James City Cavalry
Picket Lines

July 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, July 22, 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.

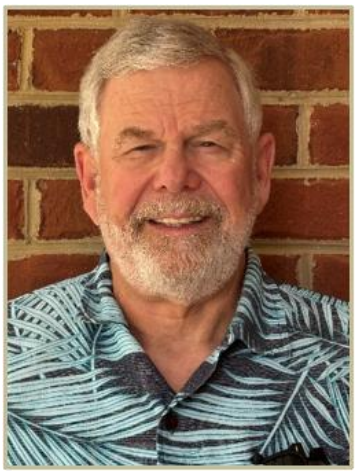
JCC Web Site: **http://www.jamescitycavalry.org**

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 3.

July Guest Speaker

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

Navy Captain Robert Kennedy (Ret.)



"Blockade Runners during the WBTS"

The Confederacy needed to ensure it had a reliable method to provide critical arms, food, clothing, medicine, and a host of other products to its people. A blockade running system was designed which allowed the procurement and delivery of much-needed supplies and a monetary exchange method with which to finance their purchase. Key personnel, events and the ships themselves will be explored in this most interesting aspect of the War Between the States. (See page 3 for a related photo.)

Captain Bob Kennedy hails from the Tarheel State. He enlisted in the Navy after high school and rose from an enlisted man to the rank of Captain during his 37-year career. He volunteers as a docent on the U.S.S. Wisconsin and loves to travel to locations with great wineries, great seafood and WBTS naval history, especially Confederate naval history.

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:
Held June 24th 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:
First Lt. Cmdr. Ron Perry welcomed Mr. Carson Hudson to our June meeting. Carson gave a wide-ranging talk on the various events that led the 13 colonies to secede from English rule and many similar events that led the 7 "Cotton States" to secede from these United States to form their own country.

1st Lt. Cmdr. Perry and Mr. Hudson

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Cemetery Report
2nd Lt. Commander Steve White

- Spring Cleaning Work: 3 sites were cleaned as we worked at Peach Park, Sunnyside and Fort Magruder. Confederate flags were placed on 27 Confederate graves at the Olive Branch Christian Church Cemetery along with two new Southern Crosses of Honor for our ceremonies and Memorial Day.

- Memorial Day: Our program at Olive Branch Cemetery and the picnic in their Education Building Fellowship Hall was a huge success. Participants donated monies and we gave the church a $300 donation which they transferred to rent for our use of the hall in 2027 and 2028. We do not have to worry about rain or mosquitoes, and the facility has a full kitchen for heating all the items for our picnic. We have use of the facility from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. It even includes a janitorial fee for post party cleaning. Fred Boelt has been a gracious host on his farm for the past several years and this will make life easier for Fred. He won't have to round up some of our ladies to assist with pre-picnic work.

Old & New Business

- Adjutant's Report – Cmdr. Jeff Toalson
    - Mail in the entire dues form and your check to Adjutant Dave Watson at the address shown. Make your check payable to the James City Cavalry.
- UDC Update – President Eleanor Hunter
- Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Jon Holland
- WCWRT Report – Compatriot Bill Miller

Book Raffle
Proceeds of $79 were donated to the Camp Treasury from the raffle of the four donations.

Benediction
Given by Sr. Chaplain George Corbett

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
Chief of Staff	Ken Parsons kparsons320@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jon Holland jonholland79@gmail.com
Senior Chaplain	George Corbett georgecorbett@cox.net
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Quartermaster	Tom Campbell tgcampbell1781@gmail.com
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Webmaster	Don Woolridge dsw1229@gmail.com
Archivist/Editor	Paul Huelskamp jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com

Mary Celestia – Blockade Runner

The *Mary Celestia* was a successful blockade runner making 6 round trips with cargos between Bermuda and Wilmington. The photo shows a museum exhibit on the *Mary Celestia.*

Commander's Comments

This will be an excellent meeting with Captain Bob Kennedy returning to speak with us about Confederate blockade running during the WBTS. Bob has previously given us excellent talks on the submarine *H. L. Hunley* and "Mines and Torpedoes." Reserve your seat now.

On page 5 is an update of the DNA research on the CSA remains of the 4 unknown men found near the Colonial Williamsburg Magazine.

Tentatively the 2027 Virginia S.C.V. Convention will be in Mechanicsville in April. It will be great to have it close. That would allow us to send quite a few Cavalrymen instead of our normal two delegates.

A Virginia Division Life Membership costs $150 if you are 60 years old. A Life Membership costs $300 if you are less than 60 years old. A lifetime membership application must be included with those dues. See Adjutant Dave Watson to file this paperwork.

At Oakwood Cemetery 53 headstones have been set since the April Convention. 56 stones are ready to be installed and 30 more have been ordered. Our own Christopher Wert has been part of the work detail installing stones twice in the past 60 days. New stones are selling for $500. The $50 increase is to offset the labor cost of the hired team that digs the holes.

Heritage Officer Frank Earnest is working on a new bumper sticker which will read, **"I'M SOUTHERN and I VOTE!"** I think this could be a really big seller if he does a design without any Confederate emblems. Perhaps he will consider designs with and without emblems to reach multiple markets.

See you in July when you can imagine going aboard the *City of St. Petersburg* for 16 successful round trips carrying inbound and outbound cargo between St George's, Bermuda and Wilmington, N.C. She had the same Cape Fear pilot for all 16 trips. She had various Bermuda pilots. These pilots were part of her permanent crew.

Jeff

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 July 1861:

"Monday, July 1st…Frequent firing of cannon was heard this afternoon in the direction of Yorktown and Newport's News Point.

Thursday, July 4th…A large fire is seen tonight in the direction of Hampton.

Saturday, July 6th…There is a report from Richmond that Gen. Johnston has had an engagement with Gen. Paterson at Martinsburg in which the former was victorious, killing 1,000 and capturing 20,000 Yankees – The report lacks confirmation.

Monday, July 8th…The report of the capture of Gen. Paterson's forces is false.

Thursday, July 11th…Have to send a man and cart down to the [Grove] wharf tomorrow morning to assist in throwing up entrenchments.

Saturday, July 13th… A skirmish occurred between a plundering party of Yankees and Chas. City Cavalry near Capt. Smith's in Warwick, in which 15 or 20 of the former were killed and thirteen taken prisoners. My man and cart are still employed at the wharf.

Monday, July 15th…Sent Jake to the wharf again this morning. Papers report a fight near Laurel Hill in Western Virginia, in which the enemy, though greatly superior, was repulsed.

Tuesday, July 16th…Again Jake, with cart had to be employed at the wharf. Two deserters from the Yankees came to Yorktown yesterday afternoon.

Wednesday, July 17th…Sent Jake to the wharf again this morning. Sad news from Western Virginia – Latest accounts state that Gen. Garnett had been killed and his entire force completely routed. Col. Pegram was also taken prisoner. The enemy's forces were six or eight times as large as our own. A dispatch from Missouri reports that McCulloch with twelve thousand men had met the enemy, fourteen thousand strong, killed 900 and had taken the rest prisoners, who surrendered unconditionally. May it be true.

Thursday, July 18th… The 2nd Louisiana Regiment came down from Williamsburg and encamped at Grices Landing on James River.

Friday, July 19th…Heard that a battle has been fought near Manassas Gap in which we were victorious.

Saturday, July 20th…Fight occurred at Bull's Run the day before yesterday in which, as usual, the enemy was routed, with 900 men killed and wounded. Jake finished working today at the wharf.

Monday, July 22nd…Fannie [Wynne's wife] sent a market cart up to the Louisiana camp at Littleton, and found a ready market for everything. A severe battle took place yesterday at Manassas Junction with heavy loss on both sides. We put the enemy to rout, and were in hot pursuit of them at the latest account.

Tuesday, July 23rd…We learn by today's Whig that our forces were not so large as supposed to be. It confirms the report of yesterday with regard to there being a heavy battle. A dispatch from President Davis to Congress states that the enemy was completely routed. Our forces were 15,000, while the enemy's was estimated at 35,000. The 5th Louisiana Regiment came up to the Grove Wharf from Yorktown this afternoon

Wednesday, July 24th…The soldiers still among us very much, visiting houses in quest for something to eat. Many of them are the merest rowdies, destitute of self respect. If the regiments from Louisiana be samples of the people of that state I must confess that they are very low bred and uncivil. There are some gentlemen amongst them, but very few. Gen. Magruder has marched down in the neighborhood of Hampton with several regiments of men. What his intentions are, we cannot learn.

Thursday, July25th…The Yankees still continue to steal Negroes from the farms near Newport News.

Sunday, July 28th…Had meeting at Lebanon [Church] today – Good many soldiers were present. Still troubled with soldiers, who are constantly coming in to purchase something to eat.

Tuesday, July 30th…Two soldiers called in tonight on their way to the Grove Wharf from Newport News. Have been on a scouting expedition and succeeded in capturing two hundred Negroes." *to be continued*.

7/3/26 Update – Baptist Hospital 1862 Remains

(Contributed by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson)

In our October 2025 issue of *Picket Lines* we advised that the Archaeology Center at Colonial Williamsburg had focused on one soldier who seems very likely to be one of the unidentified soldiers. This soldier was unmarried and had nine brothers and sisters. Extensive research led to three candidates in the maternal line who are five generations removed and there were four candidates down the paternal line three and four generations removed.

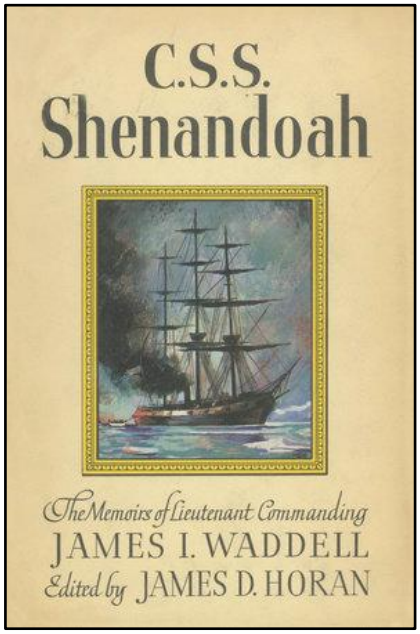
These candidates were contacted and five of them agreed to the DNA testing to see if the remains of this soldier could be confirmed as their ancestor. Dr. Raquel Fleskes of Dartmouth is working on the sequencing of this DNA. She is delaying this process because she is testing another potentially more accurate method on another project first. If it is in fact more accurate, she will use the new process on the extracted DNA.

Jack Gary and his team at the Archaeology Center are hopeful that Raquel will have the results we are hoping for in early fall. We will keep you posted.

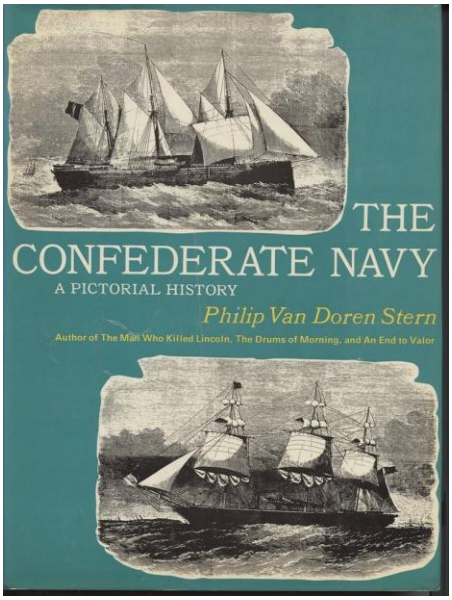
Overhead photo of the excavation site

July Book Raffle

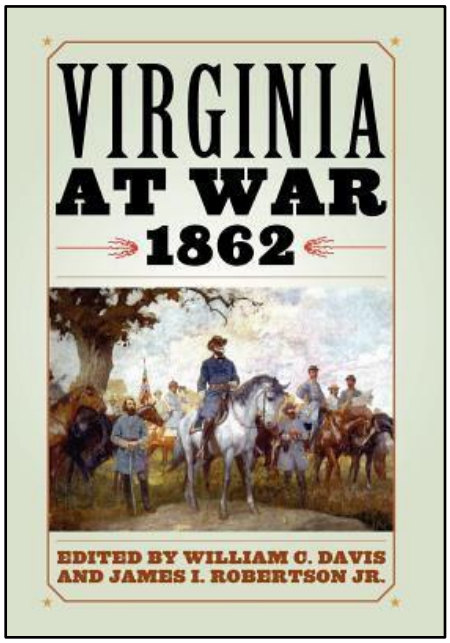
(Contributed by Compatriot Derick Hayman)



"CSS Shenandoah"
by James I. Waddell edited by James D. Horan

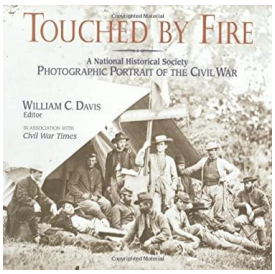


"The Confederate Navy (A Pictorial History)"
by Philip Van Doren Stern



"Virginia at War 1862"
By William C. Davis and James I. Robertson Jr.

Bonus Book:
"Touched by Fire (Photographic Portrait of the Civil War)"
- William C. Davis (Editor)



Williamsburg Civil War Round Table

http://www.wcwrt.org

The Round Table will be on leave until September.