



Kenneth W. Howell - *Prairie View A&M University*

Howell has authored several articles on Texas history and has recently co-authored with James Smallwood and Carol Taylor *The Devil's Triangle: Ben Bickerstaff, Northeast Texans, and the War of Reconstruction*, Lufkin, Texas: Best of East Texas Publishers, August 2007. Additionally, Howell's *Reluctant Confederate, Reconstruction Governor: James Webb Throckmorton* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press) is scheduled for release in November 2008 and his edited volume *Seventh Star of the Confederacy: Texas During the Civil War* (University of North Texas Press) is scheduled for release in March 2009.

Keith J. Volanto - *Collin College*

Volanto has authored several articles and presented papers at professional conferences on various topics related to Texas history, especially Texas during the Great Depression and the New Deal's impact on the state. He is the author of the award winning book *Texas, Cotton, and the New Deal* (Texas A&M University Press, 2005).

James M. Smallwood - *Oklahoma State University*

Smallwood is the author of numerous award winning books and articles relating to Texas History. His most recent publications include: *The Indian Texans* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2004); *Murder & Mayhem: Texas in the War of Reconstruction* (College Station: Texas A&M Press, 2003); and *The Feud That Wasn't: The Taylor Ring, Bill Sutton, John Wesley Hardin, and Violence in Texas* (College Station: Texas A&M Press, 2008).

Charles D. Grear - *Prairie View A&M University*

Grear has published several articles on the Civil War Experiences of Texas and has presented papers at professional conferences on the subject. His edited volume *The Fate of Texas: The Civil War and the Lone Star State* (University of Arkansas Press) is scheduled for release in the fall of 2008.

Jennifer S. Lawrence - *Tarrant County Community College*

Lawrence has dedicated her research endeavors to developing a greater understanding of Texas history. Her dissertation focused on San Antonio's political developments following World War II.

It is the goal of this textbook to move beyond the myths and legends that cloud our understanding of the past and to present a straightforward narrative history of Texas from the prehistoric era to the present. All of the authors have attempted to synthesize the most recent scholarship, as well as use new primary research, providing students with the best narrative history of the state written to date. As readers will quickly ascertain, the authors' focus primarily rests on the cultural, social, and political history of the state, but they have also tried to include a healthy dose of economic and military history as well.

The primary objective was to design a textbook that was accessible to students. In other words, the book is written in a "student friendly" style, providing a comprehensive overview and clear understanding of concepts. In part to accomplish this purpose, each chapter contains a detailed study guide, a feature that no other Texas history textbook has to date.

A Texas history reader, edited by Kenneth Howell and Keith Volanto, will be available Fall 2009 to supplement the text with a series of primary documents to help awaken the students' interest in Texas's past and appreciate the relevance of the course material. Selections will cover all periods of Texas history.

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