

Mr. James Stephen Hogg



Born in Rusk, Texas, in 1851, James Stephen Hogg was the third of five children born to Lucanda and Joseph Lewis Hogg. James' father died when James was 11, and the following year, his mother died. Thus, the five children were left to run the family plantation. James, along with his two older sisters, was forced to leave school and take responsibility for his younger siblings.

In his first job as an adult, James worked as a typesetter in Andrew Jackson's newspaper office. His second job was as a local sheriff. In an outlaw ambush, James was shot. That encounter increased his **determination** [commitment to get it done] to fight crime in Texas. After a time as justice of the peace, he served as district attorney to the 7th District. His friends encouraged him to run for Attorney General in 1886.

As Attorney General, James Hogg worked against injustice from powerful corporations and worked for the rights of individuals and families. He supported development of healthy school systems. He encouraged legislation to protect the public domain and set aside land for schools, resulting in one and a half million acres being established. He enforced laws providing that the railroads and land corporations sell their holdings to settlers within certain time limits. He broke up the Texas Traffic Association, which had become so powerful it didn't always act in the best interest of the citizens. Mr. Hogg helped write the second state antitrust law. Antitrust laws promote competition among businesses by not allowing one business to get too large. He forced out illegitimate insurance companies and aided legitimate businesses in general.

In 1891, he was elected governor of Texas. One of his famous quotes sums up his work for the people of Texas, "Let us have Texas, the Empire State, governed by the people; not Texas, the truck-patch, ruled by corporate lobbyists."

After his retirement, he continued to fight against **nepotism** (favoritism shown to relatives), unequal taxation, and corporate control of Texas.

Today, the Hogg Foundation, which was established in his honor by his daughter, Miss Ima, continues to promote mental health for the people of Texas.

Questions:

1. What life events contributed to James Stephen Hogg's sense of responsibility?
2. What tasks did he follow through to completion?
3. What did he value? How did those values guide his actions? His sense of responsibility?
4. For whom was Mr. Hogg an advocate (someone who speaks on behalf of someone else)?

