



# THE JOHNSTON JOURNAL

## SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Albert Sidney Johnston Camp 67 – Houston, Texas  
Wednesday, 19 August 2009

Join us for a presentation by Donald S. Frazier on

*Sibley's Brigade*

*The Hardest Marching Confederate Command*

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](mailto:holderraymond@hotmail.com)

or Bill Holmes or [bholmes@patriotbankusa.com](mailto:bholmes@patriotbankusa.com)

*"Soldiers! We have sinned against Almighty God. We have forgotten his signal mercies, and have cultivated a revengeful, haughty, and boastful spirit. We have not remembered that the defenders of a just cause should be pure in his eyes; that 'our times are in his hands'; and we have relied too much on our own arms for the achievement of our independence. God is our only refuge and strength. Let us humble ourselves before Him. Let us confess our many sins and beseech Him to give us a higher courage, a purer patriotism, and more determined will; that He will convert the hearts of our enemies; that He will hasten the time when war, with its sorrows and sufferings, shall cease, and that He will give us a name and place among the nations of the earth." , Genl. Robert E Lee, 13 Aug 1863*



Donald S. Frazier is professor of history at McMurry University in Abilene, Texas. He is the award-winning author of three books on the Civil War including *Blood and Treasure*, *Cottonclads*, and *Fire in the Cane Field*. His other work includes serving as co-author of *Frontier Texas*, *Historic Abilene*, and *The Texas You Expect*, and well as general editor of *The U.S. and Mexico at War*.

In addition to his teaching duties, Frazier has been very involved in a variety of heritage and cultural tourism projects, including consulting on the development of three museums, two research centers, a Mexican War battlefield, work on Civil War and frontier heritage trails in Texas, New Mexico, and Louisiana, and work on historical projects in Europe and Mexico. He also helped Abilene, Texas achieve recognition as a Preserve America city and grant recipient. He is the writer and director for the video *Our Home, Our Rights: Texas and Texans in the Civil War*, a winner of the Mitchell Wilder Award for Excellence in Publications and Media Design from the Texas Association of Museums.

Frazier is also active in historic preservation projects. He is currently serving as President and CEO of the McWhiney Foundation, a Texas-based educational non-profit which, among its various activities, manages and preserves the Buffalo Gap Historic Village, a museum that includes a collection of more than a dozen antique buildings. He has served as a consultant with several communities as they develop their heritage and cultural assets, and has been recognized for his efforts by numerous organizations including the American Association for State and Local History, The Texas Historical Foundation, the Historical Society of New Mexico, and the Louisiana Historical Association. Frazier is also involved in two highly regarded history publishing enterprises, State House Press and McWhiney Foundation Press.

Dr. Frazier has received accolades and honors for his contributions to the historical dialogue in the United States. He was chosen for a military history fellowship at the United States Military Academy at West Point, a fellowship at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and is in high demand as a thinker, consultant, and speaker. Frazier is also an elected member of the prestigious Philosophical Society of Texas, the oldest learned organization in the state, as well as the Texas Historical Foundation.

## New Members

Planned Inductions for August meeting:

**Mr. Joel Dennis Reed**, descendant of Private John Jarvis Selvidge, 30th Arkansas Infantry, Company K

## The Commander's Corridor

Our members and guest turnout for our last SCV meeting was really good for a July. Let's keep it going for August and send in your rsvps. I believe I can speak for all of us in that I really enjoy the fellowship of our camp meetings. Please read the Johnston Journal and give Robert any feedback. We really do appreciate him doing the Journal for us. See all of you at the August meeting.

**Raymond Holder, Commander**

Albert Sidney Johnston camp # 67 of Houston, Texas





## This Day in Confederate History – August

*I have fought against the people of the North because I believed they were seeking to wrest from the South its dearest rights. But I have never cherished toward them bitter or vindictive feelings.*

*And I have never seen the day when I did not pray for them*

*Robert E. Lee*

### **1 Aug July 1861 – Confederate Cowboys**

A few weeks ago a large party of cowboys, ranch hands and roustabouts had gathered in West Texas to go on a “buffalo hunt”, or so they said. Joined by John Baylor, later Lt. Col. Baylor, they started a campaign to chase every Federal out of the area. Today they announced that all of New Mexico and Arizona south of the 34th Parallel was now Confederate territory. More pro-Union citizens regarded it as an invasion from Texas, and now began to get hostile about it.

### **2 Aug July 1861 – Butler’s Prohibition**

Yankee Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler, although not much for battlefield command, usually had considerable talent for efficient administration. This was not much in evidence today as he addressed the problem of drunkenness among the troops at Ft. Monroe, at Hampton Roads, Va. He went about this in a straightforward manner, simply outlawing the sale of intoxicating beverages to the soldiers. This worked about as well as prohibition ever does: booze was found at one time or another stored in gun barrels, cannon tubes, and canteens. Similar prohibitions were tried in other areas by other generals, with pretty much the same results.

### **3 Aug July 1862 – McClellan’s Move**

Gen. George McClellan was on the move today, but it was not entirely voluntary. He had been ordered by Gen. Henry Wager Halleck who sent formal orders requiring McClellan to move the Army of the Potomac off the Peninsula, where he had been for some time, to the area around Aquia Landing, Va.. The dual purpose of this was to give additional protection for Washington DC. and back up Gen. John Pope’s Army of Virginia, which was under attack. McClellan was severely opposed to this move, but had no choice in the matter.

### **4 Aug July 1862 – Incompetent Union Officers**

Another problem of assembling and then using an army made up of civilians was the way regiments were raised. Frequently they were assembled by local politicians or other potentates, who then had the men elect them as commanding officers. Their quality varied widely. Abraham Lincoln issued orders today that Regular Army commanders were to begin the process of weeding out the incompetents and deadwood. This was not entirely successful, nor done as quickly as it might have been.

### **5 Aug July 1861 –Mr. Lincoln’s Income Tax**

The US Congress passed, and President Lincoln signed, a measure today which levied a direct tax on income, as well as real estate. Intended to go into effect Jan. 1, 1862, it subjected all incomes over \$800 to a 3 percent tax rate. As the mechanisms to collect the tax did not yet exist, and amazingly few people sent the money in voluntarily, the tax was basically ignored. The bill also raised tariffs, issued new bonds, and permitted the enlistment of seamen for “the duration of the war” rather than a pre-specified time period.

### **6 Aug July 1863 –Mosby’s Raid**

John S. Mosby was nearly the definition of a colorful Cavalry cavalier. A stint at the University of Virginia turned into a prison term after he shot a fellow student. Logically becoming interested in law he took it as a profession (after his release, of course). Joining a cavalry unit near his home in Bristol, Va, he became a terror. Today he grabbed an entire Union wagon train and escaped with wagons and contents, leaving the Yankees red-faced in fury behind him.

### **7 Aug July 1863 –The Hunley**

Gen. Pierre Gustav Toutant Beauregard is not usually regarded as a pioneer of naval strategy, but he put in an odd request today. He was at Charleston, and he sent word back to his old command in Mobile, Ala., asking that the CSS H.L. Hunley be sent to his location. The Hunley was one of the world’s first attack submarines, 40 feet long, 3 1/2 feet wide and 4 ft. deep, powered by a crew turning a crank which rotated a propeller. The vessel had already sunk once, killing the hapless crew, but Beauregard was desperate for anything that might help break the Union blockade.

### **8 Aug 1863 – Lee Tenders His Resignation**

"I, therefore, in all sincerity, request your Excellency to take measures to supply my place," the telegram read. It was from Robert E. Lee and it was a letter of resignation to Jefferson Davis. The season that started with the amazing triumph of Chancellorsville had ended in the futility of Gettysburg, contributing to a deep depression in Lee. His physical health had not been good either, with a possible heart attack and repeated assaults of digestive disorders. Davis declined the resignation.

### **9 Aug 1864 – Grant Near Miss**

Ships were being loaded rapidly with ammunition at City Point, Va., so no particular note was taken of two more men carrying a large box up to one of the ships at the wharf. Sentries questioned the two at one point and they said, truthfully, that they had orders to deliver it to a barge. The orders, however, like the men, came from the Confederate Torpedo Corps. The box concealed a timer, and when it blew up, setting off the already loaded ammunition on the barge, debris scattered for hundreds of yards around, very nearly killing US Grant.

### **10 Aug 1864 – Soap Shortage**

There were no major battles today. The only fighting of any significance was the unending battle against...dirt. President Jefferson Davis, chief executive of a beleaguered nation, wrote to his commanding general in the field, to tell him he was trying to obtain and send the Army of Northern Virginia, sitting in the trenches of Petersburg, an adequate supply of soap.

### **11 Aug 1864 – Early & Sheridan in the Valley**

Jubal Early had been doing his best to disrupt the Union war effort, even to the gates of Washington, but rather than pull troops North away from Petersburg, he had succeeded only in getting Phil Sheridan brought in from the West. Sheridan was given the men formerly under the much-detested Gen. "Black Dave" Hunter, who was better at burning civilian property than fighting. Sheridan was not confident in his men, but Early didn't know this and today began to pull back further south up the Shenandoah Valley.

### **12 Aug 1864 – John Hunt Morgan**

Gallatin, Tennessee, was normally a rather quiet little station for Union troops on garrison duty. This time of year being just a bit on the warm side made it all the more dull. Boredom was not among the garrison's problems today, however, as Gen. John Hunt Morgan and his merry band of raiders swooped into town. The Confederate cavalry force captured the town and garrison in short order. The change of power was even accomplished with little bloodshed.

### **13 Aug 1861 – Confederate Ship Building**

Confederate Secretary of the Navy Stephen R. Mallory had a problem in his department. He had a good number of sailors and captains, including veterans and Naval Academy graduates. What he was short of was suitable ships of war for them to work on. He had sent a representative, Cmdr. James D. Bulloch, to England to try to buy more. Bulloch wrote today that there were two sorts of British ships available: wooden, which was not exactly state of the art, and ironclad. Unfortunately, the latter were: "...staunch enough for voyages of traffic, [but] too thin in the plates and light in the deck..to carry guns of much weight." He placed orders with two contractors to build new ones to his specifications.

### **14 Aug 1862 – Lincoln's Race Policy**

Abraham Lincoln was adamantly opposed to the institution of slavery, but was not a believer in equality as it would be understood in later days. He was constantly coming up with plans and ploys to relocate all blacks out of America. He received a delegation of free Negroes at the White House today whom he told "But for your race among us there could not be war..it is better for us both, therefore, that we be separated." His current plan involved colonization of blacks in Central America.

### **15 Aug 1864 – CSS Tallahassee**

While Raphael Semmes may have been the most famous of the Confederate commerce raiders, he was far from the only one. Commodore John Taylor Wood was in the middle of a reign of terror off the coast of New England. Today his CSS Tallahassee took six ships. He burned five after loading all personnel onto the sixth, which he released on bond. The New York insurance industry was furious at the toll being taken on their profits and deluged Navy Secretary Gideon Welles with requests to abate the nuisance.

### **16 Aug 1864 –CSS Tallahassee, cont**

Confederate commerce raider Commander John Taylor Woods was up to his usual business today. Since breaking through the Union blockade at Wilmington, N.C., last Thursday, Wood had captured seven ships that day, six on Friday, but then only two on Saturday, all in the offshore area of Sandy Hook, N.J. He took Sunday off to move north, and Monday grabbed six. Five more were out of business today. Wood's usual tactic was to burn all but one of a day's take and load personnel on to the remaining one.

### **17 Aug 1862 – Jeb Stuart Promoted**

Many of the most famous people in the War of the Rebellion had to work their way up the the high positions they occupied. One such case occurred today as the Confederacy gave official recognition to the cavalry-commanding skills of Maj. Gen. James Ewell Brown Stuart. Jeb was appointed to lead all the cavalry forces of the Army of Northern Virginia. The Southern cavalry was a vastly superior organization at this stage in the war, and would continue to be until better commanders worked their way up in the Federal army.

### **18 Aug 1864 – Weldon Railroad**

Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren took his Fifth Corps on another mission today to the Weldon Railroad line south of Petersburg. This was another extension of the Union lines to the left, and further left, and still further left. Today's project was especially vital as the railroad was virtually the only large-scale source of supply Petersburg had left. After reaching the tracks the Fifth Corps did a right-face and headed north for the city itself. Henry Heth put a stop to this.

### **19 Aug 1864 – Weldon Railroad, cont.**

The battle of the Weldon Railroad continued today south of Petersburg, Virginia. A. P. Hill's Confederates slammed into the Union infantry of Gen. G. K. Warren. The ground being fought over today had been similarly contested the day before as the Federal forces pushed past the Globe Tavern. Today the contest went the other way as the Confederates regained much of the ground lost. The division of S. W. Crawford was particularly hard-hit and lost more than 2500 men to capture. At sunset, however, Warren still held the vital rail link.

### **20 Aug 1864 – CSS Tallahassee, cont**

The USS Pontoosuc sailed into Halifax, Nova Scotia today confident that they would find and capture the CSS Tallahassee. This Confederate commerce raider had been threatening shipping on the vital New York-London routes in the North Atlantic. To the chagrin of the Northerners they discovered they had missed their prey by a mere seven hours, as she had sailed the night before. Lt. Commander Stevens, commanding Pontoosuc, went ashore to consult the US consulate. The consul reported that they were under the impression that Tallahassee was headed for the Gulf of St. Lawrence, so Stevens headed in that direction. In fact the raider, short of fuel, was headed home to Wilmington, N.C. She captured one more prize, the brig Roan.

### **21 Aug 1864 – Forrest in Memphis**

The bane of Federal efforts in West Tennessee was a barely-literate former livestock and slave trader, self-taught in the arts of war, who had made himself into one of the great cavalry commanders of all time. Nathan Bedford Forrest rode into Union-held Memphis Tennessee early this morning and raised some hell. He occupied the city for most of the day and came very close to capturing two Federal generals--S.A. Hurlburt, and C.C. Washburn. Actually, aside from confiscating some supplies and setting the military into an uproar, Forrest's 2000 men accomplished nothing before leaving later the same day. The effect of the raid, however, was to cause the supply column led by Gen. A.J. Smith to be ordered back to help guard the town. This allowed Forrest a free hand in raiding Gen. Sherman's supply lines, which was exactly what he was after.

### **22 Aug 1863 – Confederate Postal Strike**

As if Jefferson Davis did not have enough problems to contend with. He was supposed to be finding reinforcements to shore up Gen. Braxton Bragg's shaky hold on Chattanooga and eastern Tennessee; coping with the loss of Vicksburg and thereby the entire trans-Mississippi portion of the Confederacy; scrounging up food, horseshoes and other vital supplies for Robert E. Lee's army in northern Virginia. To top it off he was now having difficulty even finding out what was going on. The postal clerks of the city of Richmond had all quit. The entire workforce walked out in a wage dispute with the government. Letters from Aunt Gertrude and reports from the field were all sitting in bags, undelivered.

### **23 Aug 1863 – Rappahannock Raid**

The area of the mouth of the Rappahannock River in Virginia had been assumed to be firmly held Union territory for quite some time. This may have resulted in a slackening of vigilance today, which turned out not to be the time for slackness. A group of sixty Confederates, accompanied by 30 sharpshooters, set out on the river in four small boats. Led by Lt. L. Taylor Woods, they simply took advantage of the calm to capture two Union gunboats, the USS Satellite and USS Reliance. The action was of minimal military significance, but resulted in massive embarrassment for Union naval commanders in the region.

#### **24 Aug 1862 – CSS Alabama is born**

On May 15 a ship known unromantically as No. 209 was completed in the Laird Docks of Liverpool, the premier shipwrights of the world. For a few weeks she was known as the *Enrica* and her ownership was unclear. Last week she had sailed, innocent and unarmed, as a merchant vessel to the Azores. Another ship loaded with cannon, ammunition and other supplies had sailed, coincidentally, the same day. Today the two ships met off the Azores Islands and history was made. Several of the crew, and most of the stores, of the supply ship were transferred to *Enrica*, and she got a new name. As of today she was the *CSS Alabama*, commerce raider and terror of Union ship captains and insurance companies. A Confederate naval jack fluttered overhead. Federal agents in England had tried in vain to prevent the sale and the sailing.

#### **25 Aug 1863 – Infamy in Missouri**

Yankee Brig. Gen. Thomas Ewing issued one of the most amazing orders of the War today. In response to the slaughter in Lawrence, Kansas a few days earlier, he literally ordered the entire area under his command evacuated by all persons. Those considering themselves Union loyalists could reside at military posts, but everyone else in Jackson, Cass, Bates and part of Vernon County, Missouri were to just go....away. His intent was to create what a later day would call a "free-fire zone", where anyone found would be assumed to be a Confederate and shot on sight. Houses, barns and other outbuildings were burned to eliminated shelter. Some 20,000 people were affected by the order and lost their homes.

#### **26 Aug 1861 – Hawaii remains Neutral**

The Confederate States of America wanted from the start to achieve diplomatic recognition from other nations of the world, as an independent country. If a European country--preferably England or France, the powerhouses of the world at this time--could be persuaded to recognize them, others would presumably follow. The ultimate hope was to achieve what the original revolutionaries of 1776 had done, attract foreign intervention and assistance with the war effort. Things were not going well. Today King Kamehameha IV of the Kingdom of Hawaii announced that his nation would merely remain neutral in the conflict. This was not entirely bad however, as it permitted Confederate-flag ships to dock in the vital Pacific port.

#### **27 Aug 1862 – Second Manassas**

Gen. John Pope was in deep, deep trouble and didn't know it. He did know that he had suddenly lost communication with Washington because Fitzhugh Lee had cut the telegraph wires in Manassas Junction. Pope today moved north, thinking he had the younger Lee trapped at the old Bull Run battlefield, and that George McClellan would soon be arriving to help. Other generals would be arriving, all right, but their names were Lee, Longstreet, and Jackson.

#### **28 Aug 1863 – Confederate Shipyard - Mobile**

Confederate Naval Lt. George W. Gift paid a visit to the shipyard above Mobile Bay, Alabama, to observe the progress in construction of the two vessels *Tennessee* and *Nashville*. Gift was in awe of the immense *Nashville*. "She is tremendous!" he wrote. "The wardroom...is six staterooms and a pantry long, and about as broad between the rooms as the whole *Chattahoochee*. Her engines are tremendous, and it requires all her width, fifty feet, to place her boilers.

#### **29 Aug 1863 – Hunley Sinks**

The Confederate submarine *CSS Hunley* was behaving quite well today in Charleston Harbor, as her crew took her out for several practice dives. At the conclusion of the last one, the ungainly vessel tied up at the dock of Fort Johnson, next to the steamship *Etiwan*. For reasons unknown the steamship pulled away from the dock without informing the sub of her intentions. The *Hunley*, with her hatch open so her crew could breathe, immediately rolled sidewise and sank. Only her commander, Lt. Payne, and one other man survived. Efforts started at once to raise her.

#### **30 Aug 1862 – Second Manassas, cont.**

For Gen. John Pope, finally something was going right here by the old Manassas battlefield. He had "Stonewall" Jackson on the run, and he launched an attack to keep him from escaping. What Pope didn't know was that Jackson wasn't alone; he was now the left wing of the Confederate army. The right flank under Longstreet lost no time in making its presence felt, and the Union forces began to roll...backwards toward Bald Hill and Henry House Hill, and finally to Centerville. At the end of the day Lee was victorious and the pressure on Richmond was relieved. Pope, although not routed, was humiliated and soon relieved and sent back West.

#### **31 Aug 1861 – Four Star Generals**

The War of American Independence--was fought with only one man holding the rank of full, General: George Washington. The War for Southern Independence--the Civil War--was barely underway and this number had quintupled. Richmond announced today that no less than five men were being named as full generals, the promotions being effective on different dates so that these five would know who was superior to each other. In order they were: Samuel Cooper, Albert Sidney Johnston, Robert E. Lee, Joseph E. Johnston, and P G T Beauregard. The only full General the North would name wouldn't get the job for almost three years: U.S. Grant.