

# BRINGING HISTORY TO THE CLASSROOM:

## Outreach for Museums

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TRAVELING TRUNK SPONSORED BY:  
THE SUMMERLEE FOUNDATION Summerfield G. Roberts Foundation of Dallas

## THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY CIVIL WAR TRAIL

A Traveling Trunk for K-12 Education  
Educational tools included in trunk:

- Uniforms and Accessories
- Replica Currency
- Educational Posters
- 56 Lesson Plans Book
- Companion Book

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley College of Liberal Arts HOUSTON ENDOWMENT CHAPS

## PROJECT HISTORY: HOW DID WE GET IT DONE?

And so a project was born through collaborative minds  
\*Dr. Russell Skowronek and Dr. Christopher Miller

Regional Research  
\*boots on the ground  
\*community partners

Grant proposals  
\*in-kind donors (NPS-mobile web)

Utilization of in-house UTRGV services  
\* website development <http://www.utrgv.edu/civilwar-trail>  
\* brochure/map development  
\* audio podcast [UTRGV | Bagdad](#)

Curriculum/lesson plans aligned with TEKS  
\*Dr. Rolando Avila, Ed.D.

2-Day community launch / debut event

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TOURISM BROCHURE/MAP



200 mile trail Laredo-Brownsville



**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**

Initiated February 2015

6 hour professional-development workshop for regional K-12 educators

Combination of lectures, hands-on trunk instruction and curriculum development sessions

Each participating school district will get one trunk to keep



**TRAVELING TRUNK ITEMS**

Inventory: total cost approximately \$1,000

- Federal Fatigue Jacket
- Confederate Sack Coat
- Federal Forage Cap "Bummer"
- Slouch Hat with Hat Cord
- US Regulation Haversack with Inner Bag
- Nurse's Dress with Apron, Cap & Sleeves
- US, Confederate, & Texas Star Belt Plates
- Round Eagle Breast Plate for Cartridge Box
- 35-Star US Civil War Era Flag
- 33rd Texas Cavalry Confederate Flag
- 34th Regiment Indiana Volunteers Union Flag
- Mineral Salt
- Raw Cotton
- Replica Coins and Paper Currency
- Canteen
- Brass Crossed Sabers/Cavalry
- Tourism Map of 200 mile Trail



**STUDENTS CAN DRESS AS SOLDIERS AND CAMP NURSE**



**BELT BUCKLES AND HAT INSIGNIA**

CROSS SWORDS - CAVALRY  
BUGLE/HORN - INFANTRY

**NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRADE: COTTON AND SALT**



**OTHER POSTERS INCLUDE:**

- Flags Along the Rio Grande
- Weapons of the Civil War
- Uniforms of the Civil War (Confederate Soldier Uniforms)
- Uniforms of the Civil War (Union Soldier Uniforms)

Flags Poster      Weapons Poster      Uniforms Poster

## PUBLICATIONS

**Scholarly Edited Anthology**

- The Civil War on the Rio Grande, 1846-1876: Essays on an Under Told Story
- January 2019  
Texas A&M Press

**Tourism Guide Book**

- Blue & Gray on the Border: The Rio Grande Valley Civil War Trail
- November 2018  
Texas A&M Press

**Teachers' Guide Book**

- April 2018

### WHAT HAVE WE ACCOMPLISHED?

- Anyone can travel the trail "virtually" via
  - Dedicated webpage with UTRGV
  - Mobile web with National Park Service
  - Distribution of 30,000 brochures
  - Bi-lingual
- Community Engagement and Professional Conferences
  - Public lectures at regional museums, historical societies and community organizations
  - Texas State Historical Association
- Professional Development Workshops for K-12 Educators and Administrators (4)

The University of Texas  
Rio Grande Valley  
College of Liberal Arts

## CHAIRMAN'S AWARD FOR COMMUNITY EDUCATION TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION – JULY 2016

"The Rio Grande Valley Civil War Trail is the epitome of a community-based project made possible with collaborations between city, county, state and federal organizations," Nau said. "You have done a remarkable job interpreting and sharing an under-told chapter of our history. We are excited to see what the future holds for this esteemed initiative."

John L. Nau III  
Texas Historical Commission Chairman  
July 2016

For complete article, go to:  
<http://www.utrgv.edu/en-us/about-utrgv/news-press-releases/2016/august-19-chaps-programs-rgv-civil-war-trail-project-garners-statewide-award-from-thc/index.htm>

## FUTURE PLANS

Rio Grande Valley Civil War Trail – Finale Event - February 2019

Traveling Museum Exhibit Launch – UTRGV Visitor's Center

Documentary Film Release – *Just a Ferry Ride to Freedom*

Community Engagement Event – Public Lecture Series – Book(s) Signing

Final Teacher Professional Development Workshop



## LESSONS LEARNED

Important to build a solid team – those with strengths in all aspects involved

Impress those you ask to help with advanced preparation

Stay connected to those who can help you – Texas Historical Commission, Region One ESC, local teachers/educators/administrators, living history personnel and reenactors

Expand into libraries and museums



## OUR MISSION

“The Rio Grande Civil War Trail showcases an important part of South Texas history. This is the untold story of the complicated cross-border, multi-sided Civil War era specific to the Rio Grande Valley in both Texas and Mexico that took place most intensively between 1861 and 1867, yet the roots of which reach back to at least 1846 and extend forward to at least 1877.”

Christopher Miller, Ph.D. CHAPS Associate Director and UTRGV History Professor

“It is our hope that these lessons and activities will create opportunities for the study of local history in a way that will transform the local community into a laboratory for learning. It is also our hope that as students engage in these lessons and activities, they will become better prepared for state standardized tests and overall academic achievement.”

Rolando Avila, Ed.D. UTRGV Lecturer, History



## QUESTIONS? CONTACT US

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