



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



May 2026 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

Friday, May 22nd, 2026, 5:00 pm
Olive Branch Church
7643 Richmond Road
Williamsburg, VA 23188



Camp Picnic Supper to Follow
Meal Cost: \$10.00 Per Person

A call team will be contacting all camp members. Non-members, please contact Commander Jeff Toalson at troon24@cox.net or (757) 220-0131 so sufficient fixin's can be prepared.

(See attached flyers for more details)

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.

Commander's Comments

The annual Cavalry Memorial Service and the Camp Picnic are coming up on May 22. Bulletins relating to both events are at the end of this newsletter. We will again be at Olive Branch Christian Church on Route 60 just west of Norge. Steve White has installed the two Crosses of Honor at the gravesites of our two honored soldiers.

The service and picnic are on Friday evening. The picnic will be hosted at Fred Boelt's farm where the lambs and peacocks will put on a show for the children and adults. Here is hoping we have magnificent weather for sitting under the trees in the back yard. Bring the kids and the grandkids. As always adults pay \$10 and children are free.

Lang Shelton and I made the 400-mile drive to Bristol for the S.C.V. State Convention. It was well attended, new officers were elected for the coming 2 years, awards were presented, and the Cavalry received our 17th consecutive Outstanding Camp streamer for our flag. You must complete two mandatory requirements and a minimum of eight elective requirements. This past year we provided and participated in more than 25 different elective projects. One possible elective is maintaining and caring for a Confederate fortification, park, or a cemetery with Confederate graves. This only counts as one item, but we help the U.D.C. maintain Fort Magruder and we care for Peach Park, Sunnyside, Hockaday and Cowles-Spencer Cemeteries.

Most important this past year was the \$20,000+ we raised and donated to Mercy Chefs to support the Hurricane Helene victims in North Carolina. We followed that with a campaign that raised a quick \$5,000 to support the Mercy Chefs relief efforts in the floods in Kerr County, Texas. These actions reflected tremendous positive recognition on the James City Cavalry and the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

We hung our latest streamer with great pride on our flag. We ARE the SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS and THIS IS WHAT WE DO! It is an honor to be your Commander.

Jeff

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held April 22nd 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

Program:

1st Lt. Cmdr. Perry introduced the evening's guest speaker:
Mr. Art Wingo

Dr. McCaw, who was in charge of Chimborazo Hospital, spent his postwar career at the Medical College of Virginia and Dr. Edwards is a graduate of M.C.V. Art brought a large model of the hospital complex and a model of an individual ward.



Our April speaker, Mr. Art Wingo (C), is welcomed to the meeting by Lt. Cmdr. Ron Perry (R) and guest Dr. Travers Edwards who is a friend of Ron's.

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Virginia SCV Convention

Commander Jeff Toalson reported on the recent convention in Bristol:

- Virginia Division and camps donated approximately \$1,000,000 in cash, food, merchandise, building materials and supplies to help the victims of Hurricane Helene in Virginia, Tennessee and N. Carolina.
- The debt on the new museum in Elm Springs, TN has been paid off.
- Of the 23,000 SCV members nationwide, 12,000 are over 65 and 6,000 of those are over 75. We need to recruit young members.
- The Virginia Division is up over 135 members this year.
- Our camp received the 2026 Outstanding Camp Award that was awarded at the convention. See page 7 for more information and photos.



Old & New Business

- Cemetery Report - 2nd Lt. Commander Steve White
- [Williamsburg Battlefield Assn.](#) Spring Meeting on May 2, 10 a.m. at Wyndham Garden Water Country – Pelham and the Stuart Horse Artillery; 11:00 Business Meeting
- UDC Memorial Service at Fort Magruder – 1:30 on May 3
- Isle of Wight Memorial Service on May 16 - Cmdr. Ed Whitley
- WCWRT Update – Compatriot Bill Miller

Book Raffle

Proceeds of \$91 were donated to the Camp Treasury from the raffle of the four donations.

Benediction

Given by Sr. Chaplain George Corbett

Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Historian Fred Boelt)

On May 22nd, we will honor the lives and service of two cousins buried very near each other on the hill close to Richmond Road at Olive Branch Christian Church. Thomas Wynne was born on September 18, 1845 at Carter's Grove. His parents, Thomas Wynne and his second wife, Ann Camm Waller, had purchased the Grove in 1838 from the last Burwell owner. Thomas, the father, died in 1854, and his widow and children moved to Williamsburg. When she remarried a few years later, Thomas, the son, and his two siblings went to live with Reverend Henley Lightfoot Taylor who was their co-guardian. Thomas and his brother, Edward Camm Wynne, attended Frank Hammond's school (see November 2009 *Picket Lines*). Their mother died in 1860, and the children remained in Reverend Taylor's care.

The following description of Thomas Wynne's military service was written by his brother, Edward Camm Wynne. "Tom was at Pike Powell's school above Richmond when McClellan's advance cut him off from his home near Williamsburg. He joined the Nottaway Cavalry [Co. E, 3rd Virginia Cavalry] and went through the Campaign of 1862. Got a discharge in November by being underage; came home and in April 1863 (he would not have been old enough until August) joined James City Cavalry, Co. H, 5th Virginia Cavalry. Was with Stuart in the Pennsylvania Campaign 1863, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and 1864 with Lee at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, North Anna, Yellow Tavern, Cold Harbor, Cedar Creek in the Valley before Sheridan, and on until the battles around Petersburg 1865 and the Surrender."

After the war, Thomas returned to Burnt Ordinary. In the 1870 census, he was living with Southey Hankins and they were listed as retail merchants. His brother also stated that Thomas taught school after the war and went to the University of Virginia where he got a law degree. He practiced law in James City County until his early death on March 21, 1875. He died of consumption at Mr. Branch's, perhaps at Sunnyside. In his will, Thomas Wynne left \$400.00 to Kate Stanard Branch (oldest daughter of Cyrus Adolphus and Mary Wilkinson Branch) for her education. Thomas Wynne was buried at Olive Branch on the hill to the northwest of the church. His original tombstone is now half buried and a newer granite block marks his resting place. His grave is enclosed by one of the few remaining old wrought iron fences located there.

Nearby is the grave of Thomas Wynne's first cousin, Richard Harwood Whitaker, III. Born on November 6, 1830, in York County, Richard was the son of Richard Harwood Whitaker and his second wife, Ann Cary Wynne, sister of Thomas Wynne, the father. In 1848, the Whitakers purchased and moved to "Alabama" on Ware Creek Road in James City County. Richard married Martha Louise Henley of Hill Pleasant on October 28, 1856 and they had two sons, Coleman and R. H., IV. Richard's parents both died in 1857, and he and his two brothers and one sister inherited the farm. One brother died in 1859, and the 1860 census listed Richard as head of the household with his wife, two sons, brother and sister living there.

When the Confederates were enlisting men, Richard Whitaker joined Company W, 3rd Virginia Cavalry on June 24, 1861, in Williamsburg. He served as a sergeant and was discharged on September 13, 1861, as "sick." He is listed on the roster of the 5th Virginia Cavalry with date of transfer "unknown." On her widow's pension application, M. Lou Whitaker also stated that her husband had transferred to the James City Cavalry. She further stated that he died at his residence on February 25, 1862, of the Diabetes disease. He was buried with other relatives at Olive Branch. Richard's younger brother, George William Whitaker served in the 32nd Virginia Infantry and later served in the 3rd and 5th Virginia Cavalries. After the war, he moved to Richmond and is buried there in Hollywood Cemetery.

Two Crosses of Honor were recently erected at these graves.

Tom Wynne's Greenmount Farm Journal

(Contributed by Historian Fred Boelt)

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

Wednesday, May 1st...It is stated that 80,000 Virginia volunteers have offered their services to Gov. Letcher. If we are forced to fight by those who would rob us of all our rights and make us serf to a military despotism, relying on the God of Battles, we will repel them or die in the attempt.

Thursday, May 2nd...Yesterday afternoon the steamer Glen Cove was stopped on her way to Norfolk while in Hampton Roads by one of the Federal ships which is stationed in Hampton Roads to blockade the James River. She had to return to the Grove Wharf where she remained until this morning and then went back up to Richmond. Lincoln means to starve us out if he can. "The Lord rewards him according to his works."

Friday, May 3rd...The newspapers state further arrival of southern troops. Why should the north desire to take our lives? Unnatural brothers, seeking to imbrue their hands in their brothers' blood.

Tuesday, May 7th...Much excitement prevails in our neighborhood caused by news received from Yorktown. The war steamer which came up the York River on Sunday sent the Gloucester troops a message that she intended capturing the steamer Logan and prevent her from landing cannon for the fort at Gloucester Point. Accordingly, she came up today for that purpose, but was so warmly received by the fort, that considering "discretion the better part of valor" turned about and put down the river. They are expecting her to return and have ere this I hope reinforced the fort.

Wednesday, May 8th...Heard that 1,000 troops landed at Gloucester Point today from Richmond.

Saturday, May 11th... Went down to Yorktown with father to see the fortifications which are being erected there. There will be a line of fortification guarding the entrance of the road from Hampton, also a fort on the back to guard the river. Went over on the Gloucester side. There are 400 men, 4 Columbiads, 4 six pounders and 4 rifle barreled cannon.

Thursday, May 16th...Went down to Yorktown this afternoon. Two Columbiads were landed there from Richmond, also a company of soldiers. Several other companies are expected tomorrow.

Friday, May 17th...Heard that 270 troops landed at Yorktown today.

Monday, May 20th...Constant firing of cannon on yesterday and again this afternoon was heard in the direction of Norfolk. Attempts made by the federal ships to get up the vessels sunk just above Norfolk; fired [on] when by the fort.

Thursday, May 23rd...This day will be ever memorable in the history of Virginia and should be celebrated as the anniversary of Virginia's escape from Northern rule and the despot's thralldom. Mr. Wood [Wynne's overseer for Greenmount] and myself went up to Williamsburg and cast our votes for the Ratification of the Ordinance of Secession. Left Fannie and Bet with Nora and Mat making clothes for the soldiers.

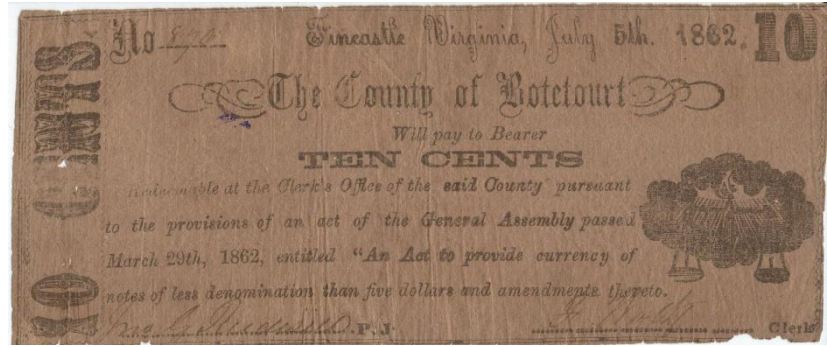
SWEM Donation 2026

(Contributed by Commander Jeff Toalson)

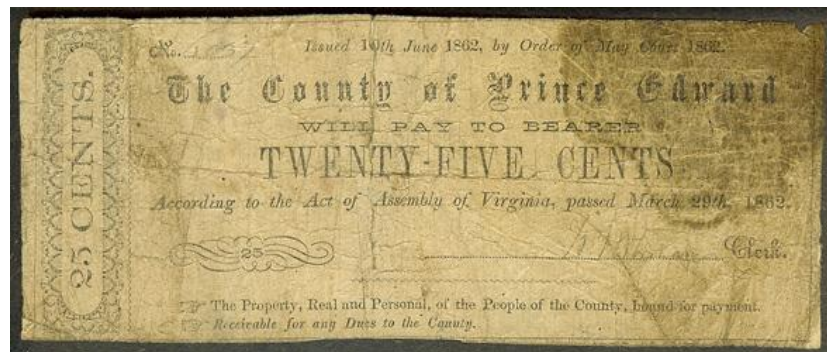
On April 14 I met with Jay Gaidmore, Director of Special Collections at the Swem Archives and gave him the 2026 Jean Keating - James City Cavalry donations for 2026. These go into their collections of documents and letters preserving history of 1850-1870 during and around the WBTS.

Part of our donation this year focused on "Obsolete-Fractional Currency." The Confederacy printed seven issues of paper money in full dollar denominations with \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 being the most common. The Confederacy never minted coinage to address incremental change of less than \$1. The Congress authorized the States to print currency to meet this need and the Virginia Legislature on March 29, 1862 created that authorization.

We donated the attached three notes from Botetourt County, Prince Edward County and the City of Lynchburg. These bills all measure approximately 2 1/2" x 6". They are very fragile and must be maintained in plastic sleeves. These monies tie directly to Swem collections of correspondence from both Botetourt and Prince Edward Counties that I have used in publications. No doubt they have letters and other documents from citizens in Lynchburg.



Botetourt County Currency



Fractional Currency Prince Edward County 25 cent



Fractional Lynchburg Currency 90 cent

A.P. Hill Group Photo

(Contributed by Quartermaster Tom Campbell)



The A. P. Hill Memorial Association held a fundraising event in Mechanicsville on April 2nd. Monies raised were to help fund an A. P. Hill cenotaph in Culpeper County. Mr. Patrick Falci appeared in character as the general providing “An Evening at the Battlefield with A. P. Hill”. Attending from the Cavalry were Jeff Toalson, Mark Griggs and Tom Campbell.

Shelton House / Rural Plains Plantation

(Contributed by Treasurer Jon Holland)

I took Aimee, Thomas and Katherine on a family visit to the Shelton House / Rural Plains plantation on April 6.

This was the home of Sarah Shelton who married Patrick Henry in the front parlor in 1754. The first day’s battle of Cold Harbor was fought on this property and the surrounding area on June 1, 1864. This house had been in the Shelton family for 8 generations until 2006 when they sold the property to the National Park Service as part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park.



Future SCV Cadet Thomas Holland and his sister Katherine in front of the Shelton House



The Shelton House Plantation on the Cold Harbor battlefield

131st Virginia Division S.C.V. Reunion

(Contributed by Commander Jeff Toalson)

Compatriots Jeff Toalson and Lang Shelton represented the Cavalry at the Convention. Jeff and Lang stopped on the way down for a tour of the Cloyd's Mountain battlefield. It is still all farmland, and the armies could show up tomorrow and it would be the land they fought on in 1864. Key items from the meetings are noted in the minutes of our April meeting. Here are a few photos.



Two members of the Color Guard



Some of the CSA themed ties being worn



Virginia Division Commander Kenny Bage (L) presents Lang Shelton with our 2026 Outstanding Camp streamer.



Cloyd's Mountain: Lang Shelton (L) and Jeff Toalson in front of the gravestone of Lt. Chris Cleburne of the 2nd Kentucky Cavalry, half-brother of General Patrick Cleburne, who was killed near this spot during the rear-guard action on May 9, 1864.

Work Detail at Oakwood

(Contributed by Historian Fred Boelt)

On March 29 Compatriot Joe Wert joined the Oakwood Cemetery team in setting several more stones honoring our ancestors. Joe is pictured working to move an "Unknown CSA" marker into position. He also did a lot of brush clearing and work to prepare the site to install the stone for Private A. T. Andrus of the 8th Louisiana Infantry. Just part of the work done on March 29 by the Oakwood Committee.



Joe helps with an Unknown Solder headstone



New headstone for Private A. T. Andrus

Williamsburg Civil War Round Table

<http://www.wcwrt.org>

At 6:30 PM on May 26 At the Williamsburg Library
Theatre Richard Hatcher
will present:

"Fort Sumter: The Key to the Entrance into This Harbor"





Please join the
James City Cavalry's

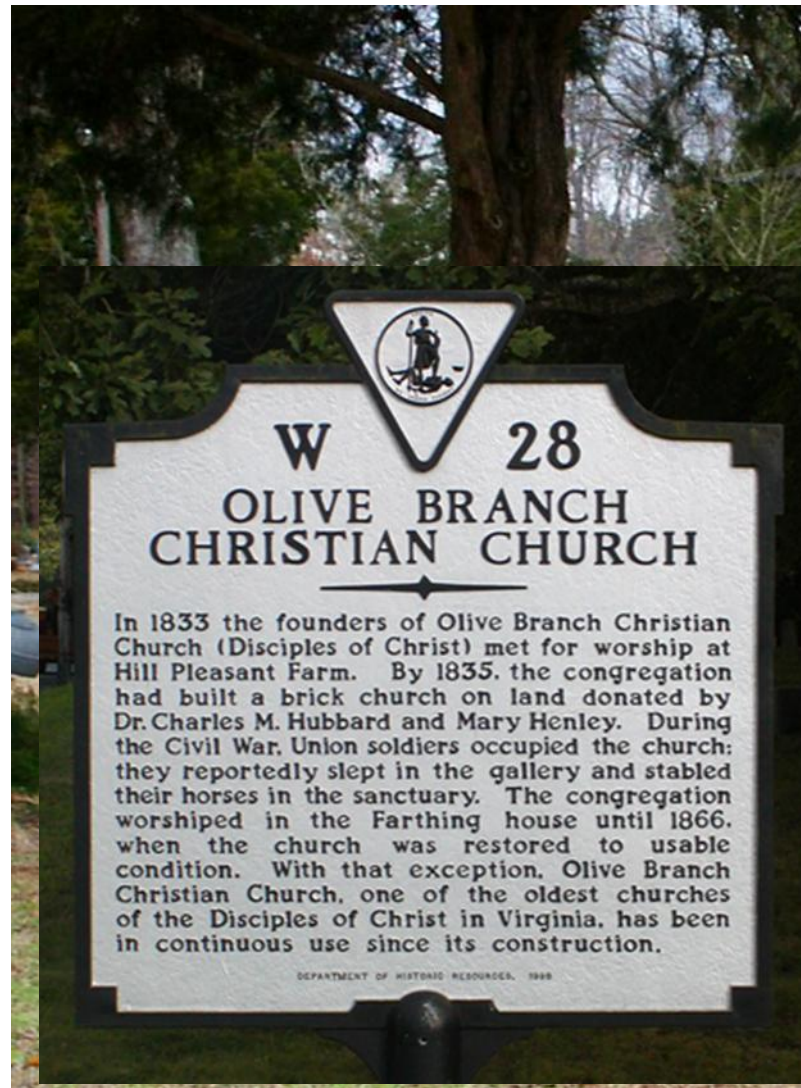


Confederate Remembrance Service

Olive Branch Church

on Friday, May 22nd, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

7643 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188



Please join us at 6:00 p.m. after the Confederate Remembrance Service for the James City Cavalry's May Picnic, in lieu of our regular meeting!

Picnic information & directions to the farm of Historian Fred Boelt in Toano are on the attached flyer!





James City Cavalry's Picnic Supper

on Friday, May 22nd, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

At Compatriot Fred Boelt's Farm

2896 Forge Road, Toano, Virginia 23168 (Use this address in GPS or online)



The James City Cavalry will be serving BBQ from Route 60 BBQ with cole slaw, potato salad, and baked beans plus beverages and desserts. The cost is \$10 per person (children free), payable at Fred's.

A call team will be contacting camp members to confirm reservations. Or you may contact Commander Jeff Toalson at troon24@cox.net or call (757) 220-0131 so sufficient fixin's can be prepared. Please call by May 16th.

Bring folding chairs as we will dine with the peacocks, weather permitting.

Note that there is a new gravel road next to the entrance to Fred's. Take the older left-hand gravel road, not the newer right-hand road. See photo below.

