

Jubal Early Chapter 553

Newsletter

Rocky Mount, Virginia



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April 2018

Chapter News

Thirteen members were present at the April meeting of the Jubal Early Chapter, at the Franklin County Library.

Martha Hubbard, 2nd Vice President and Scholarship Chairman read the scholarship applicants and the Chapter chose Jarrett C. Wiggonton as the winner. Martha will present the check at the Awards Ceremony on May 16th. The Chapter was very impressed with his application and his essay of his CSA Ancestor.

Thirteen members and one Associate member attended the First District Conference at the Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren on Saturday, April 28th. Our Chapter had the most members in attendance.



In attendance at the 1st District Conference, from left: Shirley, Marcie, Linda N., Lois B., Martha H. Melanie, Doris, Linda O., Judy, Arlene, and Beverly.

The slate of prospective officers for the 2018 thru 2020 term of the Jubal Early Chapter are as follows:

President	-	Cheryl Chrzanowski
Vice President	-	Beverly Woody
Secretary	-	Janet West
Treasurer	-	Arlene Cundiff
Registrar	-	Linda Nezbeth

Other offices will be filled at the May meeting.



Doris and Linda S., at the Sales Table.

Other News

The 57th Va. Infantry from New York will be camping at the History Museum the weekend of June 9th. Plans are underway to have our program that morning with the 57th, followed by our regular Chapter meeting and Installation of Officers. More information will be available at the April and May meetings.

Members are still encouraged to email a biography of their CSA ancestor to Div. President, Ginger Stephens before the end of March: www.ginger.stephens6@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

June 9, 2018
10:30 a.m.

-
Veteran's Mem. Day
Franklin County
Historical Society

May Meeting
Sat., May 12th – 10:30 a.m.
Franklin County Library
Rocky Mount

Confederate Ancestor of the Month

Each month the Jubal Early Chapter of the UDC features a Confederate Ancestor The "Ancestor of the Month" for April 2018 is William Henry Dillon. The Jubal Early Chapter is proud to present his story.

William Henry Dillon

Born in Franklin County, Virginia on 28 May 1838, Hank was the third of 19 children born to Lewis and Lucy (Greer) Dillon. Siblings were: Melissa A., born in 1835; Mary P., born in 1836; Ezekiel James, born in 1839; Benjamin Franklin, born in 1849; Silas G., born in 1842; Jesse, born in 1844; Jacob D., born in 1845; Zachariah Taylor, born in 1847; Lucy Virginia, born in 1849; Jemima E., born in 1850; John Flemon, born in 1851; Thaddeus Reed, born in 1853; Infant, born and died in 1854; Margaret, born in 1855; Alice Merica, born in 1856; Infant son, born in 1857 and died in 1858; Rhoda Temperance, born in 1860; and Joseph "Shug" Lewis, born in 1863.

Hank married on 2 June 1859 in Franklin County to Mary Catherine Holland. She was the daughter of Peter Lewis and Elizabeth Greer (Ferguson) Holland. Hank and Mary lived in the Taylor's Store area and would have fourteen children.

At the age of 23, Hank enlisted in Franklin County as a Private in Co. D, 2nd Va. Cavalry on 20 May 1861. The company was known as the "Franklin Rangers" and was under the command of Captain Giles W.B. Hale.

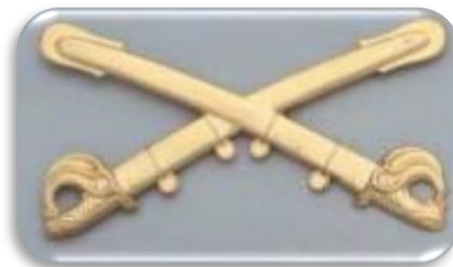
Hank was wounded on 11 May 1864 at Ashland, Virginia. On that day, the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry attacked the railroad and depot at Ashland. They destroyed railroad tracks, and a train of cars. As they were finishing this destruction, they were attacked by the 2nd Va. Cavalry, commanded at that time by Col. Thomas T. Mumford. At the end of the attack, both sides claimed victory.

Military records indicate that Hank was "at home wounded" on 31 August 1864. There is no further record. However, his pension record indicates that while hospitalized as a result of a shoulder wound, he also suffered from Typhoid Fever. The pension application was verified by G.W.B. Hale and James L. Byrd on 7 September 1907.



William Henry "Hank" Dillon

Hank died 22 April 1918 and Mary died in 1919. They are buried on the old Reed Dillon Farm in Franklin County.



Varina Howell Davis



Born at "The Briars," near Natchez, Miss., 7 May 1826, Varina was the daughter William B. and Margaret L. (Kemp) Howell. Had Jefferson Davis known at the time of his marriage in 1845 of the future awaiting him as president of a Southern confederacy, he could not have chosen a better wife than Varina Howell. In time she abandoned her Whig convictions, deferred to Davis' politics, and became the guardian of his beleaguered reputation.

Howell was an intelligent, deeply religious woman educated by a private tutor and close family friend, later attending a finishing school to polish her considerable social graces.

Her mother at first objected to the marriage with Davis, who was 18 years older than her daughter, but the union turned out to be a long, happy one.

An accomplished hostess and lively conversationalist with a serious interest in politics, Varina adjusted well to life as the wife of a politician in Washington. In her own way, she shared her husband's ambitious temperament, though not his extreme sensitivity to criticism. The latter trait, coupled with the tendency to be aggressively critical of others, would help sustain her through the difficult years as First Lady of the Confederacy.

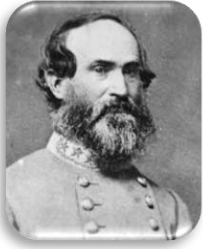
As living conditions in Richmond deteriorated during the second year of war, Varina found herself increasingly under public scrutiny. Some decried her as insensitive to the hardships endured by the city's residents because she entertained at the White House of the Confederacy; others complained that she did not entertain lavishly enough. There were those who considered her influence on the president too great, challenged her loyalty to the cause because of her father's Northern roots, or called her ill-bred and unrefined. The last may have been justified by her heated retorts to gossip denigrating Davis' ability as a politician.

Jefferson was married two times. His first wife was Sarah Knox Taylor who was the daughter of President Zachary Taylor. They were married a short (3 months) when she died. Davis was shattered by her death and secluded himself for years. There were no children from this marriage. In 1845 Jefferson Davis married Varina Howell. She and Davis had six children. Davis loved his children and had a very affectionate relationship with them. Both Davis and Lincoln shared the loss of losing young children. Both Davis and Lincoln had school age children at the time of the Civil War.

The children were: Samuel Emory Davis born July 30, 1852 and died June 13, 1854. Margaret Howell Davis born Feb. 25, 1855 and died July 18, 1909. Jefferson Davis Jr. born Jan. 16, 1857 and died Oct. 16, 1878. Joseph Evan Davis born April 18, 1859 and died April 30, 1864. William Howell Davis born Dec. 6, 1861 and died Oct. 16, 1872. Varina Anne Davis born June 27, 1864 and died Sept. 18, 1898. Of Varina's 6 children, 1 was born during these frantic years, and another died tragically. Yet through all the family's public and private trials, Varina provided Davis with loyalty, companionship, and a great reserve of strength.

Varina was with Davis when he was arrested in Georgia. After his capture and confinement, the children were sent to Canada in the charge of their maternal grandmother. Varina was prohibited from leaving Georgia without permission from Federal authorities, but she lobbied incessantly to secure her husband's release from prison, succeeding May 1867.

The Davises lived in near-poverty until the early 1870s, when a friend arranged for them to purchase "Beauvoir," the Mississippi estate to which they retired. Varina stayed on to write her memoirs after Davis' death in 1889. She then gave Beauvoir to the state as a Confederate veterans' home and moved to New York City to support herself by writing articles for magazines and periodicals. She died there 16 Oct. 1905, survived by only 1 of her children. (Source: Confederate Military History)



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Love, Live, Pray, Think, Dare

Linda B. Nezbeth
1449 Carroll Rd., Goodview, VA 24095-3124

Editor
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