



December 2008

Last Meeting: Our last meeting had 20 in attendance. Our Program was: **The Common Soldier** presented by Commander Ken Chandler of the Robert E. Lee Camp 1589. Commander Chandler presented an excellent and very educational program.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be at Hog Wild Barbeque in Toano on December 17th at 7pm. Our speaker will be Compatriot Jerry White. Jerry is the co-author of "The Rebel and the Rose." www.rebelandtherose.com/book.html Jerry will have books for sale at the meeting. Come and bring a guest.

Compatriot Jeff Toalson will offer copies of *No Soap, No Pay, Diarrhea, Dysentery & Desertion* for sale at our camp meeting in December as we approach the holidays. Take a look at your holiday shopping list. What better Christmas present than stories of our Confederate ancestors? Jeff will donate \$5 from each \$30 sale to the James City Cavalry general fund.

Peach Park Cemetery: Compatriots Ken Parsons and Bob Tuck recently planted (3) oak saplings from the Robert E. Lee tree and re-set the sign. Compatriots Ken Parsons and Don Woolridge installed fencing around the new saplings to protect them from any type of damage.

The Robert E. Lee Oak Saplings:

The saplings were grown from acorns that came from the tree that General Robert E. Lee met under with his staff in June of 1862 just after the Seven Days Battle of Gaines Mill and before the Battle at Savage Station. The tree at the time was in the yard of the Fairfield Plantation House.

In September of 2002 a large portion of the tree broke away from the trunk and fell to the ground. In 2003 Hurricane Isabel swept through the area and the remainder of the tree fell. The Virginia Department of Forestry estimated the tree to be some 400 years old.

When the first portion of the tree fell, Dr. Robert Bluford, Jr. Director of the Douglas Southall Freeman Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, with volunteers, gathered several bushels of acorns from the tree. The acorns were taken to the Forestry Nursery in Providence Forge to be cleaned, sorted and delivered to the State Forestry Nursery in Augusta County. There they were planted and allowed to mature for one year.

The following year the sprouted seedlings were harvested and returned to Providence Forge for planting and nourishing. After two years they were removed to Ed's Nursery in Hanover County where they were potted.

The young trees are now planted at Peach Park and should be a great addition to the restoration of the cemetery. The saplings came with a certificate of authenticity certifying that they came from the Robert E. Lee Tree.

Pete Dozier, who owns the property, is graciously reimbursing the Camp for these trees.

JAMES CITY COUNTY CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES

Colonial Heritage located on Richmond Road across from the Pottery is being developed on three large tracts of land. The eastern 430 acres, known as Roslyn, was owned by the Marston family for several generations. To the west, Breezeland, was home to the Farthing family, and to the south, a tract known in modern times as the Boy Scout camp, brings the total land to about 1,400 acres.

The Marston family cemetery is located at Roslyn. This cemetery contains fifteen marked graves and there are obviously other unmarked graves there as well. Formerly enclosed in a substantial brick wall that had crumbled over time, the developers have cleaned up this cemetery and enclosed it with wrought iron panels between brick columns with a plaque giving the history of the site. Allen Marston first appeared on tax records as owner in 1805. His first wife was buried in this cemetery in 1819 and the last Marston was buried there in 1909. There are three Confederate veterans buried in this cemetery.

Thomas Peyton Marston, born September 21, 1831, was the son of John T. and Frances Parker Marston, grandson of Allen Marston. In 1852, he graduated from the Medical Department of Hampden-Sydney College. Two years later, this became the Medical College of Virginia. Thomas returned to James City County to practice medicine and later served as Commissioner of Revenue for the county, a position held earlier by his grandfather. He enlisted in Company I, 3rd Virginia cavalry on June 24, 1861, and later re-enlisted in Company H, 5th Virginia Cavalry on May 1, 1862. Records indicate that he served at least through July 25, 1864. He returned to the county, continued to practice medicine and farm until his death on January 26, 1908. One of his medical account books is in Special Collections at Swem Library which lists many old county families that he served professionally.

Montague Mattingly was born on May 4, 1830 in Oxfordshire, England. In 1855, he married Maria E. Parker, sister-in-law of Thomas P. Marston (above). They had four children before her early death in 1864. Montague enlisted in Company W, 3rd Virginia Cavalry on June 24, 1861, and re-enlisted in Company H, 5th Virginia Cavalry in 1863. He later served as Quartermaster and was present at the surrender at Appomattox. After the war, he returned to the county, married another Marston relative and lived here until his death in January 28, 1895.

The third veteran buried here, James Thurston James, was born on May 10, 1828 to Thurston and Mary Banks James in James city County. In 1858, he married Ann Susan Marston, a sister of Thomas Peyton Marston (above). He enlisted in Company H, 5th Virginia Cavalry and served as a sergeant until his early death on August 7, 1862. His tombstone includes, "Died in the city of Richmond of disease contracted in the Confederate States service." Records indicate that he died of typhoid fever. His widow became the second wife of Montague Mattingly (above).

The final resting place of these three veterans is well preserved and cared for. This is one cemetery that we do not have to add to our "to clean up" list!

We continue our journey through time with Fred Boelt's Great-great uncle:

GREENMOUNT FARM JOURNAL

We continue here with excerpts from Thomas Wynne's farm journal and his insights on the war locally in December 1861 and January 1862:

Wednesday, December 4th...The news from Missouri brought by today's papers is very encouraging to us. I hope ere long with the assistance of a kind Providence every Federal soldier will be driven from these borders.

Thursday, December 5th...Heard today that another great battle had been fought at Manassas resulting in victory to our armies – I fear it is not true.

Friday, December 6th...Fannie sold some vegetables to two soldiers.

Monday, December 9th...Considerable excitement in Williamsburg occasioned by a rumor that the Yankees were advancing on our forces from New Port's News.

Tuesday, December 10th...Sent William in my wagon down to Cockletown [Grafton] to carry some soldiers of the 5th North Carolina Regiment to their camp. Sold to the soldiers 9 bushels of Irish potatoes, 1½ bushels of sweet potatoes, 26 heads of cabbage together with some eggs, buttermilk and sweet milk.

Wednesday, December 11th...Two citizens on their way to Land's End stay with us tonight.

Thursday, December 12th...Sent my wagon down to Land's End with a load of boxes. The friends of two soldiers, who died last summer, intend to remove their remains that they may lie buried amongst their friends.

Friday, December 13th...A portion of a new regiment (23rd Georgia) went below this morning. A part went down yesterday morning. The papers report a very large fire in Charleston destroying nearly half of the city.

Saturday, December 14th...Sold some fodder to the Mecklenburg Cavalry. Sold some vegetables to the soldiers of the 10th La. Regiment.

Sunday, December 15th...Our church [Lebanon] being occupied by the soldiers, we had no meeting today. I understand that Gen. Magruder is moving his forces from Young's Mill to Lee's Mill and Yorktown, being in daily expectation of an attack from the Yankees.

Monday, December 16th...The peninsula is very quiet; no visible signs of an attack from the Yankees. The papers report a Confederate victory in Western Virginia.

Wednesday, December 18th...Had a call today to send my hands to work on the fortifications near Williamsburg. Ben Piggott brought the order.

Saturday, December 21st...Dreux' Battalion passed here this morning en route to Lee's Mill. Six of them dined here.

Wednesday, December 25th...It is difficult to realize that this is Christmas day, but I rejoice to know that our affairs are not so gloomy as were those of the United States colonies when Gen. Washington crossed the Delaware River and by the glorious victory he then achieved over the British, turned the tide of the American Revolution.

Wednesday, January 1st, 1862...Hired my cart to Mr. Robertson of the Mecklenburg Cavalry.

Friday, January 3rd...Summoned to appear in Williamsburg to attend the militia muster tomorrow.

The book is full and the journal ends here. It is probable that the journal continued in another book that did not survive. As the Peninsula Campaign moved toward Greenmount in the spring of 1862, Tom and Fannie Wynne, along with their families refuged to the Danville area for the remainder of the war. They had a daughter born in Danville in December 1862; Fannie died there in 1864; Tom returned to Greenmount in 1865, remarried, had another daughter, taught school and farmed. He was elected Treasurer of James City County in 1895 and died in 1904 during his third term of that office.

A Suffering Devotion to the Cause of Independence:

"The cold winter winds began to be felt in the close of the November days....The men were not only thinly-clad, but some, at least, had but little clothing of any kind and a large number were without shoes; and when the first blasts of winter came numbers could be seen shivering over the small fires they were allowed to kindle. Famine stared them in the face; the ration being from one-eighth to one-fourth of a pound of bacon and one pint of unshelled corn meal a day, and occasionally a few beans or peas. With empty stomachs, naked bodies and frozen fingers, these men clutched their guns with an aim so steady and deadly that the men on the other side were exceedingly cautious how they lifted their heads from behind their sheltered places.


These heroic men, who loved their cause better than life stood to their posts, and defied the enemy to the last. The enemy, by general orders and circular letters which they managed to send and scatter among the Confederate soldiers, offered all manners of inducements to have them desert their country; but, as a rule, such offers were indignantly spurned. The consecration of the Southern women to the cause, for which their husbands, sons, brothers, and sweethearts struggled and suffered, is beyond the power of the pen to describe. The hardships of these women were equal to, and often greater than that of the shivering, freezing and starving soldier in the field. They had not only given these men to the cause, but, in fact, themselves too; for they remained at home and labored in the fields, went to the mill, the blacksmith shops, lived on cornbread and sorghum molasses, and gave practically every pound of meat, flour and all the vegetables they could raise to the men in the army, whom they encouraged to duty in every possible way. They manufactured largely their own clothing, out of material that they had produced with their own hands; and would have scorned any woman who would wear northern manufactured goods..." Through this long, cold, dreary winter, Pickett's Division---less than five thousand strong---held the line which, in length, was not less than four miles; being not many

beyond one thousand men to the mile; only a good skirmish line; over which the enemy, by a bold, determined charge, could at any time have gone. It is certain that if the Federal line in front of Pickett's men had been as weak, and held by as few men as that of Pickett, they would have either been prisoners before the 1st day of January 1865, or have been driven into the James River and drowned."

(A History of Middle New River Settlements and Contiguous Territory, David E. Johnston, Standard Printing, 1906, pp. 285-288)

"In an effort to help save on the cost of the newsletter, you can now have it e-mailed to you in an adobe format. E-mail 1st Lt. Commander Don Woolridge at dsw317@earthlink.net to be added to this list."

Thought for the Month

"Under it we won our victories and its glory will never fade. It is enshrined in our hearts forever"
---1st. Lady, Varina Howell Davis on the Battle Flag 



CAMP JOURNAL

November 26, 2008

- Meeting held 7:00 PM at Hog Wild, James City County, VA
 - 20 attendees
- Welcome given by Commander David Ware
- Invocation given by Chaplain Bill Blizzard
- Salute to the flags
 - US flag pledge, Virginia flag salute, and CS flag salute by the group
- The Charge was read by Compatriot Fred Breedon
- Recognition of guests
- Announcements:
 - Camp name tags can be obtained for \$8 from Adjutant Ken Parsons
 - Donations are being accepted by Adjutant for cemetery care
 - Three white oaks from the “Lee Tree” were planted at Peach Park Cemetery. Pete Dozier provided Funding for the trees
- Upcoming events:
 - December 7, Mechanicville Christmas parade, several Confederate units and SCV Camps will be participating in the parade
 - Dec 13-14, “Christmas in the Field” reenactment at Isle of Wight Fair Grounds
- October minutes approved as published in “*Picket Lines*”
- Adjutant/Treasurer’s Report balance was \$1480.91
- Committee Reports:
 - None
- Old Business:
 - Penniman Road Park (*Ft Magruder*) caretaker status takeover by Camp from War Memorial Museum still in progress, but going slowly
 - Divisional Convention sponsorship by Camp still being worked
- New Business:
 - Camp donations collected by CMP Jeff Toalson, totaled \$59
 - Book donated by CMP Ken Parsons to CMP Mike Garrett
- Program: Ken Chandler, Commander of the Gen. Robert E. Lee SCV Camp No. 1589 gave an excellent presentation on the “*The Life of the Common Soldier*”, supplemented by various props used by the soldiers during the late War of Northern Aggression.
- Next Meeting: December 17, 2008 @ 7:00 P.M. @ Hog Wild
- Benediction given by Chaplain Blizzard
- Adjourned @ 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert H. Tuck