

approved
feather Nick
7/7/10

HALF MILE OF HISTORY
Governors James S. Hogg and Oran M. Roberts
Thursday, July 29, 2010
10:30 a.m.
Gallery Main Street

I. MAYOR OPENS THE CEREMONY with welcome.

II. MAYOR CONTINUES with review of the Half Mile of History program.

- **Background Information:** The City of Tyler's historic preservation program, the Half Mile of History, resulted from a recommendation that came out of the Tyler 21 planning process. The fifth goal of the Historic Preservation Chapter is:
- *"Promote and display diverse aspects of Tyler's history to enhance resident and visitor awareness of its importance."*
- The goal of the Half Mile of History is to pay tribute to people, places and events that have contributed to the rich history of Tyler and Smith County.
- The Half Mile of History is a permanent, outdoor, half-mile loop that surrounds the square in the heart of downtown Tyler. Stone plaques are placed in the sidewalk along the Half Mile of History to commemorate significant people, places or events.
- **Previous Half Mile of History honorees** have included Gov. Richard Bennett Hubbard, Sen. Thomas Glover Pollard, Shirley Simons, Doc Witt, Texas College and several other important people and places in our history.
- **And now I would like to introduce Jason Jennings to share with you the history of our first honoree, Governor James S. Hogg.**

III. JASON JENNINGS reads history of Gov. James S. Hogg

Governor James S. Hogg

James Stephen Hogg, the first native governor of Texas, was born near Rusk on March 24, 1851, the son of Lucanda (McMath) and Joseph Lewis Hogg. His father, a brigadier general, died at the head of his command in 1862, and his mother died the following year. Hogg and two of his brothers were left with two older sisters to run the plantation. Hogg spent almost a year in 1866 near Tuscaloosa, Alabama, going to school. After returning to Texas, he studied with Peyton Irving and worked as the typesetter in Andrew Jackson's newspaper office at Rusk. There he perfected his spelling, improved his vocabulary, and was stimulated by the prose and poetry contributions of his brother Thomas E. Hogg, who was studying law.

While helping the sheriff at Quitman, Hogg earned the enmity of a group of outlaws, who lured him over the county line, ambushed him and shot him in the back. He recovered and turned again to newspaper work in Tyler, after which he ran his own papers in Longview and Quitman from 1871 to 1873, fighting subsidies to railroads, the corruption of the Ulysses S. Grant administration and local lawlessness. He served as justice of the peace at Quitman from 1873 to 1875. Meanwhile, he had married Sallie Stinson; four children were born to them. He was elected county attorney of Wood County in 1878 and served from 1880 to 1884 as district attorney for the old Seventh In 1884, he entered private practice in Tyler, where he worked first with John M. Duncan and afterward with Henry Marsh.

In 1886 his friends urged him to run for attorney general. Among other activities, Hogg advocated the establishment of the Railroad Commission and was elected governor on this platform in 1890.

While governor, from 1891 to 1895, Hogg did much to strengthen public respect for law enforcement, defended the Texas claim to Greer County, and championed five major pieces of legislation.

Although Hogg sought no other public office, he was always interested in good government. He also championed progressive reforms in Texas. Among other points, he called for the permanent establishment of rotation in office, the prohibition of nepotism, equality of taxation, the suppression of organized lobbying in Austin, steps to make "corporate control of Texas" impossible and open records that would "disclose every official act...to the end that everyone shall know that, in Texas, public office is the center of public conscience, and that no graft, no crime, no public wrong, shall ever stain or corrupt our State." On March 3, 1906, Hogg died in the home of his partner, Frank Jones, in Houston. He was buried in Austin.

(Information from the Handbook of Texas website)

Bev Abell reads history of Gov. Oran M. Roberts

Governor Oran M. Roberts

Oran M. Roberts, jurist and governor of Texas, son of Obe and Margaret (Ewing) Roberts, was born in Laurens District, South Carolina, on July 9, 1815. He was educated at home until he was 17, then entered the University of Alabama in 1832, graduated four years later, and was admitted to the bar in 1837. After serving a term in the Alabama legislature, he moved in 1841 to San Augustine, Texas, where he opened a successful law practice. Roberts was appointed a district attorney by President Sam Houston in 1844. Two years later, after Texas had become a state, he was appointed district judge by Governor James Pinckney Henderson in 1856. Roberts ran for and won a position on the Texas Supreme Court. During this time Roberts became a spokesman for states' rights, and when the secessionist crisis appeared in 1860, he was at the center of the pro-Confederate faction. In January 1861 he was unanimously elected president of the Secession Convention in Austin, a meeting that he had been influential in calling. In 1862 he returned to East Texas, where he helped raise a regiment, the Eleventh Texas Infantry of Walker's Texas Division. His military career was brief. After seeing very little combat and after an unsuccessful attempt to gain a brigadiership, Roberts returned to Austin as chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court in 1864. He held this position until he was removed along with other state incumbents in 1865.

During Reconstruction he was elected a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1866 and also, along with David G. Burnet, was elected United States senator. Roberts eventually returned to Gilmer, Texas, where he opened a law school in 1868. Roberts was first appointed, then elected, to the Texas Supreme Court. He served as chief justice for four years and was involved in rewriting much of Texas civil law. In 1878 he was elected governor of Texas. The present Capitol in Austin was contracted during Roberts's terms, and the cornerstone for the University of Texas was laid in 1882. Railroad mileage increased across West Texas, and the frontier became more secure.

In 1883, shortly before Roberts's term as governor ended, the University of Texas opened in Austin. Upon his retirement Roberts was immediately appointed professor of law, a position he held for the next 10 years. During his tenure at the university, Roberts wrote several professional works.

During his life, Roberts practiced law in Tyler and brought note to Tyler and the county by serving as governor. He was also part of the powerful "Tyler Gang" composed of Roberts, along with Tyler's two other governors and other influential individuals. Roberts also served as president of the Texas Secession Convention, Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court, and became a noted historian.

Though much of his work occurred in Austin, his impact was felt in Tyler and Smith County. A local school, Oran Roberts Junior High (now closed) was named after him. Roberts was married to Francis W. Edwards of Ashville, Alabama, from 1837 until her death in 1883. They were the parents of seven children. In 1887 Roberts married Mrs. Catherine E. Border. He died at his home in Austin on May 19, 1898, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

(Information from the Handbook of Texas website)

IV: MAYOR invites representatives of nominees to come forward. **SPECIAL NOTE:** Governor Roberts's great great granddaughter, Susan Roberts Belisle, may be in attendance.

- **MAYOR** then invites the representatives to remain and help her unveil the new markers.
- **MAYOR** presents certificates to representatives of the nominees.
- **MAYOR** invites the representatives to respond.
- **MAYOR** asks Councilmembers present to offer a response.

VI: MAYOR thanks everyone for attending and reminds those in attendance that other installations will come in the near future.

6/22/2010

Fort Worth Monument Company
5811 Jacksboro Hwy
Fort Worth, TX 76114
Main Number: (817) 625-2721
Fax Number: (817) 624-8428

James,

Please remit proofs to 903-531-1170.
We are expecting to have our ceremony on July 29th.
Please let me know when these will be ready for shipment.

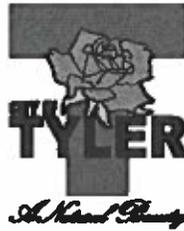
Note: NEW Shipping instructions.
Please call the day before delivery.
Deliver to Street Department, 3305 Frankston Highway, Tyler, Texas
Phone: (903) 531-1393 or (My direct line) 903-531-1174
Deliver between 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

GOVERNOR ORAN M. ROBERTS

1815 -1883

Roberts was a noted jurist, author, professor, and founding president of the Texas State Historical Association, and served as Chief Justice and Governor of the State of Texas.

Thanks,
Heather
Senior Planner
903-531-1174



**NOMINATION FORM
HALF MILE OF HISTORY**

Section A: Nomination Information

Name of Nominated person, place or event: **Gov. Oran M. Roberts**

The nominee is being honored for outstanding contributions in the area(s) of (please check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Philanthropy
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government/Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Culture	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Aviation	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention/Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports
<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Corporate Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Law	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Oil/Gas	

Section B: Nominator's Information

Name of person making nomination: **Beverly Abell**

Address: **110 W. Erwin**

City: **Tyler** State: **TX** Zip: **75702**

Daytime telephone: **(903) 593-6905** Email: **babell@tylertexas.com**

Relationship to nominated individual: **None**

Nominated Individual's year of death: **1883**

Year of Birth: 1815

Section C: Narrative

The narrative section of the application is the most important. It is the primary source of information judges use to make their selection of new inductees. Two (2) typed pages of 12-point type is the maximum acceptable length of the narrative. Any additional material will be referred to only for verification of accuracy of the nomination. No submitted materials will be returned.

The narrative section must contain an explanation of the nominee's enduring contribution that make this person/place/event worthy of the honor. Please describe the impact the nominee has had on the community, county, region, nation and/or world. For Individuals, please include any honors earned by the nominee as well as a list of organizations in which the nominee has been involved. Also, please indicate their educational background as well as the length of time the individual has lived in Smith County. Inclusion of photos is preferred but optional. Do not send original photos. All submitted materials will become property of the City of Tyler and its Historical Preservation Board.

Please submit nominations to:
City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board
Attention: Half Mile of History
P.O. Box 2039
Tyler, Texas 75710

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
NOMINATION OF GOVERNOR ORAN M. ROBERTS**

Note: This information is from the Handbook of Texas with the permission of the Texas State Historical Association.

ROBERTS, ORAN MILO (1815–1898). Oran M. Roberts, son of Obe and Margaret (Ewing) Roberts, was born in Louisiana on July 9, 1815. He was educated at home until he was sent to the University of Alabama in 1832, graduated four years later in 1837. After serving a term in the Alabama legislature, where he met J. M. C. Calhoun, he moved in 1841 to San Augustine, Texas, to begin a law practice. Roberts was appointed a district attorney by President Sam Houston in 1844. Two years later, after Texas had become a state, he was appointed district judge by Governor James Pinckney Henderson. In addition to his duties on the bench, he also served as president of the board and lecturer in law for the University of San Augustine, where he showed marked talent as a teacher. In 1856 Roberts ran for and won a position on the Texas Supreme Court, where he joined his friend Royal T. Wheeler, the chief justice. During this time Roberts became a spokesman for states' rights, and when the secessionist crisis appeared in 1860, he was at the center of the pro-Confederate faction. In January 1861 he was unanimously elected president of the Secession Convention in Austin, a meeting that he had been influential in calling. **Along with East Texas** colleagues **George W. Chilton** and **John S. Ford**, Roberts led the passage of the ordinance removing Texas from the Union in 1861. In 1862 he returned to East Texas, where he helped raise a regiment, the **Eleventh Texas Infantry of Walker's Texas Division**. His military career was brief. After seeing very little combat and after an unsuccessful attempt to gain a brigadiership, Roberts returned to Austin as chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court in 1864. He held this position until he was removed along with other state incumbents in 1865.

During Reconstruction he was elected a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1866 and also, along with David G. Burnet, was elected United States senator. As Roberts had anticipated, the new majority of Radical Republicans in Congress refused to seat the entire Texas delegation along with the delegations of other southern states. After his rejection, about which he later wrote an article entitled "The Experience of an Unrecognized Senator," published in the *Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association* (now the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*) in 1908. Roberts eventually returned to Gilmer, Texas, where he opened a law school in 1868. Among his students were a future Texas Supreme Court justice, Sawnie Robertson, and a Dallas district judge, George N. Aldredge. With the return of the Democrats to power in Austin in 1874, Roberts was first appointed, then elected, to the Texas Supreme Court. He served as chief justice for four years and was involved in rewriting much of Texas civil law. In 1878 he was elected governor of Texas on a platform of post-Reconstruction fiscal reform. His two gubernatorial terms were marked by a reduction in state expenditures. His plan for countering the high taxes and state debt of the Reconstruction years became known as "pay as you go." A major part of this plan involved the sale of public lands to finance the

Director of TSHA
Kurt Coulter

940-309-5200

debt and to fund public schools. Though ultimately successful in both reducing the debt and increasing the public school fund, the decreased government appropriations under Roberts halted public school growth for a time. Also, his land policy tended to favor large ranchers and companies in the development of West Texas. Nonetheless he remained popular with rural landowners, largely because he lowered taxes, as well as with land speculators. The present Capitol in Austin was contracted during Roberts's terms, and the cornerstone for the University of Texas was laid in 1882. Railroad mileage increased across West Texas, and the frontier became more secure.

In 1883, shortly before Roberts's term as governor ended, the University of Texas opened in Austin. Upon his retirement Roberts was immediately appointed professor of law, a position he held for the next ten years. During this period he was immensely influential in the state's legal profession. His impact on a generation of young attorneys was symbolized by the affectionate title "Old Alcalde" bestowed on him by his students. During his tenure at the university, Roberts wrote several professional works, among them a text, *The Elements of Texas Pleading* (1890), which was used for decades after his retirement from teaching. In 1893 he left the university and moved to Marble Falls, where he turned his attention to more general historical writings. His essay "The Political, Legislative, and Judicial History of Texas for its Fifty Years of Statehood, 1845–1895" was published in an early general history of the state, *Comprehensive History of Texas, 1685 to 1897* (1898), edited by Dudley G. Wooten. Roberts's chapters on Texas in volume eleven of C. A. Evans's *Confederate Military History* (1899) stress the role of the Lone Star State in the Civil War. With his interest in Texas history unabated, Roberts returned to Austin in 1895. Here, along with several other prominent Texans, he participated in forming the Texas State Historical Association. He served as the organization's first president and submitted several of the first articles published in its *Quarterly*. Roberts was married to Francis W. Edwards of Ashville, Alabama, from 1837 until her death in 1883. They were the parents of seven children. In 1887 Roberts married Mrs. Catherine E. Border. He died at his home in Austin on May 19, 1898, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

Heather Nick

From: Heather Nick
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 4:13 PM
To: Chris Albertson
Subject: Half Mile of History Stone language
Attachments: HM04-10-005_Governor Oran Roberts_APP.pdf; Hogg Biographical Information.doc; HM MORGAN stone approval.pdf

Chris,

Thank you very much for your input and presentation during our May 12th meeting. I think the information that you provided to the HPB really helped. That said...I could really use your help with the Half Mile of History Stone captions for these nominations. I've attached the documentation associated with each nomination. I also included a copy of a proof that the Monument Company provides for each stone. Can you help me?

I have to place the order by June 16th.

GOVERNOR ORAN M. ROBERTS
1815 – 1883

“This stone needs a caption. The caption is limited to approximately 30 words. The caption should provide the recipients most significant contributions to Tyler, County, State and/or Country.”

GOVERNOR JAMES S. HOGG
1851 - 1906

“This stone needs a caption. The caption is limited to approximately 30 words. The caption should provide the recipients most significant contributions to Tyler, County, State and/or Country.”

Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Heather

Heather Nick

Senior Planner
Historic Preservation Officer
City of Tyler

MPO Coordinator
Metropolitan Planning Organization

✉ hnick@tylertexas.com

☎ 903.531.1174

🌐 www.tylerpz.org

🌐 www.tyler21plan.com

1823

What did Oran Roberts “do” in and for Tyler?

- Sat on the bench in Tyler from time to time in the late 1840's and early 1850's as an itinerant district judge for the Fifth District of the State of Texas (after arriving in Texas much earlier in 1841 at the age of 26 and serving the Republic as a judge) and was later elected an associate justice of the Texas Supreme Court which necessitated establishing at least a part time residence in Tyler starting in April 1857 since the Supreme Court met in Tyler, Austin and Galveston during parts of the year.
- For a time Roberts owned the long block on the west side of Broadway south from Elm Street and had a Tyler home there in the late 1850's and early 60's. Later he lived over on Claude Street west of Oakwood Cemetery during which time his daughter Fannie married Christian Halverson, brother in law of Elif Albertson of the Albertson Opera House fame. Roberts also was a member of the local Odd Fellows Lodge in Tyler.
- Represented Smith County at the Secession Convention where he was subsequently elected president of the Convention.
- Returned to Tyler to raise troops for the war effort along with Hubbard and others. Served at various locations until elected Texas Chief Justice in October of 1864.
- During Reconstruction Roberts qualified to take the Oath of Amnesty and did so before the registration board of Smith County, registering as a voter Sept. 15, 1865. He was also elected as a delegate from Smith County to the Reconstruction Convention in Austin to set up the new State Constitution. Eventually Roberts was chosen as Senator Elect from Texas but was denied a seat in Washington due to the radical reconstruction situation after Lincoln's assassination. No appropriation for the expenses of federal legislators was made and Robert's wife had to sell the home she was then occupying in Tyler and move to the smaller home on the then outskirts of town over on Claude St. to raise cash.
- Returning to Texas, the practice of law was scarce so Roberts moved to Gilmer to teach school including law classes. He prepared many syllabi for his various classes including interestingly enough, agriculture. Later he returned to his property in Shelby County and resumed the practice of law. He then moved back to Tyler in 1873 possibly with the thought of opening a law school. At that time, however, he went into partnership with Tylerites Judge Reeves and Judge Donley.
- Some Tylerites suggested Roberts run for Governor at that time (he had often been mentioned before as a likely candidate) and went to the Austin convention as a delegate from Tyler. Judge Coke of Waco got the nod instead with Hubbard for Lt. Gov. Coke was elected and since the new state constitution called for reorganization of the courts and the appointment of the Chief Justice, Roberts was appointed by Coke. Later, yet another rewrite of the constitution provided for elected judges and he was confirmed by election. Roberts participated in many decisions that would form precedent in Texas law.
- Gov. Coke later resigned to become a senator from Texas and Hubbard filled out his term. At the next election there was much dissension and instead of nominating Hubbard the Democratic convention settled on Roberts as a compromise candidate while he was reportedly at his “home” in Tyler. He was very fiscally conservative and called the “pay as you go” governor.
- In later life Roberts served as the head of the UT Law School where he was called the Old Alcalde. He helped found the Texas State Historical Association and was its first president and wrote many articles and papers before he died 112 years ago on May 19th 1898 at 83 years of age.

Summary of overall “contributions” to Texas at large:

Noted Texas jurist from the days of the Republic who presided over many court cases up to and including the Texas Supreme Court (sometimes in Tyler) and taught and advised many lawyers in the state; Served as a Confederate officer from Tyler; Served a term as Governor of Texas; A founder of the Texas State Historical Association.

Heather Nick

From: Chris Albertson
Sent: Thursday, April 08, 2010 12:52 PM
To: Heather Nick; Barbara Holly
Subject: FW: Scanned documents from CentreWare Network Scanning

Attachments: DOC.pdf



DOC.pdf (6 MB)

OK...here are some "gleanings" positioning Roberts in and about Tyler with homes variously on Broadway where the current "unclaimed furniture" store now is and later over on Claude past Oakwood Cemetery...so we know he lived here (at least for while)...

Now as to his IMPACT on Tyler or any FAME (or INFAMY) reflected towards our fair city...

Many authors have lumped him in with the "Tyler Gang" of turn of the 19th century politics...as can be seen from the front page of the "Homecoming Edition" of the Daily Courier Times in the early 1900's.

He was famous mostly for his leadership in getting Texas out of the Union and into the Confederacy (over Sam Houston's strong opposition). Secondly his role on the early Texas Supreme Court resulted in his writing many decisions that would become precedents. Also, he was an equally famous professor of law at UT where he acquired the nickname of the "old alcalde". And, of course, he served as Governor.

The 1/2 mile language is "...people, places and events that have contributed to the City of Tyler and/or Smith County." Further on the criteria state: "...final selections based on how the nominee's contributions have an enduring impact on the community, county, region, the nation and/or the world."

I don't really have a dog in this fight, but you might consider this as you would choosing Time Magazine's "Man of the Year" (as it used to be called in politically incorrect times)...in other words, who has impacted Tyler for good or ill, in its past?

Roberts DID bring recognition (perhaps notoriety) to Tyler by his role in secession and the Civil War by leading the convention as a delegate from here in Smith County, he DID participate in Tyler civic affairs while here (signed resolutions, belonged to the Odd Fellows lodge) and he did have a great influence on the law in Texas (as did Judge William Wayne Justice...who also was more or less "passing through Tyler" since he didn't come from here exactly and he died in Austin...will HE get a 1/2 mile plaque in 24 years time????!??).

So let me ask...was the opposition to his nomination that he hadn't done enough for Tyler or that he did notorious things?

Chris

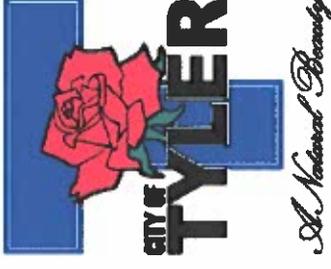
About the Half Mile of History

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Half Mile of History Marker Unveiling

in honor of

*Governor James S. Hogg
and*

Governor Cran M. Roberts

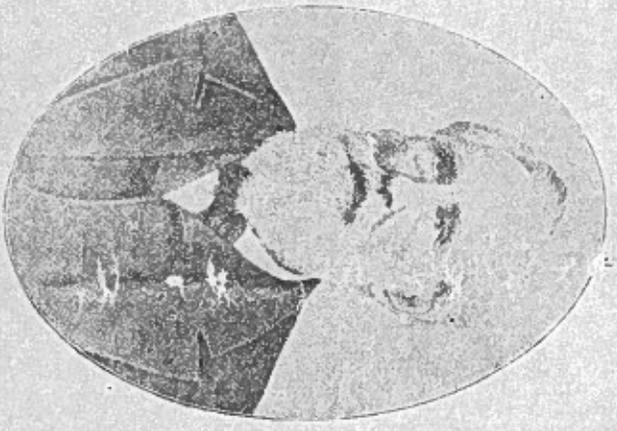
Thursday, July 29, 2010

HOME-COMING EDITION DAILY COURIER-TIMES

TULSA, TEXAS, FEB. 21, 1921.

WELCOME HOME! COMERS AND VISITORS.

"The secret to bear the watch dogs honest back. Day deep moaning welcome as we draw near home— The secret to know there is an eye will mark. Our coming and look he-gates when we come."



COL. KOHNERT.



GOV. LEHMANN.

Things that come with Tyler. They might remember to how they grew in the last years. The rugged hills have not shriveled on, but have both men discovered our city and county. The road of the swimming hole at the long arm on West. From the street they will now find an hour at rest of beautiful homes, street car, and a new school by the Federal Prison. These substantial masonry, structural proportions and elegant finish is in marked contrast with the shams of

looking from house, and an every hill there is the spiritual sentimentality rolled and the white church. On every hand he change and progress. Tulsa is a progressive and thrifty people. There is one thing in which we hope we have not changed and that we may never change, that is irreverent, old fashioned hospitality and hearty cordiality of which our city and county is capable. We all bid welcome to our Homecoming.

C. D. CARMAN.

While C. D. Carman has only been in the grocery business here about fourteen months, he is enjoying a patronage that many of the like establishments that are, other would be glad to enjoy. The courteous and prompt service his customers receive has been the leading factor in building up the nice business he now enjoys. His stock is purchased with an eye toward to suit all classes, both as



GOV. HODGE.