

# The Sentinel

August 2020



*Army of*  
**Tennessee**





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“We Dare Defend Our Rights“

August 2020

### The Sentinel

is published by the  
Army of Tennessee  
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

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## Army of Tennessee

SONS OF CONFEDERATE  
VETERANS

The citizen-soldiers who fought for the Confederacy personified the best qualities of America. The preservation of liberty and freedom was the motivating factor in the South's decision to fight the Second American Revolution. The tenacity with which Confederate soldiers fought underscored their belief in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. These attributes are the underpinning of our democratic society and represent the foundation on which this nation was built.

Today, the SCV is preserving the history and legacy of these heroes so that future generations can understand the motives that animated the Southern Cause.

The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the 1861 - 1865 period is preserved.

Membership is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces.



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## From the Army Commander

This is first issue of *The Sentinel* and I hope you find it useful. It will be one of the various forms of communication we will use from the Army leadership to keep the Divisions and Camps in the loop of what is going on. There will be sections where the Divisions can contribute event information, photos and share ideas that are working in their area.

In my message sent out on August 4th I laid out the five parts of my "Back to the Future" plan. It is my intention to take things that are working and integrate new approaches to help with the issues we face moving into the future.

**Communications:** It has been our weakest link since I joined the SCV. We hear National doesn't communicate to the Divisions and the Camps say they never hear from the Division or National. By now you should have received several communications through the Constant Contact system. A couple of messages from me and several forwarded from the CiC. I want to thank Georgia Division Commander Tim Pilgrim for providing this medium to us and for Army Communications Officer Barry Colbaugh of the Georgia Division for sending it out. It will be used to send information from National to the Divisions, much like the Telegraph. However it cannot stop there. I am asking each Division to appoint a Communications Officer. His email address will be on the list to receive the messages along with the Division Commander. It will be his job to make a mailing list for each Camp Communications Officer and Division Lt. Commanders and Brigade Commanders. The Division Communications Officer will send the messages to the Brigade Commander and Camps to share with their members. Communications is a two way street. If there are questions about the message the person should follow normal Chain of Command procedures, starting with their Camp Commander and moving up the chain to get their questions answered. It is vital that we communicate quickly and accurately. My intention is not to flood your email but use timely messages as things occur, especially after a GEC meeting. The remaining four parts of the plan are:

**Sharing ideas:** One of the best "reads" as a new officer of a camp is "What works in the SCV" by Dr. Tom Hiter of Kentucky. It is available at [scv.org](http://scv.org). It was a compilation of things that were working in Divisions across the SCV and were shared in a single source. To build on this we need to share what is working now in our Divisions and ideas that we can implement throughout the Army. For an example, the Tennessee Division is putting together a comprehensive list on monument

restoration, cleaning and addresses how to protect your monument with a chemical process to aid in the easy clean up of spray painted vandalism. We need to share things between Divisions to make all of our lives easier.

**Flattening the Curve:** It has nothing to do with covid-19. It is the idea that as an organization our membership is growing old. We have to come up with workable ideas to attract younger members. I am specifically looking at ages 20 - 40. We need to bring in Cadets and young members from 12 to 19 as well but if we admit it, our camp meetings are geared to the older crowd. I am looking for younger members who would be willing to serve on a committee to help shape what we can realistically do to enlist and retain the members from the various age groups. We have to incorporate fresh ideas into our camp meetings to keep them in the SCV.

**Security:** With the ever changing social and political climate we need to take a look at security; for your events, meetings and your social media platforms. We face a double edged sword, we want to publicize our events but we want to avoid having a mob show up to ruin the event. We publicize our meetings but do we have a security plan in place to handle things in case of trouble from outside sources who saw your meeting announcement? If not we need to develop one. Our social media platforms in many cases are an open book to our enemies. Your group need to be private where your members can discuss and post things of interest. We need open groups to publicize events and allow the public to interact with us. Be prepared for those that troll our sites just to post their message of divisiveness. Remove those posts as fast as you can. Unfortunately we all know that the platform itself can still monitor and share our information. We have had members doxed, we have had camp meeting location sites published so the undesirables can picket the facility or put other pressure on them to not allow us to meet. In many cases we need to clean up our platforms to eliminate too much personal information on the site. Also take down or update what we have available to the public. If you have quit using your website, take it down. I have seen websites where the latest Division or Camp news is 5 years old.

**Projects and Events:** Projects can be the life blood of a camp. I lump projects and events together because each can support the other. You can devise events that will attract new members and the event can share the various projects in which you are involved. Division events are no different. One thing I would like to see more of is the

**Projects and Events:** (cont.) Divisions supporting other Divisions events. We have many camps within a short distance of another Divisions geographical borders. We need those camps to cross Division lines and offer support to their neighbors and vice versa. It adds people to the event and allows the sharing of ideas. See the events page for possible opportunities.

On the Army side, we have had four AoT Workshops in the last four years. One in Tennessee and three in Alabama. I would like to see us do several per year in different areas so more people can participate. I have already received a proposal for a Workshop in Guntersville, Alabama which is close enough for western Georgia camps to participate and a portion of middle / eastern Tennessee camps. Attendance has been good partially because the price to attend has gone down and the topics have been geared towards the members needs.

If your Division has a camp willing to host a workshop, let me or Carl know. It would be helpful to have a location within a short drive of another Division or two. We can also look into videoconferencing the workshop.

In your service,  
Jimmy Hill

### Important Division Dates

September 6 - Camp Beauregard Memorial Service, 2 PM  
Water Valley, Kentucky

October 17, 18 - 34th Annual Fall Muster  
Biloxi, Mississippi

October 24 - Indiana Division Reunion  
Bluffton, Indiana

October 31 - Living History Encampment & Concert. See page 11  
Priceville, Alabama

Send events to Jimmy Hill at  
[AoTcommander@alscv.org](mailto:AoTcommander@alscv.org)

### *AoT Workshops*

Over the last few years we have held several workshops that have been informative and well attended. I would like to expand this into other areas of the Army. The Alabama Division has been volunteering to host a workshop for the last three years and has offered again this year. The registration form for the workshop to be held in Guntersville, Alabama on March 27, 2021 is on page 13.

The basics of holding an AoT workshop is making it affordable. This workshop registration is \$10, the basic cost of lunch. The room cost is offset by having a member with access to the meeting rooms at the Hampton Inn at no cost. If a Division wants to put on a workshop they need to keep the cost to a minimum so it is affordable for the member to come.

If a Division, Brigade or Camp is willing to put on a workshop, notify Councilman Jones or myself and we will give you all of the details needed. We generally provide the speakers for the workshop.



Congratulations to Kyle Clayton and his son Jackson for entering the Cadet Program. His ancestor is Pvt. Jones E. Clayton, Co. E 33rd Alabama Infantry

## Attracting Younger Members by George Conor Bond

The average age of the memberships in the SCV is between 55-60 years old. I am proud to say that I am well below that average by almost 30 years. Like wise I am proud to say that I serve as the youngest commander of the Mississippi Division ever.

However, as a younger man and a young officer in the SCV, I am concerned about the lack of young men as members of the SCV and the lack of participation of those who are. When I ran for Division Commander, I had a goal of pressing “youth outreach” and we came up with a few projects that have been, and we hope will be rather successful in attracting younger members. Before I continue with this article, I want to preface that these ideas worked in Mississippi; while they worked here, there is no guarantee that they will work elsewhere.

**Increased Social Media Presence-** Over the past year we have increased our social media presence. We have started to adopt live stream videos as part of our outreach. Our videos reach thousands of viewers. These videos cover issues from heritage attacks to some (not totally classified) divisional matters. Now that some camps are coming together again, they are livestreaming the public portions of their meetings so people can see what the SCV is all about. We will soon be launching a YouTube page and an Instagram account.

**Digital Meetings-** Covid-19 has for sure put a damper on our ability to hold any type of meeting. However, thanks to zoom and other digital meeting platforms, we are improvising, adapting and overcoming this obstacle. Even though my camp has somewhat started meeting face to face, I was able to zoom into my last camp’s meeting because I was out of town. This option gives those members who want to be informed the ability to be informed.

**Twitch.tv/SCV\_Chat-** At the national reunion, several of the younger members from across the confederation discussed the ability of live streaming our conversations about the SCV. This soon morphed into SCV\_Chat, a weekly digital “talk show” where we discuss cultural, historical and modern topics dealing with our heritage. So far, we have broadcasted for 5 consecutive weeks and are starting to grow a small following of people from outside the SCV. We broadcast live starting at 8:00 PM CST on [www.twitch.tv/scv\\_chat](http://www.twitch.tv/scv_chat). Soon we will have a YouTube channel where past broadcasts will be uploaded, and people can watch them.

**Fraternity Camp-** We are losing our youth at an alarming rate to the indoctrination they receive on college campuses. Either the youth of the south do not know their real history and therefore are manipulated into turning their backs on their heritage, or they fear reprisals from their peers, professors, or the university. Only the SCV can reverse this course, but how? The answer is easy, make the SCV an organization that young men will want to be a part of. Right now, we are working on establishing and chartering a camp at a university in upper Mississippi. This camp is a mixture of my old fraternity (Kappa Alpha Order) and the SCV. The bylaws for the camp have been written and we hope to charter with 16 members in October. Like all fraternities this will have its own special, secret ritual. The secrets and shared common knowledge of that ritual will bind those young men together. While in the camp, they will learn the fundamentals of what it means to be in the SCV, they will be taught the true history of the south, they will build the life-long brotherhoods that we share, and when they move on they will want to remain active and join their local camp.

*Editors note: If you would like more information on the ideas in this article and how to implement them in your Division, contact Conor at [msdivcdr007@gmail.com](mailto:msdivcdr007@gmail.com)*

*Please allow ample time for him to reply. At this current time he is organizing the Save our Flag effort in Mississippi. If you would like to donate to their efforts, Conor can provide you with details.*





## Albert Sidney Johnston

(February 2, 1803 – April 6, 1862) served as a general in three different armies: the Texian (*i.e.*, Republic of Texas) Army, the United States Army and the Confederate States Army. He saw extensive combat during his military career,

fighting actions in the Texas War of Independence, the Mexican-American War, the Utah War, and the War between the States..

Considered by Confederate President Jefferson Davis to be the finest (and the second-highest ranking) general officer in the Confederacy before the emergence of Robert E. Lee, he was killed early in the Civil War at the Battle of Shiloh and was the highest-ranking officer, Union or Confederate, killed during the entire war. Davis believed the loss of Johnston "was the turning point of our fate".

Johnston was born in Washington, Kentucky, the youngest son of Dr. John and Abigail Harris Johnston. His father was a native of Salisbury, Connecticut. Although Albert Johnston was born in Kentucky, he lived much of his life in Texas, which he considered his home. He was first educated at Transylvania University in Lexington, where he met fellow student Jefferson Davis. Both were appointed to the United States Military Academy, Davis two years behind Johnston. In 1826 Johnston graduated eighth of 41 cadets in his class from West Point with a commission as a brevet second lieutenant in the 2nd U.S. Infantry.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Johnston was the commander of the U.S. Army Department of the Pacific in California. Like many regular army officers from the South he was opposed to secession, but resigned his commission soon after he heard of the secession of his adopted state Texas. It was accepted by the War Department on May 6, 1861, effective May 3. On April 28 he moved to Los Angeles where he had family and remained there until May when, suspected by local Union authorities, he evaded arrest and joined the Los Angeles Mounted Rifles as a private, leaving Warner's Ranch May 27. He participated in their trek across the southwestern deserts to Texas, crossing the Colorado River into the Confederate Territory of Arizona on July 4, 1861.

Early in the Civil War, Confederate President Jefferson Davis decided that the Confederacy would attempt to hold as much of its territory as possible

And he distributed its military forces around its borders and coasts. In the summer of 1861, Davis appointed several generals to defend Confederate lines from the Mississippi River east to the Allegheny Mountains. The most sensitive, and in many ways the most crucial areas, along the Mississippi River and in western Tennessee along the Tennessee River and the Cumberland River were placed under the command of Maj. Gen. Leonidas Polk and Brig. Gen. Gideon J. Pillow, who had been initially in command in Tennessee as that State's top general. Their impolitic occupation of Columbus, Kentucky on September 3, 1861, two days before Johnston arrived in the Confederacy's capital, Richmond, Virginia, after his cross-country journey, drove Kentucky from its stated neutrality and the majority of Kentuckians into the Union camp. Their action gave Union Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant an excuse to take control of the even more important and strategically located town of Paducah, Kentucky without raising the ire of most Kentuckians and the pro-Union majority in the State legislature.

On September 10, 1861, Johnston was assigned to command the huge area of the Confederacy west of the Allegheny Mountains, except for coastal areas. He became commander of the Confederacy's western armies in the area often called the Western Department or Western Military Department. After his appointment, Johnston immediately headed for his new territory. He was permitted to call on governors of Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi for new troops, although this authority was largely stifled by politics, especially with respect to Mississippi. On September 13, 1861, in view of the decision of the Kentucky legislature to side with the Union after the occupation of Columbus by Polk, Johnston ordered Brig. Gen. Felix Zollicoffer with 4,000 men to occupy Cumberland Gap in Kentucky in order to block Union troops from coming into eastern Tennessee. By September 18, Johnston had Brig. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner with another 4,000 men blocking the railroad route to Tennessee at Bowling Green, Kentucky. Johnston had less than 40,000 men spread throughout Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas and Missouri. Of these, 10,000 were in Missouri under Missouri State Guard Maj. Gen. Sterling Price. Johnston's initial call upon the governors for more men did not result in many immediate recruits but Johnston had another, even bigger, problem since his force was seriously short of arms and ammunition even for the troops he had. As the Confederate government concentrated efforts on the units in the East, they gave Johnston only small numbers of reinforcements and minimal amounts of arms and material. Johnston could

only keep up his defense by raids and other measures to make it appear he had larger forces than he did, a strategy that worked for several months. Johnston's tactics had so annoyed and confused Union Brig. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman that he became somewhat unnerved, overestimated Johnston's forces, and had to be relieved by Brig. Gen. Don Carlos Buell on November 9, 1861.

Johnston had various remaining military units scattered throughout his territory and retreating to the south to avoid being cut off. Johnston himself retreated with the force under his personal command, the Army of Central Kentucky, from the vicinity of Nashville. With Beauregard's help, Johnston decided to concentrate forces with those formerly under Polk and now already under Beauregard's command at the strategically located railroad crossroads of Corinth, Mississippi, which he reached by a circuitous route. Johnston kept the Union forces, now under the overall command of the ponderous Maj. Gen. Henry Halleck, confused and hesitant to move, allowing Johnston to reach his objective undetected. This delay allowed Jefferson Davis finally to send reinforcements from the garrisons of coastal cities and another highly rated but prickly general, Braxton Bragg, to help organize the western forces. Bragg at least calmed the nerves of Beauregard and Polk who had become agitated by their apparent dire situation in the face of numerically superior forces before the arrival of Johnston on March 24, 1862.

Johnston's army of 17,000 men gave the Confederates a combined force of about 40,000 to 44,669 men at Corinth. On March 29, 1862, Johnston officially took command of this combined force, which continued to use the Army of the Mississippi name under which it had been organized by Beauregard on March 5. Johnston now planned to defeat the Union forces piecemeal before the various Union units in Kentucky and Tennessee under Grant with 40,000 men at nearby Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, and the now Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell on his way from Nashville with 35,000 men, could unite against him. Johnston started his army in motion on April 3, 1862, intent on surprising Grant's force as soon as the next day, but they moved slowly due to their inexperience, bad roads and lack of adequate staff planning. Johnston's army was finally in position within a mile or two of Grant's force, and undetected, by the evening of April 5, 1862.

Johnston launched a massive surprise attack with his concentrated forces against Grant at the Battle of Shiloh on April 6, 1862. As the Confederate forces overran the Union camps, Johnston seemed to be everywhere, personally leading and rallying troops up and down the line on his horse. At about 2:30 p.m., while leading one of those charges against a Union camp near the "Peach Orchard", he was wounded, taking a bullet behind his right knee. He apparently did not think the wound was serious at the time,

and so he sent his personal physician to attend to some wounded captured Union soldiers instead. It is possible that Johnston's duel in 1837 had caused nerve damage or numbness to his right leg and that he did not feel the wound to his leg as a result. The bullet had in fact clipped a part of his popliteal artery and his boot was filling up with blood. Within a few minutes, Johnston was observed by his staff to be nearly fainting off his horse. Among his staff was Isham G. Harris, the Governor of Tennessee, who had ceased to make any real effort to function as governor after learning that Abraham Lincoln had appointed Andrew Johnson as military governor of Tennessee. Seeing Johnston slumping in his saddle and his face turning deathly pale, Harris asked: "General, are you wounded?" Johnston glanced down at his leg wound, then faced Harris and replied with his last words: "Yes, and I fear seriously." Harris and other staff officers removed Johnston from his horse and carried him to a small ravine near the "Hornets Nest" and desperately tried to aid the general by trying to make a tourniquet for his leg wound, but little could be done by this point since he had already lost so much blood. He soon lost consciousness and bled to death a few minutes later. Harris and the other officers wrapped General Johnston's body in a blanket so as not to damage the troops' morale with the sight of the dead general. Johnston and his wounded horse, named Fire Eater, were taken to his field headquarters on the Corinth road, where his body remained in his tent until the Confederate Army withdrew to Corinth the next day, April 7, 1862. From there, his body was taken to the home of Colonel William Inge, which had been his headquarters in Corinth. It was covered in the Confederate flag and laid in state for several hours.

Johnston was the highest-ranking casualty of the war on either side, and his death was a strong blow to the morale of the Confederacy. Jefferson Davis considered him the best general in the country; this was two months before the emergence of Robert E. Lee as the pre-eminent general of the Confederacy.

Johnston was initially buried in New Orleans. In 1866, a joint resolution of the Texas Legislature was passed to have his body reinterred to the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. The re-interment occurred in 1867. Forty years later, the state appointed Elisabet Ney to design a monument and sculpture of him to be erected at his gravesite.

*Excerpts from various articles but primary source was Military wiki.*



Mississippi Division Commander Conor Bond addresses the crowd at the *Let MS Vote Rally*. The legislature passed a bill and the Governor signed it allowing the Mississippi State Flag to be changed although the flag was approved by a vote of the people. Mississippi is working to get this on the ballot again.



The Georgia Division received the General Samuel Cooper Award for best website in the SCV at the National Reunion held in Jacksonville in July 2020. Barry Colbaugh is the Division webmaster.



Past Commander James Patterson passes the reins of the Tennessee Division to new Commander Joey Nolan at the Division Reunion held on August 22nd.. Also elected were Frank Heathman as 1st Lt. Commander and John Blankenship as 2nd Lt. Commander. Congratulations to all. The Reunion was hosted by the Cumberland Mtn Rifles Camp 386.



AoT Commander Jimmy Hill receives the Robert E. Lee Award from outgoing CiC Paul Gramling Jr. at the National Reunion in Jacksonville, Florida.



Part of the Alabama Division attendees at the 2020 National Reunion at Jacksonville, Florida.



AoT Councilman Carl Jones gives the program at the July Egbert J. Jones Camp in Huntsville, Al



Commander in Chief Paul Gramling Jr. administers the oath of office to incoming Lt. Commander in Chief Boshers of Tennessee and incoming Commander in Chief Larry McCluney Jr. of Mississippi at the 2020 National Reunion held in July at Jacksonville, Florida.



Pictured above is the new AoT Challenge Coin. They are \$10 each, I will have them as I visit the different Divisions. These are a fundraiser for the AoT.

For every coin sold, a \$5 donation will be made to the Division in which the member lives. As an example, if I visit Georgia and I sell 100 coins the Georgia Division will receive a check for \$500. The remaining \$5 covers the cost of the coins and a donation to the Confederate Museum at Elm Springs.



We set up at Hendricks county fairgrounds. Bought lunch for the HC Sheriff's and Danville PD. Stood at parade rest , behind the flag, from 10am till 4pm, except to talk to folks who stopped by. Got lots of honks and waves with a few thumbs up thrown in. Special thanks to a couple of guys from the Dixie Grays camp who stopped by. All in all had a good location and a good day.



# Call to Arms!

Men of the South, We Need You

**Saturday, October 31st**

AT

**Fredricks Outdoors**

**Exit 334 I-65, Priceville, Alabama**

**At A Living History Camp set up by Camps from the Alabama Division.**

**Water, Hay and Firewood Provided**

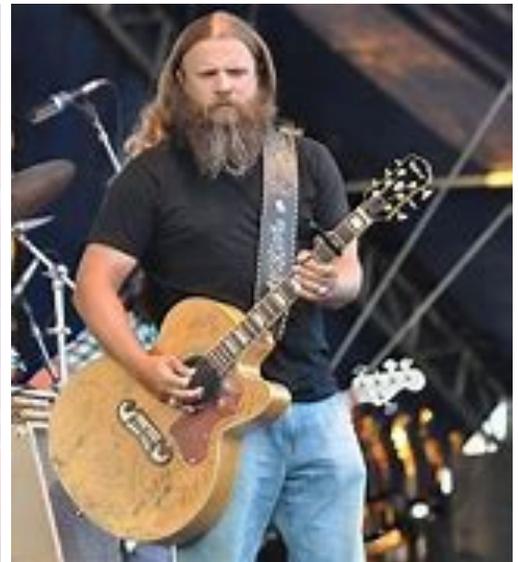
**We need Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery and especially history presenters**

This encampment will be held in conjunction with a concert put on by Fredricks Outdoors. We were given this opportunity to be a part of the event. The camp will start at 10 AM and end at 4:30 PM. You can set up on Friday and camp out. We are invited to stay for the show afterwards at no charge. An expected crowd of 6,000 + people will be there to see Confederate Railroad and Jamey Johnson

We will also have a recruiting booth on site with free genealogy done by Division genealogist Harold Bouldin.

Admission to the show is \$20.

There will be food and drinks sold at the park by Fredricks Outdoors



Contact: Reggie Hughes at (256) 572-5319, Wayne Willingham at (256) 531-4591, Jerry Smith at (256) 332-4701 or Jimmy Hill at (256) 614-3613



# Army of Tennessee

## Workshop



Hampton Inn  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
March 27, 2021  
14451 Highway 431 South  
Guntersville, AL 35976

Hosted by the Alabama Division and the Capt. John Rayburn Camp 452 Guntersville, AL

Registration is \$10 which includes lunch. Pre-registration by March 10th for lunch. After March 10th, the registration fee will be \$10 (no guaranteed lunch included. If extra lunches are available it will be first come, first serve)

Hotel rooms are available with room rates posted to the Division Commanders.

All Divisions are welcome to attend!

Topics include: **To be announced**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers: Home: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

SCV Camp Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this completed form, together with a check or money order in the amount of **\$10 (by March 10th for lunch)** made payable to **Capt. John Rayburn Camp 452, SCV** After March 10th, send this form and **\$10 (No guaranteed lunch)** and mail it to:

**AoT Workshop  
c/o Larry McCoy  
1608 Wyeth Dr.  
Guntersville, AL 35976-2330**

Contact Workshop Coordinator Reggie Hughes at 256-572-5319 if you have questions.

# Flags of the Army of Tennessee

