

Chapter 1 : Battle of Galveston – Discerning History

The Battle of Galveston was a naval and land battle of the American Civil War, when Confederate forces under Major Gen. John B. Magruder expelled occupying Union troops from the city of Galveston, Texas on January 1,

Lincoln stepped up Union military operations in the Trans-Mississippi areas. By the end of October, a Union gunboat flotilla commanded by Com. The most important of those ports was Galveston, which surrendered to Renshaw in early October. On December 24,, 3 companies of Massachusetts troops were put ashore at Galveston to occupy the town. The Union soldiers took a strong defensive position on one of the wharves, where they could receive support from the gunboats in the event of an attack. John Magruder took command of Confederate forces in Texas on November 29, and he was determined to force the Federals from Galveston and its bay. First, he had 2 river steamers, the Bayou City and the Neptune, converted to cotton-clad gunboats by the addition of cottonbale fortifications stacked on their decks and a few cannon. He planned a 2-pronged attack to recapture the port; while he led infantry and artillery in an attack on the wharf, his new gunboats would simultaneously engage the 7 blockading Union warships. The mass of Union soldiers on the wharf braced for the coming attack, barricaded their position, and tore the flooring up on the shore side of the wharf. Soon afterward, the ships opened fire before dawn, and the Confederates commenced a land attack. The Harriet Lane sank the Neptune when it tried to ram the Union ship, but men from the Bayou City boarded and seized the Union vessel despite the explosion of their own heavy cannon. The other Union ships sailed out to sea, ignoring Confederate surrender demands, which could be enforced only upon the abandoned Union infantry in town. Westfield , ran aground when trying to help Harriet Lane and, at Galveston was in Confederate hands again although the Union blockade would limit commerce in and out of the harbor. Magruder gathered infantry and cavalry, led by Brig. Scurry, and supported by 20 light and heavy cannons, to cross the railroad bridge onto the island to capture the Union forces ashore. To meet the attack, Renshaw had 6 ships that mounted 29 pieces of heavy artillery. Back on shore, the 3 companies of Massachusetts soldiers who had repelled the morning attack did not know that Renshaw was pulling out the Union ships, and that they were to be abandoned on the wharf, which they had turned into a fortress. The men on shore were puzzled by the flags of truce flying from several ships. The Confederates notified them that negotiations were under way for the surrender of the Union warships and demanded their immediate surrender too. Feeling the situation was hopeless, the Union soldiers gave up the fight. Magruder had allowed a 3-hour truce for the Union force to consider its fate, but Renshaw did not wait. Possibly panicstricken, he ordered the truce time to be used by his remaining ships to escape Galveston harbor. Meanwhile, he transferred the crew of the Westfield to another ship and prepared to destroy the still grounded ship before she could be captured. When the Confederates noticed that the Union ships were taking flight, they tried to stop the retreat but managed to capture only 1 coal bark. The Union fleet retreated all the way back to New Orleans, where Adm. Farragut reported to the Secretary of the Navy that "the shameful conduct of our forces at Galveston has been one of the severest blows of the war to the Navy. Union losses included the captured infantry and the Harriet Lane, about casualties on the naval ships, as well as the destruction of the Westfield. On June 2, , the city was formally surrendered by Maj.

Chapter 2 : The Battle of Galveston

The Union forces in Galveston were three companies of the 42nd Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment under the command of Col. Isaac S. Burrell. The Confederates captured or killed all of them except for the regiment's adjutant.

It was still nearly the frontier in the s, and out of the course of the military campaigns. But there were a few exceptions to this rule, and one of those was the fighting over Galveston. The island of Galveston was first settled by Europeans in , but they were pirates – far from your usual settlers. Jean Lafitte maintained a pirate kingdom there for several years until driven off by the US Navy. A town developed there, and undertaking more reputable business, it became the largest and wealthiest city, as well as the busiest sea port in Texas. It was an obvious target for the Union navy. But he put up gun batteries on the coastline to ward of Union ships, being especially careful to protect the railroad bridge, which connected the island with the mainland. Over the next for months more Federal ships would arrive, and help establish a blockade. They were able to keep out most of the commerce that had flowed to the port, though they could do little against the blockade runners that quickly slipped by them. But the Northerners would do more than blockade. But the promised attack never came – at least not from those Federal warships. They ran out of food, and Galveston was safe for the time. On the 9th a Union boat came ashore and took possession of the city. Cannons used in the Battle of Galveston The dramatic Magruder began making plans to recapture Galveston, which he regarded as the key to the state. He planned to attack using land and naval forces. He hoped that the commotion of the attack would distract the Federal ships enough so that the Confederate fleet could capture the USS Harriet Lane, and turn its guns upon the other Union ships. It was a bold plan against established military wisdom, but Magruder believed it would work. He set about gathering the ships and troops required. A friend of his, a Galveston sea captain, set to turn two of his four steamers into warships, fitting them with a corvus, an ancient Roman boarding ramp, and protecting the boats with bales of cotton. The two ships, the Bayou City and the Neptune only mounted one large gun each. The attack was launched on December 13, The Rangers of the Prairie send greetings to the Rangers of the Sea. The assault party of men went through the water under covering fire to try to scale the wharf and strike the three companies of Federals in the rear, but their ladders proved to be too short, and the plan fell apart. However, the Federals realized they were outnumbered by the Confederate troops, and raised a white flag, asking for three hours to consult with the navy. The Confederates refused this, and as he was receiving no support from the navy, the Union commander unconditionally surrendered. The battle quickly turned bad for the Confederate warships. They were outgunned by the Federals, and the Neptune was soon sent to the bottom. At that point, things were looking bad for the Confederate attack. Half of their fleet was sunk, and the land attack was still stalled. But the Bayou City did not retreat after this misfortune, and she continued to face the six Union ships. In a desperate attempt to avoid the Union guns, the captain ran his ship directly into the Harriet Lane. He hit her straight on, and his crew rushed aboard and were able to secure the vessel. The crew was unable to get her off, and so a truce was called for both sides to consider what to do. Realizing that he could not get his ship off, Renshaw decided to destroy her and get away while he could. Lighting a fuse to the magazine, he and his crew rowed away from the doomed ship. However, as the time passed by and nothing happened, Renshaw realized that the fuse had failed. Returning to the ship, he relit the fuse, but before he and his men could clear the ship, she exploded. Renshaw was killed along with thirteen of his men. Their captain dead, the flagship destroyed and another ship captured, the surviving Union ships made their way out of the harbor as quickly as possible, still under the flag of truce. Although the Confederates were unable to pursue, they had still gained a glorious victory. At the loss of 26 killed and wounded, they had inflicted at least that many, and had captured one ship intact with prisoners. They had also recaptured Galveston, and would retain control of the town for the rest of the war. The Confederate Congress said this in a resolution of thanks: The bold, intrepid, and gallant conduct of Maj. Leon Smith and other officers, and of the Texan Rangers and soldiers engaged in the attack on, and victory achieved over, the land and naval forces of the enemy at Galveston, on the 1st of January, , eminently entitle them to the thanks of Congress and the country! This brilliant achievement, resulting, under the providence of God, in the capture of the war

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steamer Harriet Lane and the defeat and ignominious flight of the hostile fleet from the harbor, the recapture of the city and the raising of the blockade of the port of Galveston, signally evinces that superior force may be overcome by skillful conception and daring courage. The War of the Rebellion, vol. Government Printing Office, series 1, volume 19, p. Battle on the Bay: University of Texas Press, p. War of the Rebellion, vol.

Chapter 3 : Battle of Galveston - The American Civil War

GALVESTON, BATTLE blog.quintoapp.com part of the Union blockade of the Texas coast, Commander William B. Renshaw led his squadron of eight ships into Galveston harbor to demand surrender of the most important Texas port on October 4,

Navy began a blockade of Galveston Harbor in July , but the town remained in Confederate hands for the next 14 months. The intention was to inform the military authorities in Galveston that if the town did not surrender, the U. Navy ships would attack; a one-hour reply would be demanded. Cook, Confederate military commander in the area, would not come out to the Union ship or send an officer to receive the communication, so Harriet Lane weighed anchor and returned to the fleet. Four Union steamers, with a mortar boat in tow, entered the harbor and moved to the same area where Harriet Lane had anchored. Observing this activity, Confederates at Fort Point fired one or more shots and the U. Eventually, the Union ships disabled the one Confederate gun at Fort Point and fired at other targets. Two Rebel guns from another location opened on the Union ships. The boat that Colonel Cook had dispatched now approached the Union vessels and two Confederate officers boarded U. Renshaw demanded an unconditional surrender of Galveston or he would begin shelling. Renshaw threatened to resume the shelling and made preparations for towing the mortar boat into position. One of the Confederate officers then asked if he could be granted time to talk with Colonel Cook again. This officer, a major, negotiated with Renshaw for a four-day truce to evacuate the women, children, and aliens from the city. Cook approved the truce but added a stipulation that if Renshaw would not move troops closer to Galveston, Cook would not permit his men to come below the city. The agreement was finalized but never written down, which later caused problems. The Confederates did evacuate, taking all of their weapons, ammunition, supplies, and whatever they could carry with them. Renshaw did not think that the agreement allowed for all this but, in the end, did nothing, due to the lack of a written document. The fall of Galveston meant that one more important Confederate port was closed to commerce. But the port of Galveston was not shut down for long, as Confederate forces reoccupied the area. The Second Battle of Galveston in January resulted in a Confederate victory, and the port remained in Southern hands for much of the rest of the war. Brandon samuels More information.

The Battle of Galveston (1 January) In the fall of , Union Commodore William B. Renshaw sailed into Galveston harbor and demanded the surrender of the island city by its occupants.

Battle of Galveston January 1, In the fall of , President Abraham Lincoln stepped up Union military operations in the trans-Mississippi areas. By the end of October, a Union gunboat flotilla commanded by Com. The most important of those ports was Galveston, which surrendered to Renshaw in early October. On Christmas Eve , three companies of Massachusetts troops were put ashore at Galveston to occupy the town. The Union soldiers took a strong defensive position on one of the wharves, where they could receive support from the gunboats in the event of an attack. John Magruder took command of Rebel forces in Texas on November 29, , and he was determined to force the Yankees from Galveston and its bay. First, he had two river steamers, the Bayou City and the Neptune, converted to cotton-clad gunboats by the addition of cottonbale fortifications stacked on their decks and a few cannon. He planned a two-pronged attack to recapture the port; while he led infantry and artillery in an attack on the wharf, his new gunboats would simultaneously engage the seven blockading Union warships. The mass of Union soldiers on the wharf braced for the coming attack, barricaded their position, and tore the flooring up on the shore side of the wharf. As dawn broke on January 1, , Confederate Gen. The Union soldiers on the wharf were in a very secure position and suffered little from the cannon fire. They had torn up the wharf planking near the shore, forcing Magruder to send of his men to attack with 50 scaling ladders, with which they were to climb up to the wharf from the pounding surf. The huge cannon on the Union ships delivered such rapid and accurate fire that Magruder ordered his men to fall back to more protected positions an hour after opening the battle. The Union navy was prepared for a land attack but not for the two cottonclad Confederate gunboats, the Bayou City and the Neptune, that came at them full steam down the narrow channel. About 1, sharpshooters on the cottonclads took a devastating toll on the Union gunners before the Neptune rammed the Harriet Lane. But the cotton-clad river steamer was not constructed for such use and was badly damaged, while the Union warship was hardly hurt at all. The Neptune quickly filled with water and settled on the bottom, but her decks were still out of the water and her men continued firing on the Union ship. Then the Bayou City crashed into the Harriet Lane on her port side, causing the two vessels to be locked together. The guns on the Harriet Lane were then added to the Confederate fire that was turned on the remaining Union ships. Fleet commander William B. Renshaw, on board the U. The other ships did their job well, but the Westfield became grounded on a sandbar and even when assisted by the USS Clifton, could not be pulled free. Then Renshaw received word that one of his ships, the Harriet Lane, had been captured. The Rebels demanded the surrender of all Union ships but would let one ship depart with the crews from the others. John Magruder had allowed a three-hour truce for the Union force to consider its fate, but Renshaw did not wait. Possibly panicstricken, he ordered the truce time to be used by his remaining ships to escape Galveston harbor. Meanwhile, he transferred the crew of the Westfield to another ship and prepared to destroy the still grounded ship before she could be captured. Back on shore, the three companies of Massachusetts soldiers who had repelled the morning attack did not know that Renshaw was pulling out the Union ships, and that they were to be abandoned on the wharf, which they had turned into a fortress. The men on shore were puzzled by the flags of truce flying from several ships. The Confederates notified them that negotiations were under way for the surrender of the Union warships and demanded their immediate surrender too. Feeling the situation was hopeless, the Union soldiers gave up the fight. When the Rebels noticed that the Union ships were taking flight, they tried to stop the retreat but managed to capture only one coal bark. The Union fleet retreated all the way back to New Orleans, where Adm.

The Battle of Galveston or the Second Battle of Galveston was a naval and land battle that occurred on January 1, , during the American Civil War when Confederate forces under Maj. Gen. John B. Magruder attacked and expelled occupying Union troops from the city of Galveston, Texas.

Galveston was a growing city; forty percent of her non-slave population was born outside the United States. The idea of secession did not initially enjoy wide support among Galvestonians, but it gained popularity after the election of Abraham Lincoln. In a statewide vote on secession on February 23, , Galvestonians supported breaking with the Union by a landslide, to The Federal blockade of Galveston began on July 2, with the arrival of U. The screw-propelled steamer made several quick captures of sailing vessels trying to break new blockade, but these were mostly small, worthless craft. Blockade running was, at that stage of the war, a very amateur and disorganized affair. Despite the patriotic fervor for the Southern cause, though, many people came to recognize that Galveston would be difficult to defend against an expected Union attack. Word got out that the Confederate military thought the city indefensible, and it was reported that the governor had suggested the city be burned rather than fall into Union hands intact. Many Galvestonians left the island for Houston and other cities inland, not to return until The Federal move on the island was long delayed, but when it finally came in October it was almost bloodless. Confederate forces evacuated the city left and retreated to the mainland. Wainwright, commanding the Navy gunboat Harriet Lane, took possession of the city and raised the U. The attack ended with an almost complete Confederate victory. Harriet Lane and three Union transports were captured; another gunboat, U. Westfield, ran aground and was blown up by her own crew to prevent capture. Wainwright and the senior Union officer, Commander William B. Renshaw, were both killed. The Federals never tried to retake Galveston, but reinforced the blockade there in an effort to render it useless as a seaport. They established a blockade off San Luis Pass, at the western end of Galveston Island, to capture the small schooners that used that access to Galveston Bay. Blockade running continued in a small way in , but as before there was little real effort to resume trade on a large scale. Galveston was geographically too far removed from the center of the war effort to have much importance for the Confederacy as a whole. Life in Galveston became increasingly difficult as the war dragged on. There were shortages of everything -- food, fuel, medicine and clothing -- and those things that could be found sold for tremendously inflated prices. Rations issued to the troops were so bad that one regiment put an inedible slab of beef on a stick, paraded it through the town followed by muffled drums, and after a formal military funeral, buried it on the public square. Fences, sheds and abandoned houses were torn down for firewood. Thefts, assaults and other crime became a common occurrence, as did cases of desertion from the military units on the island. Hawes re-issued an old and forgotten order declaring Galveston to be an "entrenched camp," which effectively placed the citizenry subject to martial law. An epidemic of yellow fever swept through the town in the fall of Over soldiers, and an unknown number of civilians, died of the disease. Blockade running began to take on a new significance in After the Battle of Mobile Bay in August , in which Federal navy effectively closed the port of Mobile, Galveston was left as one of the few ports left in the Confederacy and the only one on the Gulf of Mexico. Only a dozen steam blockade runners had come into Galveston during the first three years of the war; now another runner entered the port almost every week. Denbigh made her first run into Galveston at the end of August ; she would make five more successful round trips into Galveston before being lost in May Despite the excitement caused by the regular arrival and departure of the blockade runners, conditions continued to deteriorate in Galveston. The civilian populace was so desperate that on May 24, -- the same morning Denbigh was boarded and burned by the Federals -- when the runner Lark entered the harbor, she was swarmed by an unruly mob that stripped the vessel of everything of value. A local historian who witnessed the spectacle as a boy later recalled seeing "stout old women staggering through the streets heavily burdened with sets of artillery harness and other plunder taken from the vessel. Much of the above material is derived from Edward T. University of Texas Press,

Chapter 6 : First Battle of Galveston | World History Project

BATTLE SUMMARY. In the fall of , Pres. Lincoln stepped up Union military operations in the Trans-Mississippi areas. Cotton was running through Texas's blockaded ports and Mexico's unblockaded ports in exchange for arms and supplies to support Confederate armies.

Operations to Blockade the Texas Coast Date s: October 4, Principal Commanders: Debray [CS] Forces Engaged: Navy began a blockade of Galveston Harbor in July , but the town remained in Confederate hands for the next 14 months. Renshaw, commanding the blockading ships in the Galveston Bay area, sent Harriet Lane into the harbor, flying a flag of truce. The intention was to inform the military authorities in Galveston that if the town did not surrender, the U. Navy ships would attack; a one-hour reply would be demanded. Cook, Confederate military commander in the area, would not come out to the Union ship or send an officer to receive the communication, so Harriet Lane weighed anchor and returned to the fleet. Four Union steamers, with a mortar boat in tow, entered the harbor and moved to the same area where Harriet Lane had anchored. Observing this activity, Confederates at Fort Point fired one or more shots and the U. Eventually, the Union ships disabled the one Confederate gun at Fort Point and fired at other targets. Two Rebel guns from another location opened on the Union ships. The boat that Col. Cook had dispatched now approached the Union vessels and two Confederate officers boarded U. Renshaw demanded an unconditional surrender of Galveston or he would begin shelling. Renshaw threatened to resume the shelling and made preparations for towing the mortar boat into position. One of the Confederate officers then asked if he could be granted time to talk with Col. This officer, a major, negotiated with Renshaw for a four-day truce to evacuate the women, children, and aliens from the city. Cook approved the truce but added a stipulation that if Renshaw would not move troops closer to Galveston, Cook would not permit his men to come below the city. The agreement was finalized but never written down, which later caused problems. The Confederates did evacuate, taking all of their weapons, ammunition, supplies, and whatever they could carry with them. Renshaw did not think that the agreement allowed for all this but, in the end, did nothing, due to the lack of a written document. The fall of Galveston meant that one more important Confederate port was closed to commerce. But the port of Galveston was not shut down for long.

Chapter 7 : The Tide Turns | TSLAC

The battle was fought on January 1, during the Civil War when Confederate forces attacked and forced occupying Union troops from the city of Galveston, Texas. When the Civil War ended, Galveston was the only major port still under Confederate control.

New Orleans was lost in April and Galveston October 4, A series of successful raids along the coast also demoralized the Confederate populace even more. He was also very innovative, crafty and aggressive. A native Virginian, West Point graduate, and veteran of the Seminole and Mexican Wars, Magruder arrived in Texas in November, and immediately went about developing a plan to take back Galveston. When the Federal Army arrived in force, it would be practically impossible to dislodge them or prevent an invasion of the Texas mainland. Whoever controlled Houston, effectively controlled Texas. He also had two riverboat steamers, the Neptune and Bayou City, fitted out with a few artillery pieces and cotton bales were stacked around the decks, thus transforming them into "cottonclad" gunboats. The two vessels were manned by portions of the 5th Texas Cavalry and the 7th Texas Cavalry to serve as boarding troops, thus transforming the cavalymen into "horse marines. Altogether there were about 1, Confederates for the operation. Magruder was the overall commander. Burrell could send out patrols in the daytime, but had to withdraw into his defenses on the wharf at night. The gunboat fleet in the harbor at that time consisted of the U. Renshaw on his flagship, the Westfield, was in overall command. Although outnumbered in manpower, the Federals had a decided advantage in firepower with the heavy guns on the gunboats. The cottonclads arrived too early after midnight and were spotted by the gunboats. Smith had the Confederate ships withdraw and wait on the land forces to get into place. It took Magruder longer than expected to get across the two mile long railroad bridge and into place in the city. Magruder then fired the first shot of the battle from a field place at the end of 20th Street near the Hendley building, which still stands in Galveston today. By that time both the Federal troops on the wharf and the gunboats in the harbor were ready and waiting. The Confederate artillery was clearly getting the worst of the duel and about 5 a. The Confederates splashed into the water with scaling ladders, while some men went onto the wharf and fired from the first break in the walkway. The scaling ladders proved to be too short, and the firepower of the enemy infantry and heavy firepower of the fleet was too much for the Confederate infantry. Harriet Lane, center, being attacked by the C. Bayou City and C. Neptune at the Battle of Galveston. Naval Historical Institute Just when it seemed the Union was winning, the Confederate cottonclads arrived and the Neptune and Bayou City immediately went for the Harriet Lane, the closest and most powerful of the gunboats. The Bayou City attacked first, trying to ram and board the Union vessel, but just grazed it and damaged its wheelhouse. It had to turn around for another try. Captain Wier, commanding the heavy artillery piece on the Bayou City, was killed when the gun exploded. The Neptune pulled away and partially sank near the shore in 8 feet of water. The sharpshooters on board were able to keep up their fire from the steamers upper deck. The Bayou City came around and also turned the battle around by successfully ramming the Harriet Lane. Smith led the boarding party onto the Federal ship and successfully took it over. The rest of the crew surrendered. Meanwhile, the Westfield had grounded and never got into the fight. Captain Lubbock of the Bayou City bluffed the Federals into a three hour cease fire and demanded surrender. Before the Confederates could get to Renshaw, the fleet commander tried to blow his ship up to prevent its capture, but was himself blown up with it when the demolition charge went off to soon. The rest of the fleet skulked out under the truce flag. The Confederates had won and recaptured Galveston. With the fleet gone, the 42nd Massachusetts surrendered. The Southerners lost 26 men killed and wounded. The Federals lost about men captured, including battle casualties, killed and wounded. Posted by Michael Jones at.

Chapter 8 : Battle of Galveston - Wikipedia

The Battle of Galveston, which took place during the early morning hours of January 1, , is widely acknowledged as the most important military event in Galveston's history. Played out on both land and sea over the course of several months, the Battle of Galveston ended with Confederate forces.

Magruder Image courtesy Generals and Brevets. Magruder fought in the Mexican War and was promoted for his courage in the battles of Cerro Gordo and Chapultepec. Friends and enemies alike acknowledged him as a hard-drinking, hard-fighting, and independent soldier with a flair for the dramatic. Magruder resigned from the U. As a major-general in the Confederate army, he fell from favor with Robert E. Lee after his poor performance in the Seven Days Campaign. His greatest success came with his audacious recapture of Galveston on January 1, Magruder retained this command for the duration of the war with the exception of seven months in Arkansas. After the war, Magruder was one of a number of Confederate officers and politicians to escape to Mexico. He joined the forces of Emperor Maximilian. When the imperial government collapsed, Magruder landed in Cuba before returning to Texas. He lived out his retirement years in Houston and was buried in Galveston. These two fortresses had served as the last critical link in the Confederate supply system between the eastern states and the Trans-Mississippi. A huge percentage of the goods from Texas—clothing, shoes, beef, salt, corn—and imports from the Mexican cotton trade such as arms and medicine had reached the eastern Confederacy via these two supply centers. Now, they were under federal control. With the Trans-Mississippi cut off from the rest of the Confederacy, taking the Texas cotton fields seemed a feasible next step. But Lincoln wanted to do more than please the New England textile interests. Putting an end to the Texas trade in manufactured goods and imports would help shorten the war. Moreover, the French had intervened in Mexico and were well on the way to taking over the country. Lincoln worried about the Confederacy forming an alliance with a French puppet government and drawing the U. In September, the federals mounted a massive attack on Sabine Pass, with four gunboats and 22 transports carrying an invasion force of 5, soldiers. The plan was to seize the pass and then move overland to fall upon Houston and Galveston. The attack on Sabine Pass. Right away Crocker ran into trouble. In the space of less than one hour, they blew up one federal gunboat, forced another to run aground, and captured or killed enemy soldiers without taking a single casualty themselves. The Union forces were forced to turn back for New Orleans. Once again, Texas had thwarted an invasion and produced a victory that electrified the entire Confederacy. It was later shown that the Confederate artillery had fired their cannon times in 35 minutes, far more rapid than the standard for heavy artillery. The defenders of Fort Griffin were decorated with specially struck silver medals. Two months later, the Union tried again, this time with more success. A force of 7, Union troops landed at Brazos Santiago near the mouth of the Rio Grande and stormed inland to seize Brownsville. The evacuating Confederates set fire to the town as they fled, setting off days of looting and violence. Union troops deployed beyond Brownsville to occupy Mustang Island, St. Joseph Island, and Matagorda Island. The Confederate evacuation of Brownsville.

Chapter 9 : Battle of Galveston Harbor () - Wikipedia

The Battle of Galveston Harbor was a naval engagement between forces from the Union Navy and the Confederate States of America in the American Civil War. It was fought on October 4, It was fought on October 4,

We do not know the subject of his lecture. We say Conservatism, and we say it advisedly. The party which claims that name to-day is the party which has always favored and incited riots for the suppression of free speech in time of perfect quiet, and which now complains because in a time of extreme public peril some few men have been silenced by the Government. The party which to-day assumes to be Conservative is the party which has always said, when the peace has been broken by a mob on account of a speech or lecture which the inciters of the mob did not like, "Of course; served him right. Let him shut up his dâ€™" mouth! Moreover, this same Conservative party is the same party which at that time frankly and openly defended the destruction of the plainest constitutional rights at the South. When Yancey made a tour through the North, in the very heat of a tremendous political canvass, was he mobbed? When, a little earlier, the dull Simms and the sentimental Thompson lectured in the Lyceumsâ€™"were they mobbed? The newspapers of this pseudo-conservatism unblushingly declare that the "Free-speech party" is very zealous for its own speech, and very inimical to that of others. It is simply untrue. A street-mob gathered against an unpopular speaker by the anti-slavery party in this country is an event almost, if not altogether unknown. While the innumerable threats and riotous attempts against the free public discussion of important public questions by American citizens have always been instigated, and often led by those who now claim, as they then claimed, to be Conservative; and, therefore, while we would not hold any party responsible for the excesses of its individual members, the truth of history justifies us in the assertion that the spirit of the Conservative party in this country has favored and still favors the most lawless and dangerous assaults upon individual rights. To attempt to extenuate such street-mobs by the arrest by Government in time of war of men who are trying to embarrass and defeat its efforts to save itself from destruction is futile and foolish. The Government has not suppressed free speech. It has tolerated not only honest criticism but the most venomous attacks in the interest of disunion and rebellion. We certainly do not claim that the Government is infallible, or has made no mistakes. But we do claim, and history will confirm, that the friends of that Government, those who brought it into power and those who sustain it now, are not only the especial friends of the natural rights of all men, but of the constitutional privileges of American citizensâ€™"while the party that now calls itself Conservative not only denies the rights of man, but systematically, in time of perfect peace, connives at the violation of the constitutional rights of citizens. THERE is one consolation in contemplating the Proclamation, and that is, that one man, at least, is pleased. No other than our wayward sister Van Buren. On the 13th of July, , he made a speech in Cleveland, Ohio. Will you taste a plum from it, this fine morning? Here it is, at your service: Van Buren went to Washington for. It was to urge the President not to falter. And the President has done the very thing which our wayward sister thought was the only thing wanting to make the government eternal! Two of his volumes cover the first nine years of the century, including the battles of Marengo, Austerlitz, Eylau, Jena, and Wagram; Trafalgar and Copenhagen; Assaye, Laswarree, Delhi, Agra; and Talaveraâ€™"with lesser fights by sea and land. Such a book has a most timely interest; and one of its chief morals is the truth which General Napier always so strongly stated, that the event of every battle is in a great degree a matter of chance. In a position favorable to cavalry, a dashing charge may turn defeat into victory. Or again, as at Waterloo, an unseen road, which Napoleon did not know, may baffle the shrewdest plan, and wrest from your hands the victory already grasped. Thus, in speaking of Marengo, which was the first overwhelming triumph of the First Consulâ€™"making him, as General Cust thinks, Emperorâ€™"he says: But when the Austrians were surprised, and at one blow deprived both of Melas and De Zach, so slight an event as a successful charge of cavalry was enough to change completely the state of affairs, and to convert defeat into victory. We should neither suppose that "the backbone of the rebellion" was broken because Vicksburg, for instance, was taken; nor that there was no longer any hope for mankind and civil liberty because Burnside was not successful at Fredericksburg. Marengo alone would certainly not have made Napoleon Emperor. So no single victory, but continued success

alone, will subdue the rebellion. He drifts from Botany Bay to St. From California and Oregon and Australia he passes to India, where he arrives during the Sepoy rebellion. His shrewd eye shows him in all these lands and scenes the most striking and amusing points, and his ready pen nimbly sketches them for the companions who wish to have all the pleasure of drifting without the annoyances. And as the work will be "comically illustrated," whoever selects "Colonel Jeems" as his guide, philosopher, and friend in a rapid circumnavigation of the globe will hardly fail to be diverted and instructed. There was a young lady of Bicester, One day that her lover had kissed her, She seemed quite perplexed, And to show she was vexed She gave such a slap to her sister. There was a young lady of Leeds, Her eyes were the bigness of beads; When they said, "Do you squint? We are told that in Michigan they shear sheep by machinery. We should have thought this had been a sheer impossibility. The man that forgets a great deal that has happened has a better memory than he who remembers a great deal that never happened. We are told to "take care;" but it comes soon enough whether we want to take it or not. One kind of mortar is designed to fill up chinks; another to make them. Judy Brallaghan having been requested to open some oysters, after knocking them about for some time, exclaimed, "Upon my conscience, then, but they are mighty hard to peel! A correspondent writes to ask how much the waist of time measures round? Mosquitoes are like doctors, they never let blood without running up a bill. A man cut off by his baker for non-payment of his bill is "struck off the rolls. A girl recently stole a pair of gloves, giving as a reason that she only wished to keep her hand in. A garrulous barber happening to be called on to shave a celebrated wit, asked him, "How shall I shave you, Sir? Why are a pin and a poker like a blind man? Beauty is a stronger wooer than loving words; so the women woo no more than we do them. It sounds oddly that a ship of war, when at sea, keeps every one of her guns in port. When are gloves unsalable? Are the minutes relating to an affair of honor always drawn up by the seconds? If we grasp quicksilver, it slips through the fingers; and this is apt to be the case with most silver. Pressures in the money-market are far less pleasant to young people than pressures in the love-market. The commonest way to steal is to buy and not pay. The Committee recommend that one of the swords be bestowed upon General Butler, another deposited in the library of the Military Academy at West Point, and the third be preserved in the Patent Office as a trophy of the rebellion. A bill to reimburse Minnesota for expenditures incurred in suppressing Indian hostilities was referred to the Military Committee. The resolution regarding State prisoners was then taken up, and Senator Field, of New Jersey, made a speech defending the policy of suspending the writ of habeas corpus, etc. The bill empowering the President to issue letters of marque was referred to the Naval Committee. The bill forfeiting the pay of officers of the army who are absent from their duties over thirty days was passed. A bill was introduced repealing so much of the act establishing the grade of line officers in the navy as authorizes the appointment of rear-admirals and commodores on the retired list; referred to the Naval Committee. After an executive session the Senate adjourned. A resolution of thanks to General Butler for his energetic, able, and humane administration of affairs in the Department of the Gulf was offered. A motion to lay it on the table was negatedâ€”27 against The resolution was then laid aside. The debate on the Bankrupt Bill was then resumed, and several members spoke in favor of the measure. As a test of the sense of the House on the subject, a motion was made to lay the bill on the table, which was rejected by a vote of 59 yeas against 66 nays. The further consideration of the bill was then postponed till Thursday week, and the House adjourned. On Thursday, 6th, in the Senate, the Military Committee reported back the bill to raise volunteers for the defense of Kentucky, with an amendment as a substitute. A joint resolution giving the thanks of Congress to General Rosecrans and his army, for their gallantry at Murfreesboro, was referred. The bill to tax bank-bills and fractional currency was taken up, and Senator Sherman, of Ohio, made a speech in support of the measure. The debate on the bill for the discharge of state prisoners was then resumed. The Treasury Bank bill was reported back with a negative recommendation. A resolution tendering the thanks of the House to General Butler, for his able administration of the affairs of the Department of the Gulf, was adopted by a vote of 83 to A resolution calling for a detailed report of operations connected with the negroes at Port Royal, and in Georgia, was laid on the tableâ€”81 against On motion of Mr. Dunn, it was resolved that the Attorney-General be requested to inform the House whether the law for the confiscation of rebel property has been enforced in the District of Columbia, and if not, the reason for delaying the execution of the same. A

resolution, asking the Secretary of the Treasury why he has not provided the means for paying the army, and why the bonds heretofore authorized to be sold, if necessary, to make such payments, have not been sold, was adopted. The credentials of the member elect from the second district of Virginia, Mr. In Committee of the Whole a long and interesting debate occurred on national questions, in which Messrs. On Friday, 7th, in the Senate, a bill for the construction of a ship canal from the Mississippi River to Lake Michigan, so as to admit of the passage of armed vessels, and to enlarge the locks of Erie and Oswego canals in New York, to adapt them to the defense of the Northern lakes, was introduced and ordered to be printed Senator Willey gave notice of a bill to aid Western Virginia in the speedy and final extinguishment of slavery in that State. A bill providing for the punishment of persons convicted of crime in the District of Columbia by confinement in the prisons of States, was passed. Senator Collamer introduced a bill authorizing suits to be instituted by persons who may have been wronged by reason of summary arrest, and for the transfer of such suits to the Circuit Court of the United States. The bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee. The joint resolution for the prompt payment of the army and navy was reported back by the Finance Committee. The bill making appropriations for the executive, legislative, and judicial departments of the Government was passed. The Consular and Diplomatic Appropriation bill was passed. The remainder of the session was devoted to general debate on national topics, in which Messrs. Bingham, Cox, Biddle, and Norton participated. Both Houses adjourned till Monday. On Monday, 12th, in the Senate; the bill providing for a further issue of bonds and United States notes, with a view to the prompt payment of the army and navy, was passed. A resolution requesting the President to inform the Senate what measures have been taken to enforce the Confiscation bill, and if any additional legislation is necessary for the enforcement of such act, was adopted. A resolution requesting the Committee on the Conduct of the War to report the causes of the non-execution of the Confiscation act, especially in the District of Columbia, was adopted. Notice was given of a bill for the consolidation of regiments in the field, and to facilitate the return of absentees from the army. The bill relative to arbitrary arrests was taken up, and Senator Wilkinson, of Minnesota, made a speech, in which he charged the Democrats with plotting to break up the Government, and Quarter-master General Meigs and Adjutant-General Thomas with disloyalty.