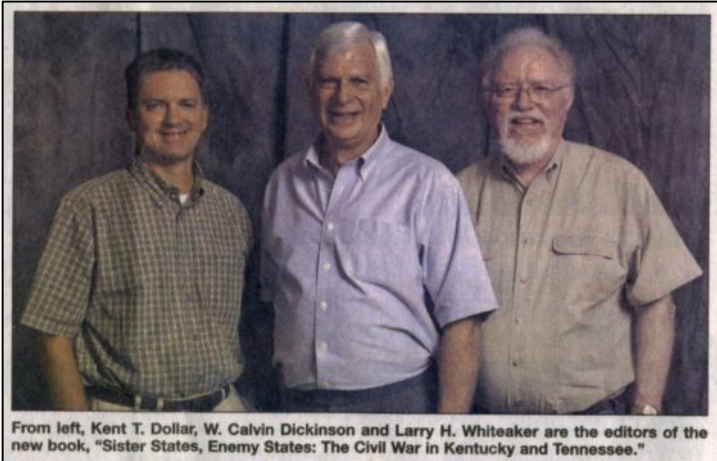


LOCAL HISTORIANS, TTU PROFESSORS

COLLABORATE ON CIVIL WAR BOOK

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COOKEVILLE — Local authors Kent T. Dollar, Larry H. Whiteaker and W. Calvin Dickinson recently published their first collaborative work, “Sister States, Enemy States: The Civil War in Kentucky and Tennessee.”



From left, Kent T. Dollar, W. Calvin Dickinson and Larry H. Whiteaker are the editors of the new book, “Sister States, Enemy States: The Civil War in Kentucky and Tennessee.”

Whiteaker and Dickinson are both professors emeritus of history at Tennessee Tech University, while Dollar is assistant professor of history at the college. In addition to including their own essays in their book, they have also included contributions from a total of 18 different historians from all over the country.

“This book is written by historians, but I don’t think there’s a person in the community that would have any trouble understanding what they’re

saying. It’s not written in jargon. We deliberately tried to make it available to the general reader so that he or she knows what was going on,” Whiteaker said. The idea for the book came while Dollar, Whiteaker and Dickinson were sitting together in the faculty room in TTU’s Henderson Hall. They began talking about how Kentucky and Tennessee were so similar during the Civil War and how they could not think of anything that had been written on the subject. The conversation quickly turned to who they knew who would make excellent contributors to the book. “We thought it would be nice, since these states are so similar, to put a book together that addresses both of them,” Dollar said.

As the title of the book suggests, it covers topics on the Civil War, including the question of succession, wartime conflicts and the impact of the war on the two states. However, unlike your average book on the Civil War, it steers clear of the big battles and instead looks more closely at specific issues during the war. “We’re not really all that concerned about who won the Battle of Shiloh, but we really are concerned about how the war affected the local farmer,” Whiteaker said. “We’re taking a look at the war from the point of view of people who are not usually dealt with in the war.”

Some of these people include women, African-Americans, those accused of treason and those involved in guerilla warfare. The book also includes histories on some local characters such as Champ Ferguson who is buried in White County.

According to “Sister States, Enemy States,” Ferguson was a guerilla leader who terrorized Unionists from Tennessee and Kentucky. He was later caught and hanged for his war crimes, but before then, he was responsible for some pretty questionable deeds, Dollar says.

At one time Ferguson heard there was a Union officer who was a prisoner of war staying at a hospital in Virginia. Ferguson had a grudge against this particular man.

“So he sneaks into the hospital and sneaks past Confederate guards and approaches this Union officer. And

he says something to the effect of, 'Hey, do you remember me?' and then kills him in his bed," Dollar said. Dickinson added, "There was an U.S. Army General up in Kentucky who was named Paine, which was an appropriate name. He was just about as cruel as Champ Ferguson was, but he was on the winning side so nobody charged him with any crime. He shot Confederate prisoners just left and right. There was a lot of atrocities on both sides."

The 352-page book's list price is \$40 and can be purchased at Books-A-Million, www.amazon.com or by calling the publisher at (800) 537-5487.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>