



James T. Robison 1969

The story of James Thomas Robison began with his birth in Cass County, Texas, September 30, 1860, and ended with his death on September 8, 1929. During thirty years of his life he served in the General Land Office of Texas, first as a clerk, next as a Chief Clerk from 1900 – 1908, then in November, 1908 he was elected to serve, and after taking the oath of office on January 11, 1909, he continuously served as Commissioner of the General Land Office, State of Texas, to the day of his death.

His administration of the State public school lands was marked by sincere regard for people who purchased land, as well as concern for the State's financial welfare in connection with land it had sold. His plans for lease sales of land, for the governing of mineral operations on State lands and for regulating payments to the State school funds and to the University of Texas were adopted and are now an integral part of West Texas development and prosperity. It was due to many of his farsighted suggestions that the University of Texas and the State public school funds have the envied financial positions that both, respectively, now enjoy. Mr. Robison was equally well known in the Permian Basin of this State and whose possession thereof was threatened by drought conditions that enveloped the area during the 1920's.

Mr. Robison, the school teacher, the legislator, the University of Texas law school graduate of 1899, and the Land Commissioner, lived to see his plans for the proper handling of the public school domains confirmed by the Supreme Court of Texas into established land law. He died on September 8, 1929 and was entombed by the bodies of a son and a daughter who had predeceased him. His devotion and dedication to justice and duty, his indomitable spirit and his humanity and humility endeared him to the people of Texas.