The Devil’s Triangle

James M. Smallwood, Kenneth W. Howell and Carol C. Taylor

In Texas, as in the rest of the Confederacy, the Reconstruction era (1865-1877) saw little more than a continuation of the Civil War in a new guise.

The Union won the first phase of the war that pitted professional armies against each other (1861-1865), but the South won the second phase that turned into guerrilla warfare.

In Texas, terrorist groups, such as the Ku Klux Klan, operated in at least seventy-seven counties. Returning Confederate veterans also organized outlaw gangs that functioned much like the terrorist groups.

This study of Benjamin Bickerstaff and other North East Texans provides a micro-history of the larger whole.

Bickerstaff founded terrorist groups in at least two North East Texas counties, and led a gang of raiders who, at times, numbered up to 500 men.

“The Devil’s Triangle” is the second publication of The Bob and Doris Bowman East Texas History Series. Proceeds from book sales are committed to an endowment for the East Texas Historical Association, to be used for future publications.

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