

## She Was Ima Hogg

Ima Hogg (yes, that was her name) was born on July 10, 1882, into a wealthy Texas family. Ima's parents – Texas Governor James Stephen Hogg and Sarah Ann Stinson Hogg – named her after the heroine of an epic Civil War poem written by her uncle. Despite rumors that Ima had a sister named Ura, she was the only girl in the family. Her parents chose ordinary names for her brothers – William, Michael and Thomas.

Miss Ima, as she was known, enjoyed a privileged life but shared her wealth and resources with others. She became a leading philanthropist and is often referred to as the “first lady of Texas.” Her contributions in the areas of education, mental health, history, the arts and music left an enduring legacy that has enriched the lives of many people. Miss Hogg died at age 93 while vacationing in London.

Most people would agree that Ima Hogg had an ugly name, but that did not stop her from living a life of beauty. The good name referred to in Proverbs 22:1 – *A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches* – is an honorable reputation based on admirable character, which is more valuable than great wealth. Miss Hogg had both wealth and a good reputation; she was known as a lady of graciousness, compassion and generosity.

Nowadays, Christians are called all sorts of unflattering names, some of them downright ugly. But our concern should be with the kind of reputation we are building by our actions and lifestyles. The public perceptions of us are shaped by the choices we make, and so we should be circumspect in our deliberations. We cannot always avoid being misunderstood, but how the world sees us will either contribute to or detract from God's work.

We don't all have the resources to be great philanthropists like Ima Hogg, but we all have spiritual wealth to share with others, regardless of what the world calls us. Every day, in the centers of Life Care and Century Park, and in the work of Life Care at Home, our associates are spending that kind of capital.

--Beecher Hunter