



FACT SHEET

Fort Worth & the Civil War

The Civil War would take place from 1861 to 1865 – more than a decade after Fort Worth was founded in 1849. The State of Texas declared its secession from the United States of America on Feb. 1, 1861, and joined the Confederate States on March 2, 1861, after replacing Texas Gov. Sam Houston when he refused to take an oath of allegiance to the Confederacy.

As with the other secessionist states, the declaration wasn't recognized by the United States government in Washington. Some Texan military units fought in the Civil War east of the Mississippi River, but Fort Worth was most useful in providing soldiers, horses, and supplies for Confederate forces.

A little known fact is that Fort Worth is home to the largest Civil War museum west of the Mississippi River featuring weapons, uniforms, artifacts, and civilian clothing from the war. The museum has a 75-seat theater that shows videos about Texas's involvement in the conflict.

Texas Confederate soldiers returning home to Fort Worth from the Civil War found that in their absence, the herds of longhorn cattle they were raising before the war had doubled in size. In fact, their cattle were so plentiful, they had less value in Texas, but the industrial cities of the North were booming with immigrant labor and hungry mouths to feed.

So, Texas military veterans began the great cattle drives north to Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Wyoming. There they met the new railroad lines that could carry the meat to the east and west coasts.

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