

THE THOMAS H. HOBBS JOURNAL

*Captain Thomas H. Hobbs Camp 768
Athens, Alabama
Sons of Confederate Veterans*

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Serving the South

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Athens – The annual camp dinner was held on December 10th and it was almost standing room only. There was an abundance of food (especially desserts) and *Clear Title* was on hand again to entertain us. This is the venue for the presentation of the two camp awards. Donnie Stanford received the Elliot R. Matthews III Camp Member of the Year award for his devotion and dedication to the Hobbs Camp. Since joining the SCV Donnie has worked in many areas for the camp, all with great success. Rebekah Davis, Head archivist for the Limestone County Archives was presented with the Charles Kilpatrick Compatriot of the Year award. She was honored for her contributions in promoting our southern history and heritage. Thanks go out from the camp to the Mary Fielding Chapter, OCR for the planning of the dinner and the set up for the dinner. Also thanks needs to go to Mark and Cheryl Curley for providing door prizes for the attendees. If you missed the dinner, you missed a treat. As they say, there's always next year!



Clear Title



A full House!



Commander Mike Kelley and Donnie Stanford



Rebekah Davis and Charles Kilpatrick

Around the Camp



Editorial

Dear Compatriots,

2011 is quickly coming to a close, as Christmas is just a couple of days away. The Christmas Season is one of my favorite times of the year but unfortunately the commercialization of Christmas has tarnished it's true meaning but we continue to struggle through with Christmas displays and blow up Santa's appearing in late September in many stores. Take time to remember the real reason that we celebrate Christmas and enjoy time with your family and other loved ones.

Christmas during the war was a struggle for the men of the Confederacy. For many this was their first Christmas away from home and for many there would not be another Christmas to celebrate. In the upcoming *Alabama Confederate* there is a story about an 1861 Confederate Christmas. I hope you enjoy the story.

2011 has been another good year for the Captain Thomas H. Hobbs Camp. We continue to be an active camp with great members. It is a pleasure to be a member of such a wonderful camp. In the January issue look for the Commanders Corner to return with what is in store for 2012 through the words of our camp commander Mike Kelley.

Speaking as the Lt. Commander, we need your ideas on projects, growth, activities, etc. Being an active camp allows our members to participate in a wide variety of activities. However to keep up the pace of these activities we need members to step up and serve as committee chairmen, to plan and execute the activity or project. One example is the upcoming camp trip to Chickamauga. Jim Ogden agreed to give us a special tour if we came over in the spring. We also have the anniversary of Turchin's ransacking of Athens. We cannot let this slip quietly by as the 150th anniversary is upon us.

One New Year's resolution I hope everyone makes and sticks to it is meeting attendance. We have had top-notch speakers and programs in the past and we are working hard to bring more to the camp meetings. However, it is hard to justify a top-flight speaker if we have 19 people in attendance to hear them. I know you cannot make them all, we all have conflicts from time to time, but this is one of the best returns on your SCV dollar.

Deo Vindice,

Jimmy Hill

Editor, Lt. Commander

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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

Division Reunion

The 2012 Alabama Division Reunion will be held this year on June 8-10 at the Guntersville State Park lodge. Room reservations can be made by calling 1-800-760-4108, use the code 2382 for the SCV discount. The reunion will be hosted by the Captain John Rayburn Camp #452.

A Commanders reception will be held on Friday night at the lodge. A local band will entertain us. The next morning the first business session will start at 9 AM. and run until the lunch break Lunch tickets are available through the camp as part of the registration form. After lunch the second business session will take place. The OCR will hold a meeting that afternoon. There are tours available for the ladies on Saturday morning.

Saturday night the awards banquet will be held at the lodge. Donnie Kennedy will be the keynote speaker. If you missed him when he was here in Athens you will have another opportunity. He will also be set up during the say in the vendor room with books to sell.

At this point the camp has seven delegates to the convention and it is an election year.

Make plans now to attend the reunion, make your reservations early!

Calendar of Events

January 1st – Happy New Year!

January 14th – Cemetery Work Day, Meet at the Athens City Cemetery, 8 AM
Work parties will head out from there.

January 19th - Camp Meeting, 7 PM, Alabama Veterans Museum
Robert E. Lee is born in Virginia on this date in 1807.

January 21st – Robert E. Lee's Birthday Celebration in Montgomery (Division event)
Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson is born on this date in Virginia in 1824

February 16th - Camp Meeting, 7 PM, Alabama Veterans Museum

February 18th – Division GEC meeting, Birmingham, 7 AM. DEC meeting to follow

Around the Camp

January Speaker

Our January speaker is Mauro Maranesi. Mauro is assigned to Huntsville with NATO, working with Air Defense Systems. He is from Italy and will be speaking on the parallels of the unification of Northern and Southern Italy to the struggle between the North and South from 1861 – 1865.

Cemetery Work

The cemetery crew continues to work as weather permits. In November we reset stones at New Garden, Antioch, Hodges and Pettusville cemeteries. Pictured below are Roger Hill, Donnie Stanford, Buzz Estes, William Pepper and Andy Jackson. Jimmy Hill took the picture and worked a little.



We will meet on the 14th of January at 8 AM at the Athens City Cemetery to leave to go work in the northwest central part of the county. We will work at Lentzville, Shoemaker, Barker, Sandlin and Temperance Oak cemeteries.

The normal work day is the Saturday after the camp meeting but there is a conflict with a Division event in Montgomery on the 21st as we celebrate the birthdays of Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. Jackson.

Speakers and Programs

Listed to the left is our January speaker, Mauro Maranesi. We have scheduled Ed Kennedy for February. Ed is an instructor at the NCO School in Huntsville currently but hails from Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. He will be speaking on the Raid on Lawrence, Kansas by William Quantrill. He can be prodded to talk a little about Jessie and Frank James. Look for a lengthy program with a slide show.

For March, we have author Tim Kent from Tusculumbia coming to the camp. He will be speaking on General Patrick Cleburne and about Franklin. He has a new book coming out and he will be bringing copies of his current book as well to sell if you are interested.

The speakers committee needs your help. Although we can find speakers, we want to bring people to the camp you are interested in. We can also bring some speakers from the past back again. Please help us by telling us what you would like to see in programs. Topics can include just about anything, Battles, Certain Regimental units, political aspects of the war, relics, Limestone County History and much, much more. We need direction on what you want to see and hear and then we will try to find the speakers.

Please send an email with your suggestions to:

Jimmy Hill at www.csa54thala@aol.com or
Buzz Estes at www.buzz@pclnet.net

The programs are an integral part of our camp meeting.

Camp Dues

We still have members who have not paid their dues for 2012. We were hoping for 100% retention this year as we continue to grow the camp and work on the Sesquicentennial events that are up coming. Please contact Adjutant Mark Curley and make arrangements to get your dues paid. This is a tedious process that he goes through each year before the drop date arrives.

Camp Activities

We have several camp activities and projects that are under consideration. A growing camp needs these activities to attract new members and to give the existing members an opportunity to bond with their fellow camp members. Many of these activities are things that we will learn about our ancestor's struggles and then we will educate the general public when given the chance. We will be presenting these to the camp at various meetings, looking for volunteers to help in the planning and the execution as well as men (and ladies) who are willing to go places and also to represent the camp.

One of the first items for 2012 will be the living history camp that we participated in back in July at Big Spring Park. The tentative date is March 31st. We will have complete control over the event unlike last year where we were just in charge of the encampment. We will need to have a major discussion on the viability of the camp doing this event.

In April we will be asked to help with the Walking Tours in Athens. These have been done in June in the past but the State of Alabama has given the ok to move them to avoid the heat of June.

We are planning a camp trip to Chickamauga National Battlefield Park just outside of Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. Chief Historian of the Park, Jim Ogden, will give the tour. You may remember Jim from the presentation he just did at the camp.

Confederate Memorial Day celebration will be in April. We need to make plans early.

The 150th anniversary of Turchin's ransacking of Athens is May 2nd. It could be combined with the celebration of Confederate Memorial Day.

On May 5th there will be a major Division event held in DeKalb County to dedicate a monument erected for Lizzie and Walter Stewart. The family was torn apart during the war; Walter fought and was imprisoned while his family was forced to work in a northern factory as captured laborers.

The Division Reunion will be held in Guntersville at the lodge on June 8-10. Our camp is being asked to provide the color guard to post the colors at the beginning of the business session on the 9th. We will also need at least seven men to serve as delegates to the convention.

The camp picnic will be held in Elkmont in July. It is not too early to start making plans.

As you can see there is a lot going on in just the first half of 2012. Add to this that the National Reunion will be held in Murfreesboro, Tennessee in July.

To make this work we need volunteers to help plan these events and to help execute them to their completion. There probably will be other activities to come to the table as well. With the success of the Fall Cemetery tour, it is a sure bet we will be doing it again. Then there is Fiddlers, Forrest Boyhood Homecoming, and possible tour of the Sam Davis Home and other events.

We can do these items and more with as many members as the camp has. We just have to take that first step.

Our Confederate Ancestors

Joseph Forney Johnston

March 23, 1843

August 8, 1913

Joseph Forney Johnston, a Senator from Alabama; born near Lowesville, Lincoln County, North Carolina, March 23, 1843; attended the country schools in Lincoln County while attending a military school in Alabama at the outbreak of the Civil War enlisted as a private in the Confederate Army in March 1861 and served in the 18th Alabama and 12th North Carolina Regiments; was wounded four times; rose to the rank of Captain; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1866 and practiced in Selma, Alabama, 1866-1884; moved to Birmingham, Alabama in 1884 and became president of the Alabama National Bank, resigning in 1894. He was the first President of the Sloss Iron and Steel Company, 1887. He became Governor of Alabama and served from 1896 – 1900. He was elected to the U.S. Senate as a Democrat to fill the vacancy in the term ending March 3, 1909, caused by the death of Edmund W. Pettus; on the same day was elected for the term commencing March 4, 1909 and served from August 6, 1907 until his death in Washington D.C. on August 8, 1913. Interment at Elmwood Cemetery, Birmingham, Alabama.

Washington Post, dated 9 Aug 1913

“Death of Senator Johnston”

Senator Joseph F. Johnston of Birmingham, Alabama died at his apartment here yesterday morning shortly before 9 o'clock. He had been in poor health and had not attended sessions of the Senate for a week. He had been confined to his apartment most of the time, but his trouble was not diagnosed as pneumonia until a few days ago. Although the senator's son, Forney Johnston had been summoned from Birmingham, it was believed that the senator was not in any immediate danger. Senator Johnston was 70 years old, had served through the War Between the States in the Confederate army, was governor of Alabama for two terms, and had been a member of the Senate since 1907. He was unanimously elected to succeed the late Senator Pettus, and was reelected in 1909.

Senate Pays Tribute

The Senate paid tribute to Senator Johnston's memory through resolutions and an immediate adjournment of yesterday's sessions. Senate Overman, addressing the Senate briefly, said he would have asked for a public funeral from the Senate chamber, but Senator Johnston's family had asked that no such action be taken. Vice President Marshall appointed the following committee to represent the Senate at the funeral in Birmingham: Senators Bankhead, Bacon, Overman, Chamberlain, Hitchcock, Clarke, Vardaman, Johnson, Swanson, Smith of South Carolina, Thornton, Gallinger, Warren, Bristo, Catron, Brady and Kenyon. The House also adopted resolutions presented by Majority Leader Underwood and adjourned out of respect to the Senator's family.

Apartments at the Brighton, Doctor Sterling Ruffin attending, wife was with her husband and son Forney arrived on Thursday, the 7th of August from Birmingham.

Senator Joseph Forney Johnston was an ancestor of Compatriot David Abernathy, who submitted the above.

More on his other brothers next month.

Parting Shot

Chili Supper

The ladies of the Mary Fielding Chapter , Order of Confederate Rose, will be holding a chili supper fundraiser at the January meeting of the camp. We are opening the doors to the Veterans Museum at 6 PM. There will be different varieties of chili from Hot to Mild and in between.

The price for your first bowl is: **\$3!!!** Yes, it will just be **\$3!!!**

Every additional bowl is \$1 and this \$3 price includes all the fixin's including your drink!

Where can you eat home cooked chili in Athens, Alabama for \$3 including your drink?

Only at the Veterans Museum on January 19th!

The camp meeting will start promptly at 7 PM.

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 made him glorious 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.

