



General Orders

Lewis's Texas Brigade

Vol. 21
No. 9
Apr,
2010

www.houstoncivilwar.com

MEETING – THURS, APRIL 15, 2010

Briar Club
2603 Timmons Lane @ Westheimer
6:00 Cash Bar
7:00 Dinner & Meeting

E-Mail drzuckero@sbcglobal.net
OR call him at (281) 479-1232 to Reserve
by Monday 6 PM Prior to Apr 15
Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$5
E-Mail Reservation is Preferred;
You Do Need to Reserve for Lecture Only!

DR. KENNETH HOWELL: *The Civil War Career of James Webb Throckmorton*

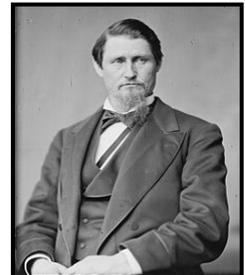


Kenneth Wayne Howell

The Houston Civil War Round Table is pleased to welcome Dr. Kenneth W. Howell to Houston and to our Round Table as he presents his topic on James Webb Throckmorton, the Tennessee-born twelfth Governor of Texas and U. S. Congressman from the state during 1875-1879

and again from 1883 to 1889. Dr. Howell will explain in his presentation why Throckmorton, a pre-war Unionist who supported the Confederacy once Texas seceded from the Union, changed his position after the war, and he will place Throckmorton's career in the context of other North Texas Confederates of the period.

Throckmorton, trained as a physician and served as a surgeon during the Mexican War, later practiced law in Collin County, Texas, and served in both the State House of Representatives (1851-1856) and in the Texas Senate (1865). Ever loyal to his adopted state, Throckmorton served as captain and major in the Confederate Army from the spring of 1861 until the fall of 1863, when he was forced to resign because of a recurring kidney problem.



Throckmorton (1825-1894)

A most distinguished public servant to the citizens of Texas, Throckmorton—his life and career—will well be worth deeper analysis and an evening of your time on Thursday, April 15. So do make plans and your reservations to join us as we listen and learn from Dr. Howell.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Kenneth W. Howell received history degrees – at the Bachelor's level from the University of Texas and at the Masters and Ph.D. levels from Texas A&M. He taught for twelve years in the Texas public school system before becoming an Assistant Professor of History at Prairie View A&M University in the fall of 2004. He has also taught as Visiting Assistant Professor at Texas

A&M University, and he has served as Adjunct Faculty Professor at Blinn College, North Harris Montgomery Community College, and Trinity Valley Community College.

Dr. Howell has authored a number of publications that focus on the history of Texas and of the old South, including *Henderson County, Texas, 1846-1860: An Antebellum History* (Eakin Press, 1999); *The Devil's Triangle: Ben Bickerstaff, Northeast Texans and the War of Reconstruction* (East Texas Historical Association, 2007); *Texas Confederate, Reconstruction Governor: James Webb Throckmorton* (Texas A&M University Press, 2008); *Beyond Myth and Legend: A History of Texas* (Abigail Press, 2008); edited *Seventh Star of the Confederacy: Texas During the Civil War* (University of North Texas Press, 2009); "George Adams: A Cowboy All His Life," a book chapter in *Black Cowboys of Texas*, (Texas A&M University Press, 2000); "Black Women in the Modern Era, 1974-2000", a book chapter in *African American Women in Texas: A Collaborative History*, (Texas A&M University Press, 2008); and article "When the Rabble Hiss, Well May Patriots Tremble: James Webb Throckmorton and the Secession Movement in Texas, 1845-1861," (*Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, April, 2006).

Additionally, Howell has published numerous other articles and book reviews in the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, as well as other writings in the *East Texas State Historical Journal*, *Southern Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the South*, *The Southern Historian*, *West Texas Historical Association Yearbook*, *the Journal of South Texas*, and *Diálogos Latinamericanos*. Currently, he is working on an edited volume on violence in Reconstruction Texas between 1865 and 1874 (under contract with the University of North Texas Press).

APRIL BOOK RAFFLE by *Donnie Stowe*

For this month's book raffle, I'm starting with Gordon C. Rhea's *Carrying the Flag*, donated by David Rains. Since I have read this book, I can personally recommend it. It's a great story about Private Charles Whilden, the Confedera-

cy's most unlikely hero. Next is *General James G. Blunt – Tarnished Glory* by Robert Collins and donated by Jim Godlove. For our third pick this month, we have *Agrarian Elites – American Slaveholders and Southern Italian Landowners 1815 – 1861* (a comparative study) by Enrico dal Lago. And last, but not least, is *Lifeline of the Confederacy – Blockade Running During the Civil War* by Stephen R. Wise and donated by Mike Harrington.

I know that every month I keep thanking all the members who contribute books from their own libraries, but I cannot stress it enough. Without your support, this Raffle just couldn't happen. Please keep your donations coming!



CIVIL WAR PHOTO OF THE MONTH by *Karen Stone*



Civil War Soldier—Photographer Unknown

We had no entries submitted by HCWRT members this month, so I am offering one of my particular favorites. I found it quite by accident in running an Internet search about six months ago. I do not know whom to thank for the photo. I expect this is a silhouette of a reenactor on one of the battlefields. Those of you viewing this as an email attachment or on our website www.houstoncivilwar.com can really appreciate the beauty of its imagery in the brilliant colors in the sky in contrast with the subdued silhouette of the soldier and darkened ground surface.

**HCWRT SPEAKERS
2009 – 2010 CAMPAIGN**

**Apr 15
May 20**

**Kenneth W. Howell
Bill Atkinson (on
behalf of Beauvoir)**

**HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND
TABLE 2010 VANDIVER
AWARD TO BEAUVOIR
by Karen Stone**

The Vandiver Award Committee is pleased to announce that the winner of this annual award from the HCWRT is Beauvoir—the Jefferson Davis home and



Presidential Library in Biloxi, Mississippi. Accepting the award at the May 20th meeting will be Mr. **Bill Atkinson**. Bill serves on the Beauvoir Board and is Commander of the Mississippi

Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Beauvoir is owned and operated by the SCV, and it is an honor to have Bill with us for our final meeting of the 2009 -2010 campaign to present details of the current status of restoration endeavors at the Davis home, library, museum, and grounds of the Beauvoir compound.

Beauvoir was the last home of Jefferson Davis and the site he settled upon for the writing of his books and personal papers. For those of you who have never toured Beauvoir, I recommend highly that you do so. Upcoming events at Beauvoir include Confederate Memorial Day on April 24, 2010. You may wish to be a part of that day's special events and to tour the facility at the same time.

Beauvoir is open currently from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM seven days a week, 365 days a year! If you desire to be part of this restoration, you may send your contributions to Friends of Beauvoir, Operations/Recovery, 2244 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, MS 39531. You may also contribute through PayPal or credit card on the organization's website, www.beauvoir.org. The office telephone at the site is (228) 388-4000. Contributions to Beauvoir are of course tax-deductible.

Join us on May 20 for Mr. Atkinson's talk and award acceptance and be a part of this very worthwhile preservation project.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Houston Civil War Round Table is dedicated to the study of the civilian, military, and cultural aspects of United States history during the period of 1861 – 1865 and to the preservation of historical sites and artifacts.

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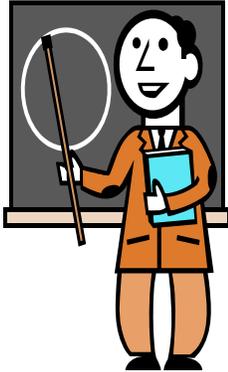
NEW MEMBER

- \$40 – Individual joining in Apr – Dec
- \$20 – Individual Joining in Jan – Mar
- \$45 – Family joining in Apr – Dec
- \$22 – Family joining in Jan – Mar
- \$15 – Student or Out-of-State

RENEWAL

- \$40 – Individual
- \$45 – Family
- \$15 – Student or Out-of-State

APRIL QUIZ QUESTION by *Jim Godlove*



Elected in 1859, this Texas governor strongly supported the Union. When the secession ordinance passed, all elected officials were required to take a Confederacy loyalty oath. Who was this Texas hero who was removed from office for his refusal to take such an oath?

GUEST COMMENTARY: RETHINKING THE MAN: The Johnston-Hood-Davis Controversy—Another Viewpoint by Greg Biggs, Clarksville Round Table

In your March newsletter editor Karen Stone ran a piece on the Atlanta Campaign. This essay cited the biography by General **Joseph E. Johnston** fan Craig Symonds and criticized the generalship of John Bell Hood during his tenure as Commander of the Army of Tennessee. This two-part response essay intends to counter some of this and offers alternatives to what are preconceived notions about the campaign. I grew up in Georgia and have studied the Atlanta Campaign for nearly 30 years. I have led tours of the Campaign since 1993 and would enjoy leading the HCWRT there anytime.



The first part of my essay will tackle the size of the Confederate Army of Tennessee as well as Johnston's generalship in the campaign. The second will examine Hood's generalship in the battles around Atlanta and offer proof that he was not as bad as many people think. Most of Hood's generalship is tainted by what he did (or did not do) in the Tennessee Campaign of late 1864. That time frame of command is, indeed, very hard to defend, but **that is not the case in Atlanta.**

When **President Jefferson Davis** reluctantly assigned command of the Army of Tennessee in December, 1863, he fully expected that army to go over to the offensive and retake the Volunteer State. Johnston, after inspecting the wreck of his army (soundly thrashed at Missionary Ridge), correctly determined that such a plan was simply not possible. Davis, reacting incorrectly, assumed that Johnston was just being timid, not aggressive, and not wanting to obey orders.



However, many of the army's wagons went into East Tennessee when James Longstreet was detached (he came west without wagons), and over one-third of the artillery was lost at Missionary Ridge. Much of what remained were obsolete 6-pounders or 12-pound Howitzers. Johnston performed a major miracle in rebuilding the army, in so doing contradicting the very puzzling December, 1863 communication from Gen. William Hardee to Davis that the army was in fine shape.

Besides new supplies, wagons, and guns, the army also gained lots of new men. Johnston implemented an amnesty for deserters and some 5,000 men returned to the colors. His newly instilled discipline also let the troops know that there was a stick to go along with the carrots—a number of men were shot for desertion while the army was at Dalton, Georgia. On his returns of April 30th, Johnston stated that the army had 54,500 men "present for duty." This method of accounting has been shown to be equal to the Union "effectives" numbers. Throughout the campaign, and in his memoirs, Johnston would claim that Sherman had "double our number," and he used that to explain to Davis and anyone else why he could not attack him.

However, Johnston's army (Hood's and Hardee's infantry corps, Wheeler's cavalry corps, and the artillery) was massively reinforced thanks to some help from Davis. The Army of Mississippi under General Leonidas Polk came over from Alabama and became the army's third corps. Polk brought two infantry divisions and a cavalry division. Another infantry division was created from some brigades that came up from the Mobile, Alabama garrison. This resulted in an addition of 17,000 to 18,000 troops. A large brigade under General Hugh Mercer from Savannah, Georgia added 2,800 more men. Additionally, two regiments of the Georgia State Line were added, bringing an additional 1,200 men along with the 1st Division of the Georgia militia—some 3,000 men—who joined the army in June. Georgia governor Joe Brown mobilized another 1,800 men in late July. Lastly, Gholson's Mississippi State Troops joined in with 500 more men.

All told, Johnston's army, based on commissary records at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield, would run approximately 85,000 troops during the campaign. Peak strength amounted to some 75,000 men while along the Kennesaw Line. At the end of the campaign, **General John Bell Hood** stated that the army had 50,000 men "present for duty," and research has shown that the army suffered about 34,000 casualties. Adding the latter figures into Hood's returns backs up the contention that Johnston's army was by far larger than he ever claimed.



Sherman brought 110,000 men into Georgia. He would lose some 33,000 men in casualties; more would be lost due to regiments mustering out, and even more would be detached to hold the rear areas. He would be reinforced by the 17th Corps and one detached division from the 15th Corps as well as by newly raised regiments brought down from the north. But when you examine the comparisons between Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and the Grant/Meade Army of the Potomac locking horns in Virginia at this time, the odds between those two are greater (120,000 Unions troops versus 60,000 Confederates) than what Johnston faced against Sherman.

Yet Lee was able to detach Jubal Early's Corps to conduct a new campaign in the Shenandoah Valley while smashing Grant's turning movements time and again, inflicting over 60,000 casualties between May and June, 1864 alone! He was able to do so by having some of his army in fortifications holding much of Grant's army in place while making attack formations to deal with Grant's turning movements. Johnston had ample opportunity to do so and rarely tried.

There are at least five instances in which Johnston could have attacked and damaged Sherman's army. The **first** was in the Resaca/Dalton area. He failed to fortify Snake Creek Gap and because of that error missed a strike at Sherman as he moved his troops through it. The **second** situation occurred when Sherman sent the 16th Corps across the Oostenaula River and turned Johnston's line at Resaca. Rather than attacking it with the two corps he sent to deal with the threat, Johnston had his troops simply hold the line so that his army's trains could safely get away. He could easily have smashed this corps and failed to do so. The **third** time was the aborted attack at Cassville during which Johnston sought to ambush Schofield and Hooker's troops while they were operating separately from Sherman's main force. The plan was brilliant but Hood blew it by pulling back without orders when his rear was struck by a lost Union cavalry division. The **fourth** time was after Sherman moved away from his railroad towards Dallas while he sought to turn Johnston. As he did so, he left his rear vulnerable to a sweep by Johnston down the south bank of the Etowah River. Johnston in this event could have sent one corps to cut off Sherman's lines of supply over the bridges, and he could have sent two corps to block Sherman near Dallas. The **fifth** chance for Johnston to damage Sherman was after the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain when Schofield turned the line by crossing Olley's Creek to the southwest and pushed on towards the Nickajack Creek valley and the Chattahoochee River. Sherman sent one division to reinforce Schofield but that division held a three-mile line which was about the same as a picket line. Johnston could have pushed one of his divisions through this and cut off the two Union divisions south of the position. He never considered doing so.

Ancient Chinese military philosopher Sun Tzu wrote some 2,000 years ago that "the good general fights with what he has." Johnston had a lot to fight with—tough veteran troops and some very able division commanders. He could have done to Sherman, an officer who eschewed bloody battles in preference to maneuver, what Lee was doing to Grant in Virginia. Had he cost Sherman 66,000 casualties as Lee had inflicted on Grant in the summer of 1864, Lincoln might well indeed have lost his re-election bid in November.

Johnston was a capable officer and an excellent supplier and trainer of troops. He simply did not have Lee's audacity, Grant's bulldog personality, nor Sherman's talent for maneuver. It is not overall numbers of an army that wins a battle. Napoleon was often outnumbered, and Frederick the Great rarely had more men than his enemies did. Yet both men are considered brilliant battle fighters. They followed Sun Tzu's admonition. Joe Johnston should have done the same.

Greg Biggs
Clarksville CWRT, March/2010

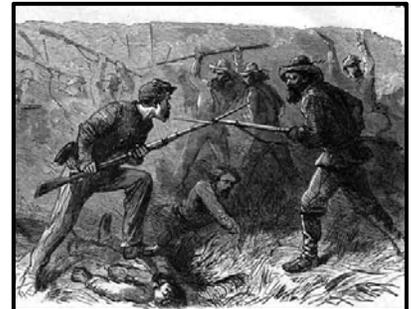
Note to our Readers: The HCWRT thanks Greg Biggs for Part I of his essay on the Johnston 1864 missteps with the Army of Tennessee during the Atlanta campaign. We look forward to Part II of his submission which will appear in the May, 2010 issue of this newsletter. If any of our members wish to submit another analysis or contrary opinion on any part of the Johnston-Hood-Davis controversy, please email your remarks to your editor before April 30, 2010 at kstone6@attg.net, and I will include them in the May newsletter as well.

UPCOMING FALL FIELD TRIP: THE SEVEN DAYS BATTLES by Tony Matt

The Round Table is offering its members and guests an opportunity to join us from November 4 – 7, 2010 with our guide Robert Krick of the Battles of the Seven Days.

Our itinerary is as follows:

Day One: The Dabbs House, Mechanicsville (Beaver Dam Creek), Walnut Grove Church, Jackson's March of June 27, Old Cold Harbor, and Gaine's Mill.



Frayser's Farm, Seven Days Battle

Day Two: White Oak Swamp, Frayser's Farm (Glendale), **Malvern Hill**, and Harrison's Landing.

Day Three (Sunday morning): a trip to Tredegar Iron Works followed by departure to the airport.

Pricing details and a deposit schedule should be available by our meeting on April 15.

The Seven Days Battles, the week-long Confederate counter-offensive fought June 26 – July 1, 1862 near Richmond, Virginia, ended the Peninsula Campaign. The most prominent players in this series of struggles were Gen. Robert E. Lee and Gen. George B. McClellan.

The sixth and last of the Seven Days Battles was **Malvern Hill**, fought on July 1, 1862. In this battle, Gen. Lee launched a series of disjointed assaults on the nearly impregnable Union position on Malvern Hill. The Confederates suffered more than 5,300 casualties without gaining any ground in this calamitous effort.

Despite his perceived victory at Malvern Hill, McClellan withdrew to entrench at Harrison's Landing on the James River, where his army was protected by gunboats. General Lee had succeeded in driving McClellan's invading Army of the Potomac away from the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia.



Battle of the Seven Days, 6/26 – 7/1/62

The week-long series of battles left McClellan's retreating army with 15,855 casualties out of a total force strength of 104,100 men. His number of killed totaled 1,734, his wounded were 8,066, and his missing/captured tallied 6,055. Lee's army entered the conflict with a strength of 92,000 men and suffered casualties of 20,204, of which 3,494 were reported killed, 15,758 were listed as wounded, and 952 were tallied missing/captured.

After the completion of the Seven Days Battles, Lee became convinced that McClellan would not resume his threat against Richmond, and he moved north for initiation of the Northern Virginia and Maryland Campaigns.

I hope that many of our members will be interested in the study of these epic struggles of the Seven Days Battles and will sign up to join us this fall. You will not find better bargain pricing anywhere for a guided tour of this quality with as complete an itinerary as we offer. We select the best accommodations available to us in the areas we visit, and we know you will enjoy touring and learning in the company of fellow aficionados of this critical period in mid-1862.



Houston Civil War Round Table
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