



# James City Cavalry PICKET LINES



August 2013 Dispatch – Williamsburg, Virginia – <http://www.jamescitycavalry.org>

Camp #2095 1st Brigade Virginia Division Army of Northern Virginia

A PATRIOTIC HONOR SOCIETY DEDICATED TO SERVICE AND PRESERVING THE TRUE HISTORY OF THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

## NEXT MUSTER

Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 6:30pm  
Colonial Heritage Club  
<http://colonialheritageclub.org/home.asp>  
6500 Arthur Hills Drive  
Williamsburg, VA 23188

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Ms. Marilyn Iglesias**  
Mathews, Virginia

*"The Life of Captain Sally Tompkins, CSA"*



**Meal Cost: \$17.00 Per Person –**  
(genuine Confederate currency gladly accepted –  
will reluctantly accept US \$5 notes)

**Honored Confederate Soldier:**  
Captain Thomas J. Key,  
Key's Battery - Arkansas Light Artillery

**No RSVP Required**

Compatriots' Ladies & Guests Encouraged To Attend

## AUGUST GUEST SPEAKER

**Ms. Marilyn Iglesias**  
Mathews, Virginia

*"The Life of Captain Sally Tompkins, CSA"*

Tonight we will be joined by Miss. Sally Louisa Tompkins of Mathews County, Virginia. She will regale us with stories of her life and in particular the role she undertook during the WBTS when she convinced Judge Robertson of Richmond to allow him to turn his home into the 'Robertson Hospital.' We will learn why President Jefferson Davis commissioned Sally as a Captain in the Confederate cavalry. Sally was selective in which patients came to her hospital and she gave priority to Mathews and Gloucester county soldiers. She attributed the low mortality rate at her hospital to *"the best nursing and perfect cleanliness."* Postwar she devoted herself to the Episcopal Church and gave liberally of her means and service. When the Confederate Women's Home was established on Grace Street in Richmond, Sally, whose monies were depleted, was invited to live as an honored guest. In 1905 she was elected an honorary President of the Virginia UDC. Sally passed away on July 26, 1916 and is buried at Christ Church in Mathews County.

Marilyn has had a lifelong passion for early American history, specifically our history up through the middle 19<sup>th</sup> century. In addition to her membership in the Sally Tompkins Chapter of the UDC, Marilyn is also a member of the Cricket Hill and Comte de Grasse chapters of the DAR and the Mathews County Sesquicentennial Committee. She is fascinated by Sally Tompkins and determined that the best way to bring Sally to a wider audience was to provide a first person portrayal and take Sally on to road to visit a wide variety of organizations.

Bring a guest to our August meeting. Supper will be served at 6:30 and we will introduce our speaker at 7:30. Our buffet costs \$17 per person. Non members please contact Ken Parsons at 757-564-0878 for reservations.

1st Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson





# CAMP JOURNAL FOR LAST MUSTER



## Meeting:

Held 24 Jul. at 6:30PM at Colonial Heritage Club,  
James City Cty., Va., 29 attendees

Welcome given by Commander Jerry White

## Invocation:

Lee's Prayer Given by Commander Jerry White  
Pledge & Salute to the Flags  
Break for Supper

The SCV Charge read by Quartermaster Jim Swords  
James City Cavalry Charge

Welcome and introduction of guests given by  
Commander Jerry White

## Trivia Question:

What was the single most important thing that our  
soldiers needed all during the war that they had the  
most difficult time obtaining?

Answer: **Water**

## Ancestral Memorial Candle:

Read by Compatriot Charles Eugene Bush *in honor of*  
1st. Lt. Thomas R. Harrison - Acting Adjutant,  
Garnett's Brigade, Pickett's Division, Lee's ANV

## Program:

Introduction of Guest Speaker by 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant  
Commander Jeff Toalson: Our guest speaker was Mrs.  
Billie Earnest, who provided a fascinating presentation  
on the life and successes of General Lee's  
photographer, Mr. Michael Milley. Lee significantly  
influenced his career and development in the art of  
photography and Billie shared many key photos.

## Committee Reports & Announcements:

### Treasurer' Report

Adjutant Ken Parsons indicated that we have \$2237.05  
in the bank.

### Cemetery Report

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander Steve White thanked  
Compatriot Scott Summerfield for mowing Peach Park  
and indicated that he needs assistance with branch  
removal at Ft. Magruder.

### Support the Troops

Adjutant Ken Parsons indicated that a replacement  
deployed soldier will need to be identified shortly in  
order to continue our "Support the Troops" project.  
Ken also requested assistance with packages and  
shipping.

### Old Business

None to report at this time.

### New Business

Adjutant Ken Parsons informed the Camp that annual  
dues would be posted in the mail shortly, requesting  
prompt reply. The Christmas Supper will also be held  
in Toano again this year, on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Book Raffle:

\$67.00 was donated to the Camp Treasury for the  
raffle of the volumes: "Mama, I Am Yet Still Alive –  
A Composite Diary of 1863 in the Confederacy" Jeff  
Toalson – Editor and "Southern Hero – Matthew C.  
Butler; Confederate General & U.S. Senator" Samuel J.  
Martin.

### Benediction:

Given by Commander Jerry White at 8:30pm.

## SUPPORT THE TROOPS

### Immediately Needed Items :

Q-Tips  
Hard Candy  
Slim Jims  
Lip Balm  
Beef Jerky  
Dental Floss  
Moisture Lotion



## CAMP OFFICERS

Commander

Jerry White  
[jerry47@cox.net](mailto:jerry47@cox.net)

Adjutant

Ken Parsons  
[kparsons4@cox.net](mailto:kparsons4@cox.net)

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander

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2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander

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Historian/Genealogist

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Archivist

George Bridewell  
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Quartermaster

Jim Swords  
[james.swords@cox.net](mailto:james.swords@cox.net)

Chaplain

Fred Breedon  
[flbreeden@yahoo.com](mailto:flbreeden@yahoo.com)



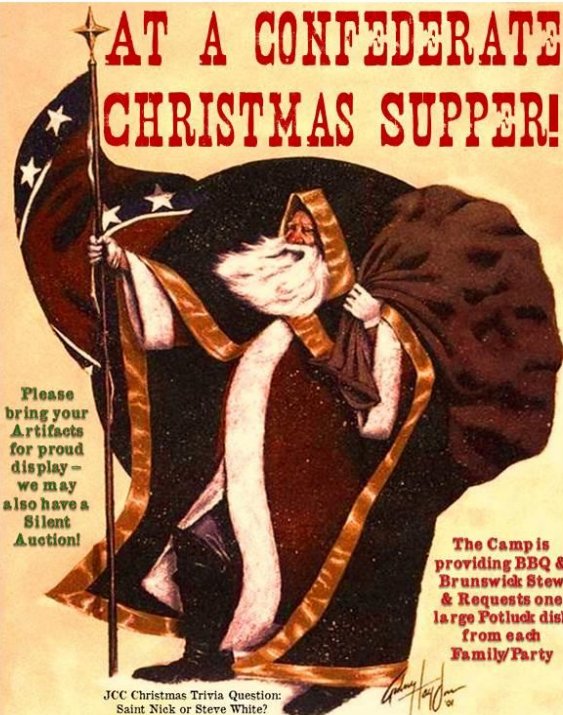
# CAMP PICTORIAL



*Mrs. Billie Earnest, with the able assistance of her husband, ANV Commander Frank Earnest, provides many examples of the photographic work of Mr. Michael Milley.*

## JINE THE JAMES CITY CAVALRY

### AT A CONFEDERATE CHRISTMAS SUPPER!



Please bring your Artifacts for proud display - we may also have a Silent Auction!

The Camp is providing BBQ & Brunswick Stew & Requests one large Potluck dish from each Family/Party

JCC Christmas Trivia Question:  
Saint Nick or Steve White?

Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

6:00pm - 9:00pm

at the

Toano Women's Club  
7965 Richmond Road  
Toano, VA 23168



# VA FLAGGERS I-95 BATTLE FLAG PROJECT

The VA Flaggers are **THRILLED** to announce that they have finalized a lease to acquire property adjacent to Interstate 95, just south of Richmond, and will be erecting a 50-foot pole, on which a 10-foot by 15-foot Confederate Battle Flag will fly 24/7, 365 days of the year.

The flag will serve to welcome visitors and commuters to Richmond, and remind them of our honorable Confederate history and heritage. The location is also historically significant, as Confederate troops are believed to have camped in and around the area during the Bermuda Hundred Campaign.

If you are interested in contributing to the project, please make a check payable to "Virginia Flaggers" (Note: I-95 Project in memo) and mail to:

VA Flaggers  
P.O. Box 547  
Sandston, VA 23150

Questions: Email Susan Hathaway at:  
[suzn68@comcast.net](mailto:suzn68@comcast.net)

## HONOR YOUR ANCESTOR

In the past four years we have had Camp members light memorial candles eleven times in honor of their ancestors. That is only about three per year!

Please provide 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson with information on your ancestor and he will conduct additional research, coordinating with you and your family to select a night to honor ancestor.

## ANNUAL DUES

Annual dues are coming in with about 50% of the Camp's members having paid. Those that haven't please bring your complete dues statement and available remittance to the meeting on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

- Adjutant Ken Parsons

# CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES

(Contributed by Historian/Genealogist Compatriot Fred Boelt)

Robert Travis Armistead was born in Williamsburg on July 22, 1844. He was the oldest son of Robert Henry Armistead and his wife Julia Samuel Travis, a marriage that united to ancient tidewater families. Robert H. Armistead received a law degree from the College of William and Mary in 1832, practiced law, served as Commonwealth Attorney, a director for the Eastern Lunatic Asylum, and a trustee for the Methodist Church, all before the war broke out in 1861.

Robert Travis Armistead attended the Williamsburg Military School before enrolling at the College of William and Mary in 1858, working toward a law degree. Concerned about local defense following John Brown's raid, his father raised the Williamsburg Junior Guard in December 1859, but resigned as company commander in June 1860. The 68<sup>th</sup> Virginia Militia formed the core of the Guard.

Robert T. left the college and joined the Old Dominion Dragoons, 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry, on June 1, 1861, in Yorktown. Being under age, he mustered in as a private with the consent of his parents. This company was forming in neighboring Elizabeth City County, and he served with them throughout the war. From December 1861 through February 1862, Robert Armistead was on special duty for General Magruder. During the Battle of Williamsburg, Armistead and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry were positioned at Kingsmill to watch the flank. As Union troops approached, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry found themselves cut off from the main army and the town. They quickly mounted and swam across College Creek to escape.

For reasons not specified in his service record, Armistead was discharged as "physically unfit for duty" on July 23, 1862. His obituary stated that he had been wounded twice. The service record indicated one wound in 1863; perhaps the other wound prompted this discharge. Apparently, he had submitted an application to be commissioned a lieutenant prior to this, and his father wrote a letter promoting the application. However, the request was withdrawn September 1, 1862.

Armistead reenlisted in Richmond in November

1862, was absent on detached duty in July and August 1863, and was hospitalized at Chimborazo Hospital #4 from November through May 1864 with a shoulder wound and other maladies. His record showed that he was a courier for an unspecified time, and that he was paroled at Appomattox on April 9, 1865.

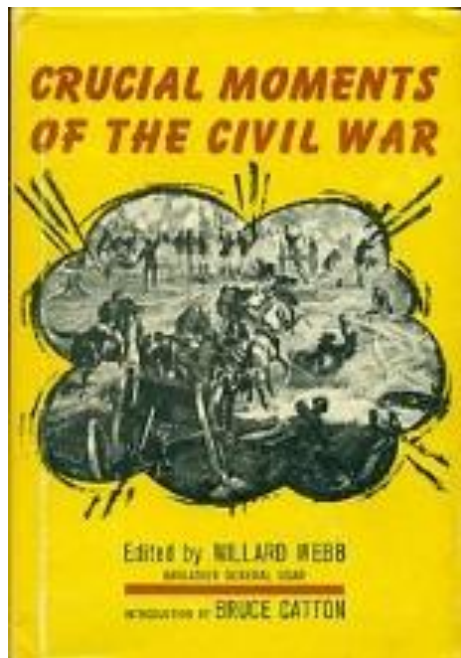
After the war, Robert Travis Armistead returned to Williamsburg where he read law and was admitted to the Bar in 1867. He practiced with his father, and later with his son in Williamsburg. On November 17, 1869, he married his cousin, Mary Frances Armistead (1845-1927) of Norfolk. They had four children, three daughters and a son, Frank Armistead, who became a lawyer, practiced with his father, and later became a judge in Williamsburg.

In 1889, Armistead was appointed Superintendent of Schools for the City of Williamsburg and served in that capacity through 1899. That year, he was elected Commonwealth Attorney for Williamsburg and James City County. He was active with the Masons and was also a warden at Bruton Parish Church for many years.

Robert Travis Armistead died on June 12, 1914. His funeral was held at Bruton Parish, and he was interred with Masonic rites in Cedar Grove Cemetery. Many Confederate veterans from the area also attended the funeral. His tombstone bears crossed Confederate flags. His wife, Mary Frances Armistead died on March 16, 1927. Her obituary stated that she was one of the seven women appointed to the ordnance department of the Confederacy, an unusual service for women during the war years.

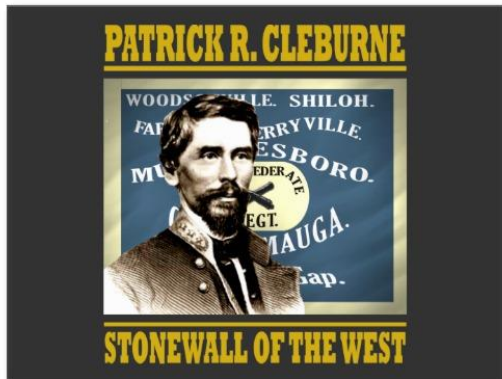


# AUGUST BOOK RAFFLE



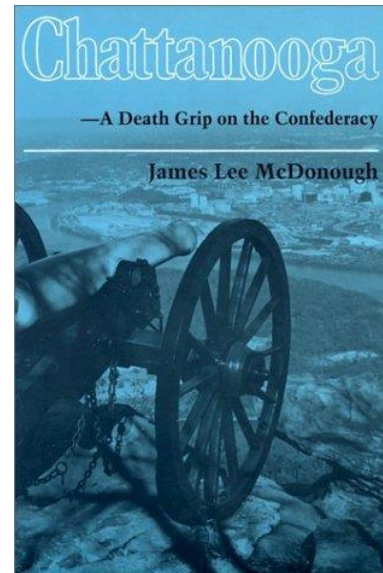
**“Crucial Moments of the Civil War”**  
Willard Webb – Editor, 1961, New York, Hard Cover, 350 pages

The editor has chosen 28 key moments during the conflict. Articles are written on each by leading historians or noted participants in the events.



**“Stonewall of the West – Patrick Cleburne & the Civil War”** Craig L. Symonds, 1997, Lawrence, Soft Cover, 300 pages

A fine biography of one of the Confederacy’s top generals. Traces Cleburne from Helena, Arkansas through his four years of service in the western armies of the Confederacy. Shiloh, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, the Atlanta Campaign, Jonesboro, Spring Hill and Franklin. These battles all featured Cleburne and his command and this biography studies the general, his men and their toils.



**“Chattanooga – A Death Grip on the Confederacy”** James L. McDonough, 1984, Knoxville, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, Hard Cover, 300 pages

The best single book on the battles around Chattanooga in October and November of 1863. A study of how the Confederacy wasted their opportunity gained on the battlefield of Chickamauga.

## AUGUST TRIVIA QUESTION:

**What unit (north or south) had the greatest number of soldiers killed during the war?**

**When you research this you should find three other facts:**

- I. What was the unit responsible for killing them?**
- 2. What was the unit that had the 3rd greatest number killed ?**
- 3. Who was responsible for killing them?**

**Hint: There were only two units involved.**



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