



# James City Cavalry Picket Lines



April 2024 Dispatch – Williamsburg, Virginia

Camp #2095  10<sup>th</sup> 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, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6:30 pm  
Colonial Heritage Club House  
[www.colonialheritageclub.com/find-us](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com). To email one of the camp officers directly, see **Camp Officers** on page 3.

## April Guest Speaker

Mrs. Billie Earnest

***"General William  
'Billy' Mahone -  
Postwar"***



Scrappy little Billy Mahone was a genuine character whose life was as unique as his stature. His victories on the battlefields of Virginia prepared him well for his post-war political career that started about 1869 and continued until his death in 1895. Republicans regarded him as the best representation of the New South, while the Democrats considered his desertion of their party improper or immoral behavior. As a Democrat there is reason to believe that he resorted to the use of "tissue ballots" to accomplish by fraud results not otherwise attainable, yet as a Republican he was a vehement shouter for change of Virginia laws to secure "honest" and Republican elections. Join us as Billie will expand our knowledge of the "post-war" Billy Mahone.

Billie was born in Franklin and her ancestors are all from the SE counties of Virginia & NE counties of North Carolina. Billie was recently awarded the "Winnie Davis Medal" for her just published book *They Wore the Gray*. She had previously been awarded the "Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal" for her work researching and presenting the lives and history of General George Pickett and his wife Sallie. . Our favorite guest speaker is making her 8th presentation to us in the past ten years.

# Camp Journal for Last Muster

## Meeting:

Held March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,  
James City County, Va., **26** Attendees

Welcome given by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson

Pledge & Salute to the Flags led by Aide de Camp Jon Holland

## Blessing:

Given by Sr. Chaplain George Corbett

Break for Supper

The SCV Charge read by Quartermaster George Bridewell

## Program:

1st Lt. Cmdr. Perry introduced the evening's guest speaker:

### Mrs. Feather Foster

Feather presented "*Civil War Divas: First Ladies Mary Todd Lincoln and Julia Dent Grant*", a marvelous talk on First Ladies Mary Todd Lincoln and Julia Dent Grant. She filled the talk with a wide variety of interesting tidbits about both ladies' lives, personalities and relationships with their husbands. We left feeling sorry for Abe and happy for Hiram for their choices in marriage.



Commander Jeff Toalson (L) and 1st Lt. Commander Ron Perry (R) welcome Mrs. Feather Foster as our speaker for the March meeting

## Committee Reports and Announcements:

### Old & New Business

- Cemetery Report - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander Steve White
- Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Denny Griggs
- Commander's Comments - Cmdr. Jeff Toalson
- WCWRT March Report – Compatriot Bill Miller

### Book Raffle

Proceeds of \$47 were donated to the Camp Treasury for the raffle of the three donations.

### Benediction

Given by Sr. Chaplain George Corbett



## Camp Officers

Commander	Jeff Toalson <a href="mailto:troon24@cox.net">troon24@cox.net</a>
1st Lt. Commander	Ron Perry <a href="mailto:perryra@gmail.com">perryra@gmail.com</a>
2nd Lt. Commander	Steve White <a href="mailto:garrettsgrocery@gmail.com">garrettsgrocery@gmail.com</a>
Adjutant	Dave Watson <a href="mailto:djwatson61@cox.net">djwatson61@cox.net</a>
Chief of Staff	Ken Parsons <a href="mailto:kparsons320@gmail.com">kparsons320@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Denny Griggs <a href="mailto:dennisgriggs414@gmail.com">dennisgriggs414@gmail.com</a>
Senior Chaplain	George Corbett <a href="mailto:georgecorbett@cox.net">georgecorbett@cox.net</a>
Chaplain	David Stover <a href="mailto:gor_cabot1@msn.com">gor_cabot1@msn.com</a>
Aide de Camp	Jon Holland <a href="mailto:jonholland79@gmail.com">jonholland79@gmail.com</a>
Quartermaster	George Bridewell <a href="mailto:gbridewell@aol.com">gbridewell@aol.com</a>
Historian	Fred Boelt <a href="mailto:fwb@widomaker.com">fwb@widomaker.com</a>
Webmaster	Don Woolridge <a href="mailto:dsw1229@gmail.com">dsw1229@gmail.com</a>
Archivist/Editor	Paul Huelskamp <a href="mailto:jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com">jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com</a>

## The Cavalry Has Custody

The General Billy Mahone pistol is at the James City Cavalry Camp. At the March meeting of the Isle of Wight Avengers we had our Commander and 2 compatriots attending to claim the 10th Brigade traveling trophy.



1st Lt. Cmdr. Ron Perry  
accepts the pistol from their  
Commander Ed Whitley (R).

## Commander's Comments

We welcome Mrs. Billie Earnest as our speaker to expand our knowledge of General Billy Mahone. The main focus of this talk will be involved with his post-war life of railroading, the education of local negroes, and his conversion to the Republican party. Similar to situations with John S. Mosby and James Longstreet he will incur the wrath of many for his conversion to the 'Dark Side.' Billie has spoken to us at least 9 times since 2009 and is our most popular speaker. Second place is a mere five appearances.

The DNA has been extracted from the remains of the four soldiers found near the Colonial Williamsburg Magazine and has been forwarded to the University of Connecticut Ancient DNA Laboratory. It will be interesting to see if any of the samples provide a DNA chain that is viable enough for testing and if so what can be learned.

Mark your calendars for May 5 (Sunday) at 4:00 for the annual U.D.C. ceremony at Fort Magruder. We will be in charge of flags and Chaplain Corbett will be providing the prayers. We hope to see you at the ceremony.

Mark that calendar again for May 24 (Friday) for a 5:00 Memorial Day Service at the Olive Branch Christian Church Cemetery. Following the ceremony, we will have our annual BBQ picnic at the Fred Boelt Peacock Farm out on Forge Road. More details will follow.

Look forward to seeing a large crowd for Billie's talk about Billy.

Jeff

# Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

It will be remembered from last month's article that Edmond Macon Ware was discharged from service at the end of February 1865, due to poor health. It would appear that he came straight home and married Trittie Bush on March 1, 1865! Her father, William Bush, had purchased Windsor Castle, located at the intersection of Forge and Diascund Roads, in 1840. William Bush died there in 1862, but Trittie and several siblings continued to live at Windsor Castle throughout the war years.

Edmond moved in and, over time, he and Trittie had three children. William W. Ware was born on April 1, 1869, and Malinda Bush Ware was born on August 25, 1870. In time, Malinda would marry John Cowles, her neighbor from Cowlesville across the road. The Wares had one more son, Infant Son Ware, born on October 10, 1872, and he died four days later. In 1870, Ware's brother-in-law, George Bush was living at Windsor Castle and had a lumber business. Edmond Ware was listed as a "lumber hauler" in the census, and undoubtedly was working for or in business with his brother-in-law.

In spite of hard times and Reconstruction, it is great to know that some happy times did exist. Medieval jousting tournaments had become favored pastimes before the war and apparently continued after the war. An article in *The Daily Dispatch*, Richmond, Virginia, October 17, 1876, offers a glimpse into this,

"Vauxhall, hard by [east of] Windsor Castle, was the scene of a gay and gorgeous tournament on yesterday. Such events usually attract only the belles and beaux, but this one stirred the old county to her lowest depths, causing old and young, white and colored, to respond promptly to the bugle-call. The knights and officers were dressed appropriately; the charge of Judge Henley was fiery and animating, the horsemanship splendid, and the whole thing a success to all except to a few constitutional grumblers.

The following is a complete roster: Chief Marshall, Captain E. M. Ware; Assistant Marshall, Colonel J. C. Timberlake; Judges, H. R. Warren, Judge R. L. Henley, Colonel J. H. Allen....."

The article goes on to list thirty-one knights, many of whom had served in the 5<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry and were once again neighbors in James City County. It has been said that Captain Ware never fully recovered from his war wounds, so this may be proof that he did find some pleasure in life after the conflict was over. The 1880 census listed his occupation as "farmer."

Edmond Macon Ware died on February 15, 1882. He was buried in the Bush family cemetery at Sunnyside on Forge Road. A tribute to his life appeared in *The Daily Dispatch* on March 10, 1882, and is partially transcribed here:

"Captain Ware was quick and impulsive; so much so as to make it appear that his actions preceded his thoughts, but the results were generally so felicitous as to justify the conclusion that he saw the endings from the beginnings, and that he at once reached by intuition what others rarely attained by dint of hard reasoning. ... James City was rather later than many of her sister counties in going into the war, and the roar of cannon and the rattle of musketry at Bethel fell upon the ears of many of her sons peacefully occupied; and it is but just to say that Captain Ware's patriotism and zeal did much to forward the James City Cavalry to the front ... He was the best of neighbors, charitable and liberal to a fault, and his house was the home of the orphan, the widow, and the homeless. ... Intrepid in life, he did not quall [sic] at death, and his only fear was for his dear wife and darling little son and daughter."

Edmond's widow, Trittie Bush Ware, died in 1903, and was buried beside her husband at Sunnyside. Today, Windsor Castle is still owned and occupied by Ware/Bush family descendants.

## Redoubt 11 Walking Tour

On March 16 the Williamsburg Battlefield Association hosted a walk and tour of Redoubt 11 of the Williamsburg Line. This redoubt is in magnificent condition. It has basically been undisturbed, on the James Custis farm, since the battle. In most places the bottom of the moat is about 6' below the outer ground level.

As you can see from the photos, all of the dirt was piled to the inside on the battlement which rises 12 to 18 feet above the bottom of the moat in some locations.

It was basically a two-hour stroll with several stops to point out landmarks and give our group information about the battle and events. 90% of the trail is a road in excellent walking condition. This fall we should arrange a James City Cavalry group tour of the fort and perhaps follow that with lunch at Route 60 BBQ.



## Barham-Bell Cemetery Visit

Ron Perry, his U.D.C. cousin Emily Peter, and Mason Ware a friend with the S.A.R. visited the Barham-Bell Cemetery, in Surry County, in early March. They installed the sign and cleaned the stones of all five soldiers. Ron's ancestor is buried here along with 4 other Confederate soldiers. They installed 5 First National Flags and offered a short prayer to these men and their families.



# A Final Letter Home

CSA First  
National Flag

Confederate States of America

Yorktown April 27<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Brother I take this chance of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well and I surely hope that when you get this it may find you the same there is nothing very interesting going on only we are Expecting a fight – Every day they throw \_\_\_\_\_ shells at us every now and then We have to go on Picket this evening - then we will be within about Three Hundred yards of the Yankees and we will be Badly Situation for there is nothing but Trenches to keep the Yankees from Killing a man and it has Been Raining and the ground is wet and we cant have no tents - I have joined Kilpatricks Company in Jenkins Regiment – if I can get a Transfer I will go to \_\_\_\_\_ Regiment. This Regiment is at Fredericksburg now. This letter I send by Dr. Horton. Give this letter to Pa and tell him how I am give my Regards to all of them and write soon.

W.M. PITTS

Direct your Letter to me care of Capt. Kilpatrick Jenkins Brigade S.C V

(ed: William is a private in Company B of the Palmetto Sharpshooters which was a Regiment formed by Col. Micah Jenkins. He enlisted in April and mustered in on June 7, 1861 for one year. He is a 21 year-old farmer from Fair Play, SC. Captain F. W. Kilpatrick is his Company Commander. You can note from the mailing directions that Jenkins has been promoted to command of a Brigade. He will be officially promoted to Brig. General on 7/22/1862. William will be wounded in the battle of Williamsburg, Virginia, on May 5, 1862, and will be in the Baptist Church Hospital following the battle. He will die on May 20, 1862, and was probably buried in a shallow grave dug behind the church near the Colonial Williamsburg Magazine.)

Transcribed 3/22/2024 by J. Toalson

(Fold 3 Regimental Records for William Pitts of the Palmetto Sharpshooters – Research collected by Evan Bell.)



# A Plea to the Governor

(A request by Hall Hardaway who is a prospective new member of the Cavalry)

Governor Youngkin,

Please veto S.B. 517.

Regardless of your position on the Civil War, dishonoring those Virginians who died is ridiculous. The UDC exists to honor those servicemen.

When I was in my office in the Pentagon, we had a moment of silence for the Soviet sailors who perished in the Soviet submarine Kursk. It's a code of honor for brothers-in-arms, even though our missions may be to kill each other, we show respect.

For Virginia to yield to this attempt to pursue the "progressive" agenda, revise history, etc. would be disrespectful and dishonorable.

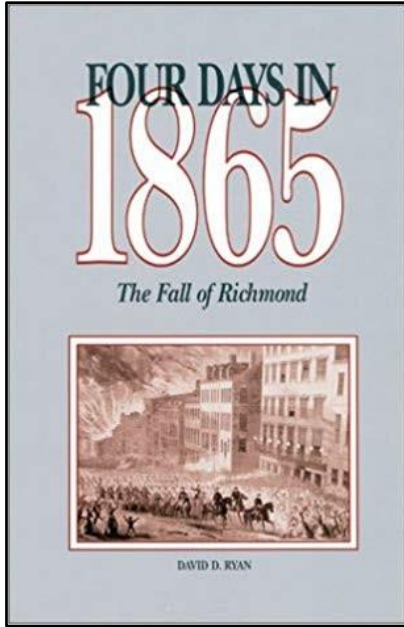
Thank You,

Hal Hardaway  
Captain, U.S. Navy (Retired)  
Williamsburg, Virginia

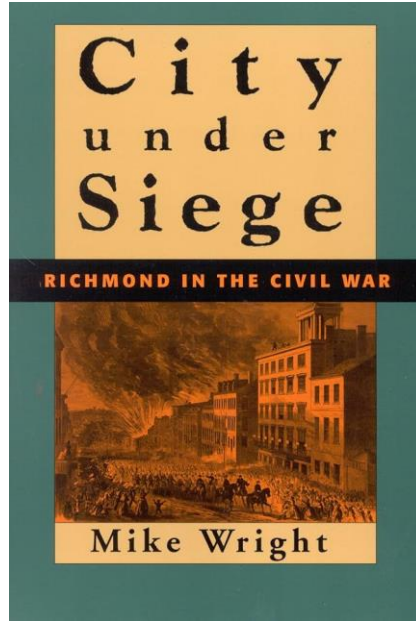
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**Note S.B. 517 would remove Tax Exempt Status from the U. D. C.**

**GOVERNOR YOUNGKIN PLEASE VETO**

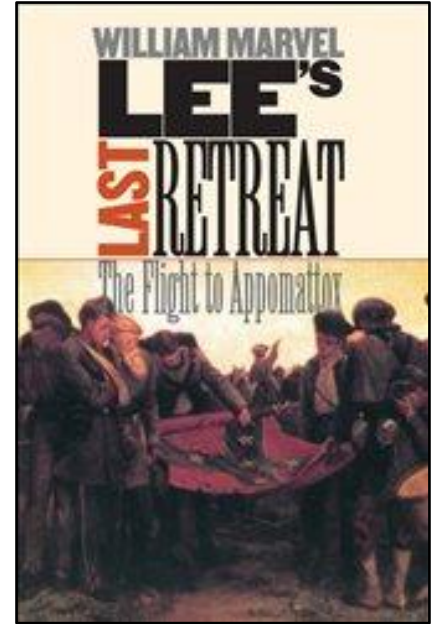
# April Book Raffle



“Four Days in 1865, The Fall Of Richmond”  
by David D. Ryan

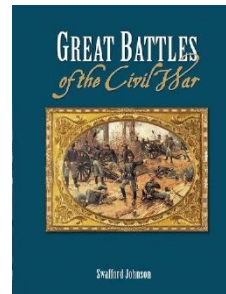


“City under Siege, Richmond in the Civil War”  
by Mike Wright



“Lee's Last Retreat, The Flight to Appomattox”  
by William Marvel

Bonus Book:  
“Great Battles of the Civil War” by Swafford Johnson



# Williamsburg Civil War Round Table

<http://www.wcwrt.org>

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 - Rob Orrison  
will present:

“Twice Baptized: Misconceptions & Unique Stories from  
the Manassas Battlefields”

