



James City Calvary PICKET LINES



May 2008 Newsletter

APRIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Our April meeting was highlighted by Ashleigh Moody's presentation on the Battle of the 9th of June, The Battle of Old Men and Young Boys. About 125 men and boys armed with outdated weapons held off 4,500 Federal troops until reinforcements could arrive. This delayed Grant's capture of Petersburg for 10 months. The National Park Service is reluctant to acknowledge this battle because, in so doing, the incompetence of the Union leadership, the gallantry of the Confederate defenders and the actions of Petersburg's cadre of free blacks would have to be pointed out. Our National Memorial Day is due, at least in part, by the reaction of a Northern General's wife to her observation of the honoring of Confederate veterans each June 9 in Petersburg. Detailed information about this battle and other events can be obtained at Ashleigh's website: history@petersburgexpress.com

Due to the camp's celebration of Confederate Memorial Day, we will not have a May meeting. Our next meeting at Hog Wild will be on June 25 at 7:00 pm. We will have a newsletter in May.

CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY; Our annual celebration memorial of Confederate Memorial Day will be on May 30 at Sunnyside Cemetery off Old Forge Road in Toano. We will have van service from Fred Boelt's house to the cemetery as parking will be at a premium. Please try to get to Fred's house a little early to take the van. We will mark both Fred's house and the cemetery with balloons at the end of the lane. Our celebration will begin at 5:30 pm so if you get to the site after 5:30, just go to the cemetery. The cost for the Bar B Q after the service is \$15 per person/\$25 per couple. We will have plenty of food, so if you haven't paid, just show up and Ken Parsons will take your money.

VETERANS TO BE HONORED ON CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY by Fred Boelt

On May 30th, we will gather at the old cemetery located at Sunnyside on Forge Road to honor the memory of five Confederate veterans and their service to the Southern cause. All of these men were proud Virginians who answered the call to defend their homeland and the values in which they believed in. These five were lucky for they survived the war years, but they lost their way of life and were forced to start over and reshape their lives afterward. Men of strong will, they, along with their families, managed to thrive again as time passed. It seems appropriate that these veterans were laid to rest on land that they had fought hard to preserve.

The veterans buried at Sunnyside are:

George Whitfield Bacon enlisted in Company W, 3rd Virginia Cavalry on June 24, 1861 in Williamsburg. He was 21 years old and his occupation was listed as "mechanic." Later, he reenlisted in the James City Cavalry of the 5th Virginia and his service record has gaps in it. He was in a hospital in Richmond in March 1863, he was detailed with the Cavalry Corps Provost Guard in November and December of that year, and he was issued clothing in July 1864. His bay horse was killed at Luray on September 27, 1864 and he was paid \$2,500 in April 1865. Based on this record, it seems that he served throughout the entire war.

Cyrus Adolphus Branch served briefly in the James City Artillery as a 1st Lieutenant. He enlisted on May 16, 1861 in Williamsburg and resigned in November of that year. He went on to serve in the Virginia Senate during the war.

Joseph R. Bush enlisted as a private in the James City Cavalry of the 5th Virginia at Orange Courthouse on November 15, 1863. He was captured at Summit Point August 30, 1864 and sent to Camp Chase. He was released there on June 11, 1865.

Edmond Macon Ware enlisted in Company W, 3rd Virginia Cavalry on June 24, 1861 in Williamsburg. Had transferred to the James City Cavalry of the 5th Virginia by May 1862 when he was elected 3rd Lieutenant. He was captured at White House on June 15, 1862, sent to Fort Delaware and exchanged in August. His service record shows that he was very active until he was captured in Yorktown on July 19, 1864, sent to Fort Monroe, exchanged in August and promoted to Captain in September. Wounded in October, he was in a hospital in Richmond for November 1864 through January 1865, was detailed as an Enrolling Officer in February and was paroled in Williamsburg on May 6, 1865.

Cary Wilkinson, [Jr.] enlisted in the James City Artillery on February 2, 1864 at Chaffin's Bluff and was present on all rolls through December 1864. His service record ended here though it is probable that he continued to serve until the end of the war.

We proudly honor these five veterans and their service to the Confederacy.

CONTINUING FROM THE APRIL ISSUE WITH NOTATIONS FROM FRED BOELT'S GREAT UNCLE:

GREENMOUNT FARM JOURNAL

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

Wednesday, May 1st...It is stated that 80,000 Virginia volunteers have offered their services to Gov. Letcher. If we are forced to fight by those who would rob us of all our rights and make us serf to a military despotism, relying on the God of Battles, we will repel them or die in the attempt.

Thursday, May 2nd...Yesterday afternoon the steamer Glen Cove was stopped on her way to Norfolk while in Hampton Roads by one of the Federal ships which is stationed in Hampton Roads to blockade the James River. She had to return to the Grove Wharf where she remained until this morning and then went back up to Richmond. Lincoln means to starve us out if he can. "The Lord rewards him according to his works."

Friday, May 3rd...The newspapers state further arrival of southern troops. Why should the north desire to take our lives? Unnatural brothers, seeking to imbrue their hands in their brothers' blood.

Tuesday, May 7th...Much excitement prevails in our neighborhood caused by news received from Yorktown. The war steamer which came up the York River on Sunday sent the Gloucester troops a message that she intended capturing the steamer Logan and prevent her from landing cannon for the fort at Gloucester Point. Accordingly, she came up today for that purpose, but was so warmly received by the fort, that considering "discretion the better part of valor" turned about and put down the river. They are expecting her to return and have ere this I hope reinforced the fort.

Wednesday, May 8th...Heard that 1,000 troops landed at Gloucester Point today from Richmond.

Saturday, May 11th... Went down to Yorktown with father to see the fortifications which are being erected there. There will be a line of fortification guarding the entrance of the road from Hampton, also a fort on the back to guard the river. Went over on the Gloucester side. There are 400 men, 4 Columbiads, 4 six pounders and 4 rifle barreled cannon.

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Thursday, May 16th...Went down to Yorktown this afternoon. Two Columbiads were landed there from Richmond, also a company of soldiers. Several other companies are expected tomorrow.

Friday, May 17th...Heard that 270 troops landed at Yorktown today.

Monday, May 20th...Constant firing of cannon on yesterday and again this afternoon was heard in the direction of Norfolk. Attempts made by the federal ships to get up the vessels sunk just above Norfolk; fired [on] when by the fort.

Thursday, May 23rd...This day will be ever memorable in the history of Virginia and should be celebrated as the anniversary of Virginia's escape from Northern rule and the despot's thralldom. Mr. Wood [Wynne's overseer for Greenmount] and myself went up to Williamsburg and cast our votes for the Ratification of the Ordinance of Secession. Left Fannie and Bet with Nora and Mat making clothes for the soldiers.

Friday, May 31st... Owing to the great excitement caused by numerous unfounded reports, I have failed to keep an account of farm work for nearly a week. A real panic has been occasioned in Warwick and York Counties by the landing of Federal forces at New Ports News Point – and accounts (exaggerated) of the villainous depredations they have been committing on farmers in the neighborhood. May they yet meet their reward....Would have finished weeding this week had not a portion of my hands been called to Yorktown [to assist with fortification]. *to be continued.*



The Confederate Battle Flag

When the War was over, the Confederate soldiers became Confederate veterans. They formed an organization known as the United Confederate Veterans. The Confederate Battle Flag was still their flag, and they alone had the right to interpret its meaning. In 1896, since many of the Confederate veterans were aged, infirm, and dying off, the Sons of Confederate Veterans was formed as the successor organization to the United Confederate Veterans. The legacy and authority of the United Confederate Veterans was transferred to them over the next ten years. This transfer of power culminated in a speech given 25 April 1906 at New Orleans, Louisiana by Stephen Dill Lee, Confederate lieutenant-general, and commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans: "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. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations." Since 25 April 1906, therefore, the Confederate Battle Flag has been the flag of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. They alone have the right to interpret its meaning. They have interpreted its meaning, and explained (repeatedly!) that meaning – and it is not hatred, nor is it bigotry. The Confederate Battle Flag is not the flag of the Kluxers and other malcontents of their ilk. They do not have the right to interpret its meaning. The Confederate Battle Flag is not the flag of the NAACP. They do not have the right to interpret its meaning. The Confederate Battle Flag is not the personal flag of any other group or person, therefore; no other group or persons have the right to interpret its meaning. Their commentary or opinion is therefore, out of order and we need to ignore their babbling.

"We are the Sons of those Confederate Veterans and we represent those old veterans."Ken Parsons

Peach Park Cemetery Project and our new Camp Sign

