

# MERRY CHRISTMAS!



from the  
James City Cavalry

## PICKET LINES



December 2012 Dispatch – Williamsburg, Virginia – <http://www.jamescitycavalry.org>

Camp #2095  1st Brigade  Virginia Division  Army of Northern Virginia

A PATRIOTIC HONOR SOCIETY DEDICATED TO SERVICE AND PRESERVING THE TRUE HISTORY OF THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

## NEXT MUSTER

Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, 6:30pm  
Colonial Heritage Club

<http://www.colonialheritageva.com/club.html>

6500 Arthur Hills Drive  
Williamsburg, VA 23188

### Guest Speaker:

Mr. Mike Nusbaum  
Williamsburg, Virginia

*"The Return of the War Department Captured  
Confederate Flags to the States, 1905-1906"*



Meal Cost: \$15.00 Per Person  
(genuine Confederate currency gladly accepted –  
will reluctantly accept US \$5 notes)

**No RSVP Required**

Compatriots' Ladies & Guests Encouraged To Attend

## CAMP JOURNAL FOR LAST MUSTER

### Meeting:

Held 28 November at 6:30PM at Colonial Heritage  
Club, James City Cty., Va., 36 attendees.  
Welcome given by Commander Jerry White

### Invocation:

Given by Chaplain Fred Breeden.  
Pledge & Salute to the Flags.  
Break for Supper.

The SCV Charge read by Quartermaster Jim Swords

### Ancestral Memorial Candle:

Read by Compatriot Charles Eugene Bush *in honor of  
Sergeant Thomas J. Barlow  
Co. C – 32nd Virginia Infantry*

### Program:

The program was presented by Compatriot,  
Robert Glaser, who spoke of and presented many  
fascinating details of "Anecdotes, Tidbits and Tales  
from the Battle of Williamsburg which were  
referenced to local geographic landmarks for  
familiarity".



# CAMP JOURNAL FOR LAST MUSTER

(Continued from Page 1)

## Committee Reports & Announcements:

### Treasurer's Report

Adjutant Ken Parsons indicated we have about \$1,800 in checking and over \$2,000 in savings. He urged those who have not paid their dues to do so soon.

(Continued on Page 2)

### Trivia Question

General Henry Wise, the ex-governor of Virginia and Confederate had a family oddity about him. What was it? Answer: He was married to the sister of Union General George Meade.

### Support the Troops

Compatriot Joel Goodwin indicated Compatriot Scott Summerfield will assume his duties as Liaison to Support the Troops. The new contact person is Naval Reservist BMCS Taylor Lane. Please remember to bring donations for our troops to each meeting.

### Cemetery Report

See column on Page 4.

### Old Business

None to report.

### New Business

Commander Jerry White announced again the formation of the Lt. Col. Allen Scholarship sponsored by the Camp. The scholarship is for \$500 and open to any senior in any of the local James City/Williamsburg High Schools.

### Book Raffle:

A generous amount was donated to the Camp Treasury for the raffle of the two donations: "Days of Defiance - Sumter, Secession & the Coming of the Civil War" by Maury Klein, "James Longstreet - Lee's War Horse" by H. J. Eckenrode and Bryan Conrad, and "The American Civil War from the Library of Congress" by Margaret Wagner

### Benediction:

Given by Chaplain Fred Breeden

### Adjournment:

The Camp adjourned at 8:55PM.

# JANUARY GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Mike Nusbaum  
Williamsburg, Virginia

## *"The Return of the War Department Captured Confederate Flags to the States, 1905-1906"*

Captured flags, whether Confederate or recaptured Union flags, were considered to be the property of the United States Government. Approximately 780 flags found their way to the War Department. An 1887 inventory showed 61 recaptured Federal flags and 545 Confederate flags for a total of 606 at the War Department. The flags were poorly inventoried, were moved to various locations, loaned to individuals, misplaced, and lost. In 1887 President Cleveland ignited a political tumult when he proposed returning the flags to their appropriate states. In 1905, when a Republican war veteran was President, Congress in consultation with President Teddy Roosevelt passed a resolution to return the flags and in 1906 Secretary Taft delivered 252 CSA flags to the Confederate Memorial Library Society which was an earlier name for the Museum of the Confederacy. These highlights just scratch the surface of the story that Mike will tell us in January.

Charles M. Nusbaum is a retired Army officer residing in Williamsburg with his wife Paula. He holds a variety of degrees in various disciplines including a doctorate from Virginia Tech. As an historian his primary interest is American history, 1840-1920.

# CAMP OFFICERS

**Commander**

Jerry White  
[jerry47@cox.net](mailto:jerry47@cox.net)

**Adjutant**

Ken Parsons  
[kparsons4@cox.net](mailto:kparsons4@cox.net)

**1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander**

Jeff Toalson  
[troon24@cox.net](mailto:troon24@cox.net)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander**

Steve White  
[garrettsgrocery@netzero.com](mailto:garrettsgrocery@netzero.com)

**Historian/Genealogist**

Fred Boelt  
[fwb@widomaker.com](mailto:fwb@widomaker.com)

**Archivist**

George Bridewell  
[gbridewell@aol.com](mailto:gbridewell@aol.com)

**Quartermaster**

Jim Swords  
[james.swords@cox.net](mailto:james.swords@cox.net)

**Chaplain**

Fred Breeden  
[flbreeden@yahoo.com](mailto:flbreeden@yahoo.com)

# WREATH-LAYING EVENT COMES TO CONFEDERATE CEMETERY FOR FIRST TIME

by Geoff Folsom

gfolsom@mdjonline.com

December 16, 2012 01:31 AM

MARIETTA, GA — The Marietta Confederate Cemetery on Saturday became the first of the nation's resting places for rebel soldiers to host a "Wreaths Across America" event, in which volunteers lay Christmas wreaths on graves of veterans. But the idea is already spreading to other Confederate cemeteries.

"We're going to do this next year," said Jeff Bailey with the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Stone Mountain, a group that hosts a Memorial Day event at the Confederate cemetery there. "Since they're trying it out here and it looks like it's going to work, we're going to do this next year.

Long a tradition at the Marietta National Cemetery, where Union soldiers are buried, Houston Spencer, a colonel in the Old Guard of the Gate City Guard, said he wanted to bring the event to the Confederate cemetery.

"These are veterans too," he said. "These are soldiers that died for what they thought was right. When I'm over at the National Cemetery, I thought, 'We've got veterans across the railroad tracks, they need to be recognized as well.' After a couple years, I said, 'What the hell, let's do it.'"

Around 150 volunteers showed up to lay the wreaths after a half-hour ceremony at adjacent Brown Park.

"The wreath celebration is a wonderful experience and very relevant," Marietta Mayor Steve Tumlin told the audience. "We're very glad to have it in two places in our city."

While wreaths were placed on soldiers graves, the event resembled a Memorial Day event more than a Christmas celebration. Taps was played instead of Christmas carols and Santa Claus was nowhere to be found, but people came dressed in Civil War-era garb.

"Even though this is the Christmas season, this is not a Christmas celebration," Spencer said. "This is a reverent remembrance to honor the soldiers and what they did for us.

Others attending include Marietta City Councilmen Philip Goldstein and Grif Chalfant and state Rep. Don Parsons (R-east Cobb).

After the ceremony, public officials, members of



Confederate organizations and volunteers who just showed up for the ceremony made their way up the hill to the Georgia area of the Confederate ceremony where they placed wreaths on 150 graves.

"I think it's time we honor our heritage, even though a lot of folks have forgotten it, and honor the blood, sweat and sacrifice of the veterans, as well as the families that supported the Confederate soldiers," said volunteer Ken Myers, 63, of Marietta.

Spencer said he was only able to raise enough money for 150 of the \$15 evergreen wreaths this year. He hopes to someday raise enough to place one at all 3,600 graves. He is already collecting money for the 2013 Wreaths Across America. For information on donating, call (770) 419-7153.

The Wreaths Across America event was one of around 600 at cemeteries and memorials across the country, each held at noon eastern time, Spencer said. The events are spearheaded by a Columbia Falls, Maine nonprofit organization.

At the Marietta National Cemetery, 2,767 wreaths were placed on graves Saturday.

# SUPPORT THE TROOPS

At our Christmas Supper, we announced Scott Summerfield is now handling the Support The Troops program and we want the membership to continue bringing the items for him to mail out monthly.

Also, the cost of mailing the packages have been covered entirely by anonymous denotations and we want to thank all of you who have contributed the money and the goods. We hope to continue this program as long as our soldiers need your contributions.



## *Items desired :*

Baby Wipes  
 Slim Jims  
 Beef Jerky  
 Mints  
 Gum  
 Nuts (all kinds) & Dried Fruit  
 Single powdered drink mixes  
 (such as Crystal Lite)  
 Soap Bars  
 Disposable Razors  
 Shaving Cream  
 Shampoo (regular and dandruff)  
 Deodorant  
 Lotion  
 Floss  
 Advil  
 Stamps  
 Paperback Books & DVDs

## COMMUNITY SERVICE & HISTORICAL EDUCATION

**Fort Magruder** – We do annual clean-up and maintenance to the trees, shrubbery, moat, fortifications and general grounds.

**Local Family Cemeteries** – We have restored and we maintain local family cemeteries in James City County including Sunnyside, Peach Park and Cowles-Spencer-Durand plus Hockaday cemetery in New Kent County.

**Support of U. S. Troops Overseas** - We send three monthly care packages to servicemen who are stationed overseas. For the last three years our soldiers have all been in either Iraq or Afghanistan.

**Genealogical Research Site** – We maintain genealogical cemetery research information on family cemeteries in New Kent, James City & Charles City Counties and the City of Williamsburg on our website: [www.jamescitycavalry.org](http://www.jamescitycavalry.org).

**Historical Education** – We schedule well known historians and authors for historical talks 10 months per year at our meetings. Guests are welcome. Our meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month (except May & December) at the Colonial Heritage Country Club. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. and our speaker is introduced at 7:30 p.m. Reservations are required. Cost is \$15 per person, paid in advance. Contact Ken Parsons at 757-564-0878 to reserve your seats (217 Sherwood Forest, Williamsburg, Va. 23188).

# CEMETERY PROJECTS

**January 12<sup>th</sup> 2013 – Ft. Magruder**

**Needed** – Standard weeders and weeders with saw-blades; chainsaws and chippers.

Anyone wanting the firewood, please contact Steve at 566-3712.

**January 19<sup>th</sup> 2013 – Cowles-Spencer & Sunnyside Cemetery**

**Needed** – Weeders, leafblowers, hand-tools to repair chain-link fence.

**January 26<sup>th</sup> 2013 – Peach Park Cemetery**

**Needed** – Mulch forks, hand- and garden-tools for cleaning of field edge past the cemetery.

**February 9<sup>th</sup> 2013 – Hockaday Cemetery (New Kent Co.)**

**February 16<sup>th</sup> 2013 - TBD**

# A CONFEDERATE PRESENCE AT SHARPSBURG

by Susan Hathaway  
VA Flaggers

On Saturday, December 1st, the Va Flaggers traveled to Sharpsburg for the second time this year. On this occasion, we would arrive in the afternoon, to be part of the 1400+ volunteers who help to set up the 23,210 candles that would represent the lives lost in battle on the bloodiest day, and help to recognize the 10,000 + Confederates who were among those casualties.

Upon arrival, we began assisting with the enormous task of lighting the illuminaries. We found ourselves absolutely humbled as we lit each one, just considering that each candle burning represented a life lost that day, and that on THIS DAY, at least, that sacrifice was not forgotten. It was a very moving experience.



During this time, we carried CBF stick flags so that we would be free to work as needed, and we were greeted by other volunteers and event organizers with warm regards and respect.

At dusk, all of the volunteers would gather for a memorial service. When we approached the service, we found that the only flags on display were U.S. Flags, so we went back and got our flags so that the Confederate soldiers there would also be represented.

The service was by the National Park Service. It was opened and closed with prayer, and in between were some speakers, songs performed by a choir, and words of thanks and praise for the volunteers, many of whom had been coming back each year for many years. We stood at the back of the crowd, but directly in front of the speakers' platform.

Before and during the service, we were approached by many people who asked to take photos, asked about why we were there, or thanked us for being there. We explained to folks that we were carrying the flags to represent the Confederate soldiers who had died and were there to honor them and make sure they were not forgotten.

Those of us who were there are veteran Flaggers. We have heard just about everything one can hear when carrying a Confederate flag, had just about every curse word and insult hurled at us, and been in some pretty uncomfortable situations. NOTHING, however, prepared us for what happened at the close of the service...

Just after the choir sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth" and the service ended, a middle aged white women came over and

asked what we were doing there with "those" flags. We explained that we were carrying them in honor of our ancestors, but she would have none of that and launched into a tirade about us wanting to "cause a scene and disrupt the service". She said she was a teacher and taught her students to know better than to carry those flags. We assured her that we had no intention of disrupting anything (which we didn't) and again tried to explain why we were there. Without letting us complete a sentence, she starts to walk away, turns and shouts... "I HOPE Y'ALL CATCH PNEUMONIA... AND DIE."

Several people standing nearby heard all of this, and were also stunned as we were. One man approached us immediately and told us he was from the North and wanted us to know that he appreciated us being there, almost as if to apologize for the woman. On the way to the car and as we prepared to tour the illuminaries, that woman and her death wish was central in our mind. How must it feel to live with such hate in your heart?

Her pettiness and ignorance was soon set aside for the sight that awaited us...field after field, acre after acre of candles lit, each one representing a life that ended at Sharpsburg. We were able to focus our attentions back where they needed to be...on the 10,000 + Confederate soldiers who gave their all on those fields.

The experience is one that we will not soon forget, and we encourage all to make the journey to be a part of this incredible, moving display...and to never surrender in the fight to honor and remember our ancestors. There is obviously much education still needed. Will you step out and speak up for those who no longer have a voice?

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hathaway





# CHRISTMAS SUPPER CAMP PICTORIAL



*There were 63 attending; we owe thanks to David Ware and his all-girl crew; Sharron, Marily, and Wendy for their work setting up the Club house; Don and Betsy Woolridge for the Brunswick Stew and fruit cake; and we can't thank enough the ladies who for all the delicious food they brought from home; Charles Bush for the history lesson and fruit cake; Linda lightfoot for recording attendance; Mike Pullen and Tammy, Virginia Division Commander, and all the others who traveled far to join us in the celebration!*



# CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES

(Contributed by Historian/Genealogist Compatriot Fred Boelt)

There is a small family cemetery, enclosed in an old wrought iron fence, located in the side yard of the Elmwood farmhouse. Three gravestones, two broken and one intact, contain just enough information to piece this story together. We have concluded that the two broken stones are for William A. and Sarah Meanley, and the intact stone is for their son-in-law, John E. Hughes.

Sarah Meredith Vaiden, daughter of William Henry and Susan (Vaiden) Vaiden, was born in New Kent County on November 3, 1820. Sarah, known as Sallie, married John M. Morris around 1840, and they had two sons: John Willoughby Morris, born about 1842; and Henry B. Morris, born about 1845. There are numerous references to "John and Sallie" in the diary of Robert Morris, well known teacher and landowner in the Croaker area. John and Robert were brothers. In 1844, John M. Morris purchased seventy acres of land in James City County from Robert B. Pierce. John died sometime before May 1847 when the tax on this land was charged to his estate.

William Apperson Meanley, son of William R. and Ann Maria Apperson Meanley, was born in New Kent County on July 14, 1822. After John Morris died, William Meanley married John's widow on March 1, 1849. In 1850, William and Sallie were living in James City County with her two Morris sons and the Meanley's infant daughter, Blanche. William's occupation was listed as "teacher." In 1853, William Meanley purchased 52½ acres from Thomas W. and Lucy Whitaker. Over time, William and Sallie Meanley had additional children: Nannie A., William Sommers, Ocie V., Edmund S., and Irene B.

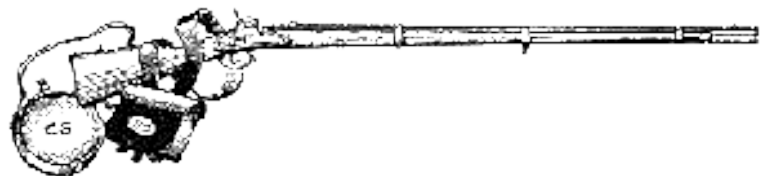
William A. Meanley was enrolled for active service in the James City Militia on April 1, 1861 at Burnt Ordinary (Toano) under Captain [George E.] Geddy. He was mustered into active service in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry on June 24, 1861, and was appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant of Company J on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Meanley suffered from chronic rheumatism and was admitted to the Seminary Hospital in Williamsburg on December 18, 1861. [The Female Academy, also known as the Seminary, was built in 1850/51 on the site of the colonial capitol and was the first hospital

established in Williamsburg in 1861.] His service record indicated that he remained in the hospital through February 1862, and returned to his unit sometime in March, for he was present at Young's Mill. His record ended there, and it is probable that he received a medical discharge.

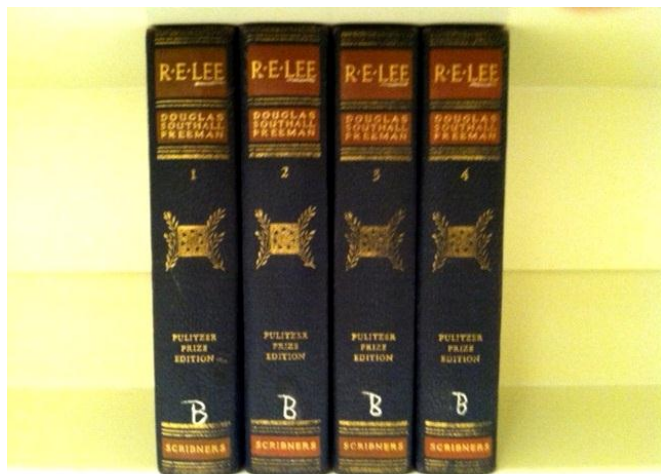
By the time the 1870 census was taken, William and Sallie Meanley and their children were farming in James City County. Their eldest daughter, Blanche Lee Meanley, had married John Edward Hughes on January 27, 1870, and they were living with her parents. Hughes, the son of John C. and Lucy A. Hughes, was born on November 7, 1844, in Fluvanna County, Virginia, and his occupation on the census was listed as "retail merchant." At some point, perhaps prior to 1870, the Meanleys bought the 230 acre Elmwood tract, and this may have been where they were living when the census was taken. William Meanley was embroiled in bankruptcy in 1871, but by 1874, he gained title again to the farm.

Sarah Meredith Vaiden Morris Meanley died in 1887, and was interred beside her son-in-law, John Hughes, who had died ten years earlier. The remaining portion of her broken tombstone reads: "Sarah Meredith [broken line], Born November 3, 1820, Died September 8, 1887.

On June 20, 1890, William A. Meanley sold Elmwood to his son and daughter-in-law, Edmund S. and Bettie D. (Bowles) Meanley. William Apperson Meanley died on October 9, 1892. While we have not found absolute proof that the third grave in this cemetery is his, it seems probable that he would have been buried next to his wife. The name and dates section is missing from the broken tombstone. The oval top portion with "in memory of," and the bottom portion, with a mostly illegible verse, are all that remain today. Most of William and Sallie Meanley's children, their spouses and some of the grandchildren are buried at Olive Branch Christian Church.

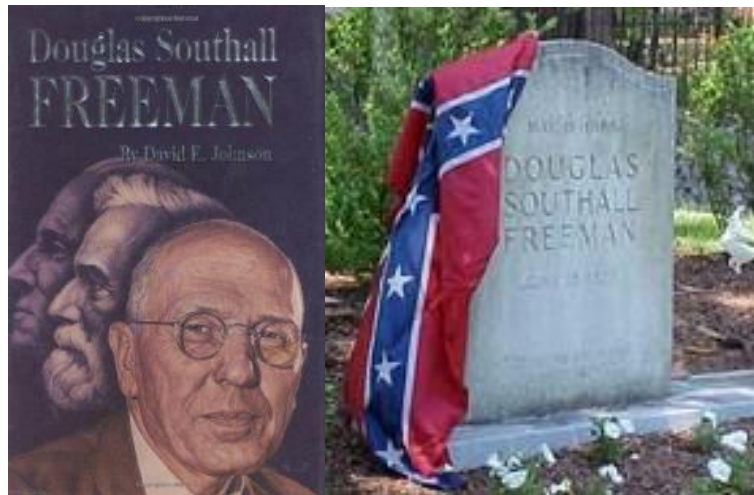


# JANUARY BOOK RAFFLE



“R.E. Lee” Douglas Southall Freeman, Pulitzer Prize Edition, 1936, Charles Scribner’s Sons, New York, hard cover, 4 volumes, 2421 pages.

Douglas Freeman's biography, in its 4 volumes and 2421 pages, is not only comprehensive, but remains to this day the best life of Lee ever published. Most recent owner of this particular set was the Lee Chapel Museum in Lexington.



“Douglas Southall Freeman” David E. Johnson, 1961, Pelican, hard cover, 480 pages.

Douglas Southall Freeman (1886-1953) won two Pulitzer Prizes for his biographies R. E. Lee and George Washington; he also edited the Richmond News Leader, made twice-daily radio news broadcasts, and taught journalism at Columbia University.

## JANUARY TRIVIA QUESTION:

Compatriots, This months trivia question is not just the usual question but a challenge. Anyone who answers this challenge will win a book from my library; Chancellorsville 1863, by Ernest Ferguson.

The question: Name the two Confederate soldiers who were tried and hanged after the war?

Hint: The first one is easy, the second one will require some digging.

*Submitted by Adjutant Ken Parsons*



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