



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



January 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

Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 6:30 pm

Colonial Heritage Club House

www.colonialheritageclub.com

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 Tolson (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.jamecitycavalry.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.

January Guest Speaker

Mr. Sam Winkler

***“Dr. Witchell -
Herbalist and Patent
Medicine Salesman”***

Dr. Witchell was an herbal doctor during the War Between The States selling patent medicine (snake oil). The talk is actually two parts: first about the herbs used during the war, and on a lighter side he tries to sell his tonics. He is a ragin' Cajun snake oil salesman.



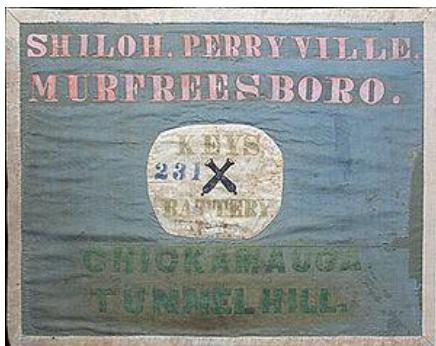
A living historian who resides in Roanoke, Virginia, Sam has been doing living history for more than 20 years. His favorite portrayal is President Jefferson Davis, a man he greatly admires. He also portrays Wilson Hix, the owner of Cloverhill Tavern at Appomattox Court House, and several Catholic chaplains from the Civil War. For fun he portrays a Ragin Cajun snake oil salesman. He was presented the Judah P. Benjamin award for education in 2023. Recently he was presented the Jefferson Davis Gold Medal by the UDC for his portrayal of President Jefferson Davis.

(Submitted by 1st. Lt. Cmdr. Ron Perry)

Camp Officers

Commander	Jeff Tolson troon24@cox.net
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Key's Battery Battle Flag



The 1864 battle flag of Key's Battery of Arkansas Light Artillery. They served in Hardee's Corp and Cleburne's Division of the Army of Tennessee. This is a Hardee pattern battle flag and displays battle honors of the battery. Being an Arkansas battery, they served the entire war with Cleburne who was from Arkansas. This flag is in the collection of the Old State House Museum in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commander's Comments

We welcome our 21st year as a Camp. The Cavalry continues to grow and expand the good services we provide our local community, the state, and sometimes even the nation as we did last year with our aid to victims of flooding in Western North Carolina and Kerr County, Texas.

Even as this issue is being prepared, 2nd Lt. Commander Steve White has booked work for us on the first two Saturdays in January doing the winter cleaning at Fort Magruder. This will primarily be tree fall, brush, and trash. It is our honor to help the ladies of the Williamsburg U.D.C. Chapter in the care and maintenance of the central fortification in the Williamsburg Line. The land in front of the fort was a horrific scene of carnage as the two armies attacked and counter-attacked over the same area for most of May the 5th in the rain and mud. Great progress has been made by the Williamsburg Battlefield Association, the American Battlefield Trust, local governments and the United Daughters of the Confederacy in preserving major portions of this May, 1862, battlefield. It has been our honor to assist these organizations in their work.

The 2025 report from the Oakwood Cemetery Restoration Committee is in and they have installed 109 Confederate headstones, 20 are on hand ready to install, 60 are on order, and 96 are on the current list for the next order. We have been supporting the Oakwood Committee with monies for cemetery maintenance and began last year ordering stones to honor James City County and York County men who rest in unmarked graves. That work will continue in 2026.

We had a marvelous Christmas Party planned but Mother Nature decided to provide ice and unsafe conditions in the parking areas in downtown Toano. We certainly did not need any members falling and breaking bones so we cancelled. Derick Hayman had assembled an impressive grouping of items for a silent auction and we had a wonderful selection of non WBTS books for the book auction. This would have generated some nice monies for our 2026 projects. Well, we will have those items to use at the 2026 party.

I thank you all for your efforts during 2025. Each of us need to find one new member to join our Camp in 2026.

Yours,

Jeff

Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Historian Fred Boelt)

“Williamsburg, Virginia
14 December 1927

Williamsburg Chapter
United Daughters of the Confederacy
Williamsburg, Virginia

My dear Ladies:

One mile above Toano, Virginia on the state road to Richmond stands Hickory Neck Church, the present parish church of Blisland Parish.

Just how old Blisland Parish is we do not know. We do know that it was in being in the year 1679, for in that year it was mentioned in the state papers of the colony.

In the year 1733 the vestry of the Parish ordered the building of a new brick church in the lower parish. Very careful orders and instructions were given for the erection of this building. ... Following the war of the Revolution, the church fell into decay. ... Finally in the year 1825, the glebe land was ordered sold and a part of the money was used to restore a portion of the old building so that a school might be opened there.

At last, the church was again turned into a place of worship and now regular services are held there every Sunday afternoon of the year.

In the spring of 1862, the Union forces under General McClellan landed at Fortress Monroe and began that march up the Peninsula of Virginia that was to end in defeat and despair for the Union arms [sic], and in glory and victory for the Confederate forces under Johnstone and Lee.

The advance of the Federal troops was first delayed along a line running from the works about Yorktown across the Peninsula to the James. McClellan brought up heavy guns and prepared to besiege Yorktown. General Johnstone, greatly outnumbered in men and artillery, had no intention of withstanding a prolonged siege at Yorktown. He did plan to delay Union forces as long as possible and give the authorities at Richmond the time to raise, equip and train an army of such a size as might successfully defend Richmond.

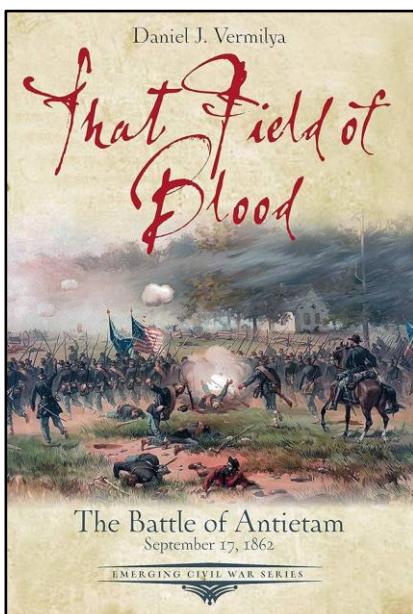
On Mar. 1st. Battery No. 1 of the Union Artillery opened fire on the town and dock at Yorktown from a position just below the Moore House on the York River. Orders were issued calling for all the siege artillery of the Union forces to open fire four days later. Information of this order fell into the hands of General Johnstone. He realized that to stay longer would place his men in a fearful position and cause losses of life that would in no way advance the cause of the Confederacy.

May 2nd. The artillery, except the heavy guns, was ordered to quietly withdraw from the lines after sunset, and put in motion for Williamsburg. On May 3rd. the entire army of Johnston [sic] began to retire before the enemy up the Peninsula.”

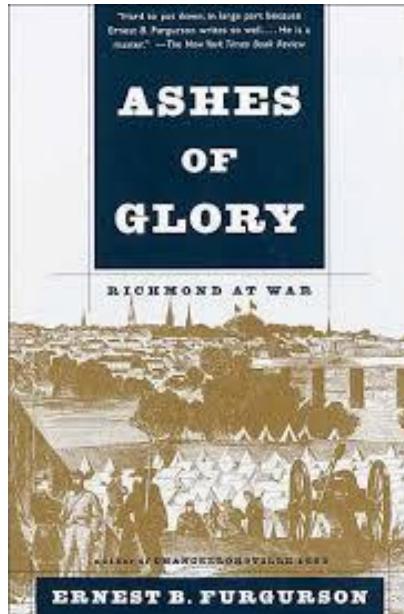
Why was the Rev. John B. Bentley writing to the Williamsburg Chapter, UDC? The letter will be continued next month.

January Book Raffle

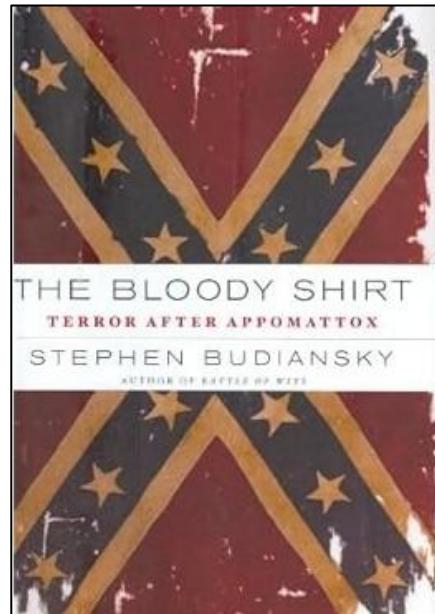
(Contributed by Compatriot Derick Hayman)



"That Field of Blood: The Battle of Antietam"
By Daniel J. Vermilya

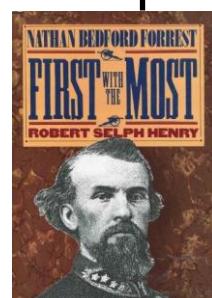


"Ashes of Glory: Richmond at War"
By Ernest B. Furgurson



"The Bloody Shirt: Terror After Appomattox"
by Stephen Budiansky

Bonus Book:
"First with the Most: Nathan Bedford Forrest"
By Robert Selph Henry



Upcoming Speaker Schedule

Feb 25	Mr. Andrew Morehead - "The Rest of the Story – General A. P. Hill Finally at Rest!"
Mar 25	<i>t.b.d.</i>
Apr 22	Mr. Art Wingo - "The Chimborazo Hospital System"