



# James City Cavalry PICKET LINES



February 2014 Dispatch – Williamsburg, Virginia – <http://www.jamescitycavalry.org>

Camp #2095  1st Brigade  Virginia Division  Army of Northern Virginia

A PATRIOTIC HONOR SOCIETY DEDICATED TO SERVICE AND PRESERVING THE TRUE HISTORY OF THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

## NEXT MUSTER

Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 6:30pm  
Colonial Heritage Club  
<http://colonialheritageclub.org/home.asp>  
6500 Arthur Hills Drive  
Williamsburg, VA 23188

### Guest Speaker:

Mr. John Sharrett III  
Suffolk County, Virginia

*“Sesquicentennial Reenactment  
of the Battle of Gettysburg”*



**Meal Cost: \$17.00 Per Person –**  
(genuine Confederate currency gladly accepted –  
will reluctantly accept US \$5 notes)

**Honored Confederate Soldiers:**  
5<sup>th</sup> Sergeant Roland H. Woodward  
Private Robert A. Woodward  
Co. B – 53<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Infantry  
(Ancestors of Compatriot George Bridewell)

**No RSVP Required**

**Compatriots' Ladies & Guests Encouraged To Attend**

## JANUARY GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. John Sharrett III  
Suffolk County, Virginia

*“Sesquicentennial Reenactment  
of the Battle of Gettysburg”*

After one hundred and fifty years, Confederate and Union troops once again gathered around a little town in Pennsylvania called Gettysburg. The clash of these armies in 1863 produced the highest casualty count in the entire War for Southern Independence. Between 46,000 and 51,000 men were wounded or killed. This was nearly as many casualties as the U.S. endured in the entire Vietnam conflict. The battle started as elements of the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of the Potomac stumbled into each other near that crossroads town in Central Pennsylvania and lasted three days, 1-3 July 1863. Join John Sharrett as he presents his experiences at the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reenactment of that horrific battle, held 5-7 July 2013.

John A. Sharrett, III was born and raised in Portsmouth, moving to Suffolk in 1969. He currently lives in the Southeaster section of Suffolk on the North Carolina state line, next to the Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge.

He is a charter member and commander of the Stonewall Camp #380 SCV, established in 1977, and is also a member of the Tom Smith Camp #1702 in Suffolk.

John has been a member of the North-South Skirmish Association since 1960, receiving his 50-year Membership Award in May 2009. He served as the N-SSA's National Commander for six years, from 1977 to 1982 and is the past-commander of the Dismal Swamp Rangers - a member organization of the N-SSA.

Bring a guest to our February meeting. Supper will be served at 6:30PM, and we will introduce John Sharrett at 7:30. Our buffet costs \$17 per person. Non-members please contact Ken Parsons, [kparsons4@cox.net](mailto:kparsons4@cox.net) or (757) 876-6967, to confirm your reservations.

 - 1st Lt. Commander Ed Engle

# SUPPORT THE TROOPS

We begin 2014 with a new serviceman to support:



Cpl. Dalton Simmons, USMC  
9th Comm. Battalion Dwyer  
(somewhere in Afghanistan)

Cpl. Simmons has received two boxes and, like all Marines, has divided among his unit pictured below. The Camp is privileged to support our servicemen in the field but we need your help. Supplies of the following items are very much in need but severely depleted:

- Baby Wipes
- Q-Tips
- Hard Candy
- Slim Jims
- Lip Balm
- Beef Jerky
- Dental Floss
- Moisture Lotion

Please consider bringing a donation of these needed items to the meeting and Scott Summerfield will be sure and get them where they're needed most.



*Commander Jeff Toalson [James City Cavalry #2095] and Commander Ken Wood [Magruder Ewell #99] at Kiln Creek Country Club, on January 25, at the annual Lee-Jackson-Maury Luncheon hosted by the Bethel and Peninsula Campaign Chapters of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.*

## WILLIAMSBURG CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 7:00pm  
Williamsburg Regional Library: Mr. Robert Doares –  
*“Dr. Charles Minnigerode – William & Mary Professor and Pastor to President Jefferson Davis”*



## CAMP OFFICERS

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Commander</b>                    | Jeff Toalson<br><a href="mailto:troon24@cox.net">troon24@cox.net</a>                        |
| <b>Adjutant</b>                     | Ken Parsons<br><a href="mailto:kparsons4@cox.net">kparsons4@cox.net</a>                     |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander</b> | Ed Engle<br><a href="mailto:ece44@cox.net">ece44@cox.net</a>                                |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander</b> | Steve White<br><a href="mailto:garrettsgrocery@netzero.com">garrettsgrocery@netzero.com</a> |
| <b>Historian/Genealogist</b>        | Fred Boelt<br><a href="mailto:fwb@widomaker.com">fwb@widomaker.com</a>                      |
| <b>Archivist/Editor</b>             | Jim Swords<br><a href="mailto:james.swords@cox.net">james.swords@cox.net</a>                |
| <b>Quartermaster</b>                | Warren Raines<br><a href="mailto:warrenandpaula@verizon.net">warrenandpaula@verizon.net</a> |
| <b>Chaplain</b>                     | Fred Breeden<br><a href="mailto:fbreeden@yahoo.com">fbreeden@yahoo.com</a>                  |

# CAMP PICTORIAL

## ACCIDENT OR VANDALISM?

On January 19th, a driver who was either speeding or alcohol impaired ran the stop sign at the corner of Penniman Road & Queens Creek Road and destroyed a 30 foot section of fencing at Fort Magruder. Fort Magruder and Redoubt #1 are the only two fortifications of the Williamsburg line that are currently available for public view and access to assist in gaining perspective on the 1862 battle of Williamsburg. Redoubt #11 on the Busch-Egger Tract may someday be added to this grouping. Fort Magruder, in addition to being a Confederate fortification prior to and during the battle in May of 1862 then became a Union fort for the remainder of the war while Williamsburg was occupied. It served as the headquarters for Union occupation forces and maintained the Fort Magruder name for the rest of the conflict. Hopefully this destruction of property was an accident. The driver just missed hitting a telephone pole and the chain link fence should have done some damage to the vehicle. If this was not an accident, but was vandalism, then I can only hope that ghosts of Union and Confederate soldiers, who served at Fort Magruder, will be upset with the driver for his disrespect of their hallowed ground.

- Commander Jeff Toalson



# CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES

(Contributed by Historian/Genealogist Compatriot Fred Boelt)

In January, we discussed two of the sons of Peter and Margaret Clowes. This month we will look at the life and service of their third son. Alexander Texas Clowes was born in Williamsburg on October 9, 1844. He was listed as a student on the 1853 roster of the Williamsburg Military School. Little else is known about his young life. His mother died in 1853, and his father Peter married Sarah J. Mears in 1855. Texas, as he was known to family and friends, was living with his father and step-mother in Williamsburg in 1860, being fifteen years old at census time.

As the Peninsula Campaign approached Williamsburg, Texas enlisted in Company C, 32<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Infantry, on May 4, 1862, in Williamsburg. Texas was in Chimborazo Hospital #4 from May 28<sup>th</sup> through June 5<sup>th</sup>, and was also admitted to General Hospital #21 in Richmond for four days on June 8<sup>th</sup> before being returned to active duty. He was otherwise present on all rosters from May 1862 through June 1863. He received a slight wound at Sharpsburg on September 17, 1862. His obituary stated that he received a severe wound at the Battle of Gettysburg, but this was not found in his service record. . On the roster for July and August 1863, he was listed "in arrest" in Petersburg. He was again present from September through December 1863 where his record goes dark.

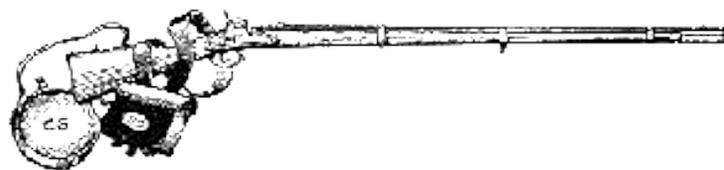
However, the roster for July and August 1864 listed him as "absent without leave." Dated January 1, 1865, his record stated that he deserted on August 1, 1864. On September 15<sup>th</sup>, he was described as follows: age 20 years, height 5 feet, 7 inches, blue eyes, dark hair, light complexion. He was on a roll of prisoners forwarded to Washington, DC on September 21, 1864. He was sent to headquarters of the Army of the Potomac the next day where he took the oath of allegiance and was furnished

transportation to Baltimore, Maryland. A note in his record stated that "the deserter has taken the oath and wishes to go to Williamsburg, Virginia where he came from."

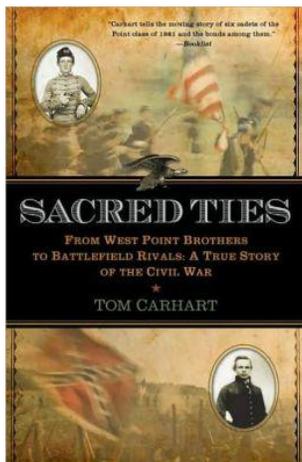
Texas Clowes did return to Williamsburg before the war was over. He married Martha Badkins there on January 10, 1865, and they had seven daughters and two sons. Texas Clowes worked at Eastern State Hospital for a while and also served as assistant to the city sergeant. He later ran a transfer business, a portion of the time carrying the mail between the post office and the railroad station. A staunch Democrat, he was well versed in political affairs and candidates sought his support.

Martha Clowes died on November 23, 1922. Her husband, Texas, survived her by a year and a half, dying on April 23, 1924. His funeral was held at the Methodist Church, and he was interred at Cedar Grove Cemetery with his wife and other family members.

In the January 2014 *Picket Lines*, we stated that there were two possible death dates for John William Clowes. Since going to press, that puzzle has been solved. In a chancery court case involving John's widow, Elizabeth, a list of expenses charged to John's estate was submitted into the evidence file for the case. Expenses were paid on November 3, 1866: "To cash for funeral expenses for decedent, \$41.10; for digging grave, \$2.00." Based on this, a death date for John William Clowes of November 2, 1866, now seems probable.

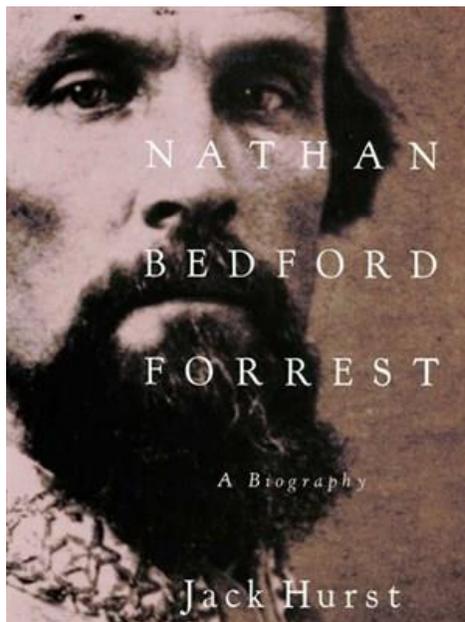


# FEBRUARY BOOK RAFFLE

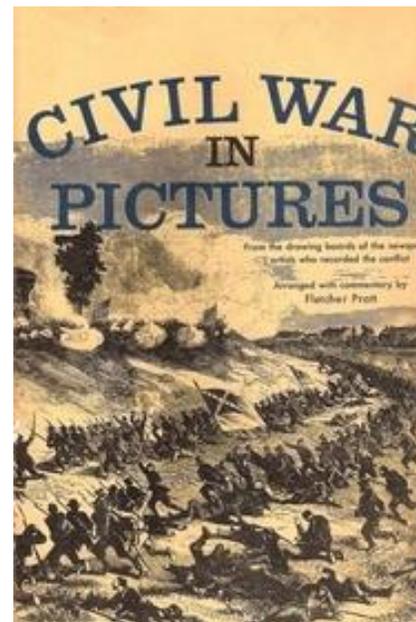


**“Sacred Ties – From West Point Brothers to Battlefield Rivals” Tom Carhart, New York, 2010, Hard Cover, 350 pages**

Looks at Rosser, Ramsuer, Custer, Merritt, Pelham and DuPont who were all friends before 1860 tore the class apart. Very interesting stories from West Point and also postwar. The wartime portion would be stronger without DuPont and Ramsuer and just concentrating on the other 4 and cavalry operations in Va., Md., and Pa.



**“Nathan Bedford Forrest – A Biography” Jack Hurst, New York, 1993, Hard Cover, 350 pages**  
One of the latest bios of Forrest. Mr. Hurst is from Tennessee, a graduate of Vandy, worked for the Nashville newspaper and had both CSA and USA ancestors fighting in the WBTS.



**“Civil War in Pictures” Fletcher Pratt, New York, 1955, Large Format Hard Cover, 250 pages**  
One of the key large format books to come out before the centennial of the WBTS. Illustrated with a wide variety of engravings from the major newspapers of the day.

## FEBRUARY TRIVIA QUESTION:

In his first election A. Lincoln received a low percentage of the popular vote. Tell me what that percentage was and I'll award you with a book about the war.

**Helpful Hint: There was 6,543,505 votes cast. How many went to Lincoln?**



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