

February 2011

Williamsburg, Virginia

Last Meeting: Our last meeting had 58 in attendance. This was our first meeting at Colonial Heritage and the facility and staff were most accommodating. **Mr. William Molineux**, presented an informative historical account of "An incident at City Point - May 1862." A Union naval surgeon responds to a plea for medical assistance from a Hampton woman who is a refugee in the City Point area. While he is at her bedside, under a flag of truce, he and his party are attacked and taken prisoner. Three members of the shore party are killed, a Federal gunship fired shots in retaliation, and both Southern bystanders and a Union Admiral argue for the surgeon's release from captivity. This and other tales are all part of George Randolph Woods recollections of service on supply barges on the James and Appomattox Rivers during the great conflict.



Mr. William Molineux

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be at "Colonial Heritage Club" located at 6500 Arthur Hills Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23188 www.colonialheritageva.com/club.html on **February 23rd at 7 pm**. Our Speaker **Compatriot Jack Marlar, SCV Field Representative** – will present a historical account of the **“Confederate Patent Office.”**

Commander Don Woolridge:

James City Cavalry has become the focal point of Confederate History preservation in our area. It seems that so many organizations are losing focus of the true Confederate history in their attempt to be politically correct. Each of you experience our constant battle to defend the automatic negativity that some view our Organization with. It is hard enough for our organization to carry out its primary mission tending to the graves of Confederate soldiers without having to continually fight misconceptions that the Sons of Confederate Veterans somehow longs for a return to the days when slavery was legal. None of us alive today condones the institution of slavery. Slavery was one of the unfortunate aspects of that era and all would agree that it indeed was wrong. Putting aside the facts that this nation was founded on individual states rights and that each state should enjoy their sovereignty without the interference from an over regulated Federal Government. The Civil War was an economic war, and Lincoln fought secession so the United States could continue receiving the tariffs that came from the goods imported through Southern ports. Ninety-five percent of the tariffs at the time came through states south of the Mason-Dixon Line and that the loss of that revenue would have sunk the less-than-100-year-old federal government. We will continue to honor and preserve our Confederate gravesites as well as to honor their legacy. Let us all go forth into the Sesquicentennial not trying to change history but preserve it.

Deo Vindice!

Past Commander David Ware:

The Spiritual Cause and Effect of the War to Prevent Southern Independence, part 5

Not all Northerners are Yankees. To differentiate between the two, Clyde Wilson observed that many in the North are obviously fine people. The Yankee represented “that peculiar ethnic group descended from New Englanders who can be easily recognized by their arrogance, hypocrisy, greed, lack of congeniality and penchant for ordering other people around.....(they) have never given up the notion that they are the chosen saints whose mission is to make America, and the world, in the perfection of their own image.”

This mindset had its beginnings with the Puritans who populated New England with their numbers and attitudes. Their descendants became infected with Utopian thought after becoming influenced by Communists and Socialists in the early and mid-nineteenth century by forays into those parts of Europe being agitated by Karl Marx and his ideas. Their manifestations in North America were Shakers, “Harmonists” or “Rappites,” “Zoarites,” Owenites, “Transcendentalists,” Fourierists and others who attempted several short lived schemes bases on their ideology to stamp out all “sin” embodied in private property ownership, alcohol, tobacco, marriage, the family, any form of entertainment, meat eating and the Catholic church. Many of the alumni of the failed socialist revolutions in France and Germany and the failed Utopian experiments in the North found warm nests in the Lincoln administration and Federal Army.

Today, we call these people “neocons,” Democrats and Republicans. They are delighted to use the resources of the nation to remake the entire world in their own image. That innocent people counted as women and children are readily sacrificed is “regrettable” and “unfortunate” but a necessary byproduct of creating a Utopian nation and planet. Most all of the Congress and Executive Branch of the government, all major media (including Fox news), all “schools” and

most churches embody the concepts handed down for generations from the holier-than-thou Puritan tradition of the Yankee. Some have honed their skills to deserve special recognition: Professor Wilson calls Chicago reared Hillary Clinton the “museum-quality specimen of the Yankee.” Like her, Barrack Obama deserves a front row seat on the **ARROGANCE/HIPOCRISY** express. Rounding out the precious cargo is Newt Gingrich, Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reid, George “Mission Accomplished” Bush and his father, Bill “Slick” Clinton and virtually all talk show hosts and media anchors.

Swimming against this tide is a small contingent of individuals who count themselves as the blessed heirs of the Confederate soldier who fought to keep this country from turning out the way it has.

1st Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson: Book Auctions: Compatriot Willard Gilley has donated the 3 volume "The Civil War - A Narrative" by Shelby Foote for the auction. This is the hardbound edition. 1974, Random House, 3300 pages.

Additionally we will offer "Mosby's Rangers" by Jeffrey Wert, soft cover, 384 pages, 1990, Touchstone Press.

JAMES CITY COUNTY CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES **By Historian/Genealogist Fred Boelt**

Up to this point, we have provided biographical information and service records for all known Confederate veterans buried in James City County. Undoubtedly, there are more in unmarked graves, and we will continue our search to identify and honor those men. Next month, this column will begin to look at veterans buried in the greater Williamsburg area, many of whom have ties to the county. This month, an interesting letter that relates to the upper county has been brought to our attention.

In the regimental history of the Fifth Virginia Cavalry on page 50, there are the following sentences, “On April 20 [1863], General Wise requested that the James City Cavalry be added to his command, which was operating on the peninsula below Richmond. He needed men familiar with the back roads and paths in his area of operations.” The excerpts that follow are taken from the Official Records: Series 1, volume 18, part 1, page 1006. This is an undated letter, but if taken in sequence, it was written on April 20, 1863 by General Henry A. Wise to General Elzey:

“I have picketed the cavalry in two lines – as inner and outer line, the latter running across from the Chickahominy to James River Church [James River Baptist Church on Centerville Road], below Centerville; thence to Centerville; thence to Six Mile Ordinary [present day Lightfoot], and to a folk in the Telegraph road below [present day Route 60]; thence to the crossroads at Deneufville’s store; thence to Austin’s store [along Newman Road south of Barlow’s Pond]; thence to Albert Hankins’ [Riverview Plantation], on the York River; the inner line running from Bush’s Mill [present day Cranston’s Mill pond] to Mrs. Piggott’s gate [Farmville Lane in Norge]; thence to Garrett’s gate [see 1863 Gilmer map]; thence Richardson’s lane [Croaker area], and thence to Mount Folly, on the York River. Established a depot for forage and Colonel Shingler’s headquarters at Hickory Neck Academy, extending the quarters hence to Burnt Ordinary [Toano] and Olive Branch Church.

Before I leave for Chaffin’s Bluff, I will move the cavalry headquarters up to Barhamsville and draw in the pickets across from Albert Hankins’ on York River, west bank of Scimmino Creek,

to Whitaker's mill [located on present day Barlow's Pond on Newman Road], and thence across to Bush's Mill and the Chickahominy.

....I beg you to take the Holcombe Legion and Robertson's battalion away and to restore to me my old regiment of cavalry, which I raised and mustered (the Tenth Virginia Cavalry), with one company (the James City Cavalry, belonging to the Fifth Virginia Cavalry) added. Thus I could have good men, familiar with the paths of James City, York, Charles City, New Kent City, New Kent, and Henrico. The present strangers to roads need guides to every post. I have saved the records of York, Warwick and Elizabeth City Counties and forwarded them to you to be handed over to Governor Letcher for safe keeping. It is important I should know how long I am to remain here, as, if long; my men must be sent for changes of clothing..."

General Wise made his last attempt to retake Williamsburg on March 29, 1863. The city had been occupied by the Union army since May 5, 1862, and several times had tried to push up into James City. Wise had hoped to retake Fort Magruder, but this did not happen. His last effort failed and he posted these picket lines across the county to prevent future raids. The fifth Pennsylvania pushed as far as the Diascund Bridge in June and the Confederates gradually withdrew toward Richmond. The locations of General Wise's picket lines are readily identifiable today.

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 to be added to this list." Newsletters are also posted on the website for your convenience.

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

Compatriot Willard Gilley's Donation to the James City County Library in Norge, VA



L-R Compatriot Willard Gilley, Barry Trott, 1st Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Toalson and Adj. Ken Parsons

"On February 2, 2011, Adjutant Ken Parsons and 1st. Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson joined Compatriot Willard Gilley when he donated his collection of the Virginia Regimental Series to the James City County Library in Norge, VA. The Virginia Regimental Series has a separate history for each infantry, artillery and cavalry regiment that served the Confederate States of

America. This collection will be maintained in the research area for people doing genealogical and military research on their Virginia Confederate ancestors. This is a tremendous archive and the James City Cavalry is very pleased that Compatriot Gilley's collection has an excellent long term home."

Compatriot Willard Gilley's Book Collection Donation to the UDC



L-R Quartermaster J. White, Lucy Steele, Elizabeth Wilson, 1st. Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson and Adjutant Ken Parsons

January 28, 2011

Mrs. Lucy Steele
Secretary of the Board of Trustees
United Daughters of the Confederacy
328 North Boulevard
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Subject: Donation of Bound Volumes of *Civil War Times Illustrated* and *Blue & Gray*

Dear Mrs. Steele:

It is our pleasure to donate bound volumes of *Civil War Times* [1960 and 1961], *Civil War Times Illustrated* [1962 through 2001], and *Blue & Gray Magazine* [Vol. 1, Issue 1, August, 1983 through Vol. 16, Issue 6, Summer of 1999]. These 49 bound volumes are from the personal library of our Compatriot Willard Gilley which he had donated to the James City Cavalry – SCV Camp 2095.

Our Camp does not have an appropriate space to store and maintain this marvelous collection of WBTS history and we are confident that your research library would be an excellent long term repository for these volumes. We thank you and the ladies of the United Daughters of the Confederacy for accepting this donation to your library.

Our best wishes and support in the preservation of the history of our ancestors.

Yours,

Jeff Toalson – 1st. Lt. Commander
Ken Parsons – Adjutant
Jerry White – Quartermaster
James City Cavalry Camp #2095 – Sons of Confederate Veterans
193 Lewis Robert Lane
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

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SUPPORT THE TROOPS PROJECT: Be sure to bring items for the project to the next meeting. Norman especially needs . . . wet wipes, hard candy, slim jims, dental floss picks, bubble gum, disposable razors... Please bring a couple of items with you to the February 23rd meeting.

Thought for the Month

"All I ask of fate is that I may be killed leading a cavalry charge."

General J.E.B. Stuart 

Cemetery Report for January 2011 – 2nd Lt. Commander Steve White

What a way to start off the year. The volunteers for the clean-up at Fort Magruder have been amazing. Working in snow fall the first Saturday, then cold the next Saturday, then bitter cold the following Saturday and they just kept right on going. My expectations of what I had hoped to get accomplished were way exceeded. Brush, briars, vines, organic and construction debris, metal, trash, and dead trees have been removed all the way around the moat side of the berm at the Fort. I honestly did not expect to get this much done by this time.

There is the old saying that "Many hands make light work. "It surely wasn't light work but many hands got a lot done in a short amount of time. I would like to say Thanks to the following persons that have participated in our Camp's clean-up efforts so far. Compatriots - Fred Breeden, Mike Garrett, Joel Goodwin, Chris Hockaday, Billy Hynes, Tim Norman, Ken Parsons, Warren Raines, David Ware, Gerry White, Steve White, Jeff Toalson and Don Woolridge of our Camp. Friends of the Camp - Mike Apperson, Paul and Joli Huelskamp, Kyle Summerfield, and Steve Swift. Also, Thanks to Rob Davis for use of the dump truck, Compatriot Chris Hockaday for bringing the Gator to use each week, and Jon Lenthall for use of his brush-bladed weed eater.

The last day scheduled to clean-up at Fort Magruder was January 29 at 1:30 PM.

Cemetery projects for February will be maintenance of our restored sites. In order of cleanup:

- (1) Cowles-Spencer Cemetery on Theodore Allen Rd. - pick up limbs and litter and cut back the holly tree's regrowth.
- (2) Peach Park Cemetery on Little Creek Dam Rd. - clean-up of field edge just past the Cemetery, removal of lower limbs on gum tree for a better view of Cemetery from the road, fill in ground depressions with top soil if a load can be arranged, & the chip walkway needs addressing.
- (3) Sunnyside Cemetery on Forge Rd. - One 12" diameter beech tree has died and needs to be cut down and removed.

Work dates are scheduled for February 5th then February 19th if needed. Starting time is 1:30 PM. If raining the work date is automatically cancelled.

In other Cemetery news, work has begun on the "Old Hockaday Cemetery" in New Kent by Martin Harcourt, son of Compatriot "Sparky" Harcourt for his Eagle Scout project. Once completed our Camp will take over maintenance of the site in the future. Also in New Kent, Chris Hockaday is checking out the old "Lacy Burying Ground" for a possible future project.

Again I would like to say Thanks to all of our Camp Members and Friends of the Camp that have helped with our restoration efforts. Please know that even if you cannot physically participate in these projects your donations to our Camp Treasury have enabled us to do things like renting the chipper which really speeded up progress at Fort Magruder. God bless you all.

Yours in preservation,

Steve White, Cemetery Liaison - Camp 2095 SCV



CAMP JOURNAL

January 27, 2010

- **Regular Meeting:** Held 7:00 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House, James City County, VA
 - 58 attendees
 - Welcome given by Commander Don Woolridge
 - Invocation 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 Jerry White
- **Program:** Mr. William Molineux, presented an informative historical account of "An incident at City Point - May 1862."
- **Cemetery and Ft. Magruder Clean-up Project** – 2nd Lt. Commander Steve White
- **Benediction:** Chaplin Fred Breeden
- **Adjournment:** Camp adjourned at 8:30 PM. Next regular meeting scheduled for February 23, 2011 at Colonial Heritage Clubhouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Woolridge
Commander

Author Will Bring Civil War Letters to Life at The Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable

Send Me a Pair of Old Boots & Kiss My Little Girls - The Civil War Letters of Richard and Mary Watkins, 1861-1865 with author Jeff Toalson

Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

When local Williamsburg author Jeff Toalson found a treasure trove of Civil War letters, he was inspired not only to compile them into a book, but to don period attire and assume the character of the Confederate writer.

Toalson's newest book, *Send Me a Pair of Old Boots & Kiss My Little Girls - The Civil War Letters of Richard and Mary Watkins, 1861-1865*, resulted when he discovered the previously unpublished letters held by the Virginia Historical Society. He will perform a reading of selected letters in character as Richard Watkins at The Williamsburg Community Library Theatre on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Richard Watkins, a Prince Edward County, Virginia lawyer and farmer, was a Captain of Co. K of the 3rd Virginia Cavalry during the Civil War. Toalson, portraying Richard, sits on his front porch in 1890 and recalls stories of the recent "great unpleasantness" from the 300 letters that he and Mary wrote to each other during the conflict.

Richard and Mary's letters chronicle both detailed information about the war, and its affects on those who lived through the time, and also paint a touching love story as the two endured hardship and separation. Mary remained in Meherrin, Virginia during the war, managing the family farm and raising their three daughters, while Richard fought in campaigns throughout Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Toalson, who also authored *No Soap, No Pay, Diarrhea, Dysentery & Desertion: A Composite Diary of the Last 16 Months of the Confederacy from 1864 to 1865*, spent two years editing this remarkable piece of Virginia and American history.

Toalson's presentation is free. He will have copies of his book available for signing.

Bring a friend and join the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable for a special evening.

**Meet Richard Watkins,
Captain, Co. K – 3rd Virginia Cavalry**

Join Jeff Toalson, editor of *Send Me a Pair of
Old Boots & Kiss My Little Girls –
The Civil War Letters of Richard and Mary Watkins, 1861-1865*



**Tuesday, February 22, 2011
7 p.m.
Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable
at The Williamsburg Library Theatre
515 Scotland Street
FREE**