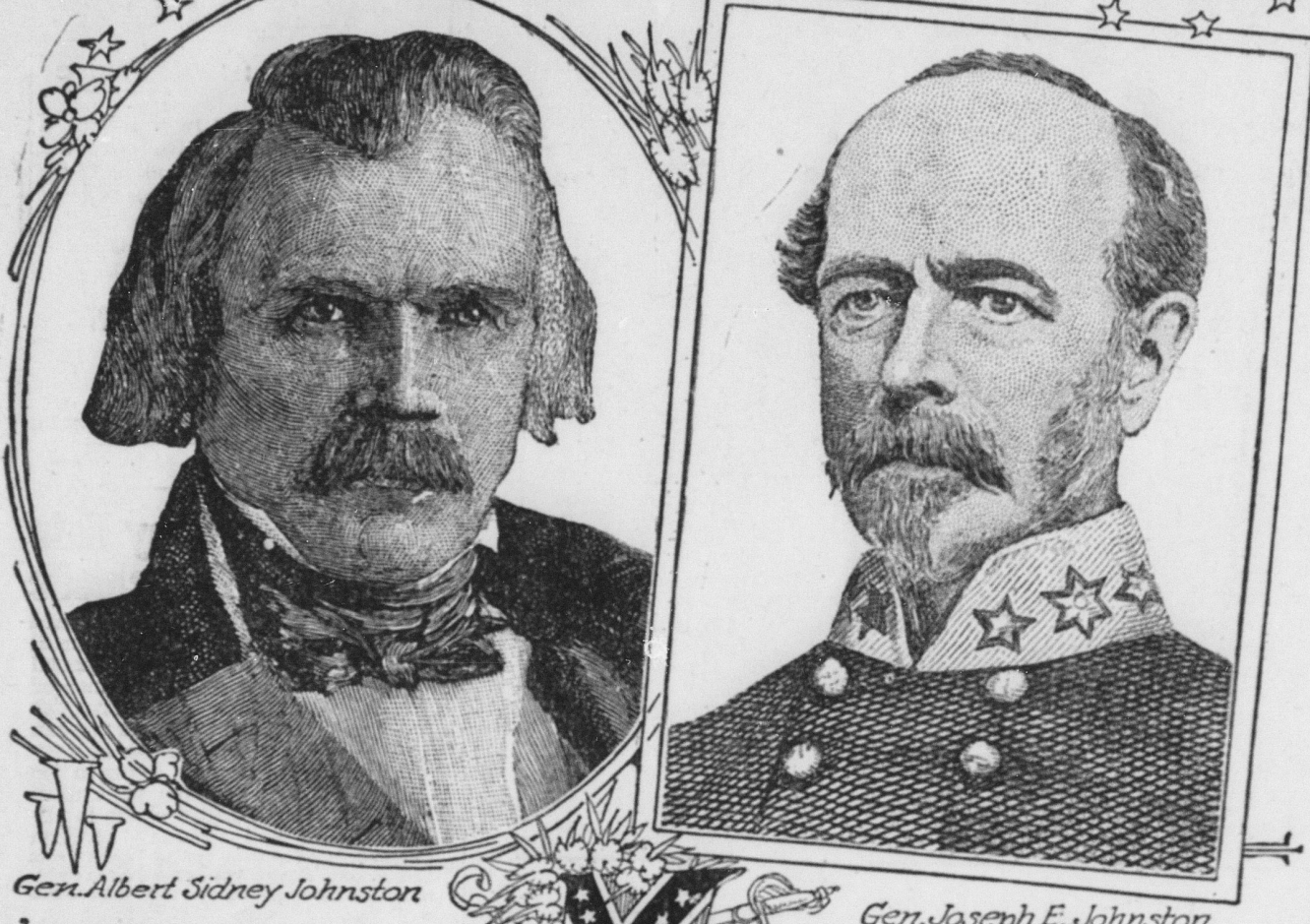


# Same Birthday, Same Name, Same Army, But Different Fame



Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston

Gen. Joseph E. Johnston

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

**F**EBRUARY 3 is the anniversary of the birthday of two American soldiers whose careers afford some striking similarities and some equally striking differences. They bore the same family name, yet were not related. They were graduated from the same military school, both achieved distinction as Indian fighters, both attained high ranks in both the United States army and the Confederate army, yet one rose to the heights as a military leader only to be cheated of his reward by death, while the other lived to see his fame as a soldier end in something of an anti-climax. The two were Albert Sidney Johnston and Joseph Eggleston Johnston.

Albert Sidney Johnston was born on February 3, 1803, in Washington, Ky., the son of a Connecticut country physician and was graduated from the United States Military academy, eighth in his class, in 1826. He was assigned to the Second Infantry and served as chief of staff to Gen. Henry Atkinson in the Black Hawk war in 1832. Re-signing from the army in 1834, he was a farmer for a short time near St. Louis, then in 1836 joined the Texas patriots in their struggle for freedom.

Although entering the Texan army as a private he rapidly rose through all the grades to the command of the army and in 1838 President Mirabeau Lamar of the Lone Star republic made him secretary of war. The next year he led a campaign against hostile Indians and in two brilliant battles defeated them and drove them out of Texas. Next we find him a planter in Texas but at the outbreak of the Mexican war he was in the field again as colonel of the First Texas rifles. This regiment soon disbanded but Johnston continued in the service and was inspector general of Butler's division at the battle of Monterey. Although Gen. Zachary Taylor called him "the best soldier he ever commanded," and his superiors recommended him for an appointment as brigadier-general, he was passed over (for political reasons) and again retired to his farm.

There he lived in poverty and neglect until President Taylor in 1840 suddenly appointed him a paymaster in the United States army and six years later President Pierce appointed him colonel of a new regiment, the Second Cavalry.

In 1857 he was placed in command of the expedition to restore order among the Mormons in Utah, who were in open revolt against the government. By a forced march of 920 miles in 27 days, he reached his little army of 1,100 men, to find them lost amid the snow-filled deserts of the Rockies, with the temperature at 16 below zero, their supplies cut off by the hostile Mormons and their starving tents their only food. By an extraordinary display of energy and wisdom Johnston led the army safely into winter quarters and by using equally commendable diplomacy he put an end to the rebellion without a drop of blood being shed. For this exploit he was brevetted brigadier-general and a short time later placed in command of the department of the Pacific.

Loyal to the army and the nation, the coming of the Civil war brought the deepest distress to Johnston. But when Texas seceded he resigned his commission—but he regarded his command as such a sacred trust that he concealed his resignation until he could be relieved—and went at once to Richmond where in September, 1861, he was placed in command of

brevetted lieutenant colonel and colonel and during the next fifteen years performed various duties in the West (including that of acting inspector-general for the Utah expedition commanded by the other Johnston—Albert Sidney) which led finally to his commission of quartermaster-general of the United States army.

Johnston resigned from the army when Virginia seceded, was commissioned a major-general of volunteers by Virginia and with Robert E. Lee organized the soldiers who poured into Richmond to defend the capital of the state. Next he was appointed commander of the army of the Shenandoah and led it to the aid of General Beauregard when McDowell attacked on July 21, 1861, at Manassas. Johnston outranked Beauregard and took command so that he is credited with the victory at Bull Run. The next month he was appointed one of the five full generals authorized by the Confederate congress (among them Albert Sidney Johnston) but was placed fourth on the list. Johnston protested against this, since he felt that his high rank in the United States army when he resigned should have placed him first on the list, and in this he was justified by a previous congressional act. This protest is said to have been the beginning and cause of the hostility towards him shown by President Jefferson Davis throughout the war. The quarrel between the two men, according to Allen Tate in his recent biography of Davis, "was to outlast the Confederacy and have a paralyzing influence upon its career."

After the Battle of Seven Pines in 1862, at which Johnston was seriously wounded, Davis replaced him in command of the Confederate forces in the East with Gen. Robert E. Lee and the eclipse of Joseph E. Johnston as an outstanding military leader began. The next year he was sent to take command of the Department of the West. "Johnston was one of the three or four best soldiers in the South," writes Tate. "But he tended to avoid assuming responsibility; he was touchy and quarrelsome; and his instinctive dislike of offensive warfare had, inconsistently enough, undermined the President's confidence in him since his retreat up the peninsula before McClellan in the spring. In the end, Davis' lack of confidence may have been sheer dislike; Johnston had not handled him, in his rancorous letters, with kid gloves. So, when Johnston went west his instructions were a little vague . . ."

Both Davis and Johnston have their ardent partisans in the historic dispute between the two and it seems impossible to arrive at any conclusion as to who was most to blame. But the net result was disaster in the West which further weakened the "Lost Cause" and contributed its share to the downfall of the Confederacy. It fell to his lot to play a leading role in the last military scene of the great tragedy which berel the American people between 1861 and 1865. Just as he had been in command at the first major engagement of the war, so was he in command when the last important armed forces of the Confederacy laid down their arms. On April 26, 1865, Johnston surrendered his army to General Sherman on the same terms under which Lee had surrendered to Grant.

After the war Johnston was president of a railroad in Arkansas, president of an express company of Virginia and agent for various insurance companies. In 1877 he was elected to congress from Virginia and ten years later he was appointed United States commissioner of railroads by President Cleveland. He died in 1891. (© by Western Newspaper Union.)

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This gigantic fossil of pleistocene age was discovered by Barnum Brown in the Siwalk hills of northern India in 1923, when Mr. Brown was collecting there on an American museum expedition financed by Mrs. Henry C. Frick. Fragments of large tortoises have been known in India since the early days of the last century, but no complete shell had previously been discovered. When found, the specimen was broken into so many thousands of pieces that it has taken one preparator nearly two years to reconstruct it.

There are large turtles living today on the Galapagos island west of South America, and related forms on the islands east of Africa, which when compared with the small land

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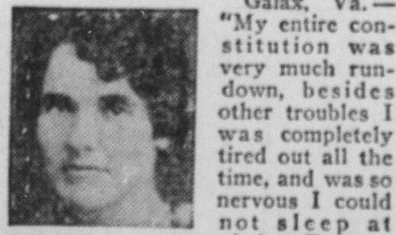
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