



THE JOHNSTON JOURNAL SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Albert Sidney Johnston Camp 67 – Houston, Texas
Wednesday, 17 March 2010

Join us for a presentation by Charles Duke on

“Civil War Boatworks and Confederate Naval property on Galveston Bay”

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 Grysa

Adjutant/Treasurer Dodd Eastham

Please RSVP to

Ev Gardner 281-980-9054

or Dodd Eastham dodd@bayoudog.org

“We have changed the constituent parts, but not the system of government. The Constitution framed by our fathers is that of these Confederate States. In their exposition of it, and in the judicial construction it has received, we have a light which reveals its true meaning. Reverently let us invoke the God of our Fathers to guide and protect us in our efforts to perpetuate the principles which by his blessing they were able to vindicate, establish, and transmit to their posterity.”

Jefferson Davis

Inaugural Address

www.scvcamp67.org

Headstone Dedication

On Saturday 27 March, A.S. Johnston Camp will sponsor a ceremony in Glenwood Cemetery dedicating Confederate headstones. We estimate that 14 Confederate Veterans will be honored at this ceremony. The program will start at 10 AM and should be finished by noon. Afterward a reception will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church. volunteers to direct traffic, and take various parts in the program will be recruited in the near future.

Menu for March meeting:

Marinated cucumber and tomato salad
Chicken fried chicken
Peas and carrots
Cornbread
Apple pie

Welcome 2010 New Members

Samuel W. Kruse, a descendant of Pvt. Richard Ainley , 38th Arkansas Infantry
Daniel Grady Perdue, PhD, descendant of 2nd Lt. Thomas Pleasant Preston, Co.C, 42nd Alabama Inftry
Roland Randall Skelton, Jr., descendant of Col John Harris Baker, Co. A, 13th Regmnt. Georgia Inftry.
Jerry August Mouton, descendant of Brig. Gen. Jean Jacques Mouton, 18th Louisiana Regiment

Commander's Corridor

Compatriots: One of the projects I would like to accomplish one of these days is to write a short history of Albert Sidney Johnston Camp # 67. If you would like to lend a hand, let me know. Currently there are only a few paragraphs on our web site, which states that much of the history of the Camp has been lost. However, there are many notes on the Camp in the original Confederate Veteran Magazine, published from 1893 - 1934. For example, at the time of the Houston reunion of the SCV in 1920, one article states that our Camp had 1,310 members, the largest membership of any camp.

Our camp is a survivor. In 1926, there were 67 camps in the Army of the Trans-Mississippi (ATM). The demise of Confederate Veterans, the Great Depression, and World War II decimated the ATM. By the early 1940s, there were only two ATM camps left: Albert Sidney Johnston Camp # 67 and Sterling Price Camp #145 in St. Louis

In looking for United Confederate Veteran records, I just came across what appears to be a treasure trove of historical information in the Texas Confederate Museum Collection at the Haley Memorial Library and History Center in Midland
(<http://www.haleylibrary.com/research/tcm.html>).

There are lots of United Confederate Veteran records, including a number of records labeled "Houston, TX, UCV Camp." Unfortunately, the only thing on line in this collection is the index, and one must call or write the archivist to obtain copies of the records.



Ev Gardner



This Day in Confederate History – March

“The Government of the United States has...any and all rights which they choose to enforce in war--to take their lives, their homes, their lands, their everything...and war is simply power unrestrained by constitution or compact.”

“Next year their lands will be taken, for in war we can take them, and rightfully too, and another year they may beg in vain for their lives.. to the petulant and persistent secessionist, why, death is mercy, and the quicker he or she is disposed of the better.”

Wm. Tecumseh Sherman

“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”

Genl. Robert E. Lee

1 Mar 1863 – Problems with Weather and Rail Gauge

The new month brought no improvement to the situation in the Confederacy, most of which was still shivering under one of the worst winters in memory. The means to cope with the inclemency was waning rapidly as well, as the system for the distribution of food was increasingly disrupted. The climate was not as bad in the Western Confederacy, and Vicksburg was still unconquered, but there was famine approaching in Richmond. The Southern railway system had long suffered from a bizarre system in which track widths in each state were slightly different. This meant that a cargo of wheat from Texas, or beef from Florida, might have to be offloaded from one car to another every time a state border was crossed. It made moving large masses long distances extremely difficult.

2 Mar 1862 – Polk’s Kentucky Withdrawal

Leonidas K. Polk, ordained bishop in the Episcopal Church and major general of the Confederate army, completed a most unpleasant assignment today when he completed the evacuation of Columbus, Kentucky. This marked the end of the “Kentucky Line” of defense, which Polk himself helped to create when he originally took his forces into the state without authorization. The state had been so evenly divided between loyalists to South and North, with probably just as many who wished a plague on both their houses, that the last vote of the regularly elected legislature had been a resolution of neutrality and ban on troops from either side entering the state. Polk’s new defensive line was established at Island No. 10 in the Mississippi River, and Fort Pillow just north of Memphis, Tennessee.

3 Mar 1862 – Forts Henry & Donelson - Aftermath

The campaign down the Mississippi continued today. Forts Henry and Donelson being secured, the scene shifted to New Madrid, Missouri. This town, which had been the epicenter of the strongest earthquake ever recorded in North America (in 1811), now was threatened by Federal forces commanded by Gen. John Pope.

4 Mar 1863 – Meeting General Forrest

A small Union force departed from Franklin, Tennessee, today, heading for Thompson’s Station, intending to make an excursion to explore the vicinity for hostiles. In a prime example of the adage “be careful what you wish for”, they met up with a large Confederate force comprised of infantry under Van Dorn and cavalry under Nathan Bedford Forrest. Although they were nearly surrounded, the cavalry managed to fight their way through and escape, a tactic not unknown to Gen. Forrest himself, who had used it at Ft. Donelson. The Union infantry, however, lacked the advantage of four-footed transportation. They fought fiercely before most were compelled to surrender on the following day.

5 Mar 1862 – Shenandoah Valley, the beginning

The customs of the Shenandoah Valley are not those of most places. For one thing, to go “up” the valley means to go south. That is what Gen. Nathaniel Banks was doing this day, in charge of a Federal force headed from Harpers Ferry, Va., towards Winchester. The intended target: Gen. Thomas Jonathan Jackson. Since the battle of First Bull Run last May, he had become known as “Stonewall.” Gen. Banks had achieved his military career by joining the Republican Party at a very early stage of its development and winning the governor’s race in Massachusetts in 1858, while Stonewall had learned his skills at West Point. The differences in talent as well as training would show in this campaign.

6 Mar 1864 – CSS David

In a new attempt at creating a devastating ramship, the torpedo boat CSS David was outfitted by the Confederate Navy with a long spar stretching off her front, with a bomb attached to the end. Today she drove up the North Edisto River near Charleston, in pursuit of the USS Memphis. David got within 50 feet before the Memphis' crew even noticed she was there. The crew began hysterically firing muskets, with no effect on the iron semi-submersible. The spar bomb hit hard, below the waterline--and didn't go off. In two more attempts it never went off, and Memphis was undamaged.

7 Mar 1862 – Battle of Pea Ridge

The Battle of Pea Ridge proceeded today. Gen. Earl Van Dorn, CSA, had spent the night marching his men north to the Federal rear. Attacked from the opposite direction than expected, the battle quickly became one of frontier-style hand-to-hand combat, rather than the Eastern Theater unit-against-unit approach. The deaths of two Confederate generals--Benjamin McCulloch and James McIntosh--threw the Southern forces into great confusion. The day ended with the battle unfinished.

8 Mar 1863 – Moseby

Gen. E. H. Stoughton was on a mission: the capture of the pesky Confederate cavalry raider Capt. John S. Mosby. It had been a long hard chase, however, and tonight Stoughton and his men slept gratefully in comfortable beds in Fairfax Court House, Va. They slept so well, and with so few guards, that Moseby and his men were able to creep quietly into town and right into the headquarters garrison. There they woke Stoughton and, at gunpoint, asked him what his mission was. He answered that his mission was to capture Moseby, and the man with the gun told he had succeeded because he WAS Moseby. Stoughton and party were allowed to dress before being marched off to Confederate lines as prisoners of war. They spent some time in that condition before being exchanged, but the rest of Moseby's loot, including 58 horses "of high quality", arms, ammunition and other equipment, were cheerfully retained by Confederate authorities.

9 Mar 1862 – CSS Virginia

The battle between the CSS Virginia and the Monitor at Hampton Roads, Va, on this day changed the future of naval warfare forever. The USS Monitor, built from the keel up from a design rejected by Napoleon, battled the CSS Virginia, which was a metal-plated reconstruction of the partly-burnt ship USS Merrimac. The Virginia had arrived the day before and wreaked havoc on the wooden Union ships. Up against another ironclad her defects became more obvious, primarily that her steam engine was not powerful enough to propel the weight of her iron plating. Although she arrived a day late, and had been laughed at as the "cheese-box on a raft", the Monitor would be only the first of a new class of fighting ships. The days of wooden ships was over.

10 Mar 1865 – William H. C. Whiting

Confederate General William Henry Chase Whiting dies in prison from wounds suffered during the fall of Fort Fisher, North Carolina. Born in 1824 in Biloxi, Mississippi, Whiting was educated in Boston and at Georgetown College in Washington, where he graduated first in his class at age 16. He then entered the U.S. Military Academy, where in 1845 he again topped his graduating class. Whiting joined the Corps of Engineers and designed coastal fortifications in the West and South, including the defenses for the Cape Fear River in North Carolina. During this project, he got married and settled in Wilmington, North Carolina.

When the war began, Whiting offered his services to the new Confederate States of America. He was at Fort Sumter when the Union garrison surrendered at the start of the war. He returned to Wilmington in the summer of 1861 to supervise the construction of defenses for the city, and then moved to northern Virginia as chief engineer for the Confederate army forming there. Whiting was responsible for moving troops from the Shenandoah Valley to Manassas in time for the First Battle of Bull Run on July 21. His work was a vital component of the Confederate rout of Union troops there.

Whiting was given command of a division, and his leadership during the Seven Days' battles in June 1862 earned him the praise of the top Confederate leaders. In November 1862, he was given command of the District of Wilmington, allowing him to return to his North Carolina home. He set about strengthening the city's defenses and constructing Fort Fisher at the Cape Fear River's mouth. Partly due to his efforts, Wilmington was one of the most important blockade running ports for the Confederates throughout the war. Whiting spent the rest of the war in Wilmington, with the exception of a few months in 1864 spent shoring up the defenses around Petersburg, Virginia.

Whiting's Fort Fisher was a formidable barrier to the Union capture of Wilmington. General Benjamin Butler led a Yankee force against Fort Fisher in December 1864, but the garrison fended off the attack. The next month, General Alfred Terry launched another assault; this time, Fort Fisher fell to the Yankees. Whiting was badly wounded and captured during the attack. He was able to write his report of the battle three days later, but his health failed when he was shipped to New York and confined in prison at Governor's Island. William H. C. Whiting died on March 10 at age 40.

11 Mar 1863 – Fort Pemberton

Grant's plodding progress toward Vicksburg suffered a setback today when his gunboats couldn't get past a fort built out of cotton bales. Gen. Pemberton had sent Maj. Gen. W.W. Loring to a patch of flooded swamp near Greenwood to build a fort. Loring, tactfully, named it Fort Pemberton, and built it out of earthworks and cotton bales. With a couple of cannon he fended off the USS Chillicothe. The fort was effective not nearly so much because of its power as because of the element of surprise.

12 Mar 1863 – The Richmond Sentinel

Dateline: CSA Today. New Newspaper Prints in Richmond! The "Sentinel" printed its first issue in the Confederate capital of Richmond, Va. today. The capital was amply served with newspapers, and they were avidly read by civilians and troops alike. Soldiers in the field would pool their last few cents to buy a paper every time a sutler had one available. The paper shortage was a problem, though--all the papers were printing on half-sheets these days.

13 Mar 1865 – Black Confederates

Gen. Robert E. Lee had been lobbying for the measure for quite some time. Other Confederate generals had likewise supported it as the manpower shortage became ever more severe. Inexplicably, President Davis and the Confederate Congress were disinclined to support it until now. However, today the plan was adopted, and these newly recruited troops were soon seen in the streets of Richmond. Their army uniforms were grey--but the troopers were black.

14 Mar 1862 – New Bern, North Carolina

Union General Ambrose Burnside captures North Carolina's second largest city and closes another port through which the Confederates could slip supplies.

The capture of New Bern continued Burnside's success along the Carolina coast. Five weeks earlier, he led an amphibious force against Roanoke Island between Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds. The Yankees captured the island on February 8; now Burnside moved against New Bern on the mainland. On March 13, he landed 12,000 troops along the Neuse River, 15 miles south of New Bern. Accompanied by 13 gunboats, Burnside's army marched up river to face 4,000 Confederate troops commanded by General Lawrence O. Branch.

The city was protected by extensive defenses, but Branch did not have enough soldiers to properly staff them. He concentrated his men along the inner works a few miles downriver from New Bern. Early on the morning of March 14, Burnside's men attacked in a heavy fog--two of the three Yankee brigades crashed into the fortifications. General Jesse Reno's brigade struck the weakest part of the line, where an inexperienced Rebel militia unit tried to hold off the Federals. Burnside's third brigade joined Reno and the Confederate line collapsed. That afternoon, Union gunboats steamed into New Bern.

Union casualties for the battle were 90 killed and 380 wounded, while the Confederates suffered 64 killed, 101 wounded, and 413 captured. The conflict produced a Confederate hero, Colonel Zebulon Vance, who rescued his regiment by using small boats to bypass a bridge set afire by his comrades. Vance was elected governor of the state later that year.

15 Mar 1831 – Edmund A Perry

Confederate General Edward Aylesworth Perry is born in Richmond, Massachusetts. The transplanted Yankee led a Florida brigade during the war, and served as governor of the state after the war.

Perry received his education at Lee Academy in Massachusetts and then at Yale University. In 1852, he moved to Georgia to teach school and study law. After a sojourn in Alabama, he settled in Pensacola, Florida, to practice. When the war erupted, Perry took up arms for his adopted state, becoming a captain in the Pensacola Rifle Rangers. His company was later absorbed into the 2nd Florida Infantry. He participated in the occupation of the Pensacola navy yard before joining the Confederate army in Virginia.

The 2nd Florida fought in the Peninsular campaign, defending Yorktown in the face of General George B. McClellan's invading Union army. Perry became the regiment's commander when Colonel George Ward was killed near Williamsburg, and Perry led the unit through hard fighting during the Seven Days' battles in June 1862. Three months later, the Floridians fought at the Battle of Antietam and suffered heavy losses. Perry was promoted to brigadier general and received command of two other Florida regiments. He fought at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, but typhoid fever caused him to miss the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863, where his brigade lost more than half of its men.

Perry returned to command, but he was seriously wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness in May 1864. He was forced to relinquish control of his brigade, and after his recovery he spent the rest of the war commanding reserve troops in Alabama. He served as governor of Florida from 1884 to 1888, and in that post he signed a bill providing pensions for Confederate veterans. His failing health forced him to Texas in 1889, where he died from a stroke at Kerrville on October 15. He is buried in St. John's Cemetery in Pensacola.

16 Mar 1862 –The Constitution Swept Aside by Lincoln’s Government

The Constitution and the Bill of Rights were supposed to be the inviolable bedrock on which the union stood. During the War for Southern Independence, though, the bedrock developed cracks faster than the Liberty Bell. Already the right of habeas corpus had been suspended in several areas of the East, particularly in the contested areas of Maryland. The First Amendment had suffered abuse when newspapers were closed for printing “anti-Union rumors.” Today, in another unusual report from the west Coast, martial law was declared in San Francisco as Federal authorities heard increasing rumors that there was to be a Confederate attack on the city.

17 Mar 1862 –The Peninsula Campaign – the beginning

From a starting point at Alexandria, Va., Gen. George McClellan packed up his things and went for a trip. The things in question were virtually the entire Army of the Potomac, whose initial destination was the vicinity of the James and York Rivers. He had strict orders to leave sufficient forces to guard the capital, which he very nearly did not do. The entire excursion would come to be known as the Peninsula Campaign.

18 Mar 1863 –Confederate Bond Offering

The financial markets of Paris were presented with a new investment opportunity today as the financiers House of Erlanger offered to buyers £3 million worth of Confederate bonds. The instruments were to be repaid over a period of twenty years. Although they became at the time prime examples of why investments involve risk, the holder’s descendants have reason to be happy--the bonds themselves are worth a great deal in the antiques market today. The bonds were indeed quickly subscribed and purchased, giving not only much-needed revenue to the Richmond government but increasing hopes that recognition by European governments must surely follow soon.

19 Mar 1864 –Georgia War Resolutions

The legislature of the state of Georgia passed a couple of resolutions on the subjects of war and peace. The first simply expressed confidence in the leadership and decisions of President Jefferson Davis. The second was a little trickier: it resolved that the Confederate Government in Richmond should, after each Southern victory, offer to end the war. Terms would be independence for the South, of course, as well as self-determination for border states.

20 Mar 1862 –Drewry’s Bluff

Drewry’s Bluff was the name of a high cliff on the James River as you came upstream from the Atlantic to Richmond. With this in mind, Jefferson Davis had ordered the construction of a fort there. He wrote today: “The position of Drewry’s Bluff, seven or eight miles below Richmond, was chosen to obstruct the river against such vessels as the ‘Monitor.” It worked, too--the fort was still in use until the Confederate government fled Richmond.

21 Mar 1863 –Vicksburg

The joint northern army-navy expedition, intended to work through obscure waterways to get in behind Vicksburg, was progressing slowly. The waterways in question, difficult enough to navigate with a flatboat, were definitely not designed to accommodate ironclads. The troops, under Sherman’s command, followed along the banks. Today they reached Steele’s Bayou, and were harassed by Confederate sharpshooters

22 Mar 1862 –CSS Florida

Queen Victoria’s government in London had early on taken the position of strict neutrality in the matter of the American Civil War, but it was quite permitted for Englishmen to sell goods, including munitions, to both sides. Nevertheless, the Federals took a dim view of trade with the Confederacy. It was for this reason that a new vessel left the shipyards of Liverpool under the name of Oreto, private merchantman, quite unarmed, sailing for Nassau. Once there she ran up the Stars and Bars--she was actually the CSS Florida, bought and paid for by the South. Her guns, four 7-inchers, had been sent by different ship.

23 Mar 1862 –Shenandoah Valley, cont.

Gen. Thomas J. Jackson’s men had marched 26 miles yesterday. Today they got up early, marched until 2 p.m., and went straight into the Battle of Kernstown. As might be expected, given that they were not only tired but outnumbered anywhere from 3-1 to 5-1 depending on who you ask, the Stonewall Brigade lost the battle. However, the sheer audacity caused the Federals to shift 60,000 troops to the area from the Peninsula. This is considered the opening of the Shenandoah Valley Campaign.

24 Mar 1865 –Gordon at Petersburg

It was coming down to do-or-die time for the Confederacy. Gen. John B. Gordon was the point man--he got the assignment to lead the attack on the Federal right at Fort Stedman, near Petersburg. If Grant’s line was broken at this point it would threaten his supply lines to City Point, Va. Grant might then be forced to pull back to stronger but shorter lines, and this would take pressure off everybody. The attack was set for tomorrow.

25 Mar 1865 –Gordon at Petersburg, cont.

A group of Confederates showed up at the gates of Ft. Stedman, near Petersburg, Va., at 3 a.m. today, saying they had had enough and were deserting. This was not exactly true, as the Federals found out an hour later when Gen. John Gordon, CSA, showed up in force and attacked. The fort was quickly overwhelmed, especially after the “deserters” went around committing sabotage and opening gates. Gordon captured the fort and almost a mile of Union lines, but didn’t have enough men to hold them and ultimately withdrew.

26 Mar 1862 – Apache Canyon, NM

Apache Canyon, New Mexico Territory, was the scene of today’s most severe action. Although little known compared to the famous battles of the East, the American West was vigorously contested during the War. A column of Confederates left Santa Fe, quite unaware that they were about to encounter Federal forces led by Maj. John M. Chivington. His Colorado volunteers were successful, but withdrew to Pigeon’s Ranch at the end of the day.

27 Mar 1864 –Illinois Copperheads

Many times during the War there were outbreaks of fighting against Lincoln’s government by its own citizens. One such occurred overnight and into tomorrow in Charleston, in central Illinois. “A dreadful affair took place in our town”, the local newspaper said, when a group of about 100 Copperheads attacked Federal troops who were home on leave. Five were killed and more than 20 wounded before reinforcements arrived and restore

28 Mar 1862 –Glorieta Pass

Little is talked about Civil War actions much west of the Mississippi River. Even less is known about battles in the Far West, but one such occurred today at La Glorieta Pass, in New Mexico Territory. This area was but sparsely settled by white folks, but they nonetheless found something to argue about. A Confederate command under Col. W. R. Scurry was camped at Pigeon’s Ranch. They were attacked head-on by Federals under command of Col. John P. Slough. The Federal attack, although valiant, was both outnumbered and unsuccessful and was slowly falling back. However, their comrades from Colorado had worked their way over mountains into the Confederate rear and swooped down on the supply trains left at Johnsons Ranch. Scurry, hearing about this, broke off the fight and left for Santa Fe.d order.

29 Mar 1862 –Prototype Machine Gun

Middleburg, Va., in the Shenandoah Valley, was the scene of a conflict between Union and Confederate cavalry and infantry. In a somewhat unusual outcome, it was a complete Union victory. The reason for this was the employment of a new and horrible weapon of war: the coffee grinder. This was the nickname of a new device, given because of the large handle which had to be turned to fire it. Much work was needed before it became reliable enough to use on a regular basis, by which time it was known as the machine gun.

30 Mar 1863 –CSS Florida

The life of a navy man, especially a Confederate one, could be severe at times, but it had its corresponding rewards. One such occurred today for the men of the CSS Florida. They captured a civilian vessel, the M.J. Colcord, which was fully loaded and on course for South Africa. Florida took her easily. The crew they transferred to a Danish ship. The Colcord was sunk, but not before the crew had taken off all desired provisions. “We lived like lords on Yankee plunder,” said Lt. Maffitt, CSA

31 Mar 1865 –Pickett at Petersburg

US Gen. Phil Sheridan, happy that the rain was ending, sent his men in to attack the Confederate right. Cavalry and infantry together, numbering around 50,000, moved toward Dinwiddie Court House. There waited perhaps 10,000 Confederates under George Pickett. Pickett’s men fought brilliantly and in fact drove the Federals back all day. That night, however, Pickett decided the effort was futile and retreated to Five Forks.

“We propose no invasion of the North, no attack on them, and only ask to be let alone.”

Patrick R. Cleburne

“Ours is a just war, a holy cause. The invader must meet the fate he deserves and we must meet him as becomes us, as becomes men.”

John Pelham