



THE THOMAS H. HOBBS JOURNAL

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Captain Thomas H. Hobbs Camp No. 768
P.O. Box 662
Athens, Alabama 35612
www.scv768.org

In Memory of
Capt. Thomas H. Hobbs
Co. F, 9th Alabama Infantry

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Serving the South



Capt. Thomas H. Hobbs Camp #768
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Officers

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Next Meeting
February 19th
7 PM

Veterans Museum

Our guest speaker will be Ms. Linda Green.
Author of the book "First for the Duration"
The story of the 8th Alabama Infantry.

Ms. Green will speak on the 8th Alabama and her research she gathered on the regiment and her ancestor.
Books will be available for purchase.

The Thomas H. Hobbs Journal is the official newsletter of the Captain Thomas H. Hobbs Camp #768, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

It is available online at www.scv768.org or by e-mail from the distribution list. If you would like to have the *Journal* sent to you please e-mail the editor at: www.CSA54thAla@aol.com and your name will be added to the list. If you have submissions for the *Journal* then e-mail them to the same address and we will try to publish your submission. All submissions become the property of the *Thomas H. Hobbs Journal*.

Editor

Around the Camp

Commanders Corner

Compatriots,

Time is flying by. Spring is around the corner. We have a lot of SCV activities coming up that you can participate in. On February 21st there will be an Army of Tennessee meeting in Birmingham. There are several Hobbs camp members signed up to go but we have room for more. The AOT meeting will have speakers whose topics will be on the SCV and the various aspects of running a camp, recruitment, etc. It is open to all members, not just officers. On March 14th there will be a NE Brigade meeting held in Huntsville at the Lone Star restaurant. This meeting will be similar to the AOT meeting except it will be geared more towards the camp and what can be done locally. Also in March, the Hobbs Memorial project will be in full swing. We will need plenty of help to accomplish this project. We will need to set a date to travel to Lynchburg to place the marker as well. It does not end there. April will be the busiest month as we finish the Hobbs project, plan for our 20th Anniversary celebration and hold our Confederate Memorial Day commemoration. We are doing all three on April 18th.

We are constantly looking for speakers / programs for camp meetings. If you know someone who could give a good program contact 1st Lt. Commander Mike Kelley. This month we have Ms. Linda Green, an accomplished author whose latest book "*First, for the Duration*", the story of the 8th Alabama Infantry is going to be the topic of her program. Her ancestor fought with the 8th and she has done a lot of research on the unit. The 8th and the 9th Alabama Infantry of Captain Hobbs were in the same area, so a lot of what she talks about will apply to the 9th. I heard her give her program in Huntsville and I think you will enjoy her presentation.

I look forward to seeing you on the 19th.

Jimmy Hill

Commanding
Capt. Thomas H. Hobbs Camp

Thomas Hobbs Project

Compatriot's Buzz Estes and Charles Kilpatrick met with Kathy Horton Garrett at the City Cemetery to go over the details of our proposed Thomas Hobbs Memorial. Our proposal includes removing the stones in the plot, leveling the ground, sodding and replacing the stones. It will also include a fence on the back similar to the one we laced at the Last Stone plot. Ardmore Monument has designed the Thomas Hobbs stone. It will be the same style stone as the one we had made for the Last Stone Plot. It will be placed directly behind his wife's grave in the family plot.

Mrs. Garrett and other family members were very pleased with our proposal. She is meeting Buzz Monday morning to get our proposal notarized so we can start on the plot.

We also have her permission to place the VA style foot marker at the gravesite of Captain Hobbs in Lynchburg, Virginia. We have the stone for this and will have it cut by Ardmore Monument. There will be a \$50 charge for this.

We regret the passing of Compatriot Hugh Vernon Strain on February 5, 2009 in Athens, Alabama.

Hugh is the grandfather to Hobbs camp members Tom Strain Jr., Nick Strain and Cordy Strain. His son Tom Strain Sr. is also a member of the Hobbs Camp.

Owner and operator of S&S Nurseries in Tanner, Hugh has made many friends across North Alabama and beyond. He will be missed.

Keep the family in your prayers as they go through this difficult time.

In lieu of flowers you can make memorial donations to the American Heart Association.

Limestone County Soldiers

To the Jos. E. Johnston Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy

I William Bridgeforth a member of Camp Hobbs would most respectfully submit the following as a Statement of his service in The C.S.A.

I enlisted in July 1861 at Elkton Giles County Tennessee as a private in Capt Hiram H. Hunnicutts Company. Miller Bass 1st Lieut. G.B. Reasons. 2nd Lieut. And Bob Hollan 3rd Lieut. We went from Elkton Tennessee to Nashville Tennessee and was there mustered into the Service and went from there to Camp Trousdale and formed a Regiment to wit The 32nd Tennessee. Commanded by Col. C. Cook and we were assigned to Bucknans Brigade. We went from Camp Trousdale to Boling Green Ky. And from Boling Green to Ft. Donaldson and while there was in the Battles fought during the 3 days and with the rest of the Regiment and Brigade was captured or Surrendered – and carried to Camp Morton near Indianapolis Ind. and kept as prisoner of war for seven months. When we left Camp Morton we were carried to Vicksburg Miss and was exchanged. Which was in the fall of 1863 – After we were exchanged we went to Jackson Miss. And was reorganized and 1st Lieut Miller Bass was made Capt of the Company which was Co.E. 32nd Reg. Tenn. Col Ed. Cook commanding. J.P. McGuire Lieut Col. We went from Jackson Miss to Wartrace Tenn. and went into winter quarters and from there to Murfreesboro and was in the Battle of Stone River for two days. We went from Murfreesboro to Loudon Tenn and while there we were engaged in several small battles or skirmishes. and from Loudon we went to Chicamagua and went through that Battle and Battle of Missionary Ridge and from there through the Georgia Campaign taking part in the following Battles. viz. Resacca, New Hope Kennesaw Mt. Chattahoocha River, Peachtree Creek, Jonesboro, and all of the fights during that campaign. We was put under Command of Gen Hood and went into Tennessee taking part in the Battle of Franklin, Nashville, and Murfreesboro. and we went to North Carolina. and was in fight at Vinegar Creek and Bentonville and was Surrendered under Joseph E. Johnston on the 26th day of April 1865. at Greensboro and then returned to my home at Elkton Tenn and now am a member of Camp Hobbs No 400 – United Confederate Veterans –

Respt. Submitted &c
William Bridgeforth

Note: James William Bridgeforth Jr. Born: 29 March 1843 Died: 11 April 1929
Buried: Athens City Cemetery, lot number 114, Athens, Alabama

Source: Southern Crosses of Honor, Joseph E. Johnston Chapter No. 198, U.D.C.

All spelling, grammar, etc. left as written from Mr. Bridgeforth's letter.

Lincoln

Lincoln's Ambiguity

by Cal Thomas

Had enough of Abraham Lincoln? Of course you haven't. In the bicentennial year of his birth, Lincoln is more interesting than ever.

There are two Lincolns – the one we studied in school, the one full of myths that we fashioned into the image we wanted him to be, and the other, the real Lincoln, warts and all.

Many believe, erroneously, that because Lincoln signed The Emancipation Proclamation, he was always against slavery and an advocate for black people. Many also believe that the Proclamation freed all slaves immediately and forever.

These myths are debunked in a new book and TV program (“Looking for Lincoln” airing Feb. 11 on PBS). The book (“Lincoln on Race and Slavery”) and the TV documentary are the works of Harvard Professor Henry Louis Gates Jr., who adds to his excellent body of material on race and African-American roots.

Far from diminishing Lincoln, the book and film deliver the real Lincoln as a man who struggled, along with his country and culture, over the inherent worth of black people. In short, he becomes fully human, not a mythical figure above the temptations and frailties of average mortals.

Lincoln evolved in the best sense of that word. In 1858, he said, “What I would most desire would be the separation of the white and black races.” As late as 1860, less than one year before he signed the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln spoke in Hartford, Conn., and demonstrated that racism was still part of his DNA.

Yet, in a letter to Albert G. Hodges on April 4, 1864, Lincoln wrote. “If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong.”

Is this a contradiction, even hypocritical? Not in Lincoln's mind. At several points extending into the early 1860's, Lincoln seriously considered a proposal to deport all black people and colonize them in Liberia, the Caribbean and/or Latin America. He was dissuaded primarily by the high cost of such a venture.

Just days before his assassination in April 1865, Lincoln gave a speech in which he advocated the right to vote for “very intelligent Negroes” and 200,000 black Civil War veterans. The rest he apparently would allow in sub-citizenship because of a lingering belief that blacks, as a race, were not as gifted or intelligent as whites and the few who were should be regarded as exceptions. It was that speech, writes Gates, “overheard by John Wilkes Booth, by Booth's own admission, that led to his decision to assassinate the president.

The great abolitionist, Frederick Douglass, was a constant thorn in Lincoln's side. Douglass pushed Lincoln toward dramatic and immediate action to free the slaves. He believed Lincoln was his only hope. Lincoln thought he could not move faster than the majority would tolerate and that in a nation already divided by civil war, he did not want to be the one to make things even worse, were that possible.

While recognizing Lincoln's immense role in freeing some (but not all) slaves, Douglass saw him first and foremost as devoted “to the welfare of the white race...” And yet, in that same tribute to Lincoln following his death, Douglass could also say that Lincoln was “the first black man's president: the first to show any respect for their rights as men.”

Lincoln overcame his prejudices sufficiently to begin moving his country in the right direction, culminating in the election of Barack Obama as president. Without Lincoln, his struggles and political courage in the face of his own prejudices, civil rights for black people would almost certainly have been further delayed and the election of a black president further denied.

Cal Thomas is a syndicated writer. This article appeared in THE HUNTSVILLE TIMES.

Alabama Guardian Program

*Designed to Honor the Confederate Soldiers
Memory*

Check it out on the Alabama Division Website!

Around the Confederation

Black lawmaker wants paid Confederate holiday

S.C. State senator says it would help people understand South's history

AP Associated Press

updated 7:15 p.m. CT, Tues., Feb. 3, 2009

COLUMBIA, S.C. - A black state senator is pushing a bill that would require South Carolina cities and counties to give their workers a paid day off for Confederate Memorial Day or lose millions in state funds.

Democratic Sen. Robert Ford's bill won initial approval from a Senate subcommittee Tuesday. It would force county and municipal governments to follow the schedule of holidays used by the state, which gives workers 12 paid days off, including May 10 to honor Confederate war dead. Mississippi and Alabama also recognize Confederate Memorial Day.

Years ago, Ford said, he pushed a bill to make both that day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day paid holidays. He considered it an effort to help people understand the history of both the civil rights movement and the Confederacy in a state where the Orders of Secession are engraved in marble in the Statehouse lobby, portraits of Confederate generals look down on legislators in their chambers and the Confederate flag flies outside.

"Every municipality and every citizen of South Carolina, should be, well, forced to respect these two days and learn what they can about those two particular parts of our history," Ford said Tuesday. In a state steeped in a segregationist past, "there's no love in this state between black and white basically," he said. That's not apparent at the Statehouse, where black and white legislators get along, "but if you go out there in real South Carolina, it's hatred and I think we can bring our people together." Lonnie Randolph, president of the state conference of NAACP branches, objected to that reasoning. "Here Senator Ford is talking about the importance of race relations by forcing recognition of people who did everything they could to destroy another race — particularly those that look like I do," Randolph said. "You can't make dishonor honorable. It's impossible.

"Factoring the costs

Ron Dorgay, a Sons of Confederate Veterans member from Elgin, said race relations have moved far from hatred but he hopes Ford's bill brings more understanding of the state's past. "Even in school systems, they don't teach the correct history," Dorgay said. Local governments, meanwhile, are seeing green, not red, when it comes to adding holidays to their calendars. Large and small counties would put up more cash to cover holidays they don't now recognize, largely for law enforcement and emergency worker overtime, municipal and county association lobbyists said. Only 10 of the state's 46 counties recognize Confederate Memorial Day and only 27 observe the more benign Presidents' Day. Greenville County, one of the state's wealthiest and most populous counties, doesn't offer the Confederate holiday. The Judiciary Committee said the county would spend \$156,900 to add each holiday to its calendar. Much smaller Laurens County would spend \$37,080. Ford dismissed the costs. "The good outweighs any kind of rationale you can come up with, he said before the subcommittee sent the bill forward to the full Senate Judiciary Committee for debate, which won't happen until at least next week.

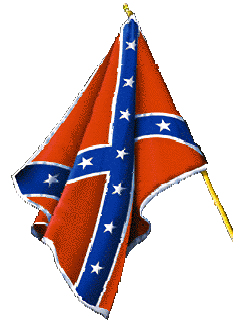
General Stephen D. Lee's
Charge to the
Sons of Confederate Veterans

New Orleans - 1906

“To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will submit the vindication of the Cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate Soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles he loved and which your also cherish”.

Salute to the Confederate Flag

I Salute the Confederate Flag
with affection, reverence, and
undying devotion to the
Cause for which it stands.



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