



### **Potential Media Story Lines From the Texas Civil War Museum**

**War-time manufacturing:** How could a country sustain war with itself for 4 years with such unequal manufacturing deficits? Northern armories produced 1,449,369 long arms while the South produced 61,000. Northern armories produced 974,100 revolvers and the South produced only 8,475. The museum has the most complete set of guns outside of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

**Civil War food:** Ever wonder what the food tasted like that the Civil War soldier had to eat? At the museum you can taste hardtack which is still made today by the same bakery that supplied the Union army during the war. Hardtack is a cracker made from flour and water. The museum sells its hardtack plain, but the custom of the day was to fry it in fat and salt to taste.

**Bloodstains and bullet holes:** The museum has many items that demonstrate the difficult nature of the conflict. Many of these artifacts are part of a scavenger hunt available for younger children. There is a New Testament soaked in blood from the soldier who carried it. There is a blood-soaked flag from Franklin, Tennessee, where six generals died, including Granbury and Cleburne. Bullet holes are seen in a powder flask that was the fatal blow for a soldier in Terry's Texas Rangers. Hood's Brigade has its share of bullet holes as well; the finial of the 4<sup>th</sup> Texas flag has a spiral shape from a bullet as does the ledger book.

**Moving stories of individual participants:** The museum features artifacts from dozens of individuals who had fascinating roles in the Civil War. Private Robert Reynolds of Garnett's Light Artillery, Army of Northern Virginia, is remembered through his uniform coat and pants. He was captured on July 4, 1863 at Gettysburg and died in prison at Fort Delaware June 13, 1864. General Joe Shelby, of the Missouri Cavalry Division was the one-time commander of Jesse James and the Younger brothers. His coat is displayed and reminds us that he refused to surrender and led 700 men through Texas after the war on his way to Mexico. During this march he restored law and order where needed. Matthew F. Maury is remembered as the Pathfinder of the Sea. His sword is on display at the museum. He led the Confederate Navy, laid the Atlantic Cable and published works on navigation, naval reform, meteorology and astronomy. But he may be best remembered for publishing the *Wind and Current Chart of the North Atlantic*, which showed sailors how to use the ocean's currents and winds to their advantage and drastically reduced the length of ocean voyages. Maury's uniform system of recording oceanographic data was adopted by navies and merchant marines around the world and was used to develop charts for all the major trade routes. The story goes that in church one day he read that the creatures of sea followed a path in the sea. This inspired him to chart the waters. He also experimented with the

development of the torpedo. The museum houses one of only two torpedo mines known to exist. The museum's was recovered in Mobile Bay.

**Texas pride:** A 25-year-old bartender from Houston, Lt. Dick Dowling, commanded a group of fewer than 50 soldiers who used some ingenious tactics to defeat 4,000 Union troops and destroyed two Union gunboats at the Battle of Sabine Pass. The only medals given to Confederate soldiers during wartime were issued to Dowling's Davis Guards. Few are known to be in existence, and the museum has one.

**Veterans reclaim flag:** One of the battle flags survived because veterans of the infamous Hood Texas Brigade did not trust Reconstruction government. The flag was used at Eltham's Landing, Gaines Mill, and Second Manassas and was retired to the Texas State Archives after the Battle of Sharpsburg. When Reconstruction government was established the veterans felt the flag might be destroyed. They removed the flag from the archives and wrapped it in oil cloth and buried it near Baron Creek in Austin. After reconstruction, in 1871, the flag was exhumed and used by the veterans until it was donated to the UDC in 1904. This flag will be among the rotation of 60 flags at the museum.

**The last man standing:** It is widely believed that the last survivor of the Civil War was a Confederate. Walter Williams, born in Mississippi, moved to Texas at 14 and fought in General Hood's Army. His job was to keep the army fed, and he hunted wild game for that purpose. President Eisenhower appointed him an honorary member of the Civil War Centennial Commission. Williams died in 1959 at the age of 117 and is buried in Franklin, Texas. The museum features post-war artifacts that belonged to Williams.

**Whatever happened to the Texas Confederate Museum?** This 100-year-old collection, housed at the State Capitol and Old Land Office in Austin from 1904 to 1988, reopens as a part of the Texas Civil War Museum in Fort Worth. The United Daughters of the Confederacy, which controlled this collection, is part of the partnership for the Texas Civil War Museum. The collection is in better shape than ever after spending the last 17 years in storage and conservation. The group's flag conservation program sparked Texas agencies and other states to renew efforts to conserve many banners that otherwise would not be saved.

**The state map:** Twenty-nine counties are named for Confederate veterans. Numerous towns, schools, institutions, buildings, streets, etc. named for Civil War veterans make up the fabric of our state map. After all, 90,000 Texans were involved in the Civil War, ten of which became Governors.

**Victorian fashion:** The fashion fad of wearing birds and feathers as decorations on hats in the 1890s caused such an outrage that the Audubon Society was formed. The Texas Civil War Museum has several "bird hats" on display in its Victorian dress gallery. Females as young as the age of 3 trained their waistline to become smaller through the use of underpinnings. Although this made for a pretty figure, it sometimes caused disfigurement. The museum showcases various underpinnings used during the Victorian era. Tussie Mussie, sometimes referred to as a nose gay, was an essential accessory. It was a little flower arrangement used to mask offensive odors. Tussie Mussies were also used to send secret messages to friend or foe for affectionate and malevolent wishes. The tradition is carried on today in bride's bouquets and Valentine roses.

**Medical:** At the beginning of the Civil War the U.S. Military Medical Corps began its war service with 87 men. By war's end it had more than 11,000. Advancement in medical care was due in large part to the **Sanitary Commission**. The Commission was made up of mostly women and extended itself to 2,500 communities throughout the north. Its purpose was to assist with hospital duties, provide medical care and supply basic needs such as bandages and food. After the war the women had strong participation in the women's suffrage movement as well as many philanthropic groups. The Commission influenced Clara Barton to start the **American Red Cross**. The museum displays a Sanitary Commission flag which flew over Hospital #15 in Beaufort, SC. *"Surgeon, Come swiftly, this soldier has an ague due to apoplexy. He has dyspnea and I fear mortification. He needs anodynes before we amputate."* Translated in today's speech this would read, *"Dr. Come quickly this soldier has a fever due to a cranial hemorrhage. He has difficulty breathing and he might die. He needs pain killers before we remove his limb."* Medical technology and hospital care at the beginning of the Civil War could be described as crude. Doctors only attended three semesters of medical school. Three out of four operations were amputations using a scalpel and a saw. The total procedure lasted an average of 15 minutes. Ironically, amputation saved more lives than it killed. At the museum there are medical kits such as the one belonging to Surgeon J.W. Tuttle, 29<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry. Other items belonging to the caregivers and the patients are on display.

One soldier who did not get to experience medical care was Major Peter Keenan, Co. C, 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry. In 1863, he led 250 men against 10,000 Confederates in hopes of slowing the Confederates advance at Chancellorsville, VA. Keenan was killed along with about 150 of his men. His frock coat is on display at the museum along with many other Union artifacts.