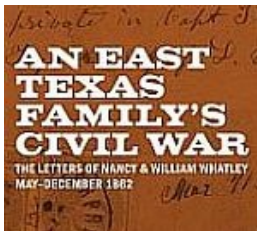




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An East Texas Family's Civil War

The Letters of Nancy and William Whatley, May–December 1862

LSU Press (2019)

Order from [LSU Press](#).

During six months in 1862, William Jefferson Whatley and his wife, Nancy Falkaday Watkins Whatley, exchanged a series of letters that demonstrate vividly the quickly changing roles for women whose husbands left home to participate in the Civil War. The Whatleys were slave owners who owned a ranch in east Texas, near the village of Caledonia in Rusk County. Nancy's letters offer a rare window on the hardships faced by women left behind to care for their families and manage their enslaved workers and farming businesses. Her dispatches are telling as well for the way they illustrate her personal struggles and wavering support for the war.

The book was recognized in 2019 by the TSHA with the [Liz Carpenter Award for Best Book on the History of Women](#), and was reviewed by the Southwest Historical Quarterly.