



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



October 2023 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, October 25th, 2023, 6:30 pm
Colonial Heritage Club House
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 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.

October Guest Speaker

Mr. Henry
Kidd

“Big Bang & Bloodbath in the Pit”



Maj. General William Mahone

At our October meeting you will gain a deeper understanding of the Battle of the Crater and how it impacted both armies.

SCV Compatriot Henry Kidd of Colonial Heights is an authority and lecturer on the WBTS, as well as a nationally recognized historical artist. He is proud to have designed the Confederate Medal of Honor. His artworks hang in many prestigious institutions and museums including West Point, the Mariners Museum, and the Va. Historical Society. Henry is the Past Commander of both the Army of Northern Virginia and the Virginia Division. He has portrayed the men in his art as a reenactor for the 12th Va. Inf. and is an authority on the Battle of the Crater and the Battle of Petersburg. He has appeared on TV and radio talk shows on topics that relate to the WBTS and why people honor their Confederate ancestors, and to end prejudices against people with Confederate ancestry. Henry strives to never let the men and women who sacrificed everything for this country be forgotten, whether they are from the WBTS or today's military.

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held September 27th at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,
James City County, Va., **33** Attendees

Welcome given by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson

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

Blessing:

Given by Chaplain George Corbett

Break for Supper

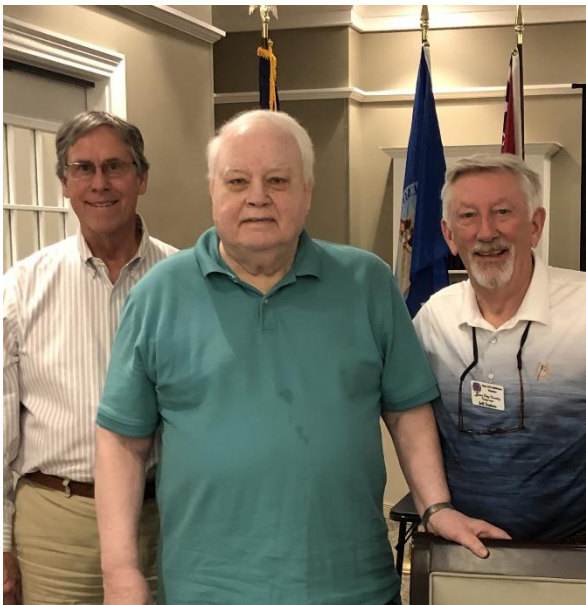
The SCV Charge read by Quartermaster George Bridewell

Program:

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

Mr. Butch Barringer

who presented "*The Tom Munford – Tom Rosser Feud*". Butch spoke on the animosity and running feud between Tom Rosser and Thomas Munford that spanned most of the war and continued until Rosser preceded Munford in death.



Mr. Butch Barringer (C) is welcomed by 1st Lt. Cmdr. Ron Perry (L) and Cmdr. Jeff Toalson (R).

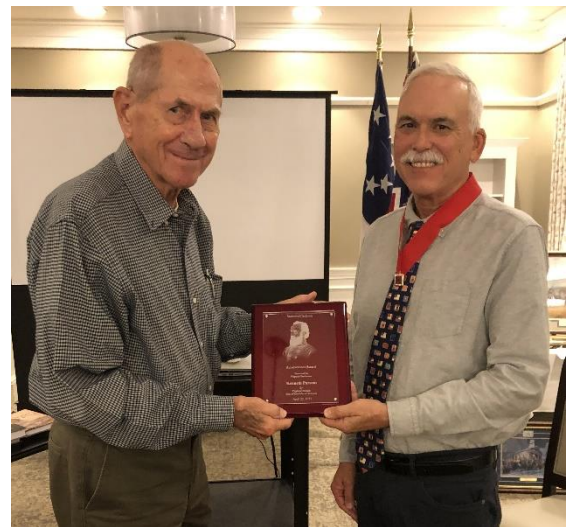
Committee Reports and Announcements:

Old & New Business

- Cemetery Report - 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Steve White
- Adjutant's Report – Adj. Dave Watson
 - Dues have been received from 60 members, 6 short of last year at this point.
- Chief of Staff's Report – Chief of Staff Ken Parsons
 - The Camp is sending \$400 to the Oakwood Restoration Committee and several members also added monies to help support the shortfall in monies to support the mowing and maintenance.
- Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Denny Griggs
- Comments - Cmdr. Jeff Toalson

Stonewall Jackson Award

This is second highest award which can be presented to a member of the Virginia Division of the S.C.V. It recognizes outstanding service to the Division for many years and a portion of that service is normally as a Division Officer. Ken Parsons has served as the Virginia Division Heritage Defense Officer and for many years has served in a supporting role to the current Heritage Defense Officer. He is always in the forefront leading efforts for his Camp, Brigade and Division in the preservation of cemeteries, monuments and the memory of our ancestors. Ken serves in the James City Cavalry and the S.C.V. to "*honor the memory of my ancestors.*" It really is that simple and should be that simple for all of us.



Chief of Staff Parsons and Division Commander Griffin

Book Raffle

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

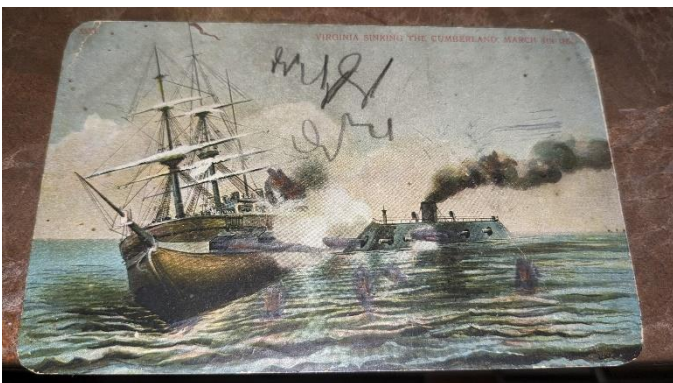
Benediction

Given by Chaplain George Corbett

Camp Officers

Commander	Jeff Toalson troon24@cox.net
1st Lt. Commander	Ron Perry perryra@gmail.com
2nd Lt. Commander	Steve White garrettsgrocery@gmail.com
Adjutant	Dave Watson djwatson61@cox.net
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Treasurer	Denny Griggs dennisgriggs414@gmail.com
Chaplain	George Corbett georgecorbett@cox.net
Aide de Camp	Jon Holland jonholland79@gmail.com
Quartermaster	George Bridewell gbridewell@aol.com
Historian	Fred Boelt fwb@widomaker.com
Webmaster	Don Woolridge dsw1229@gmail.com
Archivist/Editor	Paul Huelskamp jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com

Virginia Ramming Cumberland



On March 8, 1862, the C.S. Ironclad Virginia rammed the U.S.S. Cumberland in her starboard side. The only gun on the Virginia that could be brought to bear as she attacked and rammed was the bow gun. Those are the two major items of erroneous artistic license taken in the design on the postcard. There are others. It is still a great tidbit of history. This postcard was sent to Hal Hardaway's grandmother in 1907.

Commander's Comments

I cannot believe Mr. Henry Kidd has not visited us for a presentation since 2009. That hardly seems possible. Henry is planning on bringing some of his paintings relating to the 'Battle of the Crater' and copies of his historical novel. I have a copy of his book and it is well worth the read.

There are articles enclosed on the passing of Compatriot Bill Harrison, Camp 2095's day at the State Fair, donations to help the Oakwood Restoration Committee with a shortfall in funds and Chief of Staff Ken Parson earning the well-deserved presentation of the Stonewall Jackson award.

The year is drawing toward a close. Compatriot Tom Campbell will be our speaker in November and will tell stories from *The Red Rebel of San Giovanni*. A first person history of the war in central Italy during WW-2 is the focus. Remember our November meeting is one week early on Wednesday the 15th and there will be no camp meeting in December.

We already have two folks that have advised they want to attend the Sam Davis Youth Camp in 2024. Our 2023 attendee thinks she may have a friend who would also like to attend. That would be three!

It really is not a secret. We have the finest Newsletter and the best Web-site of all the Camps in the Virginia Division. We are indebted to Paul Huelskamp our editor and Don Woolridge our web wizard for their fine work.

See you at the October meeting.

Jeff

Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

For the last two months, this column has been devoted to Richardson men from James City County who served in the Confederate army. There are more. John C. Richardson, born about 1798, owned land that adjoined "Alabama," the Whitaker farm at the northwest corner of present day Croaker and Ware Creek Roads. He had at least two sons and four daughters.

Eldridge A. Richardson was born about 1835. In 1850, he was a fifteen-year-old youth living on his father's farm. In 1860, now twenty-five years old, Eldridge was a merchant living in James City County in the household of William Deal who was in the oystering business. Eldridge did own personal property at this time.

Eldridge Richardson enrolled at Burnt Ordinary in Company H, 32nd Virginia Infantry, on May 16, 1861, and mustered in, in Williamsburg. He was present on their rolls through August of that year and, after that, he was present on all rolls of the James City Artillery through December 1864. He deserted and entered Federal lines at Yorktown and took the oath on January 20, 1865. He was described as 5 feet, 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches tall, dark complexion, black hair, hazel eyes, and a resident of James City County at that time.

By 1870, Eldridge Richardson had married Martha (maiden name unknown) and his occupation was listed as "waterman." In 1880, this couple was still living in the Stonehouse district of James City County. They had four daughters and one son by this time, and Eldridge was now listed as a "sailor." Ultimately, Eldridge and Martha had twelve children with only five surviving in 1900. Eldridge died sometime between the 1880 and 1900 censuses. Martha Richardson and three of their daughters were living in Newport News in 1900. Eldridge's burial place is another mystery.

Eldridge Richardson's younger brother, Harman E. Richardson, was born about 1840 and was listed in his father, John C. Richardson's household in 1850 and 1860. He enrolled at Burnt Ordinary and mustered into Company H, 32nd Virginia Infantry, as a private, in Williamsburg on May 16, 1861. He was present on the July and August rolls. He remained with this company and became its bugler when it transferred to become the James City Artillery in the fall of 1861. He was present on all rolls through October 1863. He transferred to Young's Battery (Company C) on December 26, 1863.

Harman Richardson was taken prisoner on June 15, 1864, at Petersburg, Virginia, and he was sent to Elmira, New York on July 28th. He died as a prisoner of war on November 26, 1864, of typhoid pneumonia and was buried in grave #567, section 9, Woodlawn Cemetery, Elmira, New York.

Over the years we have written about other Richardson men who stepped forward for the Confederate cause. And several Richardson women married men who served. Among these men, there were the Lawson, Pitts and Moore veterans which we have chronicled earlier. All of our Gravesite articles are archived on our website going back to 2008.

Fair Winds and Following Seas

We bid farewell to William Mortimer Harrison, Jr.: A founding member of the James City Cavalry, a 'Real' Grandson, a good friend and a sailor who loved to be at the helm of *The Sanderling* with the wind in his sails and the salt-spray in his face.



WILLIAM MORTIMER HARRISON, JR.

December 20, 1921 – September 11, 2023
REAL CONFEDERATE GRANDSON

Bill Harrison grew up exploring the woods and waterways of Hampton Roads. While enrolled in Newport News High School, he played football and wrote a winning essay that entitled him to a six-week trip to the Scandinavian countries and also another trip to the New York World's Fair in 1939. After graduating in 1941, Bill entered The College of William and Mary. When World War II began, he transferred to Duke University to enroll in the Navy College Training Program and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corp. He served honorably in both World War II and the Korean Conflict, returned to William and Mary, and completed his degree in Political Science.

Bill Harrison married Betty Nicholson in 1950, and they lived in Blacksburg, Virginia while Bill earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Tech. They moved first to Richmond, where Bill began his career with Seaboard Air Line Railroad, and then to Jacksonville, Florida where they remained for 35 years until his retirement. Bill was instrumental in developing the first environmental program for CSX railroad.

Bill was a longtime avid sailor. After retirement, Bill and Betty moved to a home on the Chickahominy River with their sailboat, the *Sanderling*, docked at water's edge, ready to enjoy sunsets on the local waterways. Bill became a charter member (November 18, 2005) of our James City Cavalry Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans. He had the special distinction of being a *real* Confederate grandson, meaning that he was the first son of the first son of a soldier who actually served in the Confederate Army! Considering that the war ended 158 years ago, this is remarkable.

Bill's grandfather, Thomas Randolph Harrison, the oldest son of William Mortimer Harrison and his wife, Caroline Rivers Lambert, was born in Richmond on January 10, 1842. He was a student at The College of William and Mary from 1858 to 1860. At Yorktown, on July 14, 1861, he enlisted as a private in the 2nd Company, Richmond Howitzers. This company became Company K, 1st Regiment, Virginia Artillery. On October 3, 1862, Harrison transferred as a private to Company F, 18th Virginia Infantry. From then through December 1864, he served as a courier at General Pickett's headquarters.

After the war, Thomas Harrison settled into farming in Charles City County. On June 20, 1885, he married Gertrude R. Strachan and they had two children, Emily Randolph, born in 1889, and William Mortimer born in 1892 (Bill's father). Thomas Harrison died in 1920, and was interred at Westover Church in Charles City County.

We are thankful that our camp could share the life of this remarkable man, Bill Harrison. We extend our sincere sympathy to Bill's wife, Betty, and to his daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Darr Barshis. It has been a great privilege to know a *Real Confederate Grandson!*

At the State Fair on Sept. 29th

(Contributed by Commander Jeff Toalson)

I was joined by Tom Campbell, Derick Hayman, Joseph Wert and Perry Turner at the SCV booth on Friday the 29th. We met and visited with many nice people, solicited some potential new members, were given \$82 in donations, sold a nice variety of baseball caps, flags, bumper stickers, Christmas ornaments & hat pins for an additional \$815 while enjoying the fine cuisine for which State Fairs are renowned. Pictured are Tom, Derick, Perry and me. Joseph is missing. He may have taken a break to scout out the best funnel cakes.



Tom, Derick, Perry and Jeff at the State Fair

Silent Auction of Mort Kunstler Art

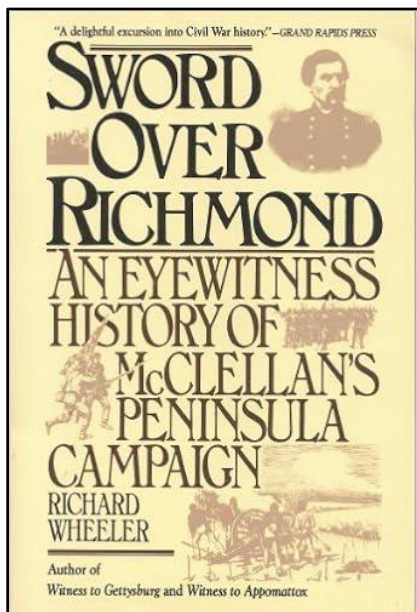
Compatriot Jim Swords donated two framed works by Mort Kunstler for the Camp to use in a Silent Auction. The major work was titled 'June 12, 1862 - The Ride Around McClellan'. The second work was General Lee on Traveler in front of a church in the winter snow. The two received bids totaling \$240 which joined the receipts from our monthly book raffles. Our speaker expenses are well in the black and there will be monies to transfer to the General Fund in 2024. Thanks to Derick Hayman and George Corbett for their winning bids.



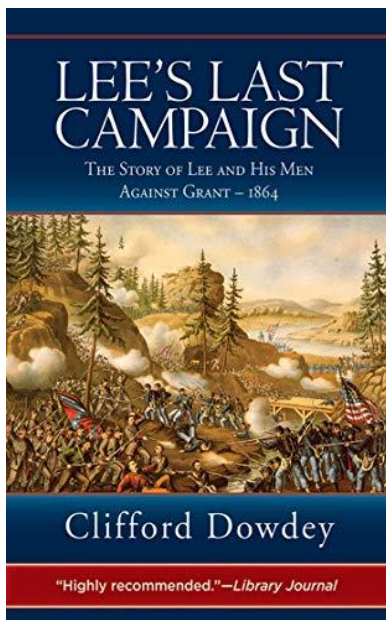
Oakwood Restoration Funding

Oakwood Cemetery was created early in the WBTS to accommodate the dead from the battles around Richmond including Seven Pines, Mechanicsville, Gaines' Mill, Savage's Station, White Oak Swamp, Frayser's Farm (Glendale) and Malvern Hill. Following September 1, 1862, most of the dead would come from Chimborazo and the other hospitals on the eastern side of Richmond. Some 16,128 Confederate dead are interred at Oakwood. Costs of landscaping alone are daunting and a plea was sent out by the Oakwood SCV Committee to help with a shortfall of some \$18,000. After our September meeting we sent a check for \$630 of which \$400 was from the Cavalry treasury. Additionally, some \$700 has been forwarded by other Cavalry members. Thanks to all of you for your quick response to this need.

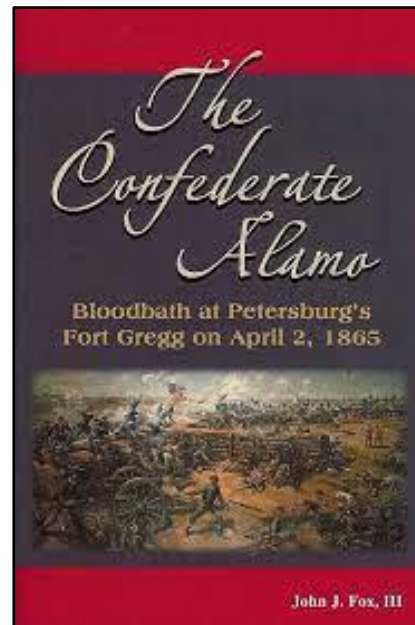
October Book Raffle



"Sword over Richmond: An Eyewitness History of McClellan's Peninsula Campaign"
by Richard Wheeler

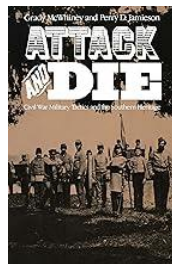


Lee's Last Campaign"
By Clifford Dowdey



"The Confederate Alamo"
by John J. Fox III

Bonus Book:
"Attack and Die"
By Grady McWhiney and
Perry D. Jamieson



Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwr.org>

**On October 24th, 2023 - Dr. Jonathan White
will present:**

**"Lincoln Destroys the Slave Trade: The Extraordinary
Unknown Story of Appleton Oaksmith"**