



August 2010

Williamsburg, Virginia

Last Meeting: Our last meeting had 41 in attendance. **Mr. Bob Krick, historian at the Richmond National Battlefield Park** gave a thought provoking and informative presentation on **Drewry's Bluff - Gibraltar of the Confederacy**. Bob detailed the history of the fortifications and the key role they played in preventing the Union fleet from attacking the City of Richmond. He detailed the 1862 battle between Fort Drewry and the Union fleet and the overwhelming Confederate victory. Bob's talk also covered life in the fort during 1863 and 1864 prior to the Union army once again arriving in front of Petersburg and Richmond. Bob answered a number of excellent questions following his talk and the Camp and guests gave him a rousing ovation of thanks.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be at "Hog Wild Smokehouse Restaurant" located at 8864 Richmond Road, Toano, VA 23168 www.hogwildsmokehouse.com on **August 25th at 7 pm**. Our Speaker **Catherine Wright, Collections Manager, Museum of the Confederacy** book talk, "*Lee's Last Casualty: The Life and Letters of Sgt. Robert W. Parker, Second Virginia Cavalry.*"

Planning Committee Meeting: The Camp Planning Committee will meet on August 19, 2010, 6:30 PM at "Hog Wild Smokehouse." Committee work and discussions will be reported to the Camp at the August 25th meeting.

Commander Don Woolridge:

I would first like to commend all James City Cavalry Compatriots for their enthusiasm and efforts to support the Cause. Compatriot Chris Hockaday has gone above and beyond with his efforts in keeping the grass cut at Peach Park Cemetery. Peach Park has become a center of attention for our Camp. Each day it has numerous people driving by as well as visitors that stop and show their appreciation for the Camp's preservation of Confederate Veterans gravesites. I am extremely pleased with the recruitment efforts by all Compatriots. In a little over two years we have almost doubled our membership. These results are solely initiated by the efforts of each and every James City Cavalry Compatriot. Our website has received over 4,000 hits since it was posted on the web. People from all over the world are visiting our site and downloading the information. Our Facebook page continues to grow and new friends are signing on monthly. With the help of our website, Facebook page and each of you spreading the "Southern Word", we will maintain the good name of our ancestors for many years to come.

We welcome SCV Friend Jean Keating, SCV Cadet Mitchell Turner and Compatriot Travis Turner to the Camp. We look forward to your friendship and assistance with the Camp's mission.

Deo Vindice!

July 28th Induction Ceremony



L-R Adjutant Ken Parsons, Jean Keating, Mitchell Turner, Travis Turner and 1st Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson

Adjutant Ken Parsons:

Our July speaker, Bob Krick, gave a very interesting talk on the battle of Drewry's Bluff and the development of Fort Darling. I was most interested in the 2nd battle also call Drewry's Bluff that occurred approximately 2 years after the first one and roughly 5 miles away. This battle turned General Butler and the Union Army back from an advance on Richmond while the siege of Petersburg was taking place. It was here that my great grandfather, George C. Parsons, was severely wounded in his left arm and side. He was in the S.C. 25th Inf. Brigade along with 3 brothers, one who aided him when he was wounded. Brother Franklin carried him back from the front lines and saw that he was tended to and then went back to the fighting. Shortly afterwards Franklin was wounded and taken out of action. This occurred on May 14, 1864; Franklin died of his wounds May 21, 1864 and was moved to Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg. His grave is not marked along with 28,000 other Confederate soldiers but we know he's there because he is on the cemetery rolls. Great-grandfather George eventually made it home when the war ended a few months later. He suffered from his wounds for the rest of his life and somehow married, had a family and farmed. He finally received a pension from the State in 1919 of \$25 and died shortly afterwards. He was a proud Confederate soldier.

There are over 30,000 confederate soldiers buried on the grounds around Blandford Church and many are reburials from different battlefields. Most are buried in mass graves, without individual markers, however; they are buried by their State of Origin, when known. There are

markers here for each of the Southern States that participated in the war. Many of those buried here came from the Petersburg hospitals from 1861 - 1865 and died here.

I certainly recommend a visit to anyone who has never been to this cemetery. It can be a very moving experience to be surrounded by so many of our men who gave all for the Confederacy. Our charge is to remember these men and never let the world forget. These monuments offer silent tribute to the courage, valor and fortitude of our ancestors.

Past Commander David Ware: “Community and Heritage”

“The South was always proud and independent and believed with the Founding Fathers, that centralized and powerful government invariably slides into tyranny. But the North, less proud, less conscious of national tradition, less independent, less manly in many ways, craves the dictator’s hand, the tyrants force, for many of its people have come from nations whose people were subjected to and dependent on government. It may be, in the future, that it will be the South who will prevent, for many long decades, the collapse of American Freedom into Caesarism.”
Taylor Caldwell, from “Captains and the Kings”

It has been said that the Southerner is the last of America’s people to know who they are and where they come from. This is because the people of the South have a deep and devout attachment to their heritage and community. They are able to trace their ancestry back to the War to Prevent Southern Independence, the Revolutionary War and beyond. Their parents, grandparents, great grandparents, great-great grandparents and great-great-great grandparents knew one another. They loved their land and home place. Names were given to the homes of Southerners: My family had Windsor, Sunnyside, Hard Bargain, Plumsite, Lombardy, Pinewoods, Bellevue and others. These were the places where our ancestors raised their families with other like-minded people to be self-responsible, productive members of a cohesive community.

This relationship is a complex connection between people, their land and nature. All neighbors are included in an intense personal bond to ancestors, the self, family, the land and its inhabitants. Arts to the Southern people more to do with hospitality, hunting, fishing, conversation and vegetable gardening than with rock concerts and the signing bonuses of professional athletes. Their definition of “mind your own business” is forged by a mutual respect for the rights and property of the individual.

Tied to the love of the dollar, the Yankees are Nomads wandering to advance “careers” and to always position themselves to make as much and spend as little money as possible. They typically have no heritage that they know of, bluster on about forgetting the past and “planning” for the future. They are self-proclaimed soothsayers who predict their future based on government programs, laws and bailouts. To them, a community is complete because they are in it. They believe that the tyrannical forces of planning, zoning, building regulations, taxes and laws perpetuate true community. They prefer to live in a subdivision with a guard at the gate craving the “dictator’s hand” of homeowners associations, their idea of connection to nature has to do with lawn care and walking the dog. Freedom, to the Yankee mentality, is the elimination of self-responsibility and worry and a plethora of fast food choices, Costco’s and Wall Marts. Their mindset wants cell phones with no cell towers, electricity with no generating plants, and gasoline with no oil refineries, airplanes with no airports and less taxes with more government spending. This makes perfect sense to their culture that teaches that you spend to save, borrow to get out of debt and kill for peace.

We Southern people must cure ourselves of Republican and Democrat Part thinking. We have no friends in either major party. 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. 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.

We should cease supporting 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 unprincipled aggressor. How can we support efforts to bend foreign countries under the heavy foot of the U. S. might while lamenting the same thing when it was done by the same mentality against our people?

"**Compatriot Jack Kane** raised \$51 with the raffle of *A Carolinian Goes to War - The Narrative of Brig. General Arthur M. Manigault, C. S. A.* Jack donated the proceeds to Camp 2095's General Fund."

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 August will be: *The Orphan Brigade - The Kentucky Confederates Who Couldn't Go Home*

William C. Davis, 1983, LSU Press, paperback, 318 pages.

This book is the premier history of the Orphan Brigade. These Kentucky troops were in virtually every major campaign in the West including Ft. Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, Tullahoma, Murfreesboro, Vicksburg, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, with Johnston and Hood to Atlanta, the March to the Sea, and the defense of the Carolinas.

The Orphan Brigade was composed, for most of the war, of the 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 9th Kentucky Infantry Regiments and Cobbs Battery of Light Artillery. The 41st Alabama also served with the Orphans.

JAMES CITY COUNTY CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES

By Historian/Genealogist Fred Boelt

Continuing our review of Confederate veterans buried at Olive Branch Church, this month we will look at the life of George Eaton Richardson. George, born in April 1830, was the oldest child of Allen Richardson and his wife, Sarah Browne Redwood. This family lived along Riverview Road where the extended Richardson family owned several large tracts of land. Little can be documented about George's early life up until the time of his first marriage. George married Lucy B. Lane from Gloucester County on March 11, 1857, and they had a son, Henry A, born on March 3, 1858. Little Henry died the next day, followed soon after by his mother on April 10th.

George again went courting in a neighboring county and married Mary W. Lee from Warwick County on Valentine's Day, 1860. George and Mary had one son, Thomas A., born in 1861. Mary died on October 19, 1861, possibly of child birth complications, the same way that George lost his first wife. In the midst of this marriage, George and one of his brothers, William Hamilton Richardson, enlisted in Company W, 3rd Virginia Cavalry on June 24, 1861, at Williamsburg. As will be seen later in this article, William did not survive the war.

George served throughout the war. He was in the hospital during January and February 1862 and was discharged for health reasons after that. He re-enlisted in Company H, 5th Virginia Cavalry in the spring and was on their payroll by May 1862. He received a saber cut at Aldie on June 17, 1863, after which he was promoted to 2nd Sergeant. He was present on rolls for November 1863 through April 1864, absent, sick in a Richmond hospital during May and June, was paid for clothing in July, and promoted to 1st Sergeant after that. He was captured at Luray on September 24, 1864, sent to Point Lookout, and exchanged on March 19, 1865, and his record ended here.

After the war, George returned to James City County to farm and pick up the pieces of his life. His third marriage on January 31, 1866, was to a near neighbor, Elizabeth Hankins. She was the daughter of Alexander Hamilton Hankins and his wife, Mary Brown Taylor, of Moss Side [near present day Kiskiack Golf Course]. George and Elizabeth had eight children, of who six lived to maturity and left numerous descendants. Thomas, George's son by his second wife, lived and worked with his father, but died at age twenty-seven. George farmed, but also served as sheriff of the county for a while.

The following article published in the Virginia Gazette on January 4, 1902, sheds some light on the grim side of the war years:

“After Many Years’ Wanderings

Here is a remarkable story of the wanderings of a hymn-book, which after thirty-eight years, was returned to its owner.

When Rev. H. T. Louthan, formerly pastor of Howard's Grove Baptist Church, this city [Richmond], went to Williamsburg a few months ago as pastor of the Baptist Church there, he carried in his library a pocket hymn-book, which bears the following inscription on the fly-leaf, 'James H. Allen, captain, Company H, Fifth Virginia Cavalry, Burnt Ordinary Post Office, James City County, Va., June 13, 1863.' And just below these words, 'William H. Richardson, James City County, Va.'

This little sheep-bound book attracted no special attentions until Mr. Louthan became pastor on the Peninsula. Then he wondered if he could not find out something about its original owner. On a recent Sunday, while preaching at 'Smyrna,' near Lightfoot, [former church located at present day site of Smith Memorial Church], he met Mr. George E. Richardson, a former sheriff of James City County.

The book was mentioned, and it was soon found that George E. and William H. Richardson were brothers. The latter was killed in a skirmish near Snickersville, Loudon County, Va., late in the summer of 1863, and his brother, George took his hymn-book and some other little things and left them a few days later at 'Milton Valley,' the country home of the young minister's grandfather, Mr. John Louthan, who lived in the Shenandoah Valley, near Berryville.

After the war, when new homes were being formed, the hymn-book passed into the hands of Carter M. Louthan (now residing in Charlottesville), a son of John Louthan, and last year into the hands of Carter's son, the minister at Williamsburg.

After a lapse of thirty-eight years, the book was returned to Mr. George E. Richardson, who was fighting by the side of his brother when the latter made his last saber charge there among the beautiful foothills of the Blue Ridge.

Captain James H. Allen afterwards became a colonel, and at the time of his death, was Superintendent of Schools of James City County. Mr. George E. Richardson still lives near 'Burnt Ordinary Post Office,' now called Toano, and often delights his friends with reminiscences of 1861-'65 – Richmond Times."

George's chance meeting with Rev. Louthan must have brought back a flood of memories of his brother and of serving with Colonel Allen during the war. Undoubtedly, this sparked new stories for George to regale his friends with. George Eaton Richardson died at his home on October 6, 1906, and was laid to rest in the cemetery at Olive Branch Church. His obituary stated that Rev. H. T. Louthan conducted the service under the auspices of the Magruder-Ewell Camp, Confederate Veterans, of which the deceased was a member. George's wife, Elizabeth, followed him to the grave in November 1909, and rests by his side along with several other family members.

Compatriot Norman Goodwin gave us a report on our **Support the Troops program**. In July Norman shipped 4 boxes to the 342nd MP Detachment in Bagram, Afghanistan. A good selection of merchandise was brought to the meeting including wet wipes, hard candy, toothpaste, and 100 count packages of floss. Norman **needs** more **wet wipes, floss, pictures, Carmex or lip balm, and Slim Jims** in addition to all the other items you normally bring.

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

Bob Tuck - Archivist
tnvols1971@cox.net

Gerry White – Quartermaster
jerry47@cox.net

Fred Breeden – Chaplain
flbreeden@yahoo.com

Thought for the Month

“Our government is an agency of delegated and strictly limited powers. Its founders did not look to its preservation by force; but the chain they wove to bind these States together was one of love and mutual good offices”

President Jefferson Davis 



CAMP JOURNAL

July 28, 2010

- **Meeting:** Held 7:00 PM at Hog Wild, James City County, VA
 - 41 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 Quartermaster Jerry White
 - Recognition of guests and friends of the SCV by 1st Lt Commander Jeff Toalson
 - Ancestral Memorial Candle: “*Private Newton Camper*”, Company “D” 11th Virginia Infantry, read by Compatriot Charles Bush
 - Adjutant/Treasurer’s Report: \$1,505.13 in checking and \$1500.59 in savings
- **Announcements:**
 - Compatriot Fred Breeden donated a framed Confederate \$1000 bond for future fund raiser
 - SCV membership application added to web site
 - Next SCV Camp meeting 25 August at “Hog Wild” restaurant
 - Surry SCV Camp 100 year dedication to be held 8 August at 2:00 PM in front of Court House
 - Planning Committee will meet at Hog Wild on Thursday August 19 at 6:30 pm. All Compatriots are invited and encouraged to attend
- **Upcoming events:**
 - None provided
- **July Minutes:** Approved as published in August edition of “*Picket Lines*”
- **Committee Reports:**
 - Cemetery Report: 2nd Lt Commander Steve White reported on various project progress (*See Attachment*)
 - Support our Troops Project: Compatriot Joel Goodwin reported on recent shipments etc.
 - Procurement of sound system for meeting room
- **Old Business:**
 - See committee reports above.
- **New Business:**
 - Camp book auction generated \$51
 - Travis Turner inducted into Camp as SCV member
 - Mitchell Turner inducted in as Cadet

- **Program:** Guest speaker Bob Krick, Historian Richmond National Battlefield park gave a very interesting talk accompanied with period photographs on “Drewry’s Bluff” the Gibraltar of the Confederacy
- **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 Camp Archivist



Graham’s Battery/1st Rockbridge Artillery’s 3-inch Parrott cannon being readied by Compatriot Robert Tuck (*Camp Archivist*)

Cemetery Report

Peach Park Cemetery; Compatriots Don Woolridge, Ken Parsons, Mike Garrett, and Chris Hockaday have all donated their time and mowers to the maintenance of Peach Park Cemetery. Thanks!!!!

The guest register at Peach Park has had at least 59 people sign in the first six months of this year. Some of our visitors have been from as far away as Texas with one of them sharing with us their Southern ancestor who was in the Army of Northern Virginia. Several groups have paid a call also, “Buccaneers of Tortuga” and the “Colonial Virginia Model A Ford Club”.

Some of the visitor comments from the guest register follow;

“Wonderful job you are doing”

“Keep up the great work”

“Very nice memorial, Thank you”

“Thanks for caring”

Compatriots, I thank all of you for your caring and for your assistance with all the various Camp projects. Our efforts do not go unnoticed.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve White 2nd Lt Commander

Compatriots: The information below was presented at our May 2010 Confederate Memorial Day Service. For those of you that could not attend the service, we have attached Compatriot Charles Eugene Bush's program on Lt. General Stephen D. Lee's Charge to the United Confederate Veterans. We hope you enjoy reading his presentation, although reading will never do justice to hearing Charles Eugene Bush deliver his oratory in person.

HISTORIC OLIVE BRANCH CHURCH

**RICHMOND ROAD
JAMES CITY COUNTY**

AS PART OF

A MEMORIAL SERVICE TO HONOR THE CONFEDERATE VETERANS INTERRED IN THAT CEMETERY

**SPONSORED BY CAMP 2095
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
JAMES CITY CAVALRY**

"THE CHARGE"

LT. GENERAL STEPHEN DILL LEE

THE READING OF THE NAMES OF THE INTERRED

**CHARLES EUGENE BUSH
APRIL 2010**

By now most of us can almost repeat "The Charge" by heart with its admonition to "commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought." Others may not remember that "The Charge" was only a part of a lengthy speech made by Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General, The United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.

Included in the speech were charges not only to the newly formed Sons of Confederate Veterans, but also to the United Daughters of the Confederacy and to the United Confederate Veterans. A close reading of the entire speech reveals the three major concerns of which General S. D. Lee spoke:

- To make sure that surviving indigent or ill Confederate veterans were well taken care of,
- To erect and to maintain monuments to the memory of those who had served,
- To never be apologetic for the Confederacy's motives or participation in The War Between the States.

As is our custom at each meeting, I will now read "The Charge".

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

Mark Twain, the American humorist, once said that Sir Walter Scott, author of the popular, almost universally read novel, *Ivanhoe*, had so great a hand in making Southern character, as it existed before the war, that Scott is in great measure responsible for the war. Now I suppose this claim will come as a great

surprise to those who believe that slavery holds that honor. (*Life on the Mississippi*) Nevertheless, scholars who study such things, do acclaim the influence of medieval life on the uniqueness of Southern culture as described in Scott's historical novels: the cult of the horse; the love of the hunt and the joy of hunting; respect for the military and for military service; the practice of individual integrity and honor; the cult of chivalry; the value of respect for and the protection of womanhood; the enduring importance of the homestead and of the land; the necessity of worship and religion. Indeed, *Ivanhoe* was so influential that medieval tournaments were often organized in small Southern towns. And after the war, in defeat, Southerners identified closely their "Lost Cause" with Sir Walter Scott's novels of Bonnie Prince Charlie and the "Lost Cause" of the Jacobite struggle for independence, leading to resistance to our own era of Reconstruction.

I have here a very short excerpt from a poem written by Sir Walter Scott, part of a longer poem called *The Lay of the Last Minstrel*. I trust it will stir your memory and help us to acclaim those we seek to honor today.

*Breathes there the man, with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land!
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burned,
As home his footsteps he hath turn'd,
From wandering on a foreign strand!
If such there breathe, go, mark him well;
For him no Minstrel raptures swell;...
This is my own, my native land! (Canto Sixth)*

Here follows a reading of the names we honor. Each name, as it is read, is followed by one toll of the bell. After the last bell toll, read the following:

This is my own, my native land!