



James T. Robison
1860-1929
Inducted 1969

James Thomas Robison was born in Cass County, Texas in 1860. He graduated from law school at the University of Texas. He taught school, worked as a farm field hand, did land surveying, edited a newspaper, practiced law, and served in the state legislature. In 1894, he went to work as a clerk in the General Land Office, rising to chief clerk in just a few years. In 1908, Robison was elected Land Commissioner for Texas. In this role, he noticed a growing interest in minerals on state properties and wanted to guarantee the public lands would benefit from this under his administration. He urged legislators to adopt laws to better govern mineral operations on state lands. He was instrumental in getting regulated payments to public school funds and the University of Texas. As the result of his suggestion to lease state lands on a royalty basis, millions of dollars have gone into Texas' university system and public school funds.

