



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



June 2026 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

Wednesday, June 24th, 2026, 6:30 pm
Colonial Heritage Club House
www.colonialheritageclub.com
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 2.

June Guest Speaker

(Submitted by 1st. Lt. Cmdr. Ron Perry)

Carson Hudson
Williamsburg Historian

***"The Revolutions
of 1776 and 1860
– The Differences
and the
Similarities"***



In this thought-provoking historical talk Carson will compare the American Colonist revolution against English rule and the Southern States secession from "these" United States. There were many similarities driving the actions in 1776 and in 1861. If nothing else by the end of the evening Carson will have all of us pondering a variety of thoughts about our American history.

Carson Hudson is an author, a folk musician, an Emmy Award-winning screenwriter and once upon a time . . . a circus fire-eater. He and his banjo entertained us at our 2016 Christmas celebration. With an M.A. in Military History and an M. Ed. in Social Studies and Educational Technology, Carson is a social and military historian and a Williamsburg treasure.

Camp Officers

Commander	Jeff Toalson troon24@cox.net
1st Lt. Commander	Ron Perry perryra@gmail.com
2nd Lt. Commander	Steve White
Adjutant	Dave Watson djwatson61@cox.net
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Senior Chaplain	George Corbett georgecorbett@cox.net
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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

Upcoming 2026 Speakers

Jul 22	Mr. Bob Kennedy – <i>“Blockade Runners during the WBTS”</i>
Aug 26 –	Ms. Teresa Roane – <i>“Matthew F. Maury Pathfinder of the Seas”</i>
Sep 23	Mr. Larry Floyd - <i>“The Weapons of the Lincoln Assassination Conspiracy”</i>
Oct 28	Mr. Kenny Bage – <i>“Relics Reunited: Reams Station and Lt. Col. Richard Thompson’s Wounding”</i>

Commander’s Comments

It was a wonderful Memorial Service and Picnic despite the rainy weather. Our thanks to Historian Fred Boelt, Chaplain George Corbett, QM Tom Campbell and 2nd Lt. Commander Steve White for designing and executing the service and the picnic. Our appreciation to Reverend Richard Cline for providing the Olive Branch Church Fellowship Hall for both our service and picnic.

Thanks to Compatriots Steve White and Richard Bradshaw for coming out to the Olive Branch and Hubbard Family cemeteries the day following our events to put 1st National Flags on all 27 Confederate graves in addition to U. S. flags on the graves of folks who served in a variety of other wars. They even put French flags on the memorial markers of two soldiers that were buried in France in WW-1 and the family placed local stones to remember them. Olive Branch / Hubbard has a long and storied history in James City County.

We have an excellent group of speakers in the next five months. See the current listing provided by 1st Lt. Commander Ron Perry.

The Williamsburg Battlefield Assn. is working with the Williamsburg U.D.C. to place a replica cannon obtained from the closed Fort Magruder Inn & Conference Center on U.D.C. property at Fort Magruder.

Check out the 2” canister the Cavalry donated to the Swem Archives. Imagine being Sgt. Samuel Holland and the men of 9th Virginia Infantry on July 3, 1863, as they approached Cushing’s Battery on Cemetery Ridge at Gettysburg. As they got close Cushing was firing canister from his two cannons. How did Samuel survive?

It was wonderful to welcome two new cadets to our ranks at the picnic. Congratulations to Thomas and Katherine Holland.

Join us for our June meeting. Local historian Carson Hudson has a talk comparing and contrasting the Revolution of 1776 and the Secession of 1861. There are many similarities. What a great topic to discuss a week before the 4th of July.

Jeff

Cadet Induction at Camp Picnic

(Contributed by 2nd Lt. Commander Steve White)

At our 2026 picnic the James City Cavalry inducted Thomas Holland as an SCV Cadet and his sister Katherine Holland as a James City Cavalry Female Cadet. They have participated in various Camp activities in the past and we hope that they join us for more activities and events in the future. It is a pleasure to have them as new members of our Camp.



Katherine is awarded her James City Cavalry Female Cadet Letter and pin by Commander Toalson.



Thomas is awarded his SCV Cadet certificate and pin by Adjutant Watson and Commander Toalson (R).



Sgt. Samuel Holland, Co. G - 9th Virginia Infantry was a fourth great grandfather of Thomas and Katherine. Joining the cadets in this family picture are their mother Aimee, father Jon and grandfather Robert.

Memorial Day Service

(Contributed by 2nd Lt. Commander Steve White)

In 2026 the James City Cavalry honored cousins Private Thomas Wynne and Sgt. Richard Harwood Whitaker III. Their crosses of honor were installed in early May prior to our May 22 ceremonies. Thomas enlisted underaged in Co. E of the 3rd Virginia Cavalry and was discharged after a few months of service. In April 1863 he joined Co. H of the 5th Virginia Cavalry and served until the end of the war. His cousin Richard enlisted in Co. I of the 3rd Virginia Cavalry on June 24, 1861, and was discharged as "sick" on September 13, 1861. He died of diabetes on February 25, 1862.

On Saturday, May 23, Compatriot Richard Bradshaw and I placed First National Flags on all 27 Confederate graves and U.S. flags on graves of men who served in several different wars, including two church members who died during WW-1 in France and are buried there. Two French flags were installed beside the memorial markers their families placed here in remembrance of their service and sacrifice.



Cross of Honor of Pvt. Wynne



Cross of Honor of Sgt. Whitaker

Greenmount Farm Journal

(Contributed by Historian Fred Boelt)

We continue here with excerpts from Thomas Wynne's farm journal and his insights on the war locally in June 1861:

"Monday, June 3rd...The papers report two engagements of the Confederate forces with the Federal forces, in both of which the latter were repulsed. The Yankees continue their depredations around New Port News Point; God grant that they may be checked.

Wednesday, June 5th...The myrmidons of Lincoln still commit depredations about the Point in Elizabeth City Co. Many farmers have been ruined. I hear that over three hundred servants have gone to them.

Friday, June 7th... Papers report another battle between Federal and Confederate forces fought at Philippi in Barbour County – result doubtful.

Monday, June 10th...A fight took place today between our men and the Yankees near Bethel Church in which the latter were repulsed with three hundred killed and wounded, while we lost one man and had three wounded.

Tuesday, June 11th...Sent a communication to the Dispatch giving our account of the battle near Bethel Church. Today's accounts make the killed and wounded over 400 men. Thanks be to the God of Heaven for his goodness in destroying those who would destroy us...Sent down to Capt. Cosnahan's company 42 lbs of shoulder meat and 1 bushel of meal.

Wednesday, June 12th...Between 5 and 6 hundred Zouaves from Louisiana reached the Grove Wharf this morning directly from Fort Pickens. They went down to York. They are a brave, desperate looking set of men; the sight of them will frighten the Yankees. Their commands are given in French.

Thursday, June 13th... The day being set apart by President Davis as one of fasting and prayer, I gave my servants holydays and myself observed it as a day of fasting. Went to Yorktown this morning. Companies arrived from Richmond there this morning. It is thought that there are from 6 to 8 thousand men in York at this time.

Monday, June 17th...Nothing new from the seat of war – About two hundred fifty men of the 10th Va. Regiment are stationed at Grove Wharf, where they intend fortifying.

Tuesday, June 18th...One of the picket Guards stationed at the mill [Blow's Mill on Skiff's Creek], Mr. Garland Hanes, called on me today to supply them with some buttermilk and bread, which we were glad to do. A soldier's life is one of hardship and privation.

Wednesday, June 19th...A picket reported that 15,000 Yankees were on their march from Newport News to Yorktown by Warwick Road, intending to cut off Col. Magruder who is stationed at Bethel, and attack Yorktown. Another picket informs us that Col. Magruder is on the march to Yorktown with all his men, and sends an order to burn the Grove Wharf which was done immediately. We will go to Williamsburg tonight for fear there may be some truth in the report, which I cannot believe.

Thursday, June 20th. We went up to Williamsburg last night, as my wife thought we would be safer there. I returned home this morning. The report about the large body of Yankees marching up turned out to be untrue. A picket saw about sixty of their cavalry on a plundering expedition, thought them the advance squad of a very large force, dashed back to Bethel and reported that a large body of Yankees was coming.

Friday, June 21st... The militia of the 68th and the 115th Regiments have been ordered to Yorktown Monday next, for what purpose I know not. Heard the report of a Battle at Winchester in which 2500 of the Yankees were killed and between fifty and sixty of ours – a rumor.

Saturday, June 22nd...Nine deserters from one of the Yankee ships in the York River came to Yorktown today. What report they gave of themselves, I have not learned.

Sunday, June 23rd...The militia of the 115th and the 68th regiments are ordered to Yorktown tomorrow. I shall have to attend.

Monday, June 24th...Went to Yorktown this morning and did not reach home until late tonight. Was mustered into state service. Am ordered to Williamsburg tomorrow to drill.

Friday, June 28th... Supplied breakfast and supper to the picket guard stationed at Lebanon Church." *To be continued*

Fort Crafford — Fort Eustis, VA

(Contributed by Compatriot Denny Griggs)

Overlooking the marshy edge of the James River on Mulberry Island, LiDAR reveals the clean, pentagonal outline of Fort Crafford, a Confederate earthwork quietly preserved within the landscape. Its angular walls and enclosed interior still stand out clearly, positioned just inland from the shoreline where tidal creeks and wetlands form a natural defensive barrier. From above, it's easy to see how the fort was designed not just for strength, but for placement—covering approaches from both the river and the land while tying into a broader defensive system.

Constructed in early 1862 as part of the Warwick Line defenses, Fort Crafford served as a “covering work” behind the nearby Mulberry Point Battery, protecting it from overland attack and offering a fallback position if outer lines were breached. Though it never saw combat—being abandoned when Confederate forces withdrew toward Richmond—the site remains remarkably intact. Archaeology has since revealed even deeper layers of history beneath the fort itself, including 17th-century domestic occupation, making this location a rare convergence of early colonial and Civil War-era landscapes. Today, LiDAR strips away the forest and marsh to expose both the strategic intent and enduring footprint of a fort built to guard one of the Confederacy's most critical river approaches.



2026 Donations to the Swem Archive

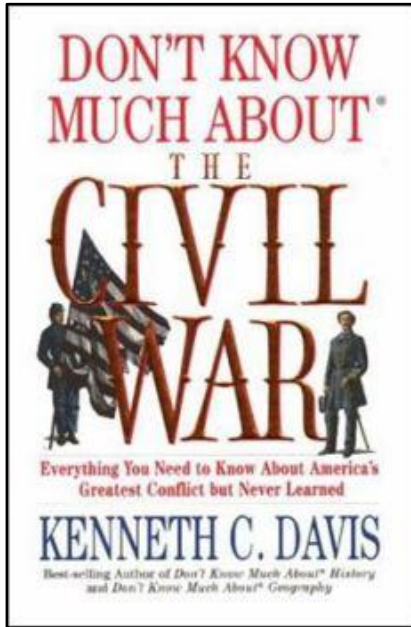
(Contributed by Commander Jeff Toalson)

This 2-inch solid metal canister was donated to me by the Stonewall Camp of Portsmouth and was part of the John Sharrett collection. We in turn included it as part of our 2026 donation to the Swem Archive to help students and researchers understand what infantry faced as their assault neared the enemy line. This canister is part of a grouping of canister loaded into the standard field artillery. See the display which was photographed at Fort Macon, North Carolina. This is not a Minié ball, or a shotgun pellet, but huge 2" ball of metal being fired into the human body at close range.

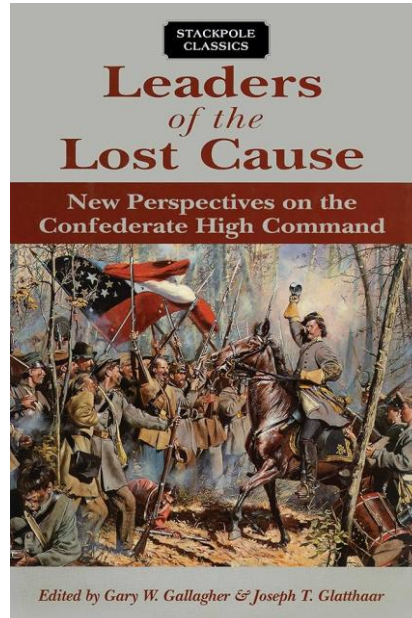


June Book Raffle

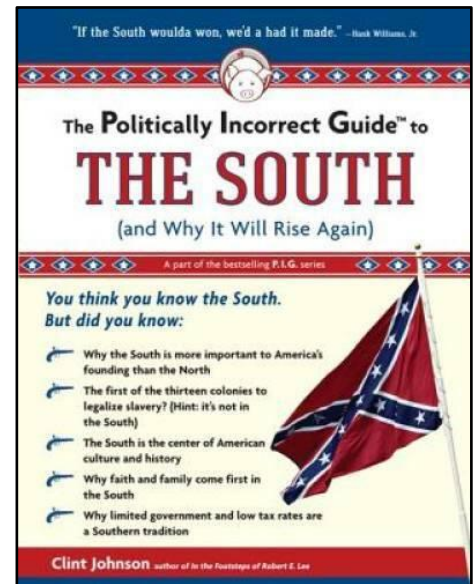
(Contributed by Compatriot Derick Hayman)



"Don't know much about the Civil War"
by Kenneth C. Davis



"Leaders of the Lost Cause"
by Gary W. Gallagher & Joseph T. Glatthaar



"The Politically Incorrect Guide to The South"
By Clint Johnson

Bonus Book:
"Thomas Jefferson Genius
of Liberty"
Introduction by Gary Wills



Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwrt.org>

The Round Table will be on leave until September.