

April 2010

Williamsburg, Virginia

**Last Meeting:** Our last meeting had 42 in attendance. Colonel Richard L. Weaver, USAF Ret. gave a very interesting PowerPoint presentation on Forensic Issues Relating to the Death, Identification and Burials of John Wilkes Booth.



Colonel Richard L. Weaver

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be at "Hog Wild Smokehouse Restaurant" located at 8864 Richmond Road, Toano, VA 23168 [www.hogwildsmokehouse.com](http://www.hogwildsmokehouse.com) on **April 28th at 7pm**. Our Speaker **Fred Chiesa** (Stonewall Camp Compatriot) will give a presentation on "Confederate Currency & Stamps"

**Planning Committee Meeting:** The Camp Planning Committee met on April 14, 2010 at “Hog Wild Smokehouse.” Members present were; Don Woolridge, Ken Parsons, Fred Boelt, Jeff Toalson, David Ware and Norman Goodwin. Items on the agenda were;

- Virginia Division Convention Update
- Continuation of the Support our Troops Project
- Confederate Memorial Day May 28, 2010 – Olive Branch Church
- Bus Trip May 4, 2010
- Peach Park Sign Repair
- Sesquicentennial Report
- Website
- Camp FaceBook Page

**Commander Don Woolridge:**

This month’s newsletter comes out in the midst of strong convictions, praise and slander towards the Confederacy and our deceased veteran’s. The month began with Governor McDonnell issuing a proclamation declaring April as Confederate History Month bringing much satisfaction and praise from southern supporters and true historians. Subsequently the Governor issued an amended version adding the legacy of slavery. History is something that cannot be changed and we all agree that the slavery was not only wrong but a totally separate issue from our quest to preserve the good name of our Confederate Veterans. Virginia’s secession order of 1861 made no reference to maintaining slavery but only a reference to “Slave Holding States.” Apologies for slavery have been made not only by individuals but our General Assembly. I believe that it is time to move on and continue to celebrate Confederate History month as well as the fact that slavery does not exist anymore in our society. Tracy Clary, Seventh Division Brigade Commander summed it up by saying, “We don’t need a proclamation to celebrate Confederate History Month in Virginia!”

April 9-11, 2010 the Virginia Division Convention was held in Lynchburg. I would like to commend the Garland-Rodes Camp 409 and the Campbell Guards SCV Camp # 2117 for a fine job hosting the Convention. Commander Brian Giles of Garland-Rodes and Commander Kevin Parker of the Campbell Guards did an exemplary job in facilitating this year’s Convention. I would encourage all Compatriots to visit the Division website to read a follow-up proclamation by the Virginia Division and signed by Commander Sawyer in regards to Governor McDonnell’s Confederate History Month Proclamation. In addition you will find the new slate of Division Officers now commanded by Commander Michael Rose.

I would personally like to congratulate all Compatriots of James City Cavalry for being selected as one of the recipients of the “Outstanding Camp Award.” Fred Boelt, Jeff Toalson and Jerry White are to be commended for the fine application they put together for the award. Their work and presentation package was first class and professionally assembled.

Our next scheduled event will be our Confederate Memorial Day Service and “Southern Style” Picnic supper on May 28<sup>th</sup>. The Memorial service will be held at Olive Branch Church, Richmond Road in Toano at 5:00 PM. The service will be held in the cemetery adjacent to the church and the picnic supper will follow immediately after the conclusion of the service at Compatriot Fred Boelt’s farm located at Forge Road in Toano. We will again be treated to

southern barbeque with all the fixings and dessert! The cost will be \$15 per person and \$25 per couple. All that have attended in the past know how moving the service will be and how much fun and good food will be at the picnic. Mark your calendars and let Adjutant Ken Parson know as soon as possible with your intentions and number attending.

Deo Vindice!

**Adjutant Ken Parsons:**

The Convention was April 9th, 10th and 11<sup>th</sup>. Commander Woolridge, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson and I went to Lynchburg and represented the Camp. We met many old friends from around the state and heard reports from several committees concerning the business of the SCV in Virginia.

I can summarize them by saying it was business as usual, some good news about staying the course, advancing the Cause for honoring our ancestors and other individuals that are important to the well being of the SCV.

The Division Commander's report was interesting as he was at the end of his term and new officers are taking over after the election which was held later on the 10th. Some items he mentioned:

- The Governors proclamation for the first time in 8 years.
- Two new camps this year.
- The new Billing system is working well.
- Progress on Oakwood Cemetery.
- Participation in the Hampton parade for the Sesquicentennial.
- The Sam Davis Camp Fund.
- We now have 300 life members in the Division.

The Brigade Commanders submitted reports of Camp visitations.

The Heritage Defense reported only one case being considered.

The Best Camp Committee reported 18 Camps participated and all qualified. All received a ribbon for their flag but one due to not having a representative present.

The Oakwood Comm. reported on their progress. Their plan is to erect new head stones for all 11,000 Confederate heroes buried there.

The Sam Davis Camp Committee reported four teens attended last year and is currently conducting fund raisers to send more this year.

Election of new Division Officers was held and all were pleased with the outcome.

## Past Commander David Ware: “The Cause for Which We Fought”

### Epilogue 4

#### XIV

From 1866 to March 2, 1867, Southern States were accorded the rights of statehood. They participated in the ratification of the Thirteenth amendment which abolished slavery. They participated in the rejection of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. This rejection posed a major threat to the radicals controlling Congress. They wished to destroy the letter of the Constitution. The spirit, of course, had been destroyed by the War. The Reconstruction Act of 1867 declared the Southern states to be out of the Union, the same Union from which the Northern states had previously declared these states could not withdraw. President Johnson vetoed the measure. In his veto message, he noted that by denying the legality of the governments of ten of the states which participated in the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment, the legality of this ratification would be in doubt, leaving the question of slavery as it stood before the amendment. Congress voted to override the veto the same day. The Reconstruction Act (s) divided the South into five military districts ruled by the Federal army. Civil government was suspended and white Southerners were disenfranchised.

The Fourteenth Amendment was the legislative procedure used to replace the original Constitutional Republic with a new government of unlimited federal power. A brief review of it's radical provisions:

Section 1. For the first time, defined persons as citizens of the *United States*. Previously, people were born in sovereign states. Prohibitions in this amendment are solely against the States.

Section 3. The legal excuse to disenfranchise white Southerners. It bars from state or federal office any person who participated in the rebellion. This is an *ex post facto* law which is prohibited by Article 1, Section 9 of the constitution. *Ex post facto* law simply says that a person can be convicted of a crime that was not a crime when he committed it.

Section 4. Provided that no compensation would be paid for the emancipation of slaves. Previously, slaves were considered chattel property and would have been paid for under provision of the Fifth Amendment. All Northern slave holders were able to receive compensation for their slave property by selling their slaves in the South when emancipation was achieved by the Northern states.

Section 5. Contains the enabling clause giving Congress a free hand in the internal policies of a state. This is the clause that the Supreme Court has used to justify voting qualifications in the Southern states, gerrymandering districts to assure black representatives, minority set asides, forced busing, reverse discrimination, etc.

The Northern states required that the Southern states ratify the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment in order to join the union from which they had heretofore been denied the right to secede. This is another crown jewel in the Yankee crown of hypocrisy. The North required a non-state to perform the function of a state (ratifying an amendment to the Constitution) by ratifying an amendment that it had previously rejected while it was a part of the Union. The ratifications of Oregon, Ohio, and New Jersey are highly questionable. Indeed, the State of New Jersey issued Joint Resolution, No1 as a fiery indictment of the unconstitutionality of the method of this amendments adoption. This is but one example of the immoral, corrupt Yankee mentality known as the end justifies the means.

This has resulted in economic sanctions which have killed hundreds of thousands of women and children in the name of installing democracy in foreign nations, it has resulted in the use of shock and awe and carpet bombings to defile the landscape of alien lands and cultures and it has resulted in huge taxpayer bailouts of corrupt institutions and a socialized health system.

David Lawrence, in editorials in the *U. S. News and World Report* in , 1957 and 1970, called the enactment of the Fourteenth Amendment The Worst Scandal in our History and a disgrace to free government.

**1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson: Book Auctions:** Jeff will be conducting his book auction monthly and donating the proceeds to the Camp's general fund. This month's book will be; "Manhunt", by James L. Swanson. The 12 Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer. Copyright © 2006.

**Honoring our Confederate Soldier – February**  
**Sgt. Berry Benson**  
**Co. H – 1<sup>st</sup> South Carolina Infantry**

Enlisted September 7, 1861 at Hamburg, South Carolina

January 26, 1862 appointed 4<sup>th</sup> Corporal.

1<sup>st</sup> Corporal Benson, on May 7, 1863, is wounded in the leg during Chancellorsville campaign. June 2, 1863 he is shown in Howard's Grove Hospital in Richmond with leg wound. June and August, 1863 shown absent wounded.

December, 1863 detailed to AAG office at Brigade HQ as a 5<sup>th</sup> Sergeant.

May 17, 1864 captured during battle at Spotsylvania.

May 25, 1864 from Point Lookout Prison, "*the new guard . . . did not come to close the gates . . . it was now almost sundown. I put on my jacket and stockings and stuck my hat inside my shirt . . . I went to the middle gate and stood in it, waiting for it to grow dark enough . . . backing slowly . . . I went into deeper water. When it came to my chin I turned and began to wade up the bay. . . . I was a good way past the prison . . . I figured I had come two miles . . . Breathing the fresh cool free air of Maryland . . . I was a free man once more.*"

On June 5, 1864, Berry is recaptured in northern Virginia near Accotink by the Home Guard and sent to Old Capitol Prison in Washington. On July 23, 1864 he was transferred, by train, from Old Capitol to Elmira Prison in Elmira, New York.

October 7, 1864 he escaped from Elmira through a tunnel and worked his way south pretending to be a Gettysburg farmer. On October 29, 1864 Berry rejoined his company near Petersburg. When Blackwood, his brother, sees Berry the excitement begins, "*Blackwood started up, saw me, and made a rush. He pulled my head down and without a word began pounding me heavily on the back with his fist. He pounded so hard I was obliged to break loose . . . The first thing Blackwood wanted to know was when I had been exchanged. I said . . . that I had escaped. Then he grabbed me and fell to pounding again.*"

Paroled at Appomattox on April 9, 1865, with the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant, Berry and Blackwood walked home to Augusta. After the war Berry taught school and was a public accountant in Augusta, Georgia. He Married Jeanie Oliver on February 6, 1868 and they had 2 sons and 4 daughters. Berry died January 1, 1923 five weeks shy of being 90 years of age.

(Compiled Service Records – Confederate: Micro Copy 267, Roll 126 – United Daughters of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia & selected quotes by date from *No Soap, No Pay, Diarrhea, Dysentery & Desertion*, Jeff Toalson, editor, Lincoln, 2006.)

## **JAMES CITY COUNTY CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES**

**By Historian/Genealogist Fred Boelt**

Continuing with our survey of Confederate veterans buried at Olive Branch Christian Church, the Garrett family was certainly well represented in service to the cause. Pinkethman Taylor Garrett, Sr. and his wife Sarah A. Minor had seven children. Of this family, three of their four sons and one son-in-law served in the James City Artillery.

The oldest son, John William Garrett, was born around 1832 in James City County, probably in the area known today as Croaker. John's grandfather, Humphrey Garrett, consolidated three parcels into a large tract of land in the general vicinity of the present day Mirror Lakes development. While this farm was ultimately sold out of the family, Garrett descendants continued to own land, even to the present, in this part of the county. Around 1854, John married Frances H. Richardson from another well-known Croaker area family, and they had four children between 1855 and 1863.

John went to Williamsburg and enlisted on May 16, 1861. He served as a private in Company B, also known as the James City Artillery, 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Infantry. The rolls indicate that he was sick in August 1862, furloughed in August 1863, and present on all other rolls through December 1864. Unfortunately, the rolls for the unit end here. John, Frances and their four children are listed on the 1870 census, but John and Frances have not been located in 1880. This probably indicates that John died sometime during that period. So far, Bible records and the James City Death Register have not yielded any clues on John's demise, and an obituary has not been found. It is possible that he is buried at Olive Branch since many other members of his family are interred there.

Pinkethman and Sarah Garrett's second son, Richard Minor Garrett, was born about 1835. He married Harriett Ann Minor (daughter of William S. Minor) on July 5, 1858, and they had five children. Richard also enlisted in Williamsburg on May 16, 1861, and served as 4<sup>th</sup> Sergeant with the James City Artillery. He was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on January 7, 1862, and from sketchy records, seems to have served until the end of the war. In the Samuel French Bassett papers at the Library of Virginia, it was stated that Richard Garrett "was a brave and gallant Confederate soldier. Soon after the war, he was elected Justice of the Peace, which office he held with credit until his death..." After his first wife's death, Richard married Cornelia Catherine Timberlake on May 26, 1875, and they had eight children. Richard died on March 15, 1900, and is buried at Olive Branch in a marked grave. Camp compatriots Mike Garrett and Steve White descend from Richard Minor Garrett.

The third son to serve, Pinkethman Taylor Garrett, Jr., was born in December 1845. He enlisted as a private into the James City Artillery at Chaffin's Bluff on February 14, 1864, probably just after coming of age. He was present on all rolls through December 1864. After the war, Pink as

he was called, married Ann Hazeltine Minor (daughter of George W. Minor). The 1870 census listed Pink's occupation as "sawyer," and the 1880 census listed him as "lumber dealer." He and Ann had at least five children.

Pink Garrett's long time lumber work ultimately cost him his life. He suffered fatal injuries at a saw mill owned by his son Lucas Garrett on December 1, 1905. An article in the Daily Press stated that, "a log rolled over him injuring him about the body. No bones were broken." Two days later, the newspaper reported that Pink Garrett had died on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and would be buried at Olive Branch Church. Until recently, Pink's final resting place was not known to the family as his grave was unmarked. Based on this "new" knowledge from his obituary, the family has now applied for a veteran's gravestone that will be installed in the cemetery when it is received.

One of Pinkethman, Sr. and Sarah Garrett's daughters, Sarah E. Garrett, married Richard Daniel Hicks about 1859. Along with two of his brothers-in-law, Richard Hicks also enlisted in Williamsburg on May 16, 1861, and served as a private in the James City Artillery. He was sick on the June 1862 roll, detailed as a carpenter for May through August 1864, and detailed to the engineers for October through December 1864. Richard and Sarah Hicks and five children were listed on the 1870 James City County census. Richard was 45 years old and his occupation was "carpenter." In 1900, the census indicated that Richard, a farmer, was born in September 1825, and that he and Sarah had been married for forty-one years. Sarah had borne eleven children, seven of whom were still living at that time. Richard Hicks does not appear on the 1910 census. Undoubtedly, he died sometime prior to that, but a death date has not been determined so far. The Olive Branch cemetery records indicate that he is buried there in an unmarked grave. This seems reasonable since many of the Garrett and Hicks family members are interred there.

**Newsletter:** "In an effort to help save on the cost of the newsletter, you can now have it e-mailed to you in an adobe format. Please e-mail Commander Don Woolridge at [dsw317@earthlink.net](mailto:dsw317@earthlink.net) to be added to this list." Newsletters are also posted on the website for your convenience.

**Visit our website at:** <http://www.jamescitycavalry.org>

## Camp Officers

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## Thought for the Month

“Our government is an agency of delegated and strictly limited powers. Its founders did not look to its preservation by force; but the chain they wove to bind these States together was one of love and mutual good offices”

President Jefferson Davis







## CAMP JOURNAL

March 24, 2010

- **Meeting:** Held 7:00 PM at Hog Wild, James City County, VA
  - 42 attendees
  - Welcome given by Commander Don Woolridge
  - Invocation: given by Chaplin Fred Breeden
  - Pledge and Salute to the Flags:
    - US flag pledge, Virginia flag salute, and CS flag salute by Camp members
  - The Charge: was read by Quartermaster Gerry White
  - Recognition of guests and Friends of the SCV by Commander Woolridge
  - Ancestral Memorial Candle: Sgt. Berry Benson Co. H – 1<sup>st</sup> South Carolina Infantry Service Record was read by Compatriot Charles Bush
  - Adjutant/Treasurer's Report: Approximately \$600 in the treasury
- **Upcoming events:**
  - 9 April- Virginia Division Convention, Lynchburg, VA
  - 4 May- Camp bus trip to various historical points of interest in and around Richmond
  - 28 May- Confederate Remembrance Day, Olive Branch Church followed by supper at Compatriot Fred Boelt's farm
- **March Minutes:** Approved as published in April edition of "*Picket Lines*"
- **Committee Reports:**
  - Cemetery Report: Compatriot Steve White reported on various clean-up projects
- **New Business:**
  - Camp book auction generated \$67
  - Division Convention: Any interested Compatriots can attend

**Program:** Guest speaker Colonel Richard L. Weaver, USAF Ret. gave a very interesting PowerPoint presentation on Forensic Issues Relating to the Death, Identification and Burials of John Wilkes Booth.

- **Benediction:** Chaplin Fred Breeden
- **Adjournment:** Camp adjourned at 900 P.M. Next meeting scheduled for 28 April 2010

Respectfully submitted,  
*Donald S. Woolridge*