



# James City Cavalry Picket Lines



December 2024 Dispatch – Williamsburg, Virginia

Camp #2095  10<sup>th</sup> 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.

## No December Meeting

There will be no December camp meeting nor Christmas Supper this year.

The January 2025 camp meeting is scheduled as usual. Look for details in the upcoming January 2025 *Picket Lines*.



We wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all camp members and friends of the camp.

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](mailto:jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com). To email one of the camp officers directly, see **Camp Officers** on page 3.

## Commander's Comments

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of my Cavalry Compatriots and all of our Cavalry Friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It has been an excellent year for the Cavalry, and you can all be very proud of your contributions to our mutual success.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Ron Perry attended the November 19 update meeting regarding progress made toward identification and burial of the 4 sets of remains found near the Colonial Williamsburg Magazine. Historian Fred Boelt participated by zoom from the Peacock Farm and I zoomed the meeting from a quiet beach in South Carolina. A recap of the highlights of this very informative meeting is included in this issue.

Thanks to all of you for your excellent and continuing support of Mercy Chefs in their efforts to provide hot meals to the residents in Asheville, Black Mountain, Bat Cave, Hendersonville, Old Fort and other western North Carolina towns. They were battered by Hurricane Helene. These folks will probably need additional support from us in 2025.

Editor Paul Huelskamp has included a page highlighting our group of 2024 speakers. Ron Perry assembled another fine selection of presenters who expanded our knowledge on a wide variety of subjects. Ron is already booking spots in the opening portion of our 2025 season. We look forward to his lineup of talent.

It was indeed a special moment for Chaplain George Corbett to be among the honorees at the United Daughters of the Confederacy National Convention in Richmond on November 1. Congratulations George for their recognition of your service in Vietnam.

This issue has a list of dates for us to meet and put in a couple of hours of light work cleaning up Fort Magruder and our cemeteries. Please add these dates to your calendar. More details will follow. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander Steve White needs your assistance, and it is a great chance to get to know some of your fellow members.

We all serve in their memory,

Jeff

# Camp Journal for Last Muster

## Meeting:

Held November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,  
James City County, Va., **24 Attendees**

Welcome given by Adjutant Dave Watson

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:

### Compatriot Bill Miller

Bill's talk "*Sideshowes of the Big Show*" featured a variety of stories  
and humorous anecdotes from the Peninsula, Stone  
Mountain and Appomattox.



Compatriot Miller and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cmdr. Perry

## Committee Reports and Announcements:

### Cemetery Report

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander Steve White announced the fort and  
cemetery cleanup schedule for the upcoming season. Start time  
for all days is 11 am.

1/11	Fort Magruder
1/18	Peach Park
2/15	Cowles-Spencer / Sunnyside / Hunt's Farm
3/8	Bob White Family Cemetery Barhamsville
3/15	Alternate date as needed

### Old & New Business

- Adjutant's Report – Adjutant Dave Watson
- Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Jon Holland
- Commander's Comments - Adjutant Dave Watson
- WCWRT Update – Compatriot Bill Miller

### Book Raffle

Proceeds of \$50 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 <a href="mailto:troon24@cox.net">troon24@cox.net</a>
1st Lt. Commander	Ron Perry <a href="mailto:perryra@gmail.com">perryra@gmail.com</a>
2nd Lt. Commander	Steve White <a href="mailto:garrettsgrocery@gmail.com">garrettsgrocery@gmail.com</a>
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## New Member Induction - October



At the October meeting we inducted three new members. LtoR: Cmdr. Jeff Toalson, Adjutant Dave Watson, Bob White, Mark Griggs, Hal Hardaway and 1st Lt. Commander Ron Perry. Hal has moved here from Alexandria and transferred his membership from that camp.

## Missing Fishing Vessels from Gloucester, Mass.

The *Cape Ann Advertiser* of the 24<sup>th</sup> [March] says nothing has yet been heard from the thirteen missing vessels, and that the chances for the safety of . . . the 120 men, is now nearly hopeless. They were all probably lost in the terrible gale of the 25<sup>th</sup> of February. The unfortunate men have left seventy widows and 214 fatherless children in the town of Gloucester. . . . We hope the owners of these vessels . . . will resolve that the early trips to Georges [Banks] shall be discontinued.

New York Daily Tribune \* March 28, 1862 \* page 6 / col. 5

## WBTS in December

### The Battle of Nashville – Dec 15 & 16, 1864



Gen. John Bell Hood's western campaign reached its' bloody conclusion.



# Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

There were other men from the peninsula area who were interred in Oakwood Cemetery. In the 1850 census, Julia C. Taylor, a widow with four children, was living in Williamsburg. One son, Leonard Taylor, born about 1842, was in her household. So far, his father's name has not been determined. In 1860, Leonard Taylor, age 18 years old, was still living in his mother's household in Williamsburg; no occupation given.

On April 28, 1861, Leonard Taylor enlisted as a private in Company C, 32<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Infantry, in Williamsburg. He was marked present on all rolls from July 1861, through May 1862. He was sick for a short time in June and he was slightly wounded in action at Sharpsburg on September 17, 1862. He was again marked sick from February 16 to May 1, 1863.

Leonard Taylor was wounded in action at Cold Harbor on June 4, 1864, with a gunshot wound in the left hip which penetrated the cavity. He was admitted to Richmond General Hospital #9 on June 5<sup>th</sup> and transferred to Chimborazo Hospital. He died there on June 7, 1864, and was interred in Oakwood Cemetery. One of many young lives cut short.

In the 1850 census, Allen L. Williamson, fifteen years old, was living with his father, William D. Williamson, and several siblings in James City County. His mother was not included in the enumeration. In 1860, he was the overseer for George Hankins at his farm, Marlbrook, located adjacent to and behind Hickory Neck Church. His age was then listed as twenty-seven years old. Knowing that census dates are often off by a few years, we can assume that he was born around 1833-1835.

Allen Williamson enlisted as a private in Company C, 32<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Infantry, in Williamsburg on April 28, 1861. He was present on the 1861 rolls but seems to have been sickly thereafter. January- February 1862, he was sick in Williamsburg. May and June, he was marked absent, sick in Richmond followed by a stay in CSA General Hospital, Danville, from June 29<sup>th</sup> through July 10<sup>th</sup>. He was again absent, sick in Richmond Hospital #2, beginning on August 29<sup>th</sup> through September and October, with a note that he returned to duty at the end of October.

Williamson seems to have been healthier after that for he was present on the remaining 1863 rolls and the rolls through September 1864. He was admitted to Chimborazo Hospital on October 13<sup>th</sup> with apoplexy and rheumatism, and he died there on October 19, 1864. Allen Williamson was interred in Oakwood Cemetery and his effects were returned to his heirs on November 1<sup>st</sup> with a note that there was no money included.

In 1850, William Moore was twenty years old, living with his parents, Henry and Sarah Moore in York County, and farming. By 1860, he had married Martha Ann, and they had four daughters and a newborn son. William owned his own farm in the Halfway House district by this time.

William Moore enlisted as a private in Company I, 32<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Infantry, at Harwood's Mill in York County on January 28, 1862. He was described as 5 feet, 10 inches, of dark complexion, hair and eyes, and a farmer by occupation. He was present on all rolls until May 14, 1862, when he was admitted to Chimborazo Hospital. William Moore died there of pneumonia on June 7, 1862 and was interred in Oakwood Cemetery.

Benjamin Briggs enlisted as a private in Company I, 32<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Infantry, at Halfway House, York County, on November 6, 1861. Although his family background has not been determined, his occupation was "Gold Beater," one who beats gold nuggets into gold leaf. He was described as 5 feet, 11 inches, light complexion and hair, with blue eyes. Briggs was admitted to Chimborazo Hospital #2 on May 2, 1862, with typhoid fever. He died there on May 27, 1862, and was interred at Oakwood Cemetery. Even though his service was short, he deserves to be honored along with all veterans interred there.

# Identity & Burial Update for the Four Baptist Hospital C.S.A. Soldiers

(Contributed by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cmdr. Perry with Cmdr. Toalson & Historian Boelt)

**November 19, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. - Dewitt Wallace Collections and Conservation Building**

Mr. Jack Gary, Director of Archaeology for Colonial Williamsburg, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Key people discussed Osteological Analysis, DNA Analysis, and Burial Arrangements.

Dr. Joseph Jones of the College of William and Mary addressed the Osteological Analysis. The skeletal remains were analyzed for chemical compounds that would indicate the geographic area where they were raised. Dr. Jones indicated this would generate better results from younger subjects. Many of the prospective hospital deaths were in the 18-29 year range. Soldier #1 was over 30, and the other three fell in the good group. Good geographic data was obtained from the remains.

Dr. Raqual Fleskes of Dartmouth College discussed the DNA and the Ancient DNA Research. They have DNA in good condition from #1, #3 and #4. The temporal bone was very brittle on #2 but they got a decent sample. They secured from .17 grams to .44 grams of usable material from the 4 soldiers. The Qubit values of the strands ranged from 61.1 to 93.7, with those of #2 being the low number. Dr. Fleskes stressed that these are all excellent numbers from remains that have been unprotected in the ground for over 160 years. She is hopeful that by January 2025, they will be ready with the four sets of DNA strands to move forward.

When the DNA sets are ready Colonial Williamsburg will combine these two areas of research along with the list of deaths at the Baptist Hospital that followed the Battle of Williamsburg. They will then determine if they can focus the DNA Research on a select group vs. all 19 candidates in a search for familial matches.

Dr. Eric Schweikart of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and Director Renea C. Yates of the Office of Army Cemeteries discussed burial details for the four soldiers. The plan is to inter them at Cedar Grove Cemetery in the new burial section. The cost per soldier with lot, vault, stainless steel container for the individually bagged remains, etc. will cost about \$4,000 per soldier. Each soldier will be buried with an 'Unknown CSA Soldier' headstone supplied by the Veterans Administration until such time as they might be identified. The desire is to rebury as soon as possible and not wait for test results and matching which could take a very long time. The Army hopes to accomplish a private burial sometime in January, 2025.

The Williamsburg Chapter of the U.D.C. and the James City Cavalry S.C.V. Camp will plan an appropriate Confederate ceremony in coordination with Cedar Grove Cemetery at a later date.



# Thank You to Our 2024 Speakers!



**Mr. Carson Hudson**



**Dr. Eric Schweickert**



**Mrs. Feather Foster**



**Mrs. Billie Earnest**



**Mrs. Melody Bage**



**Mrs. Cookie Batten & Mr. Sam Winkler**



**Captain Bob Kennedy, USN-  
Retired**



**Ms. Jennifer England & Mr. Albert  
Burckard**



**Mr. Larry Floyd**



# UDC National Veterans Service Award

George Corbett, Camp Senior Chaplain, received the United Daughters of the Confederacy Veterans Service Award during their 131st General Meeting in Richmond, Virginia on 1 November 2024 for his service during the Vietnam War. He was nominated for this prestigious award by Ms. Julia Hardaway, UDC Vice President General, a fellow South Carolinian.



Ms. Hardaway and Compatriot Corbett. Photo by Karen Corbett.

## Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwrt.org>

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - Bert Dunkerly  
will present:

**"The Significance of the Battle of Stones  
River"**