



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 It has been superseded by this online archive of Texas Ranger history.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.



Famous Texas Feuds

By C.L. Douglas

Review by Chuck Parsons

Reprint by State House Press/McWhiney Foundation Press. Soft cover. \$16.95. ISBN 978-933337-11-1. 208 pages. Black and white photos. Index. Available from State House Press, McMurry University, McMurry Station, Box 637, Abilene, Texas 79697 or the Texas A&M consortium at www.tamu.edu/upress.

This hot-selling book first appeared in 1936, published by the Turner Company of Dallas, Texas. In 1988, it came out as a State House Press reprint, and it is now issued with a new foreword by Paul Carlson of Texas Tech University's Southwest Collection.

Famous Texas Feuds is an attempt to cover the best-known disputes in Texas. Considering that he had few of the modern research archives we have today, he did a very credible job. His study covers six feuds, starting with the East Texas conflict between the early Regulators vs. Moderators and ending with the short-lived conflict between the Jaybirds and the Woodpeckers, also in the same area. In between, his work focuses on the Sutton-Taylor feud, the San Elizario Salt War, the Lampasas County dispute between the Horrell and Higgins families, and the Mason County Hoo Doo War.

At the time of his research, Douglas had the distinct advantage of having men and women still living who either participated or were witness to many of the events. Douglas does not indicate if he actually interviewed many people in preparation of the book, but he does quote Robert Pleasants, the son of Judge H. Clay Pleasants, who significantly contributed to ending the Sutton-Taylor conflict. Although the memoirs of elderly individuals are subject to frailties, reminiscences of those who have experienced events of the past are important and should be preserved in spite of any possible weaknesses.

Book Reviews

However, there are occasional errors that might aggravate the student of feud history. For example, Douglas's report on the triple lynching in DeWitt County identifies the trio incorrectly. Mason Arnold was not lynched at this point but was shot to death later on the streets of Clinton. A second embarrassing error occurs by Douglas accepting the writing of Ranger James B. Gillett, who stated that fifteen Rangers resigned rather than pursue fugitive Scott Cooley during the Hoo Doo War of Mason County. Actually, there were but three who resigned: Nelson O. Reynolds, Paul Durham, and James P. Day.

Even with a few mistakes, *Famous Texas Feuds* is an important work and a must for Texana enthusiasts, and a first edition of this book is now difficult to obtain. Douglas avoids a simple narration of ambushes and gunfights, and instead goes further in detailing the social conditions of the era. That environment contributed mightily to the factors that resulted in men shooting their neighbors, sometimes over several generations.



Famous Texas Feuds

By C.L. Douglas

Review by Chuck Parsons

Reprint by State House Press/McWhiney Foundation Press. Soft cover. \$16.95. ISBN 978-933337-11-1. 208 pages. Black and white photos. Index. Available from State House Press. McMurry University, McMurry Station, Box 637, Abilene, Texas 79697 or the Texas A&M consortium at

www.tamu.edu/upress

Famous texas feuds. Ct 05418. By C.L. DOUGLAS, Narrated by FLOYD TRAVIS, 1 cassette. A classic, first published in 1936. The author graphically tells the bloodstained story of the most important of the violent feuds that ravaged several Texas counties during the nineteenth century. Enduring historical value of Douglas' account is insured by analysis of the underlying causes of these feuds-- psychological, racial, social, and economic. This book contains some violence. Texas Famous. Collection by Randy ferguson. 65.Â

Boxcar Willie, (Lecil Travis Martin), country singer, made regular appearances on Hee Haw and Family Feud. Born in Steratt, Tx. randy ferguson. Texas Famous. Rodeo Cowboys Real Cowboys Black Cowboys Black Cowgirl Cowboy And Cowgirl Texas History Us History Houston Rodeo Black History Facts. Jamie Francies Jr., 81, of Abilene, the first black man to organize a trail ride to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, put together the Prairie View Trail Ride in 1958.