



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



September 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, September 27th, 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.

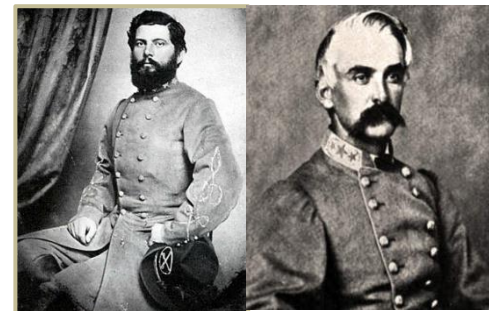
JCC Web Site: <http://www.jamescitycavalry.org>

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.

September Guest Speaker

Butch Barringer

NASA Project Manager



Rosser

Munford

“The Great Thomas Rosser – Thomas Munford Feud”

After graduating from Virginia Tech, Butch worked at NASA for 37 years as a mechanical engineer and project manager. His accomplishments included managing projects refurbishing and making improvements to the large cryogenic wind tunnel at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia.

His interests these days include researching and writing biographies of Confederate cavalry commanders, including *Fighting for General Lee: General Rufus Barringer and The North Carolina Cavalry Brigade* which won the Douglas Southall Freeman best Southern history book award of 2016.

See page 3 for a little on Col. Rosser's hat.

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held August 23rd at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House, James City County, Va., 29 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. Larry Floyd

Larry presented *"The Conversion of Percussion WBTS Weapons to Cartridge Weapons"*, a highly informative discussion on the conversion of small arms frequently used during the war.

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Comments by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson

Old & New Business

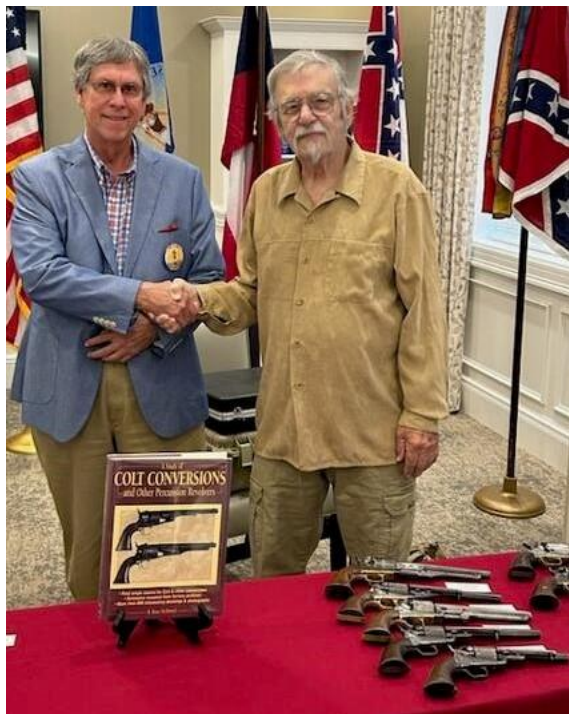
- Cemetery Report - 2nd Lt. Commander Steve White
- Adjutant's Report - Adjutant Dave Watson
- Chief of Staff Report - Chief of Staff Ken Parsons
- Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Denny Griggs

Book Raffle

Proceeds of \$52 were donated to the Camp Treasury for the raffle of the four donations.

Benediction

Given by Chaplain George Corbett



1st Lt. Cmdr. Perry and Mr. Floyd



Jeff and Larry confusing Ron

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
Chief of Staff	Ken Parsons kparsons320@gmail.com
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

Col. Tom Rosser's Hat

Col. Tom Rosser commanded the 5th Virginia Cavalry in the early part of the war. The James City Cavalry was Co. H of the 5th Virginia Cavalry. They served under Rosser in the 5th and later when he was promoted to General. This hat was worn by Tom when he commanded the 5th Virginia Cavalry. From the collection of Jim Flanagan shown in a talk in March, 2015.



Commander's Comments

Hopefully by the time this issue comes off the press we have a full slate of workers to man the booth at the State Fair. As I write, we still need three Cavalrymen to volunteer for a 6-hour shift. The date is Friday, September 29. The State Fair is up by Kings Dominion, our booth is inside in air conditioned comfort, and there are chairs if you need to sit down to rest. There is indoor plumbing and being the State Fair there is more cotton candy than any adult should even consider eating.

Butch Barringer is joining us to speak on his favorite subject which is Confederate cavalry officers. He has written books on General Barringer, General Rosser and Colonel Munford. He has a book being published this year on General Wickham. We will learn a great deal about Rosser and Munford at our September meeting.

Henry Kidd is booked to join us in October and his topic will be the "Battle of the Crater." Henry will bring along a selection of his paintings that will help illustrate various moments in the battle. This should be a very interesting and educational talk.

The year is winding down. Our November meeting is one week early on November 15 to avoid conflicts with Thanksgiving and that will conclude our 2023 calendar. As the weather gets cold and crisp 2nd Lt. Commander Steve White will be putting together work details at our cemeteries. Time does fly.

Jeff



Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

Continuing from last month's article, James Clifford Richardson, the youngest son of Stanhope and Elizabeth Richardson, was born in James City County on February 12, 1838. Little is known of his childhood other than his father was a large landowner. In 1860, James was living with his parents and he was listed as a carpenter.

James C. Richardson enlisted in Company H, 32nd Virginia Infantry in Williamsburg on May 16, 1861, the same day that his older brother, Lucian, enlisted. He served as a corporal with this company which later that summer became Company B, 1st Virginia Artillery (James City Artillery). James was promoted to 2nd Sergeant on January 7, 1862, the same date that his brother Lucian was also promoted to Company Captain. James was present on all rosters through December 31, 1864, and was issued clothing in October of that year. While his records ended there, it is very probable that he served until the end of the war.

James Richardson returned to James City County and on December 9, 1869, he married Courtney Cornelia Shields (1851-1920), daughter of Thomas and Octavia Shields of James City County. The wedding was performed at Aspin Grove by Rev. Henley Lightfoot Taylor, of Olive Branch Church. In 1870, the newly-weds were living with Stanhope Richardson and James was again listed as a carpenter.

James and Courtney Richardson had ten children including one set of twins. Five of these children died in childhood. In 1880, the family was living on Stanhope's farm with James as head of household, farming. His father, now seventy-eight years old was living with the family.

James Clifford Richardson died on February 8, 1897, and was buried in James City County. While there is no gravestone for him and he is not included in the list of probable burials in the Richardson Family Cemetery on Riverview Road, it is possible that he was interred there.

While researching Stanhope Richardson's family, it became increasingly obvious that he had a third son. Oliver Armistead Richardson was born on September 7, 1829. The early censuses list only the head of household by name and all other persons living in that household are listed by gender and age brackets. In the 1830 census, there was a male under five years old in Stanhope's household. In 1850, Oliver Richardson, age 21, a carpenter, was living in Norfolk in the household of Abner Blanks, also a carpenter.

Eventually, Oliver A. Richardson's family Bible was located. He married Arminta Diggs Farthing, daughter of James and Susan Farthing of James City County, on January 28, 1857. They were also married by Rev. Taylor of Olive Branch Church. Oliver's occupation was listed as "house carpenter" in the marriage register.

In 1860, the couple and their first daughter, Lucy Armistead Richardson, were living in Norfolk and Oliver's trade was listed as "ship joiner." Oliver and Arminta had two more daughters born in the 1860s.

Oliver Richardson's service record is scant at best. He is listed as serving in Company H, 54th Regiment, Virginia Militia. Nothing else is stated. Again, the family Bible includes this entry: "Oliver A. Richardson departed this life after suffering many years with rheumatism March 28, 1869." He predeceased his wife and three daughters who were buried in the James City Chapel Cemetery, but there does not appear to be room for his grave in that plot. Oliver may also be buried in the Richardson cemetery on Riverview Road. But since there is no mention of him in the known graves, there is probably an unknown graveyard for descendants of Stanhope Richardson somewhere in the Croaker area.

Southern Heritage Donation to the SWEM Archives

The annual Jean Keating - James City Cavalry donation to the Swem Archives at William and Mary was delivered on August 3rd. We donated four different items for 2023.

The primary donation was the Southern Cross of Honor presented to Captain John H. Thompson of the Grimes-Thompson Battery of Light Artillery. The unit was from Suffolk Virginia and was officially the Portsmouth Light Artillery. The medal was presented to Captain Thompson by the Portsmouth Chapter of the U.D.C. in June 1905. More details on Captain Thompson are available in our June 2012 issue of *Picket Lines*.

We donated two volumes of soldier's letters and recollections for the Swem Library holdings:

Lee's Last Casualty - The Life and Letters of Sgt. Robert W. Parker, Second Virginia Cavalry, edited by Catherine M. Wright, 2008, Knoxville.

1861-1865 Personal Recollections and Experiences in the Confederate Army by an "Old Johnnie", Captain John Dinkins, 1975 reprint of original, Dayton.

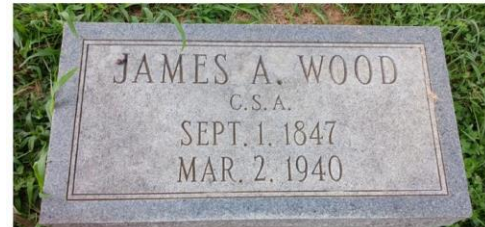
When Mrs. Billie Earnest and the Suffolk Chapter of the U.D.C. receive the printing of their book, *Shades of Gray*, we will be donating a copy for the Swem Library to place in their Genealogical Section for research.

This marks our eighth consecutive year of donations to the Swem Archives preserving Southern history. I am confident Mrs. Jean Keating would be very pleased with the work we have done honoring her wishes.

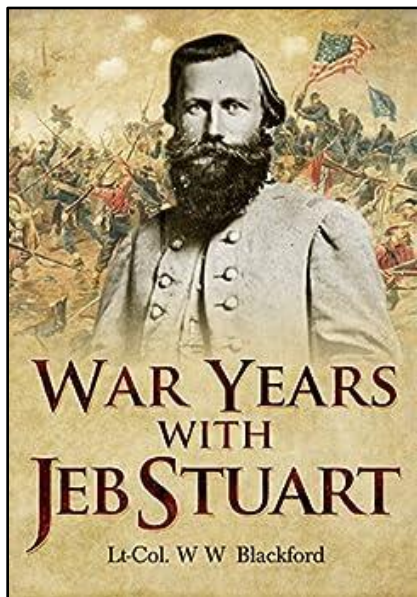
Jeff Toalson

Cleaning Headstones the Easy Way

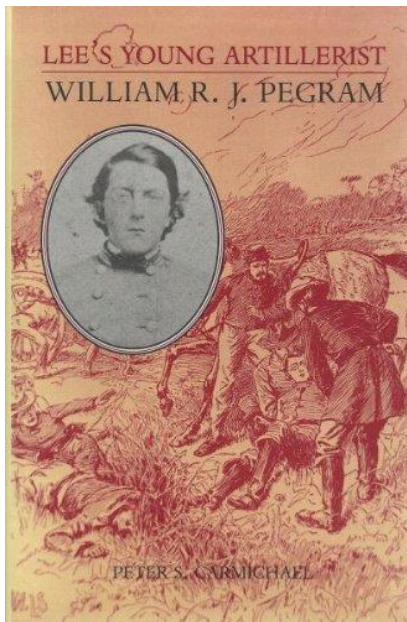
Recently a major battlefield organization hosted a stone cleaning effort at a National Battlefield Cemetery. They had groups of volunteers with little buckets, sponges and gentle scrubbers hard at work. They must have never heard of Wet and Forget. The stone of Pvt. James Wood of the 11th Virginia was sprayed in October 2021. In 30 minutes, some 50+ other stones were also sprayed . . . headstones, footstones, crosses of honor. The stone is looking as good as new in August 2023. The James City Cavalry in Williamsburg, Virginia, uses this product in all of our preservation work. It is truly WET and FORGET.



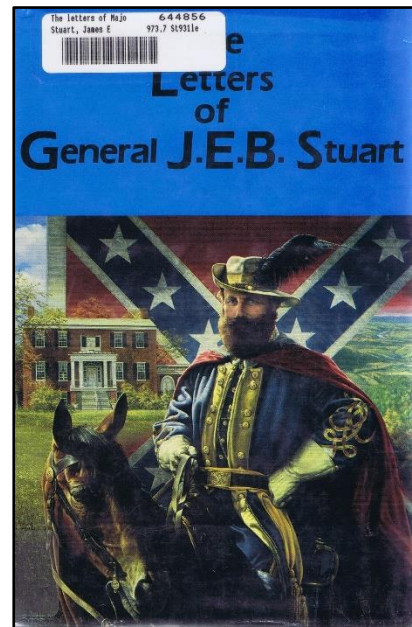
September Book Raffle



"War Years with Jeb Stuart"
by W.W. Blackford

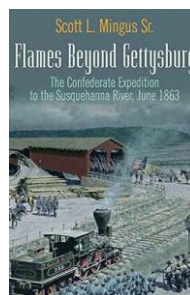


"Lee's Young Artillerist: William R.J. Pegram"
by Peter S. Carmichael



"The Letters of Major General James E.B. Stuart"
Edited by Adele Mitchell

Bonus Book:
"Flames Beyond Gettysburg"
by Scott L. Mingus

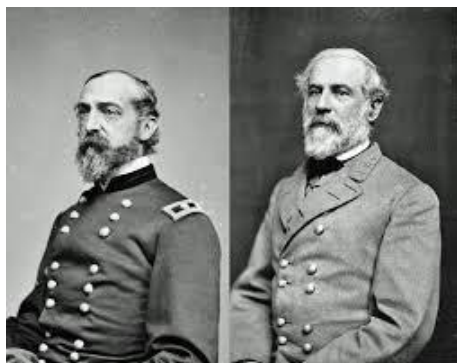


Williamsburg Civil War Round Table

<http://www.wcwr.org>

**On September 26th, 2023 - Hampton Newsome
will present:**

**"Gettysburg's Second Front: Union Opportunity and
Failure at Richmond"**



A 350 page 'first person' history related by 67 soldiers, sailors and citizens. 400 stories taken from their diaries, letters and journals. This is local history from Gloucester, Fort Monroe, Newport News, Yorktown and Williamsburg in the first 6 months of 1862.

As we went back through Williamsburg, we passed near the lunatic asylum.

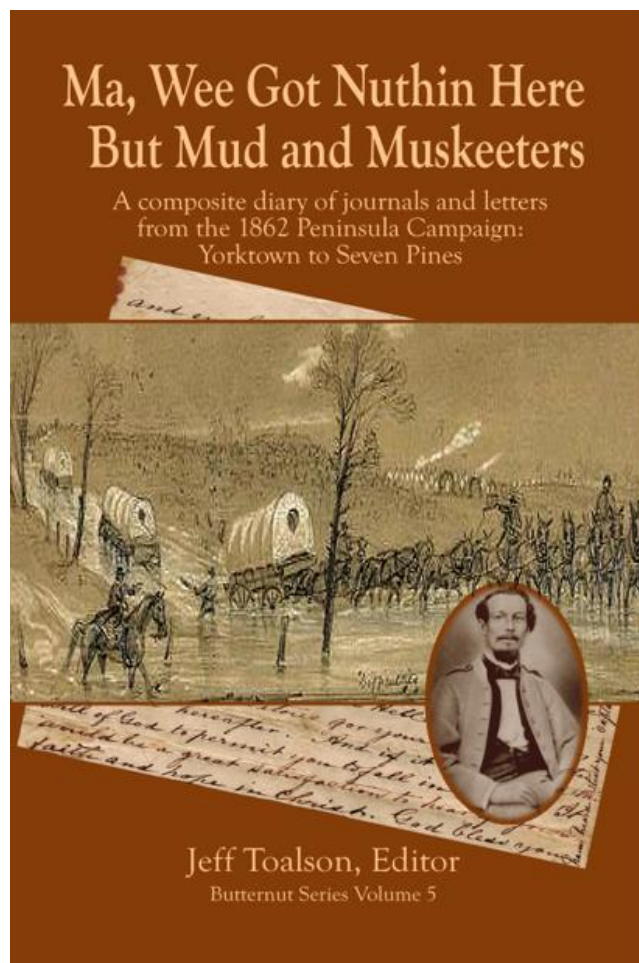
Some of the inmates were out in the yard, and some of our men called out, "We'd like to swap places with you."

"We've tried it out there and we like it better in here," some of them answered.

Pvt. William Holland – 11th Virginia Infantry

Between June, 1861 and June, 1862, the lower Virginia Peninsula from Fort Monroe to Richmond changed from a quiet backwater to the focus of the Civil War. First person historian Jeff Toalson features the voices of 67 soldiers, sailors, farmers, clerks, nurses, watermen, teachers, newspapermen and wives to tell a very personal and intimate story of their innermost thoughts as war comes to southeastern Virginia. They will relate more than 400 stories of events around Gloucester, Fort Monroe, Yorktown, Newport News, Williamsburg, Seven Pines and many lesser-known locations.

Ma, Wee Got Nuthin Here But Mud & Muskeeters is a worthy companion to Mr. Toalson's four previous award winning histories. We are reminded that to understand this terrible conflict you must read the first-person accounts of the common person. Private Holland shares the feelings of some his fellow soldiers after less than 60 days on the peninsula. They would prefer to be residents of the lunatic asylum in Williamsburg!



Ma, Wee Got Nuthin Here But Mud and Muskeeters
 ISBN 978-1-939917-42-3 * 356 pages * 6x9 softbound

Jeff Toalson
 193 Lewis Robert Lane
 Williamsburg, VA 23185
 757-220-0131 troon24@cox.net

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