

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Dr. Stanley Thompson**

Dr. Thompson was born in 1918 in Calgary Canada, raised in the United States since age 7, and became a US citizen at age 21. He served four years in the US Army Air Corps from 1941-1945. Stanley graduated from the University of Houston with a degree in Chemistry in 1947 and was accepted to Loma Linda Medical School in Los Angeles.

Dr. Thompson's family practice was always located in Richmond. In addition to his active family practice, Stanley also served as chief of staff for Polly Ryon Hospital; was the surgeon for Santa Fe railroad company for 30 years; was the first medical director for Richmond State School; spent 50 years as the team doctor for Lamar CISD; was a doctor for the Texas Prison System; was the doctor for the Fort Bend County jail for 25 years; and, was a charter member of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

In his 60 years of family practice, Dr. Thompson delivered 4,500 babies – a remarkable achievement from a dedicated and remarkable doctor.

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

Dr. Stanley Thompson died on September 6, 2016. His obituary may be found at:
[http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/stanley-thompson-obituary?
pid=1000000181310034&view=guestbook](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/stanley-thompson-obituary?pid=1000000181310034&view=guestbook)

Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Tom Delay – Congressman
 Albert George – local landowner/rancher
 Mamie George – local landowner/rancher
 Dorothy Griffin – sister in law
 Burt Hooton – baseball player
 Eddie Mayberry – sister in law
 Evalyn Wendt Moore – mayor of Richmond
 Hilmar Moore – rancher & mayor of Richmond
 C. V. Nichols, M.D. – medical partner
 Edward Rapsilver – father in law
 Lila Grace Rapsilver – spouse
 Ronald Reagan – US President
 Nell Rapsilver – mother in law
 Cal Thompson – father
 Harry Thompson – grandson
 Hazel Thompson – mother
 Judy Thompson – daughter
 Maley Thompson – granddaughter
 Steve Thompson – son
 Steve Thompson, Jr. – grandson
 Terrell Thompson – son
 Clyde Wessendorf – local landowner
 Joe A. Wessendorf – local landowner

Places / Businesses

American Academy of Family Physicians
 American Medical Association
 Asia
 Austin, Texas
 Baylor College of Medicine

Brookshire, Texas
 Calgary, Alberta Canada
 Channel 11 News station
 China
 Dow Chemical, Freeport Texas
 England
 Europe
 Finland
 First Baptist Church, Richmond Texas
 Fondren Group, Houston Texas
 Fort Bend County
 Grand Island, Nebraska
 Hawaii
 Hollywood, California
 Houston, Texas
 Huntsville, Texas
 Japan
 Katy High School, Katy Texas
 Methodist Church, Richmond Texas
 LA County Hospital
 Lamar CISD
 Loma Linda Medical School, Los Angeles
 CA
 Mexico
 Nalco
 Oakbend Medical Center, Richmond
 Texas
 Pacific Life Insurance Company
 Pattison, Texas
 Polly Ryon Hospital, Richmond Texas
 Port Townsend, Washington

Prosperity Bank	Texas Medical Center
Richmond Rotary Club	Tucson, Arizona
Richmond State School	UTMB , Galveston Texas
Richmond, Texas	US Army Air Corp
Russia	University of Houston, Houston Texas
Southwestern Medical School, Dallas Texas	University of Texas, Austin Texas
Sugar Land, Texas	Urban Cowboy - movie
Texas Medical Association	Walla Walla College, Washington

Events

Born 1918 in Calgary, Alberta Canada

American parents were farmers in Canada. They moved to the US when Stanley was 7 years old to continue farming in Washington.

Became a US citizen at age 21 in 1939

Drafted into the US Army Air Corps 1941-1945

Married Lila Grace Rapsilver in 1945

Worked for Lila's father in the construction business from 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. Then he hitchhiked from Brookshire to the University of Houston to attend classes from 7 p.m. – 11 p.m. Then he hitchhiked home arriving at 1 a.m. to begin the cycle again.

Obtained a Chemistry degree in 1947 before being accepted to Loma Linda Medical School in Los Angeles, CA.

Stanley and Lila had 3 children: Steve, Judy and Terrell. Terrell contracted measles and developed encephalitis which rendered him profoundly mentally retarded. He resides at Richmond State Supported Living Center (aka Richmond State School) in Richmond, Texas.

Dr. Thompson spent 60 years in his medical practice in Richmond as well as serving in many capacities such as chief of staff for Polly Ryon (aka Oakbend Medical Center), 50 years as team doctor for Lamar CISD, 30 years as the doctor for Santa Fee railroad employees, first medical director for Richmond State School, 25 years as the doctor for Fort Bend County Jail and the Texas Prison system. He made home visits during his first 20 years as a family doctor and delivered 4,500 babies.

He and his family traveled to every state in the US, Canada, Mexico and 90 other countries in Europe, South America, and Asia.

Lila and Stanley lost their son, Dr. Steve Thompson, an orthopedic surgeon, in 2012.

Dr. Thompson's wife died in 2013, the same year he retired.