

# THE JOHNSTON JOURNAL SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Albert Sidney Johnston Camp 67 – Houston, Texas  
Wednesday, 20 January 2010

Join us for a presentation by our own James Bevill on  
*“The Paper Republic: Financing the Republic of Texas”*

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 Everette Gardner

First Lt. Commander Bill Holmes

Second Lt. Commander John Beard

Third Lt. Commander Peter Gryska

Adjutant/Treasurer Dodd Eastham

Please RSVP to

Ev Gardner 281-980-9054

or Dodd Eastham [dodd@bayoudog.org](mailto:dodd@bayoudog.org)

*“To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish.”*

*Lt General Stephen Dill Lee*

*“The cause of the South is the cause of us all.”*

*Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens*



## This Month's Speaker

James P. Bevill is an expert on many different aspects of money. He is the author of *The Paper Republic: The Struggle for Money, Credit and Independence in the Republic of Texas* (Bright Sky Press, 2009). He has spent his career in the financial services industry since graduating Magna Cum Laude from the University of Houston-Clear Lake in 1983. He is a First Vice President – Investments in the River Oaks office of UBS Financial Services in Houston. Bevill has been honored with numerous awards for his work in finance and numismatics, is an honorary member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, and has written several articles on Texas and Confederate money and its role in culture and history. He is a frequent lecturer on financial topics. Jim lives in Houston, Texas with his wife, Jodie.

**“The Paper Republic: Financing the Republic of Texas”** A visual journey through the paper money used by the Republic of Texas (1836-1846) and how it relates to the early politics, the location of the capital, significant events and the key personalities of the period. “The Paper Republic” documents the struggle for money, credit and independence in the Republic of Texas. The real story behind a legendary part of American history, the book tells the story of a debt crisis eerily similar to the headlines of today

## Menu for January meeting:

Wedge salad  
Smoked pork tenderloin  
Sweet potatoes  
Corn muffins  
Pecan pie

## Commander's Corridor

Compatriots: Attendance at our monthly meetings has been declining for the past year. I am not sure why this has happened, but if our Camp is to survive, we must get more people to turn out for meetings. If you have not attended a meeting recently, come and join us, and consider bringing a guest. Don't forget to RSVP. We will have a great lineup of speakers this year. We met with the Briar Club and asked for better food, and they promised to deliver.

Ev Gardner





# This Day in Confederate History – Jan

*“We the people of the State of Texas by our duly elected delegates in Convention assembled do declare and ordain, and it is hereby declared and ordained that the union by a written compact between the State of Texas and the other States, under the name of the United States of America, having failed to answer the ends of its formation, is hereby dissolved, and that Texas is and of right ought to be a free and independent State, that her citizens and people are absolved from all allegiance to the United States or the government thereof, and that as a free and independent State she has full power to do all acts and things which independent States may of right do”*

## *Ordinance of Texas Secession Convention*

### **1 Jan 1864 – Big Freeze**

A cold air mass out of Canada had swept across the land and brought temperatures well below freezing into the south as well as the north. It was in fact below zero as far south as Memphis, Tennessee, and just about everybody was too busy trying to assemble coal, firewood or other means of producing warmth to worry about conducting hostilities. The civilian population, particularly in areas where fighting had been going back and forth for years, were equally affected and had little or nothing left over to share with the military.

### **2 Jan 1864 – Big Freeze, cont.**

The inactivity that had marked the end of last year was still continuing into this one. A major reason for this was a massive cold front which had come down visit from Canada, and subjected such Southern towns as Cairo, Illinois and Memphis, Tennessee, to temperatures far below freezing. All the way to the Gulf of Mexico thermometers and people were subjected to uncommon frigidty. The only military action that was even proposed was a plan put forth by US Naval Secretary Gideon Welles for a joint Army-Navy attack on Wilmington, North Carolina. This notion made it as far as the desk of Secretary of War Stanton, who sent it to Major Gen. Halleck. Halleck vetoed the whole idea on the grounds that all the armies were busy or too far away, and therefore, he could not provide manpower for the project.

### **3 Jan 1862 – Jackson’s Romney Campaign**

Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson was famous for moving his troops with great speed, enabling them to pop up where they were least expected, usually with dismal results for Union opponents. Today’s expedition, known as the “Romney Campaign,” should have been perfect for the task. Jackson was leading the way to Bath, Virginia (known today as Berkeley Springs, W. Va.), a region he knew well. The objective was to get to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad as well as the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, ripping up tracks of the first and destroying the locks of the second. Unfortunately for Jackson’s famed “foot cavalry”, they were discovered by a Union patrol and a brief skirmish broke out. The march was delayed.

### **4 Jan 1864 – Big Freeze, cont**

The cold spell that had started the year continued, and was causing miseries across the Southern states, which were not used to such conditions even in good times of peace. After the depredations of four years of war and destruction, the suffering was intense. Even in the Army of Northern Virginia, the troops were in a bad way. Besides the cold, for which they lacked sufficient blankets and other clothing, they were getting severely short of food. Gen. Robert E. Lee had been sending increasingly plaintive telegrams to Jefferson Davis, pleading for additional rations to be sent. Davis, who was genuinely distraught that he had none to send, became so upset about the situation today that he replied with a suggestion that he simply take it from the countryside. This was appealing to neither man, but “The emergency justifies impression...” Davis said.

### **5 Jan 1862 – Jackson’s Romney Campaign, cont.**

After a skirmish yesterday, and some other setbacks, Gen. “Stonewall” Jackson’s men succeeded in driving the Union forces out of the town of Bath, Virginia (neither name is the same today; the town is known as Berkeley Springs, West Virginia) and captured the village. As he had no particular use for it, he pursued the departing Yankees up to the Potomac River. The blue forces got across the river to Hancock, Maryland. Stonewall did not wish to risk leaving Virginia territory and saw no need to when the town was in easy artillery range. He demanded it surrender; the mayor refused. After allowing time for evacuation of women and children, Jackson’s men began bombarding the city.

### **6 Jan 1865 – Bumbling Butler Relieved**

U.S. Gen. Benjamin Butler had one of the most interesting careers of any major Civil War figure. Reviled in the South, object of a declaration by Jefferson Davis that if he ever fell into Confederate hands he was to be shot on sight rather than treated as a prisoner of war, he was coming to be just about as popular in the North. His last two missions, the assault on Fort Fisher and the excavation of a canal to bypass chokepoints on the James River to Richmond, had both been miserable failures. Gen. U.S. Grant decided today this was a matter up with which he could not put, and wrote Lincoln asking that Butler be removed from command of the Army of the James.

### **7 Jan 1862 – Jackson's Romney Campaign, cont.**

For two days the forces of "Stonewall" Jackson had been sitting on the Virginia side of the Potomac River, lobbing shells at the town of Hancock on the Maryland side of the waterway. Despite this firepower, the town declined to surrender, and Stonewall decided January was not a good time to try an invasion of what was still technically Northern territory. Therefore today the bombardment was discontinued and the Confederates headed on towards the town of Romney in what is now West Virginia. Unfortunately, a heavy ice storm, not uncommon in the mountains this time of year, developed and made even walking difficult. An unexpected skirmish at Hanging Rock Pass complicated matters further.

### **8 Jan 1862 – Jackson's Romney Campaign, cont.**

Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's health, particularly eyesight and digestion, was poor for most of his life and he ate fruits and vegetables whenever possible to help this. He also believed in the importance of bathing, to such an extent that today, with his forces horribly weary after marching and fighting in severe cold, he called a halt for rest at Unger's Store, Va. and Jackson ordered water heated. Both he and his men indulged in baths today.

### **9 Jan 1864 – Naval Rumors.**

Secretary of the Yankee Navy Gideon Welles received a disturbing telegram from Admiral C.H. Bell in California. According to Bell, he had himself just received word that Confederates were constructing a large new raider in an unexpected place, Vancouver, British Columbia. Welles' agents had largely blocked Southern attempts to get ships in Europe, but had overlooked the Canadian option. In Richmond, President Jefferson Davis was sending notice to commanders in Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia that Admiral Farragut was preparing to attack Mobile.

### **10 Jan 1865 – CSS Stonewall**

Commander Bulloch, of the Confederate Navy, wrote Richmond today with a complicated story. He had ordered a ship built in France. Paris refused delivery, selling it instead to Denmark for the Schleswig-Holstein War. That war ended abruptly and the Danes refused to take the ship, now named the Sphinx. Bulloch bought it secretly, renamed her the CSS Stonewall, and requested a captain and crew be sent.

### **11 Jan 1864 – North Carolina Naval Engagements**

Yesterday saw the loss of the USS Iron Age in Lockwood's Folly Inlet after she ran aground was destroyed by shore batteries. Today saw the loss of two more ships of the Federal blockade in the same inlet. In this case they were chased by Confederate ships too close to shore, and also ran aground. They were then burned to the waterline.

### **12 Jan 1863 – Third Confederate Congress Convenes**

Today marked the opening day of the Third Session of the Congress of the Confederate States of America. Jefferson Davis said the military situation was going well, pointing to the halting of Federal operations in Tennessee, around Vicksburg, and in Virginia. Davis also noted the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation, claiming that its passage encouraged slaves to rise up and murder their masters, and that this action would lead to the extermination of the Negro race.

### **13 Jan 1864 – Dalton Dilemma**

Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, operating out of Dalton, Ga., was becoming increasingly surrounded, and felt his force was in danger at its present location. His options, however, were severely constrained when he got a telegram from President Davis, informing him that any fallback or withdrawal would have devastating political as well as military consequences. "I trust you will not deem it necessary to adopt such a measure," Davis wrote.

### **14 Jan 1865 – Fort Fisher, NC**

The combined land and sea attack on Ft. Fisher entered its second day, with Navy gunboats firing at a rate of 100 shells per minute. Confederate defenders suffered 300 dead, and were unable to bury them due to the severity of the shrapnel. In fact, the fire was so intense that only one gun on the landward side of the fort was still operational, all the others having been dismantled by shellfire. While the Navy handled that part of the operation, the Army protected its rear against possible attack by Braxton Bragg, and prepared to move forward against the fort.

### **15 Jan 1865 – Fort Fisher, NC, cont.**

Despite two days of relentless bombardment, Confederate forces wreaked havoc on the Naval landing force, killing many of the officers (who were leading the charge) and repelling the attack. In an unusual move, the first Union officer to breach the parapet of the installation was Navy Capt. Thomas Selfridge, but he was eventually driven off. As the southern defenders paused to celebrate this repulse they realized, horrified, that the Federal Army wing of the amphibious attack had occupied the other end of the fort. When they tried to rush to that end of the fort, pinpoint shelling from the Navy vessels began, killing and wounding many. It still took hours of hand to hand fighting to drive the last of Col. Lamb's Confederates from the fort. Despite being himself wounded in the hip, Lamb did not finally surrender until nightfall. The fort's only hope of succor would have been for Gen. Bragg to attack the US forces on the Cape Fear River side of the fort, but Bragg did not move.

### **16 Jan 1865 – Fort Fisher, NC – Parthian Shot**

Ft. Fisher, N.C. was not done killing Yankee soldiers. Their first action was to get as drunk as possible. This was followed by celebrations with such utensils were at hand, mostly shooting off pistols and other weapons. In the course of all this they continued looting everything left in the fort. Somehow in the festivities a spark from one of the guns fell into the main ammunition magazine, which promptly went up in a tremendous explosion. Casualties included 25 dead, 66 wounded, and 13 missing and never accounted for, for a total of at least 104 casualties.

### **17 Jan 1864 – Coal Torpedoes**

The Confederacy certainly had manufacturing capabilities, and moreover had some very ingenious persons employed in the war effort to use creativity in weapons design. One such item devised around this time: the "coal torpedo." It was a hollow lump of cast iron, the hollow part of which was packed with gunpowder and sealed. This was then milled, ground and painted until it looked like a perfectly ordinary lump of coal. All that was required was for a passerby at a Union naval fueling station to drop this into a coal pile about to be loaded onto a ship. When the bomb was shoveled into the ship's boiler it didn't even need a fuse to turn it into a devastating explosive. Not enough were made to have much of an effect, although one would come close next year in City Point, Va.

### **18 Jan 1862 – John Tyler dies**

Former U.S. President and current Confederate Congressman-elect John Tyler dies in Richmond, Virginia.

Tyler was a product of tidewater Virginia, and he spent nearly his entire life in public service. Tyler was a U.S. Senator from Virginia during the 1830s, when many of the sectional issues were emerging in national politics. A Whig, Tyler became vice president in 1841. Within a month of his inauguration, President William Henry Harrison died in office and Tyler vaulted into the executive chair. The major achievement of his administration was the addition of Texas to the Union in 1845. After his presidency, Tyler moved to his plantation, Sherwood Forest, in Virginia. His fellow Virginians called on the 70-year-old to head a Peace Convention in the winter of 1860-1861. This body tried to negotiate a compromise with the victorious Republicans in the North to prevent a civil war. The attempt failed, as the Republicans were not willing to entertain any proposals that would protect slavery in the western territories. Tyler was a delegate to the subsequent Secession Convention and he later became a member of the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States of America. Tyler felt that victory was impossible for the Confederates but he nonetheless suggested that Confederate cavalry be dispatched to capture Washington before the Union military was in place.

Tyler was elected to the permanent Congress of the Confederate States of America but he died before he could take his seat. He was survived by his second wife, Julia, and 11 of his 15 children. Tyler is buried in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond.

### **19 Jan 1807 – Birthday of Robert E Lee**

### **20 Jan 1863 – Burnside's Mud March**

The Union army was still reeling from the disastrous Battle of Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862. Burnside's force suffered more than 13,000 casualties as it assaulted Lee's troops along hills above Fredericksburg. Lee suffered only 5,000 casualties, making Fredericksburg one of the most one-sided engagements in the eastern theater of operations. Morale was very low among the Yankees that winter.

Now, Burnside sought to raise morale and seize the initiative from Lee. His plan was to swing around Lee's left flank and draw the Confederates away from their defenses and into the open. Speed was essential to the operation. January had been a dry month to that point, but as soon as the Federals began to move, a drizzle turned into a downpour that last for four days. Logistical problems delayed the laying of a pontoon bridge across the Rappahannock River, and a huge traffic jam snarled the army's progress. In one day, the 5th New York moved only a mile and a half. The roads became unnavigable, and conflicting orders caused two corps to march across each others' paths. Horses, wagons, and cannon were stuck in mud, and the element of surprise was lost. Jeering Confederates taunted the Yankees with shouts and signs that read "Burnside's Army Stuck in the Mud."

### **21 Jan 1824 – Birthday of Stonewall Jackson**

### **22 Jan 1863 – Burnside's Mud March, cont.**

Burnside tried to lift spirits by issuing liquor to the soldiers on January 22, but this only compounded the problems. Drunken troops began brawling, and entire regiments fought one another. The operation was a complete fiasco, and on January 23 Burnside gave up his attempt to, in his words, "strike a great and mortal blow to the rebellion." The campaign was considered so disastrous that Burnside was removed as commander of the army on January 25.

### **23 Jan 1865 – Richard Taylor take over Army of Tennessee**

Confederate Lieut. Gen. Richard Taylor was appointed today to take over command of the Army of Tennessee, following the resignation of John Bell Hood in the wake of the latter's disastrous loss of the Battle of Nashville. The army in question, though, was a wreck. The proud Tennesseans had numbered 38,000 less than three months ago. After the disastrous Battle of Franklin, in which six generals were killed in a single day, the army had lost 6200; after Nashville they were down in membership to barely 17,700 men. Many who escaped death, wounding, sickness or capture simply took off for home to protect their families. Taylor's orders were to take the remnants to the Carolinas to try to stop Sherman's advance. Barely 5000 made it there.

### **24 Jan 1865 – Congress Proposes Prisoner Exchange**

The Confederate Congress proposed to continue prisoner exchanges, opening a process that had operated only sporadically for three years. In the first year of the war, prisoner exchanges were conducted primarily between field generals on an ad hoc basis. The Union was reluctant to enter any formal agreements, fearing that it would legitimize the Confederate government. But the issue became more important as the campaigns escalated in 1862. On July 2, 1862, Union General John Dix and Confederate General Daniel H. Hill reached an agreement. Under the Dix-Hill cartel, each soldier was assigned a value according to rank. For example, privates were worth another private, corporals and sergeants were worth two privates, lieutenants were worth three privates, etc. A commanding general was worth 60 privates.

### **25 Jan 1863 – Burnside's Mud March, cont.**

Gen. Burnside, his army back now in winter quarters after the disaster of the "Mud March", met today with Lincoln. He demanded the removal of several other generals, or else. He threatened to resign himself from a command he had never much wanted in the first place. Lincoln took him up on it, and appointed Gen. Hooker in his place as commander of the Army of the Potomac.

### **26 Jan 1861 – Louisiana Secedes**

*"...Louisiana invites you to a candid consideration of her acts in resuming the powers delegated to the government of the late United States, and in providing for the formation of a confederacy of "The States which have seceded and may secede." ... She was impelled to this action to preserve her honor, her safety, her property and the free institutions so sacred to her people. She believed the federal agent had betrayed her trust, had become the facile instrument of a hostile people, and was usurping despotic powers. She considered that the present vacillating executive, on the 4th of March next, would be supplanted by a stalwart fanatic of the Northwest, whose energetic will, backed by the frenzied bigotry of unpatriotic masses, would cause him to \*establish\* the military despotism already inaugurated."*

### **27 Jan 1865 – Lee Laments Supply & Manpower Situation**

Gen. Robert E. Lee wrote a rather despondent letter today to Richmond. In it he pointed out that absenteeism, and frequently outright desertion, from his Army of Northern Virginia was reaching critical proportions. While it was hardly unknown on either side for men to go absent with or without leave to deal with family emergencies, the problem now was that they were neglecting to come back. Lee stated "the ration is too small for men who have to undergo so much exposure and labor as ours", and suggested the Commissary Department be encouraged to provide more and better food.

### **28 Jan 1865 – CSS Stonewall**

One of the last hopes of the Confederate Navy, the CSS "Stonewall", had had an interesting career already for a ship that had never fired a shot in anger. She had been constructed in France for the Confederacy. After some arm-twisting by the US government the order was cancelled and the ship sold to Denmark for use in the Schleswig-Holstein War. That conflict ended unexpectedly and the Danes refused to pay for the ship. It was purchased in Copenhagen by Confederate agent Capt. Thomas J. Page who named it the "Sphinx." Four days ago she had made rendezvous with the CSS "City of Richmond" at Belle Isle in Quiberon Bay, France and by today she was fully provisioned with crew, arms and supplies. All she was short of was coal. The "City of Richmond", and "Stonewall" left port together, with the Stonewall under sail instead of steam to save fuel.

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### 29 Jan 1863 – Confederate Finances

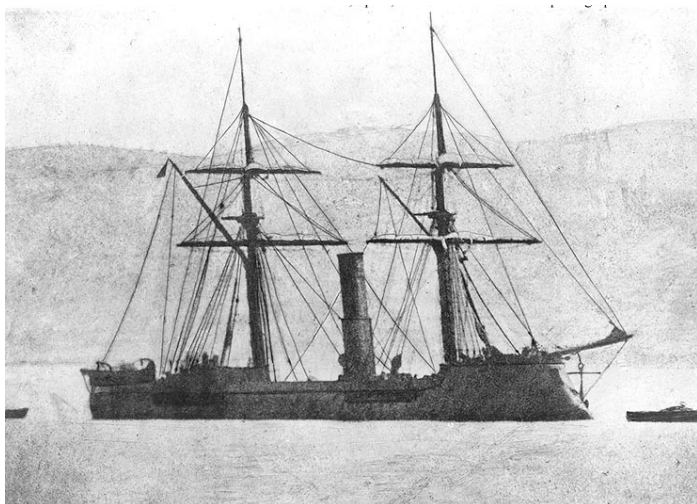
Financing a new nation is never an easy prospect, and to have to finance a war of independence at the same time is even harder. Despite all resolve to the contrary, budget deficits may prove almost impossible to avoid. Thus it was for the Confederacy, whose Congress today authorized the borrowing of \$15 million, a huge sum for the time. A foreign middleman, French financier Emile Erlanger, provided the funding. The deal, like many of the financial bailouts that kept the Confederate government solvent, was probably arranged by Jewish Secretary of War Judah Benjamin. The previous month, Yankee General U S Grant had issued his infamous General Order 11 which stated, *“The Jews, as a class... are hereby expelled from the Department [of the Tennessee] within twenty-four hours from the receipt of this order.”*

### 30 Jan 1861 – Texas Secession Ordinance Proposed

*“We the people of the State of Texas by our duly elected delegates in Convention assembled do declare and ordain, and it is hereby declared and ordained that the union by a written compact between the State of Texas and the other States, under the name of the United States of America, having failed to answer the ends of its formation, is hereby dissolved, and that Texas is and of right ought to be a free and independent State, that her citizens and people are absolved from all allegiance to the United States or the government thereof, and that as a free and independent State she has full power to do all acts and things which independent States may of right do”*

### 31 Jan 1863 – Charleston Harbor

Out of the haze this morning came the shadowy forms of Confederate gunboats Chicora and Palmetto State. Their mission was to break the blockade strangling this major Southern port. Surprise and fierce gunfire wreaked havoc on the Federal ships. Mercedita was rammed, shelled, shot, run aground and surrendered (she later got back afloat and escaped.) Keystone State was the next target, taking shots in her boilers that killed 20 and wounded 20 more, most of the deaths being caused by scalding steam. Other Federal vessels were also damaged and the Confederates withdrew completely unscathed.



**CSS Stonewall**



**Fort Fisher, NC**