



James City Calvary PICKET LINES



June, 2008

Confederate Memorial Day

Our celebration on May 30 was attended by 50 people. In perfect weather we extolled the memories of our Confederate ancestors and gave thanks for their contribution to our lives. We are members of a great people. Our heritage includes Pocahontas, John Smith, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, Patrick Henry, our great Confederate soldiers, Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens), Dale Earnhardt and many, many others. Celebrations like Confederate Memorial Day strike to the heart of what we are all about, not just as members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, but as people-who we are. We are the products of our ancestors-physically, spiritually, intellectually and emotionally. Our traditions and belief systems are deeply rooted in our inheritance. In this spirit, we look forward to next year's event.

June Meeting-June 25, Hog Wild Bar B Q: Calling All Ladies

Our next meeting will be at the above date and venue at 7 pm. The program will start at about 7:30. Our speaker will be Joe Lively, a proud member of the High Bridge Camp # 1581, Farmville, VA. His topic will be "Shifting Historical Paradigms." This topic should be of interest to all women and **members are asked to bring a female guest.** Joe's own words concerning his talk at our Camp: "History teaches us that our Southern women shouldered uncommon burdens, while sustaining both the fighting spirit and our ancestor's faith. I sincerely hope that your ladies can attend also, because the topic will touch them too. My simple book, OUR FORGOTTEN FOLK HERITAGE was written to preserve our Southern Heritage and I will certainly attempt to entertain and enlighten your members with excerpts there from. Also, I hope to point out an insidious and incessant activity, which threatens Southern cultural genocide. On the positive side, there is hope and great promise if we all address that threat proactively".

JAMES CITY COUNTY CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES by Fred Boelt

Locust Hill was home to the Spencer family for many years. This tract of land is located on Bush Neck Road near the intersection with Jolly Pond Road. William Llewellyn Spencer and his wife Martha E. Richardson lived there with their eleven children and they are buried in a cemetery on the farm, now vast woodland. William Spencer served as sheriff in James City County for a number of years, but he was sixty years old when the war began and does not seem to have served in the war. His sons that survived to adulthood were too young to see service as well.

However, there is one Confederate veteran buried in this cemetery. Servetus Walter Gary (called Seth) was born in New Kent County on March 4, 1844. He was the son of James Fleming Gary and his wife, Susanne Poindexter Waddell. Seth enlisted in the Pamunkey Heavy Artillery at Tunstall's on May 2, 1861 and his occupation was listed as farmer. He re-enlisted at Yorktown in February 1862 and was present on all rolls through February 1865. He was taken prisoner at Harper's Farm, Virginia on April 6, 1865 and sent to Point Lookout, Maryland where he was held until he was released on oath on June 13, 1865.

After the war, Seth married Margaret Louise Richardson and they had a son and a daughter. He spent the rest of his life farming in the Bush Neck Road area and was a member of the Magruder-Ewell Camp of Confederate Veterans. Seth died on July 1, 1911. His obituary stated that he was buried at the family burial ground. The common family thread here may be the Richardson family for both Mrs. Spencer and Mrs. Gary were Richardsons before their marriages.

GREENMOUNT FARM JOURNAL by Thomas Wynne, Fred Boelt's Great-Great Uncle

We continue here with excerpts from Thomas Wynne's farm journal and his insights on the war locally in June 1861:

Monday, June 3rd...The papers report two engagements of the Confederate forces with the Federal forces, in both of which the latter were repulsed. The Yankees continue their depredations around New Port News Point; God grant that they may be checked.

Wednesday, June 5th...The myrmidons of Lincoln still commit depredations about the Point in Elizabeth City Co. Many farmers have been ruined. I hear that over three hundred servants have gone to them.

Friday, June 7th... Papers report another battle between Federal and Confederate forces fought at Philippi in Barbour County – result doubtful.

Monday, June 10th...A fight took place today between our men and the Yankees near Bethel Church in which the latter were repulsed with three hundred killed and wounded, while we lost one man and had three wounded.

Tuesday, June 11th...Sent a communication to the Dispatch giving our account of the battle near Bethel Church. Today's accounts make the killed and wounded over 400 men. Thanks be to the God of Heaven for his goodness in destroying those who would destroy us...Sent down to Capt. Cosnahan's company 42 lbs of shoulder meat and 1 bushel of meal.

Wednesday, June 12th...Between 5 and 6 hundred Zouaves from Louisiana reached the Grove Wharf this morning directly from Fort Pickens. They went down to York. They are a brave, desperate looking set of men; the sight of them will frighten the Yankees. Their commands are given in French.

Thursday, June 13th... The day being set apart by President Davis as one of fasting and prayer, I gave my servants holydays and myself observed it as a day of fasting. Went to Yorktown this morning. Companies arrived from Richmond there this morning. It is thought that there are from 6 to 8 thousand men in York at this time.

Monday, June 17th...Nothing new from the seat of war – About two hundred fifty men of the 10th Va. Regiment are stationed at Grove Wharf, where they intend fortifying.

Tuesday, June 18th...One of the picket Guards stationed at the mill [Blow's Mill on Skiff's Creek], Mr. Garland Hanes, called on me today to supply them with some buttermilk and bread, which we were glad to do. A soldier's life is one of hardship and privation.

Wednesday, June 19th...A picket reported that 15,000 Yankees were on their march from Newport News to Yorktown by Warwick Road, intending to cut off Col. Magruder who is stationed at Bethel, and attack Yorktown. Another picket informs us that Col. Magruder is on the march to Yorktown with all his men, and sends an order to burn the Grove Wharf which was done immediately. We will go to Williamsburg tonight for fear there may be some truth in the report, which I cannot believe.

Thursday, June 20th. We went up to Williamsburg last night, as my wife thought we would be safer there. I returned home this morning. The report about the large body of Yankees marching up turned

out to be untrue. A picket saw about sixty of their cavalry on a plundering expedition, thought them the advance squad of a very large force, dashed back to Bethel and reported that a large body of Yankees was coming.

Friday, June 21st... The militia of the 68th and the 115th Regiments have been ordered to Yorktown Monday next, for what purpose I know not. Heard the report of a Battle at Winchester in which 2500 of the Yankees were killed and between fifty and sixty of ours – a rumor.

Saturday, June 22nd...Nine deserters from one of the Yankee ships in the York River came to Yorktown today. What report they gave of themselves, I have not learned.

Sunday, June 23rd...The militia of the 115th and the 68th regiments are ordered to Yorktown tomorrow. I shall have to attend.

Monday, June 24th...Went to Yorktown this morning and did not reach home until late tonight. Was mustered into state service. Am ordered to Williamsburg tomorrow to drill.

Friday, June 28th... Supplied breakfast and supper to the picket guard stationed at Lebanon Church. *To be continued*

Confederate Memorial Day

Sunnyside and Peach Park Cemeteries



Color Guard
Sunnyside Cemetery



Tom Davis
1st Brigade Commander



Peach Park Cemetery



Col. Allen's Headstone



Barbeque Supper at Fred Boelt's



Compatriot Bob Tuck

Jefferson Davis 200th Birthday Celebration
Hollywood Cemetery June 8, 2008

Compatriots Ken Parsons, Bob Tuck and Don Woolridge attended the 200th Celebration at Hollywood Cemetery. There were approximately 500 people that attended the service along with SCV representatives from across the South. The service was well done and a great tribute to President Davis.





Thought for the Month

Unable to Take Richmond

"Abraham Lincoln once asked General (Winfield) Scott the question: "Why is it that you were once able to take the City of Mexico in three months with five thousand men, and we have been unable to take Richmond with one hundred thousand men?"

"I will tell you," said General Scott. "The men who took us into the City of Mexico are the same men who are keeping us out of Richmond."