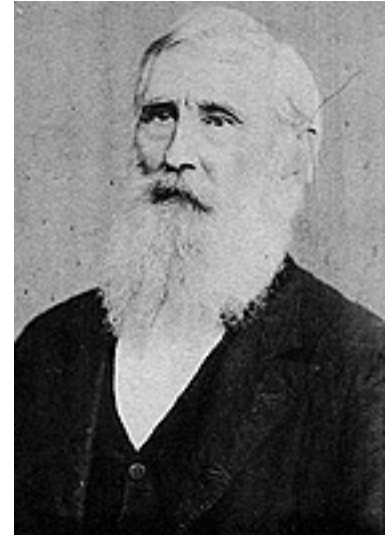


Oran Milo Roberts

July 9, 1815 - May 19, 1898

Colonel

11th Texas Infantry



Oran. M. Roberts strongly influenced Texas history as District Attorney, District Judge, Associate Justice & Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court, President of the Texas Secession Convention, Colonel of the 11th Texas Infantry-CSA, twice Governor of Texas and Professor of Law at the University of Texas. He also helped preserve Texas history as the first president of the Texas State Historical Association, and as contributor of several important writings on Texas military and political history.

Roberts was born in South Carolina on July 9, 1815. He graduated from the University of Alabama in 1836 and was admitted to the bar the following year. He served one term in the Alabama Legislature before moving to Texas in 1841. After opening a law practice in San Augustine Texas, Roberts held positions as district attorney, district judge, and in 1857, associate judge of the Supreme Court of Texas.

Roberts was a strong advocate of secession, and was elected president of the Secession Convention that met in Austin in early 1861. When Texas seceded, Roberts entered the Confederate Army as a Colonel in command of the 11th Texas Infantry a regiment formed in Houston, Texas, during the winter of 1861-1862. Many of the men were recruited in the towns of Clarksville, Henderson, and Marshall, and the counties of Cherokee and Shelby. In September of 1862, the regiment was combined with General Horace Randal's Brigade, Walker's Division, Trans-Mississippi Department. In November of 1863, the 11th Texas Infantry joins the 15th Texas Infantry and the 18th Texas Infantry in a temporary attachment to Brigadier General Tom Green's command. In November 1863, Colonel Roberts was placed in command of the 11th, 15th and 18th Texas Infantry at the Battle of Bayou Bourbeux. Colonel Roberts resigned from the Confederate Army in 1864 to become Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court.

After the war, Roberts became a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1866 and was elected to the U. S. Senate, but was refused his seat because of his Confederate service in the war. He returned as chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court in 1874, then successfully ran for Governor of Texas serving 2 terms, January 21, 1879 - January 16, 1883..

After retiring from politics, Roberts joined the teaching staff at the University of Texas, where he acquired the sobriquet of "Old Alcade." His historical contributions include a large section in D. G. Wooton's Comprehensive History of Texas, and chapters about Texas and Texans in C. A. Evan's Confederate Military History. Roberts helped organize and became the first president of the Texas State Historical Association. He died in Austin on May 19, 1898 and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Austin, Texas.



"While Texas will mourn the loss of her brave sons, she will treasure the memory as the glorious martyrs of our common country's independence"

Colonel Oran M. Roberts
Commanding
11th, 15th, 18th Texas Infantry
BATTLE of BAYOU BOURBEUX
Camp near Opelousas, La.
November, 1863

