



July 2010

Williamsburg, Virginia

Last Meeting: Our last meeting had 26 in attendance. It was our pleasure to enjoy the company of **Preston Nuttall**, and his wife Pat, at our June meeting. Preston gave an excellent presentation on the construction, campaigns, and loss of the CSS Albemarle and kept the Camp entertained with little known tidbits and sidebars of the CSS Albemarle and of the people involved in the battles for control of the sound. We all learned that a commanding officer should never fire a cannon if the gun crew is unwilling to fire it, there just might be a very good reason. The James City Cavalry looks forward to having Preston join us again in the future to regale us with stories on other topics.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be at "Hog Wild Smokehouse Restaurant" located at 8864 Richmond Road, Toano, VA 23168 www.hogwildsmokehouse.com on **July 28th at 7 pm.** Our Speaker **R.W. Lee "Bob" Krick - Historian, Richmond National Battlefield Park, will give a historical presentation on "Drewy's Bluff - Gibraltar of the Confederacy"**

Planning Committee Meeting: The Camp Planning Committee met on July 14, 2010, 6:30 PM at "Hog Wild Smokehouse." Committee work and discussions will be reported to the Camp at the July 28th meeting.

Commander Don Woolridge:

Camp membership continues to grow month by month. It is my hope that our message is getting out to the community, especially to those who have Confederate Ancestors. Through the work of our Compatriots, Camp Authors, newsletter and website, we continue to reach out to the public with our goals preserving the memories of our deceased ancestors. Our preservation efforts with Confederate graves and cemeteries continue to generate interest and positive comments from the community. Peach Park Cemetery has new visitors stop by weekly, signing the guest book as well as taking one of our information pamphlets. All of these efforts help true Southern Heritage live on. As I read the "Confederate Veteran" magazine, I am pleased to see that SCV membership continues to grow throughout the nation. We have reached a time in history where true Americans are coming to appreciate the South and the Southern way of thinking. Let us keep up the momentum with recruiting and preservation of our Southern Heritage!

I would personally like to welcome new Compatriots Lee Ware, Chris Hockaday and SCV Friend Jean Keating to the Camp. We look forward to all of you being a part of the Camp and working with our preservation efforts.

Deo Vindice!

Adjutant Ken Parsons:

Membership-

We now have 44 members including the two that we will induct into the Camp at our next meeting. They are Ash Thumm and Travis Turner. We have two associate members (full-fledged SCV members of other camps), three Friends of The SCV members and one new member (who will remain a surprise for now) and two additional candidates for membership that we are presently work on. We will soon have over 50 members! Keep them coming!

Books- Summer reading

I have just finished reading Chaplin Breeden's book on Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest. I want to recommend to all of you to read anything you can to find out about this great Southern soldier. I knew Forrest was considered one of our finest but I had no idea of how much he accomplished for the "Cause" before reading this book. I would write a summary of his actions and thinking but I would be rewriting the book and this newsletter is not long enough for that! The book "FORREST" by Robert Selph Henry printed in 1944 took nearly 20 years to assemble the information and write. I recommend it highly and I am sure there are other books on General Forrest that are worth your time to read.

Just for example:

Gen. Robert E. Lee said that even though he had never met him, Forrest was probably the greatest soldier in the war.

Gen. Joseph Johnston pronounced Gen Forrest the greatest soldier the Civil War produced.

Another book I recently finished is "ELMIRA- Death Camp of the North" by Michael Horigan, published in 2006. It is an attempt to illustrate the cover-up of a deliberate plan to starve the Confederate POW's at the prison camp located in Elmira, N.Y. It is a tough read for a true Rebel like me and it probably will be for most Americans. It illustrates the misguided thoughts and retribution by the Lincoln administration for the Union POWs' held in prisons in the South. This is another example of the mistreatment of our ancestors throughout the war. I am willing to pass this book to anyone who would like to read it. I will have it at the July meeting with me if you are interested in reading it.

Dues-

Heads-up.....Collection of annual dues is coming up soon. Just like last year, you will get an invoice from the Virginia Division, send it to me and I will take it from there. There is NOTHING for you to do at this time! Just wait until you get the invoice, which are several weeks away.

Past Commander David Ware: "The Untold Story"

As the Sesquicentennial unfolds, we will be indoctrinated with stories of how blacks deserted the South and flocked to the Union army to fight for their freedom. Nothing will be said about the majority millions who stayed behind in loyalty, friendship and patriotic devotion to their southern homeland. Blacks came to this continent in Virginia at Jamestown in 1619. During the

first war of Revolution, some 8,000 blacks served in George Washington's army. Many made the trip with Washington from Mount Vernon to Boston. Despite the offer of emancipation to any slave who served the cause of Britain, few left the colonies. Blacks also served in the War of 1812. In 1822, Liberia was created for American free blacks. Fewer than 3000 left for the new country, for by this time they were not Africans, they were Americans. By 1860, it was clear that slavery was a dying issue. It was possible for those that desired their freedom to achieve it and it was happening. In 1800, for example, the black population of Washington, D. C. was 746 of which 123 were free. In 1860 there were 10,983 of which 9,209 were free. The Confederate States of America in 1861 contained 500,000 free blacks of which 60,000 were in Virginia alone. There was no mass black migration from the South to the North. By and large, southern slaves and ex-slaves viewed the south as their home. Slaves and free blacks fought for the first Confederacy in 1776 and in the second Confederacy in 1861 because they were fighting for their home. A federal observer of Stonewall Jackson's Army on the way to Antietam estimated 3,000 black soldiers mixed in with what he called "the Rebel horde." One half of the people that worked at Tredegar Iron Works and Chimborazo Hospital were black. The greatest contribution that black patriots made to the Confederacy, however, was in shoring up and maintaining the home front. The Confederate army had the highest conscription rate of any army ever assembled on the face of the Earth. Upwards of some 90% of eligible white men served the cause, leaving no young men to look after things back home. To my knowledge of all the letters that survived the war not one of them indicated that any soldier had to go home because of concern for the safety and welfare of their farms and families because of any actions by Southern blacks.

The Yankee does not understand the social intimacy between Southern blacks and whites. As a boy, I thought nothing of the fact that the children I played with while their mothers and fathers worked in our fields had to eat in a different place than we did, but were right in the front row at our family funerals and weddings. After getting his PhD from Boston University, Martin Luther King was asked to describe Boston: "Boston is the Birmingham of the north but Birmingham will change for the better, Boston won't." Undoubtedly, loyal blacks enabled the Confederate States of America to exist for four years instead of four weeks. To them, true patriotism was the belief that their descendants would benefit from their actions. The deeds of these loyal, noble people should not ever be forgotten or swept into a corner by political correctness.

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. Our book for the "Book Auction" in July will be: "*A Carolinian Goes to War*" - *The Civil War Narrative of Arthur Middleton Manigault, Brigadier General, C.S.A.*

R. Lockwood Turner, editor
1992
University of S. Carolina Press

"This memoir provides a brilliant account of the major campaigns of the western front; from the debacle following Shiloh to the last gasp at Franklin and Nashville. Unlike many memoirs, General Manigault pulls no punches as he discusses his superiors and peers." Manigault wrote for his sons and not for publication. In my opinion this is the best post war work of any Confederate general.

JAMES CITY COUNTY CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES

By Historian/Genealogist Fred Boelt

Having not yet reviewed all of the lives of the Confederate veterans interred at Olive Branch Church, we will pursue two men of the surname James this month. George W. E. James was born about 1832/33 in New Kent County. He was the son of Thurston James and his wife, Mary Banks, and younger brother of James Thurston James. On the 1860 census, George was married and living with his wife, Joice Merry, and young son William B. James, near Burnt Ordinary where he was farming. George enlisted in Williamsburg on June 24, 1861 into Company W, 3rd Virginia Cavalry as a private. In December, he was on detached duty serving as an orderly to General Ewell. He was hospitalized in April through June 1862 with debility. He re-enlisted in Company H, 5th Virginia Cavalry on an unknown date, and he was present on rolls for November 1863 through April 1864. His horse was killed and he was wounded in his left leg at Reams Station on June 29, 1864. He recuperated in a Petersburg hospital until August 16th, and was then granted a forty day furlough. He was paid \$1,900 for a horse in March 1865 and there is no further record of his service after that. It should be mentioned here that his older brother, James Thurston James, also served in the 3rd and 5th Cavalries, died in 1862, and was buried in the Marston family cemetery.

After the war, George returned to farming, probably in New Kent. In 1880, he and his wife, Joice, four children, and his bed-ridden mother-in-law, Nancy Merry [this may be Mercy] were living in Cumberland Township, New Kent. George died in November 1883, and was buried at Olive Branch Church. His wife, Joice who died in 1919, is buried next to him, and one of their children, George Bertrand James and family are near-by.

There is a bit of an unsolved mystery about the other man of surname James. Without absolute proof, Robert Pryor James seems to have been the son of George James, brother of Thurston James. If this is correct, then George W. E. James and Robert Pryor James were first cousins. In his household in 1840, George James had one male aged 4 years and under, plus a wife and several other children. In 1850, Robert P. James, age 14, was living with Elizabeth Richardson and Elizabeth Archer. No relationship was listed. His whereabouts in 1860 have not been found, but military records indicate that he served in Company E, 20th North Carolina Infantry as a 1st Lieutenant and later as adjutant.

The 20th Infantry was formed in July 1861 at Smithfield and Fort Caswell, North Carolina. After serving in North Carolina, the unit was moved to Virginia and served in various campaigns of the Army of Northern Virginia. Perhaps Robert joined this group while they were in Virginia or perhaps he had gone to North Carolina before the war and enlisted there. The North Carolina regimental histories need to be searched for further details of his service.

In 1880, Robert P. James was living in the Stonehouse District with his wife, Lucy J., who was born in North Carolina. Did he end up in North Carolina after the war and marry a Tar Heel or did she come to Virginia and meet him here? Based on the ages of their four children, all born in Virginia, they appear to have married after 1870. Elizabeth Archer was also living with this family with kinship not stated. Lucy James died sometime before February 17, 1886, when Robert James married Susan Butler Hankins as his second wife. They had three sons.

Robert Pryor James died on March 25, 1906. His obituary stated that he had been born in James City County near River View. Knowing that the Richardson family had connections with the Archer family, and that they owned large tracts of land along present day Riverview Road, this

may be a clue about his mother and why he was living with Elizabeth Richardson in 1850. Speculation is dangerous when writing up family histories, but sometimes points future research in the right direction. At any rate, Robert was buried at Olive Branch Church along with one of his sons, R. P. James, Jr., a veteran of the Spanish-American War.

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

"If I ever disown, repudiate, or apologize for the Cause for which Lee fought and Jackson died, let the lightning's of Heaven rend me, and the scorn of all good men and true women be my portion. Sun, Moon, Stars, all fall on me when I cease to love the Confederacy. 'Tis the cause, not the fate of the Cause, that is glorious!"

Major R. E. Wilson, CSA 

Support our Troops Project: The following letter shows the appreciation from the soldiers for our support with this important project. I hope reading this letter will help motivate all of us to maintain the enthusiasm needed to make this project a continued success.



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
COMBINED/JOINT TASK FORCE-82
BAGRAM REGIONAL CUSTOMS OFFICE
BAGRAM AIRFIELD, AFGHANISTAN
APO AE 09354

CJTF-82-TFG-CUSTOMS

20 JUNE 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR Sons Of Confederate Veterans, Don Woolridge, Willamsburg, Virginia

SUBJECT: Thank You For Your Generosity

1. The 415th Military Police Law and Order Detachment, Major Patricia Hamilton, and myself, would like to thank you and your organization once again for your support. The 415th has served out its' year and is being replaced by the 342nd MP Detachment [Law & Order] from Massachusetts.

2. We have passed along the morale, health, and welfare items that you sent to us onto the 342nd soldiers who will be assuming the Customs and Border Protection Mission at Bagram Airfield. On behalf of the 342nd, thank you.

3. The point of contact for the 342nd MP Detachment if you wish to continue supporting the soldiers who work at the Bagram Regional Customs Office is:

MSG Michael Plante
342nd MP Det
BAF Customs
APO, AE 09354
email: michael.f.plante@afghan.swa.army.mil

4. As we return home with a sense of accomplishment from our missions here in Afghanistan, know that the success that the 415th had would have been seriously diminished without the support of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Our success was ensured by the SOCV and the care packages that maintained unit morale through the yearlong deployment.

5. MSG Plante will be assuming my position as Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge at Bagram Customs. Please feel free to contact him via email.

6. Once again, thank you for your support throughout the 415th's deployment to Bagram Airfield. The soldiers and family members of the 415th are grateful to organizations such as yours, who support units away from home; even ones from outside their home areas. It has been a pleasure to receive the care and support of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Our unit motto is "Invictus", which means unconquerable, but we would have failed to uphold that motto without the support from those back home. The 415th is extremely grateful that we can count the Sons of Confederate Veterans as one of those who supported us.


DENNIS SPILMAN
MSG, MP
CUSTOMS NCOIC



CAMP JOURNAL

June 23, 2010

- **Meeting:** Held 7:00 PM at Hog Wild, James City County, VA
 - 26 attendees
 - Welcome given by 1st Lt Commander Jeff Toalson
 - 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 Compatriot Jack Kane
 - Recognition of guests and Friends of the SCV by 1st Lt Commander Jeff Toalson
 - Ancestral Memorial Candle: “*Lt Henry S. Figures*”, 48th Alabama Infantry, read by Compatriot Charles Bush
 - Adjutant/Treasurer’s Report: \$1,709.67 in the treasury

- **Announcements:**
 - Compatriot Gilley to celebrate his 88th birthday
 - Compatriot David Ware reported on the May 4 bus trip and plans for the next trip.
 - Next SCV Camp meeting 28 July at “Hog Wild” restaurant
 - Sesquicentennial Report (*None*)

- **Upcoming events:**
 - 21 August- Live firing of Civil War cannons ,North-South Skirmish Association range, Winchester, VA

- **June Minutes:** Approved as published in July edition of “*Picket Lines*”

- **Committee Reports:**
 - Cemetery Report: 2nd Lt Cmdr Steve White reported headstone for Pvt Roland B. Woodward, Co B, 53rd VA Inf to be placed at Hockaday family cemetery located in New Kent County.
 - Support our Troops Project: Compatriot Joel Goodwin gave report on recent shipments and items needed by the troops

- **Old Business:**
 - See committee reports above.

- **New Business:**
 - Camp book auction generated \$34
 - Lee Ware & Chris Hockaday inducted into Camp as SCV members
 - Jean Keating as Friends of the SCV

- **Program:** Guest speaker Preston Nuttall gave a most interesting talk and slide presentation on the construction and exploits of the CSS Albemarle.
- **Benediction:** Chaplin Fred Breeden
- **Adjournment:** Camp adjourned at 8:40 P.M. Next regular meeting scheduled for 28 August 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert H. Tuck



Graham's Battery of the 1st Rockbridge Artillery, with members in James City Cavalry Camp #2095 and General John Randolph Chambliss #1779 placed "**second**" in mortar competition at the N-SSA Spring Nationals, held at Ft Shenandoah Winchester, VA