



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



September 2024 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 25, 2024, 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 Speakers

Jennifer England
and
Albert P. Burckard
Jr.

***"Forts Huger
& Boykin"***



This month our program deals with two Confederate forts that are geographically close to us. Namely, Fort Huger and Fort Boykin on the Southside of the James River. Our two expert speakers are from the Isle of Wight County Museum in Smithfield. One of the presenters has noted: "Be forewarned and advised that this history lesson will be narrated mainly from the Union perspective. 'Confederate Sympathizers' are admonished to refrain from any and all disrespectful behavior toward the blue-clad guest upon pain of future retribution by the occupying authorities". Therefore, members and guests of the James City Cavalry must be respectful during this presentation!

Jennifer is a graduate of University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, Virginia. She has worked for 16 years as the Director of the Isle of Wight County Museum and Historic Resources Manager for Isle of Wight County. She was formerly employed by the City of Newport News Division of Historic Resources.

Albert was born and raised in Norfolk, VA. He graduated from Frederick Military Academy and VMI. He served a 26-year US Army infantry career posted in Vietnam, Germany, South Korea and West Point. He is a life member of Carrollton Volunteer Fire Dept. and volunteer re-enactor/presenter of local history at the Isle of Wight County Museum in Smithfield.

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held August 28th 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 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:

Captain Bob Kennedy, USN-Retired

Captain Kennedy, spoke about the submarine *H. L. Hunley*. His talk covered her development, rail transfer to Charleston, sea-trials, attack and sinking of the USS Housatonic, her loss, recovery and restoration.



Bob is welcomed to the Cavalry meeting by
1st Lt. Commander Ron Perry.

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Billy Mahone Traveling Pistol



Brigade Commander Ed Whitley (R) accepts the Billy Mahone Pistol, from Cavalry Commander Jeff Toalson to return it to the Isle of Wight Avengers on the south side of the James River. Hopefully, members of some of the Brigade Camps on the south-side will visit the Avengers and claim the trophy. The purpose of 'Billy's Pistol' is to encourage brother Camp visitation.

Old & New Business

- Election / Induction of New Quartermaster – Div. Cmdr. Bage, Cmdr. Toalson & Quartermaster Campbell
 - See page 5 for details and photos
- SCV Va. Div. Report – Div. Cmdr. Bage
- Commander's Comments - Cmdr. Jeff Toalson
- WCWRT September Program – Compatriot Miller

Book Raffle

Proceeds of \$82 were donated to the Camp Treasury for the raffle of the four donations.

Benediction

Given by Sr. 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
Chief of Staff	Ken Parsons kparsons320@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jon Holland jonholland79@gmail.com
Senior Chaplain	George Corbett georgecorbett@cox.net
Chaplain	David Stover gor_cabot1@msn.com
Quartermaster	Tom Campbell tgcampbell1781@gmail.com
Historian	Fred Boelt fwb@widomaker.com
Webmaster	Don Woolridge dsw1229@gmail.com
Archivist/Editor	Paul Huelskamp jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com

Update on Powder Magazine Remains

(Contributed by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson)

I received an email from Dr. Eric Schweickart of the Colonial Williamsburg Department of Archaeology with an update. As you recall, DNA was extracted from 4 sets of remains in early March, 2024. The samples were drawn from the bone mass behind the ear. These samples were sent to the University of Connecticut Ancient DNA Laboratory. Eric advised in his August 6th email that they have four 'good' DNA samples. The lab now has to determine how complete each DNA chain is and if the sample allows them to begin the process of a search for a familial match. Of the 16 presumed most viable candidates only 5 of them are over 24 and offer a high probability of having any children. We are really hoping that each of the candidates had 8-10 brothers and sisters and that the next two generations continued to have large families. It increases our odds. The Archaeology Team will have an update meeting in a few months. Stay tuned to the Picket Lines for updates. Dr. Schweickart will be also presenting the program that he gave the Cavalry this past February in early 2025 to the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable. The 2025 talk will be updated with everything they have learned in the past year.

Commander's Comments

August was another marvelous meeting. Captain Bob Kennedy, USN-Retired, gave a marvelous talk on the history of the submarine *H. L. Hunley* including her design, construction, deployment, sinking of the *Housatonic*, her loss at sea, recovery and restoration. He hit the tops of the waves in his fast-paced presentation, and it was a very enjoyable and educational evening for all.

You will have noticed that we have featured photos of various sites and events with several of your Compatriots in recent issues. Thomas Holland leading his dad and grandfather up to the angle on Cemetery Hill, Lang Shelton installing Southern Crosses of Honor in the western part of Virginia, Joe Wert's sons honoring Confederate veterans buried at the Yorktown National Cemetery, and this photo of Robert E. Lee's grave at Lee Chapel taken by Denny Griggs. If you are traveling somewhere and take an interesting shot send it to me for possible inclusion in an upcoming issue.



Lee Chapel,
Washington & Lee
Campus

We came up short on our reservation count at the August meeting. We had booked 37 meals and only 34 people attended and dined. We had three folks call with cancelations which had lowered our count. Other folks did not call and the Camp had to pay. We have requested that those 5 individuals each send us \$12 to cover the Camp expenditure. If you make a reservation, it is very IMPORTANT THAT YOU ATTEND. Jon has ordered a dinner for you and CHCC has set tables and prepared meals for that number. If you have to cancel you need to call Jon or me NLT Sunday evening.

Join us at the September meeting to study the history of Forts Huger and Boykin on the southside of the James River. They began as Confederate fortifications but spent most of the war as Union facilities. This should be a topic that most of us have never heard discussed. Join us to expand your knowledge on the 25th of September.

Jeff

Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

A service record located for Chidley Wade indicates that he was a private in Company B, 115th Virginia Militia, during the Civil War. The local militia units were occasionally called out, and this may have been the case for Wade's brief participation in the Peninsula Campaign. As stated in the August issue of *Picket Lines*, he seems to have picked up his rifle and followed the troops toward the battle at Bethel in June 1861. The diary [in 1862] stated that he got cut off from the army. Undoubtedly, he may have again gotten caught up in the heat of the moment and marched up the peninsula with the army, or he may have been ordered out to serve with the militia.

Continuing here from Sarah Eliza Wade's diary, "The prisoners were carried out and put in an old bush tent (about thirty of them), some Negroes also. They could hardly all of them stand. Some of the prisoners complained about the Negroes being in there with them. The Negroes were then taken out but the white men made to stay until morning. They were then taken out and marched to Yorktown. They were put in a room and a guard placed over them. The food given them was coarse, but there was a plenty of it. They were kept in Yorktown several days when they were marched out again to Clarke's farm. They thought they were to be sent away this time, but luckily they were not. They were carried back to Yorktown where they were taken out to work and dig up torpedoes, according to McClellan's famous order to 'make the prisoners dig them up at their own peril.' Pa told the lieutenant that he would not do it. The lieutenant told him he would get another officer and make him do it. So he went and got another officer and marched Pa out to dig up torpedoes. After they carried him out he would not find a single torpedo. The officers had to find them and take the caps off before he would dig at all. He dug up four and they carried him back to prison. Some of the prisoners at length protested against being put to work, as it was against the rules of war and the officers stopped putting them to work.

Just a day or two before he [Pa] came home, some of the Yankees heard that he had gotten home, and that he intended to shoot the first one of them who interfered here (Negroes' news, I suppose), so a party of scoundrels took their guns and said they intended to come here and take him out of the house and kill him. This was heard at one of the neighbor's houses who got a Yankee lieutenant who was boarding there to come and prevent it if possible. He buckled on his sword and strutted over to see what was the matter. He found Pa was not at home, and after resting himself and abusing our soldiers, he departed. Luckily, the soldiers did not find the place or I suppose we would have had quite a sanguinary contest. They took the wrong road!

In a few days Pa was paroled and allowed to return to his family once more. Oh! How delighted we were to see him once more. In a little while most of the citizens, who were not in the army, returned to their homes, much to the joys of their families.

We were soon restored to quiet again. Most of the Negroes left their masters and went to Fortress Monroe. But we were not allowed to remain long in peace – the Yankees, not satisfied with taking from the citizens their Negroes and almost every means of subsistence, were keeping them in a continual state of uneasiness and anxiety about the safety of their persons and their lives. They were constantly arresting the people, searching their homes and taking away all the arms and means of defense which they had. The Negroes went armed, and backed by the Yankee soldiers, might plunder with impunity, and these were our constant fears by day and night."

As the spring of 1862 turned to summer, deprivation became the norm for the peninsula residents. This will be further documented in the October edition of the *Picket Lines*.

Tom Campbell Installed as Quartermaster



L to R: Outgoing Quartermaster George Bridewell, Virginia Division Commander Kenny Bage, Incoming Quartermaster Tom Campbell and Camp Commander Jeff Toalson are present for Commander Kenny Bage to install Tom Campbell in his new position.



George Bridewell is congratulating Tom Campbell and it appears Tom is laughing at how happy George is to have a replacement. Commander Bage looks bemused. George has done a great job as QM for several years and Tom will do an excellent job in the slot.

Matthew's Gun Carriage

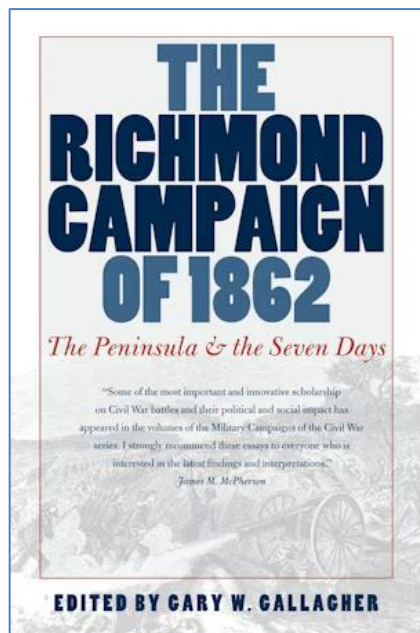
In 1850 President Zachary Taylor gave 4 cannon to V.M.I. They were named Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. As a group they were known as "The Four Apostles." V.M.I. cadets were trained in artillery tactics and principles on these four guns by Professor T. J. Jackson. With the outbreak of the WBTS these four guns formed Capt. Pendleton's Company of the Rockbridge Artillery.

This carriage was taken home postwar by Rockbridge Artillery Lt. James Davis, went to the South Carolina Civil War Museum after his passing, then when it was taken out of display a provision in the loan allowed it to be awarded in August 2021, to the National Confederate Museum in Columbia, Tennessee.

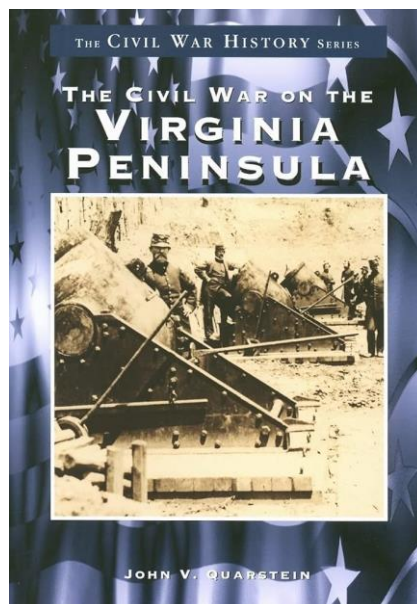


Picture and story provided by Compatriot Lang Shelton from his August 2024 visit.

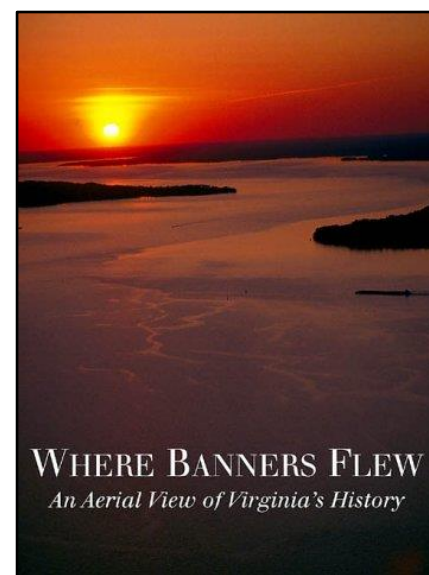
September Book Raffle



"The Richmond Campaign of 1862"
edited by Gary W. Gallagher

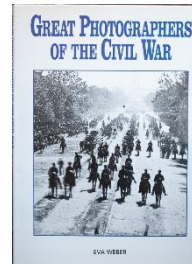


"The Civil War on the Virginia Peninsula"
by John V. Quarstein



"Where Banners Flew (An Aerial View of Virginia's History)"
by Mitchell Bowman (Photos by David M. Doody)

Bonus Book:
"Great Photographers of The Civil War"
by Eva Weber (Coffee Table Book)



Williamsburg Civil War Round Table

<http://www.wcwrt.org>

**On October 22, 2024 - Victor Vignola
will present:**

"Contrasts in Command: The Battle of Fair Oaks"

