

James A Wills III 10 March 1967

18"x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker
Gregg County

Location: 102 North Fredonia
Longview, Texas

SITE OF***
JAMES S. HOGG NEWSPAPER*

TEXAS' FIRST NATIVE GOVERNOR
(1891-1895), JAMES STEPHEN HOGG,
FOUNDED HERE IN 1871 HIS FIRST
NEWSPAPER, THE LONGVIEW "NEWS".
HE WAS THEN 20 YEARS OLD.

IN HIS PAPER HOGG WAS A STRONG
SUPPORTER OF EDUCATIONAL AND
GOVERNMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR
LONGVIEW. HE CAMPAIGNED AGAINST
RADICAL RECONSTRUCTION POLICIES,
RAILROAD SUBSIDIES, LAWLESSNESS.

THIS VENTURE, FOLLOWING EARLIER
APPRENTICE NEWS WORK, SHOWED
HOGG'S ALERTNESS, SELF-CONFIDENCE.
HE WAS A PUBLISHER FOR 3 YEARS.

THIS EXPERIENCE DEVELOPED HIS
QUALITIES OF LEADERSHIP AND LED
TO LATER SUCCESS AS A STATESMAN.**

(1967)***

- * 3/4" lettering
- ** 1/2" lettering
- *** 1/4" lettering

*Read by
C.B. / J.B.H.
6/9/67*

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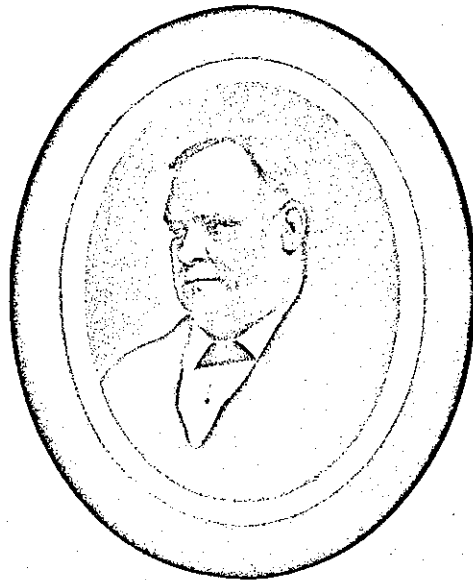
JAMES STEPHEN HOGG

A Biography

By ROBERT C. COTNER



SARAH ANN HOGG



JAMES STEPHEN HOGG

Robert C. Cotner



1959 • AUSTIN
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PRESS

CHAPTER III

Small-Town Editor, 1870-1875

WHEN GENERAL REYNOLDS declared Military Reconstruction in Texas at an end in April, 1870, he was aware that the majority of Texans would not be satisfied until they had ousted the distrusted Republican rule of Governor Davis. Even as Reynolds was about to withdraw, the Davis government was continuing to retaliate for certain actions engaged in by some Democrats at the time of the elections of the previous fall, such as the scattered violence in Cherokee County on Election Day. During the spring of 1870 the people in and about Rusk were subject to a rigid investigation being conducted by an agent of the State Police, Lieutenant Thomas Sheriff, concerning the "election outrages." The charges included fraud and intimidation of the freedmen.¹

The Democrats' fight for majority rule had far to go, facing such hurdles as the subsidy furnished by the Radical Republican government to many local newspapers and the domination of key towns in various counties by Scalawags and Negroes—the towns of Tyler, Longview, and Marshall, near Rusk, for instance, were all thus dominated. Among the Democrats of the area who sought to end this control, there were several who believed that the day could be speeded if a Democrat could own the Rusk *Cherokee Advertiser*, which had been the powerful and consistent mouthpiece of the Radicals. Thomas Hogg, ready to practice law and to enter politics—and not averse to having an outlet for his literary talents—decided to risk some of his scanty capital on the venture, especially since Frank A. Templeton, a friend since army days, agreed to join him in purchasing the paper. Under its new management, the *Advertiser* soon became a thorn in the side of the Davis administration.²

Still determined to support himself, the convalescent James began

¹ Hattie J. Roach, *Cherokee County*, p. 67.

² *Ibid.*; *Texas Almanac, 1873* (Galveston, Richardson and Company, 1873), pp. 57-58 gives founding dates. Thomas Clark, *The Southern Country Editor* (Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1948), p. 20, states that the 182 "tattered weeklies" alive in the South in 1865 had become 499 by 1869, and twenty years later there were 1,827 weeklies in twelve states.

once more to think about returning to newspaper work. The duties would not be so strenuous as farming, there would be opportunities to study law, and he would be "in out of the wet" as Dr. McDugald had counseled. Further, Jim had observed that candidates for public office often edited, owned, or had an interest in a paper. Thinking back over the places where he had worked—Cleburne, Palestine, Quitman, Rusk, and Tyler—he decided that Tyler offered the most promise and had the added advantage of being near home. A letter to H. V. Hamilton, editor of the *Tyler Democratic Reporter*, brought him an offer of a job, and, by the summer of 1870, James Stephen Hogg was at work again, making about ten dollars a month, plus board and room.

Fifteen years later Hamilton wrote this description of his nineteen-year-old printer's devil:

He was large of limb and physically well developed, but rather awkward, not very well educated, not particularly handsome, as poor as Job's turkey, and by no means a dude. We liked his looks, nevertheless, and gave him a job. He went to work as though he meant business, and during the two or three years [this must cover the brief period in 1868, and the months in 1870-71] of his stay in our office we never knew him to flinch from any duty assigned him, though he would occasionally say "by gatlings" when called upon to "roll" for an old hand press then in use, or to "pull off" forty or fifty quires of paper in August weather. Jim was then a sober, industrious boy. His moral character was without blemish, and his conduct always that of a gentleman by nature and by habit. His leisure hours (and he had not many) were assiduously devoted to study, and many a time, while he had a home in our family circle, midnight found him bending over his books; and with only a few hours sleep each night, the dawn of day found him again plodding his unaided and slow, but sure way along the paths of knowledge.³

James soon found congenial friends in Tyler, partly through the thoughtfulness of his father's former law partner, Stockton P. Donley,⁴ and partly on his own. He was especially drawn to seventeen-year-old Horace Chilton, who worked for a rival paper. Horace was the son of Colonel George Chilton, who had been Tom Hogg's commander in the battle of Oak Hill and earlier had been closely associated with Joseph

³ *Tyler Democrat and Reporter*, August 31, 1886. J. S. Hogg Scrapbook No. 2, p. 79.

⁴ Walter P. Webb and H. Bailey Carroll, *Handbook of Texas* (Austin, Texas State Historical Association, 1952), I, 513; Albert Woldert, *A History of Tyler and Smith County, Texas* (San Antonio, Naylor Company, 1948), pp. 66-67, 70-73.

JAMES STEPHEN HOGG

Lewis Hogg in the Secession Convention. In the early days of Reconstruction, Congress had not seen fit to seat Colonel Chilton; upon his return to Texas he found the military rule so odious that he decided to go to Kentucky. There he taught at Lynnland Institute, coming back to Texas to live only after Democratic supremacy was restored in 1874.⁵

Hard times dictated that Horace Chilton should take his meals with his publisher, but he lived at home with his mother and sister. He was ambitious to become a lawyer like his first cousin, keen-minded Sawnie Robertson,⁶ a son of Judge John C. Robertson. Sawnie had just completed a course at Judge Oran M. Roberts' law school in Gilmer and was ready to practice. His example was an inspiration to Jim Hogg also. For the many evenings spent in the Chilton home, Jim was forever grateful. He enjoyed the wit of Horace's sister, George-Ella, and the association with the Robertsons and Frank Bowden, Colonel Chilton's brother-in-law, and he tremendously admired Horace's devotion to his mother in her loneliness during the long separation from her husband. The Damon-and-Pythias friendship that was forged between the two boys was to be a dominant link in their lives.⁷

Early in September, James was invited to become a member of the Debating Society and soon afterwards was asked to participate in a public debate. Pleased by the honor of membership, he was also somewhat startled by being asked to take part so soon in public debate with seasoned speakers. He wrote Tom the evening he was notified of the debate that he had even thought of resigning rather than make a poor showing. However, he wanted his brother to know he was not afraid to compete; nevertheless, he hoped that Tom would come to his assistance with a "short speech, just to the point . . . and then by exerting myself to the highest pitch, I can hold a hand with them in the debate." He was to take the negative on the question—"Would a Republican Form of Government Be Better for the United States Than a Limited Monarchy?" The letter (in large, clear, and firm handwriting) continued:

Tom write one this time for me, and I'll make out the next time myself. Be sure to write it in time for me to get it by next mail; the mail starts from Rusk on Thursdays. I would not prepare for this debate, was it not for

⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 38, 67-69; H. B. Marsh interview, April 9, 1935 (typescript), Interv. Fol.; H. M. (Rode) Owens interview, February 16, 1935 (typescript), Interv. Fol.

⁶ Webb and Carroll, *op. cit.*, II, 488.

⁷ Personal interview with Mrs. George-Ella Henry in Tyler, June, 1946. In a wheelchair, she still had a mental sparkle and a sense of humor. See *Handbook of Texas*, I, 340.

SMALL-TOWN EDITOR

wanting to belong to it [Debating Society] in the future. If I do not stick, then the cry will be, "he's timid, will not do for a lawyer." If I had the time I would not ask this of you, for I feel perfectly competent to debate with that crowd, although it consists of young lawyers and printers. The debating Society and Sunday school are the only institutions that I intend to belong to, while I am a "greenhorn," as you call me. Well, write this for me, and I'll try and cripple some of the "Tylerites." All I want is a showing, and that I have not in this instance, and they know it, and therefore I want to surprise them. Give me something short and a regular "deadener."

My love to all—Goodnight

Your little Bro.

James S. Hogg⁸

Tyler's vigorous Republican and Democratic papers afforded an excellent opportunity for James Hogg to observe how news could be slanted, especially since Horace Chilton was obliged for a time to take employment with Representative S. D. Wood's *National Index*, the Republican paper. Jim had always understood there were two sides to a question, but now he recognized the necessity to ponder the basic human reasons for mixed motives. The clash of quick minds in editorial columns or in practice debate was stimulating to a young man who enjoyed good fellowship and mental exercise—and it was also an assistance toward maturity.

He was very much interested in Tyler's ambitions to become a railroad center. The original plans for the Houston and Great Northern Railroad had been incubated in M. H. Bonner's law office in Rusk, but the chaotic conditions from 1866 to 1870 had delayed investments and building. In December, 1870, the contract was finally let for building the first section northward from the docks on Buffalo Bayou.⁹ For many months James watched the chartering game in Austin from his vantage post in the composing room of the *Reporter*, giving especially careful attention to the point at which the Houston and Great Northern and the so-called Southern Pacific (actually the Texas and Pacific) might intersect west of Marshall. Longview, already a terminus, Tyler, and Quitman—all or each might become important as railroad centers.

Horace Chilton and James Hogg had many long conversations about their ambitions, particularly in the light of present events. They agreed that newspaper ownership appeared to be an excellent steppingstone to political activity, and offered, besides, a congenial way of earning

⁸ James S. Hogg to Thomas E. Hogg, September 26, 1870, Fam. Let.

⁹ St. Clair Reed, *Texas Railroads*, pp. 315 ff.

money for the study of law on the side. A law career was still the important main goal for both boys. Night-long "bull sessions" on what the future has in store are common to most young men in their late teens and early twenties, but to these two in Tyler the talk was not merely the stuff of unfulfilled dreams. Before the year 1871 was out, each of them had started a newspaper of his own, Horace, age eighteen, the tri-weekly *Sun* in Tyler, James, age twenty, the *News* in Longview.

* Nothing illustrates more forcibly the alert mind and self-confidence of James Hogg than this decision to establish his own paper in the rail-head town of Longview. His direct planning was based partly on the expectation that the movement of the cotton crop to the railhead from September to Christmas would assure cash collections in the initial months, during which time he could build up circulation and gain the confidence of business concerns in the paper as an advertising medium. The prosperous and growing town's establishments included several grocery stores and dry goods emporiums, and there were numerous wool, hide, and cotton buyers—all of these factors seeming to assure eventual and substantial advertising revenue.

The ambitious venture was well threshed over with the rest of the family. Tom's own newspaper venture could use more capital, and he now wanted to move into Rusk and run for justice of the peace; to help finance both newspapers, as well as Tom's move, it was decided to offer a large part of what was left of the family estate at public sale, reserving the house and some surrounding land. To Jim's delight, Mrs. Davis agreed to join him on the *News*. Her duties would include sifting the exchanges and writing some of the editorial matter, while Jim attended to circulation-building and the mechanics of printing.

* The first issue of the *News* appeared in October, self-proclaimed as a "Tri-Weekly, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday."¹⁰ Jim had chosen an office opposite the railroad depot, to be near the source of incoming news. Subscriptions were \$5.00 a year, \$2.75 for six months, and 50 cents a month. Liberal inducements were offered to interest advertisers in contracting for space on a monthly or yearly basis.

On the first Tuesday in November, as arranged, the public sale of the estate took place in Rusk. Three hundred sixty acres were sold in squares, "not exceeding forty acres each," for a total of \$574, at less than \$2.00 an acre, a low price but at least better than that in the earlier

¹⁰ The Longview *News* for November 11, 1871, was Vol. I, No. 14. This is the earliest issue available; a copy is in the Hogg Collection.

sale.¹¹ Money aside, probably no member of the family went through the proceedings without sadness at the thought of parting with this remainder of their once substantial and loved heritage. Nevertheless, for all of them there was a proud later day when the *Texas Almanac* for 1871 included listings of the Longview *News* and the *Cherokee Advertiser* as papers owned by members of the Hogg family.

"James S. Hogg, Publisher" was not content to carry only local advertisements. In Tyler, Jefferson, and Galveston he managed to get contracts from hotels, attorneys, a barber, owners of livery stables, land agents, and commission merchants. His own confidence must have infected these men, for certainly in size the paper was unimpressive, being only seven and three-quarters inches by twelve and one-quarter, with three columns. The venture was profitable from the outset.

Page one of the earliest issue extant, Volume I, No. 14, November 11, 1871, is probably typical, with its one column of ads and two columns of exchanges. The tiny paper carried little foreign news, but the German victory over France was told in terms of corrected estimates of casualties, with the following interesting comment on French patriotism:

Patriotism in young maidens in Metz is tantamount to all the virtues. A young French lady of that city recently refused a Prussian officer's offer of marriage, and the next day received ten applications for her hand among the richest men of the town.¹²

The publisher's devotedly Democratic and anti-Grant-administration policy was apparently demonstrated in every manner possible, to judge from a few samples of items:

J. W. Flanagan, U. S. Senator, returned to Henderson last Tuesday morning, from Austin. Wonder if he is colicked on chicken-pie?

* * * *

The Radicals in Austin tremble in their boots for fear their petty master, E. J. Davis, will be impeached. This fear is excited by the number of Democratic Senators and Legislators who are just taking their seats with that villainous body.

* * * *

¹¹ Judge Micajah Bonner made application in the July Term, 1871, "to sell the lands of said estate for the payment of the debts thereof"; and stated that the homestead of 200 acres had never been separated from the 530 acres of the Stephen Halbert headright. They proceeded to survey with permission to sell to the highest bidder "for currency." District Court Report Book A (Rusk), November, 1871, gives a report of the sale.

¹² Longview *News*, November 11, 1871.

It is said that the Legislature will not sustain Gov. Davis in his martial law proclamation in Limestone and Freestone counties.¹³

In the issue of December 7, 1871, James Hogg expressed doubt as to the authenticity of a report from Marshall that President Grant had directed Governor Davis to certify men who received majorities in the last election and that he had expressed disapproval of martial law in Limestone County:

If this be so, Grant must be preparing to take a new departure, else why does he assume the role of justice and political honesty.¹⁴

The Democrats were gradually making some headway in their efforts to return to power in Texas, although the Davis administration frustrated them at nearly every turn. When Moderate Republicans and Democrats, for instance, had joined in a taxpayer's convention in September, 1871, aided by former Republican governors A. J. Hamilton and E. M. Pease, the Radicals retaliated by postponing the regular state elections until November, 1872.¹⁵ Nevertheless, the fact that Thomas Hogg, a Confederate captain and son of a Confederate general, had been elected justice of the peace in Cherokee County was an indication of the new trend. James and Thomas Hogg joined other Democratic papers in pressing all possible embarrassing charges against the Davis administration and fighting the Radicals on any provocation, not unaware that Major Harsey, Democratic editor of the East Texas Bulletin, had been arrested again and fined by the Radical officials in near-by Marshall.¹⁶

James enjoyed copying a blast of Tom's in the *Advertiser* against Webster Flanagan:

Jerrymander Flanagan, the son of the old man Flanagan, sometimes called in common parlance, Web, who fathered a bill in the Legislature to tear up the Senatorial Districts of Texas, and cobble them together so as to neutralize the power of the white people, and perpetuate Radical infamy, passed through Rusk Wednesday night for his home, covered with glory, such as shineth from a pewter dollar in a mud hole.¹⁷

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, December 7, 1871.

¹⁵ Rupert N. Richardson, *Texas*, pp. 282-283; Charles W. Ramsdell, *Reconstruction in Texas*, pp. 298-299.

¹⁶ *Longview News*, December 7, 1871.

¹⁷ *Cherokee Advertiser*, December 7, 1871.

James Hogg's reputation as a courageous and able publisher soon spread through the region. In December, 1871, he was paid a visit by Colonel H. Keys and Dr. B. B. Hart of Quitman, who were on their way to Shreveport. He audaciously published the news they brought:

These gentlemen inform us that a number—some fifteen or twenty—of the most respectable citizens of Quitman and vicinity, have been arrested as ku-klux and carried to Tyler for investigation, on the affidavit of one M. Brock, a well-known scoundrel and scalawag, who has for sometime been trying to perpetuate a difficulty in that county. It is well known that some of the meanest thieves and murderers that ever lived make their homes between the Sabine and Lake Fork rivers in Wood County, but none of the citizens arrested on Brock's affidavit can be accused as being anything but quiet, peaceable men. This is the way with all such arrests; none but the peaceable Democrats are ever disturbed by such villainous scamps as the above named.¹⁸

Despite all the bitterness over prolonged Reconstruction, the young editor of the News advocated a constructive program. He admonished the people of Longview to assist Professor John T. Kennedy from Rusk County in his endeavors to establish a school. "Nothing," he wrote, "will do more to build up Longview and make it a desirable town to live in than good educational facilities."¹⁹ For emphasis he added an item about a teachers' convention in Boston. He believed it significant that Professor Agassiz of Harvard, the famous naturalist, had said that in public education "too much was made of the memory and too little of the mind."²⁰ Hogg sought ways to assure a substantial growth of Longview. He emphasized that the making of

... a single plow, wagon, scraper, broom, or any other article the increasing population may need, is a great gain for us. Let us encourage those who come among us with a view to manufacturing, it matters not how insignificant the article they propose to manufacture, so it has utility.

This is the age of energy, progress and vigor, and if we will develop our own resources, build up institutions of learning, churches, and manufactories, Longview must continue to grow more rapidly than it has ever done, and will astonish in its strides to greatness, even its best friends.²¹

Before James Hogg was twenty-one he had become a man. He had

¹⁸ *Longview News*, December 7, 1871.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, December 12, 1871.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, December 9, 1871.

²¹ *Ibid.*, December 15, 1871.

matured during the worst of the Reconstruction years, retaining a sense of humor and building a pungent vocabulary that adequately expressed his thoughts.

The November 21 issue of the *News* carried an interesting item, especially significant as an insight into the thinking of the editor on the increasingly important subject of local bounties to railroads. A bill was before the legislature to grant a charter for the Tyler Tap Railroad, a short connecting line to Palestine; Hogg noted that the *Tyler Reporter* declared that Smith County was ready to do anything reasonable to get the line but should be prepared for being left out in the cold. Hogg showed his hand:

Of course, Mr. Reporter, there is no "harm" in securing all the railroads in your power, that's to your interest; but be sure not to get so excited and liberal as the green horn did when he first saw a steamboat, and offer all you are worth to get them.²²

He went on to express his view that railroads were mechanical things and would be useful or detrimental depending upon the type of men who managed them.

With the *News* prospering, James was quite content in Longview. But certain people in Quitman who had read his editorials on railroads had another idea for him. Wood County residents who opposed a bond subsidy to the Texas and Pacific Railway felt they needed a newspaper to express their views. Two routes had been surveyed along the proposed expansion from Longview to Dallas, and the Texas and Pacific Railroad was stalling on building westward from Longview, hoping to play off the factions and obtain \$100,000 from county bonds. It was possible that Smith County might vote a bond issue and swing the line as far south as Tyler, while other counties and towns along the routes to Dallas were also being pressured to make generous grants. Captain W. M. Giles, as spokesman for the group that opposed the bond subsidy, came to Longview offering inducements to Hogg to relocate his paper.

Hogg for some time had been considering enlargement of the *News*, and to this end had looked over the plant of the *Marshall Reporter*, owned by J. M. Kennedy, who had been having difficulty with the federal authorities and had decided to go out of business. After the Quitman invitation Jim bought Kennedy's press and type for about four hundred dollars; the extra equipment would enable him to print a bigger paper, doubling the number of columns from three to six. Then

²² *Ibid.*, November 21, 1871.

Captain Giles sent his wagon to aid in the move. A "cub" on the *Reporter*, W. A. Adair, helped Jim load the machinery and just after daylight on Christmas morning watched the loaded wagon disappear over the hill as Jim headed for Longview to pick up his personal belongings.²³ Early in 1872 the *Quitman News* was established.

Friends from his former days in Quitman noted that the boy had turned into a man, but found his youthful spirit and fun-loving disposition unchanged. His self-assurance and ease of expression impressed both old and new friends, and his courtesy and personal charm made him a welcome guest in many homes. He said that he intended to make Quitman his home from now on, and to intimates he confided his purpose to continue his study of the law.

James Hogg was in earnest as he set out to combat the forces which wished to saddle the county with a large railroad bond issue. He knew that the Texas and Pacific Company had to build one hundred miles of its line in two years, and that the more direct routes to Dallas ought to bring the railroad across Wood County.²⁴ Therefore, he argued, the company would not run the risk of losing the charter, bond issue or no, and the people could afford to await developments. The graphic articles in the *News* found a wide reading public, and business enterprises, which expected to have to pay much of the tax burden, joined with the farmers in supporting the stand taken by the new paper. James Hogg was not opposing railroad construction, but he was warning, as he had done earlier in Longview, that railroads could cost a community too much if it was not alert to the dangers of exploitation.

During the debate significant developments took place in Austin and Washington, D.C. The Texas legislature authorized the Texas and Pacific Railroad to purchase the Southern Pacific and Southern Transcontinental companies, but withdrew the ten-thousand-dollar-a-mile subsidy in lieu of land grants. This eliminated potential competition between the parallel lines projected between Texarkana and Dallas. The Grange movement was approaching a peak membership, reflecting the increase of depressed conditions among the farmers, and the Grangers of North Texas did not overlook this flagrant violation of their appeal to maintain competition and to weaken, not encourage, the forces of

²³ George W. Bailey, "James Stephen Hogg" (typescript), p. 60.

²⁴ *Texas Almanac, 1871* (Galveston, Richardson and Company, 1871), pp. 176-183. Congressman John H. Reagan had shown his interest in protecting stockholders against irresponsible management of the Texas Pacific Railroad project on the eve of secession. See Walter F. McCaleb (ed.), *Memoirs of John H. Reagan*, pp. 78-80.

monopoly that did nothing to satisfy their need for better transportation at reasonable rates.

Congress re-entered the picture on May 2, 1872, to name the combined lines the Texas and Pacific Railroad Company. The following clause was calculated to impose restraints upon any hostile state legislature:

The Texas and Pacific Railroad Company shall be and is hereby declared to be a military and post road; and for the purpose of insuring and carrying the mails and troops, munitions of war, supplies and stores of the United States, no act of the Company nor any law of any state shall impede, delay or prevent said Company from performing its obligation to the United States.²⁵

The railroad, which had preferred the subsidy of ten thousand dollars per mile to the award of sixteen to twenty sections of land for each mile, protested the legality of the change. Congress provided a way out by permitting the issuance of bonds up to forty thousand dollars per mile, plus a total stock of \$50 million. General Grenville M. Dodge was appointed Chief Engineer at twenty thousand dollars per year, and by August 6, 1872, the California and Texas Construction Company was ready to build the line west from Longview.²⁶

Due to popular feeling that the railroads were extravagant in their demands and that they had engineered a consolidation through the Davis Republican regime, the bond issue was rejected. Then, to the disappointment of the young editor and his friends north of and in Quitman, it was learned that the Texas and Pacific would not go through the county seat but across the southern part of the county and through Mineola. Nevertheless, both James and the Quitman community prospered during the rest of 1872 and in 1873 until the depression hit.

Editorially, the *News* continued to oppose the Davis regime, applauding meanwhile the efforts of the Liberal Republicans in the North and the union, in Texas, of Moderate Republicans and Democrats that were increasing the hope of an ultimate redemption from corruption, graft, and political demoralization in both North and South. The *News* also made no compromise with local lawlessness, corruption, oppression, or extravagance. Its editor, though busy with these social and political problems, somehow found time also to study law.

²⁵ The charter is quoted in Reed, *Texas Railroads*, p. 361.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 361-362.

One day in 1873 James proudly presented Martha Frances with a new book, *The Fate of Marvin*, by Thomas E. Hogg.²⁷ This long epic of the Civil War was especially significant in being one of the first stories to treat the conflict with candor and yet make for better feeling between recent foes. Considering the bitterness Thomas had expressed earlier in his poem, "The Soldier's Grave," which dealt with the desecration of their father's grave at Corinth, the book was even more significant—an early landmark along the road to reunion.

During 1873, "Jas. S. Hogg, Proprietor" issued forty-five editions of the weekly *News*, "Devoted to the Interests of Texas."²⁸ To maintain the editorial standard James had set for himself in the six-column, four-page paper (measuring twenty-five by fifteen inches) demanded long hours of work. Still persisting in his wish to become a lawyer, he studied whenever he could, but progress was slow. However, his good friend and adviser, Captain Giles, frequently spent an evening helping him with his studies, and Martha Frances, as always, urged him not to be discouraged, often reminding him that his father did not complete his legal training until the age of twenty-five.

When Richard Coke of Waco and Richard Hubbard of Tyler campaigned against Governor Davis in the fall of 1873, James Hogg decided to run for justice of the peace in Precinct No. 1. This was an important civil office at the time, because the county justices made up the commissioners' court and the justice for Precinct No. 1 became the chief justice, ex officio; in effect, he was responsible for many duties that now belong to a county judge. Wood County was in debt, the roads were bad, taxes were high, and scrip was discounted almost 75 per cent.²⁹ Lawlessness was on the increase. The main handicaps James faced were his youth and inexperience, but all who knew him testified to his courage. He pledged to improve the county's finances and the roads, and to try to restore parity of the scrip; he asked for the support of all honest, law-abiding citizens. To the surprise of many who had urged him to stay

²⁷ Thomas E. Hogg, *The Fate of Marvin* (Houston, E. H. Cushing, 1873). Cf. Thomas N. Page's *Red Rock* (New York, Scribner's, 1898) and "Meh Lady" (1893); Paul Buck's *The Road to Reunion, 1865-1900* (Boston, Little, Brown and Company, 1937).

²⁸ *Quitman News*, January 10, 1874.

²⁹ Property valuation in Texas had dropped from \$365 million in 1860 to \$159 million in 1870, while the taxes doubled from \$533,000 to \$1,129,577, according to the 1870 Census quoted by *Texas Almanac*, 1873, pp. 55-56; Cotner (ed.), *Addresses of James Hogg*, pp. 64-65.

3 state sites mark life of first

AUSTIN — Three historic sites in the Texas state park system commemorate the strong men and women of Gov. James Stephen Hogg's family, and recognize the contributions of early Anglo settlers who were not Indian fighters or cattlemen.

Hogg (1851-1906), the first native Texan to hold the state's highest office, was governor from 1880 to 1894.

The Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historical Park protects the site of an early Texas sugarcane plantation that Hogg later purchased for a family residence. Martin Varner settled the site in 1824 when he claimed land grant number 19 from Stephen F. Austin, placing him among the "old 300" Anglo settlers. Varner successfully grew sugarcane and was the first Texan to produce commercial rum but he sold out after 10 years.

Meanwhile the new Republic of Texas was attracting streams of settlers. Among them was a lawyer named Joseph Lewis Hogg. Hogg settled his wife and family near Rusk in 1839 and established a plantation called Mountain Home.

Jim Hogg was born at Mountain Home in 1851. The property is now the site of the Jim Hogg Historical Park. At the age of 12 this youngster who was to become governor one day was orphaned and left in the care of an older sister.

Rough and tumble frontier life fashioned him through several years while he worked as a newspaper apprentice, student of law and farm hand. While still a teenager, he was shot in the back and left for dead. No longer able to perform heavy labor, young Hogg returned to the life of a newspaperman and became a crusader against monopolies of large corporations.

In 1874 Jim Hogg married Sarah Ann Stinson and moved to Wood County. The Stinson Home and

Honeymoon Cottage at the Governor Hogg Shrine State Park commemorate those early years of marriage.

Friends and neighbors grew to trust his deep commitment and interest in the public welfare and persuaded him to begin a life of public service. Later, as governor of Texas, he continued to champion causes of individuals against monopolies. Under his guidance the Texas Railroad Commission was established to oversee the growth of the rail industry.

After leaving office, Hogg continued in public life and began supporting the oil industry. In 1902 he

was part of the group that formed the Texas Company (Texaco). Then, owing to demands of his business life, he moved his family to the Houston area where he bought the old Varner farm.

With four growing children and successful business concerns, Gov. Hogg was enjoying a happy period in his life. It was cut short by his death in 1906 as a result of the side effects from an accident. However, he had left an important legacy to his family: a strong sense of responsibility in handling business affairs and support for the new oil industry of Texas.

In 1919 an oil gusher burst forth

on the Varner-Hogg ing the Hogg children millionaires. In their tion they used their help enrich Texas music, the arts, mu three Hogg sites w park system.

The Governor Hog cated in Quitman, Tawakoni. It is Honeymoon Cottage Hogg Museum, the and the Old Settler's well as a playground ly wooded picnic are Honeymoon Cottage Home are available

of first native governor

formed on the Varner-Hogg property, making the Hogg children instant multimillionaires. In their father's tradition they used their new wealth to help enrich Texas by supporting music, the arts, museums and the three Hogg sites within the state park system.

The Governor Hogg Shrine is located in Quitman, east of lake Tawakoni. It includes the Honeymoon Cottage, the Miss Ima Hogg Museum, the Stinson Home and the Old Settler's Tabernacle as well as a playground and beautifully wooded picnic area. Tours of the Honeymoon Cottage and Stinson Home are available hourly Wednesday through Sunday. Group

tours can be arranged by calling (214) 763-2701.

The Jim Hogg State Historical Park is located two miles northeast of Rusk off U.S. Highway 84, (214) 683-4850. It is the site of Gov. Hogg's birth and contains a structure representative of early pioneer homes, the Hogg family cemetery and a lovely wooded setting for the playground, picnic area and hiking trail. The park is open seven days a week 8-5 at no charge.

Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historical Park is located southeast of Houston near West Columbia off State Highway 35, (409) 345-4656.

The plantation house, Gov. Hogg's last home, has survived since the late 1830s, weathering hurricanes, renovations and the effects of time. It is furnished with a collection of beautiful antiques and personal items from the Hogg family.

Visitors may tour the house Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Fees are \$2 for adults, \$1 for children six to 12; children under six are admitted free. Current repairs being made to the roof and other areas of the house may disrupt tour schedules, and visitors are urged to call the park in advance. A pleasant picnic area is located on the grounds.

OPINION

The Gladewater Mirror

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THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

4th Hogg historic site in Gregg County

Editor, the Mirror:

There is another historic site commemorating a segment in the life of James Steven Hogg in addition to the three sites mentioned in the fine article on page 16 of the Sunday, August 14 issue of the *Gladewater Mirror*. And the fourth site is in Gregg County. It is at 102 N. Fredonia Street in Longview and commemorates the site of Hogg's first newspaper. The inscription of the Texas Historical marker is as follows:

"Site of James S. Hogg
Newspaper

"Texas' first native governor (1891-1895), James Stephen Hogg, founded here in 1871 his first newspaper, 'The Longview News.' He was then 20 years old. In his

paper Hogg was a strong supporter of educational and governmental improvements for Longview. He campaigned against radical reconstruction policies, railroad subsidies, lawlessness. This venture, following earlier apprentice news work, showed Hogg's alertness, self-confidence. He was a publisher for 3 years. This experience developed his qualities of leadership and led to later success as a statesman."

This marker was erected in 1967. The more complete story of his venture into the newspaper field is very interesting.

*Norman W. Black
Gregg Co. Historical Commission
Longview*

Gregg genealogy society to discuss Georgia archives

The Gregg County Genealogy Society will meet 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Longview Public Library for a program on "Research in the

Georgia Archives" by Joyce Bridges of Shreveport.

People may meet in the Cecile Moeschle Meeting Room 30 minutes before the

meeting to share genealogical successes, problems and questions.

January's meeting begins a new year for the association with a new president, Violet McElhinney. Other officers are Vice President Margie Lile, Secretary Lillian Husband, Treasurer Clara Bates and co-editors of the newsletter, Suzy Burt and Lloyd George. Membership dues of \$10 are now due, and new members are invited to visit and join.



Nancy Ruff

EAST TEXAS HERITAGE

The society supports the genealogy department of the library by gifts of books each year. Members also receive a monthly newsletter with announcements of workshops and seminars in Texas and nearby states and also a list of new books and microfilms in the library.

Hogg family

Gov. Jim Hogg was one of Longview's most famous early residents, but he only lived here for a few months, according to his biographer, John R. Garbutt III, superintendent of the Jim Hogg State Park.

James Stephen Hogg, first native-born governor, founded the Longview News in the summer of 1871, when he was only 20. On Dec. 25, 1871, he moved his newspaper to Quitman.

Gov. Hogg was born at Rusk, in Cherokee County, on March 24,

1851, the son of Gen. Joseph Lewis Hogg and Lucanda McMath Hogg, who had come to Texas in 1839. Gen. Joseph L. Hogg's father, Thomas Blair Hogg, had served in the state legislatures of Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, and was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and War of 1812.

"By the end of the Civil War Jim had lost both his parents and a little brother and his portion of the family estate as did his other two sisters and four brothers. The family fortunes dwindled as most of the fortunes of the South and the family lands passed out of family hands.

"By 1866, at the age of 16, Jim took his first job with the Texas Observer newspaper in Rusk, as a printer's devil. In December of 1869 Jim was ambushed and left for dead, but of course survived, and came to Rusk to recuperate and work at his brother's newspaper the Advertiser. His brother was Thomas Elisha Hogg. Jim left

Rusk for Tyler in the summer of 1870 to work at the Democratic Reporter, and in the summer of 1871 he moved to Longview to start his own newspaper the News. On Dec. 25 of that year, he moved his newspaper to Quitman."

Garbutt does not have any evidence that Jim Hogg ever had a newspaper in Hallsville, as suggested by several Harrison County historians. Garbutt claims that Capt. W.M. Giles of Quitman sent his freight wagons to move Jim and newly pur-

chased equipment to Quitman. The equipment was bought by Captain Giles from the defunct Marshall newspaper the Reporter.

Hogg genealogy

Joseph Lewis Hogg (1806-1862, Miss.) married Lucanda McMath (1815-1862, Texas), in 1832 and had eight children: John W. Hogg, Thomas E. Hogg, Julia A. Hogg, Martha F. Hogg, James Stephen Hogg, Joseph L. Hogg (probably died in infancy), Joseph L. Hogg and Richard Hogg.

James Stephen Hogg (1851-1906) married Sarah Ann Stinson (1854-1895) and had four children: William Clifford Hogg (1875-1930), Ima Hogg (1882-1975), Michael Stephen Hogg (1885-1941) and Thomas Elisha Hogg (1887-1949).

The Hogg Genealogy Society will have its second annual workshop in June. For information, write Garbutt, Route 5, Box 80, Rusk 75785.

Nancy Ruff is a Longview genealogist. For queries, write East Texas Heritage, Longview News-Journal, P.O. Box 1792, Longview 75606.

Tom Campbell's childhood dream came true

Tom 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.