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The Confederates of Chappell Hill, Texas (review)

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In this engaging volume, Rex and Barbara Stever successfully intertwine social and military history in interpreting a series of forty-two letters written by Brandt Badger to his wife, Callie Jones, during the Civil War. Excerpts from their letters form the heart of the text, which the authors supplement with a narrative drawn from a smattering of sources such as unpublished monographs, *The New Handbook of Texas*, and a Texas historical marker for Waul's Texas Legion.

The Stevers organize their chapters around Badger's movement with Waul's Texas Legion, Company D, during the Civil War. While tracing Badger's journey from Texas to Mississippi, the authors underscore Badger's devotion to Callie and his emotional journey through the war. The first sections describe how Thomas N. Waul, a plantation owner in Gonzales, and John Duff Brown, a doctor and drug store owner in Gonzales, originated Waul's Texas Legion. Brown became the captain of a cavalry unit, Company D, which contained just over one hundred and twenty men, including Badger. While in basic training at Camp Waul, Badger was assigned as the company's "hospital steward" because of his background in working with pharmaceuticals (p. 60). After basic training, Badger's cavalry traveled to the Brazos River and through Corsicana and eventually into Magnolia, Arkansas, in order to engage in the Vicksburg campaign. During the company's movement from Texas to Mississippi, Badger's letters displayed optimism for the quick demise of the war and a strong sense of Confederate patriotism. When the Union army captured his unit, Badger continued to work in a hospital as a prisoner in Panola, Mississippi. By this time, Badger's letters reveal the emotions of a weary soldier eager to return home to his wife. In the epilogue and conclusion of the book, the authors provide familial information about the Badger family and show pictures of historical markers such as the Badgers' house in Marble Falls, Texas.

Oi Callie is not only a contribution to scholarship within Texas and Civil War military history, but also to social studies as well. Even though Badger was clearly pro-Confederate, after reading his letters to Callie, one sees how his thoughts, emotions, and morale center on the relationship with his wife more so than the outcome in the war and the success of the Confederate army. While Badger held picket duty at Warrenton just south of Vicksburg, his letters reflected an aura of anxiety because Callie was approaching childbirth. Indeed, Badger's concern for his wife during childbirth is a recurring theme throughout the war, because she was a small woman who had difficulty and stillborns with her previous births. Badger's letters communicate the importance of family and return home after the war. *Oi Callie* is a valuable monograph for historians wishing to study social and Texas military history.

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MADALYN ARD

The Confederates of Chappell Hill, Texas. By Stephen Chicoine. (Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Company, 2005. Pp. 268. Preface, illustrations, epilogue, notes, bibliography, index. ISBN 0786419822. \$45.00, cloth.)

Stephen Chicoine's *The Confederates of Chappell Hill, Texas* examines the changes that Texans experienced during the Civil War and the events that followed through the lives of the citizens from Chappell Hill. Before the war, Chappell Hill thrived

because of the Southern cotton trade but the disruption of the Civil War and Reconstruction brought hardships to the town. Through the letters and memoirs of its citizens, Chicoine brings to life the thoughts, actions, and emotions of individuals from this town throughout these trying times. The author previously published several books and articles on military history, including the edited letters of Rufus King Felder, a Confederate soldier and leading citizen of Chappell Hill after the war, in the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*.

Men from Chappell Hill served in every theater of the war and in all the famous Texas units including Hood's Texas Brigade, Terry's Texas Rangers, and Sibley's Brigade, to name a few. The men participated in famous battles such as Vicksburg, Gettysburg, Galveston, Chickamauga, Wilderness, and Petersburg. Chicoine devotes the majority of the book to the men's perspective of their particular units and the battles they fought. Included in this section are the effects the war had on the homefront and how civilians supported their soldiers on distant battlefields. The last five chapters examine how the men reacted to coming home after the war, reconstruction, and how they contributed to the reconciliation between North and South through the establishment of veteran organizations. Chicoine concludes the book with the contribution of the Confederates' children and grandchildren to the reconciliation of the country through their actions during the Spanish-American War and World War I.

Chicoine's concept of examining Confederates from a particular town is not unique, but the greatest strength of his book is examining their lives after the war and how they adapted to the changes the war created. His research is impeccable. The author drew from many different sources to examine these Texas soldiers' lives, especially the letters of common soldiers and newspapers from the area. Another positive attribute of the book is the number of photographs incorporated throughout its pages. Pictures of soldiers, families, locations, and buildings within the town bring the story to light and provide a physical connection for the reader. Chicoine organizes the book both topically and chronologically. This style allows him to focus on the numerous groups of Texas soldiers spread across the South while containing a narrative that shows the progressive changes that occurred to the men and the town they called home. The book attempts to examine Confederates from this town, but does not explain why the men from the community joined a wide array of units instead of joining local companies or a particular regiment. Overall, this book contributes to the literature of the Civil War but better serves general readers and students of Texas history.

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Preserving Western History. Edited by Andrew Gulliford. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2005. Pp. 415. Acknowledgments, personal reflections, illustrations, maps, notes, authors' biographies, list, index. ISBN 0826333109. \$34.95, paper.)

Public historian Andrew Gulliford has compiled an important collection of essays on a wide variety of topics focused in general on the preservation of