

September 2010

Williamsburg, Virginia

**Last Meeting:** Our last meeting had 31 in attendance. **Catherine Wright, Collections Manager, Museum of the Confederacy**, gave an excellent presentation on her latest book; *Lee's Last Casualty: The Life and Letters of Sgt. Robert W. Parker, Second Virginia Cavalry*.



Cathy Wright, Collections Manager, Museum of the Confederacy, "Lee's Last Casualty"

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be at "Hog Wild Smokehouse Restaurant" located at 8864 Richmond Road, Toano, VA 23168 [www.hogwildsmokehouse.com](http://www.hogwildsmokehouse.com) on **September 22<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.** Our Speaker **Frank Earnest - Army of Northern Virginia Commander, "Character Portrayal - Major Heros von Borcke, C.S.A. of General J.E.B. Stuart's Staff"**:

**Planning Committee Meeting:** The Camp Planning Committee met on September 15, 2010, 6:30 PM at "Hog Wild Smokehouse." Committee work and discussions will be reported to the Camp at the September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

### **Commander Don Woolridge:**

It was indeed a pleasure at our last meeting to not only surprise our Adjutant Ken Parsons but to present him with the prestigious "Dixie Award." Ken was recognized by the National Sons of Confederate Veterans Executive Staff for his recruiting efforts. As Commander, I can verify Ken's dedication to recruitment as well as his devotion to the Camp. Ken, a job well done!

Our membership growth continues and is a great indicator of the desire of Confederate Descendants to preserve their ancestor's heritage. There is no "Cause" in history that goes on as strong as the "Southern Cause." It has been one hundred and forty five years since the War for Independence ended and the faithful still carry on the legacy of the South.

Deo Vindice!

### **Adjutant Ken Parsons:**

As most of you are aware, I was totally shocked at the August meeting to receive the Dixie Award. I did not know the SCV had such awards available, much less that I was going to be the recipient of one. When asked to talk about it I had my mind on the previous talk about the Confederate soldier we were lighting the candle for in remembrance. That is still the most important thing on my mind; we must continue to remember our confederate ancestors and heroes. Always!

Since the meeting I have found more information on the Dixie Club Award. This award is given for recruiting new members during the fiscal year, September to August. Metals and certificates are awarded as follows: If you recruit 5 to 9 new members a certificate is awarded; 10 to 15 new members a bronze metal; 16 to 25 new members a silver metal; over 25 new members a gold medal is awarded. General Headquarters performs a count from the new applications received during the year and awards are sent out after the National convention. Be sure your name is on the "Recommended by" line on the application. As far as I am concerned, that award goes to the entire Camp! We are a great Camp because of our active membership and the things the Camp do is the best recruiting tool we have.

Speaking of recruiting, I want us to consider some numbers. If each member of the SCV would recruit just one new member this year, we would have over 60,000 members. If each member of the SCV would recruit one new member each year, within 10 years, 10 percent of the US population would be members of this great organization. Yes, in that ten year time, we would have over thirty (30) million members!

Think about the effect we could have on our failing society. We would be instrumental in electing many of our politicians; they would be courting us stronger than any old Southern boy courted his wife to be! Once again the Southern States would be in position of correcting a lot of things wrong with this country. Many of us believe that if the South goes downhill as far as the North, then the whole country will be lost.

The SCV and our Camp needs to grow and increase. In doing so, we will gain in strength and influence, and we will be more successful in carrying out our mission as stated in our reading of the Charge by Gen S.D. Lee at every meeting.

How do we do this? It's quite simple; we must feel that every son of the South should know about the SCV, what we do and what we stand for. Then, it becomes one person talking to one person! It has worked for many years and that's how it will work today. That is how we get the numbers.

Are we all doing our part? Are YOU doing your part?

We are now at 49 members, should be over 50 by 2011 and 100 by the end of the year.



Adjutant Ken Parsons and Commander Don Woolridge

## **Past Commander David Ware: "Was it worth it?"**

The Yankee takes delight in celebrating the War to Prevent Southern Independence as the time when the slaves were set free, yet his defense of freedom takes a dive when it comes to extending freedom to Southerners to establish their own country and to the establishment of martial law in the South during reconstruction.

In this month's (Sept-Oct 2010) Confederate Veteran magazine, there is a wonderful article about slavery by Don Livingstone. Hopefully, all of you will read it. Also, Compatriot Bill Vallante has written a rather compelling article much about the same situation available here:

<http://www.petersburgexpress.com/myth.html>

It seems to me that there is another less explored aspect of the idea that this war was all about slavery. As this time period is discussed in the coming months and years, as we commemorate the sesquicentennial, we will not be given equal time to state our case. Instead, we will be shouted over and shouted down in the style of a Fox news or CNN debate. For the ten or so seconds we might get, our response might well be: "Then, was it worth it?"

An affirmative reply to the question would imply, at least the idea that the killing, burning, looting and destruction of our region was necessary and just. That all those that died and were wounded, on both sides, had to endure this ordeal to resolve the issue of slavery. That the issuance of statehood to West Virginia, the period of Reconstruction which followed, including the unconstitutional adoption of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment and was all necessary and "worth it." At a deeper level, the idea that it was "worth it" would imply that the "ends justify the means." This one of the most vile and corrupt principles fostered on the civilized world. If the cause can be marketed as just, then any means to achieve it is also just. Just causes include: making the world safe for democracy, weapons of mass destruction, possession of nuclear weapons, getting rid of unfavorable rulers (others, not those of the United States unfortunately), diversity, health, education, defense, old age, retirement, the environment, energy, oil rights, human rights, civil rights, woman's rights, general welfare, wealth redistribution, good nutrition, East Germany, the Soviet Union, Viet Nam, Korea, Iran, Iraq, Cuba, Haiti, Grenada, Philippines, war on drugs and so on.

A negative response would require that further examination be done to discern other possible remedies for what this war and all wars since, "accomplished." It was also challenge the doctrine of the ends justify the means.

Sometimes the best questions are the shortest.

**1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson: Book Auctions:** Jeff will be conducting his book auction monthly and donating the proceeds to the Camp's general fund. Our book for the "Book Auction" in September will be: *VICKSBURG - 47 Days of Siege* by Mr. A. A. Hoehling.

An excellent account of the siege using the letters of the soldiers and civilians and the local Vicksburg *Daily Citizen* to tell the story mostly in the "first person."

386 pages, soft cover, published 1996, Mechanicsburg, PA

## **JAMES CITY COUNTY CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES**

**By Historian/Genealogist Fred Boelt**

We continue to honor the veterans buried at Olive Branch Christian Church. This month we will look at William Benjamin Vaiden who was born on December 28, 1831. He was the son of William H. and Ann Vaiden, and was probably born in New Kent County. Without absolute proof, but based on clues, his first wife was Lucy E. Vaiden, daughter of Isaac and Judith Edwards Vaiden of New Kent County. Undoubtedly, William B. and Lucy E. were cousins to some degree in typical tidewater fashion. The first census record for William B. Vaiden appeared in 1860 where he was listed as a 28 year old farmer and land owner, along with his wife, Lucy E., age 27, in James City County. The Vaidens had a son, Benjamin C., born on November 16, 1860, just a few months before the war broke out.

William Vaiden enlisted as a private in Company W, 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry in Williamsburg on June 24, 1861, but he was discharged shortly afterwards on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. He re-enlisted in Company H, 5<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry on June 15, 1863, in Fredericksburg. The record indicates that he was sick in a Richmond hospital late in December 1863 until early February 1864. He then received a thirty day furlough to New Kent County. Records do not account for him in March and April, but indicate that after that, he was again in a Richmond hospital through November 1864. He was issued clothing in July of that year, but there is no further record of his service after November. Perhaps, he was discharged initially in 1861 due to some physical ailment, for he seemed to be sick for a great portion of the time after he re-enlisted.

William Vaiden did survive the war, and he and Lucy were again listed in the 1870 census, living in James City County with two sons, Benjamin, age 9, and Aubrey, age 1. Also in their household were John Melville Jennings, age 18, and Judith E. Jennings, age 16. This fact provides another clue on Lucy Vaiden's parentage. Judith E. Vaiden, a daughter of Isaac and Judith Edwards Vaiden of New Kent married Dr. Alvan James Edmund Jennings in 1850 and had these two children before her early death in 1854. Dr. Jennings died in 1868, and it appears that John and Judith Jennings were living with their aunt (by conjecture) in 1870 (*Picket Lines*, Sept. 2008).

In 1875, William B. Vaiden purchased "Fosters," a house and 160 acre farm located today in Norge on Peninsula Street. By 1880, William's first wife, Lucy, and their son Aubrey had died for only William and his son Benjamin were listed on the census. By this time, William had become active in the political arena. The May 14, 1880 Daily Dispatch (Richmond) carried a story indicating that W. B. Vaiden had been appointed Secretary of the Conservative Party In James City County, and that he and Capt. E. M. Ware would be delegates to the convention to be held in Richmond on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May. There are other references to Vaiden's involvement with the Conservative Party. He also served on the county Board of Supervisors and was chairman at the time of his death in 1900.

On January 5, 1881, William B. Vaiden married Elmira Morris, daughter of Henry B. and Emily Morris, of James City County. William and Elmira had two sons; Henry J., born in September 1881, and Edmund Pollard, born in August 1883. William died on January 12, 1900, leaving his widow, Elmira, his older son Benjamin, and his two teenage sons, Henry and Pollard. His obituary stated, "Mr. Vaiden was an honest, upright man, and a gallant Confederate soldier. By industry and labor, he amassed considerable money. He was a consistent Christian gentleman, and his death is a loss to the church and community." William Vaiden was laid to rest at Olive

Branch Church. His wife, Elmira, who died in 1909, and two of his sons, Benjamin and Edmund Pollard are also interred near him.

**Newsletter:** "In an effort to help save on the cost of the newsletter, you can now have it e-mailed to you in an adobe format. Please e-mail Commander Don Woolridge at [dsw317@earthlink.net](mailto:dsw317@earthlink.net) to be added to this list." Newsletters are also posted on the website for your convenience.

**Visit our website at:** <http://www.jamescitycavalry.org>

### Camp Officers

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### Thought for the Month

"See that the day is ours!"

General P.G.T. Beauregard 



## CAMP JOURNAL

August 25, 2010

- **Meeting:** Held 7:00 PM at Hog Wild, James City County, VA
  - 31 attendees
  - Welcome given by Commander Don Woolridge
  - Invocation: given by Chaplin Fred Breedon
  - Pledge and Salute to the Flags:
    - US flag pledge, Virginia flag salute, and CS flag salute by Camp members
  - The Charge: was read by Quartermaster Jerry White
  - Recognition of guests and friends of the SCV by Commander Don Woolridge
  - Ancestral Memorial Candle Lighting: “*Corporal Tally Simpson*”, Company “A” 3rd South Carolina Infantry. Historical information read by Compatriot Charles Eugene Bush
- **Adjutant/Treasurer’s Report:** Adjutant parsons reported approximately \$1741.00 in checking and \$1500.59 in savings
- **Announcements:**
  - Adjutant Ken Parsons awarded “Dixie Club Certificate” for his outstanding accomplishments in recruiting new members into the SCV
  - Next SCV Camp meeting 22 September at “Hog Wild” restaurant
  - Planning Committee will meet at Hog Wild on Wednesday September 15 at 6:30 pm. All Compatriots are invited and encouraged to attend
  - Due to Camp growth alternative meeting site may become necessary
  - Looking into a possible Billboard
  - Christmas supper being planned for December 15<sup>th</sup> at Toano Women’s Club, Compatriot David Ware working details
- **Upcoming events:**
  - Oct 2-3 North-South Skirmish Association Fall Nationals
  - Oct 8 2010 Memorial for General William Mahone Friday at 6:30 Confederate Memorial Gazebo, Blandford Cemetery, Petersburg, VA
  - Oct 9 2010 Point Lookout Memorial Service
- **August Minutes:** Approved as published in September edition of “*Picket Lines*”
- **Committee Reports:**

- Cemetery Report: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Commander Steve White reported on project progress (*See Attachment*)
- Support our Troops Project: Compatriot Joel Goodwin reported on recent shipments, items needed etc.
- **Old Business:**
  - See committee reports above.
- **New Business:**
  - Camp book auction generated \$56
  - Confederate \$1000 bond donated by Compatriot Fred Breeden for a fund raiser was purchased by Compatriot Chris Hockaday for \$200
- **Program:** Guest speaker Catherine Wright, Collections Manager, Museum of the Confederacy, gave a most interesting and excellent talk on the research involved and historical data verification of her book, “Lees Last Casualty: The Life and Letters of Sgt. Robert Parker, Second Virginia Cavalry”
- **Benediction:** Chaplin Fred Breeden



Graham's Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Rockbridge Artillery's 3-Inch Model 1861 Parrott

## **Cemetery Report**

Alabama Plantation Graveyard; Compatriot Travis Turner, his wife Andrea and myself recently flagged Alabama Plantation Graveyard and located three additional grave markers of Confederate veterans; Fletcher Davis, Great-grandfather of Compatriot Turner. The other two markers were for Henry Warren and James Robert Warren.

Contact with the property owner will be made to see if the Camp could clean and maintain the graveyard as one of our projects.

The Veteran's Administration headstone for CSA Pvt. Pink (Pinkethman) T. Garrett, Jr. has been set at Olive Branch Christian Church. Assisting me with this project was Jason Arthur, a friend of our Camp. A dedication ceremony will be scheduled when his great-great grandson visits from Illinois.

In New Kent County there is a quarter-acre site known as the "Lacy Burying Ground." It is reported to contain a Confederate Veteran and is not maintained. Contact has been made with the land owner and he has agreed to meet with the Camp representatives after the first of the year to discuss a possible clean-up. Thanks to Compatriot Chris Hockaday for his help with this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

*Steve White 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Commander*