



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



November 2024 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

One Week Early Due to Thanksgiving!

Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 6:30 pm

Colonial Heritage Club House

www.colonialheritageclub.com/find-us

6500 Arthur Hills Drive

Williamsburg, VA 23188



Meal Cost: \$20.00 Per Person

Payment by Check is Preferred

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.

November Guest Speaker

Compatriot Bill Miller
President of the
Williamsburg Civil War
Roundtable



***"The Side Shows
of the Big Show"***

Compatriot Bill Miller will present a program featuring a variety of 'side shows' in the 'big show.' His presentation will focus upon several reflections of the Civil War, ranging from local action here on the Peninsula and a few "Side Show" narratives along the way to the end of the "Big Show" at Appomattox and beyond.

Cavalry Compatriot Bill Miller is a lifelong Peninsula resident. He presently serves as the President of the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable. Bill maintains memberships in numerous battlefield preservation organizations.

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held October 23rd at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,
James City County, Va., **42** 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:

Mr. Larry Floyd

Larry presented "*The Hillsville Courthouse Shootout*" relating stories of the 1912 Hillsville Courthouse Shootout. When the verdict was read the guilty party declared he would not go to prison. Gunfire erupted. 57 shots were fired in 90 seconds, 5 people were killed, and many were wounded. Larry brought samples of the various weapons carried into the courthouse. It was a very entertaining talk.



1 Lt. Cmdr. Ron Perry (L) and Cmdr. Jeff Toalson (R) welcome
Mr. Larry Floyd

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Cemetery Report

2nd Lt. Commander Steve White reported on cemetery clean-up efforts to commence shortly after the holidays.

Old & New Business

- Adjutant's Report – Adjutant Dave Watson
- Chief of Staff's Report – Chief of Staff Ken Parsons
- Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Jon Holland
- Comments - Cmdr. Jeff Toalson
- Brigade Commander Comment - Cmdr. Ed. Whitley
- Heritage Defense Comment - H.D.O. Frank Earnest
- WCWRT Update – Compatriot Bill Miller

New Member Induction

Mark Griggs and Bob White were inducted as new members and Hal Hardaway was inducted as a transfer from his former camp in Alexandria. Pictures of the induction will be in the December issue of *Picket Lines*.

Book Raffle

Proceeds of \$82 were donated to the Camp Treasury for the raffle of the four donations.

Benediction

Given by Sr. Chaplain George Corbett



Hurricane Helene Relief near Ashville, N. Carolina

The damage that the floods caused in western North Carolina is beyond belief. Entire towns are virtually wiped off the map. Roads and highways have been washed away. Many citizens are left with nothing.

The policy of the Cavalry in past disasters has been to donate money to Mercy Chefs who have mobile food kitchens in the area delivering hot meals. In early October we donated \$1500 which was matched to create \$3000. At the October meeting we received donations from our members and guests of another \$1000 which we have forwarded to Mercy Chefs. This is providing hot meals in Ashville, Black Mountain, Bat Cave, Swannanoa, Old Fort, Chimney Rock, Hendersonville and other locations. Meals cost a bit over \$3 each and they are serving over 10,000 hot meals per day.

Chief of Staff Ken Parsons and Treasurer Jon Holland are leading the project. You can also help. Go to <http://www.mercychefs.com> and follow the easy directions to help.



Commander's Comments

We all enjoyed the presentation by our good friend Larry Floyd. In 1912, for this group of citizens, it must have seemed like a good idea for everyone in Hillsville to carry a pocket gun of some kind to the courthouse. What could possibly go wrong? Unbelievable! 57 gunshots in 90 seconds leaving 5 dead and a whole bunch of folks wounded. There is a lot more to the story, but you needed to have been with us at the October meeting.

Thanks to Joseph Wert and his son Christopher for bringing their power-point slide presentation of their week at the Sam Davis Christian Youth Camp this summer. We saw slides of canoes, sleeping accommodations, food, classes, field artillery, beautiful countryside, dancing, rifle fire with period weapons, and much more. It looked like a great week. Joe plans to go back again next year as a counselor and take Christopher and Joshua as campers. We thank them for representing the Cavalry and hopefully we can find another teen, or two, to join them from our area.

The Cavalry is proud to welcome Mark Griggs, Bob White and Hal Hardaway as new members of Camp 2095. We have other membership applications in process and should be inducting additional new members in the near future.

Thanks to everyone for your support of our continuing efforts through Mercy Chefs to send hot meals and support to the folks in the area around Ashville, North Carolina. More may be required to help our neighbors through this disaster.

As always, we serve in their memory.

Jeff Toalson

Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

Oakwood Cemetery was established in 1855 on Nine Mile Road in Richmond. During the WBTS, many Confederate casualties were interred there. The majority of these men were the wounded and sick who died in hospitals and training camps east of 18th Street in Richmond. Crude wooden planks initially bore the name of the deceased and sometimes, his rank.

Years later, after the war, the Oakwood Memorial Association was formed and they began to replace the rotting wooden markers with small marble blocks with numbers that would correspond to a master list of burials. Much more recently, the SCV – Oakwood 22-Man Committee, was established with among other things, the plan to erect veterans' tombstones at these graves. Estimates have varied over the years as to how many men are truly buried there. The current number is about 17,000.

Currently, camps are being asked to help fund these tombstones. When our camp was approached, Commander Toalson requested that they send us some names of men from our area with the possibility of including some funding in our 2025 budget. We received eleven names and will begin to look at their lives and service records.

Edward W. Spraggins was born about 1832, in Charles City County, Virginia. He was the son of William and Virginia Spraggins and was living with them and farming in 1850. By 1860, he was living in Burnt Ordinary, James City County, in the household of Benjamin T. Brockwell, a sawyer. Edward's occupation was listed as teamster, perhaps working with Brockwell in the lumber business.

Edward Spraggins enlisted on May 16, 1861, in Burnt Ordinary as a private. He mustered into Capt. Alexander H. Hankins Company which became the James City Artillery. Spraggins was in Seminary Hospital in Williamsburg for "disability" on August 19-22, 1861. Otherwise, he was marked present on all rolls through June 1863. Edward Spraggins drowned while attempting to cross a creek near Richmond on July 7, 1863, and was interred in Oakwood Cemetery. His mother, Virginia Spraggins, filed a claim for pay and allowances on September 8, 1864.

Edward Spraggins had two younger brothers who served in Company C, 32nd Virginia Infantry. Richard M. Spraggins, born in August 1838, enlisted as a private in Williamsburg on April 28, 1861. In July, he was detailed to superintend Negroes on fortification construction and early in 1862, he was detailed with the Quartermaster Department. Later, he was sick in Richmond in May and June 1862, and otherwise, he was present on all rolls.

Richard Spraggins was captured on the Southside Railroad on April 2, 1865, sent to City Point in Charles City County and was released after taking the oath on June 20, 1865. His place of residence was listed as Charles City County, and he had light hair, light complexion, blue eyes and was five feet, five inches tall. He was married twice and had at least four children. The family lived in Richmond where he worked in a tobacco factory making boxes. Richard Spraggins died on August 8, 1919, and he and several of his family members are buried in the family plots section of Oakwood Cemetery.

John Spraggins, born in 1839, enlisted as a private in Company C, 32nd Virginia Infantry, in Williamsburg on July 8, 1861, and he was soon detailed to supervise Negro laborers working on fortifications. In January and February 1862, he was absent, sick at home. John was wounded at Seven Pines on May 31, 1862, and was in a Richmond hospital, and latter a Danville hospital for most of the remainder of the year. He was marked present on all rolls for 1863 and 1864. He was appointed from the ranks as corporal of Company C, on August 21, 1864.

John Spraggins deserted on March 19, 1865, took the oath at the headquarters of the Army of the James at Bermuda Hundred, and was furnished transportation to Fortress Monroe. After the war, John married Lucy Nettles and they had two sons before her early death. In 1870, the family was living in Powhatan District, James City County, in the household of Lucy's brother, John Nettles. In 1880, a widowed John Spraggins and his two sons continued to live with the Nettles. Around 1892, John began working as a hospital attendant at Eastern State Hospital. John's son, Arthur, died in 1900, and he was interred in Cedar Grove Cemetery in Williamsburg. A brief newspaper notice stated that John Spraggins died on May 5, 1906, in Claremont and was interred in Cedar Grove Cemetery. There is no tombstone for John and the cemetery has no record of his burial.

SWEM Donation – N.Y. Daily Tribune

(Continued from last month)

New York Daily Tribune * Saturday * May 31, 1862

Gun-boat Reconnaissance to Petersburg, VA.

pg. 3 – col. 3

Correspondence of *The Philadelphia Press* – Fortress Monroe, May 25, 1862

Our fleet in the James River has been increased by the addition of the gun-boats *Cour de Lion* . . ., *Stepping Stones*, and *Island Belle* . . . The gun-boats passed up the James River without meeting any obstacles, the shores being broad to show numerous white flags to show that no enemy was near. Yesterday the *Cour de Lion* & *Stepping Stones* were ordered to proceed up the Appomattox River toward Petersburg . . . There is plenty of water in the Appomattox for light draught vessels . . . and the reconnaissance was successful.

Port Walthall may be called the port of Petersburg and Richmond for larger vessels, and is connected by railroad with both cities. . . . Petersburg, five miles above Port Walthall, is one of the most important commercial and manufacturing cities in the South and five important railroads radiate from it north and south. It contains a population of over 20,000 souls and is built mostly of brick and stone.

Deserters . . . report a scarcity of food . . . Flour went up last week from \$10 per barrel to \$17 . . . General Wool received a dispatch to-day from the operator with Low [e], in a ballon in front of Richmond. . . . this is the nearest approach of war to civilization.

The Army in the Rain and Mud near White Oak Swamp

pg.8 – col. 5

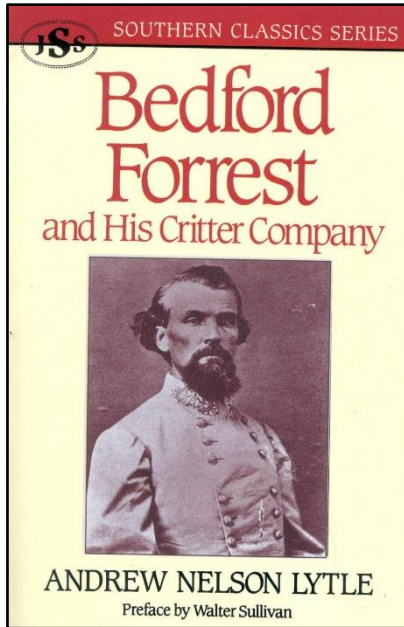
12 miles from Richmond

May 27, 1862

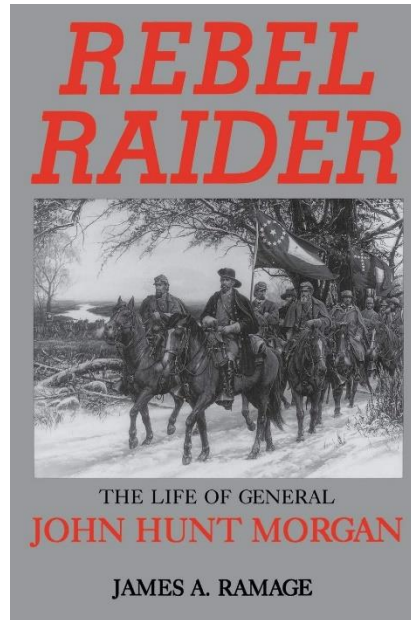
. . . My heart aches as I look on these dripping, dispirited, stiffened men, hovering, hunch backed and silent, about the smoking fires, waiting for energy to cook their breakfast . . . the army is soaked and savage this morning; and worse than all, the borrowing and begging of bread has begun. The condition of the single road in which supplies can be hauled from the 7 miles distant railroad station, may be imagined by all so unfortunate as to know Virginia after a twenty-four hours rain . . . Timely canaling last evening left my share of a furrow unwashed by the flood of the night and an India-rubber blanket covered sweet sleep and warm dreams . . . God bless the inventor of the rubber cloth! . . .

KEATING-CAVALRY 2024 Donation to the Swem Archives: The May 31, 1862, 8-page issue of the *Tribune* is one of several donations for 2024 to the archive. This issue contains several articles on the Union army near Richmond, items from the Fort Monroe area, major stories on action in the West around Corinth, Mississippi; the retreat of General Banks and a battle at Winchester, Virginia; Guerrilla operations in Kentucky, Missouri, and Western Virginia; Union troop arrivals in Baltimore; Crop Reports from Chicago recapping receipts, shipments and storage; and on page 7 an ad for Ellery's Patented Rubber Paint for leaky roofs. This issue will be added to their collection of NY Daily Tribune issues from the first half of 1862.

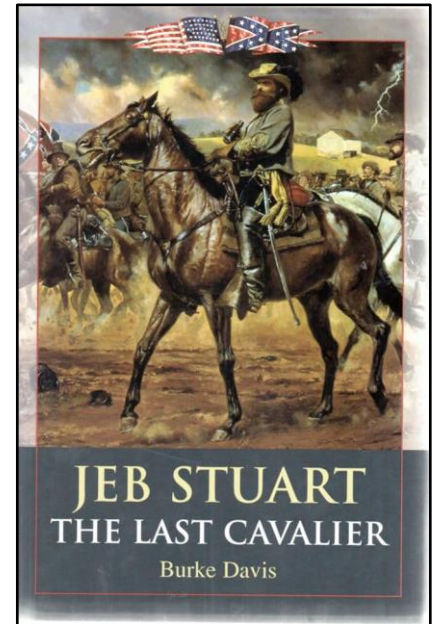
November Book Raffle



"Bedford Forrest and his Critter Company"
by Andrew Nelson Lytle

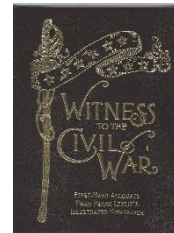


"Rebel Raider, The life of General John Hunt Morgan"
by James A Ramage



"Jeb Stuart, The last Cavalier"
by Burke Davis

Bonus Book:
"Witness of the Civil War, from
Frank Leslie's Illustrated
Newspaper"
by J. G. Lewin and P. J. Huff; edited
by James G. Barber



Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwrt.org>

On November 26th, 2024 - Chris Kolakowski
will present:

"Arthur MacArthur at the Battle of
Chattanooga"