

Who's Who of the Civil War Grade Level

Sam Houston

During Early Texas Statehood, Sam Houston was active in Texas politics. He served as a Texas Senator in the U.S. Congress from 1846 to 1859. Though Houston was a slaveholder and supported slavery, as a congressman he supported laws that limited the westward expansion of slavery. Two of these laws were the Compromise of 1850 which admitted California as a free state and reduced the size of Texas, and the 1848 Oregon Bill which prohibited slavery in the Oregon Territory. These laws were unpopular in Texas.

Houston opposed laws that opened western territories to slavery, like the Kansas-Nebraska Act. This act allowed the people of those territories to vote on whether to allow slavery in each territory. Houston believed this law would cause more conflict between Northerners and Southerners, and maybe even lead to war. Many in Texas were angry at Houston's pro-Union decisions. As a result, Houston was not reelected as a U.S. Senator for Texas.

Even though his pro-Union views were unpopular in Texas, Houston did not back down from supporting the Union and opposing the expansion of slavery. He ran for governor of Texas in 1857, and was defeated. He ran again in 1859 and was elected governor of Texas.

In November 1860, an anti-slavery Northerner named Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the United States. One month later, South Carolina seceded from the Union. Within weeks, many other states followed suit. By the end of January 1861, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana had all separated from the U.S.

As these Southern states were holding conventions and voting to secede, many Texans began calling for Texas to hold its own secession convention. Governor Houston resisted the calls for a secession convention and worked to persuade Texans that seceding from the Union would be harmful to Texas, the South, and the United States. He declared himself "in favor of peace, of harmony, of compromise" and stated that "secession will bring ruin and civil war."

Houston was unable to convince his fellow Texans to remain in the Union, however. On February 1, 1861 a Texas convention voted overwhelmingly in favor of secession. One month later, the convention voted to join the other Southern states who had formed Confederate States of America. The convention also required all Texas political leaders to take an oath of loyalty to the Confederate States of America. Houston refused. The Confederates removed Houston from office on March 16, 1861, and he moved his family out of the governor's mansion in Austin to Huntsville, Texas.

When the Civil War broke out the following month in April 1861, 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. He never saw 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. He then moved to California during the Gold Rush, but failed to strike it rich. He returned to Texas and served as a U.S. Marshal in east Texas. In 1858, McCulloch was appointed peace commissioner and sent to the Utah territory, where violence had broken out between a religious group called **Mormons**¹ who had migrated into the area, the existing settlers, U.S. government, and army troops in the region.

On November 6 1860, an anti-slavery Northerner named Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the United States. Soon after, Southern states like South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, and Alabama began to secede from the union. They formed the Confederate States of America. Texas officially seceded on March 2, 1861, on the 25th 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 the U.S. commander in Texas 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. In this role, McCulloch worked to build the Army of the West with soldiers from Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. He also successfully established important alliances with many American Indian tribes including the Cherokees, Choctaws, and Creeks in present-day 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 and killed. The officer who was next in command was also killed soon after, and McCulloch's men quickly fell apart without any clear leader. This allowed the Union troops to defeat McCulloch's Confederate forces at Pea Ridge and take control of Arkansas.

Ben McCulloch was first buried on the battlefield, 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.

¹ **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. He attended West Point, which was considered the best military academy in the United States at the time. He graduated 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. In Texas, he led an elite cavalry unit that took part in conflicts with the Comanches on the western frontier.

In November 1860, an anti-slavery Northerner named Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the United States. Following Lincoln's election, Southern states began to secede from the Union to form the Confederate States of America. Hood's home state of Kentucky was a slave state, but the government of Kentucky decided to remain neutral in the conflict because it was right on the border between the North and the South and its population included pro-slavery and anti-slavery citizens. Hood was unsatisfied with his home state's decision, so he declared himself a Texan and served as a colonel in the Texas *Infantry*.²

Hood was soon promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and assigned command of a brigade of primary Texas regiments. During the war, his brigade also included soldiers from Arkansas, Georgia, and South Carolina, though most of his troops were Texans. Over time, his forces came to be known as "Hood's Texas Brigade."

Hood's Texas Brigade was the only Texas unit to fight in the Eastern Theater of the war. They played a significant role in many of the major battles including Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and the single bloodiest day of the war, Antietam. At the Battle of Gettysburg, Hood was wounded in his left arm. This wound would affect his ability to use that arm for the rest of his life.

In the fall of 1863, Hood's Brigade fought in the Western Theater at the Battle of Chickamauga, Tennessee. Hood's Brigade successfully broke through Union lines during this battle, however Hood was shot in the leg during the attack. His leg had to be amputated, and he spent five months recovering before returning to action in January 1864.

When he returned, Hood was promoted and transferred to the Army of Tennessee. Hood later requested to return to Texas and join the war effort in his adopted home state.

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.

² *Infantry*: Foot soldiers.

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Albert Sidney Johnston

Albert Sidney Johnston was born in Kentucky on February 2, 1803. Johnston graduated from the best military academy in the United States at the time, West Point, in 1826 when he was twenty-three years old. He served in the U.S. Army in New York, Missouri, and Illinois where his unit fought American Indian tribes.

Johnston married Henrietta Preston on January 20, 1829. When she became ill in 1834, he resigned from the army to run a farm near St. Louis, Missouri. Henrietta died the following year of tuberculosis.

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. After the war, he 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**³ 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 declined the offer, and resigned from the U.S. Army so could join the Confederate Army and fight for 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 worked to form and train an army, but faced many challenges due to the enormous 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 pushing Union troops back in some of the bloodiest fighting of the battle. Johnston was shot and killed in battle.

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.

³ **Mormon:** 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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Stand Watie

Stand Watie was born in Oothcaloga in the Cherokee Nation in present-day Georgia, on December 12, 1806. His father was a Cherokee man named Uwatie, which meant “the ancient one.” His mother was Susanna Reese, 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.

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. In Oklahoma, 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. They believed it was the best way to protect their tribe. Watie organized a cavalry regiment, and joined the Confederate Army as colonel in the First Cherokee Mounted Rifles. He served under the well-known 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 were beginning to think that it would be better for their tribe if they supported the Union instead of the Confederacy. These Cherokees migrated to Kansas. Watie and his cavalry unit stayed in Oklahoma and 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. This unit included members of the Cherokee, Seminole, and Osage tribes. Watie’s forces played an important role in defending Indian territory and north Texas 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 end of the Civil War. On June 23, 1865, Watie 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. Stand Watie was the only American Indian to achieve the rank of Brigadier General in the Civil War.

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James Throckmorton

James Webb Throckmorton was born in Tennessee on February 1, 1825. Throckmorton's mother died in the 1830s, and his father remarried and moved the family to Collin County in North Texas in 1841. As a young man, 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 a kidney disease that he would suffer from throughout his life. His illness prevented him from serving in combat, 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. In McKinney, 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. He even attempted to organize a Union Party in Texas with little success. Throckmorton was one of eight delegates to vote against Texas secession in 1861.

Though Throckmorton wanted Texas to stay in the Union, when the Civil War broke out he joined the Confederate Army to defend his state. He served in a cavalry unit on the Texas frontier, and took part in battles in Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Mississippi. Problems with his kidney disease caused him to leave the Confederate army in 1864.

For the rest of the Civil War, Throckmorton worked to secure and defend the Texas frontier. He was appointed Confederate Commissioner to American Indians in Texas. In this role, he successfully negotiated peace treaties with a number of frontier tribes, who nicknamed him "Old Leather-coat."

After the Civil War, James Throckmorton continued to take part in politics. He led the convention to write a new state constitution in 1866, then served as Texas governor from 1866 to 1867. He also served 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. He served 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. He was then 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 helped map 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**⁴ of the Texas State Historical Association, an organization that works to preserve Texas history. He died in San Antonio on November 3, 1897.

⁴ **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. Molly, Gus, and several other family members formed a traveling musical performance group called the Bailey Family Troupe. Their group gave performances in Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas.

When the Civil War began in 1861, Mollie's husband Gus joined the Confederate Army of Alabama. He 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 as he traveled with the Confederate Army. She helped the 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 take medicine from the Union camps and bring 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. The United States government carried out this 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 have a lot of different information 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 where they farmed. 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.

When Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the U.S., many Southern states began to secede from the Union. Terry served as a delegate to the Texas secession convention in 1861 and voted in favor of secession. Soon after, Terry helped organize a cavalry company that helped capture a U.S. fort in Texas from Union control. In June 1861, Terry joined the Confederate Army and served for a short time in the Eastern Theater.

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. This unit would later come to be called "Terry's Texas Rangers." Terry's cavalry regiment received orders to serve in Virginia. Before they could arrive at their destination, however, Terry and his cavalry regiment were involved in a battle near Woodsonville, Kentucky, at the Battle of Rowlett Station, on December 17, 1861.

Terry's 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 Laredo family. 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 Laredo citizens informed about Texas politics, while maintaining independence for his community.

When the Civil War began in 1861, Benavides supported Texas' secession and joined the Confederate Army. Benavides became a captain in the 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 helped end 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. On March 19, 1864, Union troops tried to invade Laredo, but Benavides Regiment successfully defended the town and drove the Union troops out. Later that same year, Union troops occupied the south Texas town of Brownsville. During that time, Benavides negotiated terms that allowed Texans to continue safely transporting cotton across the border into Mexico. This allowed Texans to keep avoiding the Union blockade in order to trade through Mexico ports.

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.