



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



June 2022 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.

Next Muster

Wednesday, June 22nd, 2022, 6:30 pm
Colonial Heritage Club House
www.colonialheritageclub.com/find-us
6500 Arthur Hills Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23188



Meal Cost: \$20.00 Per Person
Payment by Check is Preferred

Non-camp members please contact Jeff Toalson (757) 220-0131 or troon24@cox.net to make a dinner reservation. Camp members will be contacted by the 'Call Team' for your reservation. Attendees without a reservation are welcome to attend the meeting but may not receive a dinner.

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

June Guest Speaker

Fred Chisea

“Transition of the Virginia Army to the Confederate Army”



Fred Chisea is a member of the Portsmouth Civil War Round Table. He served three times as the 1st Lt. Commander and Commander of the Stonewall SCV Camp and is currently 2nd Lt. Commander of the Virginia Division. An author of several local Civil War articles, Fred has become an acclaimed speaker on a wide range of topics. He is a native of Newport News and worked for the Department of Defense for 36 years.

Fred will describe the start of the State Militia and its transition to the Provisional Army and cover the command structure. The 1860 presidential election had an impact on the force development and strategy to meet political change in Virginia. Also, Fred will discuss Lee's leadership and strategy in Virginia with regard to Amelia Court House, Farmville and Appomattox.

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held April 27th at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,
James City County, Va., **33** Attendees

Welcome given by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson

Pledge & Salute to the Flags led by Aide de Camp Jon Holland

Blessing:

Given by Senior Chaplain George Corbett

Break for Supper

The SCV Charge read by Quartermaster George Bridewell

Comments by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson

Program:

1st Lt. Cmdr. White introduced the evening's guest speaker:
Michael Block.

Mr. Block presented "*Lee and Jackson before Cedar Mountain*" on the strategy and deployment of Stonewall Jackson's Corps following the Seven Days until the battle of Cedar Mountain. This is the seldom discussed gap between the Seven Days and 2nd Manassas.



Mr. Block and 1st Lt. Cmdr. White

Outstanding Camp Presentation

Brigade Commander Ed Whitley presented Quartermaster George Bridewell with our Outstanding Camp Ribbons for 2021 (delayed by Covid) and 2022.



Quartermaster Bridewell and Brig. Cmdr. Whitley

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Old & New Business

- Parking Detail for May 1 Fort Magruder - Compatriot David Hastedt
- Additional Fort Magruder Items - Treasurer Ken Parsons

Book Raffle

Proceeds of \$50 were donated to the Camp Treasury for the raffle of the three donations.

Benediction

Given by Senior Chaplain George Corbett

Camp Officers



Commander	Jeff Toalson troon24@cox.net
Adjutant	Dave Watson djwatson61@cox.net
Treasurer	Ken Parsons kparsons320@gmail.com
1st Lt. Commander	Jerry White hfrog66@gmail.com
2nd Lt. Commander	Steve White garrettsgrocery@gmail.com
Chaplain	George Corbett georgecorbett@cox.net
Aide de Camp	Jon Holland jonholland79@gmail.com
Archivist/Editor	Paul Huelskamp paulwhuelskamp@gmail.com
Quartermaster	George Bridewell gbridewell@aol.com
Historian	Fred Boelt fwb@widomaker.com

Cemetery Report

(2nd Lt. Cmdr. Steve White)

We had a final clean-up at Fort Magruder on April 23rd for the May 1 Rededication Ceremony. Thanks to Compatriots Duggan, Gilley, Symer, Campbell, Dasher, Hastedt, & Jerry White for joining me for a couple of hours.

At Peach Park the two 'Rose of Sharon' behind the David Ware bench have survived the winter and we have added three more. Hopefully, we will have a beautiful grouping in a few years.

Commander's Comments

The U.D.C. Rededication Service, on May 1st, at Fort Magruder, was a huge success. You will see a variety of photographs and detail of the event in this issue.

I would like to personally congratulate every member of the Cavalry for your support and participation in this project. It was a multi-year endeavor, we had many workdays & special projects at Fort Magruder, a huge turnout to help with traffic control and the many facets of the program, plus financial support to help defray a wide variety of costs. These efforts have been detailed in past issues of *Picket Lines*. Our Williamsburg U.D.C. Chapter and S.C.V. Camp provide the example of how our two organizations should work in concert to achieve our mutual goals. Thank you all for a job well done.

We will be inducting a new member at our June meeting, and he will be bringing his great-grandfather's two-band, 1864, Tredegar manufactured, rifle to the meeting.

Our good friend, Fred Cheisa, will be joining us to share another interesting historical presentation. Fred is the newly elected 2nd Lt. Commander of the Virginia Division. It is always a pleasure to have Fred as our guest.

See you on the 22nd. We serve in their memory.

Jeff Toalson



Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

The recent rededication of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument at Fort Magruder raised a question about local men who actually fought in the Battle of Williamsburg. John Archer Coke, whose family was documented in the *Picket Lines* in April 2016, was one of many Williamsburg men defending their homes and families on May 5-6, 1862.

After graduating in 1860, from The College of William and Mary with a law degree, John Coke was practicing law when war was declared in 1861. On May 13th, he enlisted in Lee's Artillery, 32nd Virginia Infantry, in Williamsburg, as a 2nd lieutenant under Captain W. R. Garrett [*Picket Lines*, August 2015]. He had been promoted to captain before he submitted the following report after the Battle of Williamsburg:

“Report of Capt. John A. Coke, Williamsburg – Lee Artillery

Sir: in obedience to your orders I have the honor to make the following report of the action of the Williamsburg-Lee Artillery, then commanded by Capt. W. R. Garrett, at the battle of Fort Magruder on the 5th and 6th of May, 1862.

On Sunday evening, when the enemy made their appearance in the woods on the left of the fort, one of the brass pieces belonging to this battery was ordered down to Fort Magruder, and after remaining a short time in the rear of the fort was ordered to the front line and a little to the left of Fort Magruder. A few shots from the battery of First Howitzer Company were fired, but were not returned by the enemy. We did not open fire on Sunday evening. We were then ordered back in [the] rear of the fort. About sunset another piece belonging to Captain Garrett's battery arrived at Fort Magruder, which piece was in a few minutes ordered to redoubt No. 1, on the right of the fort. On Monday morning the brass piece was ordered to redoubt No. 3, on the right of the fort. On Monday I was ordered to take command of the gun stationed at Redoubt No. 1. Captain Garrett commanded the gun stationed at Redoubt No. 3. The gun under my command opened fire on Monday morning about 9 o'clock, and kept up a constant fire on the enemy for several hours. The firing from this redoubt, as well as Redoubt No. 3, proved very effective. A caisson was reported to have been blown up by the iron gun of this battery in the morning, and the enemy's flag cut down by the brass gun in the evening, both of them stationed in Redoubt No. 1. In conclusion, I will state that the men in this command behaved during the whole engagement with great coolness and determination, and evinced a spirit of bravery which becomes men fighting in such a noble cause.

Respectfully submitted. Jno. A. Coke, Captain, Williamsburg-Lee Artillery
Col. J. Thompson Brown”

Later in 1862, Captain Coke was reassigned to duty as the enrolling officer of the Third Congressional District of Virginia with headquarters in Richmond. He was charged with enforcing the conscription law passed by the Confederate Congress on April 16, 1862. The first law drafted all white males between 18 and 35 years of age for three years. By September, as southern casualties rose, the age was extended to 45, and in February 1864, the limits were again changed to 17 to 50 years of age. Exemptions were provided for railroad workers, miners, telegraph operators and druggists.

Captain Coke remained in this position until Richmond was evacuated, at which point he accompanied a party of officers to Halifax County, Virginia. On hearing of Lee's surrender, these men attempted to join General Johnston's army, but when he also surrendered, Coke returned to Danville, and gave his parole to federal authorities there.

John Coke made his way back to Williamsburg, and then opened a law practice in Richmond in September 1865. He married Emma Overby (1844-1917) in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, in 1867, and they had two sons. John Archer Coke died in Richmond on January 27, 1920, and was buried in Hollywood Cemetery there.

May 1, 2022, Rededication Ceremony for the Soldiers and Sailors Monument

(All photos by Dick Fickling, unless specifically noted)

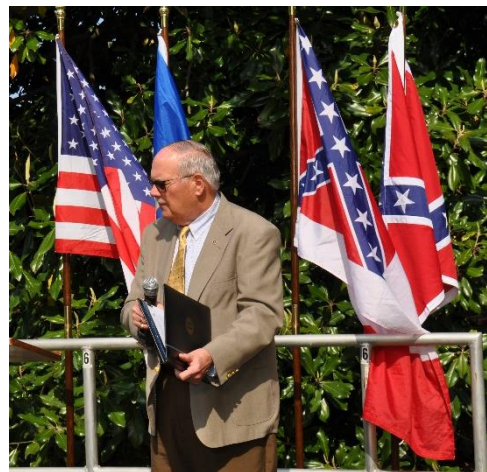


Photo by Bonnie Mittelmaier

Originally erected on the Palace Green in Williamsburg in 1908, the monument was moved briefly to Cedar Grove Cemetery in 1932, and then onto two courthouse lawns from 1932 until 2000. In 2000 it moved again and enjoyed the quiet and solitude of Bicentennial Park virtually forgotten by our citizens. BLM defaced it in 2020 and common sense and any appreciation of history went out the window. Mrs. Gerry Waring, President of Williamsburg UDC Chapter 637, created a joint UDC-SCV action group with Pam Natchus, Mary Lou Wagner, Jeff Toalson, Ken Parsons and George Corbett. Chapter 637 had partial ownership of the monument and we moved forward with a joint action plan led by President Waring. In less than 6 months the Williamsburg City Council yielded their ownership and declared that the only place the monument could be was on private property. The Williamsburg Chapter has owned Fort Magruder since 1951 and took full ownership of the monument they had helped fund and purchase originally in 1906 - 1908. Today we celebrated and rededicated this monument in honor of the local men who served during the war. Beyond being a memorial, it is a headstone for those local men who never came home and lie buried in unmarked graves in fields far, far from home.



Williamsburg UDC Chapter President Gerry Waring welcomes the attendees and provides a short history of their Chapter and the Soldiers & Sailors Monument.



Senior Chaplain George Corbett of the James City Cavalry Camp 2095 of the SCV offers the Invocation and will also provide the Benediction.

Rededication of the Williamsburg Monument (continued)



Welcome and Greetings from the Sons of Confederate Veterans was provided by Commander Jeff Toalson of the James City Cavalry.



Mrs. Mary Lou Wagner of the Williamsburg UDC leads the pledges.



As keynote speaker we were honored to have the President General of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, from Alabama, Mrs. Linda Edwards.



Fred Boelt, Jerry White, George Corbett and George Bridewell visit in the car unloading zone while waiting for another customer.

Photo by K. J. Proctor

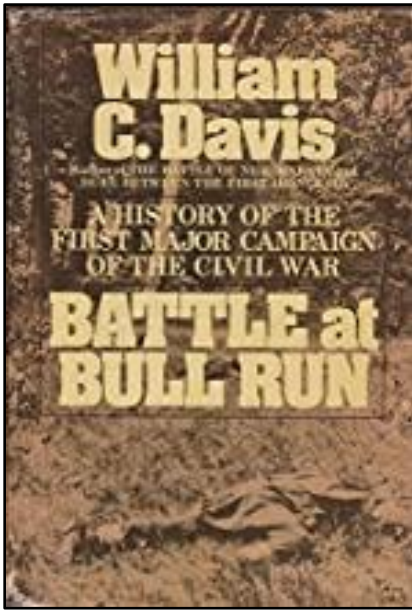


The Virginia Leadership: Commander Jeff Toalson - Camp 2095 S.C.V., President Gerry Waring - Chapter 637 U.D.C.; & Commander Tony Griffin of the Virginia Division of the S.C.V.

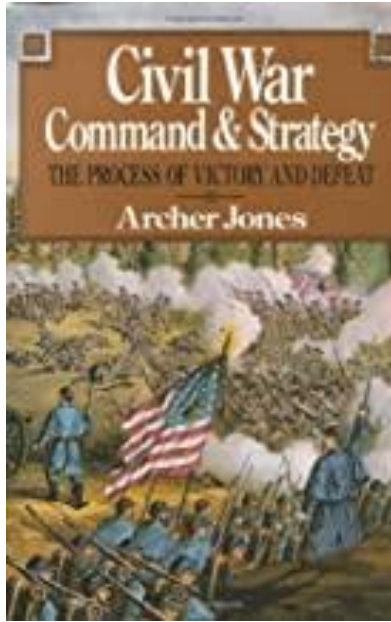


Bugler Dr. Pope, after playing taps to honor the veterans of James City County and Williamsburg, provided accompaniment for Cheryl Davis and she led everyone in a rousing singing of Dixie.

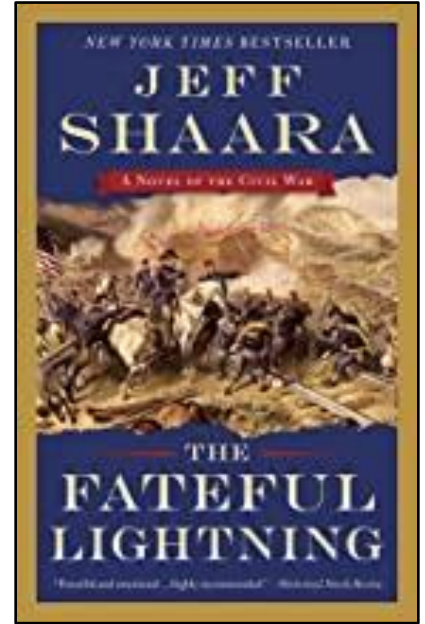
June Book Raffle



“Battle At Bull Run”
by William C. Davis



“Civil War Command & Strategy”
by Archer Jones



“The Fateful Lighting”
by Jeff Shaara

Bonus Book: “Muskets & Applejack”
by Mark Will-Weber
An oft times hilarious read of alcohol's
impact on the conflict.



Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwr.org>

The Round Table will be on leave until September.