

# THE JOHNSTON JOURNAL

December 2007

**SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS**

Albert Sidney Johnston Camp #67 ~ Houston, Texas

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

## **JOIN ALBERT SIDNEY JOHNSTON CAMP # 67**

**JOIN US FOR A CANDLELIGHT TRIBUTE TO OUR GLORIOUS  
CONFEDERATE ANCESTORS**

**&**

**2008 OFFICER ELECTIONS**

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

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 (\$25) and Camp Meeting

Please RSVP to

Darrell Brewer 281-469-1698 or [rdbrewer46@hotmail.com](mailto:rdbrewer46@hotmail.com)

or Bryan Fox 713-914-0124 or [bnfox@swbell.net](mailto:bnfox@swbell.net)

**ASJ #67 Camp Officers**

**Commander—Bryan Fox**

**1st Lt. Commander—Dr. Danny Sessums**

**2nd Lt. Commander—Robert Dawson**

**3rd Lt. Commander—Raymond Holder**

**Adjutant/Treasurer—Darrell Brewer**

**Chief Aide de Camp—Bill Holmes**

**"Our government is agency of delegated and strictly limited powers.  
Its founders did not look to its preservation by force; but the chain they wove to bind these States together  
was one of love and mutual good offices"**

**Jefferson Davis**



## MERRY CHRISTMAS

In keeping with our December tradition we will celebrate the Christmas season with each member lighting a candle for his Confederate ancestor and delivering a tribute to their soldier. Per our Camp by laws we will hold elections for 2008 officers prior to the tribute to our ancestors.

### IMPORTANT DATES

**JANUARY 19—SOUTHERN HERITAGE BALL, RIVER OAKS COUNTRY CLUB, HOUSTON, TEXAS**

**JANUARY 19—CONFEDERATE HEROES DAY COTILLION, RIVER PLANTATION COUNTRY CLUB, CONROE, TEXAS**

**JANUARY 26—MAGRUDER'S GULF COAST BRIGADE MEETING, LIBERTY, TEXAS**

### FUTURE ASJ 67 PRESENTATIONS

**January 16—New officers installation-outgoing Commanders comments**

**February 20-guest speaker TBA**



## Welcome 2007 New Members



**Allen Etchison Blakemore**

Descendant of Captain Thomas Johnson Blakemore, 34th Arkansas Infantry Regiment, Company K.

*William Brad Boney*

Descendant of Private William Gaston Boney, 6th Louisiana Cavalry Regiment, Company A.

**Christopher Malone Bowie**

Descendant of Private Robert Johnson Bowie, 4th Mississippi Infantry Regiment, Company K.

**Claude A. Broussard**

Descendant of Private Michel Broussard, 18th Louisiana Infantry Regiment, Yellow Jacket Battalion, Company K.

**Russell Cowart**

Descendant of Private Andrew Jackson Cowart, 5th Florida Cavalry Battalion, Company I.

**Hardy Dodd Eastham**

Descendant of 1st. Lt. Calvin Morgan Smith, 3rd Arkansas Infantry Regiment (Texas Brigade), Company I.

**James W. Johnson**

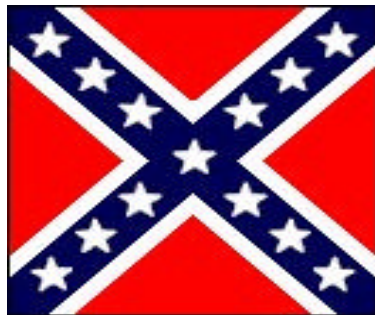
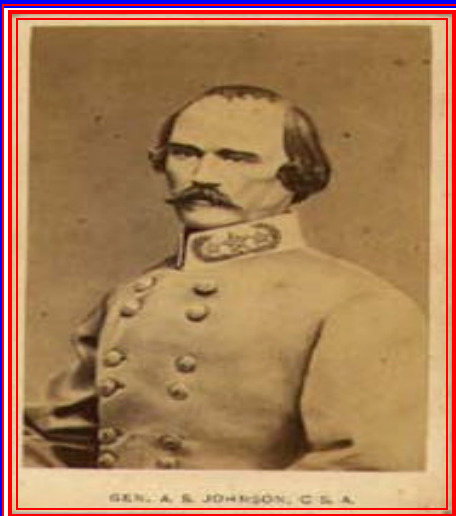
Descendant of Private Stephen G. Bradsher, 7th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment (Forrest Brigade) Company B.

**Jim H. Mims**

Descendant of Alexander Marshall Housley, 1st Georgia Infantry Regiment, Light Artillery, Local Troops.

**George Alton Moran Jr.**

Descendant of Private William H. Faircloth, 4th Texas Cavalry Regiment, Company F.



Commander Bryan Fox

## The Commanders Corridor

If you missed Danny Sessums' presentation on the Battle of Franklin then you just plain missed out. Danny's speaking style and command of the facts provided us with vivid picture of the battle. We can't thank Danny enough for his work.

The 2008 officer nominees are Commander Danny Sessums, 1st Lt. Commander Raymond Holder, 2nd Lt. Commander Eve Gardner, 3rd Lt. Commander Bryan Fox and Adjutant Bill Holmes. Jim Monroe will continue as Camp Chaplain and Dodd Eastham will be Chief Aide de Camp. The election will be conducted by voice vote of the members in attendance at the December meeting. Nominees will be accepted from the floor if necessary. This meeting is always special to our Camp because of the Christmas season and each Compatriot is given the opportunity to speak to the Camp about his ancestors and light a candle in tribute. The date of this month's meeting falls on the eve of the 147th anniversary of South Carolina seceding from the failed Union. The South Carolinians could not have been more right in their action and it is highlighted by current daily events.

There have been three papers submitted for the Essay Scholarship contest. Upon initial review, the Essay Committee is weighing whether any of the submissions is worthy of a scholarship award.

As of October 2007 the Briar Club raised the price of the meals, and with tax and gratuity the total cost is now \$25.20 per person. Since the Camp pays for the guest speaker and his/her spouse's dinners, we were just breaking even each month on our meal costs prior to the increase. I estimate for 2008 the Camp will have to pay an additional \$400 to \$500 from its funds to cover the monthly shortfall. I am not proposing to increase the dinner fee, but rather asking each member to voluntarily pay an additional dollar.

If you were unfortunate enough to watch the farce on CNN called the You Tube GOP debates you must have noted Mitt Romney wants to ban our battle flag from public display. Fred Thompson tried to split rails regarding the flag's public display. Our Confederate symbols and our ancestors themselves are constantly being assailed by hate and ignorance from both the left and right. Now the Christmas season and its meaning are being assaulted in the same manner as the Confederate States of America. Imagine some time in the future Confederate and Christmas symbols will be lawfully banned. It is very plausible. What is ironic is that many Christian ministers and leaders willfully jump on the Stasi bandwagon to bury our proud, brave, and righteous American history honoring the Confederate States of America. Yet when their Christian symbols are relegated to back rooms and closets they will receive no sympathy from this Southern Patriot.

Please have a safe and happy Christmas season and thank you for your support throughout the year.

**Merry Christmas**

**Commander Bryan Fox**

Winter's icy blast has come, heralding the arrival of a Christmas far away from home and family. The soldiers must share the pleasures of the holiday amongst themselves, without loved ones, but not without some merriment. Some have brandished an axe to retrieve a Yuletide tree for the camp, and perhaps St. Nicholas will pay a visit to these men so far from home. Will he leave behind simple, yet much needed, gifts as new socks, a scarf, or a shirt? Perhaps it will be a box sent from family and friends they miss. No matter, for these men will decorate the tree with pieces of hardtack and bright paper. From modest haversacks will come a feast, and a bottle of spirits produced to enliven and warm the day. During the few hours of peace, they have their celebration. A lonely young soldier raises his voice in song: "Never forget the dear ones, around the social hearth, sunny smiles of gladness, the songs of artless mirth; other scene may woo thee, in other lands to roam, never forget the dear ones, that cluster round thy home" \*

\*Excerpt from "Never Forget the Dear Ones", by George F. Root.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Saturday January 19, 2008**

#### **SOUTHERN HERITAGE BALL**

Southern Heritage Historical Society requests your attendance to commemorate the birthday of General Robert E. Lee at the River Oaks Country Club, Houston Texas. Black or white tie, Military uniform, or period dress is required.

7:30 p.m. Silent Auction opens  
7:30 p.m. Arrival of Debutante Carriages  
8:00 p.m. Presentations  
10:30 p.m. Plantation Breakfast

Dixie Darling Table of 10 \$1750. each  
Dixie Darling Seat \$175. each  
Regular Table of 10 \$1500. each  
Regular Seat \$150. each  
Patron Fund Contribution \$50. minimum (optional)

Six lovely debutantes will be presented by their fathers. The dance floor will be open to all guests following the debutante waltz. The reservation deadline is January 4, 2008. To receive a formal invitation or for more information please contact David Whitaker at [dgwhitaker@verizon.net](mailto:dgwhitaker@verizon.net), or Don Lee at [donjantx@aol.com](mailto:donjantx@aol.com), 281.497.5698

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### **Saturday January 19, 2008**

#### **CONFEDERATE HEROES DAY COTILLION**

Granbury's Texas Brigade , Sons of Confederate Veterans present a Texas State Holiday and a Day in the Old South at the River Plantation Country Club from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Uniform, period dress, or Coat and tie are required.

Adults-\$28. each  
Children 12 and under-\$10. each

Presentation of Southern Belles  
Salute to Confederate Heroes  
Silent Auction for Beauvoir  
Houston Rhythm Cloggers  
Midland Express Band  
Dinner and Dancing

Please RSVP before January 7, 2008. Checks should be made to: Cotillion.  
Send to: Civil War Museum, 200 Noble St. Bldg., #6, Spring, Texas 77373  
For more information contact Hewitt Clarke, 281.367.2709 or [Rebelwriter@pdq.net](mailto:Rebelwriter@pdq.net)

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### **Saturday January 26, 2008**

Magruder's Gulf Coast Brigade and the 10th Brigade will hold a joint meeting at the Sam Houston Research Center at Liberty, Texas. The meeting opens at 10:00 a.m. and a officers workshop will be conducted . All members of the Gulf and 10th Brigades are encouraged to attend. For more information contact Brigade Commander Les Pettigrew at [lesipet@alltel.net](mailto:lesipet@alltel.net), or at the following phone numbers. Cell:979.236.3760, office:979.548.6455, Home:979.548.6675



## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



### December 20, 1860 South Carolina exercises its constitutional right to secede from the Union

In the name of the founding fathers South Carolina officially leaves the United States when a convention ratifies an article of secession. South Carolina, the first state to secede, was followed within a few weeks by six other states, who collectively formed the Confederate States of America.

### December 21, 1861 Trent crisis escalates

Lord Lyons, the British minister to the United States, meets with Secretary of State William Seward concerning the fate of James Mason and John Slidell, Confederate envoys arrested by the U.S. Navy aboard the British mail steamer *Trent*. During the meeting, Lyons took a hard line against Seward and forced the Lincoln administration to release the Confederates a few days later. After Lyons met with Seward, he wrote to Lord Russell, the British Foreign Minister. "I am so concerned that unless we give our friends here a good lesson this time, we shall have the same trouble with them again very soon," wrote Lyons. "Surrender or war will have a very good effect on them."

### December 11, 1862 Federals occupy and loot Fredericksburg Virginia

Burnside replaced General George McClellan as head of the Army of the Potomac in early November. He devised a plan to move his army quickly down the Rappahannock River, cross the river, and race Lee's army south to Richmond. Everything went according to plan as the Yankees sped south from Warrenton, Virginia. Burnside surprised Lee with his swiftness--the leading Union corps covered 40 miles in two days. The entire army was at Falmouth by November 19. Although ready to cross the Rappahannock, the army did not begin receiving the pontoon bridges until the end of the month due to mistakes made by the engineering corps. The delay allowed Lee to move his troops into position on the opposite side of the river. On December 11, Burnside's engineers finally began to assemble the bridges. Confederate snipers in Fredericksburg picked away at the builders, so Yankee artillery began a barrage that reduced to rubble many of the buildings along the river. Three regiments ran the sharpshooters out of the town, and the bridge was completed soon after. By evening on the 11th, the Union army was crossing the Rappahannock. By the next day, the entire army was on the other side and Burnside planned the actual attack. While Burnside and staff planned the attack their Yankee troops looted the city.



Fredericksburg Virginia

### December 13, 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg. They loot and Rebs shoot.

General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia repulses a series of attacks by General Ambrose Burnside's Army of the Potomac. The defeat was one of the most decisive losses for the Yankees, and it dealt a serious blow to Northern morale. Burnside hurled 14 attacks against the Confederate lines. Although the Union artillery was effective against the Confederates the six-hundred yard field was a killing ground for the attacking Yankees. No Union soldiers reached the wall at the top of Marye's Heights, and few even came within fifty yards of it. "It is well that war is so horrible, or else we should grow too fond of it," Lee observed to General James Longstreet as they watched the carnage. A bitterly cold night froze many of the Union dead and wounded. Burnside considered continuing the attack on December 14, but his subordinates urged him to cease the madness. On December 15, a truce was called for the Union to collect their dead and wounded soldiers. Burnside retreated northward under the cover of darkness and rain. The one-sided nature of the battle was reflected in the casualty figures. The Yankees suffered 12,653 killed and wounded while Lee lost only 4,200.



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### December 17, 1862 Grant the ever typical tolerant northerner expels the Jews from his department.

At the time Grant's army effectively controlled much territory in western Tennessee, northern Mississippi, and parts of Kentucky and Arkansas. Cotton supplies were very short in the North, and speculators could buy bales in the captured territories and sell it quickly for a good profit. In December, Grant's father arrived for a visit with two friends from Cincinnati. Grant soon realized that the friends, who were Jews, were speculators hoping to gain access to captured cotton. Grant was furious and fired off his notorious Order No. 11: "The Jews, as a class violating every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department and also department orders, are hereby expelled from the department within twenty-four hours from receipt of this order." The fallout from his action was swift. Among 30 Jewish families expelled from Paducah, Kentucky, was Cesar Kaskel, who rallied support in Congress against the order. Shortly after the uproar, President Lincoln ordered Grant to rescind the order.

### December 30, 1862 U.S.S. Monitor sinks

The U.S.S. *Monitor* sinks in a storm off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Just nine months earlier, the ship had been part of a revolution in naval warfare when the ironclad dueled to a standstill with the C.S.S. *Virginia* (*Merrimack*) off Hampton Roads, Virginia.

### December 31, 1862 : Battle of Stones River begins

The Battle of Stones River (Murfreesboro) begins in central Tennessee. At dawn on December 31, about 6 a.m., Confederate General William J. Hardee struck first, attacking the Union's right flank with the division of Maj. Gen. John P. McCook, before many in Union Brig. Gen. Richard W. Johnson's division had finished their breakfast. (This was the third major battle, after Fort Donelson and Shiloh, in which an early morning attack caught a Union army by surprise.) The 10,000 Confederates who massed on their left attacked in one massive wave. McCook's deceptive campfires and the relative inexperience of Gen. McCook caused his division drift away to the left, which left a gap in the front, but the gap was filled seamlessly by the division coming up from his rear, under Maj. Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne. These two divisions swept all resistance aside. Several artillery batteries were captured without having time to fire a shot. Johnson's division, on the right, suffered over 50% casualties. His neighboring Union division to the left, under Brig. Gen. Jefferson C. Davis, was able to hold only briefly. Although meeting stiff resistance, Hardee drove the Union troops back three miles (5 km) to the railroad and the Nashville Pike by 10 a.m., where Johnson was able to rally them. Rosecrans canceled Crittenden's attack on the



Confederate right, which had begun with Brig. Gen. Horatio P. Van Cleve's division crossing the river at 7 a.m., and instead rushed reinforcements to his own right flank. He had been slow to recognize the threat, assuming incorrectly that McCook would be capable of turning back Hardee's assault. As Rosecrans raced across the battlefield directing units, seeming ubiquitous to his men, his uniform was covered with blood from his friend and chief of staff, Colonel Julius Garesché, beheaded by a cannonball while riding alongside. The second Confederate wave was by the corps of Leonidas Polk, the divisions of Maj. Gens. Jones M. Withers and Benjamin F. Cheatham. What saved the Union from total destruction that morning was the foresight of Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan (McCook's wing), who anticipated an early attack and had the troops of his division up and ready in the center of the right half of the line by 4 a.m. Withers hit Sheridan's right flank first (and Davis's left) but was repulsed in three separate charges. Then Cheatham, the reserve division, hit Sheridan's front as Cleburne struck his flank. Cheatham's assault was sluggish and piecemeal; observers claimed he had been drinking heavily and was unable to command his units effectively. While Sheridan's men slowed the enemy advance, they did it at heavy cost to themselves; all three of Sheridan's brigade commanders were killed that day, and more than one third of his men were casualties in four hours of fighting in a cedar forest surrounded on three sides that became known as "The Slaughter Pen". By 10 a.m., many of the Confederate objectives had been achieved. They had captured 28 guns and over 3,000 Union soldiers.

**December 2, 1864 General Gracie killed at Petersburg**

Confederate General Archibald Gracie, Jr., is killed in the trenches at Petersburg, Virginia, when an artillery shell explodes near him.



Gracie



Gracie's Salient

Gracie was born in New York in 1832. He was educated in Germany before he attended West Point, from which he graduated in 1854. Although his family lived in the North, his father owned a business in Mobile, Alabama, and Gracie moved there upon his resignation from the army in 1856. Gracie soon became an ardent supporter of the southern cause, and he was active in the Alabama state militia. In early 1861, before Alabama seceded from the Union, Gracie was ordered by the governor to seize the federal arsenal at Mount Vernon. Gracie joined the 3rd Alabama when hostilities erupted between North and South, and he served in Tennessee and Kentucky during the first part of the war. He was part of General Edmund Kirby Smith's invasion of Kentucky in 1862, and his service earned him a promotion to brigadier general. He fought at Chickamauga and Chattanooga in 1863, and his brigade joined General James Longstreet for the campaign against Knoxville in November. Gracie was wounded at the Battle of Bean's Station on December 15, but he continued with Longstreet back to Virginia. Gracie's command protected Richmond

in the summer of 1864, and his leadership at Drewry's Bluff was instrumental in holding Union General Benjamin Butler's force at bay near the Confederate capital. Gracie fought during the siege of Petersburg for the rest of the year, and he was recommended for promotion to major general. Unfortunately, he was killed before the rank was confirmed. Most of Gracie's family remained in the North, and his relatives arranged for transfer of his body to Union lines. He was buried in New York City.

**December 4, 1864 Engagement ends at Waynesboro**

Eight days of cavalry clashes in Georgia come to an end when Union General Judson Kilpatrick and Confederate General Joseph



Wheeler

Wheeler skirmish for a final time at Waynesboro. Although the Confederates inflicted more than three times as many casualties as the Yankees, the campaign was considered a success by the Union because it screened Wheeler from Yankee General William T. Sherman as he marched his army across Georgia in November and December of 1864, destroying nearly everything in his path. Sherman sent Kilpatrick to Waynesboro in the hope that the Union cavalry could threaten nearby Augusta, Georgia, and divert Confederate attention from Sherman's true goal, Savannah. Beginning on November 27, Wheeler pursued Kilpatrick between Waynesboro and Millen, the site of a Confederate prison that Kilpatrick hoped to liberate. During the campaign, Wheeler pecked at Kilpatrick's force and nearly captured the Union commander in an early morning raid. The last of the fighting came in Waynesboro. With Sherman's army safely past, Kilpatrick evacuated the area. Wheeler killed or wounded 830 Yankee troopers and lost only 240 of his own.

**December 15, 1864 Battle of Nashville, Tennessee**

The once powerful Confederate Army of Tennessee is nearly destroyed when a Union army commanded by General George Thomas swarms over the Rebel trenches around Nashville. This was the sad finale in a disastrous year for the General John Bell Hood's C on-



federates. After losing a summer campaign that resulted in the abandonment of Atlanta Hood took his diminished force north into Tennessee. He hoped to draw Sherman out of the deep South, but Sherman had enough troops to split his force and send part of it to chase Hood into Tennessee. In November, Sherman took the remainder of his army on a pillage across Georgia. On November 30, Hood attacked the troops of General John Schofield at Franklin, Tennessee. The Confederates suffered heavy casualties and much of the army's leadership structure was destroyed: twelve generals were killed or wounded along with 60 regimental leaders. When Schofield moved north to Nashville to join Thomas, Hood followed him and dug his army in outside of Nashville's formidable defenses. Thomas saw his chance to deal a decisive blow to Hood. More than 50,000 Yankees faced a Rebel force that now totaled less than 20,000. Historians have long questioned why Hood even approached the strongly fortified city with the odds so stacked against him. Early in the morning of December 15, Thomas sent a force under General James Steedman against the Confederates' right flank. The Union troops overran the Con-

federate trenches and drove the Rebels back more than a mile. The short December day halted the fighting, but Thomas struck again on December 16. This time, the entire Confederate line gave way and sent Hood's men from the field in a total rout. Only General Stephen Lee's valiant rear-guard action prevented total destruction of the Confederate army. More than 6,000 Rebels were killed or wounded and 3,000 Yankees lost their lives. Hood and his damaged army retreated to Mississippi, the Army of Tennessee no longer a viable offensive fighting force. There no National Battlefield marking the site of the battle. The battlefield southwest of downtown Nashville is now under commercial and residential developments.

**December 27, 1864 Hood's army crosses the Tennessee River**

The broken and defeated Confederate Army of Tennessee finishes crossing the Tennessee River as General John Bell Hood's force



Hood and the army retreats

retreats into Mississippi. After crossing the Tennessee River, Hood reported 18,708 officers and enlisted men, a figure that another Confederate general, Pierre Beauregard, thought was significantly inflated. The army had more than 30,000 men when it had entered Tennessee the month before. The Confederate Army of Tennessee was no longer a viable fighting force.



Texans on picket duty on the Potomac River December 1862



The Confederates Rest