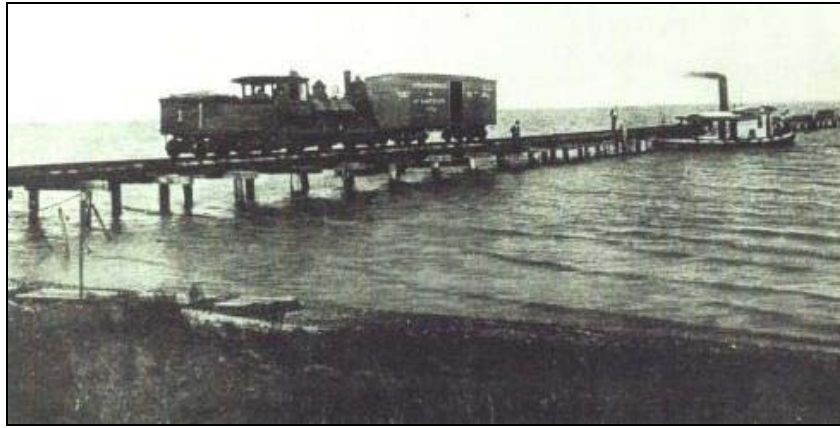


The Port of Texas City



Texas City Railroad Pier – Destroyed in 1900 Hurricane

In the early 1890's, a group of investors led by Captain Augustus B. Wolvin and brothers Jacob and Henry Myers, All of Minnesota, acquired 10,000 acres of land along the bay shore with the intention of developing a port and industrial center at Shoal Point. Frank B. Davison was hired to oversee the venture, and he along with his large family moved to Shoal Point. Davison became the first postmaster of the newly named community of Texas City in 1893.



Hugh B. Moore (1875-1944)

The Texas City Improvement Company, a forerunner of Texas City Terminal and the Mainland Company, Incorporated in April 1893. Construction of the port facilities and the planned town site began that year. The Company completed a four and one half mile track, which junctioned with the Galveston, Houston, and Henderson Railroad and the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railroad, giving the Texas City port the first connections in the region with the national railroad lines. Competition for the shipment of cotton and grain was intense because of the established ports of Houston and Galveston.

In 1904, with the deepening of the channel, the first ocean steamer, the S. S. Piqua, entered the port with a load of sisal from Mexico. Commerce between Texas City Steamship Company for domestic trade and the Wolvin Lines for Mexican trade. To direct the terminal, Hugh Benton Moore, a native Tennessean, became the resident general manager of the terminal and chief land sales promoter. For the next forty years, Moore dedicated his life to the development of Texas City's terminal, port facilities, and the community. He was instrumental in convincing the U.S. government to construct the five-mile long dike in order to prevent the silting of the channel.

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