

# FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## *ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE*



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**Abstract: Stephen Arthur Doggett**

**10/21/2021**

Stephen Doggett was born in Richmond, and as he says in this interview, he has lived there his entire life, except for the years when he earned his undergraduate and law degrees. He describes life in Richmond during the 1950s and '60s, when it was much smaller and offered children like him lots of freedom. His father died at a young age, so Stephen worked in his mother's flower shop, which broadened his experiences even further.

He says he chose a law career without really knowing what lawyers do. As a consequence, his work in the local legal system led him into varied opportunities, especially when working as a court-appointed defense attorney. Over the years he has dealt with many well-known local attorneys and even a couple of legendary defense attorneys like Percy Foreman and Joe Jamail.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Fort Bend County legal scene and its history will enjoy his interview.

34 Pages

↓ *Scroll down for Key Words from the Interview.* ↓

## Interview Summary

### People

#### Family members

Lucille Bolton Doggett Davis, paternal grandmother and owner of family flower shop  
 William Fortran Doggett, Jr., father, Richmond city commissioner, and local representative for Department of Veterans Affairs  
 Josef Adamek, maternal grandfather  
 Merideth, wife  
 Kasey and Kristian, sons

#### Childhood friends

Sparky Kuykendahl, family friend  
 Linda Myska, childhood friend  
 Gary Vana, childhood friend

#### Memorable teachers

Tommy Sue Forrester, English teacher at Lamar Consolidated High School  
 Mr. Wynn, Texas history teacher at Lamar Consolidated Junior High School  
 Dean Paige Keaton, torts professor at University of Texas Law School  
 Charles Allen Wright, professor on federal courts system at University of Texas Law School

#### Attorneys

Jim Baker  
 Bill Bassett, FBC District Attorney  
 Andrew Briscoe  
 Marty Carden  
 Charlie Dickerson, FBC Asst. District Attorney  
 Percy Foreman, Houston defense attorney  
 Logene Foster  
 Bert Gubbels, investigator for FBC's District Attorney  
 Joe Jamail, Houston defense attorney  
 Neil Kalinowski  
 Clyde Kennelly  
 Aubrey Leverage  
 Bill Meitzen, FBC District Attorney

#### Attorneys (cont.)

Brian Middleton, FBC District Attorney  
 George Roane  
 Don Schwartz  
 Arthur Van Slyke  
 Lester Van Slyke, Sr.  
 Bob Stallings

#### Judges & Politicians

Josh Gates, County Judge  
 Milady Clay, Josh Gates's secretary  
 Judge Hardy, circuit judge from Brazoria County  
 Judge Tom Stansbury, circuit judge  
 Jody Stavinoha, County Judge

#### Others

Reverend Lamar Clark  
 Arizona Fleming, funeral home owner & civil rights activist  
 Hilmar Moore, Mayor of Richmond  
 Franklin Schodek  
 Sefhronia, cook & child minder

### Places / Businesses

Barbershop formerly run by Mr. McFarland, now operated by Mr. A. D. Eversole  
 Jane Long Elementary in Richmond, Texas  
 Lucille Davis Flower Shop, family business run by multiple generations in Richmond  
 Edelstein's clothing store in Richmond, Texas  
 Fort Bend County Bar Association  
 Methodist Church and parsonage (also Methodist Youth Fellowship)  
 Morton Cemetery  
 Pearson, Shearer, and Robinson Law Firm  
 Pete Oshman's Five and Dime  
 F. Polland, Rosenberg Law Firm  
 Post Office Pharmacy  
 Rocky Falls, location of Thompson's Ferry and encampment of Santa Anna's army in April 1836

## Events

Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962

Francisco Cardenas, appeal of conviction for  
Eugene Heiman's murder

JFK assassination in November 1963

Michael Morton murder case and reform of Texas  
legal system

Presidential election in 1960

Supreme Court case abolishing the Jaybird  
Democratic Party in 1954