



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



December 2023 Dispatch – Williamsburg, Virginia

Camp #2095  10th Brigade  Virginia Division  Army of Northern Virginia

A patriotic honor society dedicated to community service and the preservation of the true history of the War Between The States.

No December Meeting

There will be no December camp meeting nor Christmas Supper this year.

The January 2024 camp meeting is scheduled as usual. Look for details in the upcoming January 2024 *Picket Lines*.



We wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all camp members and friends of the camp.

JCC Web Site: <http://www.jamescitycavalry.org>

To add or remove an email address for the Picket Lines distribution list, or for questions or comments regarding the newsletter, email to: jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com. To email one of the camp officers directly, see **Camp Officers** on page 3.

Commander's Comments

It has been another productive year for the Cavalry. We thank you all for your contributions to our success. We have been joined by five new Compatriots this year and have paperwork in various stages on another three. New members are our lifeblood. Please make it a goal for 2024 to recruit one new member.

Compatriot Ken Parsons was honored, by the Virginia Division of the S.C.V., with the Stonewall Jackson Award for his years of service to our Heritage Defense and his untiring work on behalf of the Division, Brigade and the James City Cavalry.

Thanks to everyone who worked on various cemetery clean-ups at Olive Branch Christian Church, Peach Park, Sunnyside, Hockaday, and Cowles-Spencer. It is easy work picking up brush, trash, and doing a little weeding when several folks participate.

The same applies for our annual clean-up at Fort Magruder. We are honored to help maintain a Confederate fortification from the 1862 battle of Williamsburg. This work supports the women of the Williamsburg Chapter, U.D.C. who own the fort. We also do a last-minute cleaning prior to their May Memorial Day Service at the fort.

Thanks to our Compatriots who volunteered to man the SCV Booth at the Virginia State Fair. We had a great day and generated almost \$1000 in merchandise sales for the Division.

We provided a full scholarship to send a local young lady to the Sam Davis Youth Camp, we provided financial support to the SCV Heritage Defense Fund, Pelham Chapel, the Children of the Confederacy, the Oakwood Restoration Committee and various UDC Chapters and SCV Camps to support their projects.

This only highlights some of our work during the past year. It does not even begin to mention all of the individual services that our Compatriots provided to the James City Cavalry during 2023. Thank you all for your part in making the James City Cavalry an outstanding Camp.

Jeff Toalson

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held November 15th at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,
James City County, Va., **25** Attendees

Welcome given by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson

Pledge & Salute to the Flags led by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson

Blessing:

Given by Chaplain George Corbett

Break for Supper

The SCV Charge read by Quartermaster George Bridewell

Program:

1st Lt. Cmdr. Perry introduced the evening's guest speaker:

Mr. Tom Campbell

Mr. Campbell presented "*The Red Rebel of San Giovanni*", sharing with us the interconnected story of five members of the greatest generation from Italy and France in WW2.



1st Lt Cmdr. Perry, Mr. Campbell & Cmdr. Toalson

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Cemetery Report

2nd Lt. Commander Steve White reported that he and Dennis Dasher blew off the leaves on all the U. S. and C. S. Veteran's graves at Olive Branch Christian Cemetery on November 10.



Old & New Business

- Adjutant's Report – Adjutant Dave Watson
- Chief of Staff's Report – Chief of Staff Ken Parsons
- Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Denny Griggs
- Comments - Cmdr. Jeff Toalson

Book Raffle

Proceeds of \$62 were donated to the Camp Treasury for the raffle of the four donations.

Benediction

Given by Chaplain George Corbett

Camp Officers

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Good WBTS Books for Raffle

Compatriots, we all need to look at our personal libraries from time to time and reduce the stock so that you have room to buy new books for your collection.

We particularly need books on BATTLES, GENERALS, and INTERESTING TOPICS. We do not need very many coffee table books or general history books. We also would solicit MEMOIRS and LETTER COLLECTIONS.

All help is appreciated.

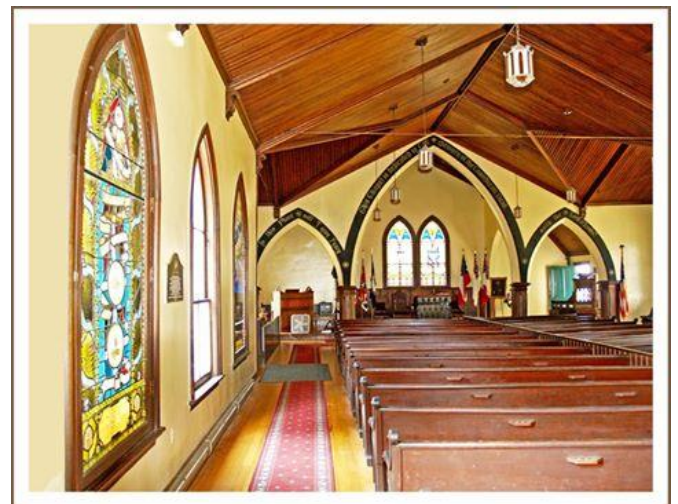
Rob Symer

Confederate Memorial Chapel Donation

On October 30th, the Camp sent a \$100 donation to the Confederate War Memorial Chapel in Richmond. We have supported the chapel for several years by sending monies for them to use as needed. This is the chapel at the Confederate Soldiers Home in Richmond which is on the grounds now occupied by the Virginia Historical Society and the Virginia Museum of Art.



R. E. Lee Camp Soldiers Home in an early 1900s picture



Interior of the Pelham Chapel

Confederate Christmases

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

As the Christmas season approaches, have you ever thought about how our troops spent their holidays during the War Between the States? In general, the holidays were all together different compared to our over commercialized extravaganzas today. But in the nineteenth century, families did gather for church services and festive dining. This came to an abrupt halt as will be witnessed from the written word entered below.

In his 1861 Greenmount Farm Journal, Thomas G. Wynne wrote, "Wednesday [Dec.] 25th ; We spent the day with Bake and Bet (his brother and sister-in-law who lived at Locust Grove, present day site of James River Elementary School). It is difficult to realize that this is Christmas day but I rejoice to know that our affairs are not so gloomy as were those of the United States colonies when Gen. Washington crossed the Delaware river and by the glorious victory he then achieved over the British, turned the tide of the American Revolution." The Confederacy had not yet been subjected to the deprivations of 1776.

In winter quarters on the Peninsula, on Christmas Day, 1861, Sergeant Thomas Humphrey Wynne of the Nelson Guard, 32nd Virginia Infantry, wrote to his wife, Henrietta:

"...This has been a beautiful day. How have you spent it? I hope pleasantly. I've spent it as any other day in camp save a short time that I took a walk for exercise. The dull monotony of camp life has not been varied any of consequence, the only difference being in the glass of Eggnog I drank this morning. Little did I think last year this time that I would be soldiering and you many miles distant..."ⁱ

Times gradually worsened as witnessed from a letter, in a private collection, from John William Wynne to his sister, Mary Elizabeth Wynne, living at her family's farm on York Point, Chisman's Creek, York County, Virginia:

Camp 1st Va Inft Dec 29th/63

" My dear sister, what do you think I had good for my Christmas dinner, you could not guess in a year. It was a cake of dry bread, flour and water, nothing else, we drew no rations for two days, that's one item on camp life, what think you of my Christmas cake, I have nothing more to say about camp, I leave you to imagine...."

And another account from the diary of John F. Charlton, 5th Louisiana Infantry, continued the gloom. Charlton was captured by the 5th Maine and Wisconsin regiment of General Sedgewick's corps on November 7, 1863, on the south side of the Rappahannock River. He was eventually sent to Point Lookout prison where he spent a bleak Christmas.

"Thursday Dec 24 Cold weather...Beast Butler & staff come for the purpose to inspect the camp & prisoners with a strong guard to protect him. For the wrongs of 1862 in NO [New Orleans]. Promises to increase rations (never done it) ...without money or provisions a poor prospect for a merry Christmas. Friday Dec 25 Christmas Pleasant weather. 5 crackers & one cup of coffee for breakfast. A poor day I must confess. Hungry & cold. No money to get tobacco. Would give the world to be in Dixie. At either Lynchburg, Richmond or Staunton. A miserable dinner. Cannot spend a Christmas more miserable."

These are but three testimonies to the agonies of death, destruction and deprivation particularly poignant during the Christmas season. As we celebrate a joyous Christmastide, let us not forget our ancestors, both military and civilian, that endured hunger and hardships for the Confederacy!

ⁱ Jensen, Les. *32nd Virginia Infantry* .Lynchburg. H. E. Howard, Inc. 1990. Pp 50-51.

Thank You to Our 2023 Speakers



Early year speakers L to R / top to bottom:

Fred Taylor *"History of Point Lookout Prison Camp"*, Tim Smith *"York County's Brave Men of the Civil War"*,



Eric Richardson/Teresa Roane *"Confederate Pension Systems in Virginia, N. Carolina and S. Carolina"*, Kenny Bage *"The City Point Explosion in 1864"*

Late year speakers:

Lee Pelton *"Terry's Texas Rangers"*, Larry Floyd *"Conversion of Percussion Weapons to Cartridge"*,



Butch Barringer *"The Tom Rosser – Thomas Munford Feud"* and Henry Kidd *"The Battle of the Crater"*



Upcoming Early 2024 Speakers

Jan	Mr. Carson Hudson - "Confederate Faces – A Photographic Study"
Feb	Dr. Eric Schweickart - "Discovery and Identification of WBTS Remains near the Magazine in Colonial Williamsburg"
Mar	Mrs. Feather Foster - "The Civil War Divas – First Ladies Mary Lincoln and Julia Grant"
Apr	Mrs. Billie Earnest – "General William 'Billy' Mahone"
May	Friday - Confederate Memorial Day and Picnic

Speakers for the second half of the year are yet to be determined.

Williamsburg Civil War Round Table

<http://www.wcwr.org>

**On January 23rd, 2023 - Bruce Littell
will present:**

**"The Submarine *H. L. Hunley*: Concept,
Development, Deployment, Recovery &
Conservation"**

