



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



July 2017 Dispatch – Williamsburg, Virginia – <http://www.jamescitycavalry.org>

Camp #2095  1st 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.

Next Muster

Wednesday, July 26th, 2017, 6:30pm

Colonial Heritage Club

<http://colonialheritageclub.org/home.asp>

6500 Arthur Hills Drive

Williamsburg, VA 23188



Meal Cost: \$17.00 Per Person

(genuine Confederate currency gladly accepted)

Honored Confederate Soldier:

Private Lewis Leon

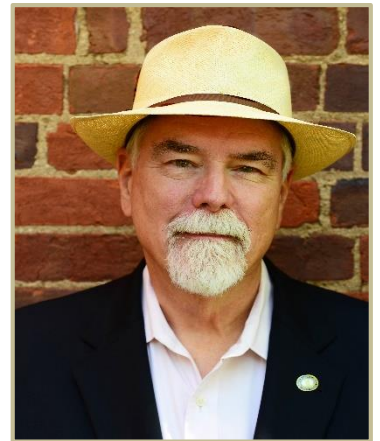
Co. C (Charlotte Grays) – 1st N. C. Infantry
and later

Co. B – 53rd N. C. Infantry

July Guest Speaker

David
Goetz

*“Hell is
Being a
Republican
in Virginia”*



“Hell is Being a Republican in Virginia”: *The Postwar Relationship Between John Singleton Mosby and Ulysses S. Grant*, which examines the pursuit of peace and reconciliation between North and South by Colonel Mosby and President Grant.

Mr. Goetz is descended from the family of **Chaplain Father James M. Graves**, a Jesuit priest who served with Generals Joe Johnston and Stonewall Jackson in the Army of Virginia in 1861-62. He is a past commander of the Black Horse Camp #780, Sons of Confederate Veterans in Fauquier County, Virginia, serving from 2009-13. He currently serves as vice-president of the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society and is a member of the Fauquier Historical Society board of directors.

Mr. Goetz has a professional background in public relations, sales and marketing, primarily with non-profit organizations. He holds an undergraduate degree in English from Bellarmine University, Louisville, Kentucky, and a Master of Science in Community Development from the University of Louisville. He is a U.S. Army veteran, received an Honorable Discharge, and lives in Culpeper County, Virginia.

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held 28 June at 6:30PM at Colonial Heritage Club,
James City Cty., Va., 35 attendees

Welcome given by Commander Jeff Toalson

Invocation:

Given by Senior Chaplain Fred Breeden

Pledge & Salute to the Flags

Break for Supper

The SCV Charge read by Quartermaster Jerry Thompson

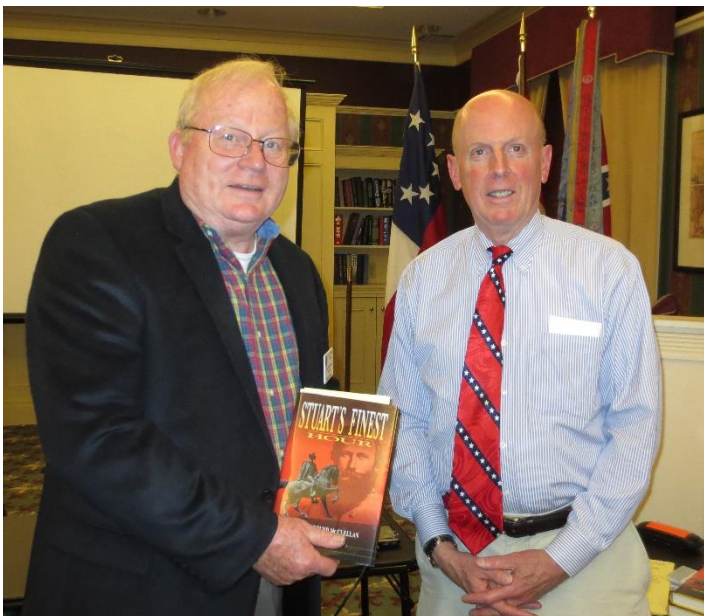
Ancestral Memorial Candle:

Read by Compatriot David Beish in honor of
Sgt. Benjamin Porter
Company E, 11th Alabama Infantry

Program:

1st Lt. Commander Jim Leach introduced the evening's guest speaker:
John J. Fox.

Mr. Fox presented "*Stuart's Finest Hour – The Ride Around McClellan in June 1862*", with period and current photographs from his book of the same name.



1st Lt. Cmdr. Leach and Mr. John Fox

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Lt. Col. Allen Memorial College Scholarship

Commander Jeff Toalson, Historian Fred Boelt and President of the WCWRT FOC Bill Miller presented the award to Mr. Kyle Mastracci of York High School.



Cmdr. Jeff Toalson, Kyle's mother Patty, Mr. Mastracci, Historian Fred Boelt, & FOC Bill Miller

Old & New Business

- \$200 donation to the Captain Sally Thompkins statue fund. One of 12 Virginia women to be honored with a bronze statue on Capital grounds.
- Update on Charlottesville – Adj. Ken Parsons
- Swem – G. Gaidmore offer to view rare Swem WBTS documents

New Member Induction

Jim Wells



Adj. Parsons, Cmdr. Toalson, Mr. Wells and 1st Lt. Cmdr. Leach

Book Raffle

Four books, including one from Mr. Fox

Benediction

Given by Chaplain Fred Breeden

Adjournment

8:30 PM

Camp Officers



Commander	Jeff Toalson troon24@cox.net
Adjutant	Ken Parsons kparsons320@cox.net
1st Lt. Commander	Jim Leach wltrepro4u@verizon.net
2nd Lt. Commander	Steve White garrettsgrocery@gmail.com
Historian/Genealogist	Fred Boelt fwb@widomaker.com
Archivist/Editor	Paul Huelskamp paulhuelskamp@cox.net
Quartermaster	Jerry Thompson JerryLThompson@yahoo.com
Senior Chaplain	Fred Breedon fbreedon@yahoo.com
Chaplain	Warren Raines warrenandpaula@verizon.net

Battle Flag of the Month

Rockbridge Rifles (Company K) of the 4th Virginia Infantry

This silk battle flag was commissioned by the ladies of Lexington for the Rifles. They carried it at First Manassas. They went to the ANV battle flag design in the summer of 1862 and preserved this flag. They carried it again in the Robert E. Lee funeral procession in 1870 and the unveiling of the Lexington statue honoring Stonewall Jackson in 1891.

Note - They later became the 27th Virginia Infantry but they were the 4th Va. at Manassas.

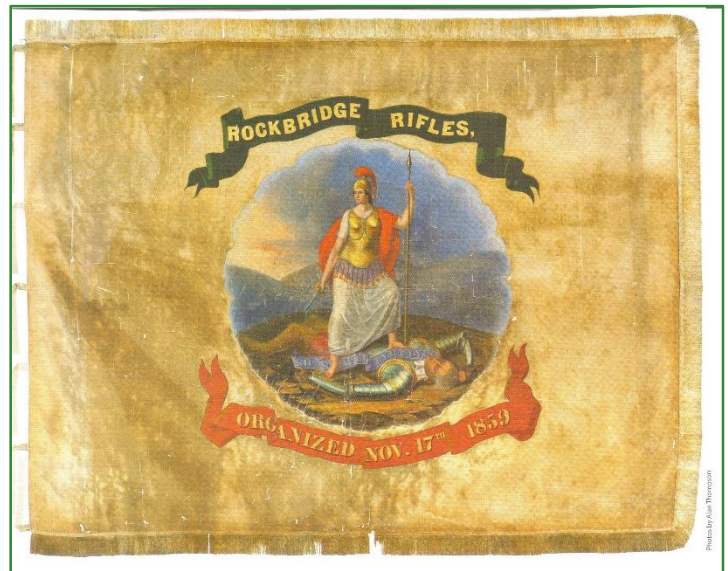


photo from Fall 2016 issue of ACWM magazine

Upcoming Camp Dinner Speakers

23 August	Collecting & Selling Confederate Memorabilia Wallace Markert
27 September	PTSD and the War for Southern Independence Beth White
25 October	The Seven Days Campaign Robert E. Lee Krick
22 November	Military Bridging & Pontoon Methods of the WBTS with specific focus on the James River Crossing of June, 1864. Chris Bryce

Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Historian/Genealogist Compatriot Fred Boelt)

George Semple married Mrs. Elizabeth Russell Holt in 1817, and they had a son, James Allen Semple, born on February 24, 1819, at Cedar Hill in New Kent County, Virginia. Elizabeth Semple died that same year, possibly from childbirth complications. George Semple died two years later leaving their son an orphan. Without documentation, it seems possible that Judge James Semple, uncle of the younger James, became his guardian. The judge was living in Williamsburg and was a professor at the college there. James, the nephew, attended the College of William and Mary during the 1829/30, 1832/34 and 1835/36 terms. Given his young age when he began, he undoubtedly started out in the Grammar School.

James Allen Semple married Letitia Christian Tyler (May 11, 1821 – December 28, 1907) on February 21, 1839. Letitia, born at Woodburn in Charles City County, was a daughter of President John Tyler and his first wife, Letitia Christian. The Christian family owned Cedar Grove plantation in New Kent County. Letitia Semple was hostess for her father at the White House in Washington after her mother's death in 1842, until he married Julia Gardiner in 1844.

James Semple became the Purser for the United States Navy on October 12, 1844, perhaps an appointment influenced by his father-in-law. It is not certain where he was serving in 1850, but Letitia was living in Williamsburg when that census was taken. She was living in one of the Palace dependencies, next door to Sydney Smith. Her eight year old nephew, Robert Tyler Jones, was living with her. His mother, Mary Tyler Jones, had died in 1848, and Letitia cared for him until his father sent him to a private academy.

In 1860, James and Letitia Semple were living in Brooklyn, New York and his occupation was listed as "USN Purser." An eight year old girl named Elizabeth was also in the household. This was Elizabeth Denison, Letitia's niece. Her parents, Henry and Alice Tyler Denison had both died in the 1850s and Elizabeth was then reared by her aunt. It does not appear that the Semples had any children, at least none that survived to be enumerated in a census.

James Semple resigned from his position with the US Navy on July 15, 1861, and became Paymaster for the Confederate States Navy. Perhaps in anticipation of the war, Letitia had returned to Williamsburg in May and was again living in the Palace dependency. She immediately became involved with establishing a hospital at the Female Academy on the site of the colonial capitol, and by November, she was in charge of housekeeping for the ten hospitals operating by that time.

James Semple served throughout the war as Paymaster for the CS Navy. In 1862, he was stationed with the Naval Battery at Drewry's Bluff. He was later in Richmond for much of the remainder of the war where he was in charge of the Office of Provisions and Clothing. Numerous requisitions and receipts signed by Semple have survived indicating how active he was in this position.

James Semple's whereabouts after the war are sketchy. He and Letitia separated but never divorced. In 1870, Letitia Semple was living in Baltimore and running a boarding school for young ladies. James was not living with her. In 1880, James was in the Black Creek area of New Kent County boarding with Mary Garlick and her family. There was at least one earlier Semple-Garlick intermarriage, so it seems probable that he was living with family. James A. Semple died in 1886, exact date so far undetermined.

Letitia was living in Washington by 1880. Her health had failed and she was living in a medical facility. She died on December 28, 1907, and her obituary stated that her funeral was held at Bruton Parish and that she was interred at Cedar Grove Cemetery. It now appears that she was buried at Cedar Grove, the Christian family home in New Kent rather than Williamsburg.

Another article went on to say that additional burials were not being allowed at Bruton Parish at that time. There is one large stone erected in the Bruton Parish graveyard honoring the memories of James and Letitia Semple as well as his parents, George and Elizabeth Semple. It is probable that James, George and Elizabeth are buried at Cedar Hill in New Kent and Letitia is at Cedar Grove, the Christian family home.

A Departed Friend

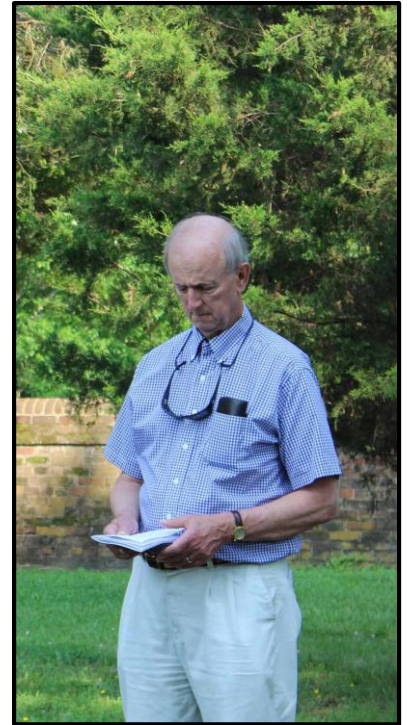


President of the Williamsburg
Chapter of the SAR

In 2008 Ed Truslow joined the James City Cavalry. His great-great grandfather was Private Ananias Robert Keller of Co. K – 7th Virginia Cavalry. Ed was a steady supporter of our Camp and our activities. He had agreed to move into an officer slot following his leadership roles with the Sons of the American Revolution. Ed would have been the Commander of our Camp in the next 3-4 years. Ed was a native of Harrisonburg, Virginia. He enjoyed a 41 year career in engineering with Grumman-Northrup. He and Laura were married for 55 years. Ed had a marvelous singing voice, unlike most his Cavalry compatriots, and sang in Choral Groups for many years. Ed loved genealogy and he traced his family back 12 generations in Virginia. He served as President of the local Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and just completed a stint as the President of the Virginia Society of the SAR. In the latter capacity, he lead some 2,000 members in the 27 SAR Chapters across our state.

Ed was fascinated by history and genealogy which lead to his membership in the SAR, the Society of the War of 1812, the SCV and others. “Understanding the challenges of America’s early history helps create national pride.” Ed felt that “Our collective memory of our history is not what it used to be.” Ed would agree that too many people try to judge the American’s of the 1700s and 1800s by current 2017 standards and customs instead of realizing that we are all products of our own time.

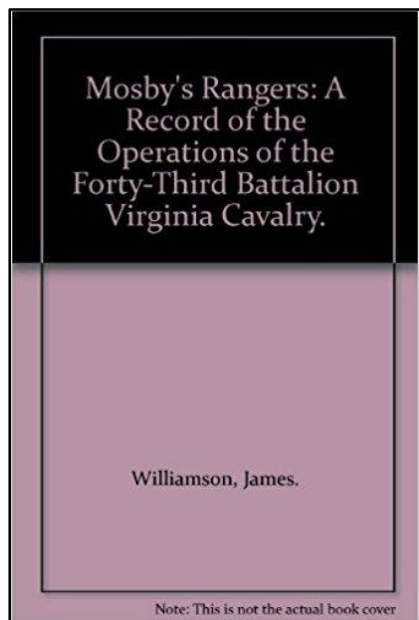
To Laura and the entire family we offer our condolences and prayers.



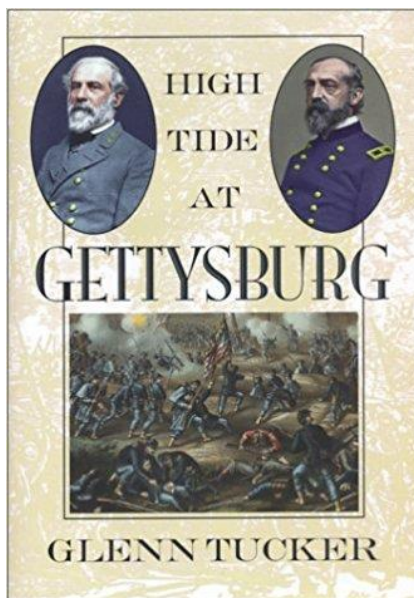
Memorial Service at Cedar
Grove in 2016



July Book Raffle



"Mosby's Rangers"
by James J. Williamson



"High Tide at Gettysburg"
by Glenn Tucker



"To Live and Die in Dixie – The Struggle Continues"
by Seventeen Southerners

July Trivia Question:

What local resident was found "chopped in the head" in the waning days of the Civil War because he was suspected of making Confederate uniforms?



Williamsburg Civil War Round Table

<http://www.wcwrt.org>

No meetings over the summer. Next meeting is September 26th, 2017

