

November 2010

Williamsburg, Virginia

**Last Meeting:** Our last meeting had 37 in attendance. **Billie Earnest, presented an excellent Historical account of "C.S.A. General Billy Mahone"**



Billie Earnest and Commander Don Woolridge

**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 **November 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.** Our Speaker **Professor Sean M. Heuvel of Christopher Newport University** will present **"The Old College Goes to War: The Civil War Service of William & Mary Students, Faculty & Alumni"** Professor Heuvel will have roughly 20 or so copies of his book **"Remembering Virginia's Confederates"** "RVC" book (\$21.99 each) to sell, as well as 2 or 3 RVC post card sets (\$7.99 each) and about five RVC calendars (\$14.99 each).

**Planning Committee Meeting:** The Camp Planning Committee met on November 10, 2010, @ 6:30 PM at "Hog Wild Smokehouse." Compatriots in attendance were; Don Woolridge, Ken Parsons, David Ware, Jeff Toaslon, Bob Tuck, Chris Hockaday, Fred Boelt, Fred Breeden, Jerry White and Sparky Harcourt. Items on the agenda were;

- Pending meeting move to Colonial Heritage
- Christmas Social – December 15 – Toano Women's Club

### **Commander Don Woolridge:**

In the past few months we have addressed our meeting accommodations and the future growth of the Camp. With our membership growth it has become necessary to move to a new and larger facility. The Camp officers and the Planning Committee researched many different options and made the decision to move to the Colonial Heritage facility in Lightfoot. Each of you was asked to fill out a questionnaire, and most of you did. It was apparent from the response that the Camp membership wanted to move to a larger location. Starting in January of 2011, we will meet at the new facility. Our meeting night and time will not change as well as the structure of our meetings. Food service will be provided by Colonial Heritage and will contain a variety of menu choices. It is my belief that this move is in the best interest of the Camp and will give us a place to grow our membership.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our Christmas Social on December 15 at the Toano Women's Club in Toano. This will be a pot luck supper with Barbeque, Coleslaw and Brunswick Stew. If you are planning to attend, please bring a side dish or a dessert. We will have coffee, lemonade and water. The social will start at 6:30 pm and supper will start at 7:00 pm. There will not be a meeting this night and many of our Compatriots will be bringing artifacts from the War Between the States to display and discuss.

Deo Vindice!

### **Adjutant Ken Parsons**

Planning and decisions.....

We have finally ended our planning efforts on where and how to move the Camp meeting location. A decision by the planning committee has decided that our best choice is to move to the Colonial Heritage Club House closer towards town on Richmond Road. You will be receiving much information about this over the next two months before we hold our January meeting there.

We have been able to rent a nice big (quiet) meeting room there for a reasonable price and have arranged for a catered meal that we believe will suit everyone. The Club House is just off Richmond Road and can be seen from the entrance gate. We only have to tell the guard service we are going to a SCV meeting at the club house and he will wave us thru, no pass is required.

The catered buffet will consist of meat and vegetables with desert and drinks for the price of \$15.00 for everyone eating. Members can pay me for the meal as they enter the serving line and I will pay the caterer with one check for everyone. A clubhouse bar is just down the hall and individuals can go there for service if desired. You pay the bartender individually.

Some members of our Camp attend other civic group meeting there and find it very nice and an excellent place to meet. We believe it is the right place for us to go to continue our growth and build our Camp. We need the your help in determining who will be eating so we can give the caterer the exact head count in advance of the meeting. I will begin building a list as you let me know after the next meeting. We have to pay for each meal ordered.

The Next Meeting.....

The November meeting will be a regular meeting held at Hog Wild Smoke House on Nov.24th, the night before Thanksgiving. At this meeting you will be hearing about the plans for a Christmas Party/Meeting that is planned for December 15th to be held at the Women's Club building in Toano. This will be our first meeting where your family and friends can participate in a Potluck supper with the Camp. The idea is for each family to bring a dish of food to share with the gathering. The Camp will provide Barbeque and Brunswick Stew as prepared by the hands of some members. We need you to bring the rest of the food; somebody please make biscuits for us!

Support the Troops.....

Y'all brought a boat load of "stuff" for the Troops to the October meeting and we are most grateful for the effort! Please remember, Christmas in the desert by our young men and boys over there is a far cry from what we will be experiencing here. Their need will continue and so must our contribution, remember to bring more to the next meeting. We'll see that it is shipped to them.

A simple reply.....

The next time you hear that the "War against the States" (my name for it) was caused by SLAVERY.... ask them "how do you know that?" or "Where did you learn that?" You are not likely to get an answer.

## **NEW MEETING FACILITY – COLONIAL HERITAGE CLUBHOUSE – BEGINNING JANUARY 26, 2011**

Beginning with our January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting the James City Cavalry #2095 will gather at the Colonial Heritage Clubhouse. Our buffet dinner will be served from 6:00 p.m. till 7:00 p.m. Our menu will vary each month and will include water, iced tea and coffee.

### **MENU**

**Chef's choice meat dish, vegetarian dish (pasta), starch, vegetable and dessert**

Meal cost will be \$15 per person (tax and tip included). Please have exact change for Adjutant Ken Parsons who will be collecting from Camp members prior to your going through the buffet line.

Tables will be preset with napkins, silverware, iced water and iced tea.

Cocktails, beer, and wine are available in the bar (down the hallway) and can be purchased there and brought back to the meeting room.

Special diet needs can be accommodated with advance notice.

### **MEETING**

The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and bussing of tables and food service will cease. No further bussing will be done till after our meeting. Meeting to be over by 9:00 p.m.

A wall mounted TV for use with power-point visual presentations and a podium are provided.

Room seats 56 for supper and has larger capacity for additional non dining guests.

The room has excellent acoustics and is quiet. This will be a huge improvement.

There is an attached patio that is available for smoking. The room is non-smoking.

### **ARRIVAL & ACCESS**

You DO NOT need a pass. Just tell the guard you are going to the James City Cavalry SCV Meeting in the Clubhouse.

Maps will be passed out at our November and December meetings showing directions and parking areas. Also directions will be posted on our website. It is easy – you go straight ahead through the first stop sign and turn right at the entrances into the parking lot which is directly in front of the clubhouse.

There is easy front door handicap access without any steps or ramps.

### **Past Commander David Ware:**

The Spiritual Cause and Effect of the War to Prevent Southern Independence, part 2

The Yankee/Industrial/Progressive/Expansionist system is a linear one. On a micro level, the idea is for the individual to get a better job, a better house, a better car, a better education all in the pursuit of greater wealth in the form of material acquisitions. On a macro level, the state expands itself through unconstitutional acquisitions and wars abroad.

The agrarian /Southern ante-bellum system is cyclic. It is grounded in the seasons and all of nature aiming to provide a lifestyle that blends into harmonic balance with all of creation. Its goal is to provide sustenance and shelter. Thomas Jefferson, in the first sentence of the Declaration of Independence, writes: “When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the *Powers of the Earth*, the separate and equal Station to which the *Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God* entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.” Here, he clearly states the founding source not only of our independence from England but also for our system of government.

Jefferson further expounds his beliefs in this letter to James Madison:

“The earth is given as a common stock for man to labour and live on. If for the encouragement of industry we allow it to be appropriated, we must take care that other employment be furnished to those excluded from the appropriation. If we do not the fundamental right to labour the earth returns to the unemployed. It is too soon yet in our country to say that every man who cannot find employment but who can find uncultivated land shall be at liberty to cultivate it, paying a moderate rent. But it is not too soon to provide by every possible means that as few as possible shall be without a little portion of land. The small landholders are the most precious part of a state.”

It should be of no surprise that, by the suppression of the agrarian South by the Federal army and the consequent crushing of Southern thought and culture, the founding principles of our country have been eliminated. Today there is virtually no understanding or practice, in mainline culture or in our Temples for Rulers, of the Powers of the Earth, the Laws of Nature or of Nature's God.

The end result is that we have become that from which we declared our independence.

Perhaps no other principle has suffered more than that of freedom itself. Where our founders in 1776 and 1861 thought of freedom as simply being left alone, today it is routinely accepted that to be free means to be taxed, permitted, regulated, documented, numbered, photographed, licensed, policed, planned, zoned, spied on, lectured to and lied to. In short, the Yankee culture believes that freedom is something granted by the government to its people rather than the other way around.

We have become literally and figuratively a nation of suckers. By literally feeding on the labors of our own citizens and of the Earth and Creation we attempt to maintain an ever expanding "economy" based on the doctrine of more. Figuratively by swallowing the propaganda that "they" hate us because of our "freedom," that we must kill for peace and that to protect ourselves we must support the wars and foreign occupations of an ever-increasing imperialist regime that started four-squarely with the destruction of our homeland in the mid nineteenth century. (to be continued)

**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. Last month Compatriots John, Trevor and Bryce Shirley conducted the book auction bringing in \$84. Compatriot Bill Harrison was the lucky winner.

From the library of Mr. Willard Gilley we have the following two books donated for November:

*A Different Valor - The Story of General Joseph E. Johnston, CSA* by Gilbert E. Govan and James W. Livingood, 1950, New York, hardcover, 1st. edition.

An extensive, well written 400+ page work on one of the Confederacy's best generals. This work covers Johnston's entire life from his youth in Farmville, VA, to West Point, his service with the C. S. A. and his life after the conflict. An underappreciated general receives a balanced appraisal of his skills and service to the cause.

*Lee and Grant - A Dual Biography*, Gene Smith, 1984, New York, Hardcover, 400 pages.

Major Genl. J. F. C. Fuller of the British Army wrote, "It was not the valiant soldiers of the South who stood like a wall between Grant and Richmond, but Lee. And it was not the gallant men of the North who drove Lee from the Rapidan to Appomattox, but Grant." This book is a study of two very different men that history brought together on her stage. Consider this: "One man was verbal, charming; the other . . . a clam. Yet the talkative one wrote nothing and the silent one a book which the greatest writer of his time twain, said would last as long as America remembered the roll of the vanished drum . . ."

Thanks for your continued support of our book auction which funds our speakers. Our goal is to improve the auction by having multiple winners each month.

## **JAMES CITY COUNTY CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES**

**By Historian/Genealogist Fred Boelt**

What began as research on Benjamin Henry Ratcliffe, interred at Olive Branch Christian Church, has led to one and perhaps two additional veterans in the Ratcliffe family plot. Benjamin Ratcliffe was born on April 6, 1839 in New Kent County to John and Harriet P. Ratcliffe. John died before the 1850 census was taken when Harriet was listed as head of household. Living with her were three sons, George Thomas, Benjamin H., and John R.; and two daughters, Harriet Cornelia and Olivia E. Ratcliffe.

By 1860, son George, then 25 years old, was living in a boarding house in Richmond, clerking for a retail merchant. Sons Benjamin, age 21, and John R, age 18, were living in Burnt Ordinary with Beverly Slater, and clerking in his retail store. These three young men all answered the call for the Confederate cause. Benjamin and John enlisted in the “Williamsburg Junior Guards” (Company C, 32<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Infantry) on April 28, 1861. Benjamin’s service record indicated several periods of sickness throughout the war years. However, on March 31, 1865, he received a minie ball flesh wound in his left shoulder at Dinwiddie Courthouse and was admitted to a hospital in Richmond. He was captured there on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, and sent to Point Lookout on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. He took the oath and was released on June 26, 1865, and returned to James City County.

John R. Ratcliffe was present on all rolls throughout the war until he was left sick at Flint Hill, Virginia during the march from Winchester in November 1862. His record indicated that he died there on an unknown date.

Remembering that George Ratcliffe was working in Richmond in 1860, he enlisted in Company H, 9<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry, on June 10, 1861. This cavalry was made up of men from Richmond and several surrounding counties. George was promoted to sergeant on August 9<sup>th</sup> and was absent sick from November 1861 through February 1862. He was discharged for a lung disability on March 24, 1862. He did re-enlist as a private on February 15, 1864, but there is no further record of his service. He did survive the war for there is a tombstone at Olive Branch that reads: “George Thomas Ratcliffe, March 23, 1835 – August 8, 1866.” Death records from that period do not exist so we can only speculate that his wartime disability may have eventually caused his early demise.

In 1870, Benjamin Ratcliffe and his mother were living in Burnt Ordinary and Benjamin’s occupation was listed as a farmer. His mother Harriet died in 1873 and was buried at Olive Branch between her son George and her daughter Harriet Cornelia who had died in 1856. In 1880, Benjamin was living with and clerking for D. Wesley Marston, a retail grocer in the village that became Toano. On June 6, 1883, Benjamin H. Ratcliffe, 42 years old and single, married Rebecca Armistead Warren, 28 and also single. Rebecca was the daughter of James Robert Warren (*Picket Lines*, August 2008) and his wife Georgianna Chandler Warren. Benjamin and Rebecca had an infant son who died on February 22, 1892. Rebecca died on May 9, 1899, and they are both buried in the Ratcliffe plot.

In 1900, Benjamin, or “Uncle Ben,” as he was affectionately known to his many friends, was running a livery stable in Toano. In his advertisement in the Peninsula News in 1901, he offered “to furnish teams on short notice.” He served as a county election official on occasion and in April 1908 and again in April 1910, he was appointed Oyster Inspector for the 11<sup>th</sup> District that included James City County. Benjamin Henry Ratcliffe died on April 26, 1914, and rests at Olive Branch with three generations of his family.

The tombstones for the six Ratcliffes discussed so far seem to all be original stones. There is one other marker in the family plot that raises a question. The small, new granite block is inscribed: "D. R. Ratcliffe – Confederate." So far, research has not yielded a D. R. Ratcliffe among Confederates from Virginia. In fact, the archive lists do not contain any Ratcliffes with first names that begin with a "D." Could this be the grave of John R. Ratcliffe? His service record as seen above indicated that he died at Flint Hill in 1862. Is it possible that he did not die there, but made it home before he died? Or, were his remains brought home at a later date and interred in the family plot? Though not necessarily the norm, this practice did occur both during and after the war. At any rate "J" R. Ratcliffe is honored with his two brothers who fought for the cause that they believed in. Perhaps further research will solve this mystery!

**Compatriot Ed Truslow:** Ed's letter was printed in the Virginia Gazette October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

As reported October 23 Gazette, William & Mary Professor Carol Sheriff noticed that her daughter's fourth grade textbook contained an error regarding number of Southern blacks who fought for the Confederacy. "This is a factual error of monumental proportions in that it will likely confuse people about the absolute core issue of the war," Sheriff said. She is to be commended for her diligence in this matter.

However, that error pales in comparison to the error of monumental proportions about the immediate cause of the Civil War that continues to be blessed by the educational establishment. Most people accept that wars start when one side sends troops to defeat and subjugate another. World War II is an example. On September 1, 1939 Germany sent troops into Poland and thus World War II began. The same analogy applies to the Civil War. The seceding Southern states wished to leave the Union in peace but were invaded and subjugated by the armed forces of the Union. Had Lincoln let the Southern states alone, it follows that there would have been no war

Many people find it incomprehensible that the war deaths of 600,000 and the maiming of many more can be justified without describing it as a noble and altruistic act for the purpose of freeing slaves. At the outset that was clearly not a Northern aim. In his inaugural address on March 4, 1861 Lincoln stated that he had "...no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so." Lincoln's statement is a matter of fact, not of interpretation. Is that in any textbook?

**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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**SUPPORT THE TROOPS PROJECT** . . . Norman Goodwin's shelves are running low...Norman especially needs . . . wet wipes, hard candy, Slim Jims, dental floss picks, bubble gum, disposable razors and Christmas cards with envelopes... Please bring a couple of items with you to the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### Thought for the Month

*"I would rather be a private in Virginia's army than a general in any army that was going to coerce her."*

**General J.E.B. Stuart, CSA**





**The Manassas Museum  
9101 Prince William Street  
Manassas, Virginia 20110**



*News Release*

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**Date: October 27, 2010  
Contact:  
Lisa Sievel-Otten  
703-368-1873  
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**Author Brings Civil War Letters to Life at  
The Manassas Museum**

*Send Me a Pair of Old Boots & Kiss My Little Girls - The Civil War Letters of Richard and Mary Watkins, 1861-1865* **with** author Jeff Toalson  
**Sunday, November 7, 2 p.m.**

When author Jeff Toalson found a treasure trove of Civil War letters, he was inspired not only to compile them into a book, but to don period attire and assume the character of the Confederate writer.

Toalson's newest book, *Send Me a Pair of Old Boots & Kiss My Little Girls - The Civil War Letters of Richard and Mary Watkins, 1861-1865*, resulted when he discovered the previously unpublished letters held by the Virginia Historical Society. He will perform a reading of selected letters in character as Richard Watkins at The Manassas Museum on Sunday, November 7 at 2 p.m.

Richard Watkins, a Prince Edward County, Virginia lawyer and farmer, was a Captain of Co. K of the 3rd Virginia Cavalry during the Civil War. Toalson, portraying Richard, sits on his front porch in 1890 and recalls stories of the recent "great unpleasantness" from the 300 letters that he and Mary wrote to each other during the conflict.

Richard and Mary's letters chronicle both detailed information about the war, and its effects on those who lived through the time, and also paint a touching love story as the two endured hardship and separation. Mary remained in Meherrin, Virginia during the war, managing the family farm and raising their three daughters, while Richard fought in campaigns throughout Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Toalson, who also authored *No Soap, No Pay, Diarrhea, Dysentery & Desertion: A Composite Diary of the Last 16 Months of the Confederacy from 1864 to 1865*, spent two years editing this remarkable piece of Virginia and American history.

Toalson's presentation is free. Copies of his book are available at *Echoes*, The Manassas Museum Store.



*Jeff Toalson portraying Richard Watkins.*



## CAMP JOURNAL

October 27, 2010

- **Meeting:** Held 7:00 PM at Hog Wild, James City County, VA
  - 37 attendees
  - Welcome given by Commander Don Woolridge
  - Invocation: given by Chaplin Fred Breeden
  - 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.  
*Guests:* Compatriot Frank Earnest and wife, Mrs. Billie Earnest; Bob Clayton
  - Ancestral Memorial Candle Lighting: “*Private Thomas N. Alexander*”, Company “I” 37<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Infantry. Historical information read by Compatriot Charles Bush
  
- **Adjutant/Treasurer’s Report:** Adjutant parsons reported approximately \$1502.88 in checking and \$2,000.76 in savings
  
- **Announcements:**
  - Next SCV Camp meeting November 24<sup>th</sup> at “Hog Wild” Restaurant
  - Planning Committee will meet at Hog Wild on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. All Compatriots are invited and encouraged to attend
  - James City Cavalry SCV Camp continues to grow and an alternative meeting site is necessary. Please turn in surveys regarding this matter to Commander Don Woolridge
  - Special guest, Compatriot Frank Earnest reported on dedication of graves at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Norfolk. He also invited all to attend the Norfolk County Grays Lee-Jackson, Pickett, Maury Banquet in Virginia Beach on January 15, 2011, 6:00 PM, featuring Al Stone as General Robert E. Lee. Cost is \$30/person or \$50/couple. Please return the provided reservation form & payment to Norfolk County Grays
  
- **Upcoming events:**
  - Christmas Supper at Toano Womens Club, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM
  
- **Committee Reports:**
  - Support our Troops Project: Compatriot Joel Goodwin reported on items needed, etc.
  - Compatriot Steve White gave a most interesting Cemetery Report with regard to a near burial at Peach Park
  
- **Old Business:**

- Camp project, Support Our Troops continues to need items and is being actively worked by Compatriot Joel Norman Goodwin
- New meeting location. Planning Committee will meet on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM, welcoming all input on this matter. Please return surveys. Intention is to reach a decision on a new location at this time
- Volunteers needed for Christmas Supper on December 15<sup>th</sup>, Toano Women's Club, at 7:00 PM
- **New Business:**
  - Mr. Herman Floyd of Baltimore, Maryland was welcomed as a new member of the Camp
  - Camp book auction generated \$84. Won by Compatriot Bill Harrison
- **Program:** Guest speaker Mrs. Billie Earnest provided us with an interesting and most informative program on C.S.A. Major General William "Billy" Mahone, a native of Southampton County, Virginia, who not only made a name for himself as a gifted commander, but as a politician and civil engineer as well.
- **Benediction:** Chaplin Fred Breeden
- **Adjournment:** Camp adjourned at 8:35 PM. Next regular meeting scheduled for November 24, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

**Christopher L. Hockaday**  
Camp Archivist



**"Firing the Piece"**

**Photo by: Compatriot Bob Tuck**