



# THE JOHNSTON JOURNAL

## SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Albert Sidney Johnston Camp 67 – Houston, Texas  
Wednesday, 16 September 2009

Join us for a presentation by Danny Sessums on  
*From ashes springs the Phoenix,  
Cleburne's Guard' in the '63 Fall Campaign*

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)

*If the south should lose, it means that the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the enemy. That our youth will be trained by Northern school teachers, will be impressed by all of the influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors and our maimed veterans as fit subjects for derision.*

*-Patrick Cleburne-*

[www.scvcamp67.org](http://www.scvcamp67.org)



Danny Sessums is recently retired Executive Director of Houston Baptist University – University Museums and Immediate Past Commander, Albert Sidney Johnston S.C.V. camp # 67, Houston, Texas, 2008-9. Previously, he was with the Ft. Bend Museum Association, Arkansas State University-Jonesboro, Lamar University-Port Arthur - Museum of the Gulf Coast, and many other prominent historical related assignments.

He holds degrees from Louisiana State University, University of Texas at Arlington, Texas Tech University and Frank Phillips College. His Academic Awards include Regent's Award Nomination Comm., Lamar University, and Teaching Excellence Award, Phi Alpha Theta, UTA, Arlington, TX

His publications include articles/book reviews produced for Military Images, Handbook of Texas, Southwestern Historical Quarterly (SWHQ), Civil War Regiments, The Phoenix, Confederate Calendar Works, and "Sabine Pass in the Civil War," printed in the Port Arthur Centennial History; along with a book-length manuscript expected to be published.

Film projects include consulting and/or on-screen performances in "Our American Story" and "The Civil War In Texas," both for PBS, "The Blue and the Gray," "North/South II," "Alamo: The Price of Freedom," and "Glory."

He has taught history and/or museums courses at several colleges in Texas and surrounding states as well as speaking to numerous Civil War Round Tables and other groups. His hobbies include acting, public speaking, research/ writing, "living history" programs, jogging, and flying his Classic aircraft, "American Pie II."

## New Members

Planned Inductions for September meeting:

**Mr. James Bonham Kennerly**, descendant of Pvt. Joshua Harper Kennerly, Co.A, Cavalry Battalion, Waul's Texas Legion

*"There was no surrender at Appomattox, and no withdrawal from the field which committed our people and their children to a heritage of shame and dishonor. No cowardice on any battlefield could be as base and shameful as the silent acquiescence in the scheme which was teaching the children in their homes and schools that the commercial value of slavery was the cause of the war, that prisoners of war held in the South were starved and treated with a barbarous inhumanity, that Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee were traitors to their country and false to their oaths, that the young men who left everything to resist invasion, and climbed the slopes of Gettysburg and died willingly on a hundred fields were rebels against a righteous government."*

*-- Rev. James Power Smith, last surviving member of General Jackson's staff, 1907*



## This Day in Confederate History – Sept

*"I am with the South in life or in death, in victory or defeat. I never owned a negro and care nothing for them, but these people have been my friends and have stood up to me on all occasions. In addition to this, I believe the North is about to wage a brutal and unholy war on a people who have done them no wrong, in violation of the Constitution and the fundamental principles of the government... We propose no invasion of the North, no attack on them, and only ask to be let alone."*

*Patrick R. Cleburne*

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### 1 Sept 1862 – Second Bull Run Aftermath

It was technically the last gasp of the Second Battle of Bull Run, but the conflict was violent to earn it a separate designation, either as the Battle of Chantilly or Ox Hill. Jackson's flank attack on the Union right was fierce enough to carry on through a driving rain and occasional violent thunderstorm into the night. The Union lines held, but at the cost of two commanders of whom much had been expected in the future: Isaac I. Stevens and Philip Kearny. Overall commander John Pope withdrew slightly during the night but the defenses of Washington were holding firm.

### 2 Sept 1861 – Fremont's Emancipation Proclamation

Maj. Gen. John Fremont, in command of Union forces in Missouri, announced his own little Emancipation Proclamation for the area under his control, and as a side note promised death and property confiscation for Southern sympathizers. Lincoln was working frantically to get these measures rescinded. His motive was not any concern for Show-me State secessionists, but rather the effect this would have on Kentucky. Lincoln's birth state was still officially neutral, and in the Union. The legislature voted today to fly the Stars and Stripes over the State House, and Lincoln had high hopes as well as great fears for the state.

### 3 Sept 1861 – Pillow in Kentucky

Life was tough in border states. Passions flared for and against secession, slavery and all the other issues of the day, but nearly as many felt strongly on either side of the various issues. So far the new legislature was holding with the Union. This did not suit Confederate Gen. Gideon Pillow, so, under orders from Gen. Leonidas Polk, he invaded the state and headed for Columbus, Ky., on the Mississippi River. The Confederate Secretary of War, LeRoy Walker of Alabama, was horrified and tried to send orders to Polk to withdraw the invasion forthwith, but he was overruled by Jefferson Davis.

### 4 Sept 1864 – Morgan Killed

John Hunt Morgan was a Confederate cavalry leader in the style of Nathan Bedford Forrest in many ways. He operated as an independent command, rather than serving as the "eyes and ears" of a larger army. He raided, he ran, he wreaked havoc on Union forces and towns, civilian as well as military. He was in Greeneville, Tenn. last night, preparing for a raid through the Union-sympathizing territory of east Tennessee. Today his enemies proved that they had learned from his methods: they snuck into town as the sun was barely rising and hit Morgan's men as they had hit so many others. Morgan was shot and killed while trying to rejoin his force to escape.

### 5 Sept 1863 – Ironclads Impounded

Early in the War, the Confederacy had realized that it needed more warships. Emissaries had been sent to England to contract with the greatest shipbuilding experts in the world to rectify this problem. The ironclads, known as Laird Ramships, were now nearing completion in the shipyards of Liverpool and Birkenhead. U.S. ambassador Charles Francis Adams therefore called on the British Foreign Minister Lord Russell today and was undiplomatically blunt: if the English released these ships to the Confederacy, "it would be superfluous for me to point out to your Lordship that this is war." Whether Lord Russell felt any great fear at this threat is unknown, but in fact he was able to assure Adams that the ships had been ordered "detained in port" three days earlier. They were never released to the Confederacy.

### **6 Sept 1863 – Defense of Charleston**

It had been a long-fought battle in the mouth of Charleston Harbor, and one of the strongest defenders had been the Confederate garrison of Battery Wagner on Morris Island. Although little more than some cannon behind a heap of sand, the battery had proved so stubborn that some in the North had taken to calling it “Fort Wagner”. The garrison was protected by a bombproof shelter, but still the Federal land and Navy guns pounded them incessantly. Gen. Beauregard, in charge of the overall defense of the harbor, knew that a Yankee landing and assault was inevitable, and against that the men could not stand. For this reason, and with great reluctance, he ordered the works abandoned under cover of darkness. Battery Gregg on the same island was also given up.

### **7 Sept 1862 – McClellan Confused**

Everybody else in the North knew where the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia was heading: straight towards wherever that Northerner happened to be. Harrisburg was in an uproar. Stomachs and financial markets were in turmoil in Philadelphia and Baltimore. Everybody was sure where Lee was headed except for George McClellan, who had no clue and therefore no choice but to keep the Army of the Potomac edging ever further to the right. The one job he knew he had was to protect Washington, D.C., and as long as he kept his army between that and General Lee, no one could accuse him of failing in his duty. He would be happy to fight Lee, but had to find him first. Gen. JEB Stuart’s cavalry was making this difficult.

### **8 Sept 1863 – Sabine Pass**

Gen. Nathaniel Banks had important work to do: retake the Texas cities of Beaumont and Houston. To accomplish this, he assembled four ships, gunboats and troop transports, and set off. To get to his destination required him to get by Sabine Pass, on the Texas-Louisiana border. There was only a feeble force of forty Confederates, with some earthworks and guns, to stop him. This force, commanded by Lt. Dick Dowling, along with a couple of “cottonclad” gunboats under Gen. John Bankhead Magruder, did exactly that. They sank the two lead gunboats and forced their crews to surrender, and drove off the rest of the invasion force with heavy losses. Banks was humiliated and fit to be tied. His superiors were not exactly thrilled with his performance either.

### **9 Sept 1862 –Special Order 191**

Robert E. Lee had moved the Army of Northern Virginia into a summer campaign north into Maryland. He sat down with some of his commanders and settled on what the future design of the mission would be. Under the plan, Stonewall Jackson would split off from the rest of the army and head for Harper’s Ferry. The remaining troops would head first to Crampton’s Gap, with Longstreet assigned to take Boonesboro, Md. The set of plans was given the designation Special Order 191, and copies were made.

### **10 Sept 1862 –McClellan Still Confused**

Gen. George McClellan was sure of only two things: his country was being invaded, and he had no good information as to where the invaders were. He was starting to get indications, though: reports from cavalry scouts today informed him that the Army of Northern Virginia had departed from the area of the Monocacy River, and were heading away from Frederick, Maryland. The picture was becoming clear enough that McClellan made the decision to speed up the progress of his Army of the Potomac, which up to now had been more or less milling around Washington, DC to protect the capital.

### **11 Sept 1862 – Lee in Maryland**

The Confederacy, after a year and a half of war, was beginning to decide that an entirely defensive campaign was not going to succeed in winning their war of independence. Aggressive efforts were now underway on two fronts, one famous, one less so. Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia were in Hagerstown, MD. today. It was assumed in the South that Maryland would have seceded and joined the Confederacy if it were not for the presence of Union troops, and Lee was expecting many men to flock to his colors to enlist. On the western front, other forces in gray under Gen. Kirby Smith were within seven miles of Cincinnati, Ohio. This inspired panic in the citizenry there, many of whom clogged the roads in an attempt to flee town.

### **12 Sept 1861 – Lincoln’s Land of the Free**

The greatest fear in Washington, D.C. at this point in the War was the possible secession of Maryland. With Virginia already gone on one side, Maryland’s departure would leave the Federal capital entirely surrounded by Confederate territory, which would be embarrassing at the very least. A meeting of secessionist-minded state legislators had been scheduled for Sept. 17 in Frederick, Md., far from the capital of Annapolis. Orders were quietly issued, and starting today, the gentlemen were quietly arrested. To decrease opportunities for further agitation they were taken for confinement to Ft. Warren in Boston Harbor.

### **13 Sept 1862 – Lee’s Plans Discovered**

Three cigars found in an unusual place today, a meadow just outside Frederick, Maryland. Wrapped around the stray stogies was an interesting piece of paper, describing in explicit detail the plans of Gen. Robert E. Lee for the Confederate invasion of the North. The astonished enlisted men who found them turned the papers over to their superiors, who rushed them to Gen. George McClellan. With the greatest intelligence coup of the War in his hands, McClellan rushed to do....absolutely nothing. He suspected the plans were a ruse to trick him out of position.

### **14 Sept 1863 – Yankees interrupted at Church**

It was a very dispirited group of United States Navy members who marched away from Rodney, Miss., today. Not only was it bad enough to be marching rather than sailing, but they were marching under guard, on their way to prison camp. The problem had originated yesterday aboard their vessel, the USS Rattler. A group of twenty, whether motivated by a need for spiritual solace or a simple desire to break up a boring patrol, petitioned their captain to go ashore. Acting Master Walter E.H. Fentress agreed to the request. It was a decision Fentress came to regret when the men were captured by a Confederate cavalry patrol as they were attending church.

### **15 Sept 1863 – Lincoln’s Land of the Free, cont.**

The “writ of habeas corpus” is a fairly simple concept, despite its Latin name. It refers to the right of an arrested person to know what charges are being brought, and of the obligation of the state to produce evidence that the person charged was the one who committed the offense. It was one of the shining lights of the United States Constitution, and it went right out the window today. Due to the existence of a “state of rebellion”, wrote Abraham Lincoln, the right would be suspended in cases of people arrested by military authorities whenever they deemed fit.

### **16 Sept 1864 – Confederate Cowboys**

In the days before mechanical refrigeration, keeping ones' troops in food required some interesting logistics. Hardack could be shipped and stored, but if the troops were to have beef one had to store it on the hoof. Confederate cavalry under Wade Hampton took advantage of superior Union stocks by staging a raid at Coggins' Point, VA, where they captured 300 Federals and, more importantly, what they were guarding--a herd of some 2400 cattle. Getting them back to Petersburg would take several days and several skirmishes, but the food was desperately needed by the besieged forces there.

### **17 Sept 1862 – Sharpsburg**

Sharpsburg, Maryland, was where the two great armies of the East finally met today. McClellan, displaying his characteristic hesitation, kept realigning troops and did not order an attack; Lee, outnumbered two to one, was not inclined to start things either. Although Stonewall Jackson had rejoined the Army of Northern Virginia, A.P. Hill had not, being still on the way from Harpers Ferry. Before the day was done, 23,000 Americans would be dead, wounded or missing: 12,000 Union men and some 11,000 in grey. It has been calculated that during the 12 hours the battle lasted, men died at the rate of 35 per minute. It was the bloodiest single day of the War, or in fact in North American history.

### **18 Sept 1862 – Sharpsburg Aftermath**

The single bloodiest day of the War was over, or at least the shooting part of it was. Miller’s cornfield held 12,000 dead or dying, and thousands of others lay dead or suffered behind trees, in other fields, or along fencerows. In every building for miles around, surgeons, volunteers, farm families and strangers struggled to treat the wounded. Surgery was done on doors removed from their hinges; the survivors were laid on mattresses, tents, the bare ground, and in one case a hay manger to attempt to recover. Of the unscathed, Lee’s advisors recommended a hasty retreat across the Potomac. Lee, knowing that McClellan had thousands of reserves who had not even been used yesterday, chose to remain braced for another attack. For reasons known only to McClellan, the 36,000 Union men were never used.

### **19 Sept 1863 – Chickamauga**

Both Gen. Bragg, CSA, and Gen. Rosecrans, USA, knew that they were going to have a battle today; they just didn’t know exactly when, because neither knew exactly where the other one was. The matter was settled when Gen. George Thomas, now on the Union left (northern) flank, had the misfortune to be clambering through thick brush when they came upon the men of Nathan Bedford Forrest and the bullets began to fly. Forrest’s men, although called ‘cavalry’, actually functioned as mounted infantry, who traveled on horses but fought on foot. Fight they did today, and as units of both sides moved towards the sounds of battle, the general combat commenced.

### **20 Sept 1863 – Chickamauga, cont.**

Union and Confederate forces were lined up at the conclusion of the fighting yesterday, knew where each other were and knew that today would settle the matter. The fighting was essentially toe to toe from one end to the other until, due to a mistaken order, Union troops right in the center under Thomas J. Wood were pulled out of position. In the Confederate center were the forces of James Longstreet, who lost no time exploiting this opening. The Union line nearly dissolved, except for Gen. George Henry Thomas. Gathering his men on a rise called Snodgrass Hill they formed a defensive line that held all afternoon, getting for Thomas the nickname “The Rock of Chickamauga.” After dark, under orders, Thomas withdrew to rejoin the rest of the Union army in Chattanooga. Braxton Bragg had won his battle.

### **21 Sept 1862 – Sharpsburg Aftermath**

Despite the best efforts of Jonathan Letterman, medical director of the Army of the Potomac, to secure buildings for use as hospital areas before the battle, the carnage had been on a scale to render all attempts at preparation futile. Today, four days after the battle itself, wounded were still being found on the battlefield, and those who had received immediate treatment were in almost as bad condition. A sergeant of the 15th Mass., who had had his leg amputated the night of the 17th, wrote in his diary today, “I did not know [I] was capable of enduring so much pain. How very meager are accommodations--no chamber pots & nobody to find or rig up one. How ludicrous for 2 score amputated men to help themselves with diarrhea.”

### **22 Sept 1863 – Raid on Southwest Pass**

While the cleanup continued after the clash at Chickamauga, we turn our attention today to a lesser-known nautical incident. It seems a few days ago Acting Master David Nicols of the Confederate States Navy set out on his small cutter Teaser from Mobile, Ala, and sailed to South West Pass on the Mississippi River. There, Nichols and his 19 crewmen worked their way through the marshlands to a Federal coal depot, where rested the recently refueled and restocked USS Leviathan, a tugboat. Nichols simply stole the boat and headed back to Mobile. Awe at his creativity did not prevent the depot supervisors from giving the alarm, and 40 miles offshore the USS De Soto intercepted the vessels, repossessing one and capturing the other. Nichols and his crew were likewise taken into custody.

### **23 Sept 1861 – Missouri Chafes under Yankee Tyranny**

John Charles Fremont, military governor of St. Louis and the Missouri district, was failing to heed the old saying that when you finds yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop digging. He had enraged half of Missouri with his highhanded orders, including an emancipation of slaves and threats to confiscate the property of, and then execute, Confederate sympathizers. Then he got the Union supporters just as angry by playing politics instead of going in support of the Irish Guard in Lexington. Today the St. Louis Evening News pointed out some of these facts to their readership. Fremont's response was to padlock the presses and have the editor thrown in jail.

### **24 Sept 1862 – Further Suspension of Habeas Corpus**

Abraham Lincoln announced another proclamation suspending the right of habeas corpus, this time in any area under Federal control. The particular target of this move was “all Rebels and Insurgents, their aiders and abettors within the United States, and all persons discouraging volunteer enlistments, resisting militia drafts, or guilty of any disloyal practice, affording comfort to Rebels against the authority of the United States.” This action suspending perhaps the primary guarantee of civil liberties in the Constitution was, in fact, Constitutional--Article I, section 9, states “The writ shall not be suspended unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.” Many were outraged at this trampling of civil liberties and regarded it as a sign of the downfall of the Republic.

### **25Sept 1864– Hood and Hardee Dissension**

Gen. John Bell Hood’s devotion to the Confederate cause could not be questioned, as he had left a body part on seemingly every battlefield he had fought on. Unfortunately, devotion, and even an arm and a leg, was not a substitute for adequate manpower, supplies, and command ability. Hood’s army had been backing up for months now, and the final straw had been the retreat from Atlanta ahead of the unstoppable William T. Sherman. Virtually every defeat Hood had blamed on a subordinate, for not attacking, not attacking with enough vigor, or attacking with vigor but not winning. The usual target of his ire was Gen. William J. Hardee. Today the feud had escalated to such alarming proportions that President Jefferson Davis himself felt compelled to visit their camp to mediate matters.

### **26 Sept 1863– Kirby Smith in the Trans-Mississippi**

The governors, not to mention the generals, of the Confederate states on the west side of the Mississippi River had long felt they were being treated like unwanted stepchildren by the government in Richmond. When they requested guns, supplies, or manpower, they were more likely to be asked to send these items East for the defense of the capital, rather than have them sent out for the defense of the hinterlands. Now that Vicksburg had fallen and the Mississippi River was in Union hands the situation was becoming grim in the extreme. Gen. E. Kirby Smith tried his hand at firebrand speechwriting today when he issued the following to the populace of the Trans-Mississippi: "Your homes are in peril...You should contest the advance of the enemy, thicket, gully and stream; harass his rear and cut off his supplies."

### **27 Sept 1863– Confederate Raiders**

There existed in the Confederate military a class of operators for whom no good descriptive term exists. They were classified as cavalymen, but they did not perform the usual functions of cavalry in the military sense of the day--scouting ahead of, and screening the movements of, an army of infantry. These men were usually referred to as "raiders", and their role was to move quickly to harass, cut lines of communication, pick off stragglers from Union marches, and gather supplies. One of these raiders, Jo Shelby, worked in the Trans-Mississippi so is even less known than some like Moseby and Forrest. Today Shelby attacked Moffat's Station in Franklin County, Arkansas.

### **28 Sept 1863–Rosecrans's Reinforcements**

It had been decided to send the 11th and 12 Corps from the Army of the Potomac to reinforce Gen. William Rosecrans, who was safe but somewhat besieged in Chattanooga following the Battle of Chickamauga. There was no way to do this big a move in secrecy, even considering that they were travelling by rail rather than foot. Word of the move reached the ear of the besieger, Gen. Braxton Bragg, in the form of a telegram from Jefferson Davis. The only assistance Bragg was receiving was from the Federal side, as two Union generals (McCook and Crittenden) were relieved of their commands and sent back to Indianapolis to face courts of inquiry for their conduct in the battle.

### **29 Sept 1864–Petersburg**

After a time of little action, the siege of Petersburg fairly exploded into action today. A double-pronged Federal assault started with Gen. George Meade and 16,000 members of the Army of the Potomac making a move to lengthen the lines further south around the town, starting at a place called Peeble's Farm. The aim of their maneuvers was to reach the South Side Railroad, another of the vital supply links to Petersburg and Richmond. On the other end of the line, the 10th and 18th Corps, under Birney and Ord, looped north of the James to the outer defenses of Richmond. They captured Ft. Harrison and with a change of flags turned it from a Confederate fort to a Federal one. Assaults on Ft. Gilmer, however, were not as successful for the Union.

### **30 Sept 1864–Petersburg**

The Battle of Peebles Farm, as it came to be known, continued where it left off yesterday on the south end of the Petersburg lines. Warren's Fifth Corps did well at first and headed for Poplar Spring Church with the Ninth Corps close behind. Progress stalled when they encountered A. P. Hill's men, and the Federals entrenched at the charmingly named Squirrel Level Road. At the other end of the line the Federals had taken Fort Harrison yesterday and turned it into a Union establishment. Robert E. Lee ordered a desperate attempt to retake the fort, but it could not be done. The Southerners withdrew to new lines, closer to Richmond.

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*"If this cause, that is dear to my heart, is doomed to fail, I pray heaven may let me fall with it, while my face is toward the enemy and my arm battling for that which I know is right."*

*--- Major General Patrick R. Cleburne before his fatal wound at the battle of Franklin, Tennessee.*