During the American Civil War, forts were established along the Texas Gulf Coast. They were designed to protect blockade runners and southern ports from Union Forces.

Confederate Captain Julius Getulius Kellersberger, a native of Switzerland, was responsible for the design and construction of many of the forts along the Texas Gulf Coast.

“The patriot who on the tented field gallantly braves danger, disease and death for his country’s cause and his country's good, never loses sight of his ‘girls’ at home and when it so happens that his line of communication is interrupted, confusion and discontent similar to that which insues (sic) upon the successful execution of a ‘flank movement’ by a wily General, invariably arises.”

Dr. Thomas B. Grayson, Timmons” Regiment CSA
Fort Randall- Mud Island, Texas September 23, 1864
Letter to wife, Carrie

Local citizens were recruited to serve not only abroad, but also in local forts and as mobile units.