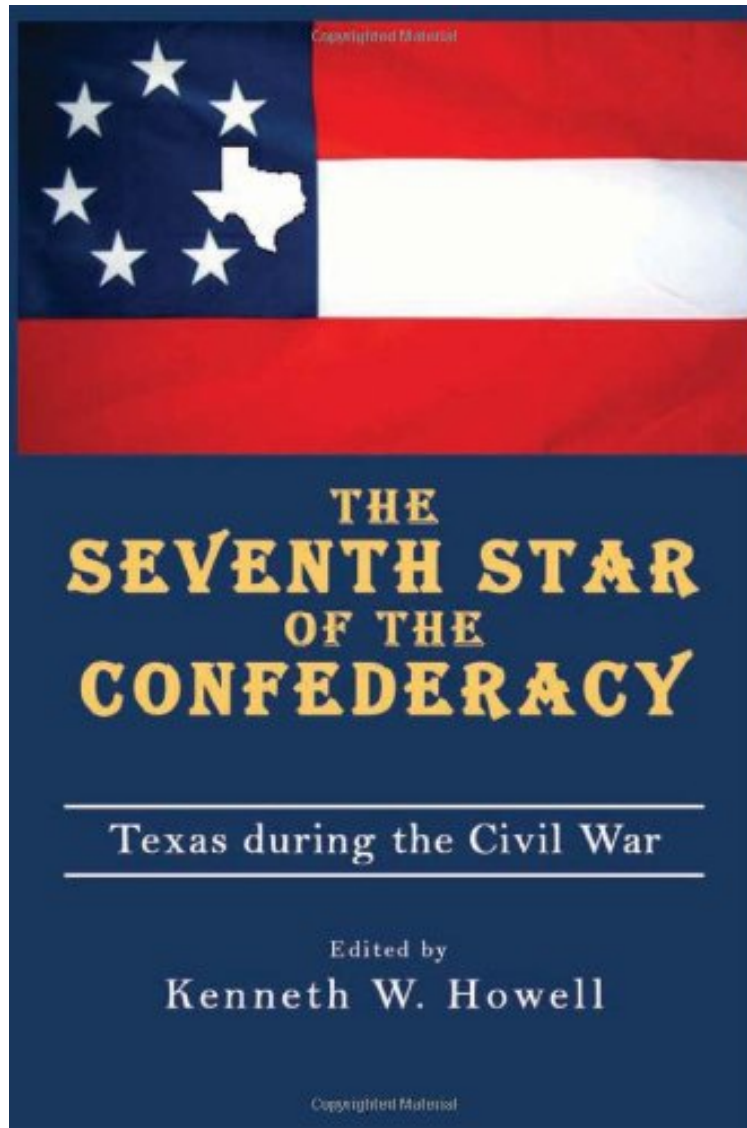


[Download pdf ebook] The Seventh Star of the Confederacy: Texas during the Civil War (War and the Southwest Series)

## The Seventh Star of the Confederacy: Texas during the Civil War (War and the Southwest Series)

*From University of North Texas Press*  
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**From University of North Texas Press : The Seventh Star of the Confederacy: Texas during the Civil War (War and the Southwest Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Seventh Star of the Confederacy: Texas during the Civil War (War and the Southwest Series):

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Texas During the Civil WarBy Eric MayforthThe vast majority of

fighting in the Civil War occurred east of the Mississippi, but the war still impacted Texas greatly. "The Seventh Star of the Confederacy" is a collection of essays that looks at the Lone Star State during the war. Many would be surprised that there were areas in Texas that had significant numbers of Union sympathizers--two areas of the state voted not to secede during the plebiscite in early 1861 and were less than supportive of the Southern cause during the war, even though the rest of the state overwhelmingly supported the Confederacy. One of the essays reports on primary source documents by soldiers that remove all doubt (yes, there is, unbelievably, still some) that the war was over slavery--many today try to assert that the war was about economic issues, but the South had an opportunity to secede due to economic issues during the Nullification Crisis of 1832 and did not do so. President Lincoln thought that securing Texas was vital, and several Union offensives were launched against the Texas Gulf Coast. These attempts were ultimately unsuccessful, and the book recalls the major battles in the effort, including the Battle of Galveston. Also covered are little-known battles that were fought not far from Texas soil in Louisiana, Arkansas, and present-day Oklahoma. Texas was unique among the Confederate States in that it had to guard its frontier as well as furnish troops for the battles in the theaters further east. Essays in this volume also recall the governors of Confederate Texas and look at life on the home front, with increasing taxes, inflation, and shortages toward the end of the conflict. Also discussed are the experiences of black Texans during the war, and one essay even looks at a POW camp that existed near Tyler. "The Seventh Star of the Confederacy" provides much little-known information about the military, political, economic, and social history of Texas during the Civil War and would be a worthy addition to the libraries of Civil War buffs and those with a strong interest in Texas history. 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Especially recommended for college and public library collections strong in Texas history  
By Midwest Book Review  
In 1861, Texas became the seventh state in the Confederacy and was plunged into blood-soaked fighting with the North. Edited by Kenneth W. Howell (associate professor, Prairie View AM University), *The Seventh Star of the Confederacy: Texas During the Civil War* is an anthology of the latest scholarly research by expert historians concerning how Texans experienced the American Civil War. Individual essays include "Frontier Defense: Enlistment Patterns for the Texas Frontier Regiments in the Civil War", "Defending the Lone Star: The Texas Cavalry in the Red River Campaign", "Prison City, Camp Ford: Largest Confederate Prisoner-of-war Camp in the Trans-Mississippi", "The Confederate Governors of Texas", and many more. A handful of black-and-white illustrations and an index enhance this cutting-edge historical study. Especially recommended for college and public library collections strong in Texas history. 21 of 26 people found the following review helpful. Semi-Interesting Anthology of Essays Highlighting Recent Scholarly Works  
By David M. Dougherty  
This collection of contributions concerning Texas history during the Civil War is not a barn-burner, but contains some useful information. Its best features are the extensive notes at the end of each essay to direct the reader to further research and provide good information not contained in the narratives themselves. On the flip side, this work seems to have been written to give faculty members in history an opportunity to place another publication on their vitae, as some essays appear to have been extracted from earlier work by the same authors. For example, Linda Huston's essay of the Knights of the Golden Circle seems like it was cut and pasted from her master's thesis and some of her unpublished seminar papers. There is also a significant anti-South bias in some of the liberal authors, regardless of their positions on faculties in Texas universities. I noted with dismay that the editor, Kenneth Howell, was "mesmerized by Ken Burns's documentary "The Civil War." As Burns's work was essentially a one-sided Northern propaganda piece demonizing the South and making a very large number of very questionable conclusions and analytical points, it is difficult to understand how a scholar could find this work anything but disgusting. Statements like (page 243): "Despite the dedication of its leaders ... the South had no chance to win ..." and "... they never gave up, never admitted that their cause was not only lost from the beginning, but was indefensible" and "Lubbock had declared that the war was a fight for liberty, but it was not; it was a war to defend the abomination of human slavery ..." do not belong in scholarly works. They do sound, however, like Ken Burns. Essay by Essay: (1) "The Impact of New Studies about Texas and Texans on Civil War Historiography" -- lists various studies and some of their thrusts or conclusions -- somewhat useful. (2) "The Civil War and the Lone Star State: A Brief Overview" -- too brief to be useful except to abject beginners. (3) "The Impending Crisis: A Texas Perspective on the Causes of the Civil War" -- OK, slavery caused the secession, but it was not why the primary reason the soldiers fought. See McPherson, "Why They Fought." Texas really was no different except in some minor points. This essay did not provide new information of note. (4) "The Knights of the Golden Circle in Texas, 1858-1861" -- Excellent for the novice who has never heard of the organization, but then the author tried too hard to move its primary focus (in Texas) from defending slavery to Texas expansion. Basically good. (5) "Frontier Defense: Enlistment Patterns for the Texas Frontier Regiments in the Civil War" -- shows that these troops were older and generally enlisted to defend their homes and families from Indian depredations. Good, but hardly seminal. (6) "Reckoning at the River: Unionists and Secessionists on the Nueces, August 19, 1862" -- tells the story of the attack on the German union sympathizers from the hill country. Good introduction on an interesting topic. (7) "Without a Fight: The Eighty-Four-Day Union Occupation of Galveston, Texas" -- Good, short presentation. (8) "Nothing but Disaster: The Failure of Union Plans to Capture Texas" -- this answers the "how" question, but leaves the "why." Union forces were singularly unsuccessful in their efforts, and this essay almost leaved more questions than it answers (like why did Weitzel and his infantry never

land to attack Fort Griffin?) (9) "Hide Your Daughters: The Yankees Have Arrived in the Coastal Bend, 1863" -- one of the better essays on the campaigning. (10) "Red and White Fighting the Blue: Relations between Texans and Confederate Indians" -- the skirmishes/battles are not sufficiently detailed to be useful. Please note that the Indians kept substantial numbers of black slaves -- an often overlooked feature in the history of slavery. (11) "Defending the Lone Star: The Texas Cavalry in the Red River Campaign" -- misses the mark. Not enough detail for the historian and not enough meat for the novice. Green did not campaign in a vacuum. (12) "Prison City, Camp Ford: Largest Confederate Prisoner-of-war Camp in the Trans-Mississippi" -- probably the best essay. Contains interesting information. (13) "The Confederate Governors of Texas" -- a often overlooked part of Civil War history in each Confederate state -- their governors. I liked this presentation. (14) "A Sacred Charge upon on Hands; Assisting the Families of Confederate Soldiers in Texas" -- a social history treatise. Good, but probably required for political correctness (the presentation of the woman's side.) (15) "On the Edge of First Freedoms: Black Texans and the Civil War" -- didn't see any new ground here, again probably included for political correctness (the minority viewpoint.) (16) "Feed the Troops of Fight the Drought; The Dilemma Texas Beef Contractors Faced in 1861-1865" -- confusing presentation with a poor time line. (17) "Distress, Discontent, and Dissent: Colorado County, Texas, during the Civil War" -- a good topic, but the treatment was too light to be meaningful. All in all, there were eight useful winners, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13 and 14; two OK, 1 and 10; and seven could be skipped, 2, 3, 8, 11, 15, 16 and 17.

On February 1, 1861, delegates at the Texas Secession Convention elected to leave the Union. The people of Texas supported the actions of the convention in a statewide referendum, paving the way for the state to secede and to officially become the seventh state in the Confederacy. Soon the Texans found themselves engaged in a bloody and prolonged civil war against their northern brethren. During the curse of this war, the lives of thousands of Texans, both young and old, were changed forever. This new anthology, edited by Kenneth W. Howell, incorporates the latest scholarly research on how Texans experienced the war. Eighteen contributors take us from the battlefield to the home front, ranging from inside the walls of a Confederate prison to inside the homes of women and children left to fend for themselves while their husbands and fathers were away on distant battlefields, and from the halls of the governor's mansion to the halls of the county commissioner's court in Colorado County. Also explored are well-known battles that took place in or near Texas, such as the Battle of Galveston, the Battle of Nueces, the Battle of Sabine Pass, and the Red River Campaign. Finally, the social and cultural aspects of the war receive new analysis, including the experiences of women, African Americans, Union prisoners of war, and noncombatants.

"This book is an important addition to works pertaining to Texas 1861-1865 as a Confederate state. The survey chapter by Alwyn Barr on historiography is exemplary. Particular chapters that stand out include James Smallwood on the causes of the Civil War and Vicki Betts on the families of Confederate soldiers."--Joseph G. "Chip" Dawson, professor of history, Texas AM University -- Joseph G. "Chip" Dawson  
About the Author  
Kenneth W. Howell is an assistant professor at Prairie View AM University. He received his Ph.D. in history from Texas AM University and also taught there as a visiting assistant professor. He is the author of *Texas Confederate, Reconstruction Governor: James Webb Throckmorton* and coauthor of *The Devil's Triangle: Ben Bickerstaff, Northeast Texans, and the War of Reconstruction in Texas* and *Beyond Myths and Legends: A Narrative History of Texas*.