

**TEXAS STATE GOVERNMENT:
A VOLUME OF
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
AND PASSING COMMENT**

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Texas State Government: A Volume of Biographical Sketches and Passing Comment by E. H. Loughery

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E. H. LOUGHERY

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Texas State Government,

— A VOLUME OF —

Biographical Sketches and Passing Comment,

— BY —

E. H. LOUGHERY.

—
WITH RULES AND STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND
HOUSE OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, ETC.

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PREFACE.

This volume, begun and published during the session of the Twenty-Fifth Legislature, has been prepared in the hope that it will prove of interest to the general reader for the information it contains concerning men connected with public affairs in this state, and an acceptable souvenir to the members themselves of their stay at Austin and joint labors as law-makers for the people of Texas at a session of the legislature, second in importance to none that has been held in the state since the war.

The members of the Twenty-Fifth Legislature have been brought together in the committee rooms, have engaged in passages of arms in debate upon the floor of the two Houses in fighting for or against measures that will affect the interests of their constituents, and have commingled socially in hours of leisure and said many things to one another that will be long remembered after this session has reached its close, to provoke a smile or to gravely influence their after views and thoughts. Their association has led to friendships whose ties will prove stronger than many of them now suppose, and has evoked a spirit of comradeship that will lead them to note each step in the future careers of colleagues with more than passing interest—to feel in the coming years sincere gratification upon learning of new successes achieved and new honors won and no less sincere regret upon learning of reverses sustained.

This volume filled with specific information concerning those with whom they are now so intimately connected will hereafter recall many an incident of the session that would otherwise be forgotten and, with the reading will rise forms and faces of former associates even after a majority of them have passed to the "undiscovered country," that they and all of us must eventually explore. A book of this kind will, therefore, doubtless be a source of never failing interest to them. It preserves, moreover, in en-

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during form, records of lives lived and services rendered, many of which deserve to be remembered, not alone by the descendants of the men themselves, but by a people for whom they have labored and in whose service many of them have grown gray and achieved deserved renown.

Now a few of the biographies contain lessons that should prove of value to the young, for they teach that sobriety, earnestness, honesty, and labor and talents well applied for the good of one's self and others, are the sesames that alone unlock the doors that bar the way to honorable fame, desirable success, and true usefulness and happiness, and alone can render this world a place of sunny hills and pleasant valleys, and that without these, nothing is to be hoped for and everything to be dreaded. May the lessons be well laid to heart.

The rules of order and standing committees of the Senate and House that it contains add greatly to its value.

The paragraphs under the heading of 'Passing Comments' should prove acceptable, as they are designed to add spice and variety to the pages—a little caviare, as it were, to give zest to the meal and keep the reader interested in what is before him.

Any book that can speak, be it with ever so still and small a voice, to any human soul any useful word of wisdom to guide it amid the snares and pitfalls that lie thick along the way of life, has its value and its author has no reason to make any apology for its production. Therefore I have none to make for this.

Mr. H. G. Wickes is equally interested with me in the publication of the volume.

E. H. LOUGHERY.

AUSTIN, APRIL, 1897.

State Officials.

C. A. CULBERSON,

GOVERNOR OF TEXAS.

Was born in Dadeville, Tallapoosa county, Alabama, June 10th 1855; His parents, Hon. D. B. and Mrs. Emma Culberson, moved to Texas in 1856.

He grew to manhood at Jefferson, in Marion county, this state. After a course in a famous school of the time, located at Gilmer, Texas, he entered the Virginia Military Institute, at Lexington Va.; graduated in 1874; studied law in his father's office and the University of Virginia; was admitted to the bar in 1878; was elected County Attorney in 1880; was nominated for the Legislature by the Democracy of Marion county in 1882, but declined the proffered honor; moved to Dallas in 1887, where he became a member of the well-known firm of Bookhout & Culberson; was nominated by acclamation for Attorney-General by the state convention held at San Antonio in 1890 and elected by the customary Democratic majority in November following; was re-nominated and re-elected to that office in 1892; in 1894 was nominated for Governor by the state convention held at Dallas, and elected at the polls, and in 1896 was renominated at Fort Worth and re-elected after a brilliant campaign in which he helped restore the ancient prestige of the Democracy of Texas and inflict irremediable defeat upon the enemies, who, ever since war, between the states, had plotted its overthrow. The majority accorded him in 1896 constitutes a tribute to his loyalty to principle and faithfulness in the discharge of duty, as high as well deserved.* He is a worthy scion of an honorable and illustrious family, and has made, and is making, Texas, a good governor. His wife, a most accomplished and excellent lady, is a daughter of the late Col. W. M. Harrison, of Fort Worth.

GEORGE T. JESTER,

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR,

Was born in Macoupin county, Ill., August 23, 1847; came overland to Corsicana, Texas, with his widowed mother and other children in 1858; labored as a boy at any honest work his hands could find to do to help support the family; in intervals snatched from daily toil acquired a good English education, read law, and would have prosecuted his studies to admission to the bar but for untoward circumstances; clerked for several years; saved sufficient money to go into business for himself, and from that time on has steadily won his way to the front by force of innate ability and merit. He has been extensively engaged in farming and stockraising for many years and is now devoting his attention exclusively to those pursuits, having retired from the banking business with which he was connected.

His Valley Hill farm near Corsicana is one of the most beautifully situated and best conducted farms in Texas.

In 1890 he was elected on the Democratic ticket to the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Second Legislature, from the Sixtieth District, Navarro county; was elected to the Senate of the Twenty-Third Legislature, and in 1894 was elected Lieutenant Governor of Texas, to which position he was re-elected in 1896 without opposition. As a member of the Legislature he introduced and pushed to enactment several measures of far-reaching benefit to the state. Nearly every page of the House and Senate Journals, published during the sessions at which he served, bear evidence of his faithfulness to the principles and pledges of the Democracy of Texas and best interests of the people, and his sound sense and true ability as a law maker. As Lieutenant Governor, and on occasion, as acting Governor, he has discharged the duties incumbent upon him in a manner to add further to the high reputation previously earned. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, and Corsicana Relief Association; is President of the Shipper's Compress Co., at Corsicana, and is identified with agricultural and commercial interests calculated to promote the development of the section in which he resides.

In 1871 he was united in marriage to Miss Alice Bates, who died in 1875, leaving two children—Claud W. and Alice Bates Jester. In 1880, five years after the death of his first wife, he married Miss Fannie P. Gordon, who has borne him three children, Charles G., Buford H. and George T. Jr. His father, Mr. Levi Jester, who died in 1852, moved to Illinois from Delaware, and was a highly respected merchant.

His mother died at Corsicana in 1885. She was a daughter of Rev. Hampton McKinney, (related to the Hamptons of South Carolina) who moved to Texas in 1847 and built the first house—a log cabin—on the site of the thriving town of Corsicana.

Lieutenant Governor Jester, is more largely interested in stock-raising and farming than in any other pursuits, owning three thousand acres of arable land in Navarro county, divided into farms and pastures. He is, in the best sense of the word, a self-made man, has worked his way way up from extreme poverty and despite hardships of all descriptions, knows by experience, and not merely from hearsay or the writing and speeches of others, the evils that bear heavily upon the people and should be remedied, and is identified thoroughly with every plan and purpose of the great Democracy that has joined battle to win step by step victories whose final consummation will be the full development of our free institutions along patriotic lines that will give us, or at least our descendants, a government that will rest lightly upon the shoulders of the people, be a blessing to all, encourage the good, restrain the bad, give full scope to the energies and aspirations of every toiler with hand or brain, and realize the hopes of those whose valor and patriotism gave it birth.

He has filled every position to which he has been called by the confidence of the people of Texas, with fidelity to them and honor to himself and there is no station, however high, that he would not adorn.

R. R. GAINES,

CHIEF JUSTICE SUPREME COURT.

Was born in Sumpter County, Alabama, October 30, 1836; graduated from the University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa) in 1855, and from the Lebanon (Tenn.) Law School in 1857; was admitted to the bar at Butler, Alabama, in March 1858; married Miss Louisa Shortridge at Montevalo, Alabama, in 1859; came to Texas in 1860; practiced law at Clarksville, Red River County, until elected judge of the Sixth Judicial district in 1876; served as district judge eight and one half years; moved to Paris, Lamar county, in 1881, and resided at that place until appointed to the Supreme bench in 1886 by Governor Ireland to fill out the unexpired term of Associate Justice Sawnie Robertson. At the State convention held at Galveston later on in 1886 he was regularly nominated for the position, was renominated in 1888, was appointed Chief Justice by