

# THE THOMAS H. HOBBS JOURNAL

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

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*Serving the South*

## HAPPY NEW YEAR



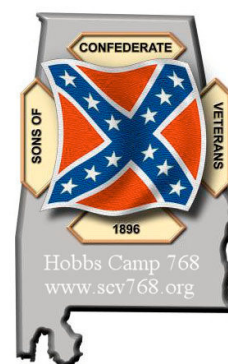
Each new year brings a renewed hope for positive change whether it is in our personal lives through making resolutions or in our hope for a better day for our nation.

In January 1862, there was a renewed hope that Lincoln's war against the South would soon come to an end. On both sides the war had not gone as planned. 1862 would have some of the fiercest fighting of the war. Northern troops were close to Richmond and fighting in Sharpsburg, Fredricksburg, Chancellorsville and the Wilderness were yet to happen.

The citizens of North Alabama would see the enemy up close in April of 1862 as General Ormsby Mitchell captured Huntsville and spread his forces across north Alabama. In May of 1862 Col. Turchin would ransack the town of Athens and a new style of warfare took hold. Conquer the people and commit to a scorched earth policy would soon take hold in the Union Army.

As we celebrate the beginning of 2012 let us look back 150 years ago and remember our ancestors who were fighting for a cause they believed in. Fighting to protect their values, their land and their families, the citizen soldier of the Confederate Army began 1862 enduring many hardships. Let us remember their struggles and pay honor to their memories by our actions in 2012.

Happy New Year!!





# *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 16<sup>th</sup> - Camp Meeting, 7 PM, Alabama Veterans Museum

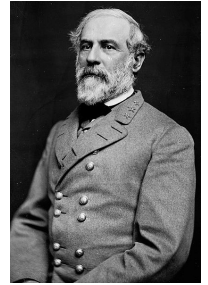
February 18<sup>th</sup> – Division GEC meeting, Birmingham, 7 AM. DEC meeting to follow

# Robert E. Lee

## Robert Edward Lee

19 January 1807

12 October 1870



Robert E. Lee was born January 19, 1807 at Stratford Hall on the lower Potomac. Born into a famous family with a General for a father mapped the direction his early life would take. In the absence of his father Robert took care of the family until his departure for West Point in 1825. Robert graduated second in his class without a single demerit and for this he was eligible for a choice position in the Army Corp of Engineers. The outbreak of hostilities with Mexico gave a glimpse into the kind of officer Robert E. Lee would be.

His command of his troops was brilliant and brought him much attention back in Washington. In 1861 the country was headed to war and discreetly the command of the army in the field was offered to Lee. Again his character showed brightly as he turned down the offer because he could not have a part in the invasion of his homeland, Virginia. Lee resigned from the Federal Army and was appointed the commander of Virginia's forces in 1861. Setbacks in Western Virginia brought out his critics. Southern newspapers labeled him as "Evacuating Lee" or "Granny Lee". Lee's next assignment was the supervising of the building of fortifications in South Carolina and Georgia. Following this he served as a military advisor to President Jefferson Davis. With the wounding of Johnston, Lee was put into command of the Confederate army around Richmond. Here Lee would set in motion a brilliant plan that would drive McClellan from the peninsula and save the Confederate capital. Robert E. Lee had a great skill in surrounding himself with men that balanced each other's abilities and shortcomings. Men like Jackson, Stuart and Longstreet were a great asset to Lee. They clearly were different in their actions but meshed together to form a great staff. Longstreet was the defensive genius counterbalanced by the aggressiveness and tactical genius of Jackson, which played off the daring exploits of Stuart. Lee and the Confederate army he commanded would reach remarkable results. He grasped victory from defeat so many times and cost many a Union general his job. Most would underestimate Lee and his command abilities but they all would come to understand the love and admiration his troops had for him. Faced with little food and other supplies the men of the Army of Northern Virginia were still willing to fight to the end. Lee's compassion for his men and the realization that continued fighting would not change the end result, he chose to seek terms of surrender from General Grant.

After the war Robert E. Lee became the President of Washington College. There he would serve the students and faculty as meticulously as he had his soldiers and government during the war years. General Robert E. Lee died on October 12, 1870. Former soldier's came to pay their respects one last time to the greatest General and possibly the greatest individual from the South.

*The Alabama Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans will hold a memorial service to commemorate the life of General Robert E. Lee on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 AM. The service will be held at the Confederate Monument on the grounds of the Capitol building in Montgomery. Period dress is fine if you have it but is not required.*

### *Cemetery Work*

We will meet on the 14<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> as we celebrate the birthdays of Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. Jackson.

### *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.

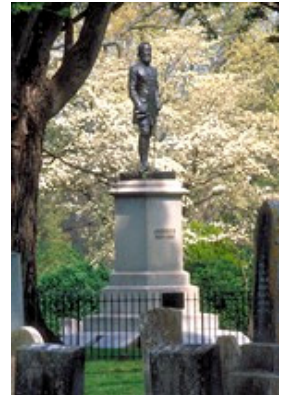
# Stonewall Jackson

Thomas Jonathon Jackson was born on January 21, 1824 in Clarksburg, Virginia. His military life began as a graduate of West Point in 1846. He served in the artillery with distinction during the Mexican War earning two brevets. He resigned from the army to accept a teaching position at Virginia Military Institute. Jackson's students found him to be strange in his ways and nicknamed him "Tom Fool Jackson".

With the outbreak of the war Jackson was commissioned a colonel in the Virginia State forces and was sent to Harpers Ferry where his assignment was to organize raw recruits. Jackson would rise rapidly through the ranks. He would become the commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, Army of the Shenandoah in May 1861, Brigadier general June 1861, Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, Army of the Potomac, July 1861, Major General, October 1861, Commander of the Valley District, Army of Northern Virginia, November 1861 and Lt. General October 1862.

Leaving Harpers Ferry, Jackson's brigade moved to link up with General Beauregard at Manassas Junction. In this battle Jackson was given the nickname "Stonewall" by General Barnard Bee. Jackson always insisted that the brigade earned the nickname but the nickname stuck to him throughout the rest of his life. The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade would be the only brigade to have its nickname become its official designation by declaration of the Confederate government. Not all of Jackson's battles ended in victory. He had several setbacks in the winter of 1861.

Deeply religious, Jackson often would be seen praying on the battlefield before and during the battle itself. In March of 1862 he attacked on a Sunday, a move that he would always regret. The attack ended as a defeat but did prevent reinforcements being sent to McClellan. Jackson's greatest victories were coming. Jackson held on at the battle of 2<sup>nd</sup> Bull Run until Longstreet arrived where a victory was achieved. He distinguished himself again at Antietam. At Fredricksburg, the brigade again distinguished itself. At Chancellorsville he would lead the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps in what would be his greatest victory. He led the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps around the Union right flank and routed the 11<sup>th</sup> Corps. That evening while reconnoitering the Union lines, he was mortally wounded by his own men. Jackson's arm was amputated but pneumonia set in and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson died eight days later on May 10, 1863. Jackson's body was returned to Lexington, Virginia where he was buried. Thousands turned out to get a glimpse of one of the South's greatest leaders. The tide of the war would begin to change with the death of Jackson.



Athens Police Chief Wayne Harper celebrated his retirement on December 30, 2011 after serving 23 years.

On behalf of Commander Mike Kelley and the members of the Captain Thomas H. Hobbs Camp, Charles Kilpatrick presented Chief Harper with a certificate of appreciation for his service to the community.

# *Our Confederate Ancestors*

## **Robert Daniel Johnston**

**March 19, 1837**

**February 1, 1919**

Robert Daniel Johnston, was born 19 March 1837 at Mount Welcome, North Carolina, the family home. He was a Brigadier General in the Confederate army, 23<sup>rd</sup> NC regiment.

He was educated at the University of North Carolina, studied law at the University of Virginia. At his death on 1 February 1919 he was one of the last surviving Confederate Generals. He died in Winchester, Winchester County, Virginia and is buried there. Johnston joined the Confederate States Army where he was appointed Captain and given command of Company K, 23<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Infantry on July 15, 1861. On April 16, 1862, he was promoted to Lt. Colonel of the regiment and on May 5 saw his first action at the battle of Williamsburg, on the Peninsula. He succeeded to the command of the regiment following the battle of Seven Pines, where he had been wounded. He returned to duty in time to participate in the Maryland Campaign and fought at the battle of South Mountain and the battle of Sharpsburg. (Antietam)

At Chancellorsville, Johnston was given command of the 12<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Infantry, after that unit had lost all of its field officers. He returned to the 23<sup>rd</sup> for the Gettysburg Campaign and was wounded at the battle of Gettysburg. He was promoted to Brigadier General on September 1, 1863, and was given command to the brigade that Brigadier General Alfred Iverson, Jr., had commanded at Gettysburg. He commanded the brigade through the Overland Campaign in the spring of 1864 until he suffered his third wound at Spotsylvania. He returned to the brigade in August during Lt. General Jubal A. Early's Shenandoah Valley Campaign. In that campaign he saw action at the Third Battle of Winchester, the Battle of Fisher's Hill and the Battle of Cedar Creek. Along with the rest of Early's Army of Northern Virginia, he returned to the Petersburg trenches to rejoin General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. During his time at Petersburg, Johnston briefly commanded the Division and served on detached duty attempting to catch deserters.

Johnston married Elizabeth Johnston "Johnsie" Evans and they had nine children. He was the father of decorated soldier Colonel Gordon Johnston. (He received every authorized medal in WWII)

Another of the Johnston brothers was William H. Johnston. He was a physician. William was born 28 March 1839. He was educated at Davidson College and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he studied medicine. He was a Captain in Company K, 23<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Infantry Regiment. He married Cathleen Gage of Chester County, South Carolina in Birmingham, Alabama.

The Johnston Brothers were the Great Grandsons of Revolutionary War Patriot David Abernathy and Grandsons of Revolutionary War Captain (later General) and Congressman Peter Forney and his wife Nancy Abernathy.

*Senator Joseph Forney Johnston, Robert Daniel Johnston and William H. Johnston were ancestors of Compatriot David Abernathy, who submitted the above.*

## 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 19<sup>th</sup>!

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.*

