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SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
Albert Sidney Johnston Camp #67 ~ Houston, Texas

JOIN ASJ CAMP #67

FOR A PRESENTATION BY JAMES BEVILL

“A PAPER TRAIL ACROSS

THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS”

A visual journey through the paper money used by the Republic of Texas (1836-1845)
and how it relates to the location of the capital, significant events,
and the key personalities of the period.

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

The Briar Club (Westheimer at Timmons Lane)

6:30 pm Happy Hour

7:00 Dinner and Camp Meeting

Please RSVP to Darrell Brewer 281-469-1698 or rdbrewer@hotmail.com

or to Charles Dabney 713-816-4081 or cdabney@houston.rr.com

***Because of our large attendance, please RSVP early
to allow the Briar Club to prepare enough meals.***

The Principle for which we contend is bound to reassert itself, though it may be at another time and in another form."

President Jefferson Davis, C.S.A.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER...

Jim Bevill, TNA - First Vice President

- Active member of the American Numismatic Association since 1996.
- Served as a Governor in TNA, District VI, in 2003-2005 (Greater Houston)
- Served for 5 Years as President of The Bellaire Coin Club (1997-2002),
- Current member of Bellaire, Pasadena, and Greater Houston Coin Clubs
- Graduate of ANA Summer Seminar courses on Coin Grading and U.S. Type Coins. Currently serving as the ANA club representative for Houston.
- Frequent lecturer on numismatic topics of type coins, pattern coins, Confederate Coins, and the history of the Republic of Texas, etc.
- Co-authoring a book on "The Numismatic History of Texas" A study of the currency used in Texas from the colonial period through annexation.
- Education: University of Houston – Clear Lake, Bachelor of Science, Finance, 1983, Magna Cum Laude.
- Professional: Merrill Lynch Private Client Group, First Vice President-Inestments, Wealth Management Advisor, 1984 to present.



VOLUNTEERS COME FORTH

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE GRAVES OF OUR GLORIOUS CONFEDERATE HEROES IN THE HOUSTON AREA.

CONTACT GUS MISTROT III (GMIST@JUNO.COM) OR ANY OF THE 2006 OFFICERS



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



April 12 1861 Fort Sumter fired upon

Abraham Lincoln gets the war he was seeking when Confederates fire on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. The fort had been the source of tension between the Union and Confederacy for several months. After South Carolina seceded, the state demanded the fort be turned over but Union officials refused. A supply ship, the "Star of the West," tried to reach Fort Sumter on January 9, but the shore batteries opened fire and drove it away. For both sides, Sumter was a symbol of sovereignty. The Union could not allow it to fall to the Confederates, although throughout the Deep South other federal installations had been seized. For South Carolinians, secession meant little if the Yankees still held the stronghold. Abraham Lincoln on March 4 stated in his inauguration address: "You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors." Thus signaling his intent to paint the South as the aggressor in order to gain popular support for war.

Lincoln did not try to send reinforcements but he did send in food. This way, Lincoln could cleverly characterize the operation as a humanitarian mission, bringing, in his words, "food for hungry men." He sent word to the Confederates in Charleston of his intentions on April 6 in hopes of luring them into firing on the fort before it can be resupplied. The Confederate Congress at Montgomery, Alabama, had decided on February 15 that Sumter and other forts must be acquired "either by negotiation or force." Negotiations failed when Lincoln refused to meet with Confederate officials. The Confederates demanded surrender of the fort, but Major Robert Anderson, commander of Fort Sumter, refused.

At 4:30 a.m. on April 12, the Confederate guns opened fire. For thirty-three hours, the shore batteries lobbed 4,000 shells in the direction of the fort. Finally, the garrison inside the battered fort raised the white flag. No one on either side had been killed, although two Union soldiers died when the departing soldiers fired a gun salute, and some cartridges exploded prematurely. It was a nearly bloodless beginning to America's bloodiest war.

April 19 1861 Baltimore Riots

Residents of Baltimore, Maryland, attack a Union regiment while the group makes its way to Washington, D.C. Just two percent of the city's voters cast their ballots for Abraham Lincoln while nearly half supported John Breckinridge, the Southern Democratic Party candidate. Death threats forced the president-elect to slip through Baltimore in the middle of the night in disguise on his way to Washington for his inauguration

Tensions boiled over on April 18 when pro-Confederate volunteers at Bolton Station hurled insults and rocks at Pennsylvania troops en route to Washington. On April 19, the 6th Massachusetts regiment disembarked to change train stations and was met by a hostile crowd. Cobblestones rained down on the soldiers and the Massachusetts soldiers opened fire. The civilians retaliated in kind and at the end of melee 4 Federal troops and 12 civilians lay dead.

Washington was effectively cut off from the North. In the following months, Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus and hundreds of secessionist leaders were rounded up, and were imprisoned without trial. Within six months, the Federals controlled Baltimore.

April 20 1861 Lee resigns from U.S. Army

Colonel Robert E. Lee resigns from the United States army two days after he was offered command of the Union army and three days after his native state, Virginia, seceded from the Union.

Lee opposed secession, but he was a loyal son of Virginia. His official resignation was only one sentence, but he wrote a longer explanation to his friend and mentor, General Winfield Scott, later that day. Lee had fought under Scott during the Mexican War, and he revealed to his former commander the depth of his struggle. Lee interviewed with Scott on April 18, and explained that he would have resigned then "but for the struggle it has cost me to separate myself from a service to which I have devoted the best years of my life and all the ability I possess." Lee expressed gratitude for the kindness shown him by all in the army during his 25-year service, but Lee was most grateful to Scott. "To no one, general, have I been as much indebted as to yourself for uniform kindness and consideration..." He concluded with this poignant sentiment: "Save in the defense of my native State, I never desire again to draw my sword."

April 5 1862 Siege of Yorktown begins

Union forces under General George McClellan arrive at Yorktown, Virginia, the site of George Washington's decisive victory over Lord Cornwallis to end the American Revolution 91 years earlier. This was the opening of McClellan's Peninsular campaign to take Richmond. He established siege lines instead of directly attacking the Confederate defenders.

McClellan was discouraged by what he thought was a substantial force inside strong fortifications. The Confederates he saw were actually 11,000 troops under General John B. Magruder. Although vastly outnumbered, Magruder staged an elaborate ruse to fool McClellan. He ordered logs painted black, called "Quaker Guns," placed in redoubts to give the appearance of numerous artillery pieces. Magruder marched his men back and forth to enhance the illusion.

On May 4 Magruder's troops finally abandoned Yorktown, giving the Confederates valuable time to gather their troops near Richmond

April 6 1862 Battle of Shiloh begins

The War explodes in the west as the armies of Union General Ulysses S. Grant and Confederate *General Albert Sidney Johnston* collide at Shiloh, near Pittsburgh Landing in Tennessee. The Battle of Shiloh became one of the bloodiest engagements of the war.

Johnston with 45,000 men attacked Grant in the early dawn of April 6 driving the surprised bluecoats back near a small church called Shiloh, meaning "place of peace." Throughout the day, the Confederates battered the Yankees, driving them towards the Pittsburgh Landing and threatening to trap them against the Tennessee River. The chances for a complete Confederate victory diminished as troops from General Buell's army began arriving, and Grant's command shored up their sagging lines. In the middle of the afternoon, Johnston rode forward to direct the Confederate attack and was struck in the leg by a bullet. The ball severed an artery, and Johnston quickly bled to death. He became the highest ranking general on either side killed during the war. General Pierre G. T. Beauregard assumed control, and he halted the advance at nightfall. The Yankees was driven back two miles, but it did not break.

April 21 1863 Steight's Raid begins

Union Colonel Abel Steight begins a raid into northern Alabama and Georgia with the goal of cutting the Western and Atlantic Railroad between Chattanooga and Atlanta. The raid ended when Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest captured Steight's entire command near Rome, Georgia.

April 8 1864 Battle of Mansfield, Louisiana

The Red River campaign of Union General Nathaniel Banks grinds to a halt when Confederate General Richard Taylor routs Banks' army at Mansfield, Louisiana. The Red River campaign, which had begun a month earlier, was an attempt by the Union to invade Confederate Texas from Shreveport, Louisiana. Banks, accompanied by a flotilla on the Red River, would move northwest across the state and rendezvous at Shreveport with a force under General Frederick Steele moving from Little Rock, Arkansas. As Banks approached Mansfield he opted to take a shorter road to Shreveport that ran along the Red River. The road was narrow, and far away from the gun support offered by the Union flotilla on the river. Banks' troops ran into Taylor's force and a skirmish erupted. Taylor ordered an all-out assault on the Yankees. The Rebels withered a heavy fire before breaking the Union lines and sending the Federals in a disorganized retreat. The Yankees fell back three miles before reinforcements stopped the Confederate advance.

April 10 1865 Lee's last orders

One day after surrendering to Union General Ulysses S. Grant, General Robert E. Lee addresses his army for the last time.

"After four years of arduous service, marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources. I need not tell the brave survivors of so many hard-fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to the result from no distrust of them...I determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen...I bid you an affectionate farewell."

April 14 1865 Lincoln is shot "Sic Semper Tyrannis"

John Wilkes Booth shoots President Abraham Lincoln at a play at Ford's Theater in Washington.