



# James City Cavalry Picket Lines



February 2023 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, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, 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)

## February Guest Speaker

Mr. Tim Smith  
Yorktown,  
Virginia



*“York County’s  
Brave Men of  
the Civil War”*

Mr. Smith’s presentation will be highlighted with photos and personal stories of numerous York County residents who served, and many who made the ultimate sacrifice, during the War Between the States. You will be captivated as Tim shares his research, the efforts to collect the pictures and stories of these York County veterans, and the personal stories of these individuals..

Mr. Timothy L. Smith is a native of the York County area. He is an actor, author and historian. Tim works at his family business, Smith’s Marine Railway, which has been in business since 1842.

# Camp Journal for Last Muster

## Meeting:

Held January 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,  
James City County., Va., **34** Attendees

Welcome given by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson

Pledge & Salute to the Flags

Blessing given by Chaplain George Corbett

Break for Supper

The SCV Charge read by Quartermaster George Bridewell

Comments by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson

## Program:

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cmdr. Ron Perry introduced the evening's guest speaker:

### Mr. Fred Taylor

Mr. Taylor presented "*The History of the Point Lookout Prison Camp*", tracing the history of the camp using official reports of Union doctors, surgeons, prison officials and inspectors as they urged authorities to correct the overcrowding, the unsanitary conditions, the lack of shelter and the intentional lack of food for the prisoners.



Fred Taylor of the Tom Smith Camp is welcomed by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cmdr. Perry and Cmdr. Toalson.

## Election of New Officer

Compatriot Ron Perry was elected to office as the new First Lieutenant Commander for the Camp.



1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cmdr. Perry and Cmdr. Toalson

## New Member Inductions

Three new members were inducted into the Cavalry at the January meeting.



(LtoR) Compatriot Perry Turner, Adjutant Dave Watson, Compatriot David Stover, Compatriot Jay Doley and Commander Jeff Toalson

## Committee Reports and Announcements

- Cemetery Report - 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Steve White
- Adjutant's Report - Adjutant Dave Watson
- Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Ken Parsons
- WCWRT - Compatriot Bill Miller

## Book Raffle

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

## Benediction

Given by Chaplain George Corbett

## Camp Officers



Commander	Jeff Toalson <a href="mailto:troon24@cox.net">troon24@cox.net</a>
Adjutant	Dave Watson <a href="mailto:djwatson61@cox.net">djwatson61@cox.net</a>
Treasurer	Ken Parsons <a href="mailto:kparsons320@gmail.com">kparsons320@gmail.com</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>
Chaplain	George Corbett <a href="mailto:georgecorbett@cox.net">georgecorbett@cox.net</a>
Aide de Camp	Jon Holland <a href="mailto:jonholland79@gmail.com">jonholland79@gmail.com</a>
Archivist/Editor	Paul Huelskamp <a href="mailto:jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com">jccpicketlinesdistribution@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>

## Ft. Magruder Work Detail

January 13 was a perfect day to clean up tree trash at Fort Magruder. The temperature was around 40, it was windy and stocking caps were the order of the day. However, there was not a single mosquito, wood tick or live piece of poison ivy anywhere. In 90 minutes, we had the fortifications clear of the winter wood fall and the embattlements had been cleared of vines with weed eaters. The fort is looking good.

The hardy workers are Joe Duggan, Scott Summerfield and Steve White. Not pictured is Jeff Toalson.



## Commander's Comments

It was great seeing a nice crowd for the opening meeting of 2023. We welcomed Perry Turner, David Stover and Jay Doley as new members of the Camp. Additional inductions will happen over the next couple of months.

We welcome Ron Perry as our new 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander and thank Compatriot Jerry White for our fine 2022 speakers and scheduling the start of 2023.

In February, or possibly in early March if the weather is nasty, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Cmdr. Steve White will install Southern Crosses of Honor at the graves of Private Cary Wilkinson, Co. H – James City Cavalry (Sunnyside Cemetery) and Private Francis Ward Hammond, Co. H – James City Cavalry (Olive Branch Cemetery). We will have then completed installations at Hockaday, Peach Park and Sunnyside Cemeteries. Our efforts can now be focused at Olive Branch Cemetery, for the next decade, honoring the service of our local veterans.

On January 14 we had our initial clean-up at Fort Magruder. On January 28 a short follow-up session was needed to clear the last of the tree fall debris out of the moat. Steve has scheduled noon work details at Peach Park on February 11, Cowles-Spencer on February 18, and a two or three man detail at Sunnyside at a later date. All of this will be completed before our February meeting. Everything is subject to change because of weather.

We thank Mr. Fred Taylor for a wonderful talk on *"The History of the Pont Lookout Prison Camp"* and look forward this month to Mr. Tim Smith and his talk on *"York County's Brave Men of the Civil War."*

We all serve in their memory,

Jeff

# Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

In January, we referred to the Lee tree saplings planted at Peach Park cemetery. The saplings were grown from acorns gathered from the tree that General Lee met under with his staff in June 1862, just after the Seven Days Battle of Gaines Mill and before the Battle at Savage Station. At that time, the oak tree was standing in the yard of the Fairfield Plantation house.

In September 2002, a large portion of the tree broke away from the trunk and fell to the ground. The following year, Hurricane Isabel swept through the area and the rest of the tree fell. The Virginia Department of Forestry estimated the tree to be four hundred years old!

In 2002, after the first section of the tree fell, several bushels of acorns were gathered by volunteers from the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities and taken to the Forestry Nursery in Providence Forge. Ultimately, they were delivered to the State Forestry Nursery in Augusta County where they were planted and allowed to grow for a year.

Within a few years, the saplings were available for sale and our camp was fortunately able to purchase three trees. The saplings came with a certificate of authenticity certifying that they came from the Robert E. Lee tree. The tree planted near the road did not survive. The other two trees marking the rear corners of the cemetery are growing nicely.

The cemetery at Sunnyside is located along Forge Road about a mile east of Peach Park. Originally the home of the Bush family in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, it was purchased by Cyrus Adolphus Branch in 1858, and continued to be owned by his descendants until recent times. The current owners have granted our camp permission to maintain the cemetery.

There are five Confederate veterans buried at Sunnyside. Cyrus A. Branch, owner of the farm during the war years, served briefly in the James City Artillery as a 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant. He resigned in November 1861, and served as a delegate to the Virginia Senate in Richmond for the remainder of the war. He died on the road to New Kent Courthouse in 1874, and was buried at Sunnyside.

Two of Branch's brothers-in-law, William Wilkinson and Cary Wilkinson [Jr.] also served in the James City Artillery. William enlisted on June 15, 1863, and Cary enlisted on February 2, 1864. They were both present on all rolls throughout 1864. William Wilkinson was buried at the James City Chapel Cemetery and Cary Wilkinson was buried at Sunnyside.

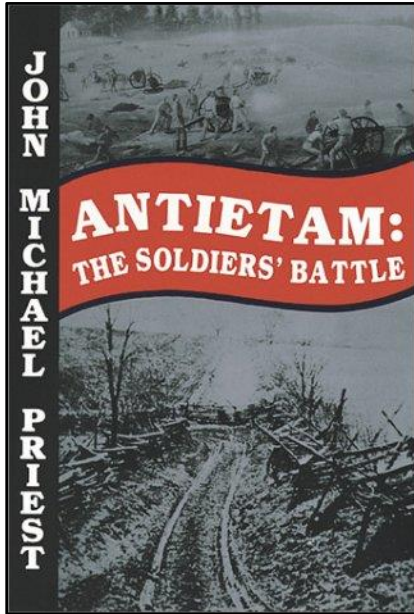
George Whitfield Bacon served first in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry and later in the 5<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry throughout the war. He was married four times. His first wife was a granddaughter of the original Bush family, and after her untimely death, she was buried at Sunnyside. Bacon was buried there beside her even though he subsequently had three other wives.

Edmond Macon Ware enlisted in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry in 1861, and transferred to Company H, 5<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry in May 1862. He was wounded twice and taken prisoner twice. As soon as the war ended, he married Trittie Bush, and they lived out their lives at Windsor at the western end of Forge Road. Remembering that the cemetery at Sunnyside was originally the Bush family cemetery, both Edmond and Trittie were buried there.

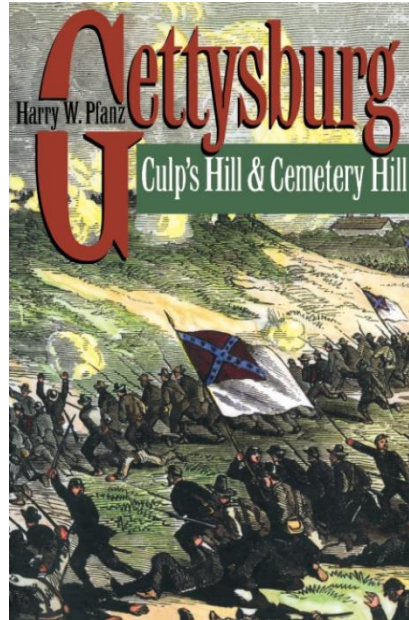
Edmond Ware's brother-in-law, Joseph R. Bush, also served in Company H, 5<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry. He enlisted at Orange Courthouse in November 1863, was captured in August 1864, and held prisoner until his release in June 1865. He, too, is buried at Sunnyside. The Ware family has erected a large Bush family stone honoring all of the known Bush burials at Sunnyside.

It is our honor to care for these Confederate veterans' graves.

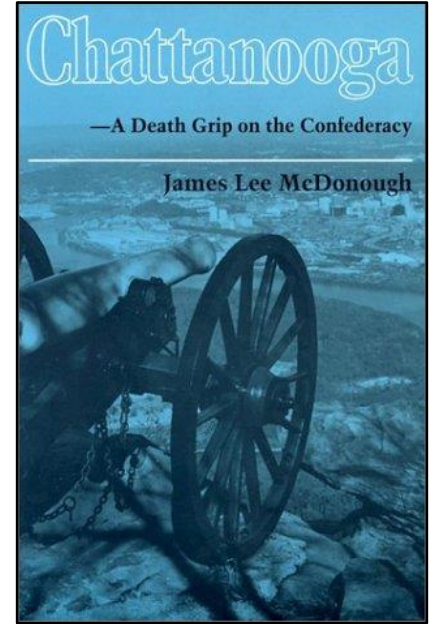
# Raffle on Three Major WBTS Battles



“Antietam: The Soldiers' Battle”  
by John Michael Priest

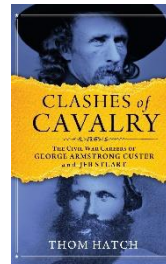


“Gettysburg--Culp's Hill and Cemetery Hill”  
by Harry W. Pfanz



“Chattanooga: A Death Grip on the Confederacy”  
by James Lee McDonough

Bonus Book:  
“Clashes of Cavalry”  
by Thom Hatch



# Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwrt.org>

On February 28th, 2023 - John Fox  
will present:

“Fort Gregg – The Confederate Alamo”