

January 2010

Williamsburg, Virginia

Last Meeting: Our last meeting had 32 in attendance. Camp Compatriots displayed a most impressive collection of artifacts from the War Between the States. We had the honor of inducting three new Compatriots, Bill Walls, John Shirley and Warren Raines. We welcome these new compatriots bringing our membership roll to 40.



L-R 1st Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson, Bill Walls, John Shirley, Warren Raines and Adjutant Ken Parsons

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be at "Hog Wild Smokehouse Restaurant" located at 8864 Richmond Road, Toano, VA 23168 www.hogwildsmokehouse.com on **January 27th at 7pm.** Our Speaker will be **Mr. John Sharrett**, a Charter Member of SCV Stonewall Camp # 380, in Portsmouth and a dual member with the Tom Smith Camp #1702 in Suffolk. John is a 50 year member and Past National Commander of the North South Skirmish Association. He is a Charter Member and Past Commander of the Dismal Swamp Rangers. He has served as the Historian for the Tidewater Region since 1972 and is a member of the Historical Committee with the NSSA.

He will present a stunning slide presentation of Confederate monuments in Richmond with commentary, tidbits of interest not normally known about the monuments.

John's presentation has received top-notch reviews from several of our fellow Camps in the Tidewater area. He presented a slide presentation on monuments of Southeastern Virginia at our Camp meeting in October, 2006.

Executive Committee Meeting: The Camp Executive Committee met on January 13, 2010, 6:30 PM at "Hog Wild Smokehouse." Members present were; Don Woolridge, Ken Parsons, Fred Boelt, Jeff Toalson, Steve White and Sparky Harcourt. Items on the agenda were;

- Sam Davis Camp
- Sesquicentennial Civil War Roundtable
- Camp Financial Report
- Ft. Magruder flag
- Peach Park flag
- Cemetery Flags
- Best Camp Documentation
- Virginia Division Convention April 2010

Commander Don Woolridge:

James City Cavalry started the New Year with a most important project at Fort Magruder. Compatriots braved the cold temperatures nine days into January with brush clearing, cutting limbs and trees as well as clearing debris off of the berms. Fort Magruder although preserved in a subtle state is one of our most important sites in the Williamsburg area relating to the War Between the States. Our Compatriots have shown their desire and compassion for preservation of this project. The Sesquicentennial is rapidly approaching and with historians, preservationist and true believers in Southern traditions, Fort Magruder will be in presentation form. James City Cavalry Compatriots have in the past stepped up for the cause and will again with all of their preservation projects. We have numerous cemetery restoration and clean-up projects scheduled throughout 2010 as well as our Confederate Remembrance Day in the month of May. After 150 years it is a wholesome feeling of pride seeing the dedication our Compatriots have preserving the history of our Confederate Ancestors. When the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Williamsburg rolls around on May 5, 2012 we will stand proud with our accomplishments and the pride of the South will live on in their memory!

Deo Vindice!

Adjutant Ken Parsons:

We are receiving many compliments on our work at Fort Magruder and I can't help but add my own! Compatriots of James City Cavalry have once again shown a lot of dedication and hard work in the cleanup effort...and it is very visible. The Boy Scouts troops helped tremendously picking up trash and pine cones, raking leaves, cutting undergrowth and removing piles of dead limbs. They were outstanding!

Our thanks go out to them and our crew from the Camp. Many pitched in and the work went very smoothly. Please go by and see for yourselves what good things we can accomplish when we work together. During both weekends, we hauled off 12 truck loads of logs and limbs, 4 bags of trash and completed the work on the flag pole. The areas where trees and brush were removed look much better. We raised a new 4 ft. by 6ft First National Flag and it looks great.

We plan another work day at the Spencer-Cowles cemetery this Saturday, January 23rd at 1:00 PM. The cemetery is off of Centerville Road on Theodore Allen Road. I hope more of you can come out even if you are unable to perform the work. We need your support and encouragement.

Be sure to remember to attend our next meeting on the 27th. Our speaker has addressed the Camp before and is a good friend of ours.

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

Epilogue by David Ware

In 1861, war came. The South was devastated financially and politically. The next four elected presidents would be Northern generals. Speaking to a friend about this he commented that if it weren't for the South, there would be no twentieth century literature. I asked him to write us an article for our newsletter:

A Shocking Statement

A few years ago, I was sitting in the living room of our 1790s house in Petersburg, VA, talking with a new acquaintance. We had moved to Petersburg to restore the house, an enthusiasm which my wife and I shared, and which had grown out of a deep interest in early Virginia history. I hasten to add that while my wife is a native Virginian, I am a typical American vagabond: born in Los Angeles; educated in Washington, DC and Leeds, England; with a career in the Foreign Service, during which I traveled and lived in four different Asian countries. So, I'm a Virginian only by adoption. In any case, as I talked with my new acquaintance, I learned that we had both studied literature in college. As our conversation developed, we both began to grumble about local government; local political activities; dirty streets; lack of interest in developing local tourism; poor schools and so on. Finally, my interlocutor proceeded to denounce the South, claiming it had produced little of value, and hardly anything noteworthy in literature. At that point, I snapped, and on impulse made a shocking statement. I said that without the South, there would be no 20th-century American Literature. Much taken aback, my acquaintance defied me to defend such a heretical idea. Everyone knows, after all, that great American Literature was produced only in the North! Off the top of my head, I built my case. Examining American Literature in the 20th century, I asked him how we could defend the novel without the work of William Faulkner, Ellen Glasgow, Mary Johnston, William Styron, Thomas Wolfe, Ralph Ellison, Richard Wright, James Branch Cabell, Walter Percy and Cormac McCarthy. How could we defend the short story without mentioning Flannery O'Conner, Peter Taylor, and Eudora Welty? How could we talk of drama without mentioning Tennessee Williams? And what of poets and critics? We would have to eliminate Robert Penn Warren, Allen Tate, John Berryman and James Agree. Oh, and have I mentioned Truman Capote, Langston Hughes, and James Dickey? In short, I claimed, without the South and southern writers, we would be bereft of the heart of our greatest 20th-century literary accomplishments. I reduced my acquaintance to hedging and gagging as he attempted a feeble defense of his viewpoint. Perhaps I have over

stated the case, but not by much. Without doubt, I am sure there are many other notable southern writers I have failed to mention. We have – and I speak as an adopted son of the South – much to be proud of in the work of our southern authors. **Jim Emory**

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. This month's book will be; "Richmond Redeemed - The Siege of Petersburg" by Richard J. Sommers 1981 FIRST EDITION, hardback, 670 pages

The first major work published on the Petersburg campaigns. 22 maps, 80 photos, several excellent appendices and extensive footnotes.

Honoring our Confederate Soldier – December

Dr. William M. McPheeters Surgeon – Maj. General Sterling Price's Army of Arkansas

Enlisted on July 8, 1862 at age 46 with the rank of Major as a Medical Inspector. Prior to enlistment he was Head Surgeon and Professor at McDowell Medical College, St. Louis, Missouri.

December 4, 1862 appointed Surgeon with General Sterling Price's 2nd Corp. in the Army of Mississippi.

November, 1863 is the Acting Chief Surgeon for the District of Arkansas – Trans Mississippi Department on the staff of General. Sterling Price.

December, 1863 at Camp Bragg, Arkansas with the Army of Arkansas.

February, 1864 at Camp Sumter, Arkansas.

May 1, 1864 at the field hospital near Jenkins Ferry, Arkansas: *"Returned to the hospital after getting a snack of cornbread and sheep and then set to work again. Will not attempt to describe the scene there – 200 horribly wounded men at least in the house and out of doors. It was a sight that beggars description. Let those who prate about the glories of war witness such a scene and then talk of glory – this is the sad part of the picture. At 10 A. M. the command moved to Tulip, I remained . . . All day long until late in the evening I was operating, taking off arms and legs . . . I never took off so many in one day before. (I'm) sorry that it was necessary to remove so many."*

June, 1864 left in charge of hospital of Camp Bragg when the rest of the command moves to Camp Sumter.

November 11, 1864 near the Canadian River in Indian Territory during the retreat after Price's army was defeated at the Battle of Westport (Missouri): *"Another day's march of 15 miles in the wilderness, half-starved, wearied, jaded horses. Our men feeding on hickory nuts, acorns, and dead horse flesh. Gov. Polk, Dr. Johnson, and myself hunted up a hickory nut tree and ate heartily off the nuts . . . Wolves were howling around us tonight."*

Dr. McPheeters took the Oath of Allegiance at Monroe, LA on June 6, 1865.

Traveled by riverboat to New Orleans and then booked passage to St. Louis where he returns home and resumes his duties at McDowell Medical Hospital in St. Louis.

[Compiled Service Records – CSA Staff Officers – United Daughters of the Confederacy, Richmond, VA,, Micro Copy 331, Roll 174; *The Civil War Diary of Wm. McPheeters, Confederate Surgeon in the Trans-Mississippi*, Cynthia Pitcock, editor, Fayetteville, 2002, by date]

JAMES CITY COUNTY CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES

By Historian/Genealogist Fred Boelt

Among the Confederate veterans buried at Olive Branch Christian Church, there is a family group of a father and his son and his son-in-law interred there. George Edward Geddy, son of Edward B. Geddy and his wife, Ann Cary Meredith, was born on June 26, 1821, most likely at White Hall near Burnt Ordinary. On August 18, 1842, he married Lucy Elizabeth Henley, the daughter of Richardson Henley and Catherine Norvell Lightfoot of Hill Pleasant farm. They had a large family of eight children before the war broke out.

George Geddy enlisted in Company W, 3rd Virginia Cavalry on June 24, 1861, in Williamsburg, and was elected Captain. Like many other James City men, he transitioned into Company H, 5th Virginia Cavalry. Records indicate that he reenlisted back in the 3rd Cavalry in February 1864 as a private. Both the 3rd and 5th Cavalries granted furloughs to a lot of their men during that winter to give them time to rest, and recruit men and fresh horses. He was captured on the Peninsula on February 19, and exchanged on September 18, 1864. There are no further records for his service, but he was listed in the 5th Cavalry post war roster.

He returned to his family at White Hall and he and Lucy had one more son in 1867. His occupation was listed as “farmer” on the 1870 and 1880 censuses. George Edward Geddy died on June 20, 1887, and was buried at Olive Branch. Camp Compatriot Bert Geddy is his great grandson.

George William Geddy, third child of George Edward and Lucy Geddy was born on November 14, 1846. At a young age, he followed his father into Confederate service. While he was not listed on the company roster, his widow’s pension application stated that he served in Captain [Lucian] Richardson’s company of the James City Artillery. Men who served with him verified this under oath, and the pension payments were granted. Geddy would have come of age for service late in 1864. This may explain his absence on the records as many of the late war records were lost. There was also a note appended to the application that stated that G. W. Geddy served as a private in Sands Artillery, also known as Henrico Artillery for one month beginning on March 1, 1865.

In 1870, George William Geddy was living with Southey Hankins and working there as a farmer. As will be seen, Hankins became his brother-in-law. Geddy married a widow, Cora L. Simmons, on January 31, 1886. She was the daughter of Thomas Curtis and his first wife, Martha Frances Randall. George and Cora had two daughters, Maud Elizabeth and Martha Lou. George Geddy worked for the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Company for many years at Toano and Norge, and was on the way to work in Norge when he was stricken with paralysis. He did not recover

and died on April 29, 1910. His obituary stated, "He joined the James City Artillery when a mere boy, and was one of the youngest members of that famous company." He, too, is buried at Olive Branch Church.

Catherine Texanna, the eldest daughter of George Edward and Lucy Geddy was born on February 18, 1845. "Texie," as she was called, received sufficient education to allow her to be employed as a teacher after the war. On December 24, 1873, she married her neighbor, Southey Savage Hankins. The son of George and Mary Savage Hankins, Southey was born on February 27, 1843 and grew up at Marlbrook, the family farm located behind Hickory Neck Church.

Hankins was a student when war broke out. He enlisted into Company W, 3rd Virginia Cavalry on June 24, 1861 in Williamsburg. He rose from private to corporal and was captured at Seven Pines on June 15, 1862. He was sent to Fort Delaware and exchanged on July 5, of that year. Later, he re-enlisted in Company H, 5th Virginia Cavalry, and was on numerous rosters and payrolls through November 1864. It was stated in his record that he had three horses killed under him during that time.

After the war, he returned home and in the 1870 census, he was listed as a retail merchant in Burnt Ordinary. After their marriage, Southey and Texie had a daughter, Alice R., and a son, George G. Hankins. When the census taker called in 1880, he was farming. According to his obituary, "for a number of years, he was Commissioner of the Revenue for James City, and upon the death of the late treasurer, T. G. Wynne [1905], he was appointed to fill the vacancy. Twice after that term expired, he was elected to the office by the people and was serving his second term when death overtook him."

Southey Savage Hankins died on August 27, 1914 and was buried at Olive Branch. His obituary said that "he was laid away to rest wrapped in his Confederate gray uniform that he loved so well." It went on to say that he "was a brave cavalryman in the War Between the States, a man who did his duty as a soldier, [and] he was always generous and considerate of those who opposed him in that great conflict, making warm friends with them as with all others with whom he came in contact." After the service held in the church, "the service at the grave was conducted by Magruder-Ewell Camp Confederate Veterans, of which Mr. Hankins was a loyal member and of which at one time he was commander."

And thus, the Geddys and the Hankins, near neighbors before and after the war, continue as neighbors in the Olive Branch churchyard.

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

Our first two endeavors at Fort Magruder have yielded excellent results. Concrete was poured around the base of the flagpole and a larger, new First National flag has been installed. All crepe myrtles have been mulched. Work on the berm and grounds completed so far includes; all lower limbs on the Grace Baptist Church side have been removed as well as limbs on the right side of the fortification. Work has begun on the left side of the fort, clearing most of one gun emplacement. The briars and brambles have been cleared on the roadside of the berm. Trash has been collected and hauled away from the interior of the fort. We were greatly assisted by two local Boy Scout Troops; Williamsburg Scout Troop 103 and the Croaker Lone Scouts. Several friends of James City Cavalry also came out to lend a hand with the clean-up.

Kyra Cook, representing the City of Williamsburg Sesquicentennial Committee has visited the fort and observed the progress of our work. We are hopeful that funds will be allocated by the 150 Anniversary Committee for interpretive plaques and a sign identifying the fort. We are thankful to all that have helped on the projects to date. Future dates for work at the fort are; February 13th and 20th, 1:00 pm. Weather permitting.



Clearing the Berms



2nd Lt. Commander Steve White



Past Commander David Ware



Past Commander David Ware and Compatriot Mike Garrett



Compatriot Mike Garrett



2nd Lt. Commander Steve White and Adjutant Ken Parsons



Tree Trimming



Our mascot "Midnight"



Adjutant Ken Parsons with Boy Scout Leaders and Scouts



Compatriots Ray Adams and Fred Boelt with Boy Scouts

Next Cemetery Clean-up Project

Cowles-Spencer Cemetery, Theodore Allen Road – **January 23, 1:00 PM**

- Winter maintenance, removal of large tree and repair the chain link fence
- Tools needed are; chainsaws, loppers, weed-eaters and gloves. Trash bags will be provided.
- Dress according for possible contact with poison ivy!

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

“Nothing fills me with deeper sadness than to see a Southern man apologizing for the defense we made of our inheritance. Our cause was so just, so sacred, that had I known all that has come to pass, had I known what was to be inflicted upon me, all that my country was to suffer, all that our posterity was to endure, I would do it all over again.”

President Jefferson Davis





CAMP JOURNAL

December 23, 2009

- **Meeting:** Held 7:00 PM at Hog Wild, James City County, VA
 - 32 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 (10) by Commander Woolridge
 - Ancestral Memorial Candle: Dr. William M McPheeters, Surgeon – Maj. General Sterling Price’s Army of Arkansas. His Service Record was read by 1st Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson
- **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*
 - *Sam Davis Camp*
- **Upcoming events:**
 - Cemetery & Ft Magruder clean up-dates January 9th and 23rd.
- **December Minutes:** Approved as published in January “*Picket Lines*”
- **Committee Reports:**
 - None
- **Old Business:**
 - Cemetery Report: Compatriot Steve White
 - Support the Troops Project: Compatriot David Ware provided update.
- **New Business:**
 - Induction of new Compatriots, Bill Walls, John Shirley and Warren Raines
 - Camp book auction generated \$57
 - Guest David Perdue from SCV Mechanized Cavalry spoke on the Sam Davis Youth Camp.
- **Program:** Camp Compatriots and Guest displayed artifacts from the WBTS.
- **Benediction:** Given by Chaplin Fred Breeden
- Adjourned at 900 P.M. Next meeting scheduled for 27 January 2010

Respectfully submitted,

Don Woolridge
Commander