

March 2011

Williamsburg, Virginia

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 **March 23rd at 7 pm.** Our Speaker **Mr. John Pelletier** of the Norfolk County Grays and Tom Smith Camp will present;

“The C. S. A. Hospital System, Medical Practices, Medicines, Diseases and Treatments”

The C.S.A. hospital system included field hospitals, clearing/distributing hospitals, general hospitals (Chimborazo) and state hospitals (South Carolina Hospital - Petersburg). We will learn about a variety of standard medical practices. The discussion will include medicines and drugs including calomel, laudanum and blue mass. Mr. Pelletier will discuss amputations and gangrene. Perhaps he will share his thoughts on vapors and ventilation in the gangrene wards. Smallpox, measles, consumption, intermittent fever, debilities, and diarrhea will no doubt be part of the discussion. The C.S.A. provided dental care for their soldiers, and even though he is a surgeon, he will share some knowledge on the subject.

Compatriot Pelletier is a member of the Norfolk County Grays, the Tom Smith Camp and a past Commander of the Norfolk County Grays. John is a member of the Society of Civil War Surgeons. One of his C.S.A. relatives was a hospital steward with Hampton's Legion. John has been providing living history presentations of Civil War medical practices for the past 10 years.



John Pelletier

Last Meeting: Our last meeting had 46 in attendance. **Mr. Jack Marlar, SCV Field Representative,** presented an informative historical account of "The Confederate Patent Office."



Jack Marlar

Commander Don Woolridge:

James City Cavalry Compatriots have been working hard over the winter and are now looking forward to the spring weather. Our cemetery clean-up projects and on-going Ft. Magruder maintenance went very well over the winter months. All of our cemeteries as well as Fort Magruder are in first class condition. Visitors continue to visit at Peach Park Cemetery and sign the guest register. This site has and continues to be one of our focal points for our restoration and maintenance projects. Peach Park is a site that is open to the public and gives the Camp the opportunity to show the public what we do for our ancestors. In the coming months with approval from the UDC, we hope to place brochures at Fort Magruder similar to those available at Peach Park. We have provided several hundred brochures at Peach Park and hopefully in the future we can do the same at Fort Magruder. Our Camp website continues to do extremely well with over 5,500 hits to date. The Camp Facebook page has almost 200 people signed on as friends of the Camp. We are looking forward to the remainder of 2011 with a slate of excellent speakers scheduled for our meetings. Planning is on-going for our Confederate Remembrance Day scheduled for May 27th. Information on this event, when available will be posted on the website as well as the Facebook page.

Deo Vindice!

Adjutant Ken Parsons:

ABOUT OUR MEETINGS

The March meeting on the 23rd will feature another Southern Supper special, Bar-B-Que! With the usual trimmings of baked beans and slaw (and brownies). Please call me for your meal count at 757-876-6967.

As usual, all of you are not notifying me of your intention to have a meal at the meetings; as we all know, this make for a guessing game (that I do not like to play) of how many meals to prepare in advance. We have been able to guess close enough such that everyone has been able to show-up and buy a meal without anyone not eating. We have manage to find about 6 to 8 "extra" meals so far each month and the Camp has not had to pay for any "no-shows" as yet.

We want to reinforce the idea that we want you to attend the meeting as our top priority and order a meal if you want to eat with us as our 2nd desire/wish. In order to assure those who DO call and make reservations there will be sufficient food for them, we are going to request those members who come in without reservations to form in-line LAST. You will be served! As the food service begins, just get in the line behind those who made reservations ahead, this way, they will not have to be concerned last minute arrivals are taking priority with their meal. This will make it fair for everyone.

We will be glad to see you when you come in, please remember to wear your name badges. Visitor Badges will be made at the entrance, make sure your visitor has one. We are planning to have a "greeter" at the entrance and he will let you know where you need to be in the food line.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Past Commander David Ware:

A Spiritual Legacy-by David Ware

The War claimed the Confederate States for the Union which has now swept the Confederacy and anything Southern into a distant corner and labeled it "treason" and "slavery." It may be well for us to take a moment to reflect that actions have consequences.

A key to Yankee victory was the concept of total war which holds that victory is a goal to which enemy children, women, civilians, livestock and food can be readily desecrated, defiled and destroyed. This concept comes fairly easily to the mind that believes that the United States, as defined by Puritan Northern interests, has been endowed with a direct pipeline to the Will of God. A people so endowed will have little use for opposing views or arguments and tends quickly to the use of force to establish Divine Order.

Though no one will deny that the cause of the Abolitionist was just, was their enthusiastic endorsement of the dark forces of death and destruction not worthy of disgust? Evidence this letter written home by a Yankee corporal at Savannah, Georgia in 1864: "The cruelties practiced on this campaign towards citizens have been enough to blast a more sacred cause than ours. We hardly deserve success."

This string of unbroken Divinely inspired righteous actions has permeated the world and our country from the Spanish-American War, WWI and II, Korea, Viet Nam, Iraq, Afghanistan, establishment of dictatorships, the overthrow of dictatorships, establishments of democratic governments, overthrow of democratic governments, Ruby Ridge, Waco, bailouts, shakedowns, and the establishment of more laws and regulations than any country on the planet. We hardly deserve success.

Compatriot John Shirley Book Auctions: Compatriot Willard Gilley donated the 3 volume "The Civil War - A Narrative" by Shelby Foote for the last auction. This is the hardbound edition. 1974, Random House, 3300 pages. The Compatriot Shirley February book auction came in at \$122. The money was donated by John to the Camp general fund.

This month's auction will feature; "LEE" by Clifford Dowdey, Bonanze Publishing, New York, 1965, 770 pages, hardbound. One of the best one volume studies of Robert E. Lee by noted historian Clifford Dowdey who also wrote "The Seven Days - The Emergence of Lee" and "Lee's Last Campaign - The Story of Lee and his men against Grant in 1864." A great addition to any library.

"A Woman's War - The Southern Women, Civil War, and the Confederate Legacy", Edward Campbell, Jr., editor - Charlottesville, 1996, 264 pages. This softbound book, in 8 1/2 x 11 format, was published by the Museum of the Confederacy to accompany an exhibit marking the centennial celebration of the MOC. This copy is a FIRST EDITION. Well illustrated and also includes a 30 page section on women, the UDC, and their drive and support in creating the MOC.

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

Levin Winder Lane was born in Mathews County, Virginia, on January 6, 1839. He was the son of Anne Ransome and John Henry Lane. When he was about twenty years old, he moved to James City County. The 1860 census, enumerated on July 14th, listed him as a single farmer owning personal property but no real estate. This changed rather immediately. On July 25th, he married Martha Sabrina Spencer, daughter of William Llewellyn and Martha Richardson Spencer, at the Spencer family home, Locust Hill, on present day Bush Neck Road. On August 25th, he entered into an agreement to purchase "Lilliput," a 340 acre farm, and an adjacent tract known as "Davis," containing 34 1/4 acres. The sellers were Parke and Martha [Meanley] Jones. This farm, later known as "Lanesville," was located on the northeast corner of the intersection of present day Longhill and Olde Towne Roads. Route 199 bisects part of this tract. Annual payment terms were established for a cash payment plus the delivery of 400 cords of pine wood with settlement in full to be in 1863.

Needless to say, the war intervened, and Levin Lane enlisted in Company W, 3rd Virginia Cavalry, on June 14, 1861, in Williamsburg as a private. He was elected 1st Lieutenant of Company H, 5th Virginia Cavalry, on May 1, 1862, and served throughout the remainder of the war with the 5th Cavalry. He was wounded in action at Kelly's Ford on March 17, 1863, and was crippled for life. He had active service after that which included commanding other companies within the 5th Cavalry. He was promoted to Captain in July 1864. During the latter part of 1864, he was hospitalized, first in Richmond in August for ulcers, and again in October to recover from a compound fracture to his right elbow. This was followed by a sixty day furlough beginning in January 1865, and his service record ended there.

Captain Lane returned to his farm in James City after the war. On August 16, 1867, a deed for “Lilliput” and “Davis” was made, indicating that the settlement terms had been satisfied. While still a county resident, he served as Deputy Sheriff and Sheriff in 1869, and county Treasurer from 1871 to 1886. In 1882, Lane bought a lot on Duke of Gloucester Street on the site of the Raleigh Tavern that had burned earlier, and opened a mercantile business that he, and later his son, operated for many years.

On September 8, 1887, Lane bought the home of the late Dr. Robert P. Waller on Waller Street, and his family lived there for many years. Today, this home is known as the Benjamin Powell house in Colonial Williamsburg. Lane bought more land adjoining this house as well as a small tract in York County, and had interests in other tracts in James City County as well. Among other enterprises, he maintained large oyster beds in the York River, and had a boat and crew to harvest the oysters. He was a partner in the West Point Oyster Company packing house.

At various times, Lane was President of the old Common Council of the City of Williamsburg, President of the Virginia National Bank, and served on the Vestry of Bruton Parish Church. As he got older, one of his sons, Spencer Lane, kept the James City farm and oyster business going, and another son, L. W. Lane, Jr., operated the store on Duke of Gloucester Street.

Captain and Mrs. Lane had least nine children, two of whom died as toddlers and were buried in the cemetery at Locust Hill [*Picket Lines*, June 2008]. When the Lanes celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1910, five of their children were still living. They received their guests under a large wedding bell on the veranda of their home and refreshments were served on the lawn lighted by many Japanese lanterns. Mrs. Lane died in 1916, and was buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery. The Captain remained active until the last few months before his death on April 27, 1933, when he, too, was buried in Cedar Grove. It was noted in his obituary that he was the sole surviving member of the James City Cavalry.

It is interesting to note that one of Levin Lane’s brothers, Alonzo Joseph Lane (1840-1923) married one of Martha Spencer Lane’s sisters, Cornelia G., on March 29, 1861. Alonzo served in Company C, 32nd Virginia Infantry, throughout the war. After the war, he and his family lived on a part of the Shields Point tract on Yarmouth Creek and near Locust Hill. Alonzo and Cornelia Lane moved to Hampton late in life and were both buried in the cemetery at St. John’s Episcopal Church there.

Compatriot Scott Summerfield: York County at the time of the War Between the States

Compatriot Summerfield prepared this historical reference to be included in a training brochure for his employer; The York County Fire and Rescue Department.

As most of you know we work, serve, and protect a one of the most historically important areas in this great country. No time was more important than the dates of 1861 to 1865. There is not one inch of ground in any district that has not been camped on, or fought for while the war was raging. There are still a few reminders on the land we can see if we look for them. A few examples are the fort in the wood at Back Creek and Goodwin Neck road, the trenches along Route 17 in station Four’s district, and a small part of the original Fort Magruder on Penniman Rd. The following is just a few highlights of this time period. As you read please remember this

not just g-wiz information but part of our country's history that many people fought and died for so we can enjoy the freedoms we have now.

Anyone want to guess where the very first land battle of the War Between the States took place? Or where the very first Confederate soldier was killed in battle (out of 260,000 Confederates that died)? How about Tabb! That's right. On June 10 1861 Union Maj. General Ben Butler sent a converging force from Fort Monroe and Newport News to a Confederate outpost at a church called Big Bethel. Butler sent 3500 men from the 3rd, 5th, and 7th New York to cross a creek called Brick Kiln creek. This creek has been dammed up and is now Big Bethel reservoir. As the 7 New York moved up the 3rd New York came up too from behind but there was one problem. The 3rd New York had gray uniforms on and the 7th New York thought it was the Rebels. Well the 7th New York killed two and wounded 21 of the 3rds with friendly fire. I guess they had not been trained in unified command. Also each state, the north and south had their own type and color of uniform. The Union did go to a blue uniform after this but each state still had their own uniform buttons. Well, when this happened the Confederates were alerted and pulled back across Brick Kiln creek to some fortifications in York County. I don't know just where this is, but had to be close to Station Two. The south had 1200 men in a defensive position when the New Yorkers attacked. The South held the ground and the North went back to Fort Monroe. There were 18 killed and 60 wounded for the Union, and 1 killed and 7 wounded for the Confederates. Henry Lawson Wyatt a carpenter from North Carolina was the first southern killed in action. This was a big deal and there is a statue in Tarboro North Carolina of him. I think the reason nobody remembers all of this is because of the great number casualties and large battles that took place later in the war.

In July of that summer there was a great battle at Manassas Junction, 30 miles from Washington DC. This was a large southern victory. After this battle President Lincoln knew the war would be long and costly. His new General, George B McClelland was tasked with building and training a new "Grand Army of the Potomac", to end the war. In March of 1862 this new general started his move with 120,000 men on his way to take Richmond and the South. This operation was called the Peninsula campaign and York County would play a major roll. Two thousand boats and barges carried men, horses, wagons, cannons and supplies to Fort Monroe in Hampton. This was a major staging area. After the small battle at Big Bethel the Confederates knew they would have to build a wall of defense across the peninsula to protect their capital in Richmond. A southern general named John Magruder was to build this wall. The south had 11000 men to stand against 120,000. General Magruder had his headquarters in what we know as the Custom house in Yorktown, the building is still there. Magruder knew he was way out numbered so he made fake cannons out of logs, marched men around in circles so the union would inflate the rebel numbers to their leaders. He also built large trenches around Yorktown and flooded the Warwick River all the way across the peninsula. This was called the Warwick river defense. The Warwick River really starts in present day Edge hill and goes to Fort Eustis and the James River. A second line of defense was built across the peninsula just east of Williamsburg. There were 13 little forts called redoubts with one large fort called Fort Magruder. Penniman road ran through the middle of this fort. Some of the fort still remains on Penniman road where Queens Creek road starts.

Union General McClelland was a good leader and wanted to protect his men as best as he could do. He thought there was a large force of Confederates in Yorktown so he felt the best way to win the battle of Yorktown was to bring up very large cannons and build trenches around Yorktown to protect his men. This was a siege of Yorktown. There were 70 huge guns including two 200 pound Parrott rifles, 12 100 pound guns, and 41 mortars ranging from 8 inch to 13 inch in size. Many more field guns too. Most were dug in on Wormley Creek where the present day Coast Guard base is in Marlbank. When fired in unison these guns would be able to unload 7000

pounds of ordnance into Yorktown with one shot. The build up to the siege lasted for 30 days and it rained 20 of these days. Many men died of illness after digging and sleeping in the mud.

On May 3rd Battery number 1 began its cannonade. Firing of the guns went on all day and into the night. Union soldiers were on the roof of the large house on the York River by present day Wormly Creek Mariana to see where the shots were falling. There was one problem. The Confederates were not firing back. That's because in the night all of the rebels left there post and retreated back to the Williamsburg defense. Almost six weeks of work for the Union had not accomplished anything and President Lincoln was very mad the war was not over here in Yorktown. One thing good for us is that Yorktown would have been reduced to rubble if there had been a long siege. Many of the great buildings in Yorktown like the Nelson house, Pate house and Grace Church had none or little damage. After this Yorktown became a major port for the Union army to bring up guns and supplies from Fort Monroe.

On May 5, 1862 there was a large "Battle of Williamsburg", but really should have been called battle of York County because most of the fighting, and dying was in Station 3's district from where New Quarter Park is, over to RT 143. Queens Creek Rd., James Terrace, and York Terrace were major battle fields, with great amount of blood spilled on this ground. No side could clamed a victory but it did allow time for the rebels to pull back toward Richmond, which was there objective in the first place. There have been a number of books written about this battle. Just think about that day the next time you're working in number 3's district.

After May of 1862 until the end of the war it was mostly quiet in the county. York County and the City of Williamsburg were in Union hands, but in Station 5's district was no man's land. There were many small engagements into northern York County around the farms of Light foot for the next three years. It was not Confederate or Union land, and this made it very difficult for the citizens.

I hope most of you will think about this area and understand the importance of all the history that has been made here. Get out and visit some of the sites this spring and remember we would not be here enjoying the life we live if it were not for the events of the past.

Steve White – 2nd Lt. Commander Cemetery Liaison

Cemetery Report for March, 2011

Thanks to all of you that have helped in whatever way with our clean-up projects this year. We have had great success with great participation from our Camp Members and Friends of Camp 2095. Since my last report, Fort Magruder had the berm weeds cleared and mowed. The moat area is completely cleared, cut with a brush-hog, and the leftover blocks of wood have been removed.

Organic debris was picked up and the holly tree re-sprouts were cut down at the Cowles-Spencer Cemetery.

The dead tree at Sunnyside Cemetery has been cut down and the wood removed by Mike Garrett and Steve White.

At blustery Peach Park Cemetery, the mulch beds around the planted trees are redone and the chip walkway was dug out and new chips put in. The sunken "mistaken" grave has been filled in along with some other low spots. Thanks to Compatriot Mike Garrett the field edge past the

Cemetery was cut by a brush-hog in the week before our scheduled clean-up day. Only a small trailer load of limbs and logs had to be hauled away on our work day. Now the view coming from Lake Toano towards Forge Road of Peach Park Cemetery is unobstructed and impressive. Please take a drive by sometime and see what volunteers Joel Goodwin, Joli Huelskamp, Billy Hynes, Ken Parsons, Steve Parsons, John Shirley, Bryce Shirley, Steve Swift, Jeff Toalson, Dave Ware, and Steve White got accomplished in 40 mile per hour winds.

Work is continuing on the "Old Hockaday Cemetery" in New Kent County by Boy Scout Martin Harcourt.

We are at this time finished with clean-up projects and move on to maintenance of our historic sites until cold weather next year.

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 March 23rd meeting.

Planning Committee Meeting: The Planning Committee met March 16 at Hog Wild Smoke House. Members present were; Fred Breeden, Fred Boelt, Sparky Harcourt, Chris Hockaday, Ken Parsons, Jeff Toalson, Jerry White and Don Woolridge. Items on the agenda were;

- Compatriot Greeter for meetings
- Name tags for meetings
- Confederate Remembrance Day – May 27th, Richardson Cemetery, Riverview Road
- State Convention April 1-3

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>

Camp Officers

Don Woolridge - Commander
dsw317@earthlink.net

Ken Parsons - Adjutant
kparsons4@cox.net

Jeff Toalson - 1st Lt. Commander
troon24@widowmaker.com

Steve White - 2nd Lt. Commander
garrettsgrocery@netzero.com

Fred Boelt – Historian/Genealogist
fboelt@yahoo.com

Chris Hockaday - Archivist
chinabaychows@msn.com

Gerry White – Quartermaster
jerry47@cox.net

Fred Breeden – Chaplain
flbreeden@yahoo.com

Thought for the Month

"Our country demands all our strength, all our energies. To resist the powerful combination now forming against us will require every man at his place. If victorious, we will have everything to hope for in the future. If defeated, nothing will be left for us to live for."

General Robert E. Lee 

GOD BLESS BLACK-EYED PEAS

Black-eyed Peas and Southern "Luck"

"The Real Story is much more interesting, and has gone untold in fear that feelings would be hurt.

It's a story of war, the most brutal and bloody war. Military might and power pushed upon civilians -- women, children and the elderly.

Never seen as a war crime, this was the policy of the greatest nation on earth trying to maintain that status at all cost. An unhealed wound remains in some peoples of the Southern States even today. On the other hand, the policy of slavery has been an open wound that has also been slow to heal; but, OK to talk about.

The story of THE BLACK-EYED PEA being considered good luck relates directly back to Sherman's Bloody March to the Sea.

In late 1864, it was called The Savannah Campaign and was led by Major General William T. Sherman. The Civil War campaign began on 11/15/1864 when Sherman's troops marched from the captured city of Atlanta and ended at the port of Savannah on December 22nd.

When the smoke cleared, the Southerners who had survived the onslaught came out of hiding. They found that the Blue Belly aggressors that had looted and stolen everything of value, and everything anyone could eat, including all livestock. Death and destruction were everywhere.

While in hiding, few had enough to eat. Starvation was now upon the survivors. There was no International Aid, no Red Cross meal trucks. The Northern army had taken everything they could carry and eaten everything they could eat.

But, they couldn't take it all. The devastated people of the South found, for some unknown reason, Sherman's bloodthirsty troops had left silos full of black-eyed peas.

You see, at the time, in the North, the lowly black-eyed pea was only used to feed livestock. The Northern troops saw it as the thing of least value, after taking grain for their horses, livestock, and other crops to feed themselves they just couldn't take everything.

So, they left the black-eyed peas in great quantities, assuming it would be of no use to the survivors, because all the stock that it could feed had either been taken or eaten.

Southerners awoke to face a New Year in this devastation. Facing massive starvation, if not for the good luck of having the black-eyed peas to eat.

From New Year's Day 1865 forward, the tradition grew to eat black-eyed peas on New Year's Day for good luck."

And now, you know, too.



CAMP JOURNAL

February 23, 2010

- **Regular Meeting:** Held 7:00 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House, James City County, VA
 - 46 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
 - Robert E. Lee painting and auction planning; Compatriot David Beish
- **Program: Mr. Jack Marlar, SCV Field Representative, presented an informative historical account of "The Confederate Patent Office."**
- **Benediction:** Chaplin Fred Breeden
- **Adjournment:** Camp adjourned at 8:30 PM. Next regular meeting scheduled for March 23, 2011 at Colonial Heritage Clubhouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Woolridge
Commander