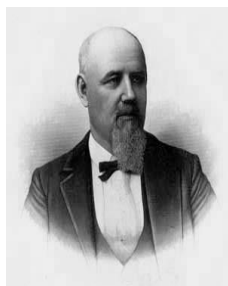


Captain Jefferson Manly Falkner (1843 – 1907)



Jefferson Manly Falkner was born to Thomas Jefferson Falkner and Samantha (Breed) Falkner July 14, 1843. At 18 years of age the young man from Randolph County, Alabama studying at Mercer University in Pennfield, Georgia, left school and enlisted into the Chambers Cavalry out of Chambers County, Alabama in the summer of 1861. He enlisted into the cavalry which had been raised by his own father Captain Thomas Jefferson Falkner who later became Lieutenant Colonel of the 8th Cavalry. Thomas

Jefferson Falkner (1810-1895) was a prominent man in his locale as a lawyer, judge, Alabama State Senator, and later devoted to preaching the Gospel. His son Jefferson seemed to follow his father's success as he enlisting as a private in Company B, later earned commission as Captain by 1864 in the same 8th Cavalry. His regiment was under General Joe Wheeler in the Army of Tennessee. After the war he farmed for a short time, was a successful lawyer, was district attorney for Alabama of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company and was involved in political matters.

He married the daughter of Montgomery merchant Andrew Cameron, that is Elizabeth Elliot (Cameron) Falkner, in Mountain Creek, Alabama, located in Chilton County at the bride's parent's home in 1887. The border with Autauga County being close by, the marriage is recorded in Autauga County Marriage records as being performed by his father Rev. Thomas Jefferson Falkner. The couple had two sons Jefferson C. Falkner and Robert M. Falkner.

Having been a Confederate Veteran himself and seeing the poverty of his fellow compatriots, Jefferson Manly Falkner founded the Confederate Soldiers Home of Alabama. He saw the condition of aging veterans and he with the help of other Confederate veterans like those of the "Jeff Falkner Camp" who voted to name the camp meeting in Montgomery in his honor in 1901 and expressed the will to see a Confederate Soldiers Home. Donations for the home came in at different stages and projects from various places, including a \$1600.00 donation by the Grand Army of the Republic for the building of the "Blue and Gray Cottage" partially named in their honor. The most prominent structure of the soldier's home was "Confederate Memorial Hall", of which the first floor was constructed with 500 memorial logs purchased at \$10.00 each, each memorializing the name of a Confederate soldier. The Confederate Soldiers Home had a total of nine cottages. and had at its peak operation up to 104 inmates on the roster. This magnificent and much needed site founded by Jefferson Manly Falkner operated from 1902-1939, as the state took over the facility in 1903.

He died in 1907 in Mountain Creek, Alabama, having first being buried in Marbury, Alabama and later moved to the Soldier's Home site in Mountain Creek in what is called Confederate Memorial Park Cemetery #2. After

his death, an obelisk style monument was erected in his honor in 1908 and was moved to its present location in Confederate Memorial Park by the UDC in 1967. This memorial has a very fitting inscription describing him:

“To the memory of Captain Jefferson Manly Falkner of Company B, in the 8th Confederate Regiment of cavalry. He was the son of the Hon. Jefferson Falkner and of Samantha Breed, his wife, and was born in Randolph County, in the State of Alabama, on the 14th day of July 1843, and died at Mountain Creek in Chilton County, in this State, on the 18th day of May 1907: age sixty-three years, ten months, and four days. Possessing a splendid intellect, he was endowed with all the attributes that adorn a noble manhood. Among them were an ardent patriotism, an unwavering fidelity, a dauntless courage, a Christian humanity and gentleness, a stainless integrity, a broad philanthropy whose generosity induced him to donate land and to establish, thereon, The Confederate Soldiers Home of Alabama for the protection and benefit of his disabled and destitute comrades and thereby elicited the eternal gratitude of his fellow countrymen.”