



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



August 2025 Dispatch – Williamsburg, Virginia

Camp #2095  10th Brigade  Virginia Division  Army of Northern Virginia

Camp 2095 - Our 20th Anniversary Year!

Next Muster

Wednesday, August 27th, 2025, 6:30 pm
Colonial Heritage Club House
www.colonialheritageclub.com/find-us
6500 Arthur Hills Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23188



Meal Cost: \$23.00 Per Person

Payment by check or exact cash only please.

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. To email one of the camp officers directly, see **Camp Officers** on page 3.

August Guest Speaker

Jay Gaidmore
Swem Librarian

***"The Swem Archives
- Collection,
Preservation, and
Transcription to
Understand Our
Past"***



Jay will talk about Swem Library's efforts to collect, preserve, and make accessible the historical manuscripts and rare books from our past. He will share images of notable documents and items in the Special Collections Research Center with a particular emphasis on the Civil War.

Jay Gaidmore has served as the Marian and Alan McLeod Director of the Special Collections Research Center at William & Mary Libraries since July 2013. He has almost thirty years of experience as an archivist and special collections librarian, having worked in various positions at Old Dominion University, The Library of Virginia, Brown University, and UNC-Chapel Hill. He has an M.A. in History from Old Dominion University and a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina.

(Submitted by 1st. Lt. Cmdr. Ron Perry)

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held July 23rd at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,
James City County, Va., 41 Attendees

Welcome given by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson

Pledge & Salute to the Flags led by Treasurer Jon Holland

Blessing:

Given by Sr. Chaplain George Corbett

Break for Supper

The SCV Charge read by Compatriot George Bridewell

Program:

1st Lt. Cmdr. Perry introduced the evening's guest speaker:
Mrs. Billie Earnest

Billy presented *"In The Blink of an Eye – Stories of VMI Cadets at New Market"*. This was a very moving and personal talk as Billie gave the biography and told stories of each of the cadets that died on the field and from wounds. She also brought photographs of each of these 17- and 18-year-old young men to enhance the story.



Cmdr. Jeff Toalson (L) and Lt. Cmdr. Ron Perry (R) welcome
Mrs. Billie Earnest

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Old & New Business

- Adjutant's Report – Adjutant Dave Watson
- Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Jon Holland
- Comments - Cmdr. Jeff Toalson
- Heritage Defense Officer – Frank Earnest
- UDC Brick Presentation - Lynne Jakobowski & Pam Natchus (see page 5 for more)

New Members & Friend

At the July meeting we inducted two new members and welcomed one new Friend of the Camp.



LtoR: Cmdr. Jeff Toalson, Christopher Wert, Joshua Wert and
Adjutant Dave Watson pose for a post induction photograph.
Their dad, Joseph Wert, is a member so the Cavalry now has 3
Werts in our ranks.

Martha Frame has been a supporter of the Camp for many years - Cmdr. Toalson welcomes her as our newest 'official' Friend of the Camp.



Book Raffle

Proceeds of \$90 were donated to the Camp Treasury from the raffle of the four donations.

Benediction

Given by Sr. Chaplain George Corbett

Camp Officers

Commander	Jeff Toalson troon24@cox.net
1st Lt. Commander	Ron Perry perryra@gmail.com
2nd Lt. Commander	Steve White garrettsgrocery@gmail.com
Adjutant	Dave Watson djwatson61@cox.net
Chief of Staff	Ken Parsons kparsons320@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jon Holland jonholland79@gmail.com
Senior Chaplain	George Corbett georgecorbett@cox.net
Chaplain	David Stover gor_cabot1@msn.com
Quartermaster	Tom Campbell tgcampbell1781@gmail.com
Historian	Fred Boelt fwb@widomaker.com
Webmaster	Don Woolridge dsw1229@gmail.com
Archivist/Editor	Paul Huelskamp jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com

Civil War in August

August 9, 1862 - Battle of Cedar Mountain

Maj. Gen. Stonewall Jackson recovers from an attack by Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Banks to break the Federal line and forestall a Union advance into central Virginia.



Commander's Comments

Our August speaker is Mr. Jay Gaidmore who is the director of Special Collections at the College of William and Mary. We have been making a variety of annual donations of WBTS artifacts and documents to the Swem Archives since 2016. Jay will provide us with a historic overview of some of the marvelous items in the archives including old bibles, rare editions of work by William Shakespeare, documents signed by various Colonial Governors, major collections of letters and documents, maps, a scrap of a Virginia Secession Flag, the papers of Justice Warren Burger and much more.

Jay is bringing several interesting artifacts to display at our meeting including:

- An 1861-62 map of the Confederate fortifications at Gloucester Point
- An 1861-62 map of the Confederate fortifications at Jamestown Island

The library is seeking diaries and letters from several key American conflicts including WW-1, WW-2, Korea and Vietnam. He will be discussing this in greater detail. We look forward to having our third sold out meeting in a row.

You will find an article enclosed with details of the effective donation of \$4,534 which Treasurer Jon Holland sent to Mercy Chefs following our July meeting. This is earmarked to set up a 'Long Term Recovery Kitchen' in Kerrville, Texas.

Two new members were inducted in July and one Friend of the Camp. More applications are in process, and we will have more joining the Camp in the next 30-60 days.

See you on August 27th. Please contact your call team member or email me to insure you have a seat for our Pulled BBQ Chicken Supper.

Jeff

Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Historian Fred Boelt)

Having just followed the discovery, analysis and reburial of Confederate remains at the Magazine, the following article gives insight into what happened to remains that were originally buried at the adjacent Baptist Church hospital. The article was written by Will Molineux who has kindly given permission to have it reprinted below.

“Sully’s Confederate Plaque and Coleman’s Confederate Obelisk

Two Memorial Gifts at Bruton Parish Church

For more than three decades Cynthia Beverley Tucker and Isabella Thompson Sully sponsored ceremonial exercises at Bruton Parish Church to memorialize Confederates who fought in the Civil War.

They had witnessed the suffering and dying of wounded Confederates as they lay in churches (including Bruton Parish) after the May 5, 1862, Battle of Williamsburg. They had seen unidentified bodies buried in pits dug by federal soldiers outside the Baptist Church, then used as a hospital. Isabella Sully recalled the scene as one of ‘horror and confusion,’ and she promised men with whom she had sat that, if they died, they would be buried in sanctified soil. She wrote down their names and regiments.

We know much more of Cynthia Coleman who, with her husband Charles, a physician, was a parishioner, than we do of Isabella Sully, a widow who lived in Richmond and whose bachelor brother was the Colemans’ neighbor on Nicholson Street. At times Cynthia and Isabella worked in concert, but more often separately.

Cynthia Coleman regularly organized observances on Confederate Memorial Day, perhaps as early as 1872 – two years after occupying federal troops had left. She enlisted young girls to participate – at first her daughter Catherine and after her death in 1883, Catherine’s friends. Spring flowers decorated tombstones, banners of the Stars and Bars, now furled in black, were saluted.

Sully, in Richmond after the war – we don’t know the specific year – solicited funds from Confederate veterans to redeem her promise and transfer the Confederate remains from burial pits beside the Baptist Church to a single mass grave dug in Bruton Parish’s cemetery. If she had the vestry’s permission, as she claimed, no document exists.

Sully paid workmen \$212 to open the pits and have the intermingled remains placed in large communal coffins and reinterred in Bruton’s vault along the north wall. A mound of dirt sealed the resting place of an estimated one hundred men.

The task, supervised by Sully, must have taken days, but when it was completed is not known. There is no existent account of any religious service.

Sully next turned her attention to providing a plaque for Bruton’s sanctuary, as she said, ‘to the memory of those who had so bravely and faithfully ‘died for us’.’ Her white marble plaque of Gothic design takes no notice of the nearby burial ground and was adhered to the south wall of the nave, a prominent spot at the time. The day it first appeared is unknown. Sully paid the stonemason \$100 and, to her mind, the plaque was ‘the only record of as true heroism as ever dignified our race.’

Cynthia Coleman’s Confederate Day commemorations also acknowledged the anniversaries of the 1862 battle since the dates coincided in May. For the 1882 observance she fixed a cross of laurels for the burial mound.

By 1891 Coleman was anxious to have the grave site marked with a stone obelisk, and she initiated a fund drive that drew support among veterans, especially those in Richmond’s newly organized camp of United Confederate Veterans. Sully contributed the last of her dedicated money - \$50 – and sent Coleman the names of the wounded that she assembled thirty years earlier.

It took Coleman a little more than a year to have enough money to order a 12-foot-tall obelisk to stand on a three-foot base with the inscription ‘Lord, Keep Their Memory Green.’ She added the names offered by Sully – and thus suggested, incorrectly, that those men were interred beneath.

The unveiling on May 5, 1893, was a grand affair with a cannon salute and the Stars and Bars, unfurled, held high. Bunches of flowers were everywhere. Veterans congregated from afar, in uniform with medals on their chests. Coleman escorted ladies across Palace Green to join them.

There was exuberant marshal music, a prayer by Bruton’s rector, the Reverend Thomas Carter Page, and the reading of an original poem by another clergyman, the Reverend Lyman Wharton. The Reverend Wilbur Fisk Davis of the Methodist Episcopal Church was the principal orator. He had served as an artilleryman and had suffered captivity.

Coleman gave the honor of releasing the obelisk’s veil to two of her daughter Catherine’s childhood friends, by then young women – both daughters of prominent veterans. The day’s events, Coleman wrote her son away at boarding school, ‘went off beautifully’. “

Bricks For Fort Magruder

At the July Camp meeting, we were joined by members of the UDC Chapter 637 to introduce their brick program to raise funds for the maintenance of Fort Magruder. Cmdr. Toalson introduced three ladies from the 'Brick Committee': Mrs. Sandra Gillette, Mrs. Pam Natchus and Mrs. Lynne Jakobowski, Chapter President. They explained the two sizes of brick, the number of lines and spaces available for details regarding the person you wish to honor and answered a variety of questions.

Several of our members have already ordered bricks to honor ancestors.



(Submitted by 2nd. Lt. Cmdr. Steve White)

"To Horse" Award



The most important bugle call in the cavalry was "To Horse." This is the first presentation of the award by Camp 2095. In our 20 years we have had 200 speaker presentations. Three of those speakers have visited us 5 times each. Mrs. Billie Earnest has spoken with us 17 times on 17 different topics. Our three speakers in second place, together, have not responded to our bugle call as many times as Billie. It was our great honor to present her with our very first "To Horse" award in our 20-year history as a Camp.

(Submitted by 1st Lt. Cmdr. Ron Perry)

Sam Davis Christian Youth Camp

The last week of June, Compatriot Joseph Wert and his sons Joshua and Christopher attended the Sam Davis Camp in rural South Carolina. Joseph was a counselor, Joshua served on the staff, and Christopher was a senior camper in charge of younger campers. A good week was had by all and at the July meeting both Joshua and Christopher became members of the Cavalry.

David Reese (Dinwiddy Grays) (L) and Christopher Wert in the chow hall. This is their second year together as campers.



Compatriot Joseph Wert melting lead, pouring in molds, and manufacturing ammunition for the .58 caliber rifles.



(Submitted by Sr. Chaplain George Corbett)

\$4,534 Mercy Chefs Flood Relief For Kerr Co, Texas

Heavy rains unleashed a 28-foot river rise in 45 minutes washing away people and property in Kerr County, Texas. This happened on the night of July 4, 2025. Chief of Staff Ken Parsons and 1st Lt. Cmdr. Ron Perry both sent emails to our staff that we needed to help. Ken pledged a \$100 match for the first five \$100 checks received. Mercy Chefs was already on the ground on July 6 serving hot meals. The death toll was passing 100. We notified all members of the Camp on July 11 and wrapped up our campaign at the July 23 meeting. Mercy Chefs launched a matching campaign on July 25 to fund a 'Long Term Recovery Kitchen.' I sent our \$2,267 check on the 27th and it has been doubled to \$4,534 to support this program. 135 people have died and 2 are still missing. It is one of the worst floods in U. S. history. When the bugle sounded "To Horse" I want to thank my fellow Cavalrymen for their response.



(Submitted by Treasurer Jon Holland)

SWEM Archives Donation 2025

(Contributed by Cmdr. Toalson)

In our continuing support of the Archives in the Special Collections at the College of William and Mary the James City Cavalry donated a variety of items again this year. Among the donations were:

- 3 wooden marbles of the WBTS era
- A medal struck to honor Frank Collins, the only Virginian serving on the submarine *H. L. Hunley* when she torpedoed and sank the U.S.S. *Housatonic* near the entrance to Charleston Harbor, S. C. The *H. L. Hunley* was also lost with all hands. In April 2004 Seaman Collins and his shipmates were buried with full military honors at the Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston. The sale of these medals helped raise monies for their burial.
- *Daily Richmond Examiner* of February 15, 1862
- *Daily Richmond Examiner* of March 21, 1862
- *Charleston Daily Tribune* of June 6, 1862

In our newspaper donations we try to concentrate on the time frame of February though early June when action was focused on the Peninsula of Virginia from Fort Monroe and Yorktown, through Williamsburg to Seven Pines and the Chickahominy river near Richmond.

In the process we discovered an article on page 3 of the February 15 issue of the *Examiner* relating to an explosion at Mr. Hubbard's home in Richmond. The Swem houses the Powell Papers 65P876 and in Box 3, Folder 4 of the collection there is a letter from Charles Powell relating the same story in much more personal detail. The bottom line is that Mr. Hubbard was doing experiments milling / loading shells for Parrott guns and the explosion was "traced to the cigar Mr. Hubbard was smoking." Mr. Powell was renting lodging rooms, in Mr. Hubbard's home, in the adjacent building.



Collins Medal



Wooden Marbles

Gettysburg

Jon Holland and his son Thomas made the trek from Seminary Ridge to Cemetery Ridge on July 3 to honor their ancestor Sgt. Samuel Holland, Co. D - 9th Virginia Infantry who made that trek in 1863. As they reached the wall you can see Jon's 'Virginia Flag' and the 'Battle Flag' to the left is being carried by Thomas. One of the spectators commented, "That little reb carried that flag all the way to the wall."



Thomas and Jon



Flags at wall

(Contributed Cmdr. Jeff Toalson)

A week later Jan and Jeff Toalson visited the marvelous restoration of the Widow Mary Thompson house which served as Lee's HQ during the battle. In the early 50s it was a gift shop and museum with a campground and in the 60's it became a motel with restaurant and swimming pool. The American Battlefield Trust acquired the property in 2014 and began the house and property restoration to its 1863 appearance in 2016. The property has trails and signage, and the home is open one day a week staffed by ABT volunteers.



1950 postcard

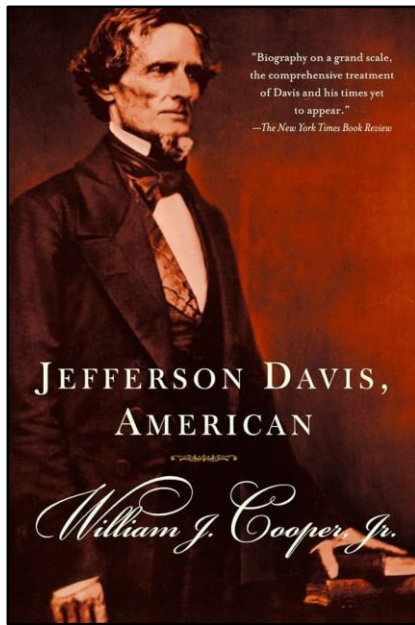


current photo

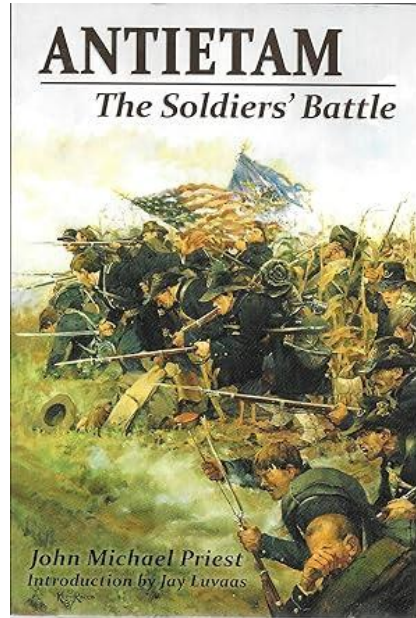
(Contributed by Treasurer Jon Holland)

August Book Raffle

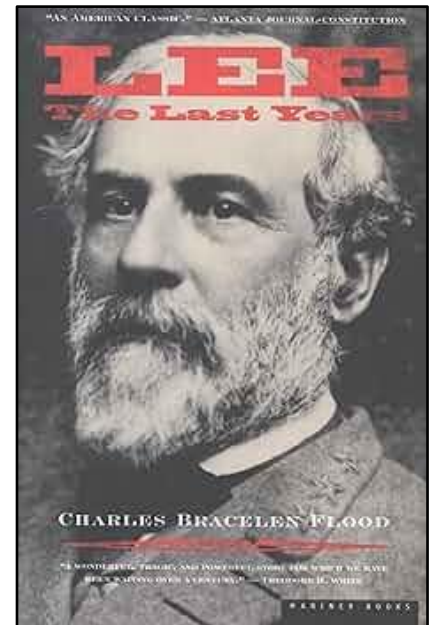
(Contributed by Compatriot Derick Hayman)



"Jefferson Davis, American"
by William J. Cooper Jr.



"Antietam - The Soldiers' Battle"
by John Michael Priest



"Lee The Last Years"
by Charles Bracelen Flood

Bonus Book:
"The Civil War (Brother Against
Brother) - The War Begins"
by William C. Davis



Williamsburg Civil War Round Table

<http://www.wcwrt.org>

At 6:30 PM on September 23rd at the Williamsburg
Library Theatre - Kevin Pawlak
will present:

**"Antietam Endgame: The Conclusion of Lee's
Maryland Campaign, September 18-20, 1862"**

