John Bell Hood (1831 – 1879)
United States and Confederate States Army Officer
He was appointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point. After service in Missouri and California, he was promoted and assigned to the elite Second United States Cavalry, with which he served on the Texas frontier. Dissatisfied with his native Kentucky's neutrality, Hood declared himself a Texan. Upon his resignation from the United States Army, he was commissioned a captain in the regular Confederate cavalry. Hood was promoted to brigadier general and given command of what became known as Hood's Texas Brigade, perhaps the finest brigade of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. His division served at Second Manassas (Second Bull Run), Sharpsburg (Antietam), Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg.

John Reagan (1818 – 1905)
Texas Democratic party leader and Confederate postmaster general
Soon after arrival in Texas, Reagan became involved in the Cherokee War and participated in an engagement in which the Indians were routed and their leader, Chief Bowles, was killed. For the next two years Reagan worked as a deputy surveyor and frontier scout before being elected a justice of the peace and captain of a militia company in Nacogdoches. When Texas became a state in 1846, Reagan began his political career. In East Texas he helped the Democratic Party defeat the surging American (Know-Nothing) party. The Democrats nominated and elected him United States congressman from the Eastern District of Texas. In Washington he attended to constituent needs and dealt with the controversy over the status of slavery in Kansas. In 1861, Reagan resigned his congressional seat, returned to Texas, and for the next four years served the Confederate States of America. After reading northern journals and newspapers that revealed the depth of animosity and bitterness toward the South, he wrote an open communication to the people of Texas in which he appealed to them, as conquered people, to recognize the authority of the United States, renounce immediately both secession and slavery, and, if commanded by the federal government, extend the "elective franchise" to former slaves. Otherwise, he predicted, Texas would face the "twin disasters" of military despotism and universal black suffrage. In 1875 he was a delegate to the Texas Constitutional Convention that framed the Constitution of 1876. Reagan led the Railroad Commission. It served not as a neutral regulator of Texas railroads but more as an institution capable of aiding the state's manufacturers and thus directing the growth of the state's economy. In 1897 he helped found the Texas State Historical Association.