



The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

The *RUNNER*

Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

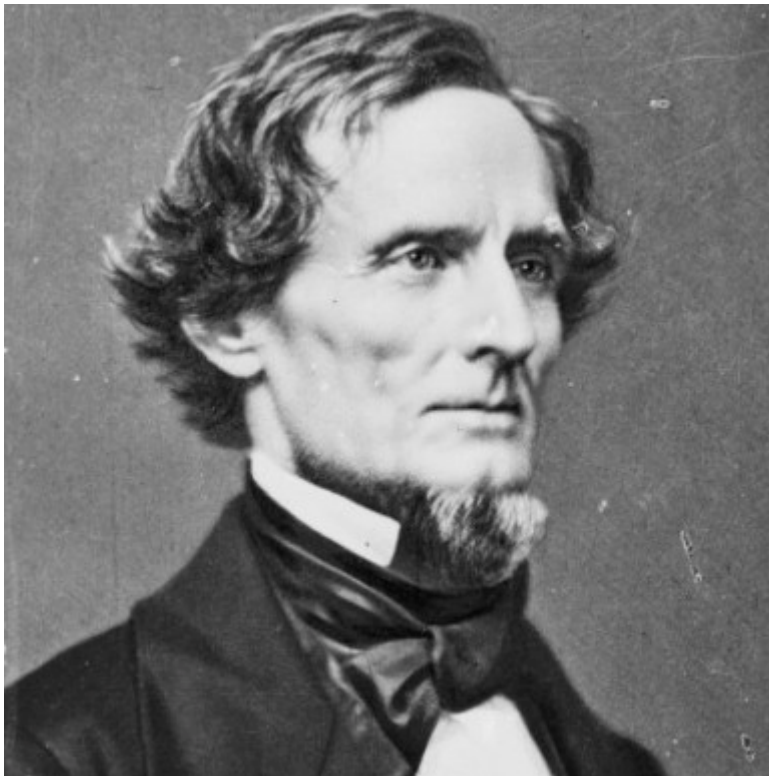
***** January 2012 *****

Our next meeting will be Thursday, 12 January 2012 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30.



We invite and welcome all people with an interest in Civil War history to attend a meeting of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. The speakers for our programs are diverse in their views, interpretations, and presentations.

***** January Program *****



Jefferson Davis

Keith A. Hardison, Director of the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties, will join us on January 12, 2012 with a presentation on the first and only President of the Confederate States of America, Jefferson Davis.



**Beauvoir – Home of Davis, Biloxi
Prior to Hurricane Katrina 2005**

Hardison was born and raised in Tennessee. He received a bachelors in history from David Lipscomb University (Nashville) and a masters in museum science from Texas Tech (Lubbock). Prior to becoming N.C. Historic Sites director in 2006, Keith was division director of the Louisiana State Museum, executive director of Knoxville's Mabry's Hazen House Museum, director of education, interpretation, and visitor services at Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil

War Soldier in Petersburg. From 1986-1999, he was executive director of **Beauvoir**, Confederate President Jefferson Davis's home and library in Biloxi. Earlier during his career, Hardison worked at the John E. Conner Museum in Kingsville, Texas, and the Heritage House Museum in Orange, Texas.

Please join us on Thursday night, January 12th, for what promises to be an informative presentation about Jefferson Davis. Keith Hardison is uniquely qualified through his association with Beauvoir to provide insights into a historic figure in American history.

Note: See November 2010 issue of *The Runner* for additional information pertaining to Jefferson Davis and Beauvoir.

Editor

******* Raffle Winners *******

Raffle Master: Ed Gibson

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT raffle, talk to Ed at our next meeting.

December Meeting:

<i>Gods and Generals</i>	-	Beverly Blanton
<i>With My Face to the Enemy</i>	-	Judy Ward
<i>The American Civil War</i>	-	John J. Bolger
<i>To Make Men Free</i>	-	Dick Covell
<i>Swamp Doctor</i>	-	Linda Lashley
<i>A Shower of Sparks</i>	-	Judy Ward

******* Trivia Questions January 2012 *******

1 – Who was this officer?



2– What was the first breech-loading infantry long arm to be manufactured for use by the United States Army?

3 – In Mike Long's presentation, he made reference to the February 17, 1865 burning of Columbia, South Carolina. Sherman blamed Wade Hampton's troops and Hampton blamed Sherman's troops. Who was responsible?

- 4 – In 1825, Jefferson Davis faced court-martial from West Point. What offense had Davis committed?
5 – Did Jefferson Davis have a middle name?

***** **Member News** *****

If you have member news that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, let me know about it.

1 – Welcome new members, **Art Unger**, **Tom Hodges** and **John (Rick) Morrison**, to the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. Glad y'all joined us.

2 – Congratulations to **Robert D. Maffitt** on his selection as 290 Foundation Hon. Vice-President USA. The 290 Foundation is a UK-based charitable enterprise that commemorates all those who served in the Confederate Navy. [The 290 refers to the hull number of the CSS *Alabama* built at the John Laird Shipyard at Birkenhead.]

3 – Make your reservations for the **February 9, 2012** dinner meeting. **John Michael Priest** will make a presentation entitled *Into the Fight, Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg*. The dinner will cost \$26 per person and will be held at the Madeline Suite at UNCW. Contact **Bruce Patterson** via email or telephone (910-794-8905) for further details.

4 – **Special Event!!!!** On June 19, 2012, **Dr. Susannah Ural** will speak at an “added” meeting of the CFCWRT. Dr. Ural, who teaches at the University of Southern Mississippi, will present “**The Rise of Hood's Texans: Recruitment through Antietam.**” Dr. Ural will bring a knowledge and enthusiasm to her subject that you will not want to miss. Think of it as a tenth presentation for 2011 – 2012 – and it will be **FREE!** – Well not exactly free, more like, Buy 9 and get the 10th for the same price!

***** **January 1862** *****

The weather still determined how much warfare took place in January 1862. The American Civil War was determined by a series of skirmishes in the winter months coupled with a great deal of political work. In January 1862 Lincoln issued two orders both of which required McClellan to go on the offensive as opposed to remaining, in Lincoln's mind, on the defensive.

January 1st: The Cabinet urged greater success in Missouri, which seemed to be a state out of control. Martial law was introduced to St. Louis but General Halleck was urged to do more by politicians in Washington DC.

January 3rd: Jefferson Davis expressed his concern that Union forces were stationed at Ship Island in the Mississippi Sound. This base was only 65 miles from New Orleans. General ‘Stonewall’ Jackson started his campaign to disrupt the North's movement of supplies. His targets were the Baltimore to Ohio railway and the Ohio to Chesapeake canal.

January 4th: Jackson's reputation for keeping his men on the move was cemented when Union forces could barely find his 10,000 men who were on the march.

January 6th: The Senate urged Lincoln to replace McClellan because of his seeming lack of activity. However, Lincoln supported McClellan.

January 7th: Three Union gunboats made a sortie along the Mississippi to within three miles of the important Confederate stronghold at Columbus. Their information was fed back to General U Grant.

January 9th: General Grant started his campaign against Columbus.

January 11th: Secretary of War Simon Cameron resigned over accusations of corruption and basic incompetence. 100 Union ships transported 15,000 troops to Port Royal, North Carolina, to support the men who are already there.

January 13th: Edwin Stanton became Secretary of War.

January 14th: Lincoln called for a more robust campaign in Missouri. McClelland urged caution.

January 18th: Former U.S. President and Confederate congressman-elect John Tyler dies.

January 19th: A battle at Mill Spring (sometimes called the Battle of Somerset) led to as many as 195 Confederate troops being killed with 200 taken prisoner. However, the Union's leader in the attack, General Zollicoffer, was killed.

January 25th: By this day, what was left of the Confederate force at Mill Spring had been forced 100 miles to the southwest to Gainsboro, which resulted in the Confederate line having a large gap punched through it.

January 27th: Lincoln issued General War Order Number One. This urged the Union army into action and set February 22nd as the date he expected a major surge in action.

January 30th: The '**USS *Monitor***' was launched – a revolutionary new vessel designed by John Ericsson. The '*Monitor*' marked a new stage in the development of ironclads. Mason and Slidell finally arrived in Great Britain.

January 31st: Lincoln issued his Special War Order Number One. This ordered the army that had been protecting Washington DC to launch an attack on Manassas Junction – as long as the safety of the capital had been ensured – by February 22nd. Great Britain announced that it would remain neutral in the war.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/january-1862-civil-war.htm>, accessed November 18, 2011.

******* The Arms Race – 1861 *******

I am by no means knowledgeable about the weapons that dominated the Civil War, but I think it worthwhile to provide an overview of the transition occurring to the infantry weapons in the mid-19th century.

The arms of this period evolved into weapons that added range and accuracy to a unit's offensive firepower. Unlike the massed use of infantry during the American Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars to achieve concentrated firepower, the weapons that dominated the Civil War battlefield allowed a man to kill his opponent at greater distances. Unfortunately during the first years of the war, the commanders on the Civil War battlefield continued to march their men in close formation against their adversaries.

From *Lincoln and the Tools of War*:

Rifled guns had been born centuries before, when some gun-maker discovered that an elongated projectile would hold straight and true in flight if given a spin about its long axis. The spin could be imparted by spiral grooves in the bore of the gun; and these grooves, as well as the process of making them, were called "rifling." Without the all-important spin, elongated projectiles would tumble and wobble through space, unpredictably in both course and impact. For that reason, most projectiles to that time had been made spherical. But the volume, and hence the weight of the spherical projectile was limited by the diameter of the bore, whereas an elongated shot could be made much heavier, and therefore much more formidable in range, accuracy, and penetration.

Until the middle of the nineteenth century, however, rifled small arms were loaded at the muzzle. The bullets had to fit tight enough to take the grooves, and ramming them home by main force was too conspicuous and protracted an operation to be feasible in open combat. But in 1855 the *Annual of Scientific Discovery* printed, to the edification of Abraham Lincoln among others, excerpts from the Secretary of War [Jefferson Davis], which told of not just one but two promising answers to the problem of loading rifles. One solution had come with the development of efficient rifles which could be loaded from the breech. The other, favored by the Secretary, was a newfangled bullet with a concave base which expanded on firing, so as to take the rifles grooves. Using such bullets, especially one developed by Captain Minié of the French Army [and improved by James H. Burton, assistant master armorer at the Harpers Ferry Armory], the nations of the world began that year to adopt muzzle-loading rifles as their standard infantry arm, and one of those nations was the United States.

In 1861 smoothbore muskets, well polished, still looked smart on parade. They served as well as any other arm for practicing the drill manual. Some of them had value as historical curiosities. But when life depended on their performance, not even raw recruits would take them without protest, and soldiers' complaints were backed by the home folks. "It is the opinion of all military men here," wrote Governor Morton of Indiana, "that it would be little better than murder to send troops into battle with such arms as are a large majority of these [smoothbore] muskets altered from flint to percussion locks."

Editor

Source: Robert V. Bruce, *Lincoln and the Tools of War* [New York: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1956], 37-39.

******* Through the Blockade *******

This is the second in a series of articles that will examine the efforts of the United States and Confederate governments to arm and equip the untrained mob of volunteers who flocked to their respective banners. This article will focus on the United States Ordnance Department and Union agents who sought to meet weapon demand at the beginning of the war.

On November 12, 1859, Henry Knox Craig, Colonel of Ordnance, reported to John B. Floyd, Secretary of War, the inventory of muskets and rifles in the various United States armories and arsenals. Craig's report excluded 23,895 muskets and 652 rifles that had not been converted from flintlock into percussion locks. The numbers of the new rifled arms and the rifling of older smoothbore muskets are included in the totals. NOTE: the New Model Rifle .58 caliber was considered by many ordnance men as the finest infantry weapon in the world. Only 28,702 of the .58 caliber rifles and rifled muskets were available out of the 610,598 arms in the government inventory:

Smoothbore Muskets

Altered to percussion, cal. - .69	275,744
Altered to Maynard lock, cal. - .69	14,765
Made as percussion, cal. - .69	<u>213,155</u>
	503,664

Rifled Muskets

Percussion, since rifled, cal. - .69	33,631
Rifled muskets, cal. - .58	<u>24,105</u>
	57,736

Rifles

Altered to percussion, cal. - .54	1,385
Made as percussion, cal. - .54	43,375
New Model rifle, cal. - .58	<u>4,102</u>
	48,862

The officers of the Ordnance Department were guided by the Militia Act of 1808 and later Congressional acts which required the department to furnish each state with an annual quota of arms. Reacting to sectional tensions that were building in the late 1850s and 1860, several governors requested increased allotments from Colonel Craig's department. Craig, a Lieutenant in 1812, was strict in the execution of his duties; however, he was a Union man who was determined to protect the property of the United States government. His boss, Secretary of War, John B. Floyd, may have been a little less strict in attitudes toward some of his Southern colleagues. In a November 24, 1860 letter from S. Adams, Virginia State Master Armorer, Adams expressed to Floyd his displeasure with the efforts of Colonel Craig to assist Virginia in gaining an increased allotment. "I have no hopes of any favors from Colonel Craig, for in a conversation with him a few months since I found him deadly opposed to the Virginia Armory." Adams continued his request for Floyd's assistance as he expressed his feelings, 'before our much-honored and esteemed Secretary of War vacates his office, for I have no hopes of any assistance after a Black Republican takes possession of the War Department.'" Colonel Henry Knox Craig used his extensive knowledge of bureaucratic maneuver to delay and forestall some requests and arms sales that would have placed more arms in Southern arsenals.

Craig's hand may have been seen in the events that transpired between North Carolina Governor John W. Ellis and Simon Cameron, Lincoln's Secretary of War, in an April 12, 1861 letter:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
April 12, 1861.

His Excellency JOHN W. ELLIS,
Governor of North Carolina, Raleigh :

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter addressed to this Department on the 2d instant by Graham Daves, esq., your private secretary, inquiring the cause of the delay in the issue of the arms called for by you on account of North Carolina's quota for the current year.

The rifles were ordered to be sent to you on the 4th of February last from the Harper's Ferry Armory, but their issue has probably been retarded by numerous prior engagements, the rule, unless in special cases, being to

execute the orders for issues according to priority of receipt at the armory. The superintendent of the armory has been requested to make the issue to your State at the earliest moment possible.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
SIMON CAMERON,
Secretary of War.

When the war finally began, the Ordnance Bureau had approximately 40,000 of the Model 1855 rifles and rifle muskets to issue to Union troops. To supply arms to the incoming regiments, Craig and his associates were forced to issue the smoothbore arms as well. This action had tragic impact on early fighting at First Manassas and later at Ball's Bluff. Because of limited number of even the old smoothbores in Southern arsenals, the Confederates had been forced to seek weapons in Europe. Confederate agents reacted by securing and shipping large numbers of rifled weapons through the early blockade (See December issue *The Runner* – cargo of the blockade runner *Fingal*). These imported arms were effectively used by Southern forces at both First Manassas and Ball's Bluff. Only after First Manassas did Simon Cameron, Lincoln's Secretary of War, pursue seeking modern arms from European sources. Cameron had favored a "Buy American" strategy to encourage Northern arms manufactures to tool-up and supplement the weapons being produced at the government-owned Springfield Armory. The Union defeat at First Manassas shocked Cameron and others out of the belief of a short war and the expectations of unrealistic rapid deliveries from Northern suppliers. It was not until July 27, 1861 that Colonel George L. Schuyler was commissioned as an agent by the War Department. At roughly the same time, the War Department offered a contract to Boker and Company of New York for one-hundred thousand arms from Europe. Adding to the surging search for European weapons, H.S. Sanford, American Minister to Belgium, was buying weapons. Competition among Union buyers, failure of the United States Treasury to provide timely credits to Schuyler for a contract for Enfield rifles, and failure of the Ordnance Bureau to provide assistance to the purchasing process hindered the Union efforts. As the agents bid against each other, prices rose and the temptation of corruption became linked to the process. Note: The activity, or inactivity, of the Treasury Department was especially damaging. Confederate agent, Caleb Huse, was able to outbid Schuyler for a supply of Enfields.

The Union efforts to secure European weapons may have had shortcomings; however, their agents purchased about 1,165,000 rifles and muskets during the first two years of the war. After Simon Cameron resigned on January 11, 1862 amidst accusations of corruption and incompetence, new Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, appointed the more experienced Marcellus Hartley as purchasing agent. Hartley, of the firm of Schuyler, Hartley and Graham, instilled better controls and inspections of purchased weapons. While some of the weapons purchased by initial contracts may have been of poor quality, most weapons were of quality and serviceability to the Union troops.

As William T. Sherman reminded his colleagues when he left the Louisiana Military Seminary to offer his services to the Union, "You are rushing into war with one of the most powerful, ingeniously mechanical and determined people on earth." This statement was a vision of what would be unleashed on the South during 1864 and 1865. The more industrialized North achieved arms manufacturing sufficiency by the summer of 1863; the South would never achieve this self-sufficiency. The Northern manufacturing superiority and plan old "Yankee Ingenuity" led to advances in weapon designs that would have dire impact upon Southern Armies.

Source: Source: Robert V. Bruce, *Lincoln and the Tools of War* [New York: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1956].

Source: Carl L. Davis, *Arming the Union: Small Arms in the Civil War* [Port Washington, NY: 1973].

Source: *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*

Editor

***** **December Meeting** *****
No Good Like It Is

On Thursday night, December 8th, **McKendree (Mike) R. Long III** shared an interesting story about his efforts to write a book about members of the Eighth Texas Cavalry (Terry's Texas Rangers) during and after the Civil War. His initial advice to any of the audience who had awakened in the middle of the night and entertained the thought to write a book, "Roll over and go back to sleep." After a chuckle, Mike began to tell his story.

After a short history of the Eighth Texas Cavalry (see <http://www.mckendreelong.com/> for details), Mike related how his initial quest to write a non-fiction book about the development of fire arms from 1850-1890 changed as he learned more about the Eighth Texas and their use of some of those weapons. He changed this direction to focus on two members of the Eighth Texas, Dobey Walls and Jimmy Melton. These fictional characters were woven into the story of *No Good Like It Is*.



Mike Long with Colt Revolving Rifle

Mike then shared the details of how a book is written, edited, published, distributed, and advertised, a journey almost as interesting as that of Dobey Walls and Jimmy Melton. Fraught with pitfalls for the unsuspecting, Mike provided a pathway on which he began and how he learned on his journey.



Colt Dragoon, Colt 1860, Smith & Wesson

The journey must have been interesting for Dobey and Jimmy will continue their journey in *Dog Soldier Moon*.

******* Comments and Suggestions *******

Comments and suggestions to make the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table and “The Runner” more relevant to your Civil War experience are welcomed. Send them to me at tpwinstead@gmail.com. Please include “CFCWRT News” in your Subject line.

******* Gone but not Forgotten *******

From an army correspondent with the *Philadelphia Inquirer* after the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862, the following appeared under the title, “**Fidelity of a Dog.**”

On Monday last as Hon. John Convode, in company with a number of officers, was passing over the battle field beyond Fredericksburg, their attention was called to a small dog lying by a corpse. Mr. Convode halted a few minutes to see if life was extinct. Raising the coat from the man’s face, he found him dead. The dog, looking wishfully up, ran to the dead man’s face and kissed the silent lips. Such devotion in a small dog was so singular, that Mr. Convode examined some papers on the body, and found it to be that of Sergeant W.H. Brown, Company C, Ninety-first Pennsylvania.

The dog shivering with the cold, but refused to leave his master’s body, and as the coat was thrown over his face again, he seemed uneasy, and tried to get under it to the man’s face. He had, it seemed, followed the regiment into battle, and stuck to his master, and when he fell remained with him, refusing to leave him or eat anything. As the party returned, an ambulance was carrying the corpse to a little grove of trees for interment, and the little dog following, the only mourner at that funeral, as the hero’s comrades had been called to some other point.

Bob Cooke

The Hon. John Convode represented the Twenty-First District of Pennsylvania in the Thirty-Sixth Congress from 1859 to 1861. Convode was especially interested in the welfare of Union soldiers. He sent three sons into the ranks of the army. One died in fighting outside of Richmond, the youngest endured imprisonment at Andersonville, and one returned safely to his home after his enlistment.

Sergeant William Henry Brown was twenty-five years old at his enlistment at Philadelphia on September 13, 1861. Brown had been married to Sarah Christine on September 18, 1857. They had no children. Mrs. Brown received a pension of \$8 per month beginning after approval on August 17, 1863. At the time of her death on May 4, 1924, Sarah Brown received a pension of \$30 per month.

There was some question about the faithful dog and Convoide incident that appeared in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Regardless of the actual facts, the army correspondent made the effort to show that Sergeant Brown had not died in vain, and while he had died apart from his home and loved ones, his death had been mourned. For the greater than 600,000 who perished during the war, few had a mourner at their internment.

Editor

Sources: Obituary of the Hon. John Convoide, *New York Times*, January 12, 1871. William Henry Brown, 91st Pennsylvania, <http://freepages.military.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pa91/pbroww1.html> , accessed November 20, 2011.

***** Trivia Question Answers December 2011 *****

1 - Who was this officer? The first one who tells me who this man was wins a reservation to the February Dinner Meeting. This is a \$26 value for the inquisitive individual among you who can correctly answer this trivia question. If you need a hint about this man's identity (other than he is a Confederate and he has an arm injury), send me an e-mail.

2 - What was the first breech-loading infantry long arm to be manufactured for use by the United States Army? Inventor **John H. Hall** patented the breech-loading long arm in May 1811. This flintlock weapon, later updated to percussion lock in 1833, took either cartridge or loose ammunition. A lever in front of the trigger guard was pulled to the rear; hence, a short section of the barrel was pivoted upward enough to load the weapon. The breech was then closed for firing. In 1819, Hall reached a royalty agreement with the government to produce the weapon at the Harpers Ferry Armory. The Hall breech loader was the first weapon made with interchangeable parts and was produced at Harpers Ferry until 1844. Approximately 200,000 of these weapons were manufactured over their gradual adoption period. Reluctant acceptance by many field officers in opposition to recommendations from ordnance experts, limited the effective development and utilization of this innovative weapon. By the beginning of the Civil War, many Ordnance Bureau officers (including Ordnance Chief James W. Ripley who replaced Henry Knox Craig in mid-1861) were opposed to the introduction of large numbers of breechloaders and repeating rifles into the Union Army. NOTE: Carl L. Davis provided an interesting study of the breechloader controversy in his *Arming the Union: Small Arms in the Civil War*.



Hall Breech loader – Harpers Ferry Armory

Source: <http://sportingoutdoors.blogspot.com/2008/04/hall-breech-loading-rifle-americas.html> accessed December 7, 2011. Carl L. Davis, *Arming the Union: Small Arms in the Civil War* [Port Washington, NY: Kennikat Press, 1973], 107-112.

3 - In Mike Long's presentation, he made reference to the February 17, 1865 burning of Columbia, South Carolina. Sherman blamed Wade Hampton's troops and Hampton blamed Sherman's troops.

Who was responsible? In *Memoirs of General William T. Sherman Vol. 11*, page 287, Sherman wrote, "In my official report of this conflagration I distinctly charged it to General Wade Hampton, and confess I did so pointedly to shake the faith of his people in him, for he was in my opinion a braggart and professed to be the special champion of South Carolina."

4 - In 1825, Jefferson Davis faced court-martial from West Point. What offense had Davis committed?

In James S. Robbins's *Last in their Class: Custer, Pickett and the Goats of West Point*: Jefferson Davis and four other were the first cadets to face dismissal for carousing at Benny Havens' Tavern. They were charged with "drinking spirituous and intoxicating liquor" and "going to a public house or place where spirituous liquors are sold." They were also charged with leaving post without permission. Davis defended himself with the skill of a seasoned lawyer. He pleaded guilty to the charge of leaving the post with prior permission, but claimed special circumstances. Davis sited that weak evidence had been presented to the court. The charges were "contrary to the principles of a soldier and man of honor." Davis asserted that no one had witnessed him drinking and if he had appeared intoxicated, it was from embarrassment at being found at the tavern. Davis challenged the regulations inclusion of Benny Havens' – Davis, in a Clintonian wordplay strategy, said that it depended on what the definition of "public house" was.

Guilty of all charges! Dismissal! The court showed leniency to Jefferson Davis. The court ruled "in consideration of his former good conduit [it] respectfully recommend the remission of said sentence."

Davis was the only one of the Benny Havens' Five who graduated.

Source: <http://www.lastintheirclass.com/Davis.html> assessed December 11, 2011.

5 - Did Jefferson Davis have a middle name? I always thought his full name was Jefferson Finis Davis and that he was to be the last child of his parents. From the Rice University site comes a somewhat different answer:

From November 30, 1824, until mid-1833, Jefferson Davis' name on official lists and at times his signature included the middle initial "F." The name is not spelled out in full in any known document. In his story of Davis' life, Hudson Strode claimed that the final son born to Samuel and Jane Davis was given the middle name "Finis" because "it seemed unlikely that Jane Davis would ever bear another child" (*Jefferson Davis: American Patriot*, p. 3). The "Finis" myth has been repeated so often that it has become accepted as fact by many scholarly resources, but there is no evidence for it. All of Jefferson Davis' siblings had traditional names.

Perhaps equally curious is the sudden appearance and just as sudden disappearance of the middle initial. Davis had been at West Point for at least three months before it showed up for the first time, on a monthly conduct report. The last known "J. F. Davis" signature is on a note of October 3, 1832, notifying his commanding officer of his acceptance of a furlough. As of the publication of Davis' appointment as second lieutenant of Dragoons on May 4, 1833, the "F." had disappeared from official documents as well. At the time the initial was in use, there were no other Davis officers with the given name Jefferson (Jefferson C. Davis, a Union general in the Civil War, did not enlist until 1846), so it is unlikely the young cadet was trying to avoid mistaken identity. Only two other officers named Davis with the first initial "J." were in the army from 1824-1833, and one of them died in 1828. It should be noted that the "F." was used on Davis' first marriage license (June 17, 1835), although he signed the document without the "F." The initial was not used on his second marriage license ten years later. Jefferson Davis' signature and the listing of his name on official documents may be traced in the first volume of *The Papers of Jefferson Davis*, which includes all known documents from Davis' birth through 1840.

Source: <http://jeffersondavis.rice.edu/FAQs.aspx> , accessed December 12 2011