBLOLLY JUBILEE**

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

RESEARCH REPORT
NO. 1000

BY
J. H. GOLDSTEIN

AND
M. J. GIBSON

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

1961

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