

# *Jubal Early Chapter 553*

## *Newsletter*

### *Rocky Mount, Virginia*



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September 2017

#### Chapter News

Members met in the Children's Reading Room at the Franklin County Library on Saturday, September 9, 2017.

Linda Stanley has requested our participation in a program to be held at the Hale's Ford Academy on October 17<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Members will be in period attire and will be speaking to a class of fifth graders from Franklin County on life in the 1860s. Those interested, please contact Linda Stanley for more information.

Members discussed the possibility of changing our meeting dates, but decided to keep our meetings to the Second Saturday of each month, from September through June.

Beverly read a letter, written to Gov. McAuliffe from a retired Wall Street Banker, in regards to the statues in Lexington. He stated that he chose to retire to Lexington because of the connection to Robert E. Lee. The letter was very informative.

The 122<sup>nd</sup> Annual Virginia Division Convention will be held at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel in Richmond from October 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup>. To date, no chapter members plan to attend.

We will be discussing the purchase of wreaths for the *Wreaths Across America* event to be held in Lynchburg on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. In the past, our chapter has purchased a number of wreaths in honor of the Confederate Soldiers from Franklin County who are interred there. We hope to do so again this year.

The Fincastle Chapter of the SCV will be holding their annual Picnic this Saturday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Jubal Early House from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Plan to bring a covered dish and/or a dessert to share. Also plan to bring lawn chairs. Contact Commander Barbour to let him know if you plan to attend.



**Please note: Membership Dues are due by October 31<sup>st</sup>. They have increased this year and are now \$50 per year, which include the UDC Newsletter. Please make checks payable to *Jubal Early 553, UDC* and either bring them to the October meeting or mail to Treasurer, Ms. Arlene Cundiff.**

#### Other News

Members have been invited to attend a presentation by Carl Jackson to The Campbell Guards SCV Camp on Nov. 7, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Rustburg Courthouse in Rustburg. The topic will be an overview of the CSA Post Office Dept., a short biography of Confederate Postmaster General John Henninger Reagan, and the postage stamps of the CSA.



#### Upcoming Events

Oct. 5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> .	-	122 <sup>nd</sup> Va. Div. Convention Double Tree Hotel, Richmond
Oct. 17 <sup>th</sup> 11:30 – 12:30	-	Hale's Ford Academy
Nov. 7 <sup>th</sup> - 7:00 p.m.	-	Old Rustburg Courthouse
Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup>	-	Wreaths Across America



***October Meeting***  
***Sat., Oct. 14th – 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 September 2017 is George Washington Chitwood. The Jubal Early Chapter is proud to present his story.*

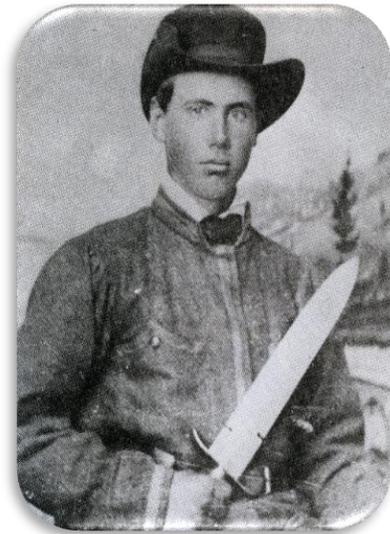
## *George Washington Chitwood*

Born on 28 April 1844, George was the fifth of eleven children born to Thomas Jefferson and Lucy Catherine (Lumsden) Chitwood. Siblings were: Sarah Elizabeth, born in 1833; Lockie Wilmouth, born in 1836; John Thomas, born in 1838; Thomas Jefferson, born in 1841; Lucy Margaret, born in 1847; Cynthia Ann, born in 1850; Calvin Lewis, born in 1852; James Floyd, born in 1855; Almira Virginia; born in 1858; and Lee Franklin, born in 1861.

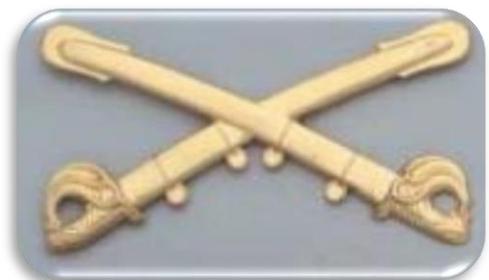
George, along with his brother, Thomas, enlisted on 17 June 1861 at Rocky Mount as Privates in Co. K, 42nd Va. Infantry. Thomas died of wounds he received on 17 September 1862 at Antietam, Maryland. George was transferred into Co. D, 2nd Va. Cavalry on 12 December 1863.

Military records indicate that George was hospitalized on 31 October at Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs. He was on the rolls on 31 December 1862 and furloughed on 25 August 1863 in Franklin County. He returned to duty on 5 October 1863 and remained on the rolls until 31 August 1864.

On 23 January 1867, George married Matilda Octave Metts in Franklin County. She was born on 3 September 1847. Together they would have eleven children. The first six were born in Franklin County. They moved to Sumner County Kansas sometime after 1878 where the remaining five children were born. Issue: William Alexander, born in 1868; Virginia Franklin, born in 1869; John Thomas, born in 1871; Henry Washington, born in 1874; George Lee, born in 1876; James Calvin, born in 1878; Nannie M., born in Kansas in 1881; Jesse Wilson, born in Kansas in 1883; Lawrence Ladrew, born in 1885, born in Kansas; Thel M., born in 1890 in Kansas; and Fannie Violet, born in Kansas in 1892. Matilda died in Conway Springs, Kansas on 9 April 1909 and George died there on 4 March 1924.



*George W. Chitwood*



## American Civil War September 1862

The Confederate army under Robert E Lee continued to threaten Washington in September 1862. However, September saw Lee face a set-back at Sharpsburg and at the Battle of Antietam, which Lincoln declared a victory for the North.

September 1st: The Second Battle of Bull Run ended when sections from both sides clashed at Ox Hill. They came across one another just before nightfall during a thunderstorm. In the clash Union Generals Isaac Stevens and Philip Kearney were killed.

September 2nd: General McClellan was recalled to Washington DC by President Lincoln to take charge of the capital's defenses. "If he can't fight himself, he excels in making others ready to fight." (Lincoln)

September 5th: Robert E Lee took his army into Maryland. At the same time, the Union's military hierarchy could not make its mind up as to who should lead the Union's army in the field. Maryland was a tempting target for Lee as its fields were full of crops and any move north that he made would bring fear to those who lived in the capital who would have rightly believed that the city was his priority target.

September 6th: Within just four days McClellan managed to get together an army of 90,000 men to defend the capital. This feat confirmed to Lincoln his excellent administrative skills. However, McClellan was known to lack tactical ability and someone was needed to command these men in a decisive manner. Lee was well aware of McClellan's failings as a commander.

September 7th: Lee crossed the Potomac River at Leesburg, Virginia. His move north caused the expected panic in the capital and ships were placed on standby to take the President and his Cabinet out of the city to safety. McClellan was given command of the 90,000 men in the Army of the Potomac.

September 8th: The cause of the Union was not helped by dissension in the most senior ranks of the Union Army. General Pope openly blamed other generals for the failure at Bull Run, while they (Generals Franklin and Porter) cited his incompetent leadership during the battle. Leaving this dispute behind in the capital, McClellan marched his men out to meet Lee away from the city. His army of 90,000 was twice as large as Lee's Army of Virginia but the men in it were very demoralized after the Second Bull Run while Lee's men were full of confidence.

September 9th: The people of Maryland did not greet Lee's army with any enthusiasm despite his proclamation that his intention was to return the state to the Confederacy – which Lee assumed would sell his cause. The expected provisions were not forthcoming and Lee's army remained short of supplies.

September 10th: McClellan marched his men to where he knew Lee's army had encamped – Frederick. However, Lee's army marched off on the same day as McClellan gave his order. Lee split his men in two with Jackson ordered to capture Harper's Ferry while he would lead his men to Hagerstown.

September 13th: In an astonishing twist, two Union soldiers found some cigars where Lee had made his camp. They were wrapped in paper. On this paper was written Lee's next plans for his army – their targets, which part of his army was marching where etc. This was Lee's Special Order 191. The Confederates knew that they had lost one copy but must have assumed that it was never going to be found by the North.

September 14th: The North, with the knowledge of where Lee was and where he was heading, made a series of attacks on the Confederates at South Mountain. The speed of McClellan's chase unnerved Lee and forced him into changing his plans at the last minute. The problem Lee would face was to ensure that his change of plans got out to his commanders in the field and that they all understood them.

September 15th: Harper's Ferry fell to Jackson who captured 12,000 Union troops. Jackson left behind an occupying force and then marched at speed to rejoin Lee to consolidate the Army of Virginia once again.

September 16th: Lee's army was at Sharpsburg – as was McClellan's. Lee faced two serious problems. First, he only had 18,000 men with him against 75,000 Union troops. Second, behind where his men were gathered was the Potomac River. So if Lee needed to withdraw, he would have to cross the river. McClellan started his attack with an artillery bombardment. Lee was reinforced when Jackson's 9,000 men arrived. No decisive impact was made one way or the other on this day.

September 17th: The battle continued at 06.00 with a Union attack at Antietam Creek but in a series of skirmishes as opposed to one great battle. The reason for this is that large parts of the Army of the Potomac did nothing, as their commanders had not received orders to do anything. The reason that the commanders in the field had not received orders was that McClellan had not issued any. By the end of the day, the Confederates had held their line despite the North's overwhelming superiority in terms of manpower.

September 18th: The two armies continued to face one another at Antietam Creek. Two fresh Union divisions arrived but they were ordered to "rest" by McClellan. Lee started to make plans to withdraw his men.

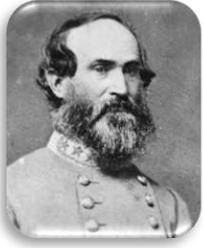
September 19th: In the early hours of the 19th, Lee withdrew his men across the Potomac River. Though McClellan believed Lee would strike across the river again, he was wrong. Lee had ordered his men to the relative safety of Winchester in the Shenandoah Valley.

September 20th: McClellan kept his men at Sharpsburg and showed no inclination to pursue Lee's men. However, any thoughts Lee had of taking Maryland were killed off in what McClellan called "a very great battle".

September 22nd: Lincoln expressed his belief that the Battle of Antietam was a victory for the North in the sense that it stopped any plans Lee had for capturing Washington DC. In the same speech, Lincoln declared his intention of abolishing slavery throughout the United States and that this was now a major aim of the Union's war effort.

September 28th: Lee's army of 50,000 men gathered at Winchester in the Shenandoah Valley.





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Love, Live, Pray, Think, Dare

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**Editor**  
Sept. 2017



*Happy Fall Y'all!*