

December 2009

Williamsburg, Virginia

Last Meeting: Our last meeting had 30 in attendance. Our program was presented by **Compatriot Mike Hendricks** of Virginia Beach who gave a most informative historical presentation on "Richmond Clothing Bureau – Organization, Operations, Problems, Challenges, & Uniform Types produced for the Army of Northern Virginia" Mr. Hendricks has been involved in Confederate living history for over 25 years. He is the current President of the Princess Anne Grey's Living History Association. Mike has researched and studied original CSA uniforms for over 20 years and has been producing museum quality reproductions since 1995.



Mike Hendricks and 1st Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be at "Hog Wild Smokehouse Restaurant" located at 8864 Richmond Road, Toano, VA 23168 www.hogwildsmokehouse.com on **December 23rd at 7pm**. No Speaker is scheduled, Camp Members will display personally owned artifacts from the War Between the States.

Executive Committee Meeting: The Camp Executive Committee will meet on December 16, 2009, 6:30 PM at "Hog Wild Smokehouse. All members are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Items on the agenda are;

- Sam Davis Camp
- Sesquicentennial Civil War Roundtable
- Camp Financial Report
- Ft. Magruder flag
- Peach Park flag

Commander Don Woolridge:

I would first like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season. James City Cavalry has made giant strides in 2009 with projects and membership growth. Every Compatriot can be proud of a camp dedicated to the preservation of the history of our ancestors. Let us not forget the sacrifice that each of our ancestors endured during the War of Northern Aggression. We should give thanks to their service fighting for a cause that was near and dear to every Southerner. Each and every soldier gave their all to what they believed would be the best outcome for the South and their way of life. Even though the War did not end in the favor of the South we continue to preserve the history and heritage that we all evolved from.

Deo Vindice!

Adjutant Ken Parsons:

Compatriots, please recall I went back to my native state of South Carolina for Thanksgiving week.

While there I was able to spend some quality time with my living relatives and my dead ancestors. It was great!

I purchased a book called "For Love of a Rebel" Published by the local UDC chapter in 1964; it's in a 4th reprinting.

A paragraph written in 1908 struck me as very meaningful and I want to share it with you.

"In seeking to honor our Confederate ancestors we should keep in mind the unique image these men have left on our national history. The ideals of the early republic were Jeffersonian: - State sovereignty, local rule in local matters, and for the citizen, a high degree of responsibility and freedom. The Confederate soldier was the inevitable result of two generations of these ideals. He came along in the golden time of our countries' growth, after the crudities and hardships of the frontier, and before the rise of large cities and top-heavy industrialization. Also, he, far more than his Northern counter-part, was likely to be a country boy, use to making decisions, and trained by his environment to initiative and self command. Whatever his social position, he was likely, by his folkways, to have been required to assume leadership from time to time. For these reasons, he was never a faceless static of sociological study, nor a mindless consumer of useless goods, nor a voiceless unit in our depersonalized culture. In our Confederate history we find no

weepy sentimentality about the Unknown Soldier, for Johnny Reb is very well known, and is well worth the knowing. He is your grandfather, or my father, or your cousin's great-uncle. He is **SOMEBODY.**"

Yes, indeed, they were all, **SOMEBODY!** And, we have the honor to represent them today. Are we up to the task? As they were tested, we will be tested! Are you/we up to the task?

A big Merry Christmas to everyone, lets' exchange this greeting at our last meeting of the year on December 23rd at Hog Wild Smokehouse. Your wives will probably be happy to have you out of the house as she prepares for Christmas!

We are now at 38 members in our Camp, there is more to come in 2010!

Past Commander David Ware: "The Cause for Which We Fought"

The actions of radical abolitionists had a disturbing effect on the psyche of both the North and South. In 1831, William Lloyd Garrison founded the arch-abolitionist newspaper *The Liberator*. As a young man, Garrison became convinced that slavery was an evil that he must oppose with all his strength. He promoted armed rebellion and civil war in the south, not between white Northerners and Southerners, but between slaves and their owners. He asserted that the Constitution was a compact with the devil because it allowed for the continuation and perpetuation of slavery. He called out for the impeachment of federal judges, destruction of the institutions of governance, the destruction of the constitution itself and the rebuilding of the nation on a new foundation. Just before her 40th birthday in 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe published a little book, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Stowe was no eyewitness to slavery herself, but based her observations on second or third hand sources. The book was a bestseller in the North and England. Challenged to produce references for her work, Stowe admitted that she was inspired by a runaway slave living in Canada. Later research indicated that Stowe read the books cited as sources after she published her novel. The book served to widen the divide between North and South. Many people are more than willing to fabricate facts to further their cause. One famous example of this is the work of the abolitionist Theodore Weld, his wife Angelina Grimke and her sister Sara. They collaborated to write a book, *American Slavery as It Is*. To research their book, they went to the New York City Commercial Reading Room and read daily Southern publications of newspapers. They then subscribed to these newspapers. Reading accounts of atrocities against slaves, they clipped these accounts and accumulated a sizable file concluding that this was what Southern slavery was really like. This book, based on shoddy research, became a bestseller and is used to this day to portray a mostly fictitious account of Southern slavery. George Lunt, editor of a Boston newspaper wrote that "slavery was the cause of the war as property is the cause of robbery." Southerners, hardened by the actions of the radical abolitionists and black uprisings, became more convinced their future did not lie with the North. They considered themselves the true heirs of the original founders. Lincoln did not campaign in the South and received not a single electoral vote from the states that would form the confederacy. He received less than forty percent of the popular vote. Jefferson Davis did not campaign at all for president of the Confederacy. He dutifully quit the U. S. Senate after becoming a founder of the Smithsonian and overseeing the design and construction of the Senate chambers of the capital. While working at his rose garden, he was notified of his election. He took the oath of office on February 22, George Washington's birthday. The Great Seal of the Confederacy portrays a picture of George Washington on horseback. The motto of the Confederacy is *Deo Vindice*, God will vindicate (prove right). Indeed, even a biased look at the

way this country operates today will conclude that it is far different than the vision of the founding fathers.

1st Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson: Book Auctions: Jeff will be conducting his book auction monthly and donating the proceeds to the Camp's general fund. "*The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors*" - *The Extraordinary WWII Story of the U. S. Navy's Finest Hour during the Battle of the Philippine Sea* by James D. Hornfischer.

This was a national bestseller. It is riveting narrative of one of the most amazing battle in U. S. Naval history when a collection of destroyers took on the entire Japanese fleet on October 25, 1944. "A stunning tale of heroism in the face of hopeless odds." This books captures the men and their sacrifices in this most improbably of victories.

Honoring our Confederate Soldier – November

4th Corporal Stephen B. Sweeney Company B – 53rd Virginia Infantry

The 1860 Census for James City County shows Stephen age 22, farmer, married to Elizabeth age 20.

Stephen enlisted May 11, 1861, at West Point by H. B. Tomlin for 1 year. On April 30, 1862 he re-enlists for three years and receives a \$50 bounty.

August 28 to September 22, 1862 he is in Chimborazo Hosp. #3 with Remittant Fever.

Shown on the June, August, October and December, 1862 muster reports. Shown absent without leave from 21 December 62 to 7 January 63.

February, 1863 muster report notes the deduction of 2 months pay as the sentence of the court martial. This is per Court Martial G. O. #16 HQ Dept. Northern Virginia 2/9/63. Also sentenced "to cut wood and bring water to his company & regiment till 4-1-63."

Stephen listed as a 4th Corporal on the August 31, 1864 muster report.

May 30, 1864 to September 5, 1864 he is in Chimborazo Hospital #5 and Howards Grove Hospital, Richmond, VA. with dibility. S. B. Sweeney receives clothing allowances 6-30 at Chimborazo and 7-13-1864 at Howards Grove Hospital.

December 31, 1864 he receives a clothing issue in Chester, Virginia.

Captured April 1, 1865 at Five Forks.

Received at Point Lookout Prison on April 6, 1865

Oath of Allegiance at Point Lookout Prison, Maryland on June 20, 1865. Stephen is recorded as a Corporal, fair complexion, brown hair, 5' 7" from James City County.

The 1870 census in James City County shows Stephen as a carpenter, age 32. He and Elizabeth have a 2 yr. old boy and a 4 yr. old girl. In the 1880 census they have 5 children; 3 girls and 2 boys.

Stephen dies on/about September 27, 1919 at the age of 84 at his home near Toano, VA.

[Compiled Service Records – Confederate; United Daughters of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia – Micro Copy 324, Roll 951; Information provided by Fred Boelt from his upcoming book on James City County cemeteries; Gregory G., 53rd Virginia Infantry, Lynchburg, 1999, p. 194]

JAMES CITY COUNTY CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES

By Historian/Genealogist Fred Boelt

Continuing with our discussion of Confederate veterans buried at Olive Branch Christian Church, there are two cousins buried very near each other on the hill close to Richmond Road. Thomas Wynne was born on September 18, 1845 at Carter's Grove. His parents, Thomas Wynne and his second wife, Ann Camm Waller, had purchased the Grove in 1838 from the last Burwell owner. Thomas, the father, died in 1854 and his widow and children moved to Williamsburg. When she remarried a few years later, Thomas, the son, and his two siblings went to live with Reverend Henley Lightfoot Taylor who was their co-guardian. Thomas and his brother, Edward Camm Wynne, attended Frank Hammond's school (see November 2009 *Picket Lines*). Their mother died in 1860 and the children remained in Reverend Taylor's care.

The following description of Thomas Wynne's military service was written by his brother, Edward Camm Wynne. "Tom was at Pike Powell's school above Richmond when McClellan's advance cut him off from his home near Williamsburg. He joined the Nottaway Cavalry [Co. E, 3rd Virginia Cavalry] and went through the Campaign of 1862. Got a discharge in November by being under age; came home and in April 1863 (he would not have been old enough until August) joined James City Cavalry, Co. H, 5th Virginia Cavalry. Was with Stuart in the Pennsylvania Campaign 1863, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and 1864 with Lee at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, North Anna, Yellow Tavern, Cold Harbor, Cedar Creek in the Valley before Sheridan, and on until the battles around Petersburg 1865 and the Surrender."

After the war, Thomas returned to Burnt Ordinary. In the 1870 census, he was living with Southey Hankins and they were listed as retail merchants. His brother also stated that Thomas taught school after the war and went to the University of Virginia where he got a law degree. He practiced law in James City County until his early death on March 21, 1875. He died of consumption at Mr. Branch's, perhaps at Sunnyside. In his will, Thomas Wynne left \$400.00 to Kate Stanard Branch (oldest daughter of Cyrus Adolphus and Mary Wilkinson Branch) for her education. Thomas Wynne was buried at Olive Branch on the hill to the northwest of the church. His original tombstone is now half buried and a newer granite block now marks his resting place. His grave is enclosed by one of the few remaining old wrought iron fences located there.

Nearby is the grave of Thomas Wynne's first cousin, Richard Harwood Whitaker, III. Born on November 6, 1830 in York County, Richard was the son of Richard Harwood Whitaker and his second wife, Ann Cary Wynne, sister of Thomas Wynne, the father. In 1848, the Whitakers purchased and moved to "Alabama" on Ware Creek Road in James City County. Richard married Martha Louise Henley of Hill Pleasant on October 28, 1856 and they had two sons, Coleman and R. H., IV. Richard's parents both died in 1857, and he and his two brothers and one sister inherited the farm. One brother died in 1859, and the 1860 census listed Richard as head of the household with his wife, two sons, brother and sister living there.

When the Confederates were enlisting men, Richard Whitaker joined Company W, 3rd Virginia Cavalry on June 24, 1861 in Williamsburg. He served as a sergeant and was discharged on September 13, 1861 as "sick." He is listed on the roster of the 5th Virginia Cavalry with date of transfer "unknown." On her widow's pension application, M. Lou Whitaker also stated that her

husband had transferred to the James City Cavalry. She further stated that he died at his residence on February 25, 1862 of the Diabetes disease. He was buried with other relatives at Olive Branch. Richard's younger brother, George William Whitaker served in the 32nd Virginia Infantry and later served in the 3rd and 5th Virginia Cavalries. After the war, he moved to Richmond and is buried there in Hollywood Cemetery.

Current Cemetery and Camp Projects: 2nd Lt. Commander Steve White

Peach Park Cemetery, Little Creek Dam Road and Forge Road

- Expand brush clearing along Little Creek Dam Road
- First National Flag replaced August 11, 2009

Sunnyside Cemetery, Forge Road

- Winter maintenance

Cowles-Spencer Cemetery, Theodore Allen Road

- Winter maintenance, removal of large tree and repair the chain link fence

Fort Magruder, Penniman Road

- Install mailbox for brochures
- Winter maintenance of the berm and clean up of the moat area

Richardson Road Cemetery Site, Hockaday Farm, New Kent County

- Future assessment of the site for restoration and clean-up

Clean-up dates for the above projects will be scheduled in the near future.

Fred Breeden, Chaplain

Pride of the South

Abigail Brown

After the war . . .
some returned to their old homes
and others were never heard from again.
Things were never quite the same in the South.
No glory danced before their eyes,
No splendor lived beyond the past,
Only self-denial reigned
And made a victory that would last.
Those who lived were conquered foe
Ordained by a master-plan.
Humble before God, perhaps,
But not before man.
And even if they laid down arms,
That couldn't make their soul to yield.
"Spaniels made affectionate by stripes"?
A thousand sons buried on that hill!
Liberty lies in the heart of men

Even to this day
And that's why we talk about the war
And about the "Jackson Way."
And if a people proud and pure
Put God before man,
And blessings flow where others fell,
"The South Will Rise Again!"

From the *Chaplain's Handbook, Sons of Confederate Veterans*

Support our Troops Project:

On December 2, 2009 the first shipment of packages went out to our troops in Afghanistan. James City Cavalry is supporting the 670th MP Company stationed in Bagram, Afghanistan. Items sent out were puzzles and paperback books, baby wipes, tooth brushes, dental floss, chewing and bubble gum, deodorant, popcorn, toothbrushes, peanut butter, cheetos, note cards shavers, and bar soap. Congratulations go out to all that made this first shipment possible! Packages arrived in Afghanistan and the following email was received from the soldiers.

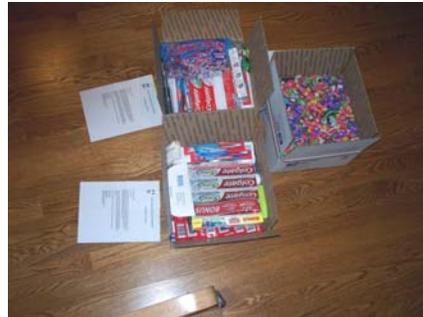
December 8, 2009

James City Cavalry -

We got the packages. Everybody here is real thankful for them. We're waiting for everybody to get back off leave for the group photo, which should be within a week. The stuff in the packages are a huge help, everybody here was real appreciative for them.

*Talk to y'all soon
God Bless*

Matt



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. E-mail Commander Don Woolridge at 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>

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Thought for the Month

“Just as we would not send any of our soldiers to march in other states, and tyrannize other people... so will we never allow the armies of others to march into our states and tyrannize our people.”

General Thomas Jonathan (Stonewall) Jackson





CAMP JOURNAL

November 25, 2009

- **Meeting:** Held 7:00 PM at Hog Wild, James City County, VA
 - 30 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 Brice Shirley
 - Recognition of guests (12) by Commander Woolridge
 - Ancestral Memorial Candle: Captain Griffin Frost, 2nd Missouri Infantry. His Service Record was read by Compatriot Charles Bush
- **Meeting Break:** 7:00 to 7:30
 - Adjutant/Treasurer's Report: \$Approximately \$1,500
- **Announcements:**
 - Continuation of various projects toward Outstanding Camp Award
 - *Adopt a soldier project entertained and approved*
 - *Sponsor the Sam Davis Youth Camp*
 - **Upcoming events:**
 - December 23: "Camp Show & Tell" (*Bring something related to the War of Northern Aggression or information etc. on your ancestor's for the Camp to view and enjoy*)
 - December 25: Christmas
 - Cemetery & Ft Magruder clean up-dates to be announced
- **November Minutes:** Approved as published in December "*Picket Lines*"
- **Committee Reports:**
 - None
- **Old Business:**
 - Cemetery Report: Compatriot Steve White reported on mail box to be installed at Ft Magruder and accompanying information pamphlet
 - Website: Updated to include gravesites of Civil War soldiers buried in James City County & New Kent County
 - This information provide by Compatriots Fred Boelt & Jerry White
 - Support the Troops Project: Compatriot David Ware provided update on progress and with expected shipping date of items on 2 December
 - Social Welfare Committee: Chaplin Fred Breeden requested members contact him if there are any known members in distress or sickness
 - Bus Trip: Camp bus trip to various historical points of interest still being planned for April-May 2010 by Compatriot David Ware
- **New Business:**

- Camp book auction generated \$42
- Guest 1st Lt Cmdr Fred Chiesa from SCV Camp 380 spoke on the Jefferson Davis Memorial Committee and the upkeep of his grave site at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, VA
- **Program:** Guest speaker Mike Hendricks gave an interesting presentation on Confederate Uniforms manufactured and issued by the Richmond Depot. Sample uniforms of the three major types (*Richmond I, II, and III along with a Peter Tate import from England*) were displayed which greatly added to his presentation
- **Benediction:** Given by Chaplin Fred Breeden
- Adjourned at 900 P.M. Next meeting scheduled for 23 Dec 2009

Respectfully submitted,

Robert H. Tuck



Merry Christmas