



Official State Historical Center of the Texas
Rangers law enforcement agency.

**The Following Article was Originally Published in the
*Texas Ranger Dispatch Magazine***

The *Texas Ranger Dispatch* was published by the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum from 2000 to 2011. It has been superseded by this online archive of Texas Ranger history.

Managing Editors

Robert Nieman 2000-2009; (b.1947-d.2009)

Byron A. Johnson 2009-2011

Publisher & Website Administrator

Byron A. Johnson 2000-2011

Director, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame

Technical Editor, Layout, and Design

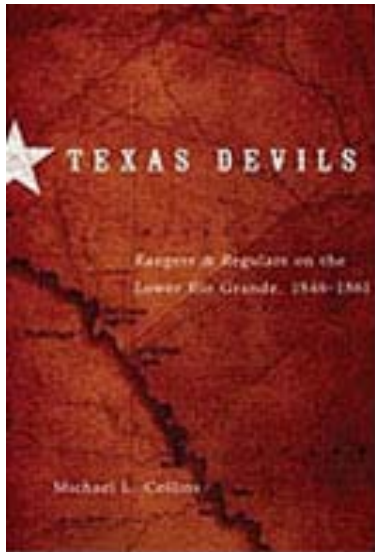
Pam S. Baird



Funded in part by grants from
the Texas Ranger Association Foundation

Copyright 2017, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, Waco, TX. All rights reserved. Non-profit personal and educational use only; commercial reprinting, redistribution, reposting or charge-for-access is prohibited. For further information contact: Director, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, PO Box 2570, Waco TX 76702-2570.

Book Reviews



Texas Devils

Rangers and Regulars on the Lower Rio Grande, 1846-1861

Michael L. Collins

Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2008. Contents, illus., notes, map, biblio, index. 316 p. \$26.95 Hardcover.

Review by Linda S. Hudson, PhD

This book is a must for anyone interested in Texas Rangers. Here, the Rangers of myth and the wild land they roamed come alive in the mind's eye through Collins's realistic and picturesque descriptiveness. It is well documented and almost entirely based on primary documents, some utilized for the first time. *Texas Devils* reads more like an adventure story than an academic work that makes a significant contribution to Texas and Ranger history.

One can visualize the lay of the land, the faces, and dress of Rangers Ben McCulloch, Jack Hayes, Rip Ford, and others, as well as the horses they rode. At home under the open sky, these men roamed the chaparral and weathered the heat, insects, cold, rain, and drought. They were as hard and unforgiving as the brush country they traversed in pursuit of Indians, Mexican outlaws, or dreams of territorial expansion and grandeur. Whether during the Mexican War or the forays of Mexicans and Texans across the Rio Grande, Collins examines atrocities committed by Mexicans and Rangers in the name of revenge, prejudice, and justice. *Texas Devils* challenges the myths of Rangers bringing law and order. Instead, it gives a balanced view of them as individuals who drifted in and out of groups such as frontier militias, Nicaraguan mercenaries, Knights of the Golden Circle filibusters, and supporters of secession.

Dr. Michael L. Collins, Regents Professor and Hardin Distinguished Professor of American History, is the author or editor of five other books. These include *That Damned Cowboy: Theodore Roosevelt and the American West, 1883-1898*; *Tales of Texoma: Episodes in the History of the Red River Border*; and *Profiles in Power: Twentieth Century Texans in Washington*.