

Texas Baptists' "King"

Royce Measures—Dallas, TX

At the turn of the twentieth century Christopher Columbus Slaughter was known as the "Cattle King of Texas." Born in Sabine County, Texas, on 8 February 1837, he was the first male child born to a marriage contracted under the Republic of Texas. He served in the militia during war with the Indians and was in the party that freed Cynthia Ann Parker. Later he served as lieutenant in the Texas Rangers. After the Civil War he moved westward to Palo Pinto and then to Big Springs. At one time he owned a million acres and controlled twice that amount, on which 55,000 head of cattle grazed. He pioneered in the transition of Texas cattle from the longhorn to the shorthorn to the Hereford breed. "Slaughter Country" extended from just north of Big Spring 200 miles north to the New Mexico border west of Lubbock. For years he was the largest individual taxpayer in the state. More cattle were shipped to market under the Long S brand than any other brand in America.

To Texas Baptists, however, he was a different kind of "king." He was their first major philanthropist and became the model of many generous donors to Texas Baptist institutions for decades to follow.

He moved to Dallas in 1873 and became involved in civic affairs, helping to organize two banks. He joined the First Baptist Church of Dallas and served on the building committee for the present sanctuary. In 1897 Texas Baptist colleges were near bankruptcy. In a grand effort to save all the colleges an effort to raise \$200,000 was proposed, but needed a major donor to begin the drive. J. M. Carroll traveled to Hot Wells, South

Dakota, to seek the vacationing Slaughter's help. Slaughter pledged \$25,000 if matching funds could be raised. Later he was an original trustee and treasurer of the Texas Baptist Memorial Sanitarium, now Baylor Medical Center. When approached to have the hospital named after him, he declined on the grounds it was not an appropriate name. For a brief time he owned half interest in the Baptist Standard and moved it from Waco back to Dallas.

When Slaughter died in 1919 he left behind a legacy of benevolence. Many Texas Baptist institutions benefited from his generosity. He demonstrated what God can do with a willing steward of God's financial blessings.



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