

# *Jubal Early Chapter 553*

## *Newsletter*

### *Rocky Mount, Virginia*



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[www.jubalearlyudc.org](http://www.jubalearlyudc.org)

November 2018

#### Chapter News

Thirteen members were present at our November 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting which was held at the Franklin County Library.

The Chapter voted to accept Mrs. Dawn Byrd-Beresovoy as our newest Associate Member. She is currently serving as Registrar in the Rose Greenhow Chapter 2484, as well as the California Division Registrar. Dawn has many roots in Franklin County. The Jubal Early is pleased to welcome her to the Chapter.

Membership papers were signed and mailed for Nancy M. Uhran. She is joining under her 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather, Samuel R. McCleskey, who served in Co. C, Georgia Cavalry.

Due to inclement weather, Chapter members chose not to participate in the Stuart Veteran's Day Parade on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Members presented "our favorite Librarian", Ms. Corretta with a fruit basket for her help in taking special care of us by setting up our meeting room every month.



Our December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will take place after the High Street Holiday Remembrance Ceremony in Rocky Mount. Members will decide on a location for the meeting following the ceremony, at either Hemas Restaurant or Ruth's Place.

#### Other News

The Fincastle Rifles SCV Camp will be hosting their annual Christmas Banquet on December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Woodman of the World Bldg. on Peters Creek Rd. The public is cordially invited to attend. Please Contact Commander Barbour and plan to bring a covered dish to the dinner.

Wreaths Across America will be held at Lynchburg's Old City Cemetery on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Those wishing to attend should plan to arrive by 11:00 a.m. as parking is limited and fills up quickly. The deadline for wreath donations is November 26<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Arlene Cundiff for more information.

#### Upcoming Events

- |                       |   |   |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup>  | - | <b>Holiday Remembrance</b><br>High St. Cemetery,<br>Rocky Mt. |
| Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup> | - | <b>Wreaths Across America</b><br>Lynchburg Old City Cem.      |

***December Meeting***  
***Sat., Dec. 8th – 10:00 a.m.***  
***High Street Cemetery***  
***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 November 2018 is Thomas A. Ferguson. The Jubal Early Chapter is proud to present his story.

## Thomas A. Ferguson

Born on 24 January 1841, in the Hardy area of Franklin County, Thomas was the son of Eli and Mahala (Ellyson) Ferguson. Siblings were: Eliza (1836-1871); Mary (1838-1917); Theophilus Nash (1844-1927) who also had service in the 58th Va. Inf.; Mahala Jane (1847-1927); Noah Burton (1848-1930); and Stephen Ferdinand (1852-1937).

On 24 July 1861, Thomas enlisted, at Pasley's Store, into Co. E, 58th Virginia Infantry (Early's Brigade). He was listed as a "19 year-old Farmhand."

Thomas was wounded at Cedar Mountain on 9 August 1862. His pension application of 1888 stated that he was shot in ankle and the ball was still lodged in his ankle. Military records list him as being permanently disabled on 31 December 1864. There are no further military records available.

On 1 August 1862, Thomas married Spicer Holloway Basham in Franklin County. She was born there in May 1842, the daughter of Elijah and Lucinda (Pagans) Basham. They had the following children: Pernette (born about 1865); Fulton Foe, born circa 1867); Alexander (1870-1961); Ida Lucinda (1873-1956) d; Isabel Frances (1876-1938); Penn Lee (1881-1956), and Robert Lewis (1886-1963).

Thomas died in Roanoke on 23 September 1908. Spicer died on 2 January 1927. They are buried in Fairview Cemetery in Roanoke along with other family members.



*Thomas A. Ferguson*



## Proclamation of Thanksgiving

This is the proclamation which set the precedent for America's national day of Thanksgiving. During his administration, President Lincoln issued many orders similar to this. For example, on November 28, 1861, he ordered government departments closed for a local day of thanksgiving.

Sarah Josepha Hale, a 74-year-old magazine editor, wrote a letter to Lincoln on September 28, 1863, urging him to have the "day of our annual Thanksgiving made a National and fixed Union Festival." She explained, "You may have observed that, for some years past, there has been an increasing interest felt in our land to have the Thanksgiving held on the same day, in all the States; it now needs National recognition and authoritative fixation, only, to become permanently, an American custom and institution."

Prior to this, each state scheduled its own Thanksgiving holiday at different times, mainly in New England and other Northern states. President Lincoln responded to Mrs. Hale's request immediately, unlike several of his predecessors, who ignored her petitions altogether. In her letter to Lincoln she mentioned that she had been advocating a national thanksgiving date for 15 years as the editor of Godey's *Lady's Book*. George Washington was the first president to proclaim a day of thanksgiving, issuing his request on October 3, 1789, exactly 74 years before Lincoln's.

The document below sets apart the last Thursday of November "as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise." According to an April 1, 1864, letter from John Nicolay, one of President Lincoln's secretaries, this document was written by Secretary of State William Seward, and the original was in his handwriting. On October 3, 1863, fellow Cabinet member Gideon Welles recorded in his diary how he complimented Seward on his work. A year later the manuscript was sold to benefit Union troops.

Washington, D.C.

October 3, 1863

By the President of the United States of America.

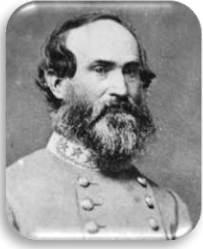
A Proclamation.

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln

William H. Seward,  
Secretary of State



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### ***Newsletter Rocky Mount, Virginia***



Love, Live, Pray, Think, Dare

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**Editor**  
Nov. 2018



***Happy Thanksgiving!***