



October 2008

Last Meeting: Our last meeting had 19 in attendance. Bob Tuck our own Compatriot gave an interesting and exciting presentation on the N-SSA (North South Skirmish Association.) Bob gave a very informative talk on the history and operations of the organization. He also gave a presentation and displayed several rifles used during the WBTS. See attachment for more information on the N-SSA.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be at Hog Wild Barbeque in Toano on October 22 at 7pm. Our speaker will be Beth Brown author of *Haunted Battlefields - Virginia's Civil War Ghosts*. www.VirginiasMostHaunted.com If anything is haunted it would be battlefields like Cold Harbor, Spotsylvania, Malvern Hill and Point Lookout Prison . . . all of which are documented and discussed in her work. Mrs. Brown credits her interest in history and the paranormal to the high concentration of both in her hometown of Richmond, Virginia. Her search for proof of the paranormal began in 1989 and eventually led to her founding the Virginia Society of Paranormal Education and Research (VASPER) in 2007. She lives with her husband, daughter, son and a handful of spirits near Richmond's Church Hill. Ms. Brown will have copies of her book for sale at the meeting. She will present at 7:30. Come and bring a guest.

DRAWINGS!

Compatriots - At the next several meetings we will continue the big raffle for the painting of Stonewall Jackson which was kindly donated to the camp by Associate Peter Jelinek. Peter is a local artist. His studio is located in The Village Shops at Kingsmill. Peter has graciously offered to have the painting framed at no cost to the winner. This will in fact be a **DOUBLE DRAWING**. Tickets will cost \$2 each or 3 for \$5. We will hold a drawing each month for a smaller prize . . . probably a book on the war . . . the winning ticket will be dropped back in "Stonewall's Jug". . . and the process will be repeated each month until we hold our actual Stonewall drawing. So it is WIN - WIN. You can win monthly, your tickets get put back in the jug, and of course you have who knows how many chances to win the grand prize. This painting is of the finest artistic quality and would be a treasure to anyone that holds our Confederate Generals in the highest esteem.

Compatriot Jeff Toalson will offer copies of *No Soap, No Pay, Diarrhea, Dysentery & Desertion* for sale at our camp meeting October and November as we approach the holidays. Take a look at your holiday shopping list. What better Christmas present than stories of our

Confederate ancestors? Jeff will donate \$5 from each \$30 sale to the James City Cavalry general fund.

The Virginia Division Executive Committee meeting was held in Williamsburg at the Fort Magruder Inn, (Crowne Plaza) September 28th at 1:00 pm. Compatriots Ken Parsons, Fred Satterwhite and Jeff Toalson attended. The topic of importance to our Camp was the intention to hold the Virginia Convention in Williamsburg for 2009. The attendees will give a full update at the next meeting.

Peach Park Cemetery: We have recently removed the sign at the cemetery for needed repairs. It will be placed back in the original position when repairs are complete. The sign-in guest book continues to grow with names of visitors stopping by to view the gravesites. This project has been a great success and has given our Camp much needed exposure and credit for our work honoring our Confederate Ancestors.

JAMES CITY COUNTY CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES

There are two family cemeteries located within the Ford's Colony gated community; the New Family cemetery and the Murdoch-Austin Family cemetery. The New cemetery contains graves for the Edloe, Richardson and extended New families with marked graves beginning in the 1840s. On October 18, 1858, John Smith New, born July 18, 1828, married Mary (Mollie) C. Richardson in Richmond. John New answered the call on May 16, 1861 when he enlisted in the James City Artillery in Williamsburg and was detailed to public works there on December 31, 1861. He was present on all remaining rolls through August 31, 1864, and on October 31, 1864, he was detailed to the Engineer Department.

The News had two sons born before the war and two more sons and three daughters born after the war. John, Sr., died on April 16, 1886 and was buried in the family cemetery. In her widow's pension application, Mary New stated that her husband had died of heart disease. The New family still retains land on News Road (named for this family) and continues to inter family members in this cemetery.

The Murdoch-Austin cemetery is located on land that was owned by William I. Murdoch (1814-1865) and his wife, Minerva. E. C. Martin, before the war. They were married on February 20, 1840 and had eight children. One daughter, Anne E., married Cornelius Austin and they eventually owned this farm. While no service record has been found for William Murdoch, there is an interesting story that involves him.

In the Murdoch-Austin Bible (LVA #33449) printed in 1860, there is a note that states: "A. R. Johnson, born July 21st, 1834. Presented to W. I. Murdoch, July 4, 1864, Camp Hamilton Military Prison." Camp Hamilton was a Union camp near Fortress Monroe. Civilians, suspected of being Confederate patriots, were sometimes confined in these prisons. Johnson's service record indicates that he was a private in Company A, 59th Virginia Infantry and that he was taken prisoner while he was on furlough in March or April 1864. He was taken to the guardhouse at Fortress Monroe, transferred to the prison at Camp Hamilton and then sent to the prison at Point Lookout, Maryland. He survived all of this and was released and later lived in Richmond.

The reason that he gave the Bible to Murdoch is unknown, but Murdoch's grave can be recognized as that of a supporter of the Confederacy.

When the Austin family sold the "Murdoch Tract" in 1905, the deed stated, "...it is expressly understood and agreed that the family burying ground on said land containing one half acre, is not conveyed by this deed and the right of way to and from same is reserved" (JCCDB 9: 632). Both the Murdoch-Austin and the New cemeteries are well cared for within Ford's Colony.

We continue our journey through time with Fred Boelt's Great-great uncle:

GREENMOUNT FARM JOURNAL

We continue here with excerpts from Thomas Wynne's farm journal and his insights on the war locally in October 1861:

Tuesday, October 1st...Today a flag was presented by the ladies of Warwick Co. through Mr. Sidney Smith to the Warwick Beauregards. A soldier from the Florida Regiment came up today to get the two stray horses which came here yesterday.

Friday, October 4th...The defeat of the Federals at Lexington, Mo. was confirmed in today's papers.

Saturday, October 5th...Papers brought us good news from the west – Our forces under Jackson were attacked by the Federals under Reynolds. The latter were repulsed with a heavy loss.

Monday, October 7th...Jackson's victory confirmed by today's paper.

Tuesday, October 8th...General Mansfield to take command of Old Point.

Thursday, October 10th...An artillery company went down this evening.

Sunday, October 13th...Five men from the 1st South Carolina regiment stay all night with us.


Saturday, October 19th...Our forces near Newport's News had a skirmish with the Yankees yesterday killing sixty and taking six prisoners. We lost thirteen men.

Sunday, October 20th...The report of a skirmish between the Yankees and our forces near Newport's News was untrue. *To be continued.*

Thought for the Month

The Union Won the War Between the States

But Johnny Reb Won the Fadeless Victory of Soldiership

He may appear ludicrous enough on a display occasion of the holiday pomp and splendor of war, but place him where duty calls, in the imminent deadly breach or the perilous charge, and none in all the armies of the earth can claim a higher rank or prouder record. He may be outré and ill-fashioned in dress, but he has sublimated his poverty and rags. The worn and faded gray jacket, glorified by valor and stained with the life blood of its wearer, becomes, in its immortality of association, a more splendid vestment than mail of medieval knight or the rarest robe of royalty. That old, weather-beaten slouched hat, seen as the ages will see it, with its halo of fire, through the smoke of battle, is a kinglier covering than a crown. Half clad, half armed, often half fed, without money and without price, the Confederate soldier fought against the resources of the world. When at last his flag was furled and his arms were grounded in defeat, the cause for which he had struggled was lost, but he had won the fadeless victory of Soldiership. 



NORTH-SOUTH SKIRMISH ASSOCIATION, INC

What Is The North-South Skirmish Association:

The North-South Skirmish Association (N-SSA) was formed in 1950 to commemorate the heroism of the men, of both sides, who fought in the American Civil War, 1861-1865. The N-SSA promotes the shooting of Civil War firearms and artillery and encourages the preservation and display of Civil War materials. The N-SSA works to accomplish these goals by conducting skirmishes; competitive, live firing of these Civil War firearms and artillery.

- Promote Civil War History
- Preservation of battlefields and artifacts
- Education of the period
- Uniformed Union and Confederate teams, representing actual historical units.
- Individual and team competition in musket, carbine, revolver, and artillery.
- Costume competition for members and families.

What Is A Skirmish:

Unlike Civil War re-enactments, a skirmish is a series of live-fire marksmanship competitions, using original or certified reproduction Civil War military firearms. The core of N-SSA shooting is the 8-man musket team match. Uniformed Union and Confederate teams compete in timed, rapid-fire events, shooting at breakable targets such as clay pigeons, ceramic tiles, and clay flower pots at ranges of 50 and 100 yards. The team with the lowest overall time wins.

Members may also compete in individual marksmanship matches, fired at paper targets for score.

The N-SSA provides the competitor a taste of the way it was in 1861, intensity, excitement, and the urgent need to do your best under pressure.

Where are Skirmishes Held:

The N-SSA's home range is Fort Shenandoah, located on approximately 450 acres of land north of Gainesboro, Virginia (*near Winchester, VA*) Fort Shenandoah boasts the country's widest (*over a quarter mile*) rifle range controlled from a single tower, a separate revolver range, and artillery range.

The property features camping areas for teams, restrooms, concession stand, and a Suttler area where anything pertaining to the Civil war can be purchased.

Regional skirmishes are held throughout the country at local and private firing ranges.

Company Competition:

Company matches are separated into musket, carbine, breech loading, smoothbore, revolver, mortar, and cannon matches. Each unit competes in Civil war uniform, complete with leather goods and accoutrements. Units are organized into "companies" or teams.

- Eight or five competitors each for musket and carbine matches.
- Four or three for revolver and breech loading rifle matches.
 - Breech loading a magazine-fed shoulder arms such as Spencers and Henrys.
- There are also team matches for mortar (4) and artillery (8).

Required Skirmishing Equipment:

Competitors in company matches must wear the approved uniform for the organization of which they are depicting. A typical uniform consists of trousers, shirt, jacket, hat, shoes, and or boots of the period.

Period leather goods consisting of cartridge box, cap pouch, bayonet and belt with period buckle.

Specific uniform requirements are determined by the rules and by-laws of the unit you join.

National Skirmishes:

Held twice a year at Fort Shenandoah each year. These skirmishes are held on weekends of the 3rd Friday in May and 1st Friday in October. Approximately 260 teams and 3,500 people may be in attendance.

Regional Skirmishes:

Held throughout the year at various local and private shooting ranges. Regional are much smaller than Nationals averaging perhaps 25 to 35 teams in attendance.

Costume Competition:

Civilian: The costume committee of the North-South Skirmish Association holds its costume competitions during every National. Always a crowd pleaser, this competition is beautiful to watch. The competitors create their own outfits and after long hours of research and work, have the opportunity to show off.

Military: This costume competition is for the best-uniformed team and the best-uniformed individual skirmisher.

Who Can Join The N-SSA:

Membership in the N-SSA is open to all interested individuals, both male and female, 15 years of age or older.

Joining the N-SSA:

You can join the N-SSA in one of two ways:


- Apply to join any one of the Association's existing 200 plus units by contacting the National Recruiting Officer at recruitment@n-ssa.org .

- Get together a group of 8 or more individuals and form your own unit. For information on forming your own unit contact the N-SSA Executive Secretary, Dot Willauer, at DotWillauer@comcast.net

Graham's Battery:

If you are interested in joining Graham's Battery/1st Rockbridge Artillery see below, or to learn more about us, go to our web site at <http://www11.brinkster.com/grambtry/> .

Graham's Battery/1st Rockbridge Artillery



**North-South Skirmish Association (N-SSA)
#260 Allegheny Region**

Robert H. Tuck
Williamsburg, VA 23188 - 9333

Phone: (757) 258-3049
tnvols1971@cox.net



