



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



November 2019 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

Note Special Date Below!

Wednesday, **November 20th**, 2019, 6:30 pm

Colonial Heritage Club House

www.colonialheritageclub.com/find-us

6500 Arthur Hills Drive

Williamsburg, VA 23188



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>

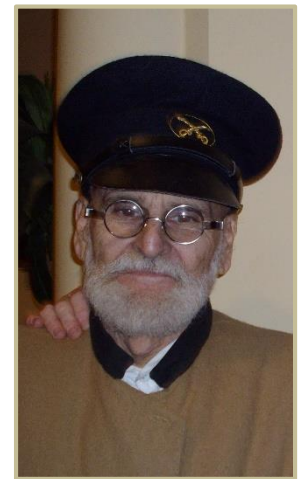
To add or remove an email address for the Picket Lines distribution list, or for questions or comments regarding the newsletter, email to:

jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com

November Guest Speaker

Mr. Charles Wood
Military Artificer for
Colonial Williamsburg

*"Battle of
Trevilian Station
in 1864"*



Camp 2095 welcomes Mr. Charles Wood back to discuss the Battle of Trevilian Station in 1864. Charles will illuminate the leadership and tactics displayed by Gen. Wade Hampton in thwarting Gen. Phil Sheridan's efforts. This should be a very interesting talk on a subject that has never been dissected at one of our meetings.

Charles Wood is retired from Colonial Williamsburg and has been around horses most of his life. He has worked as a coachman at Colonial Williamsburg, and as a military artificer at the Colonial Williamsburg Magazine. He helped make the leather Portmanteaus(carriers) to hold the Colonial Williamsburg reproduction of George Washington's Tent that was made for the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia. He has been a Confederate Civil War reenactor.

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held 23rd of October at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,
James City County, Va., 35 attendees

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

Blessing:

Given by Chaplain Warren Raines

Break for Supper

The SCV Charge read by Quartermaster Joel Goodwin

Welcome given by Commander Jerry Thompson

Program:

Compatriot Jeff Toalson introduced the evening's guest speaker: Ms.
Billie Earnest.

Billie presented *"The Men Who Signed The Declaration of Independence
and the Price they Paid"*, an inspiring review of the later lives of many of
the Founding Fathers.



Compatriot Toalson and Ms. Earnest

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Cemetery Report

2nd Lt. Commander Steve White reported the UDC are working on the
numbers for the wall at Fort Magruder.

Old & New Business

- REMINDER: Christmas Supper Party Date—Saturday
December 14th
- Brief Remarks on Heritage Defense Fund — Save the
Monuments—Frank Earnest
- Room Change for the January & February Camp Meeting in
Colonial Heritage—Adjutant Parsons

Book Raffle

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

Benediction

Given by Chaplain Warren Raines.

Adjournment

8:21 PM

Camp Historical Note

It was an unusual evening. It was the October, 2010, James City Cavalry meeting. It was our next to last meeting at Hog Wild. Billie Earnest was our speaker and General Billy Mahone was the topic. Echoes of his counterattack at the Crater were alive in the room. We played the MOC tape of two, different, aging Confederate veterans doing their individual Rebel Yells. It was ghostly, haunting and when multiplied into a Brigade of voices it sounded like demons coming out of the earth. A re-enactor then coached us in the yell and we became Billy Mahone's men attacking the Crater. As the meeting closed this picture was taken of Billie and Don Woolridge, our Commander. A Confederate ghost (see the orb) came to visit from Hickory Neck, Peach Park, Sunnyside or Hockaday cemetery. He was drawn by what happened in that room. We have taken a thousand pictures, with many cameras, and only one ghost has appeared in our pictures. I was there with 36 Compatriots and friends. It was an unusual evening. I know we were joined by one of our ancestors.



Henry Jackson Darst, Jr. 1924 – 2019

We regret to inform you of the passing of Compatriot Henry Jackson Darst, Jr. on October 28, 2019. Jackson transferred from the Lee-Jackson Camp No. 1, Sons of Confederate Veterans, in Richmond on January 22, 2011. He and his wife Ann have been active supporters of our camp and attended many meetings and other gatherings. He will be sadly missed by all.

Jackson Darst was born in Kentucky but grew up in Dublin, Pulaski County, Virginia, home of his ancestors. After graduating from the University of Virginia, he taught at Lynchburg College and the University of Virginia. He was also an advisor to the U. S. Army Transportation School, Department of Defense, having oversight with the overall operation of Army service schools.

For many years, he bred and raised thoroughbred and quarter horses in James City and York Counties. His love of agriculture and the land prompted his service on numerous agricultural and conservation boards at both the state and local levels.

He was the author of three genealogical and historical books. In addition to the SCV, Jackson was a member of several other patriotic societies, among them, the Society of the Cincinnati, the Society of Colonial Wars, the Sons of the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Huguenot Society.

He is survived by his wife, Ann, one sister, two step-children, and other family members. A graveside service was held on November 2, 2019, at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia.



Compatriot Engle, Mr. Bo Traywick and Compatriot Darst in 2014

James M. H. Harris, Jr. 1931 – 2019

We are deeply saddened by the loss of our good friend and compatriot. Jim has been a member of the James City Cavalry since 2011. His grandfather was Private Stith M. Shepherd of Co. E, 12th Virginia Infantry. Private Shepherd's legacy in our camp continues with Jim's son, Jere, who joined our camp in 2012.

Jim was a man of good stories and good humor. He loved his family, hunting, fishing, history and genealogy. In addition to the SCV he was also a member of the SAR, VHS, The Jamestown Society and several other historical organizations.



2019 Memorial Day Picnic: Jim in the center with Compatriots Boelt and Bridewell



L to R in the Christmas party is Jim Harris, Jere Harris and Donna Harris

Civilian Glimpses

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

The second letter from Dr. Jennings to his wife Virginia is also achieved at the Virginia Historical Society [Mss 2 j4413b]. The first letter transcribed in the October *Picket Lines* was dated December 1, 1864, and the second letter was written on December 5th, but they were both postmarked on the 6th. Mail was slow at best, and we do not know when Mrs. Jennings actually received these letters.

The envelope: "Mrs. Dr. Jennings James City Co Virginia

In care of Mrs. Alice Bailey Williamsburg Virginia

Some friend will please forward – Mrs. Jennings”

The letter: “Dec 5, 1864 Camp Hamilton near Fortress Monroe

My Dear Wife, I wrote to you a few days ago. This leaves me well except my cough which is troublesome at morning. Hope you and all are well. Our fare is good & officers are kind. If I cant get some clothes from home, I must try to draw some here as I have no change of clothes. The weather is now fine but winter is coming soon. I hope soon to be returned to my home and its enjoyments, to my dear wife and my little boys and others of my family. All must do the best you can. Hope on Hope ever. The society here is very good. Many citizens from Chas. City & seven from Jas City. I received a letter from Vollie yesterday. He is well, enquired after you & John Mell. Write soon to me. Give my love to my boys, family, friends, a large share for yourself.

I remain your affectionate Husband, A J E Jennings”

In this second letter, Dr. Jennings’ cough persists, but he acknowledged that they were receiving adequate food and tolerable treatment from the Union officers. His main concern was that he did not have a change of clothes which may have translated to “warmer clothes.” With winter coming on, he would need protection from the weather. Located on the Chesapeake Bay, Fortress Monroe could be very bleak when the north winds rushed across that body of water.

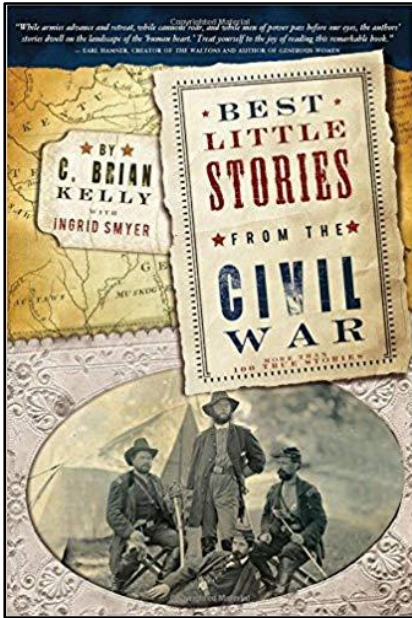
Dr. Jennings continued to advise his family to look out for his interests in his absence. Undoubtedly, he was concerned for his family’s safety, but also for the preservation of his farm and home. There was always the threat of more plundering from the armies diminishing supplies needed for the family’s survival.

Again, Dr. Jennings referred to other citizens from both James City and Charles City Counties being incarcerated with him. There must have been some comfort in being among acquaintances; friendly faces in adverse conditions.

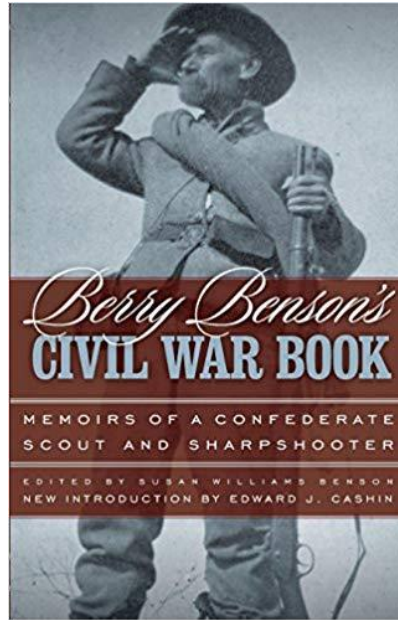
It is interesting to note that he received mail while being in prison. Dr Jennings told his wife that he had received a letter from Vollie. This was Volusko Vaiden, brother of his first wife, Judith Vaiden. Volusko was a graduate of the College of William and Mary and taught school at Lofty Retreat Academy in New Kent County both before and after the war. He was a major in the 52nd Virginia Militia before the war and enlisted in Company F, 3rd Virginia Cavalry on June 28, 1861. He served in the Virginia legislature during the following winter, and he was captured in July 1862, but he escaped. At some point, he reenlisted in Company H, 5th Virginia Cavalry, was again captured late in 1863, sent to Point Lookout, and exchanged from there in January 1865. It seems strange that he knew where Dr. Jennings was and that he could get a letter to him from Point Lookout to Camp Hamilton. John Mell was Volusko’s nephew, son of his deceased sister and Dr. Jennings.

The letter was closed with love extended to all the family and a plea for Mrs. Jennings to send him a letter. Any message from or about the family and home was surely a welcomed treasure.

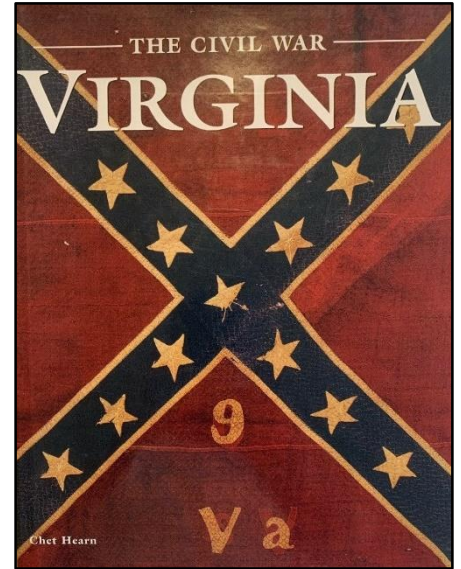
November Book Raffle



"Best Little Stories from the Civil War"
by C. Brian Kelly



"Berry Benson's Civil War Book, Memoirs of a Confederate Scout and Sharpshooter"
edited by Susan Williams Benson



"The Civil War Virginia"
By Chester G. Hearn



November Trivia Question:



Which Confederate doctor was the first in the western world to use an organic technique to heal wounds and what was the technique?

Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwrt.org>

On November 26th, 2019 - Peggy Vogtsberger will present:

"A Damn Failure - The Battle of Dam Number One"