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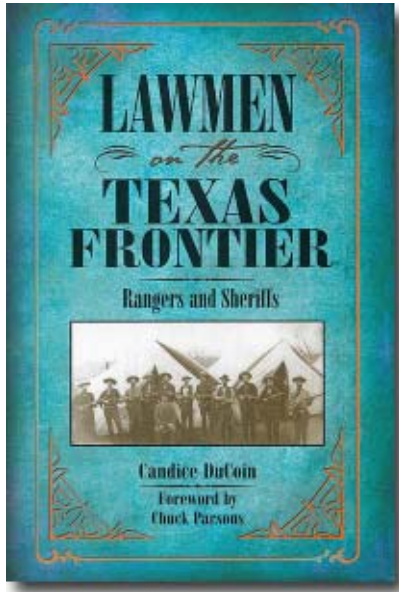
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Lawmen on the Texas Frontier: *Rangers and Sheriffs*

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.