

Gen. Thomas R.R. Cobb



Thomas Reade Rootes Cobb was born in 1823 in Jefferson County, Georgia, to John A. Cobb and Sarah (Rootes) Cobb. He was the younger brother of Howell Cobb. Cobb graduated in 1841 from Franklin College (present-day University of Georgia), where he was a member of the Phi Kappa Literary Society. He was admitted to the bar in 1842.

He married Marion Lumpkin, who was the daughter of the Supreme Court of Georgia Chief Justice Joseph Henry Lumpkin and his wife. Only three of their children lived past childhood: Callender (Callie), who married Augustus Longstreet Hull; Sarah A. (Sally), who married Henry Jackson, the son of Henry Rootes Jackson; and Marion (Birdie), who married Michael Hoke Smith. The Lucy Cobb Institute, which he founded, was named for a daughter who died shortly before the school opened. His niece Mildred Lewis Rutherford served the school for over forty years in various capacities.

From 1849 to 1857, he was a reporter of the Supreme Court of Georgia. He was an ardent secessionist, and was a delegate to the Secession Convention. Cobb was also one of the founders of the University of the Georgia School of Law, and served on the first Georgia code commission of 1858 and drafted what became the private, penal, and civil law portions of the Georgia Code of 1861. Cobb served in the Confederate Congress, where for a time he was chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs. He was also on the committee that was responsible for the drafting of the Confederate constitution.

Thomas R.R. Cobb organized Cobb's Legion in the late summer of 1861 and was commissioned a colonel in the Confederate army on August 28, 1861. The Legion was assigned to the Army of Northern Virginia. It took heavy losses at Sharpsburg during the Maryland Campaign. He was promoted to brigadier general on November 1, 1862.

Cobb left the remnants of his troops to was given a brigade in McLaws' division in the Army of Northern Virginia. On December 13, 1862, his command, Cobb's "Irish Brigade", held the now-famous stone wall and sunken road near the top of Marye's Heights at Fredericksburg, Virginia. Late in the day, while his troops repulsed one of 6 attacks on their position, Cobb's thigh was lacerated by shrapnel. His femoral artery severed, he bled to death after being carried to the rear. Despite medical aid, he died in a house on the battlefield. From where he was wounded, he could see the house where his mother was born and his parents wed.

Sources: Wikipedia

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