

James City Calvary PICKET LINES



April, 2008



Our Veteran Honorees, from left: Fred Satterwhite, Willard Gilley, Dick Wilkerson, Bill Harrison, Charlie Howard with Ken Parsons, Adjutant and David Ware, Commander

Last Meeting:

At the March meeting, we were entertained by Compatriot Charles Bush's dramatic reading of a poem reflecting the thoughts and hardships faced by soldiers in the WBTS. After their induction into the SCV, Bob Tuck and Don Woolridge gave passionate talks about the service of their ancestors for the Southern Cause and how their lives were changed because of it. It is always a moving experience to be present as our compatriots share about their ancestors because, in part, that is what connects us as Southern people. Our forefathers sacrificed everything for the defense of their homeland. It is their blood

which flows through our veins and their DNA which imprints us with intense desire for liberty and individual freedom. Thank you, Bob, Don, and Charles.

Ken Parsons presented our own veterans of war special SCV medals honoring them for their service. Bill Harrison, Willard Gilley, Charles Howard, Fred Satterwhite and Dick Wilkerson are the honorees.

The next two articles are contributed by Fred Boelt. Thomas Wynne is Fred's Great-Great Uncle.

GREENMOUNT FARM JOURNAL

Greenmount farm was located where the Wal-Mart Distribution Center is today on Route 60, east. Thomas George Wynne had grown up across the road at Poplar Hall, graduated from William and Mary, and was teaching school and farming when the war began. His farm journal from 1861 has survived and gives insight into a local citizen's observations. Tuesday, April 16th ...Fort Sumter was taken by South Carolinians last Saturday – Major Anderson surrendered unconditionally...

Wednesday, April 17th ...Heard today that Virginia had seceded – also that General Winfield Scott had resigned his place as Commander in Chief of U. S. Army...

Friday, April 19th ...received intelligence today that North Carolina had seceded and probably Missouri – a proclamation from Governor Letcher ordering the Va. Companies to hold themselves in readiness...

Saturday, April 20th ...stirring news from Baltimore – Troops prevented by Baltimoreans from passing through – Several citizens killed – Maryland declares for the south – Gov. Hicks, upon being threatened with hanging, changed his tune and instead of furnishing his quota of men to Lincoln as promised, refuses to allow his troops to pass thru Baltimore...

Sunday, April 21st ...Much excitement has been caused today in our neighborhood by noisy rumors of the reinforcement of old Point with one thousand troops, of the burning of Norfolk City – and various other groundless reports – Two companies of soldiers from Gloucester passed by on their way to the Grove Wharf where they expected the West Point Steamer to take them down to Norfolk, but up to six o'clock this evening she had not arrived – We have to send breakfast to the troops in the morning – Great uneasiness among the ladies – May the Lord avert civil war...

Monday, April 22nd ...The navy yard of Portsmouth, as we learn, was fired and then deserted by Federal troops, who then went over to Fortress Monroe – It is now in the possession of the southerners who succeeded in extinguishing the fire and saving a good many cannon – The Gloucester troops returned to their county this afternoon – we assisted in taking them down to Yorktown – A dispatch came from the governor this morning, stating that our attack would be made on York River in 48 hours, and ordering out all the companies in this neighborhood – The Gloucester troops will be stationed to night on Gloucester Point – There is still much excitement.

[no entries for the 23rd through the 25th]

Friday April 26th ...Returned from Richmond – Yesterday the ordinance of secession passed the Convention...

Tuesday, April 30th ... Today's papers report troubles in the northern army, 7th regiment refuses to invade the south – which causes Lincoln to suspect them... *to be continued*

JAMES CITY COUNTY CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES

Rather than start on a new cemetery, it may be interesting to look at the land ownership of Sunnyside. On May 30th, we will hold a memorial service for the five Confederate veterans buried there: Joseph R. Bush, Edmond Macon Ware, George Whitfield Bacon, Cyrus Adolphus Branch and Cary Wilkinson, Jr. Remembering that James City is a burned records county, tracing land ownership can be challenging.

Ware family papers state that William Bush (d. 1862) was born at Sunnyside in 1801 and that he was the son of William and Ann Weathers Bush. Land tax records indicate that a William Bush owned 50 acres when the records began in 1782 and that he gradually acquired several hundred more acres before his death c. 1810-1811. The 1850 census indicates that Ann W. Bush was born c. 1770 so she may have been younger than her husband or we may be off by a generation. At any rate, if the Bush family was living at Sunnyside when the father died, the cemetery may have been established at that time or perhaps was already in existence.

The farm seems to have been sold out of the Bush family for in 1850, Richard F. Gatewood and his wife Virginia Bush Gatewood (daughter of William and Ann Bush) bought Sunnyside from Bernard Taylor's estate. Ann Bush was living with her daughter and son-in-law in that year. After Richard Gatewood's death in 1855, the farm was auctioned off in 1858 to settle his estate and Cyrus Branch was the successful bidder. Cyrus had married Mary Wilkinson and they seem to have moved there when they purchased the farm. After Cyrus Branch's death in 1874, his son, Christopher Cary Branch, bought out his siblings' shares and, in turn, his son Hammond Branch owned the farm until his death in 2004. The farm has since been sold out of the family.

This may begin to explain why these veterans were buried here. Joseph R. Bush was a grandson of William and Ann Bush. Edmond Macon Ware married Trittie Bush, a granddaughter of this couple. George Bacon's first wife was Martha Smith, also a granddaughter of William and Ann Bush. It seems that this was clearly a Bush family cemetery and that later owners continued to use the burial ground there. Cyrus Branch was living at Sunnyside when he died. His in-laws, Cary and Mary McCandlish Wilkinson followed him to the graveyard and his brother-in-law, Cary Wilkinson, Jr., was also interred there. Fortunately, this family cemetery has been well cared for and when the land was sold out of the Branch family, provisions were made for its preservation and access provided for descendants.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on April 23 at 7pm at Hog Wild Bar B Q. Our speaker will present at 7:30. This month, Ashleigh Moody will talk to us on "The 1st attack on Petersburg-The Battle of the Old Men and Young Boys, The Battle of the 9th of June." Some of you may recall that Ashleigh was our guest 5 or 6 months ago and spoke on the history of Black Confederates in the Petersburg area. On April 16 at noon we will

have our Executive Committee at Hog Wild. Any camp member is welcome with voice and vote, so if you have something to discuss, we'd love to hear you.

Confederate Memorial Day: On May 30, our camp will celebrate Confederate Memorial Day. We will have a short service at Sunnyside Cemetery about 150 yards off Old Forge Road. We will pray for and extol the virtues of the Veterans in this cemetery as well as the ancestral veterans of all the members of our camp and all the soldiers who fought for the Cause. Afterward, we will go across the road to Fred Boelt's house and enjoy Bar B Q and all the fixing's and fellowship. The cost for dinner is \$15 per person, \$25 per couple. Please fill out the form below and return to Ken Parsons at 217 Sherwood Forest Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23188. Due to the proximity of this event to our normal meeting date, **we will not have a May meeting.**

Name:

Guest(s):

I have enclosed a check to James City Calvary for _____.

I will pay later.

As a reminder, all are welcome and indeed encouraged to attend. Let's have at least as many as we did last year.

State SCV Convention: James City Cavalry was represented by Ken Parsons and Don Woolridge at the Virginia State Convention on April 5, 2008. There were 37 of 75 Camps represented at this year's convention. Our Camp was well represented and there was good conversation exchange with many Compatriots from across Virginia.

Thomas C. Davis was re-elected Brigade Commander of the 1st Brigade that covers our camp as well as; Accomack, Northampton, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Southampton, Greensville, Sussex, Surry, Isle Of Wight, Prince George, Charles City, New Kent, Gloucester, Matthews and York.

There were several amendments and resolutions made to the State Constitution and are listed on Division web-site.