While many Texans look back on the Texas Rangers with a sense of pride, there is a darker history few acknowledge rooted in racism.

Using the long and generational memories of Mexicanos, contemporary writers have unearthed the bloody past of the Texas Rangers that spanned for nearly two centuries.

By Madison Pifer
RINCHES
Who were they?

Rínche was a name given to Texas Rangers by the border people of Texas, as well as any other Anglo Americas that were armed and looking to kill Mexicans.

Although the Texas Rangers have been painted in a heroic light, their involvement in lynchings and other extrajudicial murders of Mexicano Texans earned them a more unflattering reputation within the non-Anglo community.
Fact or Fiction
Stereotypes of Mexicano Americans published in Anglo papers, magazines, and books

The only way a Mexican can beat a Texan is by stabbing him in the back.

Mexicans are cruel by nature and must be treated cruelly.

Mexicans are naturally thieves and will take any chance to steal from you.
Fact or Fiction

Their mixed blood of Spaniards and Mexican Indians makes Mexicans degenerate.

Mexicans know they’re of a lesser race than Texans and other Americans.

The Texan has no equal anywhere, but within Texas itself there developed a special breed of men, the Texas Rangers.
Did You Know...

by the time Texas was annexed in 1845, thousands of Mexicans had been living in the region for generations.

between 1848-1928, a minimum of 232 people of Mexican descent were killed by mobs or lynchings.

the Texas Rangers were unofficially founded in America 1823 with the intent to drive Native People from the land.

today, Latinxs make up 40% of the Texas population - a majority of them being of Mexican descent.
Broadway plays, novels, movies, and TV have all glorified the history of the oldest law enforcement agencies in the United States. The Texas Rangers weren't heroes to everyone though.
The Reality

Texas Rangers had a long and dark history of participating in the burning of villages and the murdering of innocents. They pursued runaway slaves, committed war crimes, and hunted Mexicans, Mexican Americans, and Native People. They were so feared in the border region, they were compared to the KKK.
Tools of Terror

1847 Walker Colt

Colt Model 1851 Navy Revolver

Colt Model 1860 Army Revolver

Colt Model 1861 Navy Revolver

Colt Dragoon Revolvers

1860 Henry Rifle

Edwin Wesson Rifle

Colt Revolvers with Shoulder Stocks
An End to the Horror?

Since 1935, the Texas Rangers have been a division of the Texas Department of Public Safety. As of 2019, there are 166 commissioned members of the Texas Rangers.