



Upcoming Events

* **Spring 2022** —
Annual General Mem-
bership Meeting

Our Links:

[Friends of Raymond
MS on Facebook](#)

[Friends of Raymond
Web Site](#)

[Friends of Raymond
on Instagram](#)

[Friends of Raymond
on Flickr](#)

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FOR Annual General Membership Meeting 2022

The Board of Directors voted during their Board meeting on January 4, 2022, to **postpone the 2022 FOR Annual General Membership Meeting normally held each January.**

Considering the continuing Covid-19 worldwide pandemic and recent case surge in Mississippi, the Board felt it would be unwise to host a large event at this time. We discussed hosting a virtual meeting, but the 2021 virtual meeting was not well-attended, and we feel that many members may not have access to the necessary technology or feel comfortable with this medium. A major part of the Annual Meeting each January is the fellowship, friendship, food, and conversation - which is just not possible with a virtual meeting.

The FOR Board members continue to meet every month, in person when we can and via Zoom meeting when we cannot be in person. Rest assured that FOR business and activities continue despite these last two (highly unusual) years. We are trying to keep you informed through this Newsletter, Facebook page and Instagram, and our newly redesigned website at www.friendsofraymond.org.

We are looking forward to the months ahead when this current surge has run its course and we can all get back together again. Our plans are to host a really fantastic meeting as soon as we can, hopefully this Spring when weather is warm, and we can gather outside. Start planning your potluck meals, get your outfits ready, and stay tuned for your invitation to the **2022 Friends of Raymond Annual Membership Meeting!**



2022 Memberships

It is time to renew your annual FOR membership for 2022!

If you have not already become a member, now is a good time to join!

Just complete the form below and mail it to us

OR

Donate online and send the requested information to us via email at

friendsofraymond@outlook.com

Remember, Friends of Raymond, LLC, is a 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization and a Mississippi Charity with the Secretary of State. In addition to online donations, we appreciate stock donations, checks, and cash. All donations are used directly for Friends of Raymond activities. We are an all-volunteer organization and do not have paid staff.

DONATE BUTTON

You can now make donations at www.friendsofraymond.org through PayPal, debit, or credit cards. Remember—all donations are tax deductible!

We've simplified your options for Year End Giving! Click here to make a tax-deductible donation.

Donate



Additional Methods of Supporting Friends of Raymond

Contribution Options

FRIEND—Under \$100 (Annual)

VOTING MEMBER—\$100 to \$4,999 (Annual)

LIFETIME MEMBER—\$5,000 and above

I/We would like to support the mission of FOR. Enclosed is a check for \$ _____.

Name(s) _____, _____

Email for Newsletter: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

PLEASE, WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO PROVIDE NEWSLETTERS

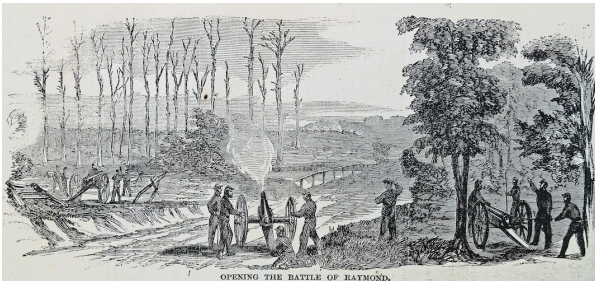
Please mail your check made payable to:

Friends of Raymond, P. O. Box 1000, Raymond, MS 39154-1000

OR donate online at www.friendsofraymond.org

Raymond Battlefield Update

Back in 1998, a group of volunteers met to talk about preserving the site of the Battle of Raymond, which was fought on May 12, 1863, outside the town of Raymond. As part of the campaign to capture Vicksburg, General Ulysses S. Grant devised a plan to get past Confederate guns on the high bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River and march from the south and enter Vicksburg from its eastern side. In the process, Grant's army met resistance at Raymond in the form of Confederate troops under the command of General John Gregg from Texas. On a hot, humid day in May, a small body of Confederate troops tried to hold back the much larger Union army under Generals Grant, Sherman, and McPherson. That clash took place on ground that now belongs to Friends of Raymond, LLC.



With the recent purchase of the Artillery Ridge property where the cannon line sits, Friends of Raymond owns over 160 acres of the original battlefield, located along both sides of Highway 18 south of Raymond, and has agreements for additional acreage for the Texas Monument and the Confederate Battery. In addition, Friends of Raymond has installed interpretive markers explaining who fought there and how the battle took place; replica cannons representing both the Union and Confederate guns; a paved Walking Trail along Fourteen Mile

Creek; and a Rail Fence as depicted in a contemporary drawing of the battle and recounted in soldiers' diaries. Friends of Raymond continues to maintain the property and its assets, which requires both money and volunteers. We are responsible for the mowing; maintenance of the cannons, markers, and rail fence; managing erosion at Fourteen Mile Creek near the old bridge; and upkeep of the Walking Trail.

All this acreage and the battlefield assets were made possible through private donations from people all over the United States. These folks have largely been inspired to help preserve the Raymond Battlefield through the efforts of retired **Brigadier General Parker Hills**, who has tirelessly and selflessly given his time, energy, and talents to this project. There are more projects to be done at the Battlefield:

- ◆ Install 12 new interpretive markers on the Raymond Walking Trail and Battlefield
- ◆ Repair the caisson at the Confederate Battery
- ◆ Move two markers from McPherson Ridge to East Artillery Ridge
- ◆ Construct bridges over ditches and low ground along battlefield trails
- ◆ Repaint and relocate the state historical marker "Battle of Raymond" on the Highway 18 bridge
- ◆ Repaint the state historical marker "Hinds County Courthouse" in Raymond

If you would like to be part of the Raymond Battlefield Improvements project, please consider donating your time and money to Friends of Raymond in 2022. We need your support to continue preservation of this historic battlefield!

Enhancing an Already Beautiful Downtown!

Visitors to Raymond often remark on the charm and beauty of our downtown area, especially the cityscape surrounding our historic water tower.



Raymond— Then and Now Mural is Complete!

Thanks to the efforts of Friends of Raymond, our city square is becoming even more inviting. [FOR](#), [Merchants & Planters Bank](#), [Gaddis & McLaurin](#), [Gaddis Farms](#), and other generous sponsors are bringing a panoramic mural to life. A complete list of donors will be posted on the FOR website when the mural is completed.

Entitled “*Raymond, Then and Now*,” this breathtaking mural is unfolding before our very eyes as master artisan [Albert Smathers](#) populates this mural with people and places from Raymond’s history.

The response to the mural from the community has been overwhelming and most gratifying! Donations and well wishes have poured in from local citizens and from Raymond natives now living far and wide. The mural is impressive from an aesthetic viewpoint and invigorating because of the joyous esprit de corps it inspires in our hometown.

FOR partnered with the [Raymond Garden Club](#) to add further beautification to our downtown with the verdant and welcoming landscaping around the courthouse, implemented by [Schoggen’s Landscaping](#).



FORward

Friends of Raymond



Friends of Raymond

P. O. Box 1000
Raymond, MS 39154

Email:
friendsofraymond@outlook.com

Web:
www.friendsofraymond.org

Newsletter

In an effort to use funds wisely,
Friends of Raymond will limit mailing of paper newsletters to members, Generals and special requests.

We will gladly **email** newsletters to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please be sure to provide us with your email address. You can send it to us at friendsofraymond@outlook.com.

Friends of Raymond Mission and Membership

Friends of Raymond, Inc. was founded in 1998 as a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, management and promotion of Raymond's history and historical sites. Friends of Raymond is a 501(c)(3) corporation and all memberships and donations are tax deductible.

Contribution Options

FRIEND—Under \$100 (Annual) VOTING MEMBER—\$100 to \$4,999 (Annual) LIFETIME MEMBER—\$5,000 and above

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OR donate online at www.friendsofraymond.org