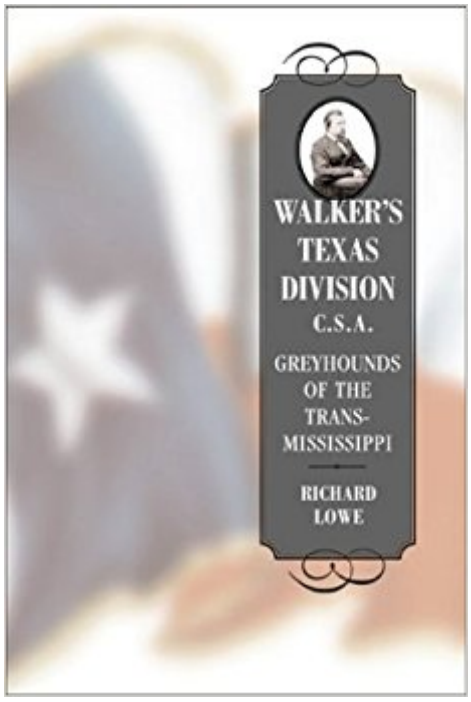
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Walker's Texas Division, C.S.A.: Greyhounds Of The Trans-Mississippi (Conflicting Worlds)



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Synopsis

Colorfully known as the "Greyhound Division" for its lean and speedy marches across thousands of miles in three states, Major General John G. Walker’s infantry division in the Confederate army was the largest body of Texans—about 12,000 men at its formation—to serve in the American Civil War. Walker’s unit remained, uniquely for either side in the conflict, a stable group of soldiers from a single state from its creation in 1862 until its disbandment at the war’s end. Richard Lowe’s compelling saga shows how this collection of farm boys, store clerks, carpenters, and lawyers became the trans-Mississippi’s most potent Confederate fighting unit, from the vain attack at Milliken’s Bend, Louisiana, in 1863 during Grant’s Vicksburg campaign to stellar performances at the battles of Mansfield, Pleasant Hill, and Jenkins’ Ferry that helped repel Nathaniel P. Banks’s Red River campaign of 1864.Lowe evokes the trans-Mississippi theater, with its battles in the hills, prairies, and swamps of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas—vitally important and influential in the war’s course even though outdazzled by eastern landmarks such as Gettysburg and Antietam. The author makes vivid the growing challenge that confronted the Confederate cause in 1862 and gave rise to the Greyhounds. Using a database of information collected on 2,200 soldiers, he calculates that Walker’s enlisted men were somewhat older, more likely to be married, and more often heads of households than their counterparts, both Rebel and Yankee. Their financial assets and casualty statistics mirrored those of Texans generally, casting doubt on the slogan "a rich man’s war and a poor man’s fight." And although the Confederacy may have erred in not sending the division east of the Mississippi River to fight in larger campaigns, Lowe’s book yields the poignant conclusion that the Greyhounds were content to remain where they were to shield their families from an invading enemy and the devastation of war.The only modern history of these soldiers, Lowe’s study is also a rarity in its scholarly examination of an entire Civil War division. Moreover, his skillful blending of narrative drive and demographic profiling represent an innovative history of the period that is sure to set a new benchmark.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Richard Lowe is the author or editor of five previous books, including A Texas Cavalry Officer’s Civil War: The Diary and Letters of James C. Bates. He is Regents Professor of History at the University of North Texas, where he has taught since 1968. He and his wife live in Denton and have three sons.

Very Pleased

The book was bought as a gift. I only skimmed the contents so I cannot review the book adequately. It appeared to be a complete record of Walker’s Texas Division.

I purchased this book a little over 2 years ago with the intention of preparing for the 2007 Bank’s Grand Retreat (a 5 day Civil War Re-enactors’ Immersion event in northwest Louisiana, replicating a segment of Bank’s retreat back down the Red River after the Battle of Mansfield in 1864). Needless to say, I did myself an injustice...never got around to reading...So 2 years later it was my intention (again) to read it to prep for the same event in 2009 (named Into the Piney Woods)...Again I did myself an injustice by not reading this fine work.Lowe takes us from 1862 Hempstead, TX training sites, up through NE Texas into Arkansas, down into Louisiana, then back into Arkansas, then finally home to Hempstead, TX at war’s end...I enjoyed this book immensely and wonder why everyone clamours over the big battles (i.e., Gettysburg, Vickburg, Atlanta, etc.) without realizing how the War was fought at sites (with just as much sufferage)just up the road from Houston, TX, Little Rock, AR, and Shreveport, LA.This book should be required reading in 7th Grade Texas History to ensure children realize that "Yes, Texas was in the Civil War...and yes your kinfolk served in it".Excellent.

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