

Bold Dragon: The Life of J.E.B. Stuart

By Emory M. Thomas
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Jeb Stuart born Feb. 1833

about 1846-47

“One reason he decided ‘it was not worth my while to go to Patrick until spring,’ was the presence of ‘Miss Maria L. Crockett who was as fat and pretty as ever.’ Like most teenaged boys, James discovered that he much enjoyed the company of girls. He became intrigued with the subtlety of courtship and tried to act as a go-between for his friends and relatives. He protested soon after he was fourteen, ‘I have gotten out with the girls. I believe they were just made for man’s troubles.’ But surrounding this pronouncement were paragraphs devoted to flirtations and rivalries among suitors and comments such as ‘Miss Maria Crockett carried a day (or rather the night) ...’ And he did qualify his condemnations somewhat: ‘The[re] is no girl now that I care any thing about except Miss Mary Crockett and I do not care a great deal about her.’ James learned to enjoy social occasions and female companionship early in his life, and he never forgot the lesson.”

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Judge Brown married Ann McDowell nee Stuart as his second wife in 1829 after his first wife, Margretta Maria Crockett, also a Stuart descendant and a third cousin of “Jeb’s” father died.

Ann Stuart was a sister to JEB Stuart’s father.

Margretta Maria Crockett was a sister to Charles Lewis Crockett, Maria Crockett’s Gleaves’ father.