

Introduction

Montgomery County, Texas, CSA is a gathering of facts that relate to a select group of men during the time from shortly before the War between the States through the decade that followed it. While there is nothing included in these pages to suggest the personal opinions of these men nor the passions that motivated them, the records and accounts described herein present insight into the people, places, and events that influenced the soldiers' actions and the deeds that defined them as heroes. Regardless of how it is written, history will always confirm that Confederate soldiers and sailors were among the bravest, most dedicated, and most relentless fighters ever known to man. They were men who demonstrated an undying faith in righteousness and honor and a willingness to carry out their tasks regardless of the risks to their own lives or to the challenges they faced. The purpose of this book is to preserve the memory of these remarkable men and the rich heritage that they have left to us and to all future generations.

Identifying and verifying the service of men who served in the Confederate military can be a difficult task. Combinations of many records are required. Confederate service records, census records, pension applications, personal letters, family and church records, burial records, and references from other publications make up the majority of this information. Unfortunately, many of the official military and other government records that would shed light on their service were poorly kept or lost. After the war ended, and again in the early 1900s, the records that had survived were transcribed from the original documents, introducing errors. Misspelled names and misfiled documents are commonplace. These transcriptions are all that remain of many of the original documents. To further isolate records according to a particular region or county is even more difficult.

Completely separating all of the soldiers in Montgomery County from soldiers in adjacent counties cannot always be accomplished. For the purpose of this book, I have defined a Montgomery County soldier as a person who can be placed in Montgomery County prior to the war. While the vast majority of these men were living in Montgomery County at the time of the war, I have included some soldiers who had moved away but still had family or historical ties to the county. Fifteen

years before the war, the neighboring counties of Walker, Grimes, and Waller were still part of the original Montgomery County. At the time of the war, communities such as Waverly in Walker County and Danville in Montgomery County had residents who moved back and forth between these areas on a regular basis, further obscuring the locations of some of these soldiers.

No amount of research can produce a perfect list of Confederate soldiers from Montgomery County. It is likely that the names of some of these will never be found. There were certain regiments that were particularly hard to research and possibly contained men from Montgomery County who have not yet been identified as such. Among these regiments are the 1st Texas Heavy Artillery, Waul's Texas Legion, the 17th Texas Militia, and several of the regiments that participated in the New Mexico campaign. Records from the Confederate Navy are almost non-existent.

Many of the graves of these men will never be found. Some are known to have been buried in unmarked graves in other states and in mass graves on the battlefields where they died. Those who made it home from the war returned to communities that had been devastated by four long years of war. The economy had collapsed in the interim, and for many years to follow, these men and their families would be subjugated to the vengeful effects of the process that some historians call "Reconstruction." Some families were too poor to provide permanent markers for the graves of their loved ones, thus these gravesites have been lost to history. Commercial and recreational development continues to obscure the final resting place of many.

This book is designed to provide vital information about these men and their families that will open doors for more detailed research. At the back of the book, there is an alphabetical listing with the necessary information to identify the soldiers and their families with cross-references to additional records in other parts of the book. I hope that this publication serves as a fitting tribute to the men from Montgomery County, Texas who served in the military of the Confederate States of America and that it assists in the preservation of their history.