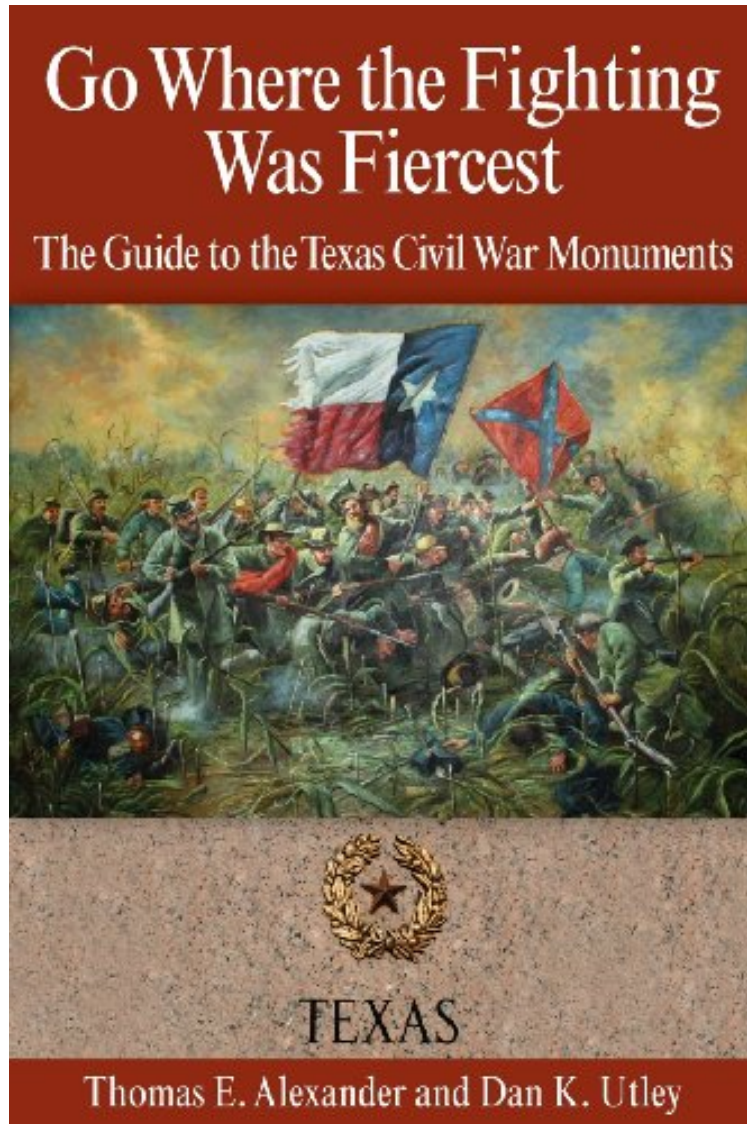


# Go Where the Fighting Was Fiercest: The Guide to the Texas Civil War Monuments

*Thomas E Alexander, Dan K Utley*

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**Thomas E Alexander, Dan K Utley : Go Where the Fighting Was Fiercest: The Guide to the Texas Civil War Monuments** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Go Where the Fighting Was Fiercest: The Guide to the Texas Civil War Monuments:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Guide to the Texas Civil War MonumentsBy Joe OwenThomas E. Alexander and Dan K. Utley have authored an excellent guide to the location and history of the monuments from

the state of Texas that are at Civil War battlefields. From locations as far away as West Texas to the battlefields of Maryland and Pennsylvania, the state of Texas dedicated the monuments to the soldiers and regiments of Texas that participated in the historic and important battles of the Civil War. These monuments that were dedicated did have some history of controversy. The Texas Monument that was dedicated at Elkhorn Tavern (Pea Ridge) is not located at the battlefield but at a school campus. The reason was that the Arkansas Civil War commissioner didn't want a monument dedicated because of Vietnam, and wrote to the director of the Texas State Historical Commission "If you just wanted a place to put your Texas Monuments honoring Texas soldiers, why in this world didn't you set it somewhere in Texas?" And she also said that "It seems to me very callous that men like you are not conscious of the disrespect this shows for our fighting men, especially now that so many are being sacrificed in the present disastrous war in Vietnam." Fortunately, this was not the prevalent attitude of important representatives of battlefields from around the country, and most of the Texas monuments were dedicated and placed without any huge controversies. These monuments were dedicated from the 1960's up to 2012 and are an outstanding tribute to the valor, dedication, and courage of the soldiers of Texas that fought during the Civil War. Nearly all the Texas monuments have the same design and features with the listing of the Texas Regiments and their commanders and the contributions of the Texas Regiments during the battles. The only monument that is not the same is the elaborate Texas monument at Vicksburg. The monuments locations and the history of the battle, with photos (most of them provided in the book) are:- 1861: Battle of Rowlett's Station, Kentucky.- 1862: Battle of Fort Donelson, Tennessee, Elkhorn Tavern, Arkansas, Arizona-New Mexico Campaign, Texas, Shiloh, Tennessee, Gaines' Mill, Virginia, Second Manassas (Bull Run), Virginia, Richmond, Kentucky, Sharpsburg (Antietam), Maryland, Corinth, Mississippi.- 1863: Battle of Galveston, Texas, Raymond, Mississippi, Vicksburg, Mississippi, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Chickamauga, Georgia.- 1864: Battle of Mansfield, Louisiana, The Wilderness, Virginia, Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia.- 1865: Battle of Bentonville, North Carolina. The book includes the history of each of the battles listed, the history of the monuments that are dedicated, photos (90% of them are in the book), and recommended reading. The few disappointments in this book is that there are some battlefields in the book that doesn't have a photo of the monument, also, in recommended reading about the Battle of Gettysburg the authors recommend the book "Lone Star Confederate: A Gallant and Good Soldier of the Fifth Texas Infantry" by George Skoch and Mark W. Perkins, this is about Texas soldier Robert Campbell and his diary entries. He was in most of the major battles EXCEPT Gettysburg, he was recuperating from a severe wound he received previously at Second Manassas (Bull Run) and wouldn't rejoin the brigade until they transferred to the western theatre of the war. The authors need to check more closely their recommended reading. Besides this, however, this is an excellent book that any student of Texas in the Civil War would find valuable. This is also recommended to anyone interested in the battles listed in the book, Texas History, and Civil War History. **RECOMMENDED!**

When a Chickamauga Battlefield ranger was asked where to find the Texas monument, his quick reply was Go to where the fighting was fiercest. While that spontaneous response accurately underscored the legendary battlefield zeal of the Texas forces in virtually every major Civil War battle, it likely did little to answer the visitors question. In this book, the authors will inform visitors to many Civil War battlefields about the heroic role played by the Texans at key sites and why the State of Texas has, over the years, seen fit to officially commemorate the valor of the hard-fighting men of Texas with impressive monuments. With the sesquicentennial observance of Americas Civil War already underway, however, Texas has chosen to pay little attention to Texans contribution to the Confederate cause. Regardless of the scant official recognition being afforded this seminal event, the facts remain that there was a Civil War and that Texans were very often at the hot center of its battles Where the fighting was the fiercest. Students of American history, as well as visitors and those planning to visit the eighteen battlefield monuments described in this book, will learn how Texas forces fared in the fighting. Time must never be allowed to erase the memories of those sacrifices and those battle-bloodied accomplishments on the field of honor. This book will ensure that present and future generations will always remember the monumental significance of the story of Texas in the Civil War.

About the Author THOMAS E. ALEXANDER is a graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder with a BA in political science and holds a masters degree in military studies from the American Military University in West Virginia, with honors in Civil War studies. DANK. UTLEY holds degrees from the University of Texas at Austin and Sam Houston State University. He serves as an adjunct lecturer at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas.