

# Jubal Early Chapter 553 Newsletter



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January 2017

## Chapter News

Ten members and one prospective member were present at our January meeting. Miss Renee Wilson submitted her application for membership under her third great-grandfather, Holman Thacker, Co. B, 15<sup>th</sup> Va. Cavalry.

Chapter Yearbook updates and Membership Cards were distributed to those members present.

President, Beverly Woody reminded members of the Lee-Jackson Commemoration which will be held in Lexington on Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>.

Members voted to place a wreath at Lee Plaza in Roanoke in remembrance of General Lee's 210<sup>th</sup> birthday. Linda Stanley will be making the wreath.

Our First District Conference will be held on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Mill Creek Baptist Church in Fincastle. More information will be available at the February meeting.

Members signed Valentine Cards for Veterans which will be distributed by Mrs. Woody.

Members of the 57<sup>th</sup> Va. Infantry group from New York will again be the guests of the Historical Society. Plans are underway for a Veteran's Memorial Day ceremony the first week of June. More information to follow.

Members were reminded to submit their Monthly Activity points to Beverly at each meeting. The Monthly Activities Check List may be found on page 20 of your yearbook, or contact Beverly for an electronic version.

Arlene Cundiff gave a very informative program on the Wreaths Across America process in Lynchburg. More wreaths were placed this year than any other. The ceremony will take place each year on the third Saturday of December.

In keeping with our mission of honoring American Veterans of all wars, we will be participating with the local DAR dedicating a plaque at the Robert Hill Ft. this Spring. More information will be available in February.



From left: Martha, Marcia, Shirley, Linda N. & Janet at Lee Plaza in Roanoke.



## Other News

The Jubal Early Chapter, in Conjunction with the Old Caroline Road Chapter of the DAR will be hosting an event at Ft. Hill this coming spring. A tentative date of May 7<sup>th</sup> has been set, but is subject to change. More information will be made available at a later date.



## Upcoming Events

- |                |   |   |
|----------------|---|---|
| April 22, 2017 | - | 1 <sup>st</sup> District Conference<br>Fincastle, Va. |
| May 7, 2017    | - | Ft. Hill Dedication Ceremony                          |



**February Meeting**  
**Sat., Feb. 11th – 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 January 2017 is Richard Burch. The Jubal Early Chapter is proud to present his story.

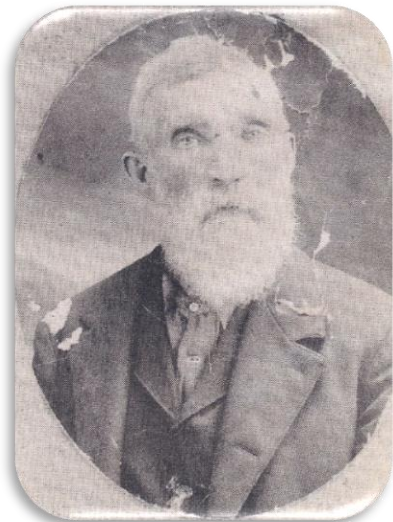
## Richard Burch

Born in Franklin County in 1839, Richard was the son of James and Nancy Burch. Siblings, as listed in the 1850 Census list Eleanor, age 4 and Mary J., age 2. Richard is not listed in Franklin County in the 1860 census.

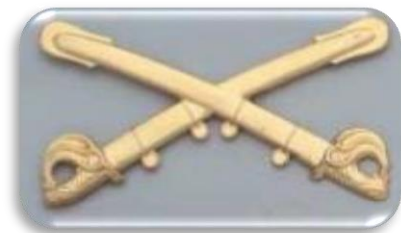
The exact date of his enlistment is unknown, but he was a Private in Co. C, 10th Va. Cavalry. There is no further military information available. His pension application of 1904 stated that he had been thrown from a horse during his service.

On 22 December 1863, Richard married Frances "Fannie" Parsell in Franklin County. She was the daughter of Joel and Drucilla (Law) Parsell. They would have six girls: Mary "Bettie", born in 1866; Matida, born in 1868; Roxie, born in 1870, married Jeffrey D. Woody on 15 October 1891 in Franklin County; Rosie, born in 1873; Minerva, born in 1875; and Lucy, born in 1879. The family is living

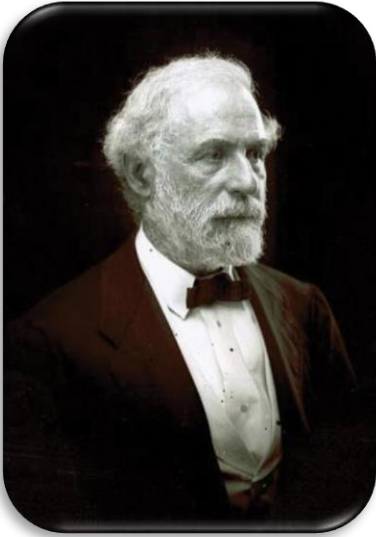
Fannie died prior to 1910 as Richard is shown as being 'Widowed' and living in Snow Creek. He died after 1904, the exact date of his death is not known. 



**Richard Burch**



## *Robert E. Lee After the War*



After their army surrendered at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, the defeated Confederates returned to their homes to face an uncertain future. The postwar prospects of Robert E. Lee, beloved commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, were no clearer than those of his men. When he left Appomattox, he began a journey that would take him away from a soldier's life in the field and eventually to Lexington, where his talent for leadership would serve him well as president of a small college.

Lee's military career, which had started at West Point many years before, had ended, and his civilian life began when he returned to Richmond and his family on April 15th. For the next two months Lee lived in a city busily rebuilding itself. That summer, he and his family escaped the chaotic atmosphere of the capital city and took up residence at Derwent, a house owned by Elizabeth Randolph Cocke west of Richmond in Powhatan County. There, Lee enjoyed life in the country and considered buying land and living out his remaining years as a farmer. Whatever happened, he had no desire to leave Virginia. "I cannot desert my native state in the hour of her adversity," he remarked to a friend. "I must abide her fortune, and share her fate."

The solitude did not last long. The trustees of Washington College in Lexington, then looking for a new president, decided that Lee was the perfect choice. He had been superintendent of West Point earlier in his military career, and more importantly, he had a very recognizable name in 1865. The college, mired in financial difficulties, needed a prominent person to help raise funds. At first Lee hesitated, but on the advice of friends and family he eventually accepted the position. He wrote to the trustees that he believed, "it is the duty of every citizen, in the present condition of the Country, to do all in his power to aid in the restoration of peace and harmony."

### **A new life in Lexington**

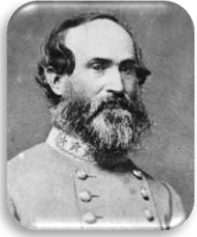
Lee arrived in Lexington in mid-September 1865 and went to work immediately. Over the next five years, Washington College grew physically and financially: the A faculty increased in size from four to twenty, enrollment grew from fifty to nearly 400 students, and financial contributions poured in from both southern and northern sources. Lee's personal involvement with many of his students reflected his desire to create a new generation of Americans. In response to the bitterness of a Confederate widow, Lee wrote, "Dismiss from your mind all sectional feeling, and bring [your children] up to be Americans."

Lee's tireless devotion to his duty as president of Washington College eventually took its toll on his health. The outward signs of the heart condition that had plagued him since the Civil War grew more apparent, and in the spring of 1870, on the advice of the faculty, he travelled south on vacation. Less than a month into the next school year, on September 28, 1870, he suffered a massive stroke. Two weeks later, on October 12, Robert E. Lee died in his home on the college campus.



### **Lee's lap desk**

In December 2005, the Virginia Historical Society acquired from Lee family descendants the portable lap desk that belonged to Lee while he lived in the president's house at Washington College. The desk is currently on display in the long-term exhibition, *The Story of Virginia*. Among the interesting items in the desk is a "cash" book that includes a record, in Lee's hand, of his salary as president of the college. Although a sword might symbolize Robert E. Lee's distinguished military service, the desk represents the final chapter of his life—a period in which he dedicated himself to educating young men and reuniting the country that he had so recently fought against.



*Jubal Early Chapter 553*  
*Newsletter*  
*Rocky Mount, Virginia*



Love, Live, Pray, Think, Dare

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**Editor**  
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