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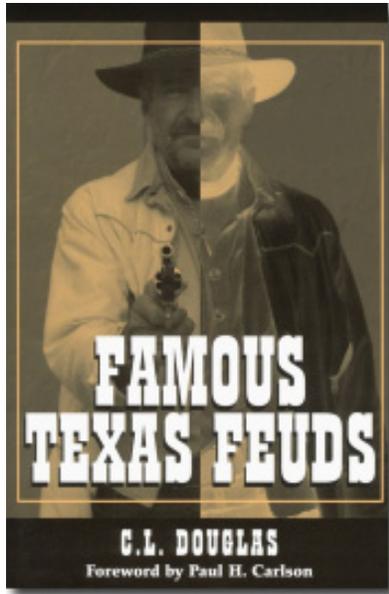
Technical Editor, Layout, and Design

Pam S. Baird



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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.

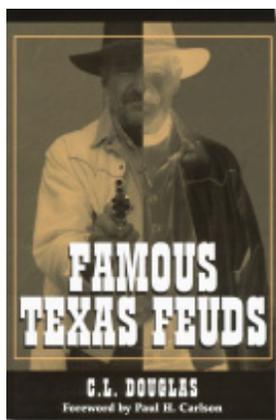
At the time of his research, Douglas had the distinct advantage of having men and women still living who either participated or were witness to many of the events. Douglas does not indicate if he actually interviewed many people in preparation of the book, but he does quote Robert Pleasants, the son 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.



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Some of the most infamous Texas outlaws were also lawmen. Which one shot a man for snoring, and which one claimed to have only killed one man? Thompson's statement holds true with the Texas outlaws of old, many of whom spent time as lawmen themselves. Some criminals are just that: criminals. Some, however, were a little more complicated. Here are eight of the most notorious Texas outlaws. C. L. Douglas, *Famous Texas Feuds* (Dallas: Turner, 1936). James B. Gillett, *Six Years with the Texas Rangers, 1875 to 1881* (Austin: Von Boeckmann-Jones, 1921; rpt., Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1976). Albert Bigelow Paine, *Captain Bill McDonald, Texas Ranger* (New York: Little and Ives, 1909). Gladys Bright Ray, *Murder at the Corners* (San Antonio: Naylor Company, 1957). C. L. Sonnichsen, *I'll Die Before I'll Run-The Story of the Great Feuds of Texas* (New York: Harper, 1951; 2d. ed, New York: Devin-Adair, 1962). *Famous People From Texas. ActorsActressesMusiciansYouTubersInstagram StarsBlacksHoustonDallasAustinWacoSan AntonioFort WorthLubbockEl Paso.* The state of Texas, situated in the southern part of United States has been a favorite among both tourists and immigrants wanting to settle down in America. The cities of Austin, Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and Arlington are a few cities in the state of Texas which are fast developing and have progressed by leaps and bounds over the past few decades. *Famous Texas Feuds* book. Read reviews from world's largest community for readers. One of the chapters in Texas history that was written, not with the ink... Thus C.L. Douglas begins the introduction to his now-classic *Famous Texas Feuds*, first published in 1936. One of the chapters in Texas history that was written, not with the ink and pen, but with the lead of the Winchester rifle and the slugs of a double-barreled shotgun. As a result, that particular period, the decade of the 1870s, might well be termed the "bloody years." *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.

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