

# Who's Who of the Civil War Advanced

## Sam Houston

Throughout the period of early statehood, Sam Houston had continued to play an active role in Texas political life. From 1846 to 1859, Houston served as one of the state's two Senators in the U.S. Congress. Though himself a slaveholder who defended the South's right to maintain slavery, Houston supported several laws limiting the expansion of slavery into new western territories including the Compromise of 1850, which admitted California to the Union as a free state, and the 1848 Oregon Bill which prohibited slavery in the Oregon territory.

In 1854, Houston opposed the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which proposed to open up the territories of Kansas and Nebraska to slavery if the people there voted to make them slave states. Despite Houston's support for slavery and the South, he believed this law would likely cause more conflict in the already divided nation and perhaps lead toward war. Houston's continued opposition to laws that could expand slavery angered many in Texas who wanted more territory for the South, and Houston was not reelected as a U.S. Senator for Texas.

As sectional division intensified throughout the 1850s, Houston stood firm in his Unionist ideals despite facing strong opposition from anti-Unionist Southerners. He ran for governor of Texas in 1857, when he was defeated by a states' rights Democrat named Hardin Runnels. Houston then ran again in 1859 and was elected governor of Texas.

One month after the anti-slavery Northern Republican, Abraham Lincoln, was elected president in November 1860, South Carolina seceded from the Union. Within weeks, other Southern states quickly began holding political conventions to vote on seceding from the Union as well. As Southern states voted, one after another, in favor of secession, many Texans began calling for Texas to hold its own secession convention. Governor Houston resisted the calls for secession and worked to persuade Texans that seceding from the Union would be harmful to Texas and the rest of the South. He declared himself "in favor of peace, of harmony, of compromise" and stated that "secession will bring ruin and civil war."

Despite Houston's best efforts to keep Texas in the Union, on February 1, 1861, a Texas convention voted overwhelmingly in favor of secession. One month later, the convention also voted to join the Confederate States of America. Additionally, the convention required all officers of the state to take an oath of loyalty to the Confederacy. When Houston refused, he was removed from office on March 16, 1861. He moved his family out of the Governor's Mansion in Austin to Huntsville, Texas. When the Civil War broke out, Houston's son joined the Confederate Army against Houston's advice. Sam Houston died of pneumonia on July 26, 1863, at the age of seventy, never witnessing the end of the Civil War.

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## Ben McCulloch

During the period of early statehood, Ben McCulloch served as a Ranger scout in the U.S.-Mexico War, then moved to California during the Gold Rush. When he failed to strike it rich, he returned to Texas and served as a U.S. Marshal in the eastern district of the state. In 1858, McCulloch was appointed one of two peace commissioners who were sent to address the ongoing violence in the Utah territory that resulted from conflicts between a group of **Mormons**<sup>1</sup> who had migrated into the area, the existing settlers, U.S. government, and army troops in the region.

After a Northern, anti-slavery Republican named Abraham Lincoln was elected president on November 6, 1860, Southern states began to secede from the Union, forming the Confederate States of America. Texas officially seceded on March 2, 1861, on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Texas Declaration of Independence from Mexico.

After Texas seceded, McCulloch joined the Confederate army as a colonel and was authorized to take control of all federal military posts in Texas. He took control of the Alamo on February 16, 1861, and then forced U.S. General David E. Twiggs to surrender all other federal military sites in San Antonio.

On May 11, 1861, the president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, appointed McCulloch brigadier general and assigned him command of a post in Arkansas Indian territory. From his headquarters in Little Rock, McCulloch worked to build the Army of the West with soldiers from Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. One of his significant accomplishments during the war was successfully establishing important alliances with the Cherokees, Choctaws, Creeks, and other tribes in what is now Oklahoma.

Under McCulloch's command, the Army of the West won the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri. He also played a significant role in the Battle of Pea Ridge before he was shot from his horse, dying instantly. Brigadier General James McIntosh, next in command, was also killed minutes later, and McCulloch's division of soldiers quickly fell apart in the absence of clear leadership, allowing Union troops to defeat the Confederates at Pea Ridge and take control of Arkansas.

Ben McCulloch was first buried on the field of battle, but his body was later moved to a cemetery in Little Rock, Arkansas, and then to the State Cemetery in Austin, Texas. McCulloch's papers are preserved at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin.

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<sup>1</sup> **Mormons:** Members of a religious group founded in 1830 by a man named Joseph Smith, Jr. During the 1800s, the group migrated to Utah from eastern states to escape religious persecution and establish a settlement specifically for people of the Mormon faith.

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## John Bell Hood

John Bell Hood was born in Kentucky on June 1, 1831, to John W. Hood and Theodocia French Hood. He attended West Point, the prestigious military academy in New York, graduating in 1853 at the age of twenty-two. Hood then served in the U.S. military in California and Missouri, before being assigned to Texas, where he led an elite cavalry unit that patrolled the frontier and took part in conflicts with the Comanches.

After the 1860 presidential election of an anti-slavery Northerner named Abraham Lincoln, Southern states began to secede from the Union. Hood's home state of Kentucky was a slave state, but the Kentucky government decided to remain neutral in the conflict due to its position on the border of the North and the South and its population of both pro-slavery and anti-slavery citizens. Unsatisfied with the neutrality of his home state, Hood declared himself a Texan and was assigned to serve as colonel of the Fourth Texas *Infantry*.<sup>2</sup>

On March 3, 1862, Hood was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in the Confederate Army and given command of a brigade that was primarily composed of the First, Fourth, and Fifth Texas Infantry regiments, as well as some units from Arkansas, Georgia, and South Carolina. Over time, these forces came to be known simply as the "Hood's Texas Brigade."

Hood and his Texas Brigade went on to play a significant role in many of the major battles of the Civil War, including the Battles of Second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg. At the Battle of Gettysburg, Hood received a wound in his left arm that would leave him incapacitated for the remainder of his life.

In the fall of 1863, Hood's Brigade fought with some reinforcements from the Army of Northern Virginia in the Battle of Chickamauga, Tennessee. Hood's Brigade successfully broke through the Union lines on September 20, 1863. Hood, however, was shot in the right thigh in the process, and his leg was amputated as a result. He spent five months recovering from his injury before returning to action in January 1864. He was promoted to lieutenant general, transferred from the Texas Brigade to the Army of Tennessee where he was ordered to defend Georgia from William T. Sherman's troops. Hood's Brigade was forced to retreat, however, and Hood requested to be relieved of his command in order to return to Texas and join the war effort there.

When Southern General Robert E. Lee surrendered to the Union on April 8, 1865, the Confederate war effort collapsed, bringing the Civil War to an end. After the war, Hood moved to New Orleans where he lived until his death on August 30, 1879, of yellow fever. Hood County Texas and Fort Hood (now Fort Cavazos) were both named in his honor.

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<sup>2</sup> *Infantry*: Foot soldiers.

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## Albert Sidney Johnston

Albert Sidney Johnston was born on February 2, 1803, in Kentucky to John and Abigail Johnston. Albert graduated from the prestigious military academy, West Point, in June 1826 at the age of twenty-three. He served in the United States Army in New York and Missouri, and took part in the Black Hawk War of 1832 between the U.S. army and an alliance of the Sauk and Fox tribes of Illinois.

Johnston married Henrietta Preston on January 20, 1829, and resigned his commission in the army in 1834 to run a farm near St. Louis, Missouri, when Henrietta became ill with tuberculosis. Henrietta died the following year.

Johnston moved to Texas in 1836 and joined the Texas Army not long after the end of the Texas Revolution. He was appointed Secretary of War for the Republic of Texas under President Mirabeau Lamar and led an expedition against the Cherokees in east Texas in December, 1839. Johnston married Eliza Griffin and the couple settled on a plantation in Brazoria County near Houston.

Johnston served in the U.S.-Mexico War as colonel of the First Texas Rifle Volunteers, and after the war was assigned to the Texas frontier in 1849. He became a colonel of the Second Cavalry in 1856 and took part in an expedition to Utah to maintain peace between Mormon settlers and federal authorities there.

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, the United States military offered Johnston a promotion in the army. Johnston, however, declined the offer and resigned his commission so he could join the Confederate Army instead and fight on the side of the South. Johnston returned to Texas, where he was appointed a general in the Confederate Army and assigned command of the Western theater of the war. Johnston began to form and train an army, but faced many obstacles due to the sprawling amount of land he was in charge of defending. In 1862, he moved his command to Tennessee and then Mississippi.

On April 6, 1862, Albert Sidney Johnston's army attacked Union General Ulysses S. Grant's army near Shiloh, Tennessee. At first, Johnston's men succeeded in forcing Union troops under William T. Sherman to move back in some of the bloodiest fighting of the battle. Johnston rode ahead of his troops to lead them and was shot through the leg. He bled to death on the battlefield at Shiloh.

Johnston was initially buried in New Orleans, though his body was later transferred to the State Cemetery in Austin. Albert Sidney Johnston was the highest ranking general on either side of the conflict that was killed in combat during the Civil War.

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## Stand Watie

Stand Watie was born in Oothcaloga in the Cherokee Nation in present-day Georgia, on December 12, 1806. He was the son of a Cherokee man named Uwatie, which meant “the ancient one,” and Susanna Reese, who was the daughter of a White father and Cherokee mother. Stand Watie’s Cherokee name was Degataga, which meant “standing firm,” though he was also known as Standhope Uwatie, which would later be shortened to Stand Watie during his life.

Stand Watie learned English at a Christian mission school in Georgia. In the 1830s, the Cherokee and other Indian tribes in the American Southeast were forced off their lands and relocated to modern-day Oklahoma. As a result of the forced removals, Watie and his family settled near Spavinaw Creek on Indian territory in Oklahoma, where they took part in plantation agriculture using enslaved labor. Watie served on the Cherokee Council and eventually became the principal chief of the tribe.

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, the majority of the Cherokees in Oklahoma voted to support the Confederacy, believing it was the best way to protect their tribe. Watie organized a cavalry regiment, and was commissioned into the Confederate Army as colonel in the First Cherokee Mounted Rifles, serving under Texas Ranger Benjamin McCulloch. Watie’s Cherokee cavalry regiment took part in military actions across Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, and Texas during the Civil War.

By 1862, many Cherokees who had originally voiced their support for the Confederacy decided it was in their best interest to join forces with the Union instead and migrated to Fort Leavenworth in Kansas. Watie and his cavalry, however, continued to support the Confederate Army. Watie was promoted to brigadier general and placed in command of the First Indian Brigade of the Army of the Trans-Mississippi, which included members of the Cherokee, Seminole, and Osage tribes. Watie’s forces were instrumental in defending Indian territory and north Texas primarily from attacks by the Cherokees who had joined the Union.

On April 8, 1865, Confederate General Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia surrendered to Union troops at Appomattox, Virginia. Lee’s surrender quickly led to the collapse of the rest of the Confederacy. On June 23, 1865, at Doaksville in the Choctaw Nation, Stand Watie signed a cease-fire agreement with the Union. He was the last Confederate general in the field to surrender.

Following the Civil War, Stand Watie returned to his farm in Oklahoma. He died on September 9, 1871 and was buried in the old Ridge Cemetery, now known as Polson’s Cemetery, in what is now Delaware County, Oklahoma.

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## James Throckmorton

James Webb Throckmorton was born in Tennessee on February 1, 1825, to a doctor named William Edward Throckmorton and Susan Jane Throckmorton. When James' mother died in the 1830s, his father remarried and moved the family to Collin County in north Texas in 1841. As a young man, James Throckmorton left Texas to study medicine in Kentucky.

When the U.S.-Mexico War broke out in 1846, Throckmorton returned to Texas and joined the army to serve in the war. During this time, Throckmorton began experiencing symptoms of the kidney disease that would plague him throughout his life. His illness prevented him from serving as a combat soldier, but his experience in medicine allowed him to continue to serve as a surgeon's assistant in the Texas Rangers.

After the U.S.-Mexico War, Throckmorton married Annie Rattan, and the two settled near McKinney, Texas, where he practiced medicine and began a career in the law and politics. He served as a representative in the Texas legislature from 1851 to 1857. He was elected to the Texas Senate in 1857. When Sam Houston was elected governor of Texas, Throckmorton supported Houston's Unionist positions, even attempting to organize a Union Party in Texas. Throckmorton was one of eight delegates to vote against Texas secession in 1861.

Despite his desire for Texas to remain in the Union, when the Civil War broke out, Throckmorton joined the Company of Mounted Riflemen from Collin County in May 1861 and worked to secure and defend the Texas frontier. Throckmorton went on to join the Sixth Texas Cavalry and took part in battles in Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Mississippi, before being granted a medical discharge from service in 1864 due to ongoing struggles with his kidney disease.

For the remainder of the Civil War, Throckmorton took part in actions to secure and defend the Texas frontier, and was appointed Confederate Commissioner to American Indians in Texas. In this role, Throckmorton successfully negotiated peace treaties with a number of frontier tribes who reportedly nicknamed him "Old Leathercoat."

After the Civil War, James Throckmorton continued to take part in politics, leading the convention to write a new state constitution in 1866, serving as Texas governor from 1866 to 1867 and as a representative in the Texas legislature several times during the 1870s and 1880s.

James Throckmorton died in McKinney, Texas, on April 21, 1894, of kidney disease. The citizens of McKinney erected a statue in his honor, which reads, "A Tennessean by birth, a Texan by adoption."



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## John Salmon "Rip" Ford

John Salmon Ford was born in South Carolina on May 26, 1815. Ford moved to Texas in 1836 at the age of twenty-one and joined the Texas army, serving under the famous Texas Ranger, John Coffee Hays, until 1838.

Ford left the army in 1838 and moved to San Augustine in east Texas where he practiced medicine until 1844, when he was elected as a representative to the Texas legislature. As a representative, Ford advocated for the annexation of Texas to the United States. In 1845, Ford moved to Austin and became the editor of the newspaper, the *Austin Texas Democrat*.

When the U.S.-Mexico War began in 1846, Ford joined the army under John Coffee Hays and was given command of a spy unit. One of his responsibilities in this role was to send out notifications of deaths in the unit. He began the notifications with the phrase "Rest in Peace." This phrase, often shortened simply to "R.I.P." became Ford's nickname.

After the U.S.-Mexico War, Ford was instrumental in mapping a route from San Antonio to El Paso. He became a captain in the Texas Rangers and took part in conflicts with Texas Indian tribes on the western frontier. In 1852, he was elected to the Texas Senate and established a newspaper called the *State Times*. In 1861, Ford served as a delegate in the secession convention where he voted in favor of seceding from the Union.

During the Civil War, Ford served as colonel of the Second Texas Cavalry in the Rio Grande district. In this role, Ford worked to protect trade between Texas and Mexico. On May 12, 1865, Ford led the Confederate forces in the Battle of Palmito Ranch – the final battle of the Civil War.

After the Civil War, Ford moved to the south Texas town of Brownsville where he worked as the editor of the Brownsville *Sentinel*. He served as the mayor of Brownsville in 1874, and went on to serve in the Texas Senate from 1876 to 1879, where he was a strong advocate for Texas education. In 1879, he was appointed superintendent of the school that is now called the Texas School for the Deaf.

In his later years, Ford worked to preserve and promote Texas history. He was a **charter member**<sup>3</sup> of the Texas State Historical Association, an organization that works to preserve Texas history. He died in San Antonio on November 3, 1897.

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<sup>3</sup> **Charter Member:** One of the original or founding members of an organization.

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## Mollie Arlene Kirkland Bailey

Mollie Bailey was born on a plantation near Mobile, Alabama, to William and Mary Kirkland. The exact year of her birth is uncertain; she was likely born sometime between the mid-1830s to mid-1840s.

As a young woman, Mollie married James "Gus" Bailey, and with several other family members, they formed a traveling musical performance group called the Bailey Family Troupe, which gave performances in Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas.

When the Civil War began in 1861, Mollie's husband Gus joined the Confederate Army of Alabama, and was later transferred to General John Bell Hood's "Texas Brigade" where he served as bandmaster. At the time, the couple had one child. Mollie asked family friends in Virginia to watch their child, and she joined her husband, traveling with the Confederate army as a nurse and a spy. Mollie would disguise herself as an older woman and go into Union army camps pretending to sell cookies. She claimed to have taken medicine from the Union camps and brought it back to the Confederate Army by hiding it in her hair.

As bandmaster to Hood's Texas Brigade, Mollie and her husband wrote a song called "The Old Gray Mare" that became the regiment's marching song. It would later be used as the official song of the Democratic National Convention of 1928.

When the Civil War ended, Mollie and her husband continued to travel and give concerts throughout the South as the Bailey Concert Company. Their show flew the Texas flag, the United States flag, and the Confederate flag at their performances and granted free entry to both Union and Confederate veterans of the Civil War.

Mollie Bailey died on October 2, 1918, in Houston when she was likely in her 80s.



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## Harriet Glass Barrett

Harriet Glass Barrett was born into slavery in Walker County, Texas, sometime in 1851. Harriet was later interviewed during the 1930s for the Texas Writer's Project as part of a larger U.S. government project to record the narratives of formerly enslaved people.

According to her interview, Harriet's father was born in Africa, and her mother was born in Virginia, although historical records differ greatly on the birthplace of Harriet's parents. She had one brother who was named Steve Glass after the plantation owner. Harriet was uncertain if she had any sisters. Harriet recalled harsh treatment and poor living conditions as a slave. Her owner locked her and the other enslaved people in their cabins at night, and anyone who attempted to escape was beaten.

As a young, enslaved person in Texas, Harriet worked as a cook on the plantation. Using crops from the local garden and meat hunted by the plantation owner, Harriet cooked meals of corn, deer meat, corn bread, and syrup. During her interview, she recalled that many referred to her as one of the best cooks in town.

When the Civil War began in 1861, Harriet was about ten years old. Her enslaver, Steve Glass, joined the Confederate Army and brought Harriet with him as his personal cook. During that time, Harriet also cared for sick and wounded soldiers. Glass's military unit remained in Louisiana from 1862 until the end of the war in 1865. Harriet recalled witnessing the celebrations of the enslaved people when the war ended and they received the news that the slaves were free.

Harriet's former owner offered her \$2.50 per month (about \$50.00 in today's value) to continue to work for him in Texas as a cook and a maid. Harriet accepted his offer, working for Glass until March 1, 1882, when she married Armstead Barrett in Madisonville, about 100 miles north of Houston.

Harriet and Armstead lived in Madisonville as tenant farmers, or farmers who rent the land on which they farm. The couple had six children, and eventually grandchildren who lived with them on their farm. Harriet's son, Thomas, served in the segregated unit known as the Harlem Hellfighters during World War 1, where he earned a Purple Heart for injuries he suffered in battle.

Harriet and her husband Armstead both gave interviews for the U.S. government's Slave Narrative Project during the 1930s. Harriet Barrett died at her home on March 2, 1953, was buried at Hopewell Cemetery in Madison County. Her age at the time of her death is recorded as 102 years old.

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## Benjamin Franklin Terry

Benjamin Franklin Terry was born in Kentucky on February 18, 1821. His family moved to Mississippi when he was a child, then to Brazoria County, Texas, in 1833 or 1834. He was raised on a plantation that included over 2,000 acres of land and eighteen slaves.

In 1841, Terry married Mary Bingham, the daughter of one of Stephen F. Austin's "Old 300" colonists who had settled in Texas during the Mexican National Era. Benjamin and Mary had six children.

In 1851, Terry and his business partner, William J. Kyle, were granted a contract to construct the first railroad in Texas from Harrisburg outside of Houston to the Brazos River, and then on to Richmond, Texas, near Houston. Terry and Kyle built a second successful railroad and a sugar plantation in 1852. By 1860, Terry and his partner owned nearly \$300,000 worth of property in Texas.

Terry served as a delegate to the Texas secession convention in 1861 after Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the United States. Soon after, Terry helped organize and commanded a cavalry company, which played a significant role in capturing one of the U.S. forts in Texas from Union control. In June, 1861, Terry joined the Confederate Army and served for a time in the Eastern Theater, taking part in significant battles including the Battle of Manassas.

The Confederate Army authorized Terry to organize an official Confederate cavalry in August, 1861. Terry returned to Texas and recruited 1,170 men to serve in the Eighth Texas Cavalry, which would later come to be called "Terry's Texas Rangers." Terry's cavalry regiment received orders to serve in Virginia, but before they could arrive at their destination, Terry and his cavalry regiment were involved in a battle near Woodsonville, Kentucky at the Battle of Rowlett Station on December 17, 1861.

The Eighth Texas Cavalry won the battle, though Terry was killed during the fight. His body was sent to Houston to be buried in Glenwood Cemetery. Terry County, Texas, was named in his honor.

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## Santos Benavides

Santos Benavides was born into a prominent family in the south Texas town of Laredo on the Rio Grande. Santos' great-great grandfather founded Laredo under Spanish colonial rule, and the Benavides family had been active in the community and leadership of the town for generations. As a young man, Santos Benavides had fought in the civil war in Mexico on the side of the Federalists. When the U.S.-Mexico War broke out in 1846, Benavides cooperated with Mirabeau Lamar's forces who occupied Laredo.

As a young man and community leader in Laredo during Texas' early statehood, Santos worked to keep the isolated south Texas Town knowledgeable about Texas issues and politics, while still maintaining the independence of his community.

When the Civil War began in 1861, Benavides supported Texas' secession and joined the Confederate Army. Benavides became a captain in the Thirty-third Texas Cavalry in the Rio Grande Military District. His cavalry unit would often be referred to simply as "Benavides' Regiment." As captain of his unit, Benavides was instrumental in subduing several local rebellions against Confederate rule, including an uprising led by the well-known rebel, Juan Cortina.

In November 1863, Benavides was promoted to the rank of colonel and authorized to establish his own regiment of rangers. When Union troops under Edmund J. Davis attempted to invade Laredo on March 19, 1864, Benavides led his men in defending the town against the invasion. Later that same year, Union troops would successfully occupy the south Texas town of Brownsville. During the Union occupation of Brownsville, Benavides negotiated terms that allowed Texans to continue to safely transport their cotton across the border into Mexico.

Following the Civil War, Benavides worked as a merchant, rancher, and remained active in Laredo politics. He served in the Texas legislature three times from 1879 to 1884. Benavides died at his home in Laredo on November 9, 1891.