



**Official Newsletter of the BG Micah Jenkins  
SCV Camp 1569**

**Volume VIII Number XI      November 2009**



# *Honoring the Gray*

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### **Commander's Comments**

Greetings to all, I hope all are well at this time.

For those that missed the re-enactment at Brattonsville on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> missed a great opportunity to hear Davis Timmerman, our 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander and Past Commander give his great flag presentation. Every time I hear him give this flag presentation I learn a little more about our southern heritage. (He is really good!)

At the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting we need to have nominations for next years officers. Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander, Camp Adjutant, Chaplain, Camp Historian and Color Sergeant. You all need to make special plans to be at this important meeting. New officers will be voted on and sworn in at our December meeting.

I hope to see 100% attendance in November.

A good book to read: "War for What" by Francis W. Springer

*Jim Floyd, Commander*

As of November, we added a couple more people to receive **Honoring the Gray** by email. That's 1/3 of the camp that has signed up. With that 1/3 less postage stamps will be needed, 1/3 less paper and 1/3 less printer ink will be needed to send out October's newsletter. Can we make it 1/2 or even 2/3 less newsletters to mail?

Each month the newsletter is mailed out to the remaining camp members using first class mail. The annual cost for postage, printing ink and paper to mail the newsletter runs well over \$300.00. Any member who requests can be removed from the mailing list and save a part of that cost for the camp.

Any member deciding to receive the newsletter by email only and removed from the mailing list can at any time change their request and again receive the newsletter by mail just by notifying me.

If you would like to receive **Honoring the Gray** each month by email, please send me your email address at [jenkinsscvc@yahoo.com](mailto:jenkinsscvc@yahoo.com)  
Yours in the Cause,

*Jerry Brown,  
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### **Camp Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> 2009**

Regularly scheduled meeting at the Mayflower Seafood Restaurant @ 7:00 PM.

Come early join the fellowship and eat.

There will be no guest speaker for November. Instead we will continue with the Civil War Combat Series Videos. This month will be a 50 minute documentary on the Battle of Fredericksburg.

**Joseph Eggleston Johnston**  
**February 3, 1807 – March 21, 1891**

Johnston's effectiveness in the War Between the States was undercut by tensions with Confederate President Jefferson Davis, but he also suffered from a lack of aggressiveness and victory eluded him in every campaign he personally commanded.

Johnston was born at Longwood House in "Cherry Grove", near Farmville, Virginia. Johnston attended the United States Military Academy, graduating in 1829, ranking 13th of 46 cadets, and was appointed a second lieutenant in the 4th U.S. Artillery. He would become the first West Point graduate to be promoted to a general officer in the regular army, reaching a higher rank in the U.S. Army than did his 1829 classmate, Robert E. Lee (2nd of 46).

Johnston resigned from the Army in March 1837 and studied civil engineering. During the Second Seminole War, he was a civilian topographic engineer aboard a ship led by William Pope McArthur. On January 12, 1838, at Jupiter, Florida, the sailors who had gone ashore were attacked and Johnston was to claim there were "no less than 30 bullet holes" in his clothing and one bullet creased his scalp, leaving a scar he had for the rest of his life. Having encountered more combat activities in Florida as a civilian than he had had previously as an artillery officer, Johnston decided to rejoin the Army. He departed for Washington, D.C., in April 1838 and was appointed a first lieutenant of topographic engineers on July 7; on that same day, he received a brevet promotion to captain for the actions at Jupiter Inlet and his explorations of the Florida Everglades. During the Mexican-American War, Johnston won two brevets and was wounded at both Cerro Gordo and Chapultepec. He had also been brevetted for earlier service in the Seminole Wars. He served in California and was appointed brigadier general and Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army on June 28, 1860

When his native state seceded from the Union in 1861, Johnston resigned his commission as a brigadier general in the regular army, the highest-ranking U.S. Army officer to do so. Initially commissioned as a major general in the Virginia militia on May 4, he was appointed a brigadier general in the Confederate Army on May 14. Johnston relieved Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson in command at Harpers Ferry in May and organized the Army of the Shenandoah in July. In the First Battle of Bull Run (First Manassas), July 1861, Johnston brought forces from the Shenandoah Valley to combine with those of Brig. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, but he

ceded direction of the battle to the more junior Beauregard since he lacked familiarity with the terrain. He did manage to claim a share of public credit for the Southern victory, however. After Bull Run, Johnston assisted Beauregard and William Porcher Miles in the design and production of the Confederate Battle Flag. It was Johnston's idea to make the flag square. In August, Johnston was promoted to full general (what is called a four-star general in the modern U.S. Army), but was not pleased that three other men he had outranked in the "old army" now outranked him, even though Davis backdated his promotion to July 4. Johnston felt that since he was the senior officer to leave the U.S. Army and join the Confederacy he should not be ranked behind Samuel Cooper, Albert Sidney Johnston, and Robert E. Lee. Only Beauregard was placed behind Johnston on the list of five new generals. This led to much bad blood between Johnston and Jefferson Davis, which would last throughout the war.

Johnston was placed in command of the Confederate Army of the Potomac, which would later be rechristened the Army of Northern Virginia and led it in the start of the 1862 Peninsula Campaign. Defending the capital of Richmond against Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, Johnston employed a strategy of gradual withdrawals before any general engagement, until his army was only five miles in front of the city, where McClellan intended to besiege it. Finally cornered, Johnston attacked on May 31, 1862, south of the Chickahominy River, in the Battle of Seven Pines. The battle was tactically inconclusive, but it stopped McClellan's advance on the city and would turn out to be the high-water mark of his invasion. More significant, however, was that Johnston was wounded on the second day of the battle, hit in his right shoulder and chest. This led to Davis turning over command to the more aggressive Robert E. Lee, who would lead the Army of Northern Virginia for the rest of the war.

After recovering from his wounds, Johnston was given command of the Department of the West, the principal command of the Western Theater, which gave him titular control of Gen. Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee and Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton's Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana. Pemberton faced Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant from inside the besieged city of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Johnston urged him to abandon the city temporarily, join forces with

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## Joseph E. Johnston

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Johnston's troops, and outnumber Grant, but Davis ordered Pemberton to stay in Vicksburg, causing great consternation in the South when its last stronghold on the Mississippi River fell on July 4, 1863. Pemberton also had very little confidence in the words or plans of Joseph Johnston. Although Jackson, Mississippi, was a key supply link for Vicksburg, as well as a major rail and industrial center, Johnston abandoned the city and retreated. The burning of Jackson crushed the fighting spirit of all the Confederate forces in the region. Later that year, Bragg was defeated in the Battles for Chattanooga and Davis reluctantly relieved his old friend Bragg and replaced him with Johnston.

Faced with Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's advance from Chattanooga to Atlanta in the spring of 1864, Johnston reverted to his strategy of withdrawal. He conducted a series of actions in which he prepared strong defensive positions, only to see Sherman maneuver around them, causing him to fall back in the general direction of Atlanta. Johnston saw the preservation of his army as the most important consideration, and hence conducted a very cautious campaign. He handled his army well, slowing the Union advance and inflicting heavier losses than he sustained.

In May 1864 Sherman began the offensive against Atlanta. Johnston's Army of Tennessee fought defensive battles against the Federals at the approaches to Dalton, which was evacuated on May 13, then retreated 12 miles south to Resaca, and constructed defensive positions. However, after a brief battle, Johnston again yielded to Sherman, and retreated from Resaca on May 15. Johnston assembled the Confederate forces for a battle at Cassville, but on May 20 again retreated 8 miles further south to Cartersville. The month of May 1864 ended with Sherman's forces continuing their successful march toward Atlanta at the Battle of New Hope Church on May 25, the Battle of Pickett's Mill on May 27, and the Battle of Dallas on May 28.

In June Sherman's forces continued maneuvers around the northern approaches to Atlanta, and battles ensued at Kolb's Farm on June 22, and the Confederates successfully repulsed Union forces at the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain on June 27. However, by this time Federal forces were within 17 miles of Atlanta, threatening the city from the west and north. Kennesaw Mountain was no more than a check for Sherman. He tested the Confederate mountain positions in strength based on the infamous Confederate collapse at Missionary Ridge.

Johnston had yielded over 110 miles of mountainous, and thus more easily defensible, territory in just two months, while the Confederate government became increasingly more frustrated and alarmed. Johnston had kept his army intact, yet in the process, all he did was watch Sherman outflank him time and again as he retreated.

In early July General Braxton Bragg was sent to Atlanta by President Jefferson Davis to ascertain the situation with respect to Atlanta. After several meetings with local civilian leaders and Army of Tennessee commanders, Bragg returned to Richmond and urged President Davis to replace Johnston. Davis removed Johnston from command on July 17, 1864, shortly before the Battle of Peachtree Creek, just outside of Atlanta. (His replacement, Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood, was overly aggressive, but ineffective, losing Atlanta in September and a large portion of his army in the Franklin-Nashville Campaign that winter.) Davis's decision to remove Johnston was one of the most controversial of the war.

On March 19, 1865, Johnston was able to catch a portion of Sherman's army by surprise at the Battle of Bentonville and briefly gained some tactical successes before superior numbers forced him to retreat to Raleigh, North Carolina. Unable to secure the capital, Johnston's army withdrew to Greensboro, North Carolina, where it made its final stand. After learning of Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House, Johnston decided to meet with General Sherman between the lines at a small farm known as Bennett Place near present day Durham, North Carolina. After three separate days (April 17, 18, and 26) of negotiations, Johnston surrendered the Army of Tennessee and all remaining Confederate forces still active in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. It was the largest surrender of the war, totaling 89,270 soldiers.

Johnston, like Lee, never forgot the magnanimity of the man to whom he surrendered, and would not allow an unkind word to be said about Sherman in his presence. When Sherman died, Johnston served as a pallbearer at his funeral; during the procession in New York City on February 19, 1891, he kept his hat off as a sign of respect in the cold, rainy weather. Someone had some concern for the old general's health and asked him to put on his hat, to which Johnston replied "If I were in his place and he standing here in mine, he would not put on his hat." He caught pneumonia and died several weeks later. He was buried in Green Mount Cemetery, Baltimore, Maryland.

## Slavery: Did it cause secession and the War Between the States?

By Bill Ward ©April 2006

“What were the causes of the Southern independence movement in 1860? . . . Northern commercial and manufacturing interests had forced through Congress taxes that oppressed Southern planters and made Northern manufacturers rich . . . the South paid about three-quarters of all federal taxes, most of which were spent in the North.”—Charles Adams writing in, “For Good and Evil: The impact of taxes on the course of civilization,” 1993, Madison Books.

Ask several persons why the American Civil War or the War Between the States (WBTS) was fought, and you’ll likely get answers ranging from, “to free the slaves” and “states rights,” to a few blank stares. Many will have trouble identifying the difference between the Confederate battle flag, the “Stars and Bars,” and the “Stars and Stripes.” Let’s face it, the history education and knowledge of most U.S. citizens leaves much to be desired.

During a discussion several years ago with the late Shelby Foote, one of the great researchers and writers of WBTS history of our time, I asked a common question of this very knowledgeable man. Was the Civil War (my term at the time) fought about states rights or freeing the slaves? I had been taught as an elementary school child in the 1940s that it was all about the latter: freeing the slaves.

Shelby’s answer was quick and well thought out, as if he had pondered the question many times: “A lot of people would like to know the answer to that. If you want to make a million dollars, do a lot of research, determine exactly why that war was fought, and then write a book about it.” He went on to say that a long list of social, political and economic differences existed between the people of the north and the south.

Popular history has demonized the Confederacy on the issues of slavery and secession, conveniently overlooking that neither originated in the South. A simple fact understood by all serious students of history is, the North no more fought a war to free any slaves than the South fought a war to keep the institution of slavery intact. To say, as some do, that the Civil War was all about slavery is as foolish as those who say slavery had absolutely nothing to do with the war. Slavery was far down the list of regional differences mentioned by Shelby Foote, while the economic state of affairs ranked very high.

Consider this startling statistic of present-day society: the top 50 percent of income earners pay 96.5 percent of the federal income taxes,

while the lowest 44 percent pay no federal income taxes at all. Now, suppose you lived in a region of the country that paid 70 to 80 percent to support the federal government, while another region received most of that money to benefit its citizens and businesses?

That was the financial situation in the United States in 1861 when the Southern states were paying, through excessively high import tariffs, most of the support for the federal government in Washington. And most of that money was funneled to northern industrial interests for expansion. In the mid-1800s, that was called “internal improvements.” Today, it’s “business incentives.”

As to the slavery issue, the stripes in the U.S. flag represent the 13 original colonies, the northern-most of which, in their infancy, legalized and profited from slavery. Massachusetts, then including Maine, became the first colony to legalize slavery in 1641, pressing most of that state’s Native American population into bondage. From 1755 to 1766, an estimated 23,000 Africans were sold or traded through Massachusetts alone. And other northern states shared in the human bounty.

A colonist quoted in Pennsylvania Packet, a Philadelphia newspaper, on February 7, 1774 said, “I beheld a middle aged African raised and exposed on one of the stalls in the shambles of Philadelphia market at Public Sale, as a Slave for life. And this is the capital of Pennsylvania, a land high in the profession of Liberty and Christianity.”

The shipping colonies of Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Hampshire chose financial gain from slave trading over moral considerations. New England seaports thrived on a profitable business of slave importing, clearly marking the pathway of the slave trade from north to south.

During the framing of the Constitution, in a third compromise, the abolition of the slave-trade was introduced. South Carolina opposed immediate abolition. Since the New England ship-owners made great profits by the trade, the New England states joined South Carolina and Georgia in voting that Congress should be powerless to stop the importing of slaves before 1808, extending the slave trade by Constitutional edict for twenty years. Virginia and three northern states voted against the provision. Later, in 1832, the Virginia

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## Slavery: Did it cause secession and the War Between the States?

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legislature narrowly defeated a bill for emancipating all slaves in the state. Part of the reason for the defeat was a perception of interference in state business by Northern abolitionists, such as William Lloyd Garrison.

By the mid-1800s, the slave trade had drastically declined, and many states had adopted laws permitting gradual emancipation. Then smuggling became an alternative industry during attempts to outlaw the Northern slave trade. In 1858, just three years before the WBTS, Yankee sea captains smuggled more than 15,000 slaves into New York alone. The following year, 85 vessels sailed from N.Y. to bring in more human cargo. By then, the slave trade had thrived on U.S. soil and under U.S. colors, in some form, for some 200 years before the Confederacy existed.

According to the 1860 United States census (the last taken before the War Between the States started in 1861):

20% of Southern slaveholders only owned 1 slave. Only 3% of slaveholders owned more than 50 slaves. Only 15 slaveholders in the entire South owned more than 500 slaves. Only 26% of Southern households owned slaves. 74% of Southern households did not own slaves. The top 5 states with the highest percentage of free black Americans were Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and Louisiana - four of them Southern states (below the Mason Dixon Line and classified as slave states in 1860). About 10% of slaveholders were female.

But perhaps the most surprising event that might have affected slavery in this country is one that is seldom, if ever, mentioned in most history textbooks, and is probably not known by most history teachers. It was the introduction of the Corwin Amendment, or the proposed 13th Amendment to the Constitution, in March of 1861, which we'll discuss in a later column.

### Prayer Closet

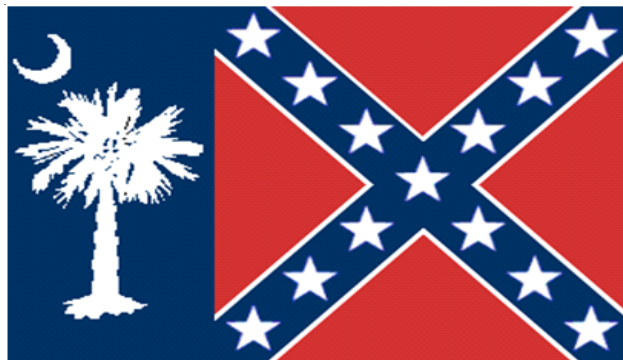
- Please continue to pray for our President & government leaders. The SCV, national, division and brigade.
- Continue to pray for our those effected by the economy; especially those unemployed.
- Continue to pray for renewed faith and fellowship during the Thanksgiving holidays.
- Pray for our service men and women protecting our freedom.
- Pray for the families of our troops.

### Lowey's Parade

Now is the time to get your candy - the annual Lowey's parade is coming soon. After Halloween is the best time to get candy when it goes on sale. And please join us at the parade December 19th.

### Do you have an article for *Honoring the Gray?*

If so, please send to Jerry Brown at [jenkinsscvc@yahoo.com](mailto:jenkinsscvc@yahoo.com) or call Jerry at 803-327-2834. Articles may be funny or serious as long as it reflects the ideals and purpose of the SCV. Please limit the size of articles for mailing purposes.





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**Joseph Eggleston Johnston**  
**February 3, 1807 – March 21, 1891**