



# James City Cavalry Picket Lines



July 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, July 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.

## July Guest Speaker

Sam Winkler  
Living Historian

*“President  
Jefferson Davis  
Reminisces”*



We will enjoy a first-person portrayal of President Davis and First Lady Varina. President Davis will discuss his life events from birth to writing his memoir “The Rise and Fall of the Confederacy”.

A living historian who resides in Roanoke, Virginia, Sam has been doing living history for more than 20 years. His favorite portrayal is President Jefferson Davis, a man he greatly admires. He also portrays Wilson Hix, the owner of Cloverhill Tavern at Appomattox Court House, and several Catholic chaplains from the Civil War. For fun he portrays a Ragin Cajun snake oil salesman. He was presented the Judah P. Benjamin award for education in 2023. Recently he was presented the Jefferson Davis Gold Medal by the UDC for his portrayal of President Jefferson Davis.

# Camp Journal for Last Muster

## Meeting:

Held June 26th at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,  
James City County, Va., **32** 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 Quartermaster George Bridewell

## Program:

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

**Mrs. Melody Bage**

Melody Bage had our full attention as she gave a marvelous presentation on the lives of the wives of Generals Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, J. E. B. Stuart and James Longstreet. We learned many marvelous tidbits and were once again reminded how fragile life was in the mid-1800's with measles, smallpox, scarlet fever, typhoid fever and the ever-present dangers of childbirth for both the baby and the mother. There was significant personal tragedy, especially for Jackson and Longstreet.



1<sup>st</sup> Lt Cmdr. Perry & Mrs. Bage

## Committee Reports and Announcements:

- Cemetery Report - 2nd Lt. Commander Steve White
- Adjutant's Report – Chief of Staff Parsons reported 30+ dues payments received . . . 4 with errors that are being corrected. July 31 is deadline without penalty. If you did not get a statement, contact Dave Watson ASAP
- Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Jon Holland
- Cmdr. Comments - Cmdr. Jeff Toalson
- Division Cmdr. Comments - Div. Commander Kenny Bage reported that the 2025 Virginia Reunion will be in Winchester, all camps need to recruit new members, 2 schools in the Shenandoah Valley were re-named to their old Confederate names, and a new Confederate statue of General W. E. Stark went up in Hollywood Cemetery.
- UDC Report - Bonnie Mittelman of the Williamsburg UDC thanked us for our \$500 donation to their Fort Magruder fund and for all the help our Camp provides at Fort Magruder and on other projects.

## Book Raffle

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

## Benediction

Given by Sr. Chaplain George Corbett



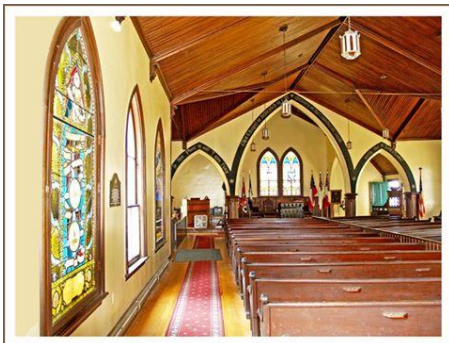
## Camp Officers

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	Jon Holland <a href="mailto:jonholland79@gmail.com">jonholland79@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>
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>

## June Donations

Pelham Chapel - The Camp sent a \$100 donation to the Pelham Chapel, in Richmond, to support their general maintenance fund.

Williamsburg Chapter 637 of the U.D.C. - The Camp sent a \$500 donation to Chapter 637 to help support their maintenance of Fort Magruder.



Interior of the Pelham Chapel

## Commander's Comments

In mid-July, 1861, Private Richard Watkins, who was serving as the quartermaster for Co. K of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry, was sent to Richmond to pick up supplies. He was issued a wagon, two horses and chose Private Charles Redd to accompany him on the trip from Ashland. In a July 21<sup>st</sup> letter to his wife, Mary, he wrote, *Charley and I went to the Fair Grounds [on departing Richmond] Thursday evening to witness the dress parade and were standing quietly looking on at a parcel of Texians engaged in erecting their tents, when a gentleman apparently of middle age dressed in a plain suit of grey, rode up on a fine gray horse. He appeared to be a little taller than I am and quite spare. . . . a large, jovial fellow with the Texians suddenly quit his work and extending his hand said, "How are you this evening President Davis?" . . . "Thank you I am well Wigfall & have come to see what arms your men are needing." . . . The President appeared care worn and pale. The contrast between the appearance of the two men is quite as striking as that between their characters.*

This was the only time that Richard Watkins would see the President of the Confederacy during the war.

At our July meeting we will be joined by President Jefferson Davis and his wife Varina. They will tell us stories of what happened in those tumultuous years. I have heard the presentation twice and it will be another outstanding 2024 program at our James City Cavalry meetings.

**ONLY 42 SEATS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SUPPER. IT WILL BE FIRST COME, FIRST RESERVED. Contact your call team member or email me at [troon24@cox.net](mailto:troon24@cox.net). Use a subject line of 'J. Davis Reservation.' Some non-dining seats can be accommodated beyond the 42.**

If the President appeared pale and care worn in 1861, can you imagine his health and physical condition as the war stretched onward? How was he strong enough to survive the damp, cold conditions while imprisoned at Fort Monroe? **Join us as our only President relates key stories of his life.**

Jeff Toalson

*(Send Me A Pair of Old Boots & Kiss My Little Girls – The Civil War Letters of Richard & Mary Watkins 1861-1865, J. Toalson, Bloomington, 2010, by date.)*

# Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

In the June edition of *Picket Lines*, we looked at some of the Wade children's experiences during the summer of 1861. There is not a lot written by them about the rest of 1861 and early 1862, but some entries do give a little insight into life on the peninsula during those months.

Continuing from the June article, John Christopher Wade went on to say that "the Fifteenth Virginia Regiment, the Second Louisiana and the Richmond Howitzers were camped on our farm (below Grafton near Harwood's Mill). Ship Point about eight miles from us was fortified by the Colonel of the Fourteenth Louisiana Regiment. They built bomb proofs and heavy fortifications. Soldiers were here from many Southern states, La., Ga., and Ala. Most of them very young men."

John's sister, Sarah Eliza Wade, also wrote about the numerous troops on the peninsula during the first year of the war. "First came the Southern soldiers. The Richmond Howitzers were encamped on the fields of my father's farm. There was a good deal of sickness among the soldiers. While encamped there, some were brought to the house to be cared for. One who was brought there was Major J. Thompson Brown. He was there for a long while until he could be moved to his home in Richmond. After going to his home, he sent my mother (Ann Cary Curtis Wade) a large family Bible with a beautifully written inscription in it: 'In remembrance of the kindness of a stranger to a sick soldier; Luke 10:33'.

There was also a Mrs. Salmon who stayed at our home for a few days. She was from Richmond. Her son was sick in camp down there. She took him home with her. After going home, she sent my mother a pair of vases as a token of appreciation.

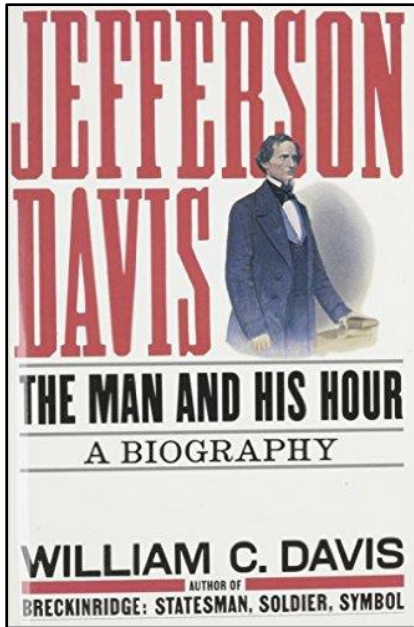
Just beyond our home, were the Georgians, 'Cobbs Legion'. They had winter quarters; they built log houses, laid off streets & had a regular little town. Lt. Archer from the 'Legion' came to see if my mother would take his wife there to board. My mother hesitated as she already had her home filled with a large family. But he insisted so much, said she would be willing to put up with any accommodations to be near him. So we crowded in a little and made room for her. She came & made herself so agreeable and congenial that we formed a great attachment to her.

Then she wanted to go back home for a little visit. She asked mother to let Mrs. Tweedy (wife of Lt. Tweedy) have her room while she was gone. Then when she came back, she prevailed on mother to put a bed in the parlor & let her take that for her room. So they were both there with us like one big family."

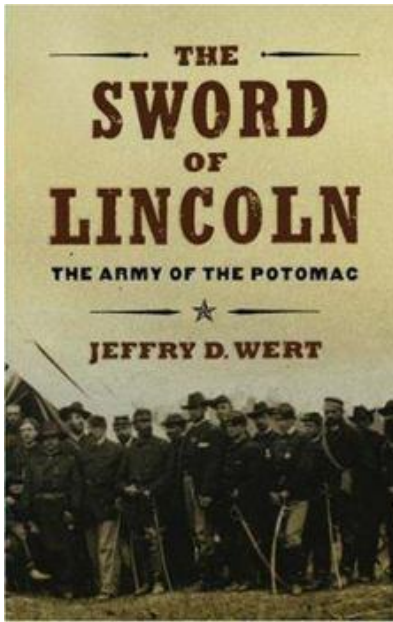
The population on the peninsula swelled almost beyond sustainable capacity as troops gathered and wintered over here. The citizens were constantly called upon to provide food, shelter and health care for the men and grain and forage for the horses and mules of the Confederacy. Before the battles began in earnest in the spring of 1862, many wives did travel to be with their husbands. As witnessed in the Wade household, there was always room for one more wife to be nearby and keep the spirits of her soldier lifted.

Winter quarters for the troops were a major undertaking in the fall of 1861. While we do not have specifics on the log houses built by Cobbs Legion, we do have knowledge of some log houses built in Warwick County. Sgt. John F. Charlton, Co. F, 5<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry, kept diaries throughout the war years. His unit was in and out of Warwick County for much of 1861. As early as October 16, Charlton began to record the building progress of his log cabin for winter quarters: "Somers & our log cabin mess to have in our lumber, 33 logs." October 24: "Busy all day building our log house." October 28: "Building log house." November 3, 5, 7: "Work on house..." November 11: "Help on house..." November 13: "very cold, feel unwell, but walked around to see houses." November 17: "My Cold worse, feel bad. Did not work on house. 500 shingles came." November 19: "Work on house, finish daubing." November 20: "House finished all but bunks." November 23: "Moved into our house." November 25: "...finished letters, also [sent] drawing of exterior of log cabin. Chink the eaves of our house to keep out the wind." And thus, winter quarters were thrown up all over the peninsula.

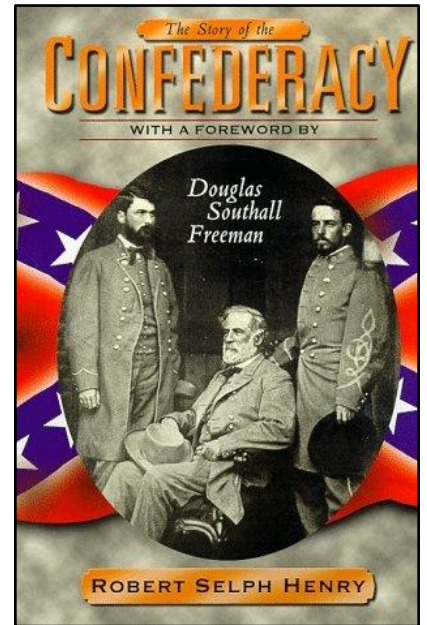
# July Book Raffle



“Jefferson Davis - The Man and His Hour, A Biography”  
by William C. Davis



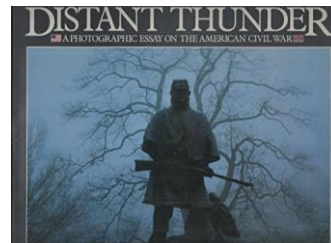
“The Sword of Lincoln - The Army of the Potomac”  
by Jeffery D. Wert



“The Story of the Confederacy”  
by Robert Selph Henry, forward by Douglas Southall Freeman

**Bonus Book:**

“Distant Thunder - A Photographic Essay on the American Civil War”  
By Brian C. Pohanka



## Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwr.org>

The Round Table will be on leave until September.