



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 It has been superseded by this online archive of Texas Ranger history.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

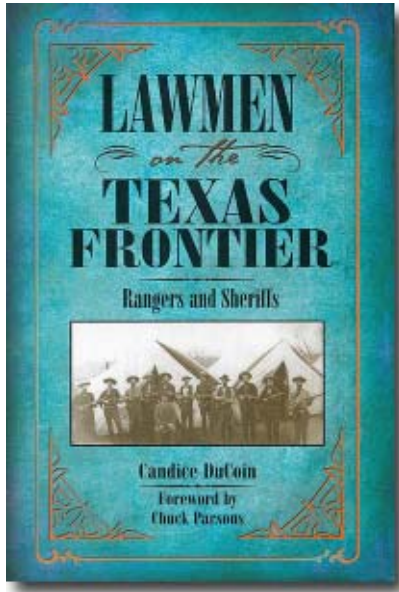
Technical Editor, Layout, and Design

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.



Lawmen on the Texas Frontier: *Rangers and Sheriffs*

Candice DuCoin

Riata Books, 2007, 260 pp., \$30.00.

Review by Donaly E. Brice

Seldom in the history of Texas has there been a case where so many individuals of one particular family contributed so much to the state's long and illustrious history of law enforcement. After reading this book, one finds that "keeping up with the Joneses" would indeed be a challenge.

The story of this Jones family began in 1835 when Augustus Harris Jones arrived in the future Republic of Texas to help secure its independence from Mexican rule. After participating in several battles of the revolution, he later returned to Georgia to bring his extended family of brothers and sisters and his new bride back to Texas.

One brother, Isham, enlisted with the early Rangers under Captain John C. Hays. He helped repel the Mexican attacks on San Antonio in 1842.

Another sibling, William Early Jones, entered Texas politics, ranched in the Texas Hill Country, and joined McCord's Texas Frontier Regiment during the Civil War. After the war, he became the first editor of the *San Antonio Express* and later served as a district judge during Reconstruction. More importantly, he raised seven sons to manhood, all of whom became Texas Rangers:

Willis, the eldest son, enlisted in 1855 and served in Captain William R. Henry's Texas Mounted Volunteers under James H. Callahan.

James Russell served in Captain John Sansom's Company C of the Kendall County Minute Men until the formation of the Frontier Battalion in 1874.



Book Reviews

William Kenner was with Company F, Frontier Battalion, under Captain Neal Coldwell. His short autobiography, included in the book, provides an interesting firsthand account of his Ranger years and other life experiences.

Brothers Gerry and Pinckney served under Captain Neal Coldwell in Company F, Frontier Battalion, and Gerry participated in the events relating to the Rangers' involvement in the Mason County "Hoodoo" War between American settlers and German cattlemen.

Emmett was with Company D under Captain Dan Roberts in 1881, rounding up cattle thieves and fence cutters.

The most famous of the Texas Ranger Jones brothers was Frank, who joined several units until his enlistment in Company D under Captain Dan Roberts. He eventually rose to the rank of captain of the company and was tragically killed in 1893 by Mexican bandits at Pirate Island in the Rio Grande, downriver from Ysleta and San Elizario.

A number of other sons, grandsons, and nephews of Augustus H. Jones also held sheriff and Ranger posts over the years and are discussed in the book. In all, the Jones family produced two judges, one mayor, twelve Rangers, four sheriffs, and one deputy sheriff.

Readers will find the story of this particular Jones family to be quite amazing. There are a considerable number of wonderful photographs of many of the Joneses and other early Rangers of note. The family stories that are related in the book are exciting and will be of special interest to any of the descendants.

However, as is the case with many self-published books, a good professional editor would have made the book much more enjoyable. An excess of anecdotal stories disrupt the narrative. Although the book does not flow smoothly, the author has done a tremendous job extracting facts from many primary and secondary sources, and she is meticulous in citing her sources. Anyone interested in the Texas Rangers will want to read about this fascinating family.

"In his interesting biography on Iran Aten, Bob Alexander meticulously re-creates the career of the Texas Ranger from his enlistment in the Frontier Battalion to his post-Ranger days as a sheriff and rancher. The excellence of the author's research is indicated by plentiful endnotes."--True West. "For the Texana collector a copy is mandatory. [Rawhide Ranger] is a 'must read' for Texas Ranger enthusiasts.Â Author Bob Alexander, a career lawman himself, has written not only the definitive biography of Ira Aten but also a credible history of the Texas Rangers during the late nineteenth century."--Journal of Southern History. Read more. About the Author. BOB ALEXANDER began a policing career in 1965 and retired as a special agent with the U.S. Treasury Department. The Texas Rangers are one of Texas's oldest and most legendary institutions. Established almost 175 years ago to defend frontier settlements from Indian attacks, the Rangers became nationally famous when they fought with such ferocity in the Mexican war that they became known as "Los Diablos Tejanos" the Texas Devils. Immortalized in poems, songs, and dime novels, the Rangers were already icons of popular culture by the mid 1800s. Scores of books, comics, movies, and TV shows later, the Ranger legend shows no sign of riding off into the sunset. The Ranger legacy RANGERS: Early Texas Rangers Perhaps the most storied lawmen of the West were the Texas Rangers. Comanches, not outlaws, were the principle adversaries of the Rangers in the years immediately following the Civil War. Photos of Texas Rangers taken prior to 1870 are rare. This one of James Thomas Bird (left) and John J. Haynes was taken in 1868 and shows the young Indian fighters outfitted more like Civil War guerrillas than the later Texas cowboys. See more. Texas History World History American Civil War American History Native American Confederate States Of America Into The West Cowboys And In