



THE JOHNSTON JOURNAL

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Albert Sidney Johnston Camp 67 – Houston, Texas
Wednesday, 15 April 2009

Join us for a presentation by Mark Vogl on

“Dixie’s Greatest Secret, the Confederate Navy”

The Briar Club (Westheimer at Timmons Lane)

5:30 pm Executive Board meeting

(all camp members in good standing are invited to attend)

6:30 pm Happy Hour — Cash Bar

7:00 pm Dinner and Camp Meeting

Commander Raymond Holder

First Lt. Commander Robert Shivers

Second Lt. Commander Everette Gardner

Third Lt. Commander Peter Gryska

Adjutant/Treasurer Bill Holmes

Please RSVP to

Raymond Holder 254-624-3990 or holderraymond@hotmail.com

or Bill Holmes or bholmes@patriotbankusa.com

“...if I had foreseen the use those people designed to make of their victory, there would have been no surrender at Appomattox Courthouse; no sir, not by me. Had I foreseen these results of subjugation, I would have preferred to die at Appomattox with my brave men, my sword in my right hand.

Robert E Lee

Sept 1870

www.scvcamp67.org



Mark Vogl is a graduate of THE CITADEL, former Army combat arms officer, college professor, political aide, and author.

His first book, “**Military Lessons of the Civil War,**” was published in the spring of 2007 and received the Jefferson Davis Historical Gold medal from the United Daughters of the Confederacy. His second book “**The Rebel Mountain Reader,**” is a book which includes many of the presentations listed below, and more.

Mark is the great great grandson of Private David Parks Walter, 33rd North Carolina Volunteers, part of the famed Lane’s brigade, Stonewall Jackson’s Corps, Army of Northern Virginia! Mark has been a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans since 1992, and presently serves as the 1st Lt. Commander of the Northeast Texas Brigade.

Important Dates

20 May 2009 – Speaker: Anne Bailey

The Commander’s Corridor

I would like to express my thanks for Peter, our 3rd Lt. commander, for our wonderful, informative speakers. and to Bryan for his direct role in securing these speakers. Evan Gardener, our 2nd Lt. Commander, is pursuing a number of prospective members, which is most appreciative by all of us. Robert Shivers, our 1st Lt. commander is bringing forth our Johnston Journal. Please e-mail your reservation for our wednesday, the 15th meeting at the Briar Club soon. Please keep the faith in remembering our confederate ancestor, and what they fought for.

Raymond Holder, Commander

Albert Sidney Johnston camp # 67 of Houston, Texas

www.scvcamp67.org



This Day in Confederate History – April

"Other states have reputations to win, but the Sons of the Alamo and San Jacinto have theirs to uphold"

Jefferson Davis

Address given to the Texas Brigade

1 April 1862 McClellan's Ponderous Movement

Gen. George McClellan was moving both his army and himself today, and moving is never an enjoyable process. The Army of the Potomac had to be transferred from its home base near Alexandria, just outside Washington, to Ft. Monroe, Va. This involved going down the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. The general himself also had to move his headquarters, his staff and all their paperwork to a new site near Yorktown. The people of Richmond were donating the bells of their churches to be melted into cannon.

2 April 1864 Ill Fated Red River Campaign Underway

It was supposed to be the last big combined Army-Navy sweep to clear the remaining Confederate forces out of the Trans-Mississippi, specifically the Red River of Louisiana. Gen. Nathaniel Banks led the Army side of the operation. Theoretically these soldiers were always to stay within mortar range of the riverboats of the Navy side of the operation, under Admiral D. D. Porter himself. Further insurance for the federal operations was being provided by Maj. Gen. Frederick Steele, who was moving south out of Camden to guarantee that Banks was not bothered on his way to Shreveport. He would not succeed.

3 April 1862 Albert Sidney Johnston Mobilizes for Shiloh

Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston was supposed to be leading an army towards the Tennessee River hamlet of Pittsburg Landing. Their mission: destroy the Union army under Gen. U. S. Grant. Unfortunately, as was often the case in attempts to move large numbers of men, supplies, weapons, ammunition, horses and suchlike items, delays of one sort or another delayed the entire army. Johnston feared that he was losing the element of surprise. Skirmishes occurred near a building called Shiloh Church.

4 April 1863 Admiral Semmes takes a prize

Captain Ralph Semmes, commander of the CSS Alabama, was possibly the premiere Confederate Naval force of the war, roaming the oceans of the world to gather supplies and harass Union boats. Today he captured a coal ship, Louisa off the coast of Brazil. Instead of sinking it he took it with him. As it happened he missed a supply ship a week later and needed the coal. He took it from Louisa, then sank her.

5 April 1862 Magruder Frustrates McClellan

Yorktown, Va., was the venue for fun on the Peninsula today. Gen. John Magruder, CSA, was defending with inadequate numbers. He faced Gen. George McClellan, USA, who had twice as many men. Magruder's solution was to march his troops around in a large circle, making it appear to McClellan's scouts that huge numbers of reinforcements were arriving. McClellan became nervous and dug in for siege instead of attacking. The real reinforcements, under J.E. Johnston, were on the way.

6 April 1862 Albert Sidney Johnson dies

Rebel yells were heard in the Tennessee dawn as Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston's men burst out of the woods into the Union lines of William T. Sherman's men. As the day wore on, fighting on a horrendous scale occurred that would make certain places immortal in American history: the Sunken Road, the Hornet's Nest, Bloody Pond, the Peach Orchard. Among the dead that day: Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston. Hit in the leg, the wound was thought insignificant, until he died minutes later from loss of blood.

7 April 1862 Shiloh Settles into Silence

The Battle of Shiloh entered its second day with the arrival of Union reinforcements under Gen. Lew Wallace (who had to survive in order to write "Ben-Hur" years later) and Gen. Don Carlos Buell enabling Grant to declare it a Union victory since the day ended with them in possession of the field. In terms of casualties it was closer to a draw: 1754 Union dead, 1723 Confederate. The total casualties, dead, wounded and missing, were nearly 24,000--more than the Battle of Waterloo.

8 April 1864 - Battle of Mansfield, Louisiana

The Red River campaign of Union General Nathaniel Banks grinds to a halt when Confederate General Richard Taylor routs Banks' army at Mansfield, Louisiana.

9 April 1865 Lee surrenders

General Robert E. Lee surrenders his army to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. They met at a house in Appomattox at 2:00 p.m. on the afternoon of April 9. Lee was resplendent in his dress uniform and a fine sword at his side. Grant arrived wearing a simple soldier's coat that was muddy from his long ride. The generals spoke of their service in the Mexican War, and then set about the business at hand. Officers could keep their side arms, and all men would be immediately released to return home. Any officers and enlisted men who owned horses could take them home to help put crops in the field and carry their families through the next winter. These terms, said Lee, would have "the best possible effect upon the men," and "will do much toward conciliating our people." The papers were signed and Lee prepared to return to his men.

10 April 1865 Lee's last orders

One day after surrendering General Robert E. Lee addresses his army for the last time.

"After four years of arduous service, marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources. I need not tell the brave survivors of so many hard-fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to the result from no distrust of them...I determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen...I bid you an affectionate farewell."

11 April 1862 Fall of Fort Pulaski, Georgia

Fort Pulaski, guarding the mouth of the Savannah River in Georgia, surrenders after a two-day Union bombardment tears great holes in the massive fort.

The imposing masonry stronghold was named for Polish Count Casimir Pulaski, who was killed at Savannah by British troops during the American Revolution. The destruction of Fort Pulaski signaled an end to the era of brick fortifications, though, which had been made obsolete by the new rifled artillery.

12 April 1864 Fort Pillow

General Nathan Bedford Forrest's troops overwhelm Fort Pillow

13 April 1861 Fort Sumter surrenders

After a thirty-three hour bombardment by Confederate cannon, Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor surrenders. The first engagement of the war was over, and the only casualty had been a Confederate horse. The Union force was allowed to leave for the north; before leaving, the soldiers fired a 100-gun salute. During the salute, one soldier was killed and another mortally wounded by a prematurely exploding cartridge. The Civil War had officially begun.

14 April 1861 Charleston Celebrates

Parades, celebrations and a general holiday occurred in Charleston, South Carolina today as the defeated Union garrison of Fort Sumter packed up and left. They boarded the ships which had been standing offshore, unknown to them, bringing the supplies which might have allowed them to hold out longer against attack. In Charleston special services of thanksgiving were held in churches. Gov. Pickens said, perhaps prematurely, "We have met them and we have conquered."

16 April 1863 Passage of Vicksburg

Admiral David Dixon Porter leads 12 ships past the heavy barrage of Confederate artillery at Vicksburg, Mississippi. He lost only one ship, and the operation speeded General Ulysses S. Grant's movement against Vicksburg.

17 April 1864 Battle of Plymouth, North Carolina, begins

Confederate forces attack Plymouth, North Carolina, in an attempt to recapture ports lost to the Union two years before. The four-day battle ended with the fall of Plymouth, but the Yankees kept the city bottled up with a flotilla on nearby Albemarle Sound.

18 April 1864 Battle of Poison Springs, Arkansas

The cavalry expedition of Gen. John Marmaduke, CSA, scored its first victory today in a battle at Poison Springs, Ark. They came upon a large Federal wagon train, made up of foragers who were trying to unite with Banks' part of the Red River expedition. After a short but sharp battle the Federals fled, leaving their wagons behind, all 158 of them.

19 April 1864 Battle of Plymouth, North Carolina, continues

Things were looking grim for the Union garrison at Plymouth, N.C. Under attack for two days, they had been saved yesterday by the arrival of two gunboats. Today, at 3:30 a.m., the counterattack came--the dreaded CSS Albermarle arrived. She immediately attacked the USS Miami and Southfield, which had been tied together for steadier firing. Southfield was fatally rammed, and the crew frantically cut the cables as the survivors scrambled aboard Miami. Miami turned tail and ran.

20 April 1861 Lee resigns from U.S. Army

Colonel Robert E. Lee resigns from the United States army two days after he was offered command of the Union army and three days after his native state, Virginia, seceded from the Union.

The next year, Lee assumed command of the Army of Northern Virginia after General Joseph Johnston was wounded in battle. Lee quickly turned the tables on Union General George B. McClellan, as he would several other commanders of the Army of the Potomac. His brilliance as a battlefield tactician earned him a place among the great military leaders of all time.

21 April 1863 Steight's Raid derailed by Forrest

Union Colonel Abel Steight begins a raid into northern Alabama and Georgia with the goal of cutting the Western and Atlantic Railroad between Chattanooga and Atlanta. The raid ended when Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest captured Steight's entire command near Rome, Georgia.

Finally, Forrest confronted the exhausted Union troops. Under a flag of truce, they discussed terms of surrender on May 3. Forrest had just 600 men, less than half of what Steight now possessed. But Forrest spread his men around the woods. As he met with Steight, couriers from nonexistent units rode up with reports. Steight took the bait, and agreed to surrender. When the Confederates finally emerged to gather the Yankee's weaponry, the Union colonel realized that he had been had by the crafty Forrest.

22 April 1863 Grierson's raid cuts telegraph wires near Macon

Colonel Benjamin Grierson's troops bring destruction to central Mississippi on a two-week raid along the entire length of the state.

23 April 1863 Séance in the White House

This night a séance was held at the White House, with participants including the President and First Lady as well as many cabinet members. There were reports that after Mr and Mrs. Lincoln left, the "spirits" tweaked the nose of Secretary of War Stanton, and tugged on Navy Secretary Welles' beard.

24 April 1863 Confederate Tithe

Like all governments, that of the Confederate States of America was faced with the obligation of raising funds to support its operations. When the operations included fighting a war for independence, it became a case of desperate times calling for desperate measures. Today a "tax in kind" was enacted, requiring a one-tenth contribution of all produce of the land.

25 April 1864 Battle of Mark's Mills, Arkansas

For the second time in a week, a Confederate force captures a Union wagon train trying to supply the Federal force at Camden, Arkansas. This time, the loss forced Union General Frederick Steele to withdraw back to Little Rock.

26 April 1864 Yankee Red River Campaign Bogs Down

The Red River expedition had already been given up on and written off as a failure, but even giving up was proving to be exceedingly difficult. The water level on the river was dropping so fast, due to an ongoing drought, that the ships were under constant attack from shore. The ships above the rapids were trapped, and the others, including Admiral Porter's flagship USS Cricket, were hit repeatedly by small arms and even artillery fire from Gen. Richard Taylor's men.

27 April 1865 Sultana Disaster

The steamboat *Sultana* explodes on the Mississippi River near Memphis, killing 1,700 passengers including many discharged Union soldiers. When the *Sultana* left Vicksburg, it carried 2,100 troops and 200 civilians, more than six times its capacity. On the evening of April 26, the ship stopped at Memphis before cruising across the river to pick up coal in Arkansas. As it steamed up the river above Memphis, a thunderous explosion tore through the boat. Metal and steam from the boilers killed hundreds, and hundreds more were thrown from the boat into the chilly waters of the river. The Mississippi was already at flood stage, and the "Sultana" had only one lifeboat and a few life preservers. Only 600 people survived the explosion. A board of inquiry later determined the cause to be insufficient water in the boiler--overcrowding was not listed as a cause. The *Sultana* accident is still the largest maritime disaster in U.S. history.

28 April 1864 Yankee Red River Woes, cont.

Union Admiral D. D. Porter was in deep trouble over shallow water. He had taken a fleet up the Red River in triumph and was now trying to get a rapidly shrinking number of ships back down and was failing. "I find myself blockaded by the fall of 3 feet of water....seven feet being required to get over; no amount of lightening will accomplish the object....in the meantime the enemy are splitting up into parties...and bringing in artillery."

29 April 1864 Yankee Red River Woes, cont.

Admiral Porter's fleet seemed doomed. Trapped on the Red River, they heard today that their nemesis, Confederate Gen. Richard Taylor, was proposing to take one of their own disabled boats and refloat it use it as a fireboat to cause havoc and destruction to the Union fleet. Lt. Col. Joseph Bailey came up with a deranged plan. Among their troops were many Midwestern and Maine men with lumberjack experience. Bailey proposed to have them build a dam across the rapids. This would raise the water level under the ships enough than when the dam was blown, they would all get downstream. For lack of alternative, Porter and Banks, head of the land forces, agreed to let him try it.

30 April 1864 President Davis loses son

President Jefferson Davis and his wife Varina suffered the loss of their beloved son, Joe Davis, today. The exuberant five-year-old was, as boys that age often do, playing where he shouldn't have been, on the second-floor balcony of the Presidential home, the Confederate White House in Richmond. Somehow he slipped, toppled over the railing, and fell to the brick pavement below.

In the future some historian shall come forth both strong and wise,
With a love of the Republic, and the truth, before his eyes.
He will show the subtle causes of the war between the States,
He will go back in his studies far beyond our modern dates,

He will trace out hostile ideas as the miner does the lodes,
He will show the different habits born of different social codes,
He will show the Union riven, and the picture will deplore,
He will show it re-united and made stronger than before.

Slow and patient, fair and truthful must the coming teacher be
To show how the knife was sharpened that was ground to prune the tree.
He will hold the Scales of Justice, he will measure praise and blame,
And the South will stand the verdict, and will stand it without shame.

The Portsmouth Memorial Poem
James Barron Hope