



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



April 2025 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, April 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.

April Guest Speaker

Dr. John H. Coulter II
Lt. Colonel, USA (ret.)



***"General James
H. Lane, CSA"***

General James H. Lane was the youngest general in the Army of Northern Virginia. A graduate of V.M.I., he was elected major of the 1st N. Carolina Infantry. He fought from Big Bethel to Appomattox. He was promoted to Brigadier General on 11-1-1862, was wounded three times, and his brigade served with distinction throughout the war earning the honored nickname of "Lee's Immortals" for their heroism at Fort Gregg. Postwar he was father of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and taught engineering classes at various colleges for over 30 years. He died in Auburn, Alabama in 1907 at age 74.

Dr. John H. Coulter II is a retired Lt. Colonel (USA). He served 23 years in the Army with tours in Afghanistan with the 101st Airborne and in the Gulf War with the 82nd Airborne. Following active duty, he spent 10 years at various military schools and was Assistant Commandant of Cadets at Virginia Tech. For the past 15 years he has worked as a defense contractor. In his spare time he has been researching his biography of General James H. Lane which is pending publication by the Texas A&M Press. Dr. Coulter is a resident of Mathews, Virginia which was the birthplace of General Lane.

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held March 26 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 Compatriot George Bridewell

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Old & New Business

- Comments - Cmdr. Jeff Toalson
- WCWRT Update – Compatriot Bill Miller

Book Raffle

Proceeds of \$78 were donated to the Camp Treasury
for the raffle of the four donations.

Benediction

Given by Sr. Chaplain George Corbett

Program:



1st Lt. Commander Ron Perry welcomes Melody Bage to our March meeting. Melody gave a very thought provoking and informative talk on 'Mourning Rituals during the WBTS.' More soldiers died during this war than all other American wars combined. When you add in the numbers of Americans, both military and civilian, who also died of disease the total loss is staggering. We lost an entire generation of citizens.



Virginia Division Commander Kenny Bage joined his wife at our meeting. He showed up in the boot with a walker. We have an unsubstantiated rumor that Kenny was on his skateboard training on the 'Half-Pipe' when things went wrong. It could be that his injury happened in some other less dramatic manner. He is a real trooper to forge ahead despite obstacles.

Camp Officers

Commander	Jeff Toalson troon24@cox.net
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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

The Civil War in April

April 15, 1861- President Lincoln issues a public declaration that an insurrection exists and calls for 75,000 militia to stop the rebellion. As a result of this call for volunteers, Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee secede from the Union in the following weeks. Lincoln will respond on May 3 with an additional call for 43,000+ volunteers to serve for three years, expanding the size of the Regular Army.



Virginia State Capitol

Commander's Comments

It is our pleasure to have Mathews native, Dr. John Coulter II as our speaker. He is the author of a biography of General James H. Lane, C.S.A. Lane's Brigade of North Carolinians served with distinction in Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Post-war Professor Lane taught at V.P.I. in Blacksburg, the Missouri School of Mines in Rolla, and for the final 26 years of his teaching career at Alabama Polytechnic. This will be an evening well spent learning about the life of James H. Lane who was born a few miles from here in Mathews Court House, Virginia.

There are articles in this issue on osteological results on the CSA remains found near the magazine in Colonial Williamsburg, the success of our Mercy Chefs aid campaign for folks in western North Carolina, a small earthwork recently discovered on the Williamsburg battlefield on W.B.A. property and other interesting items.

Derick Hayman and I will be attending the Virginia Division SCV convention in Winchester on April 11 and 12. We will have a report on that trip at the April meeting.

Our Camp Memorial Day Service and Picnic is scheduled for May 23. The service will be at 5 PM at the Olive Branch Christian Church and the picnic will follow at 6 PM at the Fred Boelt Peacock Farm on Forge Road. More details will be forthcoming. Mark the date (Friday) on your calendar.

Make your reservations for the April supper. Only 42 seats are available for supper.

Jeff



Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

When we ended this saga last month, John Cowles, Charles Hubbard, Peter Cowles, and we assume Treadwell, had all avoided Yankee capture by escaping into the woods. It appears that all but Peter had left Grove Hill by the following day.

“The next day my sisters Betty and Mollie came deep into the woods and found me, bringing me some clothes and told me all was quiet and I could return. Again I slept out in the office with uncle Washington and again was awakened by a clatter. A dozen yankee carbines were pointing at me and a ‘hands up.’ I reached for my shoes and sharp – ‘hands up, come out with ‘em up.’

“Mrs. Cowles, your son will be treated well as a prisoner of war and if you wish to send him anything send it in care of Capt. Cronin, U. S. Army and I assure you he will receive it.’ My mother later sent me fifty dollars in gold which reached me in prison at Point Lookout, Maryland. This money used as a bribe for better treatment and to buy extra food was a big help in keeping me alive.

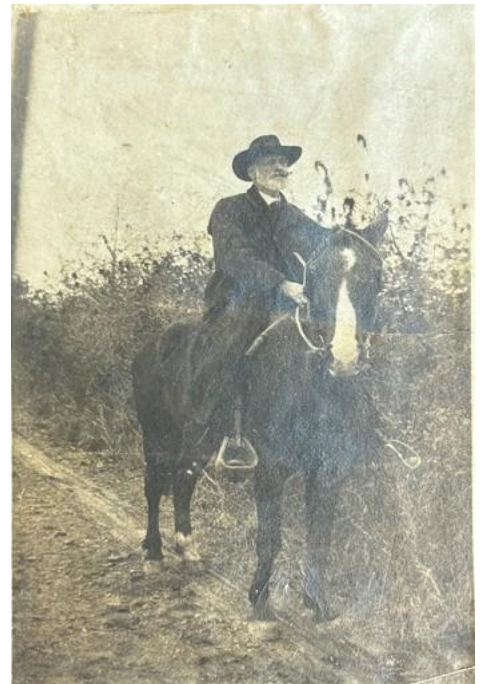
The yankee troop went from Grove Hill to the adjoining estate of Windsor, the Ware home where they took prisoner Capt. Edmund Ware who was at home from a wound having had the roof of his mouth shot out. Captain Ware was placed in a makeshift ambulance and at his request Capt. Cronin ordered me to dismount and get in the ambulance as Capt. Ware’s orderly. We were taken to the Ripraps (Ft. Wool off from Old Point) and soon I was transferred to Point Lookout, Md.

I tried to escape from Point Lookout, was caught, taken back to prison and put in irons. I later had typhoid fever but the yankees kept the chains on my left leg. Late in life I have suffered very much with varicose veins in this leg. I was exchanged just before the end of the war and put ashore at a landing on the James River. I was weak from fever and confinement and to make my way home was quite a task but a welcome one.”

There is nothing that quite compares to first hand reports from the men who fought in the war and survived it to tell their stories. Peter Cowles did not stop at the end of the war.

“For a while after the war I attended Washington College at Lexington but after my private schooling at home, my mother generally employed New England tutors, and after my active life in Stuart’s cavalry the confinement was almost as bad as prison. Besides I wanted to get married. I married Laura Hubbard November 21, 1866. A daughter of Dr. Charles Miles Hubbard and sister of Lieut. Charles Miles Hubbard Jr. who was killed in action in 1864.”

Peter and Laura Cowles had twelve children. He taught school for many years and at the death of Col. James Harvey Allen, he replaced him as James City County Superintendent of Schools. Peter Tribble Cowles died in 1929, and was buried in the Hubbard Family Cemetery adjacent to Olive Branch Church.

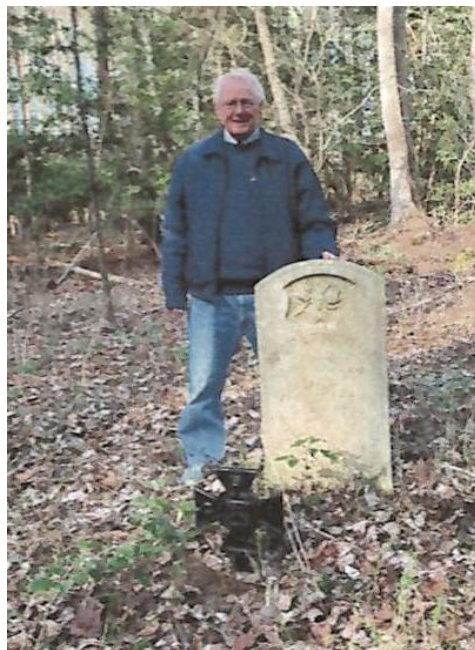


Peter Cowles

Confederate Crosses of Honor

Mr. Neil Baer, a member of the John M. Kinard Camp 35, South Carolina SCV, came to our area on March 1 and installed two crosses of honor on his ancestors' graves. One cross is for Robert Lee Timberlake who served as a private in Company B, 53rd Virginia Infantry. He is buried in the Timberlake Family Cemetery located near Mt. Nebo Road in New Kent County. The other cross is placed at the grave of James W. Timberlake who served as 1st Corporal, Company B. 53rd Virginia Infantry. He is buried in a small family cemetery at 5700 Farmers Drive in Barhamsville.

Thanks to Ken Parsons, Steve White, Fred Boelt, Scott Summerfield and Jere Harris for assistance with this project.



Lunette Discovered at the Triangle Property



At our WBA Park Day last year while clearing brush and trash in the Triangle Property out in front of Fort Magruder at the intersection of the Yorktown Road and the Warwick Court House Road, a lunette was discovered. A lunette is a defensive fortification in the shape of a half-moon.

Bill Miller discovered it along with Don Kline. About 7:00 a.m. on the morning of May 5, 1862, batteries of light artillery supporting the Union division of Gen. Joe Hooker arrived at the intersection. U. S. Artillery Battery H arrived first, took position and opened fire on Fort Magruder. The 4 guns of the Richmond Fayette Artillery responded and landed their opening salvo on top of Battery H. The men fled and abandoned their guns. Battery D of the 1st New York showed up and manned the abandoned guns. They were soon supported by the 6th New York Artillery. They dueled with Fort Magruder for a couple of hours till they were moved to other sections of the battlefield supporting Hooker. The intersection was in perfect artillery range of less than 1/2 mile from Fort Magruder.

Update on CSA Remains in Williamsburg

Osteological data on the 4 sets of remains has revealed some key information. Soldier #1 was 35+ years old, #2 was between 15 and 19, #3 was between 18 and 22, and #4 was between 20 and 25. There were only two soldiers that could fit the soldier #1 data. Pvt. Daisy was 46 and Pvt. Dargan was 32. All of the others were the age you expect for privates in the army. The soldiers who died within a few days of these two offer the focus for the DNA search. They fall in the other three groups and overlap since our two men died within 6 days of each other. Incremental progress.

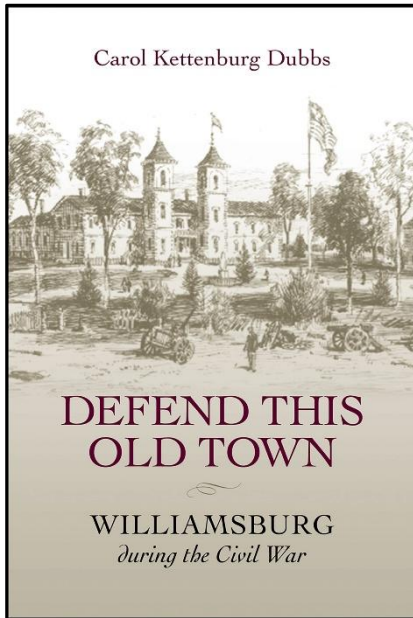


Update on Mercy Chef Aid in North Carolina

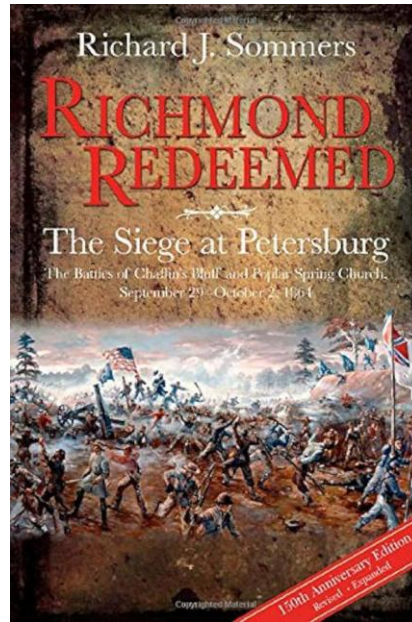


Our email campaign has achieved results west of the Mississippi and into the New England states. We thank everyone for their support. We have now sent Mercy Chefs in excess of \$15,374 as our drive enters the final month. The residents in the battered areas around Swannanoa, Bat Cave, Chimney Rock, Black Mountain, Lake Lure, and Old Fort are grateful for our continued support. Thank you.

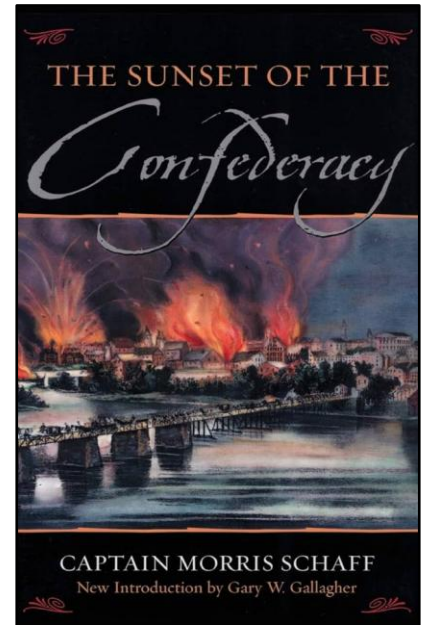
April Book Raffle



**"Defend This Old Town
(Williamsburg during the Civil War)"**
by Carol Kettenburg Dubbs

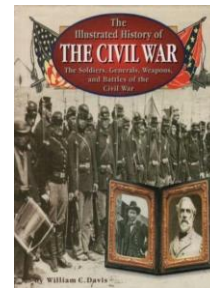


"Richmond Redeemed (The Siege at Petersburg)"
by Richard J. Sommers



"The Sunset of the Confederacy"
by Captain Morris Schaff

Bonus Book:
**"The Illustrated History of The Civil War
(The soldiers, Generals, Weapons and
Battles of the Civil War)"**
by William C. Davis



Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwrt.org>

**At 6:30 PM on April 22nd at the Williamsburg
Library Theatre Capt. Edward Gantt
will present:**

**"The Evolution of the United States Colored
Troops"**