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History of Hidalgo County elected officials from 1852 to 1963

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History
of
**HIDALGO COUNTY
ELECTED OFFICIALS**

FROM 1852 TO 1963



Re-printed from Issues Of

THE PHARR PRESS

July, 1963

History of Hidalgo County ELECTED OFFICIALS

1852 to 1963

Compiled For
THE PHARR PRESS

by

J. LEE STAMBAUGH

Austin, Texas

(Former Superintendent of Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Schools)

Hidalgo County was created from a portion of Cameron County on January 24, 1854, and was organized on August 2 of the same year. Edinburgh, located on the north bank of the Rio Grande opposite Reynosa, was selected as the county seat. Its name was changed to Hidalgo at some time between August 15, 1859 and August 19, 1861.

On October 10, 1908 the county seat was moved from Hidalgo to Chapin. During February 1911 the name of the county seat was changed from Chapin to Edinburg. (Note also change in spelling).

From 1850 through Reconstruction days there were many changes in county officials by failure to qualify, resignations, removals from office and appointments made by state and federal officials. It appears that the dates opposite the names of some of these offi-

cial, as recorded in the Election Registers, from which this information was obtained, are incorrect. These Election Registers for 1852 through 1898 are in the Archives Department of the Texas State Library. Those from 1900 through 1962 are in the office of the Secretary of State in the Capitol.

No doubt there are many errors but names and dates were copied as they are recorded.

Hidalgo County had a "Chief Justice" in the first 16 years of its history — from 1852 to 1868, when this office seems to have been assumed by the County Judge who was appointed by the Governor for the first time in 1868.

Hidalgo Co. has had a Co. Supt. of Schools since 1892.

The county did not have a county attorney until 1878. Evidently there was not enough crime in the early days to justify it.

HISTORY OF HIDALGO COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

**HIDALGO OFFICIALS AND
YEAR ELECTED**

Note: All years given are the years elected to office and not the date of assuming the office, which in most cases was Jan. 1st of the year following.

CHIEF JUSTICE

M. M. Stevens	1852
Teodocio Lamoro	1858
W. B. Thompson	1858
Peter Nickels	1860
W. B. Thompson*	1865
W. B. Thompson*	1866

COUNTY JUDGE

R. Burke***	1868
Francisco Estapa***	1869
Thaddeus M. Rhodes	1876-1880
Wm. P. Dougherty	1890-1892
Juan M. de la Vina	1894-1900
R. A. Marsh	1902-1906
D B. Champion	1907
T. P. Silva	1908
James H. Edwards	1910-1912
W. H. Gossage	1914-1916
Geo. P. Brown	1918-1922
J. C. Epperson	
Appointed	1923-1924
A. W. Cameron	1926-1928
E. C. Couch	1930-1932
John Ewing	1934
Oliver C. Aldrich	1936-1938
J. C. Looney	1940-1944
L. M. Bentsen, Jr.	1946-Resigned
Milton D. Richardson	
Appointed	3-22-1947
T. B. Waite, Jr.	1948
Milton D. Richardson	1950--1962

COUNTY CLERK

Thaddeus Rhodes	1852
Francisco Garza	1858
Wencelas Mungia***	1860
Thaddeus Rhodes	1866

Jesus Rhodes**	6-25-1866
Jasper Biddy***	1-28-1869
Stepnen Garcia	1-28-1869
Stepnen Garcia***	8-7-1869
A. Rutledge	6-8-1872
B. F. Kidder	11-8-1872
A. H. Evans	2-13-1876
Alex J. Lea	2-15-1876
Perry Thompson	2-15-1876
	and 12-26-1877
Alex J. Lea	1-15-1878
J. W. Beattie	7-1-1878
W. P. Dougherty	
	11-5-1878-1880

Manuel F. Lecture	1884
P. S. Champion	1890
James S. Dougherty	1892
Albert Nicholls	1894-1900
A. E. Chavez	1902-1906
J. W. Eastwood	1908
A. E. Chavez	1910-1918
R. J. Kerwin	1920
Cam E. Hill	1922-1928
A. E. Chaves, Appointed	9-18-30
F. W. Lemberg	1930-1932
J. L. Stone	1934
O. D. Kirkland	1936-1942
D. C. Hogan	1944-1948
	(Resigned)
C. L. Weber, Appointed	3-21-1950
Geo. L. Anderson	1950-1960
	(Deceased)

Julio Guzman
 Temporary Appointed 10-11-1962
 Julio Guzman
 Appointed 1-1-1963
 to fill out term of Geo. Anderson

*Appointed by Gov. A. J. Hamilton

** Appointed by Governor A. J. Hamilton

*** Appointed by General Reynolds

HISTORY OF HIDALGO COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

DISTRICT CLERK

(Sometimes this office was combined with that of the county clerk)

Francisco Cobosos*	1858
Bensalon Ulungico	2-19-1866
L. H. Box	6-25-1866
Abraham Rutledge*	11-3-1869
Abraham Rutledge	10-21-1870
A. H. Evans	2-13-1876
Wm. Dougherty	1878-1880
Albert Nichols	1884
James Dougherty	1892
Albert Nichols	1900
A. E. Chavez	1902
Earnest Laudwom	1908
V. A. Albers	1910-1918
C. L. Fortson	1920-1928
L. C. Lemen	1930-1932
Karl C. Boysen	1934-1962

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

George W. Miller	1892
C. D. Owens	1908
R. A. Marsh	1910-1912
J. S. Bunn	1914-1926
E. S. Hearne	1928
Mrs. Fred Wright	1930-1932
Robert L. Lyon	1934-1936
(Resigned)	
R. D. Beane, Sr.	
Appointed	3-29-38
R. D. Beane, Sr.	1938-1950
M. R. Smith	1954-1962

SHERIFF

G. S. Woods	1852
Salvador Domingues	1858
Sixto Dominguez*	1859
Roland Ritchey**	1866
M. A. McDonald**	4-16-1869
Archibald A. Johnson**	4-16-1869
J. O. Thompson**	4-18-1869

Leon Estapa	4-21-1870
Alexander J. Lea	1873-1876
James L. Dougherty	1880-1884
John C. Closner	1890-1906
John W. Wood	1908
John C. Closner	1910-1912
A Y. Baker	1914-1928
Tom C. Gill	1930-1932
R. T. Daniel	1934-1944
George Ingram	1946
Deceased	11-2-1948
W. R. Doan, appp.	8-6-49 1950
Elmer E. Vickers	1952-1962

COUNTY TREASURER

Francisco Taylor	1852
Simon Garza	1858-60
Pacifico Ochoa*	1863
Simon Garza	2-19-1866
N. L. Lyons**	6-25-1866
G. W. Johnson	1868-1870
John B. Bourois	1871-1878
Manuel Canter	1884
P. S. Champion	11-4-1890
W. P. Baron	11-4-1890-1892
Jose M. Cardenas	1894-1896
Wm. S. Dougherty	1898-1906
A. C. Baker, appointed	4-7-1908
Jerome Davis	11-3-1908
A. Y. Baker	1910-1912
John C. Closner	1914-1916
Geo. F. Linesetter	1918-1922
Geo. W. Walton	1924-1928
Santiago G. Guzman	1930
C. H. Pease	1932
Mrs. Marvin McAskill	1934
Clav Everhard	1936
K. W. Ronham	1938-1942
T. E. Jaspersen	1944
Helen M. Singleton	1946-1962

* Appointed by Governor A. J. Hamilton

** Appointed by General E. N. R. Canby.

HISTORY OF HIDALGO COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

F. E. Frenzell	1852
Eli Merriman	1854
J. H. Bome	1858
John O. Thompson	1866
Wincelous Mungia	1868
Leon Estapa	1869

TAX ASSESSOR

E. Davilla	1876-1880
John M. Franz	1892
J. F. Oliveras	1894-1896
Manuel Banada	1898
W. B. Barton	1900-1906
W. H. Davis	1908
W. B. Barton	1910-1812
Alex Champion	1914-1918
E. E. Herter (or Hester)	1920
John K. Miller	1924-1928
D. C. Ernest	1930
F. B. Freeland	1932

The sheriff collected taxes from 1876 until 1909.

TAX COLLECTOR

Oran Scott	1908
J. R. Alamia	1910-1918
S. M. Hargrove	1920
O.E.M. Jones	1922-1928
H. Tarpley	1930-1932

TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

J. J. Oliver	1934-1936
Clay Everhard	1938-1944
Robert L. Lyon	1946-1962

COUNTY ATTORNEY

William Foster	1878
A. J. Leo	1880
George W. Kidder	1884
John Kleiber	1890
Albert Tayle	1892
W. H. Mason	1894

(Of Brownsville)

Tom January	1896-1900
W. L. Lipscomb	1906
(refused to qualify)	
J. J. Bishop	1908
Alex Wheless	1912-1916
W. R. Montgomery	1918
J. C. Epperson	1920-1922
A. W. Cameron, Appointed	5-28-23—1924

J. F. Buchanan, Jr.	1926-1928
Bryce Ferguson	1930
Sid L. Hardin	1932
Rogers Kelley	1934-1936
Tom L. Hartley	1938

CRIMINAL DIST. ATTORNEY

The present office known as Criminal District Attorney came into existence by virtue of the 139th District being created in 1954. Prior to that, the office was a combination of County Attorney and Criminal District attorney. Prior to Bryce Ferguson's tenure, this District was included in the 79th Judicial District and the last D. A. while Hidalgo Co. was in this District was Oliver C. Aldrich.

Tom L. Hartley	1940-1944
Jack Ross	1946
Resigned	11-2-1948
J. R. Alamia	App. 5-8-1950
J. R. Alamia	1950-1952
Jim Bates	1954-1956
Robe. L. Lattimore	1958-1962

HISTORY OF HIDALGO COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

1852
E. T. Merriman, Yndelacio Dominguez, J. N. Berne.

1858
Jose M. Domingues, Tomas Garza, Luciano Garza, Noberto Garza.

1860
W. B. Thompson, Pacifico Ochoa.

1866
Pacifico Ochoa*, Yndelecio Dominguez*, Abram Rutledge*, Luciano Garza*.

1866
George W. Turom, M. Bela, Yndelecio Dominguez.

1869
Eli Jackson**, L. J. Bellefeuille**.

2-15-1876
Sotero Salinas, Manuel Acala, Leon Estapa, Andres Salinas.

1877
Yndelecio Dominguez, Conelio de Ochoa.

1878
Jesus M. Moro, Elijo Longoria, Manuel Acala, Teodocio Mangui.

1880
F. Louis, C. Ochoa, John McAllen, R. Munquilla.

1884
Pedo C. Champion, Teodocio Mangui, William J. O'Dell, Celco Saens.

1890
James L. Dougherty, Petco Collins, Eli Jackson, W. F. Sprague.

1892
Juan M. de la Vina, Charles Champion, Albert Nicholls.

1894
Florencio Saenz, Francisco Fayle, Frank Philibert, Wm. F. Sprague.

1896
Florencio Saenz, John Lipscomb, Frank Philibert, Wm. F. Sprague.

1898
Florencio Saenz, W. B. Barton, Wm. F. Sprague, J. M. Vela.

(In 1900, County Commissioners were elected for the first time by Prect., instead of at large.)

Precinct

Florencio Saenz 1
W. B. Barton 2
Chas. S. Schunior 3
Wm. F. Sprague 4

1902
W. B. Barton 2

1904
Same as for 1900

1906
Peter S: Champion 1
W. B. Barton 2
Chas. S. Schunior 3
Wm. F. Sprague 4

1908
T. J. Hooks 1
R. L. Savage 2
Chas. S. Schunior 3
Wm. F. Sprague 4

*Appointed by Gov. A. J. Hamilton

**Appointed by Gen. Reynolds

HISTORY OF HIDALGO COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

1910
Alex Champion 1
W. L. Lipscomb 2
Chas. S. Schunior 3
Wm. F. Sprague 4

1912
Same as 1910

1914
A. F. Hester 1
W. L. Lipscomb 2
Chas. S. Schunior 3
Wm. F. Sprague 4

1916
A. F. Hester 1
W. L. Lipscomb 2
J. L. Longoria 3
F. G. Hinojosa 4

1918
A. F. Hester 1
Marvin Evans 2
Sam M. Hargrove 3
W. L. Lipscomb 4

1920
W. D. Chaddick 1
Marvin Evans 2
George B. Brooks 3
W. L. Lipscomb 4

1922
Same as 1920

1924
Same as 1920

1926
Same as 1920

1928
W. D. Chaddick 1
Robert Henderson 2
Sam M. Hargrove 3
W. L. Lipscomb 4

1930
B. F. Byers 1
Ernest L. Calhoun 2
Willard Ferguson 3
W. H. Atwood 4

1932
Same as 1930

1934
T. J. Hester 1
Joe B. Atkinson 2
W. H. Douglas 3
Carl Eckstrom 4

1936
Same as 1934

1938
T. J. Hester 1
Stanley T. Melton 2
W. H. Douglas 3
Carl Eckstrom 4

1940
Same as 1938

1942
C. H. Hupp 1
Stanley T. Melton 2
Mrs. Stanley Melton, appointed 6-27-44 to fill out term of husband to 12-31-44

1944
W. H. Douglas 3
Carl Eckstrom 4

1946
Same as 1944

1948
T. J. Hester 1
G. L. Callis 2
E. B. Reyna 3
Carl Eckstrom 4

1950
T. J. Hester 1
G. L. Callis 2
E. B. Reyna 3
C. G. Green 4

1952
Same as 1950

HISTORY OF HIDALGO COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

1954
Jesse Dudley 1
Charles E. Curtis 2
Thurman Carter 3
C. G. Green 4

1956
Herbert M. Pike 1
Charles E. Curtis 2
Thurman Carter 3
C. G. Green 4

1958
Herbert M. Pike 1
Charles E. Curtis 2
Joe B. Evans 4

1960
Herbert M. Pike 1
Thurman J. Carter 3

1962
Charles E. Curtis 2
Ramiro M. Guerra 4

COUNTY COURT AT LAW

The office of County Court At Law was created by Act of Legislature, and the first term of office lasted to 12-31-52.

H. H. Rankin, Jr. 3-20-1951
(Appointed to Office)
Tom L. Hartley 1952-1958
J. R. Alamia 1962

Supplement

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CONGRESSMEN

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When Mr. Stambaugh prepared the first of this history, the representatives and Congressmen were omitted. Because the County has been in so many Districts, Congressional, Senatorial and Representative thru these 110 years, it has been difficult to secure an accurate list. This is the information as recorded in the Archives Dept. of the Texas State Library, with the names for some of the latter years supplied by local records.)

From 1852 to 1872, inclusive, only the number of the district, the name of the congressman, and the date of election or appointment were recorded in the Election Register. Therefore, I could not determine in which district the Valley and Hidalgo County were included. So, I am listing all congressmen by districts during that period.

Note: All years given are the years elected to office and not the date of assuming the office which, in most cases was Jan. 1st of the following year.

1852

1. George W. Smith
2. Peter Hansborough Bell

1854

1. L. D. Evans
2. Peter Hansborough Bell

1856

1. John H. Reagan
2. Guy M. Bryan

1858

1. John H. Reagan
2. A. J. Hamilton

1860

1. John H. Wilcox
2. C. C. Herbert
3. Peter W. Gray
4. F. B. Sexton
5. M. D. Graham

1860

1. John H. Wilcox
2. C. C. Herbert
3. Peter W. Gray
4. F. B. Sexton
5. M. D. Graham
6. W. D. Wright

1862

1. John H. Wilcox
2. C. C. Herbert

HISTORY OF HIDALGO COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

- 3. A. M. Branch
- 4. F. B. Sexton
- 5. John R. Baylor
- 6. Simpson H. Morgan (1)

1866

For 39th Congress:

- 1. George W. Clifton
- 2. B. M. Epperson
- 3. A. M. Branch
- 4. C. C. Herbert

1866

For 40th Congress:

- 1. James M. Burroughs
- 2. B. M. Epperson
- 3. A. M. Branch
- 4. C. C. Herbert

1870

- 1. G. W. Whitmore
- 2. John C. Connor
- 3. W. T. Clark
- 4. E. Degener

1872

- 1. W. S. Herndon
- 2. W. P. McLean
- 3. D. C. Giddings
- 4. John Hancock

At Large:

A. H. Willie and Roger Q. Mills

Dist. Yr. Elected

- 6 Gustave Schleicher 1874-76
- 7 Columbus Upson 4-15-1878
- 6 Columbus Upson 1880
- 7 Thomas O. Ochiltree 1882
- 7 W. H. Crain 1884-90
- 11 W. H. Crain 1892-94
- 11 Rudolph Kleberg,
Kingsville 1896-1900(2)
- 15 John Nance Garner,
Uvalde 1902-32(3)
- 15 Milton H. West,
Brownsville 1934-46(4)
- McAllen 1948-52
- 15 Joe M. Kilgore,
McAllen 1954-62
- 15 Eligio de la Garza
Mission 1964

(1) Confederate States

(2) There were 29 counties in
District 15 at this time

(3) Resigned, no date recorded

(4) Deceased

HISTORY OF HIDALGO COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

STATE SENATOR

Brownsville (Succeeded
Powers)

- 24 Israel Bigelow,
Brownsville 185
- 28 Edwin B. Scarborough,
Brownsville 1854-58
- 32 Edwin B. Scarborough,
Brownsville 1860(1)
- 32 Edward R. Hord,
Brownsville 1862
- 32 F. J. Parker,
Brownsville 1866
- 30 A. J. Fountain,
El Paso 1870-72
- 30 Will J. Russell,
Brownsville 1874
- 29 John S. (Rip) Ford,
Brownsville 1876-78
- 29 Stephen Powers,
Brownsville 1880 (Resigned)
- 29 C. A. McLane,
- 27 N. G. Collins, Santiago 1882
- 27 E. F. Hall, Laredo 1884
- 27 T. E. McManus,
Corpus Christi 1886
- 23 E. A. Atlee,
Laredo 1888-98
- 23 D. McNeill Turner,
Corpus Christi 1900
- 23 John G. Willacy,
Portland 1902-12
- 23 Archie Parr,
Duval County 1914-22
- 27 Archie Parr,
Duval County 1924-30
- 27 Jim Neal, Laredo 1934
- 27 Rogers Kelly,
Edinburg 1938-52
- 27 Hubert Hudson,
Brownsville 1956-60
- 27 Jim Bates, Edinburg 1962

HISTORY OF HIDALGO COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

DISTRICT JUDGES

		Corpus Christi	1908-18
12	A. W. Arrington	1850	79 Hood Boone, Pharr
12	Edmund J. Davis,		App. 9-10-1920-32 (2)
	Brownsville	1854-56	79 R. L. Broeter, Alice
12	Stephen Powers,		App. 8-29-1934
	Brownsville	1860	92 Chas. E. Thompson,
12	Franklin Cummings,		Weslaco 4-9-1931(Confirmed)
	Brownsville	1-13-1866(1)	93 Fred Bennett,
12	Edward Dougherty,		Mercedes 1932
	Brownsville	8-15-1867	93 W. R. Blalock,
12	Edward Dougherty,		Mission 1936-56
	Brownsville	11-20-1867	92 Bryce Ferguson,
12	Edward Dougherty,		Pharr 1932-48(3)
	Brownsville	1876	92 S. N. McWhorter,
12	John C. Russell		Weslaco App. 1948-56
	Appointed	8-16-1877-1880	92 Tom L. Hartley, Pharr 1962
28	John C. Russell	1884-96	93 Magus Smith, McAllen 1960
28	James B. Wells,		139 Fidencio M. Guerra,
	Brownsville App.	10-9-1897	McAllen App. 1954
28	Stanley Welch,		(1) Appointed by Gov. Hamilton
	Corpus Christi	1898-1904	(2) Resigned
28	Wm. B. Hopkins,		(3) Deceased

HISTORY OF HIDALGO COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

District	Year Elected		
30		Jeremiah Galvan	1874
51	1852	John M. Moore, Corpus Christi	1874
68		P. F. Murphy	1874
69	1854	A. L. McLane, Laredo	1876
69	1856	Santos Benavides, Laredo	1880
69	1858	C. A. McLane, Brownsville	1880
69	1860 (Resigned)	Santos Benavides, Laredo	1882
69	No date	A. J. Leo, Hidalgo County	1882
74	1862	John McAllen, Hidalgo	1882
74	1863	E. A. Atlea, Laredo	1884
74	1866	T. W. Kennedy, Rio Grande City	1884
30	1870(1)	W. Showalter, Laredo	1886
30	1870(2)	T. W. Kennedy, Rio Grande City	1888
30	1873(3)	John J. Dix, Benavides	1890
30	1873	A. Urahn, Laredo	1890
30	1873	T. W. Kennedy, Rio Grande City	1892
20	1873	W. J. Russell, Brownsville	1892
30	1874	J. R. Monroe, Rio Grande City	1894

HISTORY OF HIDALGO COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

		Place	Year Elected
85	F. W. Seabury, Rio Grande City	1894-1896	2 James S. Bates, Edinburg
85	James H. Edwards, Hidalgo	1896	1 J. T. Ellis, Jr., Weslaco
85	J. R. Monroe, Rio Grande City	1898	1 James S. Bates, Edinburg
85	W. J. Russell, Brownsville	1898-1902	1 Raul Longoria, Pharr
23	Turner D. McNiel, Corpus Christi	1900	2 Wade Spillman, McAllen
95	F. W. Seabury, Rio Grande City	1902-04(4)	1 Felix McDonald, Edinburg
95	J. T. Canales, Brownsville	1904	2 Billy Coughran, McAllen
95	J. A. Brooks, Falfurrias	1908-1910	3 Eligio de la Garza, Mission
9g	D.B. Chapin, Chapin	1910	37f Lindsey Rodriguez, Hidalgo
78	D. W. Glasscock, McAllen	1946-1952(5)	2 Gregory Montoya, 1964
78	L. P. Strayhom, Falfurrias	1914-1916	3 Bud Atwood, 1964
78	Hood Boone, Pharr	1918	37-f Raul L. Longoria, 1964
78	J. E. Leslie, McAllen	1920	(1) There was no legislature 1870-1873
73	W. R. Montgomery, Edinburg	1922-1928	(2) Speaker
73	Homer L. Leonard, McAllen	1930-44(5)	(3) Dist. was composed of 23 Counties 1873-1874
73	Joe M. Kilgore,, McAllen	1946-1952	(4) Speaker in 1905
			(5) Speaker
			(6) Resigned 1-6-1958



