



THE JOHNSTON JOURNAL

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Albert Sidney Johnston Camp 67 – Houston, Texas
Wednesday, 17 June 2009

Join us for a presentation by Craig Livingston on

Vicksburg

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 713 400 7152 or bholmes@patriotbankusa.com

"I worked night and day for twelve years to prevent the war, but I could not. The North was mad and blind, would not let us govern ourselves, and so the war came."

--- President Jefferson Davis

www.scvcamp67.org



**June Speaker: Craig Livingston,
Professor, Department of History
Montgomery College, Conroe Texas**

Topic: Vicksburg

Important Dates

**11 – 13 June 2009 – State Convention in Waco
15 July 2009 – Next Meeting**

New Members

Inducted at May Meeting:

Mr. John C. Beard, descendant of Capt. William Wiley Beard, 17th Louisiana Infantry, Company G

The Commander's Corridor

We are looking forward to our June meeting. Thanks to Jim Mims for our new look on the Camp website. Please comment to Jim or any of us.

Remember the SCV State Convention in Waco, 11 – 13 June.

The speakers we have every month continue to be excellent, which make for a really wonderful SCV meeting.

Raymond Holder, Commander

Albert Sidney Johnston camp # 67 of Houston, Texas





This Day in Confederate History – June

“Never take counsel of your fears!”

Gen. Stonewall Jackson

“Colonel Walker, did it ever occur to you that General Jackson is crazy?”

Gen. Dick Ewell

1 June 1862 Lee takes Command

The Battle of Seven Pines, intended to be a major blow to wipe out two corps of the Army of the Potomac, was turning into a debacle. Northern losses were 5000, but the South lost 6,000 they could ill afford, including the badly wounded commanding general Joseph Johnston. In his place Jefferson Davis named one Robert E. Lee. Arriving at the scene, Lee's first order to his new army was to have the attack discontinued.

2 June 1862 Jackson in the Valley

Gen. T. J. “Stonewall” Jackson and his swift-moving “foot cavalry” were clearly doomed. Chasing the defeated forces of Nathaniel Banks almost to the city limits of Harpers Ferry, they were being surrounded by a pincer movement of two Union forces. Jackson's assignment, though, was to keep Yankees out of the Shenandoah Valley, and having done that, he and his men slid-fairly quietly except for skirmishing around Strasburg and Woodstock, Va.--back home.

3 June 1863 Lee Heads Out North

The Army of Northern Virginia began pulling out from the vicinity of Fredericksburg today, with the corps of Gen. James Longstreet leading the way into the Shenandoah Valley behind a long ridge known (confusingly) as South Mountain. The first Confederate invasion of the North had gone no further than Sharpsburg, Md., resulting in the Battle of Antietam. Lee's motives for this summer's drive North have been endlessly debated, but high on the list were taking the war out of beleaguered Virginia and perhaps alarming the Union into suing for peace.

4 June 1863 Hooker Dazed and Confused

Gen. Joseph “Fighting Joe” Hooker, commander of the Army of the Potomac, was becoming more puzzled by the day. He was still patching his army back together after the debacle of Chancellorsville and facing the Confederate army across the Rappahannock. The Confederates were not all still facing him, however. Longstreet's corps had pulled out yesterday, and Ewell's followed today. Only A.P. Hill's corps remained on the riverbank. Hooker's problem was he had little idea of where the other corps had gone, and even less idea of why. Was this just a movement of camps or the start of a major campaign?

5 June 1863 Hooker Still Confused

First Longstreet's corps had moved out of the Fredericksburg area. The next day, Ewell's. Today it was the last Confederate corps, that of A. P. Hill, who packed up and moved out. Union Gen. Joseph Hooker tried to send out scouts across the Rappahannock to find out where everybody had gone, but they were turned back by pickets left by Hill. Hooker's commander-in-chief suggested, none too gently, that he get a move on and find out where they were moving to, and, if he felt like it, attack them. Hooker stalled until it was too late--they were gone. Lincoln was not amused.

6 June 1863 Brandy Station

One of the great cavalry reviews of all time took place today at Brandy Station, near the Rappahannock in northern Virginia. The 8000 assembled cavalymen of James Ewell Brown Stuart put on a full display. It was designed to show their talents to Robert E. Lee, but he was delayed so the show was staged for local citizens, dignitaries, and ladies, who had come in on a special railroad train to see the show.

7 June 1862 Beast Butler in New Orleans

A certain William B. Mumford was a dedicated Confederate, and he was not at all amused to be living in a town occupied by the heathen Yankee as his native New Orleans now was. His form of political protest was to pull down and burn the Stars and Stripes flying over the US Mint building in the French Quarter. Commander of the occupation force Gen. Ben Butler did nothing to improve his reputation for political incorrectness, ordering Mumford hanged. He was.

8 June 1862 Jackson in the Valley - Cross Keys

Gen. Thomas J. Jackson, operating in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, was clearly doomed. Not one but two Federal forces were approaching to catch him in a pincer movement. Battle took place at Cross Keys when Fremont's force attacked first. While this was going on Jackson was nearly captured by the other Federal unit approaching from the north. Ewell held off Fremont, Jackson escaped, and Fremont was ordered to pull back.

9 June 1862 Jackson in the Valley - Cross Keys

Yesterday was the battle of Cross Keys, and the Stonewall Jackson magic had worked again. It looked like his Valley Campaign was doomed as a two-pronged attack was launched against him, one arm led by Fremont and the other by James Shields. Once again Jackson's tactical brilliance was in evidence as he had neatly fended off both forces. Today, even closer to the little western Virginia town of Port Republic, he finished off the encroaching Federals by launching Ewell's command into the Union flank. Alarmed that they might be cut off, E.B. Tyler ordered a withdrawal. The Confederates followed to make sure they kept moving, then let them be.

10 June 1864 Brice's Crossroads

Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, USA, had been chasing Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest's Confederate cavalry force. Today an awful thing happened: he caught up with them. In what is variously known as the Battle of Brice's Crossroads or Tishomingo Creek, Mississippi, Forrest slammed into Sturgis' men, who were in a sorry state anyway from a fast forced march in extremely hot weather. The fight turned into a rout and Forrest captured most of the artillery and quite a few troops.

11 June 1864 Northern Depredations in the Shenandoah

U.S. Gen. David Hunter was in the middle of a campaign in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia that would make Sherman's March Through Georgia pale in comparison. While Phil Sheridan was busy fighting the Battle of Trevilian Station, claimed by some to be the biggest cavalry battle of the War, to join him, Hunter was busy in Lexington. First he burned the Virginia Military Institute, most of whose faculty, staff and students were off serving the Confederacy. He then committed depredations on historic Washington College, including, allegedly, stabling his men's horses in the main building. The major military consequence of this was that Hunter's delay allowed Jubal Early to join forces with Breckinridge at Lynchburg.

12 June 1862 Ride Around McClellan

One of the classic maneuvers of the early war began today as the cavalry of Gen. J.E.B. Stuart set forth on their march around the Army of the Potomac. Setting out at 2 a.m. from their camp near Port Republic, Va., with 1200 men, Stuart actually accomplished little of a military nature, but did succeed in hugely humiliating the Union commander, Gen. George McClellan, and his force. It also reinforced the idea that the Southern cavalry was inherently superior to that of the North.

13 June 1863 Hooker Finally Moves

After days of scouting, Gen. Joseph Hooker acknowledged that most of Robert E. Lee's men had departed from the banks of the Rappahannock at Fredericksburg and were heading north. After days of prodding by his commander-in-chief, Hooker agreed that perhaps he should do something about this, and he uprooted the Army of the Potomac from the site where they had been camped for months. Seeing Hooker leave, Confederate Gen. A. P. Hill, who had remained at Fredericksburg to fool Hooker into thinking the whole army was still there, concluded that he was now free to follow Lee as well.

14 June 1862 Stuart Returns

Jeb Stuart's men had been more or less constantly in the saddle since 2 a.m. three days before. They got off their horses today, but not for purposes of rest. They had reached the Chickahominy River to discover that the bridge they had been counting on at Forge Site had been destroyed by the Yankees. A frantic three hours' work repaired it enough for them to cross, and they began the final arc around the Union left. Stuart himself left the party under command of Fitzhugh Lee (nephew of Robert E.) and dashed for Richmond to report their findings.

15 June 1862 Jackson Frustrates Fremont

Gen. John C. Fremont had a simple job description: stop Stonewall Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley, preferably by defeating his forces and capturing or killing him. At the moment he couldn't even find him, nor figure out if he was going to be reinforced in the Valley or move out of it. Lincoln had a guess: Jackson "is much more likely to go to Richmond than Richmond is to come to him." Lincoln's guess was quite correct. Jackson was on the move.

16 June 1863 Hooker Still in the Dark

Commanding general of the Army of the Potomac Joseph Hooker seemed to have no end of trouble figuring out where Robert E. Lee's army was. It was no mystery to the citizens of the capital of Pennsylvania. Lee was clearly headed north, and Harrisburg decided to clear out en masse. Every train was packed, citizens loaded possessions into wagons and followed. Even the state government began packing state papers, books, paintings and other valuables to be evacuated.

17 June 1864 Lee moves to defend Petersburg

After three days of heavy fighting, some of the surprise factor was wearing off the Union army's attempt to capture Petersburg. Robert E. Lee was at last convinced that Grant was attacking there instead of Richmond, and sent the rest of the Army of Northern Virginia to its defense. The command of the Second Corps went to David Birney after Hancock was incapacitated by a reopening of the wound he had received a year earlier at Gettysburg. The attacks failed anyway.

18 June 1864 Siege of Petersburg begins

U.S. Grant was nothing if not realistic, and he conceded today that he was not going to take Petersburg, Va. by direct assault. Not after Robert E. Lee had moved the entire Army of Northern Virginia in to defensive positions, he wasn't. Therefore he settled into siege. The Union controlled two-fifths of the railroad lines and several roads. He concentrated his efforts on gaining possession of the remainder of the transport system and cutting off the flow of supplies.

19 June 1862 Confederate Electric Mines

Every war produces an arms race, and the American Civil War, coming as it did at a time of technological advancement anyway, was no exception. One such new nastiness was put to work in the James River today. Commander Maury of the Confederate States Navy was in charge of placing "electric mines" near Chaffin's Bluff to deter Union ships. Explosive charges were to propel pieces of boiler plate through a watertight wooden barrel. The batteries that powered the detonators were borrowed from the University of Virginia.

20 June 1864 John Hunt Morgan

Gen. John Hunt Morgan, CSA, was the scourge of Union-held areas in Kentucky, riding out of Tennessee. On one recent foray he had had several men captured. These were transferred today to the Federal prisoner-of-war camp at Rock Island Barracks in the Mississippi River between Iowa and Illinois. One of these prisoners, Pvt. James P. Gold, spent the rest of the war there because he refused to take the oath of loyalty to the Union. He lived until 1934, one of the last Civil War vets.

21 June 1863 Siege of Vicksburg

The siege of Vicksburg was beginning to feel, to those on both sides, as though it had gone on forever, and might easily continue for all time. "One day is like another in a besieged city," wrote one Confederate major today. "All you can hear are the crack of the Enemy's guns, with the sharp crack of the rifles of their sharpshooters going from early dawn to dark and then at night the roaring of the terrible mortars is kept up sometimes all this time." People's minds were beginning to be affected.

22 June 1863 Yankee Fishing Schooner Seized

One would think that the people least affected by the War of the Rebellion would be the salt-soaked fishermen of New England. Their sons may have gone off to fill the regiments of Connecticut and Maine, but there was still the same need for cod and whale oil as there ever was. Alas, they war came to them today, in the person of Charles Read. Not as famous as Captain Semmes and his Alabama, Read and his ship Tacony today added to his record of disrupting Federal maritime activities by seizing five fishing schooners off New England.

23 June 1862 Lee's Council of War

A very important meeting was held at Robert E. Lee's headquarters at Dabb's House north of Richmond. All principle generals were there, including Stonewall Jackson who had ridden ahead of his divisions to make it. The assessment: McClellan was getting too close to Richmond for comfort. The city could not withstand a siege. It was time to go on the offensive and turn McClellan's line and drive him back North. The decision reached, Jackson rode back to speed his divisions onward. The attack could not begin without them.

24 June 1863 Lee Moves North

Last year's invasion of Maryland by the Army of Northern Virginia had culminated in a vast battle in Sharpsburg, MD, on the banks of Antietam Creek. The forces of Gen. Lee were on the move again now, and the logic of geography dictated that they pass that way again, this time on their way to Pennsylvania. "Take Harrisburg if it comes within your grasp" were the orders to the lead forces. James Longstreet and A.P. Hill had passed not far from Harpers Ferry, and today they neared Antietam Creek again. A sharp but short skirmish broke out, and the number of ghosts increased.

25 June 1863 Stuart's Cavalry Detaches

It seemed like such a logical plan at the time: as the Army of Northern Virginia was moving north on the summer's great invasion, they knew where they were going. It did not seem that important to have the crack cavalry of Gen. J.E. B. Stuart available to scout ahead; if cavalry were needed, there were other units with the various corps that could do the job. Stuart therefore was given permission to detach his force for another "ride-around" intended to loop entirely around the Army of the Potomac, harassing, alarming and confusing them along the way, while picking up any supplies they came across. It would prove to be a terrible mistake, because the Army of the Potomac was on the move as well.

26 June 1862 The Seven Days: Mechanicsville

The battle is known by several names: Mechanicsville, Beaver Dam Creek and Ellerson's Mill among others. It was the second day of what none of the participants knew would come to be called the Seven Days campaign. It was a time of desperation for the Confederacy, as McClellan's forces were alarmingly close to Richmond. The plan seemed clear: Hill (A.P.) was to lead the way; Hill (D.H.) and Longstreet would follow up, and Jackson (Stonewall) would smack the Federal left. The problem was, Jackson never showed up. The rest of the operation went as planned until the Yankees got to Gaines Mill and stopped. A frontal charge was attempted but failed. Although the forces were fairly evenly matched the casualties were disproportionately Confederate.

27 June 1862: The Seven Days: Gaine's Mill

It was "second verse, same as the first" as the Seven Days' Battle entered into its third day today. For starters, this encounter is known today by an assortment of names: First Battle of Cold Harbor, Battle of the Chickahominy, or its best-known designation, the Battle of Gaines' Mill. Again, a main attack was supposed to be supported by Stonewall Jackson's men; again they failed to appear. A rare after-dark attack was mounted by Confederate Gens. John Bell Hood and George Pickett. It was initially successful in breaking through the Union lines, but again, there was no reinforcement or backup, and they had to withdraw.

28 June 1863 Hooker Relieved of Command

There are good ways to start a day, and less than good ways. Gen. George Gordon Meade was having one of the latter sort when utterly unexpected, and frankly unwelcome orders reached his tent at 7 o'clock this morning. Joseph Hooker's "request for reassignment" had been accepted, and Meade was henceforth commander of the Army of the Potomac. Unlike his predecessor, Meade had never plotted or maneuvered for such a command, and he was obliged to wire Secretary of War Halleck that he "was in ignorance of the exact condition of the troops"--his own--or "the position of the enemy." This latter Halleck was able to supply, as reports were pouring in from military and civilian sources alike as to the whereabouts and activities of the Confederates infesting Pennsylvania.

29 June 1863 Meade Scrambles

Gen. George Meade had received a promotion at 7 a.m. yesterday when he was named commander of the Army of the Potomac. This job had defeated generals who had had months of preparation--and Meade was faced with an invader on Pennsylvania soil. Robert E. Lee sent orders to Jubal Early in York, telling him and the other outlying commanders to begin to concentrate on a little crossroads town called Gettysburg. Facing him was a small Union cavalry unit with a big commander--John Buford. Meade was coming as fast as he could. The supposedly lethargic Union troops were marching 20, 30, sometimes 40 miles in a day.

30 June 1863 Maneuvering towards Gettysburg

The armies in the East gathered towards south-central Pennsylvania today. Ewell, currently in York, had to pull out before much of the demanded ransom was delivered, but refrained from burning the town. Other Confederate armies converged from Carlisle, Chambersburg and Hanover, where skirmishing took place. The Union armies were stretched from Westminster, Md., to Gettysburg itself, where Gen. Reynolds' was waiting. Stuart's Confederate cavalry was still far out of position to help with scouting.

"Every man should endeavor to understand the meaning of subjugation before it is too late... It means the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the enemy; that our youth will be trained by Northern schoolteachers; will learn from Northern school books their version of the war; will be impressed by the influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors, and our maimed veterans as fit objects for derision..."

It is said slavery is all we are fighting for, and if we give it up we give up all. Even if this were true, which we deny, slavery is not all our enemies are fighting for. It is merely the pretense to establish sectional superiority and a more centralized form of government, and to deprive us of our rights and liberties."

--- *Maj. General Patrick R. Cleburne, CSA, January 1864.*