



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



May 2025 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

Friday, May 23rd, 2025, 5:00 pm
Olive Branch Church
7643 Richmond Road
Williamsburg, VA 23188



Camp Picnic Supper to Follow
Meal Cost: \$10.00 Per Person

A call team will be contacting all camp members. Non-members, please call Commander Jeff Toalson at troon24@cox.net or (757) 220-0131 so sufficient fixin's can be prepared.

(See attached flyers for more details)

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.

Commander's Comments

It is time for our MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE and CAMP PICNIC on May 23 (Friday). The service is at 5:00 at Olive Branch Christian Church and the picnic at the Fred Boelt Farm at 6:00. See the two attached bulletins. This is the same location as last year for both. We had a nice group of children and grandchildren last year. Please bring the whole family. Don't forget your lawn chairs. Kids eat FREE, Adults are \$10.

Derick Hayman and I had a successful trip to the State SCV Convention in Winchester. The highlight of the trip was our tour of Jackson's Headquarters. Thomas was not yet Stonewall. He used the home as his headquarters pre-Manassas. We had a marvelous docent, a 90-minute tour, and an amazing group of artifacts and stories. When in the area this stop is a must. A whopping \$8 fee is indeed a deal.

Thank you to Mark Griggs for acquiring and donating 6 Virginia Flags of the 1861 style. They will be used out at Peach Park, perhaps in a rotation with the First National. On an additional note, Steve White has found a contractor to mow Peach Park and remove that responsibility from Camp members.

We thank Dr. John Coulter II for a very informative and interesting talk on the life of General James H. Lane, C.S.A. His book on the general should be published later this year and he will advise us when it is available. I am sure several of us will be interested.

On May 2, I was joined by Ken Parsons, Jon Holland and Ron Perry for a visit with the folks at Mercy Chefs Headquarters in Portsmouth. We presented them with the final check from our four-month campaign in support of our North Carolina neighbors who were devastated by Hurricane Helene's flash flooding and landslides. We thank our many friends in Virginia and locations as far afield as North Dakota, Tennessee, Indiana, New York and Connecticut who supported this project. See the attached article for more detail.

We will see you all on May 23 at our Memorial Service and Picnic.

Jeff

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held April 23rd at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,
James City County, Va., **37** 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:

Dr. John Coulter II

Dr. Coulter presented "*General James H. Lane, C.S.A.*" We learned about his service as the youngest general in the Army of Northern Virginia, his 3 wounds in battle, his service from Big Bethel to Appomattox and his postwar 30+ year career as an engineering professor at V.P.I., the Missouri School of Mines and a final 26 years at Alabama Polytechnic, which we now know as Auburn University. A very educational and enjoyable evening.



Cmdr. Jeff Toalson (L) and 1st Lt. Cmdr. Ron Perry (R) welcome Dr. John Coulter II to the April meeting of the James City Cavalry.

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Cemetery Report

2nd Lt. Commander Steve White reported that we have a contractor hired to mow Peach Park and that Compatriot Mark Griggs has donated six 1861 style Virginia state flags for our use at Peach Park.

Old & New Business

- Chief of Staff's Report – Chief of Staff Ken Parsons
- Comments - Cmdr. Jeff Toalson
- WCWRT Update – Compatriot Bill Miller

Book Raffle

Proceeds of \$71 were donated to the Camp Treasury for the raffle of the four donations.

Benediction

Given by Chaplain David Stover



Mercy Chefs HQ Visit

On May 2nd several members of the James City Cavalry staff drove to Portsmouth to deliver the final check of our '2025 Hurricane Helene Relief Campaign' to Mercy Chefs headquarters. We were welcomed by Ms. Jenni Cutchin, Relationship Manager. This final check brings our 2025 contributions to some \$15,500. All of this was dedicated in support of their efforts in W. North Carolina in the Asheville, Black Mountain, Swannanoa and Chimney Rock area. From the hurricane impact through the end of April, a six-month period, Mercy Chefs has provided 500,000 hot meals to victims, first responders and aid workers from their headquarters kitchens in Asheville and then, in January, in Black Mountain.

Our Camp donated \$3,000 after the hurricane hit in 2024 and launched our 2025 campaign knowing that our neighbors in western North Carolina needed our support through the winter.



Pictured from left to right are 1st Lt. Cmdr. Ron Perry, Treasurer Jon Holland, Ms. Jenni Cutchin of Mercy Chefs, Chief of Staff Ken Parsons and Cmdr. Jeff Toalson.

James City River Bridge - Billboard



This billboard just went up near the parking lot of the Dock of the Bay Seafood Restaurant.

June's Special Speaker

Mr. Donnie Kennedy, the Commander in Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans will be our speaker at our meeting on June 25, 2025. Our Camp is celebrating our 20th Anniversary as an S.C.V. Camp, and we are honored to have our Commander in Chief join us for the occasion.

Compatriots Toalson, Perry, Hayman and Shelton were at the Tom Smith Camp in Suffolk for his April address to them celebrating their 30th Anniversary.



Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

The service of two more Confederate soldiers resting in the graveyard at Olive Branch Christian Church has been recognized with Confederate Crosses of Honor. We will commemorate their lives and service at our Memorial Service there on Friday, May 23, 2025, at 5:00 PM.

Alexander Hamilton Hankins, son of Nathaniel and Betsy Hankins was born on November 15, 1813. Several generations of the Hankins family had owned land along present-day Croaker Road where the Kiskiack Golf Course is located. Alexander married Mary Brown Taylor in May 1838, and it was in this area that they lived and reared a large family. In 1861, Alexander owned 515 acres and was farming his own land in addition to his mother-in-law's 223 acres.

At age 47, Alexander Hankins answered the call to arms. He enlisted in Company H, 32nd Virginia Infantry on May 16, 1861, at Williamsburg. Hankins was elected captain of the company that became known as the James City Artillery. In September 1861, this unit was reassigned as Company B, 1st Regiment, Virginia Artillery. In October the unit was split between Harwood's Mill in York County and Young's Mill in Warwick County, sent to Ship Point on the Poquoson River in November, and after a brief stay in Yorktown, it was ordered back to Ship Point in mid-December. Perhaps, deciding that he had had enough camp life, and with winter coming, Hankins resigned from the James City Artillery on December 21, 1861.

Alexander and Mary Hankins' oldest son, Winfield Scott Hankins was born in 1845 during the Mexican War and was named for the American general. The following was recorded in a Hankins family history: "When, after the opening of the War between the States, the General, who had been born in Virginia, refused to resign from the northern army and return to his state, as did most officers from the South, he became very unpopular in Virginia. Papa [Henley H. Hankins, Scott's younger brother] told me that his big brother cut out the Winfield from the family Bible and only left Scott." Scott Hankins enlisted in the James City Artillery on May 5, 1863, in his home county. He was absent due to illness in December 1863 but was present on all other rosters through December 1864.

Alexander's wife, Mary, died in February 1865, shortly after having given birth to triplets. The 1870 census listed Alexander's occupation as a farmer. Several of his children were living with him and his son, Scott's occupation was listed as a clerk in a store. By 1880, Alexander had sold his home to his cousin, Southey Hankins, and was living in Lightfoot next door to his brother-in-law, Henley Lightfoot Taylor. Alex's son Langdon Hankins was living with him and running a store in Lightfoot. Scott Hankins had remained on the old farm and was farming with his cousin, Southey Hankins, in 1880.

Scott Hankins died in 1892 and was buried in the Hankins family cemetery on their old home place. Several generations of the family had been buried there over the years. Alexander Hankins died on July 25, 1899, and was also buried in the family cemetery. When Interstate 64 was being laid out, it was determined that this road would go through the cemetery. Consequently, the family had all of the graves moved to Olive Branch Christian Church.

New Virginia SCV Web Site

The Virginia Division of the S.C.V. has a new web site. Go to: <http://www.scvvirginia.org/> to check it out.



WBA Park Day



Under a 'First National Flag' we have a photo of our group along with 'camp follower' Ted Romans. From L-to-R: Joe Wert, Ted Romans, Jeff Toalson, Tom Campbell, Ron Perry and Mark Griggs. Steve White is not pictured. Two of the guys went with Don Kline over to work at Redoubt 11 and the rest of us stayed and did trash work at the Smith Tract near Fort Magruder. April 5 was another successful Park Day for the Williamsburg Battlefield Association.

Dwight Hughes

I am saddened to pass on the news that Dwight Hughes passed away on April 15 from severe cardiac complications. Many of you will remember when Dwight addressed us and took questions about the history and battle of the *Monitor* and the *Virginia*. He was clearly discussing a subject he loved, and his excitement, knowledge and enthusiasm was evident to everyone in the room.

His book *Unlike Anything That Ever Floated - The Monitor & the Virginia in Hampton Roads, March 8 - 9, 1862*, is an excellent read, well researched, and the best 160-page book you will ever read on this remarkable event. Dwight has left us too soon, but those of you who were with us at our meeting in July 2022 will always have a great memory.



2025 Outstanding Camp Streamer for the Cavalry



Derick Hayman (L) accepts the 2025 Outstanding Camp Streamer from Commander Kenny Bage at the Virginia State S.C.V. Convention in Winchester, Virginia.



Special Projects Officer Derick Hayman (R) presents the 2025 Outstanding Camp Streamer to QM Tom Campbell. Tom is holding our previous 15 years of streamers which represent a streamer for every year the award has been available.

Well done to every member of the James City Cavalry.

Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwrt.org>

At 6:30 PM on May 27th at the Williamsburg Library Theatre - Jonathan Jones will present:

"Opium Slavery"



Please join the
James City Cavalry's



Confederate Remembrance Service

Olive Branch Church

on Friday, May 23rd, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

7643 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188



Please join us at 6:00 p.m. after the Confederate Remembrance Service for
the James City Cavalry's May Picnic, in lieu of our regular meeting!

Picnic information & directions to the farm of Historian Fred Boelt in Toano
are on the attached flyer!



James City Cavalry's Picnic Supper

on Friday, May 23rd, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

At Compatriot Fred Boelt's Farm

2896 Forge Road, Toano, Virginia 23168 (Use this address in GPS or online)



The James City Cavalry will be serving BBQ from Route 60 BBQ with cole slaw, potato salad, and baked beans plus beverages and desserts (including Big Jessie's Lemon Cake.)
The cost is \$10 per person (children free), payable at Fred's.

A call team will be contacting camp members to confirm reservations. Or you may contact Commander Jeff Toalson at troon24@cox.net or call (757) 220-0131 so sufficient fixin's can be prepared. Please call by May 17th.

Bring folding chairs as we will dine with the peacocks, weather permitting.

Note that there is a new gravel road next to the entrance to Fred's. Take the older left-hand gravel road, not the newer right-hand road. See photo below.

