



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



June 2025 Dispatch – Williamsburg, Virginia

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

Camp 2095 - Our 20th Anniversary Year!

Next Muster

Wednesday, June 25th, 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.

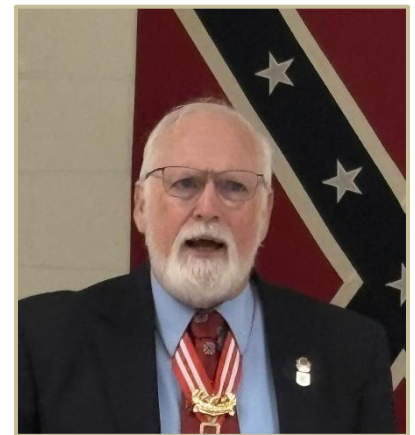
JCC Web Site: <http://www.jamescitycavalry.org>

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.

June Guest Speaker

Walter D. Kennedy
S.C.V. Commander-
in-Chief

***"State of the
Sons of
Confederate
Veterans"***



Our Commander-in-Chief will bring us an inspirational address at our June meeting as we celebrate our 20th Anniversary Year as a camp. His talk will be a State of the Sons of Confederate Veterans discussion that will highlight areas of achievement and address areas that need our nationwide focus in 2025. You will not want to miss the June meeting.

Walter D. (Donnie) Kennedy is a life member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. He has held many Camp, Brigade, State and National offices. He is the co-author, with his twin brother, of several books on the South and the WBTS. His best-known work is *The South Was Right* which has sold over 150,000 copies.

Donnie's professional career was in medicine. He holds degrees in Respiratory Therapy from Mississippi Baptist Medical, a B.S. in Nursing from the University of Louisiana Monroe and a degree in Anesthesia from the Charlotte Memorial School of Anesthesia. Donnie is currently retired and devotes all his energies to the service of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Cavalry Memorial Service and Picnic

We had beautiful weather and over 30 people joined us for the service and we had 54 for the picnic. Compatriot Dennis Manning opened the service with *The Rowan Tree* and played *Amazing Grace* prior to Chaplain George Corbett's benediction.



Dennis Manning on the
Bagpipes



Sr. Chaplain Corbett conducting
the service



Captain Alexander H.
Hankins



Pvt. Winfield S. Hankins

Fred Boelt Peacock Farm on
a magnificent spring day



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

The Civil War in June

June 9, 1863 – Battle of Brandy Station

U.S. cavalry forces cross the Rapidan River to attack General J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry and discover that Lee's men are moving west toward the Shenandoah Valley. The largest cavalry battle of the Civil War, it also marks the beginning of the Gettysburg Campaign.



Commander's Comments

We are honored to have the Commander in Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans as our June speaker to celebrate our 20th Anniversary Year. OUR SUPPER IS SOLD OUT! Currently all 42 seats are booked for the meal. You will not be getting a call from our call team for this meeting. There could be a few that will cancel. If you would like to dine, and do not have a seat, then email me at troon24@cox.net and I will add you to the list of alternates. There will be limited seating in chairs at the back for non-dining folks. It is times like this that it would be nice to have a larger room.

CiC Donnie Kennedy is a marvelous speaker. Last month Ron Perry, Derick Hayman and Lang Shelton joined me on a trip to the Tom Smith Camp where we heard his address on the occasion of their 30th Anniversary.

Memorial Day was a success. Marvelous weather with temps in the low 70s with a light breeze. Perfect for the service and the picnic. Our thanks to Fred Boelt, George Corbett and Dennis Manning for their excellent service. Thanks to Steve White, Dennis Dasher and their friend Charles Barker for having Olive Branch freshly mowed and groomed. We held the ceremony beside the graves of Captain Alexander Hamilton Hankins and his son, Pvt. Winfield Scott Hankins, who both served in Co. B of the James City Artillery. Their gravesites were adorned with new Southern Crosses of Honor which were installed in May prior to the ceremony. Lorraine Beasley was prepping all the food at the farm while we were at the ceremony and Dave Watson collected monies at the supper. We covered all of our expenses. Thanks to everyone for a great day.

July and August will see Mrs. Billie Earnest and Mr. Jay Gaidmore joining us as our speakers. Billie will be sharing stories of the young men of V.M.I. at the battle of New Market. Jay will be discussing the collection, preservation, and transcription of historical documents and other items in the archives of the Swem Library at the College of William and Mary. Two excellent upcoming talks.

Jeff

Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Historian Fred Boelt)

Col. James Harvey Allen wrote an article about the James City Cavalry that was published in the *Richmond Dispatch* on June 16, 1896. The article included a partial history of the unit, and a roster of the men that served in the James City Cavalry.

“THE JAMES CITY CAVALRY
Its Organization and Its First service
MOVEMENT IN POPE’S REAR

A Successful Charge Upon a Picket Post – Some Sounds of Revelry-
Attacking a Train – Roll of the Company

Toano, June 1, 1896

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

After the battle of Malvern Hill the cavalry turned its head north, and halted ten days or more near Hanover Courthouse. The 5th Regiment, of which the James City Cavalry was a part, camped in Mrs. Winston’s field, which was dotted over with wheat shocks, affording shelter and food for an innumerable host of harvest bugs. These bugs put themselves upon terms of great familiarity with the men, crawling over them and seeming to have a fancy for exploring the depths of the ears of the sleepers. The shrieks and groans of the sufferers oftentimes made night hideous, and aroused the whole camp. The aid of the surgeon was invoked, and his skill was tested in extracting the bores. While here Colonel Rosser made the acquaintance of the beautiful and classic Miss Winston, and began the most successful campaign of an active and aggressive soldier’s life. Here, too, I was detailed as judge of a court-martial, of which Stephen D. Lee was president – a man to whom the coming reunion will give an international fame. While we were sitting upon an important case the cavalry started upon a march, and we were ordered to our respective commands.

After an uneventful march of many miles we halted near the Rappahannock, upon an ideal camping ground – a high, dry, clean oak grove, whose brown leaves were so inviting that many of the jaded horses were lying down before their saddles could be taken off. There was one man, E. M. Ware, who did not dismount, but sought the favor of going in search of better rations. He soon returned, elated at his success. He had traded his uncooked rations for good family fare and arranged to have loaf-bread, butter, honey, and milk so long as he might need them; but before these things came to hand ‘boots and saddles’ sounded, and we were on our way up the river, the James City Cavalry acting as advance guard.

After crossing the river and passing through many villages, we came to Warrenton. Here I stopped long enough to call out Dr. Joel S. Bacon, once President of Columbian College, to shake his hands and ask about Josie, of whom I had pleasant reminiscences. We turned down the first street leading east, and were halted about a half-mile from the town, upon the brow of a hill commanding a beautiful view. Upon looking back, we saw that the whole of Stuart’s Cavalry had dismounted in the town, and there was such a stir and commotion as to excite one’s curiosity. But looking to the east, we descried something slowly approaching us. Nearer and nearer it came, until I ordered four men to capture it, and it proved to be a sutler’s [sic] wagon. The wagon and driver we put in charge of A. B. Willis – ‘K’ is now marked opposite his name on the roster. Willis knew more about basket-making than he did about cavalry tactics, yet when he brought his sabre to a carry, reined up his gray mare, and took command of an unarmed suttler, he looked every inch a soldier

CAUSE OF THE STIR

When Willis returned from the delivery of his charge to the quartermaster he explained the town’s stir: The citizens had ordered Stuart to halt his column long enough to eat the dinners prepared for themselves, and handed around by the ladies, who did not take time to don hats and aprons. It is a pity to draw the bush over this lovely picture, but truth demands that I should say that the watching, waiting, vanguard was forgotten! All that we got was a pelting, driving rain. The dinner over, the orderly dashed up and said: ‘The General orders that you push ahead and cross Cedar creek, now swollen by the rain, unless your horses have to swim.’ Our zeal pronounced the creek fordable, although it was angry, dashing, crashing and swollen much beyond its usual limits.

After a dangerous struggle we crossed, and sent back word that it would be impossible to get the artillery over. Ah! Who can tell what would have been the result if the artillery could have crossed? After marching a short distance, we came to a splendid mansion on our left, whose lawn was extended to the road, and was reached on foot by a stile. Here we halted and called out the owner, a ruddy, hearty old man. In reply to our questions he gave unsatisfactory answers.”

To be continued

Commander Jerry Thompson, RIP

(Contributed by Janet, Ken & Jeff)

It is with sadness that we mourn the departure of our compatriot Jerry Thompson. His journey began on a cotton farm in rural Tennessee on October 27, 1945. His earthly story ended this past May 13. That morning on the farm it would have been impossible to predict that the next 80 years would take him all over the United States and to many corners of the world.

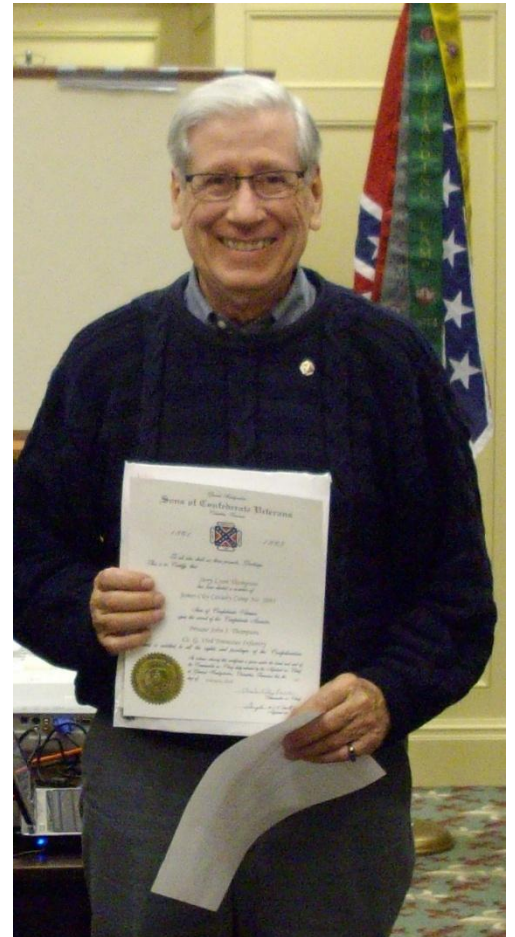
Farming was not for Jerry. He had a brain for math and statistics. Beginning with a college degree in math, which he paid for himself, he taught math for a while. That was not his cup of tea. More school and a PhD found him doing statistical testing and evaluation all over the United States for the Educational Testing Service. He provided these evaluations to assist companies in hiring, placement, and promotion. He lived in many cities in the United States, but San Diego became his favorite home. In retirement he lived in Yorktown and Williamsburg.

Jerry loved to travel both in our country and internationally. France and Egypt were two favorite destinations. He loved music ranging from Hank Williams, Earl Scruggs and Johnny Cash to Bach and Mozart. He was, of all things, a collector of matchbooks from favorite spots in his travels. Those of us who knew him remember a kind man who was loyal, generous and had a delightful sense of humor.

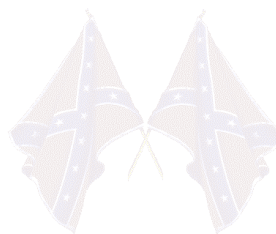
He was a member of the Yorktown Historical Society and the James City Cavalry Camp 2095. He served the Cavalry as a Quartermaster, an Assistant Adjutant and was our Commander in 2019 and 2020. It was our good fortune when he joined our Camp in 2015.

He will be missed by family and friends, especially his nieces Virginia Hyatt and Paula Sternberger and their families. Here on the lower peninsula, Buddy Turner, Frank Edwards and the Ken and Janet Parsons family will miss their good friend.

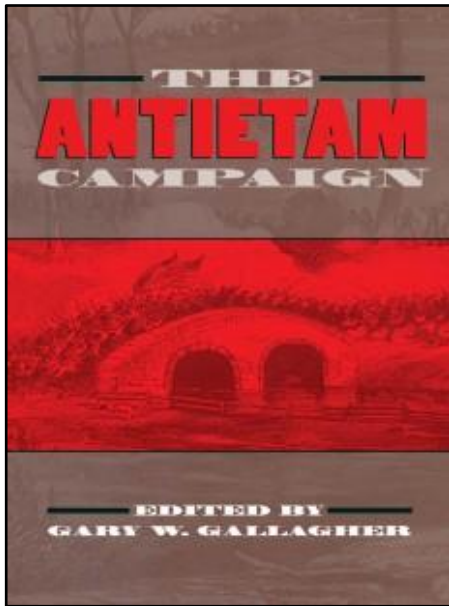
A private graveside service will be held at the Hickory Neck Episcopal Church followed by a private gathering at the Parsons' home at a later date.



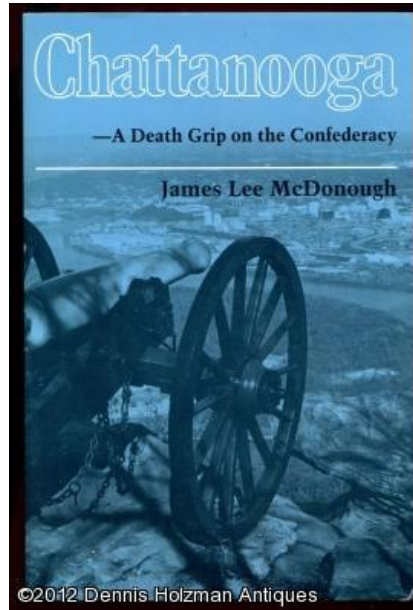
Jerry Thompson in 2015 or 2016



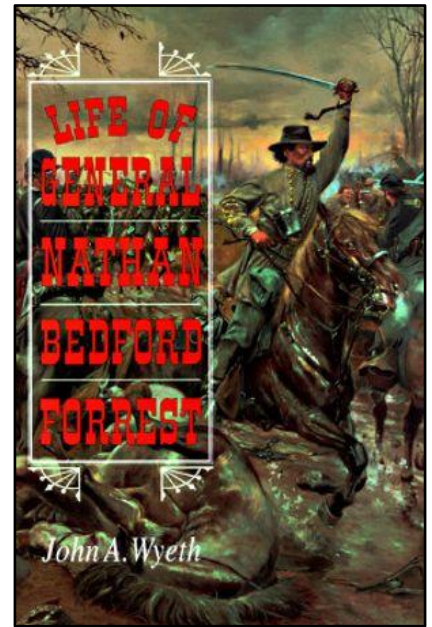
June Book Raffle



"The Antietam Campaign"
edited by Gary W. Gallagher

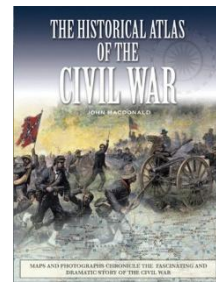


"Chattanooga - A Death Grip on the Confederacy"
by James Lee McDonough



"The Life of General Nathan Bedford Forrest"
by John Allan Wyeth

Bonus Book:
"The Historical Atlas of the Civil War"
by John MacDonald



Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwrt.org>

The Round Table will be on leave until September.