



February 2009

Williamsburg, Virginia

Last Meeting: Our last meeting had 24 in attendance. Our program was presented by Compatriot Harrison Taylor of Richmond and the Armistead-Hill-Goode SCV Camp 749, Chase City, VA. Mr. Taylor gave a very informative and historical account of the "Waller Family" of Williamsburg during the War Between the States.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be at "Hog Wild Smokehouse Restaurant" at 8864 Richmond Road, Toano, VA 23168 www.hogwildsmokehouse.com on February 25th at 7pm. Our speaker will be William A. Dervishian, author of *"White House on the Pamunkey and the Peninsula Campaign in Virginia, 1862."* Mr. Dervishian will give a presentation on the history of "White House" from the days of George Washington, Robert E. Lee and through the "Seven Days Battle" of the Peninsula Campaign. Come and bring a guest.

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

The government school system and media propaganda system has identified the "cause" as the preservation of slavery. Period. End of discussion. Facts, however, present a different case. I had the fortune to attend the Stephen D. Lee Institute Conference in Charleston, SC last Saturday and want to share with you a few things I learned. One is that information is out there and readily available. Avail yourself of it, not only to educate yourself, but also to come to know how this country started out as a beacon for individual freedom and liberty and has ended up bankrupt, both spiritually and monetarily. Our ancestors fought for the Constitution as originally envisioned by the Founders. It is no accident that the Great Seal of the Confederacy depicts Washington on horseback. A most cursory look at the life of our President, Jefferson Davis will reveal a man deeply devoted to the Constitution of our Fathers. Davis was 53 years old when he assumed the Presidency. What did he do prior to that? Educated himself at various colleges, most notably West Point, served as an army officer, distinguishing himself in combat, served as a U. S. Senator, Secretary of War and Patriot of the United States. He was fluent in Latin and Greek and kept two Bibles in English and Greek to study its translation. While in the service of the army, he refused to transport a great Indian Chief in shackles as he thought it demeaning to a person of such stature. Years later, of course, Davis would be shackled and bound at Fortress Monroe by Yankee invaders hell-bent of subjecting our president and people to their ways of exploitation, industrialization and morally repugnant attitude to our agrarian way of life. I purchased a 4 hour video of Davis's life which I will gladly lend to anyone interested. The quickest way to get in touch with the "cause" is to simply look at the way the country turned out. Look at how quickly and easily the socialist rulers throw money at their friends and contributors.

This would have been impossible under the Confederate Constitution because it required each spending *item to be voted on individually*. To get a bill through like the recent one would take decades. Food for thought: Today we have 435 members in our House of Representatives. Dividing that into the population of the United States yields one representative for six hundred and seventy thousand people. In order to have the ratio of population to representatives that was in place in 1789 when the Constitution was ratified, our House of Representatives would have nine thousand people.

Deo Vindice

Adjutant Ken Parsons: The Division Convention will be held April 24 through 26th at the Lexington George Washington in Williamsburg. Information for the convention is posted on the website under the convention tab. The site will be updated upon receipt of new or updated information. All members are welcome to attend the opening ceremonies and the Saturday night supper. The business meetings on Saturday are only open to registered delegates from the individual camps.

Book Auctions: Compatriot Jeff Toalson will be conducting his book auction monthly and donating the proceeds to the Camp's general fund. This month's auction will feature "*I Rode with Stonewall*" - Henry K. Douglas, The War Experiences of the Youngest Member of Jackson's Staff Hardbound, 1968 edition, UNC Press, 401 pages. Jeff will conduct in the future a larger auction for the painting of Stonewall Jackson which was kindly donated to the camp by Associate Peter Jelinek. Peter is a local artist. His studio is located in The Village Shops at Kingsmill. Peter has graciously offered to have the painting framed at no cost to the highest bidder when the auction is held. This painting is of the finest artistic quality and would be a treasure to anyone that holds our Confederate General Stonewall Jackson in the highest esteem.

Current Cemetery Project:

Cowles-Spencer Cemetery Clean-up

Date: Saturday, February 14, 2009

Time: 1:30 pm

Directions to the Cemetery Site: From Lightfoot take Centerville Road to Theodore Allen Road (last road on the left before Longhill Road, turn left, go .10 mile to the Rev. Junius H. Moody Park on the right. Turn down the gravel road leading to the basketball courts. The cemetery is in a fenced area on the left. Park straight in towards the fence to allow room for trailer loading.

Items needed: gas chainsaws, gas weed eaters, trailers to haul debris, loppers, axe, metal detectors, trash bags and *volunteers*.

Project tasks: removal of downed tree, litter pickup, removal of underbrush, clean-up around existing headstones, probing and locating grave markers for grave identification.

Note: Compatriot Steve White will be departing from Garrett's Grocery in Croaker shortly after 1:00 pm with his 14 passenger bus and trailer. If anyone would like to ride or follow, meet Steve at the store before 1:00 pm.

Honoring our Confederate Soldier for January was Private Eugene Bush Company D (Lynchburg Artillery) – 38th Va. Light Artillery

Eugene enlisted May 10, 1863 at Hanover Junction at age 19.

Records show him present at all musters and pay periods from July 1, 1863 through February 28, 1865. Co. D operated with 4 12# Napoleons and the 38th Va. Light operated with a total of 12 cannon – all Napoleons.

Eugene served with Company D at Gettysburg, North Carolina operations in early 1864, Bermuda Hundred, Cold Harbor, Chaffin's Bluff, Petersburg, and Burgess Mill.

In late March, 1865 Eugene was wounded. He was admitted to Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond on March 29. He was captured at the hospital on April 3, transferred to Jackson Hospital in Richmond on April 7, took the Oath of Allegiance on April 26, was paroled on May 5 and was still shown at Jackson Hospital on May 28, 1865.

Eugene returned to Bedford, Virginia and married Eliza Lumsford and they spent most of their married lives farming near Vinton, Virginia. Eugene and Eliza were both alive and well (age 65 and 66) for the 1910 census and residing in Roanoke and have 4 adult sons, 1 daughter in law, a nephew and 2 servants living with them.

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Eugene had four brothers who all served in the 4th Bttn. Virginia Heavy Artillery. Lt. Richard M. and Sgt. Michael R. both died of typhoid fever within two weeks of each other in late July, 1862. They both died in Liberty Hospital and are buried in Bedford County. Private William H. reported sick in October, 1862 and received a medical discharge in July, 1863. Private Thomas was shot through both thighs at Seven Pines (5-31-62) and was detached to the Richmond hospitals as a nurse and on 8-1-64 was detached to Liberty Hospital in Bedford as a nurse.

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(Micro Copy 324, Roll 254 United Daughters of the Confederacy; . . . Blount's Lynchburg Artillery, Robert H. Moore, Lynchburg, 1992, p.147; 34th Virginia Infantry, J. L. Scott, Lynchburg, 1999, p. 95-96; and Ancestry.com census reports for 1860-1910 U. S. Census Reports.)

JAMES CITY COUNTY CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES

If you drive up Route 30 towards Barhamsville and turn left onto Old stage Road at the Texaco Station, there is a large cultivated field on the left side of Old Stage behind the Texaco. The Sweeney family cemetery is located in the middle of that field in a small copse of woods. It is a small cemetery enclosed by a rusting wire fence. There are two marked graves and five or more unmarked graves in this plot.

The land belonged to Stephen B. Sweeney and his wife Elizabeth Rebecca Hazelwood. There is not absolute proof but sufficient evidence to conclude that Stephen and Elizabeth are buried in this cemetery. Their daughter, Edna A. Kirby, and a grandson, Charles W. Sweeney are the two known burials that have markers.

Born in New Kent in February 1838, Stephen was the son of John M. and Elizabeth W. Sweeney. He married Elizabeth Hazelwood in 1858 and they were farming in James City County when the census taker came around in 1860. Stephen answered the call to arms on May 11, 1861 when he went to West Point and enlisted as a private in Company B, 53rd Virginia Infantry. He was cited for valor at Malvern Hill on July 1, 1862; was admitted to Chimborazo Hospital No. 3, August through September 1862; AWOL December 1862 until January 1863. For this, two months pay was deducted and he was sentenced to “cut wood and bring water for his company and regiment until the 1st day of April 1863.” He was again at Chimborazo with debility from May through September 1864. He was issued clothing at Chester in December 1864 and became a POW on April 1, 1865 at Five Forks. He was sent to City Point and then to Point Lookout. He took the oath and was released there on June 20, 1865.

After the war, he returned to James City and continued to farm. He and Elizabeth had two sons and three daughters. In 1900, Stephen applied for a soldier’s pension and stated that he had lost an eye and had infirmities of age and, “I am unable to make a living by manual labor.” This entitled Sweeney to receive \$15.00 annually from the state. The continuation of his pension forms in 1904 stated that he was blind in one eye and the other was “badly affected,” and “he is a carpenter by trade & at 67 years of age & from his infirmities is unable to work at his trade.”

In 1909, Sweeney deeded part of his land to his daughter, Edna Kirby, “except the grave yard or Burring [sic] Ground situated in James City County on the road from Barhamsville to Toano. Edna Kirby later sold the land to her brother who left instructions in his will that the graveyard should be preserved. The land has since been sold out of the family, but when the James City cemetery survey was starting up; the current owner contacted the group and gave permission to inspect the graveyard.

An obituary appeared in the Virginia Gazette on October 2, 1919 for Stephen B. Sweeney, and it stated in part:

“Mr. Sweeney served the Confederacy with loyalty as a member of Company B, Fifty-third Infantry, and was in to the end. He came back from the war to find everything swept away and set about to make a new home out of the ashes of the old. He was a most excellent citizen,

esteemed by all who came in contact with him. Until recently he took an active interest in all things pertaining to the welfare of his community and state.

The funeral took place Saturday afternoon from the home and burial was in the family cemetery on the old homestead. Comrades in arms and fellow members of the Magruder-Ewell Camp and a large number on neighbors and friends attended."

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 1st Lt. Commander Don Woolridge at dsw317@earthlink.net to be added to this list."

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

Camp Officers

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Sons of Confederate Veterans

Virginia Division Convention

April 24th, 25th, 26th, 2009

**Lexington George Washington Inn
and Conference Center**

**500 Merrimac Trail
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185
(757) 220-1410 Fax: (757) 259-5500**

www.lqwinn.com

See website for details
www.jamescitycavalry.org

Thought for the Month

"The Army of Northern Virginia was never defeated. It merely wore itself out whipping the enemy."

General Jubal Early, CSA 