



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



July 2025 Dispatch – Williamsburg, Virginia

Camp #2095  10th Brigade  Virginia Division  Army of Northern Virginia

Camp 2095 - Our 20th Anniversary Year!

Next Muster

Wednesday, July 23rd, 2025, 6:30 pm

Colonial Heritage Club House

www.colonialheritageclub.com/find-us

6500 Arthur Hills Drive

Williamsburg, VA 23188



Meal Cost: \$23.00 Per Person

Payment by check or exact cash only please.

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.

July Guest Speaker

Billie Earnest

***"In the Blink of an
Eye - VMI Cadets
at New Market"***



The Battle of New Market was similar to many other battles, with one notable exception. The VMI Corps of Cadets was among the Confederate regiments on the field. Their day ended in a rainstorm with their capture of a Union battery. The victory came with a price. 10 Cadets died at New Market and 50 others were wounded. You will meet some of those cadets and hear their stories.

Billie was born in Franklin and her ancestors are all from the south-east counties of Virginia and north-east counties of North Carolina. Billie was recently awarded the "Winnie Davis Medal" for her 2024 publication of *They Wore the Gray - C.S.A. Soldiers Buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Suffolk, Virginia*. She had previously been awarded the "Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal" for her research and presentations on the lives and history of General George Pickett and his wife Sallie. In our 20 years as a camp Billie has spoken to us 17 times. Each time on a different subject.

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held June 25th at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,
James City County, Va., **37** Attendees

Welcome given by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson

Pledge & Salute to the Flags led by Treasurer Jon Holland

Blessing:

Given by Chaplain David Stover

Break for Supper

The SCV Charge read by Compatriot George Bridewell

Program:

Cmdr. Toalson introduced the evening's guest speaker:

SCV Commander in Chief Donnie Kennedy

Cmdr. Kennedy's captivating talk *"2025 State of the Sons of Confederate Veterans"* ranged over all sort of topics but ended with a focus on new membership and promoting the S.C.V. in positive ways as the Cavalry did with our Hurricane Helene / Mercy Chefs Relief Program. We need to find several avenues during the year to promote our cemetery work, battlefield preservation, scholarships, and even our work with the Swem Archives preserving historical items from the 1860s. Above all, the images we promote need to be professional, like the images in this newsletter.

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Old & New Business

- Adjutant's Report – Adjutant Dave Watson
- Comments - Cmdr. Jeff Toalson
- UDC Presentation – Cmdr. Toalson & Treas. Holland (See photo on page 7)

New Members and Friends of the Camp

Paperwork has been submitted for two new members (Christopher & Joshua Wert) and two new FOCs (in addition to the FOCs on page 7).

Benediction

Given by Chaplain David Stover



Cmdr. Jeff Toalson welcomes S.C.V. Cmdr. in Chief Donald Kennedy to our June meeting.

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 |

Williamsburg Civil War Round Table

<http://www.wcwrt.org>

The round table will be on leave until
September.



Commander's Comments

Twenty years as a Camp and guess who is our number one speaker? It is of course Mrs. Billie Earnest who has spoken to us 17 times on 17 different subjects including the talk this month of various V.M.I. cadets who were at the Battle of New Market. Some were killed, some were wounded and some lived long and eventful lives. We will be hearing a variety of interesting, personal stories.

It was a great visit in June with our Commander-in-Chief Donald Kennedy and Lt. Commander-in-Chief Tony Griffin. We thank them for helping us celebrate our 20th year as an S.C.V. Camp. Commander Kennedy gave an impassioned talk on a variety of topics and urged us to publicly promote all of the good and positive things that we do to support our community and state.

We thank Kevin and Lucia Tyrell for driving down from Alexandria, Virginia to attend our June meeting. Kevin will hopefully soon be joining our Camp. Lucia was born in Williamsburg and lived a couple of blocks from Fort Magruder. She and her little buddies used to play on the 'hills' near her house. I wonder if those 'hills' had poison ivy then like they do now?

Lynne Jakobowski and Pam Natchus of Williamsburg U.D.C. Chapter 637 will be at our July meeting to discuss and explain their new 'brick program' to honor C.S.A. soldiers and raise money for the care of Ft. Magruder. They will have samples of the two brick sizes and will discuss and answer questions regarding the program.

Compatriot Claude Perkins passed away on May 26 and you will find an article by Historian Fred Boelt on our departed friend. Claude Perkins, III is filling out paperwork to become a member of the Cavalry in honor of his father and his Confederate ancestors.

Send your dues payments, with the complete form, to Dave Watson this month or bring them to our July meeting.

If you know any VMI graduates, why not invite them to this month's meeting?

Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Historian Fred Boelt)

Continuing from the June edition:

“HIS MANNER CHANGED

While the interview was going on he was joined by his daughter, whose countenance was sad and downcast. In a few seconds her face was illuminated; smiles rippled over her cheeks; she clapped her hands, and exclaimed: ‘Oh, father, these are our boys. Don’t you see the gray beneath their overcoats?’ The old man leaped from the stile and began handshaking and questioning, but ‘on’ was the word, and on we went. Next an orderly came, in full gallop, with the order to charge anything in our way except artillery. On we dashed. The shades of night were gathering fast; the rain was coming down in torrents, and we had no idea how far from us was our support; but we knew from horse-tracks and an occasional straggler that we were nearing the enemy. About half an hour after sunset our guide, who was every inch a guide, advised us to charge an old Colonial brick church, the headquarters of the enemy’s picket-post. With a rush the charge was made, with complete success. The rain had driven in all the pickets, who had lighted up the church, and were enjoying a bountiful supper. It was the work of a minute to disarm these men and send them to the rear, with the information that nearly all of the vanguard were guarding prisoners, and that I needed help, but would not wait for it. On we dashed, and about an hour after sunset we came in full sight of Pope’s Wagon-train at Bristoe Station. It was a time of intense excitement. Minutes lengthened into hours, and hours would have been days. The lurid lightning was flashing thick and fast, the thunder would have dwarfed a corps of man’s artillery; the rain was a down-pour, mules were tramping and neighing, smouldering camp-fires were fast going out, but the lightning occasionally revealed wagons, mules, and hay. And above all, we did not know when to expect our support.

SOUNDS OF REVELRY

Near by us sounds of revelry broke upon our ears, and the music of a violin and the tread of the dancers oddly mixed with the surrounding sounds and scenes. E. M. Ware and C. W. Hubbard ventured up to the banquet-hall, and brought information that the house was full of dancing officers and women. But we were afraid to make arrests lest an outcry be raised. While waiting for reinforcements, a Federal surgeon – the lightning told us what he was – rode up to us. He was rushed to the rear, with orders not to say a word. He was splendidly mounted, and oh, how I wished to exchange my outfit for his. Stuart, Fitz Lee, Rooney Lee, and Rosser all came up together. Orders were speedily given for the attack, Rosser to charge straight ahead and to tear up the railroad-track, but no axes had been prepared for this work. Suppose they had been, who can tell what would have been the result? Rosser headed his men in the charge, but before they had gone a hundred yards the whole regiment was floundering in a railroad-cut filled with water. This difficulty was overcome, but we had to undergo a still worse one on the east side of the track; and yet this was also surmounted without the loss of life, but not without the loss of temper. By the time we had shaken off the water from ourselves, and poured it out of our carbines, the main attack on the right had begun. Yells, cheers, groans, reports of pistols and carbines, and the clashing of sabres were heard, and the noise of the train that was returning from Pope’s headquarters was rapidly nearing. This was our business, and so Rosser drew up his regiment in line facing the track, and ordered a fire upon the passing train. This was done in good style, and the bullets could be distinctly heard crashing through the cars. The surprise was complete, the attack a success. And now, having brought my narrative down to where history begins, I close with the remark that in the strategic move in Pope’s rear the James City Cavalry was the vanguard, and did its duty dashing, heroically and efficiently.

I append a roster of the company.

James H. Allen”

Baptist Hospital – Cedar Grove Cemetery Update

(Submitted by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson)

In early June, the four unknown sets of remains that had been exhumed behind the Baptist Church Hospital and the assorted bones from a surgeon's pit were buried in five graves at the Cedar Grove Cemetery. I spoke with Bill Brown on the 20th of June, and he has received the grave markers. He plans to put them in place in the next few days but will wait a few weeks for the dirt to settle and then he will pour the permanent base under each marker. Space has been left on each marker to sandblast the name and unit of the soldier should researchers be successful with their DNA research.

These are presumed Confederate graves because it was a Confederate hospital post battle. None of the bones in the surgeon's pit belong to the four soldiers. Their skeletons are intact. We will keep you updated on results as they are forthcoming from the Archeological Research Team at Colonial Williamsburg and their partners.



Cedar Grove Cemetery

Norfolk County Grays Presentation

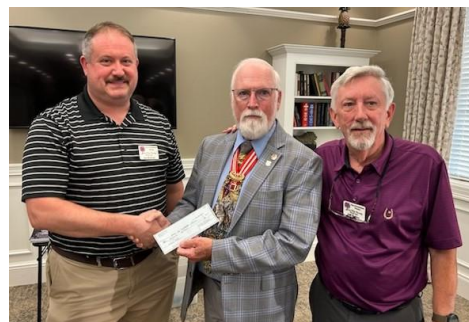


Battle Flag of the 32nd Alabama

Compatriot Toalson was the speaker on June 18 with the Norfolk County Grays. Joining Jeff for the trip were Ken Parsons, Mark Griggs and Tom Campbell. The topic of the talk was *The First National Flag and Confederate Battle Flags*. The photo is Jeff holding the battle flag of the 32nd Alabama Infantry. They were formed in 1862 and took a 2nd National Flag in mid-1863 and created a new battle flag for their regiment. Note the 12-star pattern which is the first Army of Tennessee design. They were serving as infantry under General Forrest when they provided tenacious service in an 1862 withdrawal from La Vergne, TN, where their regiment was greatly outnumbered. Serving in Adams Division at Murfreesboro they lost 105 men and at the Battle of Chickamauga they lost 250 of their remaining 400 men and captured a Union battery. They earned those 'battle honors' on their flag. After Chickamauga they were consolidated with the 58th Alabama and had virtually no men left to surrender at Meridian, MS in May 1865.

\$400 SCV Museum Donation from the Cavalry

Treasurer Jon Holland presented SCV CiC Donald Kennedy with a \$400 donation to be used in the SCV Museum Fund as the museum sees fit. Cmdr. Kennedy does not charge speaker fees but takes donations for various SCV needs at the National Headquarters and Museum. However, it would be unfair for him to leave empty handed. A certificate of thanks seems pretty pointless. It was only logical, that with his entire business career having been in medicine, that we be the first Camp to give him diarrhea and dysentery. He will never forget his visit to the Cavalry with that as a gift. We hope he enjoys his copy of *No Soap, No Pay, Diarrhea, Dysentery and Desertion* and it's 220 men and 50 women whose diary and letter entries created the 1,000+ stories in this book.



Claude Perkins, RIP



Colonel Claude Duke Perkins, Jr., U. S. Army (Retired) passed away at home on May 26, 2025, at 89 years old. Known to his family and friends as CD, he moved to Williamsburg with his parents in 1943, graduated from Matthew Whaley High School in 1953, and from the College of William and Mary in 1957. After being commissioned a Second Lieutenant from W&M ROTC, he began a distinguished thirty-year military career. After retirement, CD worked as a transportation and logistics consultant, and later, with his family, opened Virginia Woodcrafts, Inc. in Williamsburg.

CD and his wife, Barbara, purchased and have resided at Maple Grove Farm on Forge Road for many years. Maple Grove is diagonally across Forge Road from the Peach Park cemetery that our camp maintains. A longtime camp member, as CD's health failed, the flag at the cemetery was in view, and he became the watchdog of the flag, letting us know when it needed to be replaced.

CD is survived by his wife, Barbara, three sons and their wives and four grandchildren. Interment with full military honors will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a future date.

Our heartfelt sympathy is with CD's family. Undoubtedly, Claude Perkins will continue to watch over our flag at Peach Park. One of his sons, Claude III, has applied for membership in our camp.

Our Founders, Friends of the Camp & U.D.C. Support



We honored the founding members of our Camp as we celebrate our 20th Anniversary Year. LtoR: Cmdr. in Chief Donald Kennedy, Steve White, Robert Glaser, Richard Mountcastle, Ken Parsons, Scott Summerfield, and Lt. Cmdr. in Chief Tony Griffin. Not pictured is Fred Boelt. These men have provided a tremendous amount of dedicated service to the James City Cavalry in our 20 years.

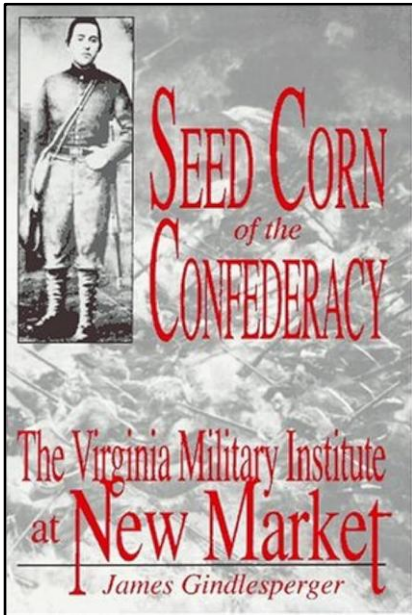


Two loyal supporters of the Cavalry became official 'Friends of the Camp.' LtoR: Adjutant Dave Watson, Marilyn Iglesias, S.C.V. Cmdr. in Chief Donald Kennedy, Cynthia Baker and Cmdr. Jeff Toalson.

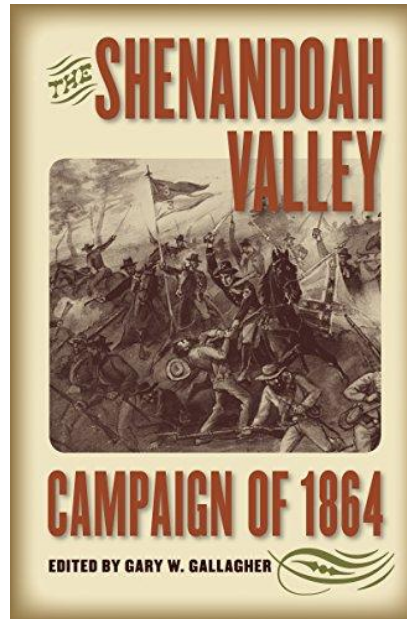


The Cavalry was pleased to present the Williamsburg U.D.C. Chapter 637 with \$500 to assist in the maintenance of Fort Magruder. LtoR: Treasurer Jon Holland, Cynthia Baker, Bonnie Mittlemaier, Gerry Waring, Katherine Bridewell and Cmdr. Jeff Toalson.

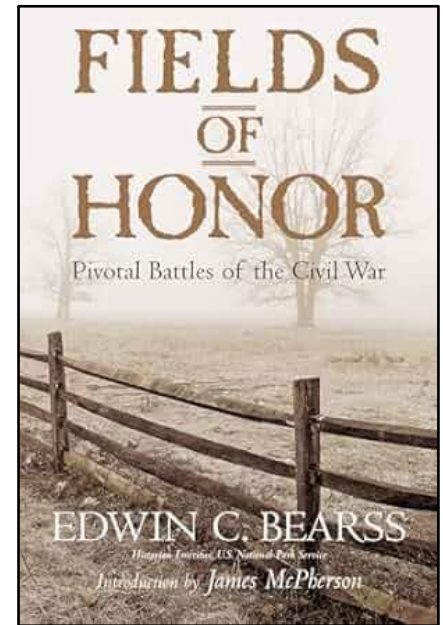
July Book Raffle



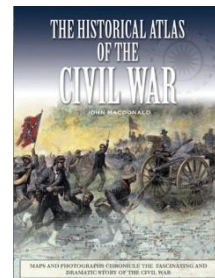
"Seed Corn of the Confederacy
(The Virginia Military Institute at
New Market)"
by James Gindlesperger



"The Shenandoah Valley
Campaign of 1864"
by Gary W. Gallagher



"Fields of Honor (Pivotal Battles
of the Civil War)"
by Edwin C. Bearss



Bonus Book:
"The Historical Atlas of the Civil War"
by John MacDonald