

**Texans Respond to the War Effort**

What they said and did during the Civil War – Texans Respond	Effects this had on life in Texas
<p>... Texas contributed an enormous quota of military supplies and provisions for the armies of the South. The state government spent more than three and a half million dollars at home for military purposes and paid more than thirty-seven million dollars of taxes, in Confederate notes, to the Confederate government. The whole population was put on a war basis throughout the conflict and all of the state's resources were unreservedly drawn upon to the limit to support the cause of the South.</p>	
<p>...Governor Lubbock did all in his power to place the whole strength of Texas behind the Confederacy. Compared with other Southern states Texas was safe against invasion by the Federal forces, and the battles fought in other states were keeping Union soldiers from Texan soil. It was fitting, therefore, in Lubbock's opinion, that every able-bodied man in the state should join the armies of the South. He succeeded in this effort to such an extent that within fifteen months more than 68,000 Texans were under arms... From the best information within reach ..., upon which to base an estimate of the men now remaining in the state between the ages of sixteen and sixty years, it is thought that the number will not exceed 27,000... He said that every male person, from sixteen years old and upwards, not totally unfit, should be declared to be in the military service of the state and no exemptions should be allowed.</p>	
<p>Texas ports were blockaded by the United States navy from July, 1861, until the end of the war, and Mexico was the only outlet for Texas cotton. The new order increased the difficulties of the people of the state with respect to sale of their cotton and it was very widely resented... The war and the blockade brought about an economic revolution in Texas, for both the exportation and importation of goods stopped altogether, except for the limited trading that could be done through Mexico and by "blockade runners."</p>	
<p>The absence of most of the able-bodied men in the army threw the whole burden of providing the necessities of life upon the women, who, with the assistance of the slaves, produced both food and clothing from the raw material to the finished products. "By the first of 1862," says O. M. Roberts, "the people in most parts of the state set about providing themselves with the necessaries of life. From that time to the end of the war a person traveling past houses on the road could hear the sound of the spinningwheel and of the looms at which the women were at work to supply clothing for their families and for their husbands and sons in the</p>	

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<p>army. Thus while the men were struggling valiantly with all their martial efforts in camp and in battle, the work of the women was no less heroic and patriotic in their homes. Nor was that kind of employment all; for many a wife or daughter of a soldier went out on the farm and bravely did the work with plow and hoe to make provisions for herself and little children.</p>	
<p>Shops were extensively established to manufacture domestic implements. Wheat and other cereals were produced, where practicable, in large quantities; hogs and cattle were raised more generally; and before the passage over the Mississippi was closed by the Federal gunboats, droves of beef cattle and numerous wagonloads of bacon and flour were almost constantly passing across the river from Texas to feed the soldiers of the Confederate army..."At most of the towns there were posts established officers for the collection of the tithes of farm products under an act of congress for the use of the army, and wagons were used continually for their transportation to different places where the soldiers were in service. In addition, wagons under private control were constantly running from Texas to Arkansas and to Louisiana loaded with clothing, hats and shoes, contributed by families for their relatives in the army in those states. Indeed, by this patriotic method the greater part of the Texas troops in those states were supplied with clothing of all kinds.</p>	
<p>"Salt being a prime necessity for family use, salt works were established in eastern Texas in Cherokee and Smith counties, and at Grand Saline in Van Zandt county. . . . In the west, salt was furnished from the salt lakes. Iron works were established for making plows and cooking vessels near Jefferson, Rusk and Austin. . . . At jug factories in Rusk and Henderson counties were made rude earthenware dishes, plates and cups. . . . At other shops wagons were made and repaired, and in small domestic factories chairs, tables and other furniture were made. Shoe shops and tailor shops were kept busy all over the country. Substitutes for sugar and coffee were partially adopted, but without much success...</p>	
<p>"The penitentiary at Huntsville, under the control of the state government, was busied in manufacturing cotton and woolen cloth, and made each year over a million and a half yards of cloth, which, under the direction of the government, was distributed first to supply the soldiers of the army, second to the soldiers' families and their actual consumers.</p>	

Excerpts adapted from Louis J. Wortham, A HISTORY OF TEXAS: FROM WILDERNESS TO COMMONWEALTH, Volume 4, Chapter LX, Wortham-Molyneaux Company, Fort Worth, Texas 1924 (in the public domain)