

Jubal Early Chapter 553

Newsletter

Rocky Mount, Virginia



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December 2017

Chapter News

Seven members met at High Street Cemetery in Rocky Mount for the annual Holiday Remembrance Ceremony for those men who served in the War of 1812 thru the Civil War. A brief meeting was held after the ceremony at the B'Sides Restaurant in Rocky Mount.

Members voted to purchase 25 Chapter pins for a price of \$35 per pin. Those interested in purchasing pins should contact President Beverly Woody or Vice President Janet West.



Six members participated in the Wreaths Across America. Pictured below are Linda N., Shirley Dent, Ilene Lavinder and Marcia Bauserman. Also present were Arlene Cundiff and Judy Lavinder.

Other News

The Franklin County History Museum has several CSA Roster Books for both Franklin and Bedford Counties as well as a book of all Civil War Soldiers interred in Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg. Contact Linda Stanley for more information.



Hight St. Cemetery: Pictured above from left: Melanie Webster, Martha Hubbard; Linda Stanley, Ilene Lavinder, Linda N. and Shirley Dent. Also present was Janet West.

Six members participated in the Wreaths Across America. The Jubal Early Chapter donated \$200 towards the purchase of wreaths. The event was sponsored by the Blue Ridge Chapter and the James River Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. More than 200 people attended the service, and approximately 2,000 wreaths were placed on the graves of soldiers from the Revolutionary War thru the Viet Nam war. This event is held annually in December.

Upcoming Events

June 1st – 3rd 2018 - Veteran's Mem. Day
Franklin County
Historical Society

January Meeting
Sat., Jan. 13th – 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 December 2017 is John Robert Wade. The Jubal Early Chapter is proud to present his story.

John Robert Wade

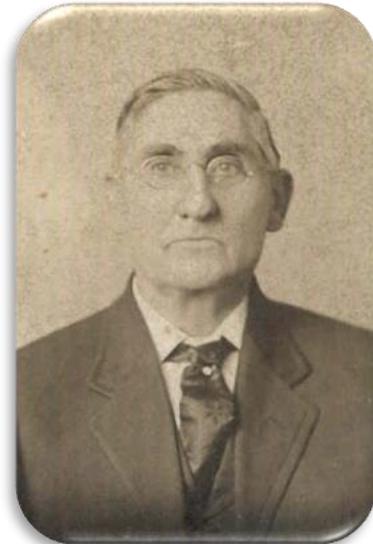
John was born in Rocky Mount on 16 March 1845, the oldest of two sons born to William O., and Elizabeth Hill (Ferguson) Waid. Their youngest son, Winfield Scott Waid was born in 1848.

On 10 March 1862, at the age of 22, John enlisted at Gogginsville into Co. B, 24th Va. Infantry. Military records indicate he was hospitalized on 8 April 1862 at Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond for reasons not listed. He was transferred to the Huguenot Springs Hospital in Powhatan, Virginia on 18 May 1862. He signed an Oath of Allegiance in Charleston, West Virginia on 15 June 1865.

The Huguenot Springs Hospital was originally a Spa before becoming a convalescent hospital for Confederate Soldiers in 1862. Trains brought patients from Richmond hospitals to Robious Station on the Richmond and Danville Railroad, where they were transferred to wagons for transportation there. Local women served as nurses and treated the men to roast chicken and homemade jellies. Ministers tended to the men's spiritual needs. As the war progressed, the number of sick and wounded increased and the town's ability care for them weakened.

As these men died, they were buried in a cemetery nearby, many unknown. Buried in this mass-grave cemetery are the remains of more than 250 soldiers, most of whom died of disease rather than battle wounds. About 92 have been identified as being from the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. The hotel burned in 1890, and the surviving cottages were made into private homes. In 1915, the Powhatan United Daughters of the Confederacy erected the monument over the cemetery.

Following the war, John married Mildred C. Holland in Rocky Mount on 7 March 1867. She was born in 1848, the daughter of Andrew S. and Mary Susan (English) Holland. John and Mildred would have seven children. Sometime prior to the birth of their third child in 1877, the family moved to Texas. John died in San Diego, California on 17 February 1930 and Mildred moved to Oklahoma to live with their daughter. She died there on 2 December 1919.



John Robert Wade



Christmas During the Civil War

On the Homefront: It can be difficult to relate to the men and women of the Civil War era. Despite the extraordinarily different circumstances in which they found themselves, however, we can connect with our forebears in traditions such as the celebration of Christmas. By the mid-19th century, most of today's familiar Christmas trappings — Christmas carols, gift giving and tree decoration — were already in place. Charles Dickens had published “A Christmas Carol” in 1843 and indeed, the Civil War saw the first introductions to the modern image of a jolly and portly Santa Claus through the drawings of Thomas Nast, a German-speaking immigrant.

Civil War soldiers in camp and their families at home drew comfort from the same sorts of traditions that characterize Christmas today. Alfred Bellard of the 5th New Jersey noted, “In order to make it look much like Christmas as possible, a small tree was stuck up in front of our tent, decked off with hard tack and pork, in lieu of cakes and oranges, etc.” John Haley, of the 17th Maine, wrote in his diary on Christmas Eve that, “It is rumored that there are sundry boxes and mysterious parcels over at Stoneman’s Station directed to us. We retire to sleep with feelings akin to those of children expecting Santa Claus.”

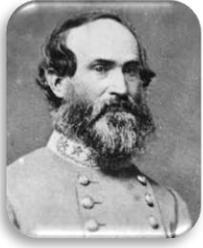
In one amusing anecdote, a Confederate prisoner relates how the realities of war intruded on his Christmas celebrations: “A friend had sent me in a package a bottle of old brandy. On Christmas morning I quietly called several comrades up to my bunk to taste the precious fluid of...DISAPPOINTMENT! The bottle had been opened outside, the brandy taken and replaced with water...and sent in. I hope the Yankee who played that practical joke lived to repent it and was shot before the war ended.”

For many, the holiday was a reminder of the profound melancholy that had settled over the entire nation. Southern parents warned their children that Santa might not make it through the blockade, and soldiers in bleak winter quarters were reminded, more acutely than ever, of the domestic bliss they had left behind. Robert Gould Shaw, who would later earn glory as the commander of the 54th Massachusetts, recorded in his diary, “It is Christmas morning and I hope a happy and merry one for you all, though it looks so stormy for our poor country, one can hardly be in merry humor.” On the Confederate home front, Sallie Brock Putnam of Richmond echoed Shaw’s sentiment: “Never before had so sad a Christmas dawned upon us... We had neither the heart nor inclination to make the week merry with joyousness when such a sad calamity hovered over us.” For the people of Fredericksburg, Virginia, which had been battered only a matter of days before Christmas, or Savannah, Georgia, which General Sherman had presented to President Lincoln as a gift, the holiday season brought the war to their very doorsteps.

Christmas during the Civil War served both as an escape from and a reminder of the awful conflict rending the country in two. Soldiers looked forward to a day of rest and relative relaxation, but had their moods tempered by the thought of separation from their loved ones. At home, families did their best to celebrate the holiday, but wondered when the vacant chair would again be filled. - www.civilwar.org/learn/articles/christmas-during-civil-war



"Christmas Eve," an illustration by Thomas Nast for Harper's Weekly, January 3, 1863



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Love, Live, Pray, Think, Dare

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Editor
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