



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



March 2020 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, March 25th, 2020, 6:30 pm
Colonial Heritage Club House
www.colonialheritageclub.com/find-us
6500 Arthur Hills Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23188



Dinner is Back!

But we will meet in the Ball Room; the Kings Room is still being renovated.

Meal Cost: \$17.00 Per Person

You must call or email Jeff Toalson (757) 220-0131 or troon24@cox.net to make a dinner 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

March Guest Speaker

Mr. W. Lee
Pelton

*“The Battle
of
Galveston”*



Texas was still nearly the frontier in the 1860s, and out of the course of the large military campaigns. However, a major exception was the fighting to regain control of the port of Galveston. General John Bankhead Magruder led a rag-tag force of old boats, Texas cavalry and artillery in an unconventional attack to regain the port on December 31, 1863.

W. Lee Pelton was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. After earning a master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University he spent 26 years in the U.S. Navy retiring in Virginia Beach. He continued his mother's research into their family tree and has discovered dozens of ancestors woven into the history of Texas and The United States. He is currently a member of the Princess Anne Camp 484 Sons of Confederate Veterans and a Confederate reenactor in the 'Norfolk Light Artillery Blues'.

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held 26th February at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,
James City County., Va., 19 attendees

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

Welcome given by Commander Jerry Thompson

Blessing:

Given by Chaplain Warren Raines

The SCV Charge read by Quartermaster Joel Goodwin

Program:

1st Lt. Commander David Hastedt introduced the evening's guest speaker: NPS Ranger Aaron Firth
Ranger Firth presented "*Freedom's Fortress 1861*", highlighting the most recent historical findings relating to the Contraband Decision at Fort Monroe.



1st Lt Cmdr. Hastedt and Ranger Firth

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Cemetery Report

2nd Lt. Commander Steve White read to the camp the letter of gratitude from the UDC expressing their thanks for the cleanup effort at Fort Magruder. At Sunnyside, we are set for the installation of the Southern Cross of Honor. Also, thanks to all who helped cleanup Peach Park and Cowles-Spencer.

Old & New Business

- Executive Committee Meeting held February 1 - Compatriot Toalson
- Virginia Division Convention April 3rd & 4th - Compatriot Toalson
- Update on Monuments - Adjutant Parsons
- Battlefield Park Day – Sat. April 4th 9 AM to 1 PM (for details see:

www.williamsburgbattlefieldassociation.org/events

Book Raffle

Proceeds were donated to the Camp Treasury for the raffle of the three donations. There was enough donated to raffle a bonus book.

Benediction

Given by Chaplain Warren Raines

Adjournment

7:52 PM



OLIVE BRANCH CHURCH, a Point of Reference

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

As the armies moved about during the war, the soldiers who kept journals or in writing to their families, often used churches or taverns to identify points between towns and villages. In the February *Picket Lines*, Adjutant Hume referred to Olive Branch Church as a locator for the skirmish in 1863. This month, we find a similar reference in a Union soldier's journal.

Corporal Patrick Lyons of Company E, 2nd Regiment of the Rhode Island Volunteers kept a diary throughout his service years.ⁱ Lyons served with Company E during the Peninsula Campaign and marched with them toward Richmond after the battle of Williamsburg on May 5th, 1862. On May 7th, they passed through Williamsburg and headed west along the Telegraph Road [Richmond Road]. They had been cautioned that the Confederates had buried torpedoes in several places in the road, so they marched through the wheat fields already trampled by the retreating Confederates.

“The Cavalry being about two miles in advance of us came up with the enemies rear guard of about 1000 Cavalry at a place called Olive Branch (which this is rather a misnomer in this case) & they sent a courier back for us, when we were ordered to unslung Knapsacks & load & immediately deployed to the right & left of the road as skirmishers – arriving at Olive Branch we found the Cavalry & Artillery in line of Battle in a large clearing near a house, but the enemy retreated and the Cavalry rode back after our Knapsacks....In the house referred to we found a woman & her son, they had a lot of Confederate Money which our men bought of them to be sent home as Souvenirs another house in the vicinity was owned, we learned, by a minister named Taylor but nobody remained in it and our men ransacked it of everything of any value. We were informed that the enemies rear guard left here at 3 ocl. Our Cavalry drove in a lot of cattle & sheep which were slaughtered immediately for the troops & while in the act of cooking our shares we were ordered to fall in, it being then 6 ocl. P. M. & marched forward. The Cavalry in advance, the Artillery next flanked by a Regmt on each side & marched about two miles when we were halted & camped for the night in a wheat field.”

Using Olive Branch as a point of reference, the battle fought in a large clearing near a house may have been the Hubbard farm adjacent and to the east of the church. Dr. Charles Miles Hubbard and his wife Mary Henley Hubbard had a large family. Two sons were already in service, but a third son did not enlist until July 1862. And then there were two younger sons and six daughters. Lyons' statement, “arriving at Olive Branch” would seem to indicate that the fighting was close by. Perhaps another clue about the family's identity is, “they had a lot of Confederate money.” The doctor's family should have been rather affluent at that time.

The “house in the vicinity owned by a minister named Taylor” referred to Henley Lightfoot Taylor who served as an Elder at Olive Branch from 1842 until his death in 1883. Born in 1819, Taylor lived at Six Mile Ordinary [northwest corner of Richmond and Centerville Roads] for a good portion of his life. Lyons identified Taylor's house as being in the “vicinity” of Olive Branch, so Taylor may have been occupying a different house during the war years. Lyons also stated that no one was home when they raided the house.

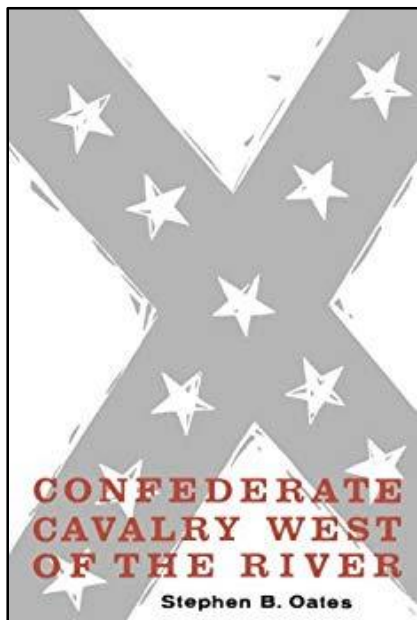
Not too long after that, it was reported that four citizens of James City were being held at prisoners at the Rip-Raps: Adolphus Goddin, A. H. Hankins, Henley L. Taylor and John W. Jones.ⁱⁱ Undoubtedly, these citizens were among those from James City and Charles City counties being indiscriminately arrested and sent to Fortress Monroe by the enemy. It was also reported that every species of livestock was being driven off without any mention of compensation.ⁱⁱⁱ Olive Branch and its brethren all suffered deprivations throughout the war years, but the church building survived to be remodeled and serves a vibrant congregation today.

ⁱ Lyons, Patrick. *A Soldier's Log*. Providence, RI: privately published, 1988.

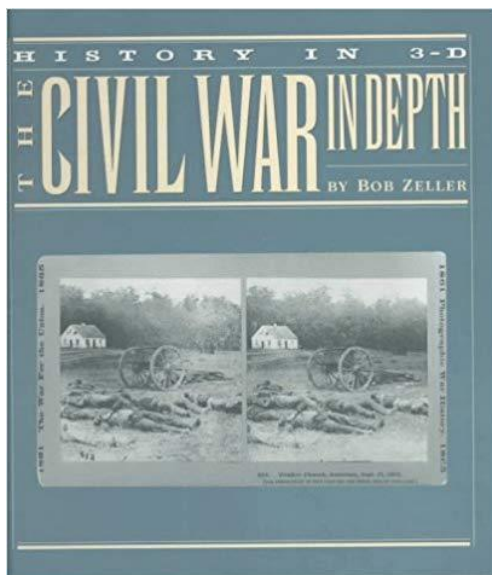
ⁱⁱ *The Daily Dispatch*. Richmond, VA: August 24, 1862.

ⁱⁱⁱ *The Daily Dispatch*. Richmond, VA: July 17, 1862.

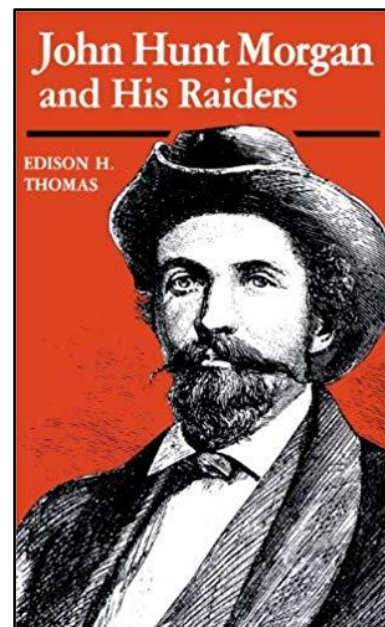
March Book Raffle



"Confederate Cavalry West of the River"
by Stephen B. Oates



"The Civil War In Depth"
by Bob Zeller



"John Hunt Morgan and His Raiders"
by Edison H. Thomas

March Trivia Question

In 1872 a French art critic described this impressionist painting as "... more frightening than battle". What was the battle and who was the painter?

Answer to last month's question: The [Charleston Mercury](#) was strongly secessionist and frequently criticized President Davis and General R.E. Lee.

Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwrt.org>

On March 17th, 2020 - Dr. Thomas Clemons will present:

"Special Order 191 — Myths, Misconceptions and Facts Related to Lee's Lost Order"

Note: this meeting will be on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month.