

May 2010

Williamsburg, Virginia

Last Meeting: Our last meeting had 31 in attendance. Compatriot Fred Chiesa, Stonewall Camp gave an interesting presentation on "Confederate Currency and Stamps."



Fred Chiesa

Next Event: Confederate Memorial Day Service, May 28, 2010, 5:00 pm, Olive Branch Christian Church, 7643 Richmond Road, Toano, VA, Barbecue picnic supper immediately following at Compatriot Fred Boelt's Farm, 2896 Forge Road, Toano, VA \$15 per person, \$25 per couple (No Regular Meeting Scheduled)

Planning Committee Meeting: The Camp Planning Committee met on May 19, 2010 at "Hog Wild Smokehouse." Members present were; Don Woolridge, Ken Parsons, Fred Breeden, Fred Boelt, Jerry White and David Ware. Items on the agenda were;

- Confederate Memorial Day May 28, 2010 – Olive Branch Church
- Peach Park sign repaired and new flag installed
- Amplifier system for speaker presentations

Commander Don Woolridge:

Friends and Compatriots, we will be celebrating Confederate Memorial Day on the 28th of this month at Olive Branch Church, 7643 Richmond Road, Toano, 5:00 PM. I hope that all of you will be able to attend this important service. It is our duty to remember our veterans who fought so diligently for a cause they sincerely believed in. After the service we will gather for a southern barbecue supper at Compatriot Fred Boelt's farm on Forge Road. This is a good time for all and an excellent way to meet new friends and potential Compatriots.

At our April meeting we inducted three new Compatriots, Bryce and Trevor Shirley and BillLee Watkins. We welcome these fine men into the Camp and look forward to their friendship as well as their help with heritage preservation.

This month Compatriot and Charter Member Richard (Dick) Wilkinson passed away. As Stonewall Jackson stated, "Let us cross over the river and rest under the shade of the trees." May this Compatriot be remembered fondly and his service to the Cause emulated. Lest we forget!

Deo Vindice!

Adjutant Ken Parsons:

Interesting happenings in the month of May within the Confederacy:

May, 1861 Virginia and North Carolina joined her sister states and helped to form The Confederate States of America.

The Battle of Chancellorsville was won by Generals Lee and Jackson, declared their greatest victory; unfortunately, Stonewall was lost due to an accidental shooting by some Confederate troops when he was mistaken as the enemy.

May was the beginning of Gen. Grants Overland Campaign.

General James Longstreet was wounded in a similar incident as Gen. Jackson; he later returned to duty but was handicapped due to losing the use of his arm.

May is our Confederate Remembrance Month and we celebrate with a Service at Olive Branch Church by remembering our Confederate Soldiers buried there on Friday, May 28th at 5 PM. A delicious country BBQ supper follows at Compatriots Fred Boelt's plantation house on Forge Road.

Please let me know if you are planning to attend the picnic supper so we can be sure we have prepared for everyone. Cost is \$15 for one, \$25 for two. This is our only fund raiser except for the book auction.

And, be sure to remember to bring your items for our "Support the Troops" collection to the BBQ Supper!

Across the State:

May 22nd and 23rd, Spotsylvania Courthouse, Civil War Reenactment, Battle of Chancellorsville and Wilderness.

Monday May 31 from 9 to 11 AM, a memorial Service at the Confederate Chapel on Grove Road, Richmond

Monday May 31 at 3 PM, the 12th annual Memorial Day Service at Blandford Cemetery, Petersburg.

Saturday June 5th, at 10 AM, A Celebration of President Jefferson Davis birthday at Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond.

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

Confederate History Month, April 2010

The re-establishment of Confederate History Month by the government was instituted by our new Governor making good on a campaign promise and issuing a proclamation. He and the proclamation were met with derision, ridicule and mockery. It appears that if we are to venerate our ancestors during this sesquicentennial, we should take some lessons from this debacle:

1. We simply *must* cure ourselves of Republican and Democrat Party thinking. We have no friends in either major party and need to bash through our denial about that. In my opinion, we do our ancestors a disservice to pay homage to these people as they and their policies run counter to everything our ancestors stood for.
2. We need to pay more attention to our complete heritage, starting with the hospitality of Pocahontas, the brilliance of Jefferson, the example of Washington, the perseverance of Calhoun, the chivalry of Lee, the determination and valor of Jackson and most of all, to the idea that we are descended from the heirs of limited government, individual freedom and personal responsibility.
3. Cease and desist supporting imperialistic wars of foreign aggression. Our ancestors fought to be left alone and we, of all people, should respect that desire when it unfolds against our military and political presence. We are descended from people that knew the pain and dismay of having our homes and families devastated by an imperialistic unprincipled aggressor. To me, it is one of the pinnacles of hypocrisy to support “our” efforts to bend foreign countries under the heavy foot of U. S. military might while lamenting the same thing when it was done by the same mentality against our Southern people.
4. The enemy will now and forever espouse our cause as that which promoted and perpetuated slavery. These people are collectivists, socialists and communists. We cannot convert them. They crave the dictator’s hand and wish to extend it to the known world. No one can give information to someone who does not wish to receive it and we therefore need to ignore these people and concentrate on the young and those willing to learn.

5. We should always make the point that we are the heirs through our agrarian Confederate ancestors of Jeffersonian democracy espoused by this part of a letter written by Jefferson to James Madison, December 20, 1787:

“and say, finally, whether peace is best preserved by giving energy to the government or information to the people. This last is most certain, and the most legitimate engine of government...They (the people) are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty...This reliance cannot deceive us, as long as we remain virtuous; and I think we shall be so, as long as agriculture is our principal object, which will be the case, while there remain vacant lands in any part of America. When we get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, we shall become corrupt as in Europe, and go to eating one another as they do there.”
We are indeed, uninformed, piled upon one another and corrupt.

6. We should point out the result of crushing Southern thought and culture by the “ends justify the means” juggernaut of the Yankee industrialist regime. I have not to date found a better explanation than that of contemporary Southern essayist and poet Wendell Berry in *Sex, Economy, Freedom & Community*:

"The Civil War made America safe for the moguls of the railroads and of the mineral and timber industries who wanted to be free to exploit the countryside. The work of these industries and their successors is now almost complete. They have dispossessed, disinherited and moved into the urban economy almost the entire citizenry: They have defaced and plundered the countryside. And now this great corporate enterprise, thoroughly uprooted and internationalized, is moving toward the exploitation of the whole world under the shibboleths of 'globalization,' 'free trade,' and 'new world order.' The proposed revisions in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade are intended solely to further this exploitation. The aim is simply and unabashedly to bring every scrap of productive land and every worker on the planet under corporate control. The voices of the countryside, the voices appealing for respect for the land and for rural community, have simply not been heard in the centers of wealth, power, and knowledge. The centers have decreed that the voice of the countryside shall be that of Snuffy Smith or L'il Abner, and only that voice have they been willing to hear." C.1992

Bus Trip: On My 4, 30 people loaded the bus at Colonial Towne Plaza and toured Richmond Historical sites. The trip received good support from the area, but had only 9 people associated with the camp. All had a great time with history and fellowship.

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.

**Honoring our Confederate Soldier – April
4th Corporal David Warren Spencer
Company H – 5th Virginia Cavalry**

Born May 20, 1842 in James City County, Virginia.

Enlisted, at age 19, in Company W of the 3rd Virginia Cavalry on June 4, 1861.

In hospital in February, 1862.

Reenlisted in 1862 in Co. H of the 5th Virginia Cavalry.

Captured and paroled at Hanover Courthouse on May 3, 1863.

Promoted to 4th Corporal in the summer of 1863.

Detached on a horse detail in November and December of 1863.

Shown present with 81 horses in Danville on September 30, 1864.

Surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse. Paroled in Richmond on April 27, 1865.

Married Lena Camilla Ware on July 13, 1865. They had four daughters before Lena's early death on October 10, 1878.

David was a member of the Magruder-Ewell UCV Camp in Williamsburg.

David passed away on July 31, 1915 at the age of 73. He was survived by one of his four daughters, Miss. Letitia, who lived with him at the home place.

David and Lena are buried in the Cowles-Spencer Cemetery.

[Pamphlet for the Memorial Service of March 17, 2010 held at the Cowles-Spencer Cemetery. Biographical information and service record provided by Fred Boelt.]

JAMES CITY COUNTY CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES

By Historian/Genealogist Fred Boelt

This year we have chosen to hold our annual Confederate Remembrance Day ceremony at Olive Branch Christian Church (7643 Richmond Road). There are twenty-one veterans interred in the church cemetery and five veterans interred in the adjacent Hubbard family cemetery. In past editions of *Picket Lines*, we have looked at the lives of the Hubbard men and some of the men buried at Olive Branch. We will continue to look at the lives of the rest of these veterans in subsequent issues, but a little history of the church itself might be appropriate as we gather there to honor the lives of these men who answered the call to support the Southern cause.

In the 1820s and 1830s, Peter Ainslie and Alexander Campbell were instrumental in founding a new denomination called Disciples of Christ. The tenets of the sect, simply stated, were based on the New Testament and embodied Bible study, celebration of the Lord's Supper, and baptism by immersion. Followers were seeking a simpler form of worship based on the early apostolic church. Both Ainslie and Campbell made successful forays into the peninsula and three churches rose from their labors; Grafton in York County, Lebanon near Lee Hall, and Olive Branch near Burnt Ordinary.

In 1833 twenty men and women gathered at Hill Pleasant farm to study the scriptures and receive communion. Hill Pleasant was the ancestral home of the Lightfoot family, and through intermarriage, the Henley Family. Catherine Norvell Lightfoot Henley, who along with her husband Richardson Henley owned Hill Pleasant, became the first member of the church. From this first gathering, a church was formed. Meetings continued to be held at Hill Pleasant. Dr. Charles Miles Hubbard and his wife, Mary Henley Hubbard, donated two acres of their farm land to the congregation, and plans were made to erect a church building there.

The date of completion has been challenged over the years with some histories claiming that it was built in 1835. However, it seems likely that the original part of the church was finished around 1845. In an article published in the November 1845 edition of the *Millennial Harbinger* (a Disciples of Christ journal), Thomas Meekins Henley wrote about his recent visit to the peninsula. He stated, "The disciples in James City have made their brick to build a good house of worship on the land where I drew my first breath, now owned by Dr. Hubbard." Thomas Henley was a brother of Richardson Henley and an uncle of Mary Henley Hubbard.

During the War Between the States, the church was used by union soldiers as an outpost. The men slept in the gallery and stabled their horses in the sanctuary. The pews and floor boards were ripped up and used for firewood and the interior walls were blackened from smoke. The communion service was stolen and the windows were broken out. The congregation worshiped in the Farthing home on York River Road until the church could be restored for use after the war. Finally in 1917, Olive Branch received \$500.00 from the Federal government to cover damages. Electricity and a furnace were added at that time, and a Sunday School addition onto the old church followed soon after. Later, a separate fellowship hall was erected.

Additional acreage was purchased to allow for the expansive cemetery around Olive Branch. Many generations of old James City County residents are interred in these peaceful grounds. This year on Remembrance Day, we honor the Confederate veterans who rest here from their labors:

Winder George Whiting Farthing, Pinkethman T. Garrett (unmarked grave), Richard M. Garrett, George Edward Geddy, George William Geddy, Francis Ward Hammond, Alexander Hamilton

Hankins, Southey Savage Hankins, Winfield Scott Hankins, Richard D. Hicks (unmarked grave), George W. E. James, Robert P. James, Sr., John W. Minor, George Washington Otey, George A. C. Piggott, Benjamin Henry Ratcliffe, George Edward Camp Richardson, Richard Edward Taylor, William Benjamin Vaiden, Richard Harwood Whitaker, and Thomas Wynne.

There are five more veterans buried in the Hubbard family cemetery (on the knoll to the left of the driveway as you face the front of the church): Peter T. Cowles, Charles William Miles Hubbard, James Filmer Hubbard, John William Hubbard, and George W. Tyree. Service rank and unit and vital statistics may be found for all of these men on our camp website. With the exception of Charles W. M. Hubbard and Richard H. Whitaker, all of these men survived the war and returned to their homes and families in James City County. Comrades at arms; comrades at rest.

April 2010 Induction Ceremony



L-R 1st Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Toalson, Bryce and Trevor Shirley, BillLee Watkins and Adjutant Ken Parsons

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>

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Thought for the Month

"Everyone should do all in his power to collect and disseminate the truth, in the hope that it may find a place in history and descend to posterity. History is not the relation of campaigns and battles and generals or other individuals, but that which shows the principles for which the South contended and which justified her struggle for those principles."

General Robert E. Lee





CAMP JOURNAL

April 27, 2010

- **Meeting:** Held 7:00 PM at Hog Wild, James City County, VA
 - 31 attendees
 - Welcome given by Commander Don Woolridge
 - Invocation: given by Chaplin Fred Breedon
 - Brief talk on Confederate History Month & Nathan Bedford Forrest
 - Pledge and Salute to the Flags:
 - US flag pledge, Virginia flag salute, and CS flag salute by Camp members
 - The Charge: was read by Adjutant Ken Parsons
 - Recognition of guests and Friends of the SCV by Commander Woolridge
 - Ancestral Memorial Candle: Corporal Dave Warren Spencer 5th VA Cav Service Record was read by Compatriot Charles Eugene Bush
 - Adjutant/Treasurer's Report: \$562.27 in the treasury
- **Announcements:**
 - Virginia Division Convention Report
 - Bus Trip May 4, 2010
 - Web site updated
 - Now on Face Book
 - Confederate Memorial Day May 28, 2010 – Olive Branch Church
 - Peach Park Sign Repair
 - Sesquicentennial Report (*None*)
- **Upcoming events:**
 - 22-23 May North-South Skirmish Association Nationals, Winchester, VA
 - 28 May- Confederate Remembrance Day, Olive Branch Church' followed by supper at Compatriot Fred Boelt's farm
- **April Minutes:** Approved as published in May edition of "*Picket Lines*"
- **Committee Reports:**
 - Cemetery Report: 2nd Lt Steve White reported on new sitesSupport our Troops Project: Compatriot Dave Ware gave report and asked if Camp desired to continue project
 - Vote taken and passed to continue project
 - Compatriot Joel Goodwin will head up project
- **Old Business:**
 - Support the Troops Project: See Committee Reports above

- **New Business:**
 - Camp book auction generated \$54
 - Bryce Shirley, Trevor Shirley & Bill Watkins inducted into Camp
- **Program:** Guest speaker Fred Chiesa gave an interesting talk on Confederate Money & Stamps with representative samples for all to see.
- **Benediction:** Chaplin Fred Breeden
- **Adjournment:** Camp adjourned at 8:55 P.M. Next regular meeting scheduled for 23 June 2010. May meeting will be 28 May- “Confederate Remembrance Day”, Olive Branch Church’ followed by supper at Compatriot Fred Boelt’s farm

Respectfully submitted,

Robert H. Tuck