



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



October 2025 Dispatch – Williamsburg, Virginia

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

Camp 2095 - Our 20th Anniversary Year!

Next Muster

Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025, 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.

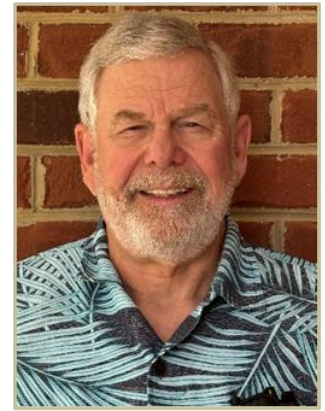
Non-camp members please contact Jeff Toalson (757) 220-0131 or troon24@cox.net to make a dinner reservation. Camp members will be contacted by the 'Call Team' for your reservation. Attendees without a reservation are welcome to attend the meeting but may not receive a dinner.

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.

October Guest Speaker

Navy Captain Robert
Kennedy
(Ret.)



***“Damn the
Torpedoes”***

Capt. Kennedy will explore the development and employment of mines (aka torpedoes) and their role in the overall Confederate Naval strategy during the WBTS. The presentation will introduce the organizational structure and key individuals who were responsible for the torpedo implementation program pursued by the Confederacy. Examples of the many mine types will be discussed, and finally, examples will be provided of the impact on the Union forces throughout the conflict.

Captain Bob Kennedy hails from the Tarheel State. He enlisted in the Navy after high school and rose from an enlisted man to the rank of Captain during his 37-year career. He volunteers as a docent on the U.S.S. Wisconsin and loves to travel to locations with great wineries, great seafood and WBTS naval history, especially Confederate naval history.

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

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held September 24th 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 Mark Griggs

Program:

1st Lt. Commander Ron Perry (L) welcomed Ms. Shelly Liebler to our September meeting where she presented a very interesting talk on the attack on Fort Pocahontas in the summer of 1864 by cavalry under the command of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee. Union U.S.C.T.s backed by some light artillery and one naval gunboat repelled all attempts to capture the fort.

Committee Reports and Announcements:**Old & New Business**

- Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Jon Holland
- Commander's Comments - Cmdr. Jeff Toalson
- WCWRT Update – Compatriot Bill Miller

Certificate Presentations**UDC Military Awards**

Chapter 637 President Lynne Jakobowski and Recorder of Military Service Awards Eleanor Hunter presented medals and certificates to three of our members. See page 7 below for details and photos.



Adjutant Dave Watson (L) welcomes our new Friends of the Camp
- Mr. Clark Waring and Mrs. Gerry Waring both of whom have been long time supporters of the Camp.

Book Raffle

Proceeds of \$71 were donated to the Camp Treasury from the raffle of the four donations.

Benediction

Given by Sr. Chaplain George Corbett

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

Civil War in October

October 1861 – Savannah Blockades Savannah

From the start of the war until February 1862 the frigate USS *Savannah* participated in the blockade of Savannah, Georgia, assisting in the capture of several blockade runners.



USS *Savannah*

Commander's Comments

By the time this issue hits the press Compatriots Shelton, M. Griggs, Hayman, Turner and Campbell will have joined me in working the S.C.V. booth at the Virginia State Fair on October 3. As in the past, I am sure we will have a good day selling merchandise and making new friends.

Since Jay Gaidmore's presentation and my last Commander Comments, we have had one offer to donate World War 2 letters, pictures, ration coupons, telegrams and other minutia of a relative who died during the Battle of the Bulge. Please give some thought to preserving letters or oral history that you and your family may have. If we are talking about letters or emails from a recent conflict in Iraq or Afghanistan, a hold can be placed on researchers using the letters for a given number of years so that the people discussed are no longer living. This is a very common consideration.

Our Christmas party will be on December 10 in downtown Toano. The Camp will provide the BBQ, and each family needs to bring a side dish. We will have at least 50 people, so it needs to be a good-sized side dish. We will have a silent auction for a variety of WBTS-related items and other gifts. We will also have a book auction of popular mysteries and histories that can be used as Christmas gifts.

The idea of a three-piece combo of tenor sax, guitar and bagpipe playing holiday music got voted down at the September meeting.

Captain Bob is not telling submarine stories this time, but it is still a nautical talk. He will be discussing mines and torpedoes used for defending harbors, channels and rivers. The Confederacy was quite successful with inventing and deploying a wide variety of weaponry to sink Union ships. This should be a great talk.

Jeff

Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Historian Fred Boelt)

Over the years, we have honored the lives and service of many Confederate veterans from the Williamsburg/James City County area. There are still a few that need our memorializing.

Felix Pierce is one of these men. Based on census records, he was born about 1823. His mother was Elizabeth B. Pierce; father as yet undetermined. He had a brother, William F. Pierce, born about 1821, and they had an older brother, Robert B. Pierce, born about 1810. Without the father's name, we have not been able to determine where these men were born.

The 1850 census was the first census that listed all persons in each household. Felix Pierce was a 27-year-old farmer living in James City County. Also, in the household, there was his wife, Sarah E, age 33, and two sons, William M., age 4, and John O., age 1.

In the 1852 James City land tax records, Felix Pierce owned 130 acres adjacent to H. B. M. Richardson's Cloverdale farm off Ware Creek Road. Also, that year he purchased 235¼ acres from Thomas Taylor's estate. This land, roughly, extended from the Hankins land west of the present-day C&O Railroad right of way through present day Burnt Ordinary Apartments, on past the former Sheldon Lumber Company and the old canning factory. In 1857, Felix sold 5¼ acres to his brother, Robert B. Pierce.

In the 1860 census, Felix' wife Sarah was not included and perhaps had died by that time. His brother, Robert, his mother, Elizabeth, and his two sons were included in the household.

Older than the average inductee, Felix Pierce registered for service on April 1, 1861, at Burnt Ordinary. He mustered into service as a sergeant in Company I, 3rd Virginia Cavalry, on June 24th in Williamsburg. Present in July and August, he was on sick leave off and on during the fall and winter months. He was in the Episcopal Church Hospital with Diphtheria from February 27 until he returned to duty on May 4, 1862. By this time, he was in Company H, 5th Virginia Cavalry. In July, he was in St. Charles Hospital in Richmond.

After a gap in his records, by March 1863, Felix Pierce was employed as a nurse at Hanover Academy Hospital. In December 1863, he was transferred to Chimborazo Hospital for the same duty. His records end in August 1864, when he was still on staff at the hospital. Whether or not he served to the end of the war is unclear. He did return home to his farm in Burnt Ordinary

The 1870 census listed Felix and his second wife, Mattie F. Perhaps they were married late in the war years for they had two daughters, Beulah H. age 5, and Mattie E., age 1. Felix's older sons, William and John, were farming with their father. The Olive Branch Christian Church records indicate that Robert B. Pierce died in December 1865, and that Felix Pierce died on August 1, 1871. There is no indication that either of these men are buried at Olive Branch.

The older son, William M. Pierce, would have been old enough for service later in the war. In the 1896 newspaper article about the 5th Virginia Cavalry written by Col. Allen, he listed W. M. Pierce among the privates and indicated that he was alive. However, no service records have been found, and he was not listed in the 1900 census. The younger son, John O. Pierce was married and living in King William County in 1900.

We need to be on the lookout for Felix Pierce's grave.

9/8/25 Update – Baptist Hospital 1862 Remains

(Contributed by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson)

On September 8, Jack Gary, Director of Archaeology for Colonial Williamsburg, chaired an updating meeting of all the stakeholders to keep everyone apprised of the current developments. The four sets of remains have been interred at the Cedar Grove Cemetery in Williamsburg. The miscellaneous bones in the surgeon's pit have all been interred in a fifth plot. Now we are moving forward with the process of potential identification.

Evan Bell (Archaeology Department) and Elizabeth Drembus (William and Mary Bray Genealogy), based on data from prior osteological studies, have focused their attention on the most likely candidate to be in casket #3 and have done extensive work with military records and census records to work forward from 1862 to 2025 to determine the names of living relatives. The candidate had 9 sisters and brothers which allowed work on both maternal and paternal lines of DNA. Five generations down the maternal line (from a sister) there are 3 candidates. Three and four generations down the paternal line (from a brother) there are 4 candidates.

The Archaeological Department of Colonial Williamsburg will now reach out to the selected living ancestors of the soldier. Their goal will be to get their permission and DNA samples to run against the DNA they hold to confirm if this soldier is their great (4 or 5) uncle. There are many protections in place and after completion of the project the DNA samples will be destroyed. These samples will not be shared with other databases.

Dr. Raquel Fleskes of Dartmouth College's Ancient DNA Lab noted that they have excellent DNA from individual #3. Before burial additional DNA samples were taken from left and right canines on #1, #2, and #4 which resulted in improved DNA results for those remains.

With a group of several DNA strands from these relatives, Raquel will have 1 strand of maternal DNA and 4 strands of paternal DNA to compare with the DNA extracted from the skeletal remains of individual #3. If it matches, and they are hopeful, then the focus for individual #2 and individual #4 is more limited because logic dictates that their deaths were within a day or two of #3. If it does not match, then it will require a reset and re-evaluation.

None of this would have been possible without a small hospital, a surgeon who kept an excellent set of records, a small number of dead over a less than 2-week period, burial in shallow pits behind the hospital rather than a mass burial pit and the surprising condition of the remains which yielded viable DNA.



Marker #3 - Cedar Grove Cemetery

Cavalrymen On The Road

Compatriot Shelton in Tennessee

I have been out in Tennessee visiting family and enjoying historical sites. I have visited the SCV Headquarters and Museum, the battlefield at Franklin and the battlefield and the Rippavilla Plantation mansion at Spring Hill. Our SCV Museum continues to add displays. Their collection of weapons has grown significantly. They currently have on loan the original plaster cast for the death mask of Jefferson Davis. This cast was made immediately upon his death in 1889. Rippavilla was a very interesting site and upstairs they had two wonderful bronze busts of Confederate General Hood and Union General Schofield who were the opposing generals at both Spring Hill and at Franklin.

- Lang Shelton



Death Mask - J. Davis - SCV Museum



Hood and Schofield Busts

Commander Toalson in North Carolina

We were on the Emerald Isle as we headed north toward Ocracoke and Cape Hatteras. Fort Macon is at the northern end of the barrier island guarding access to Beaufort Harbor. It is owned by the State of North Carolina, and they have done a magnificent job of restoration. This masonry fort was completed in 1834. It has the inner citadel, a dry moat which can be flooded, and the outer bastion (as seen in the photo). They have created excellent displays on a wide variety of topics. The fort fell during the Burnside Expedition of 1862 after naval bombardment with rifled cannon. This is well worth a stop as long as the mosquito is not in season. It is free and they only seek donations to help with the purchase of guns, powder and ammunition for their artillery demonstrations.

- Jeff Toalson



Fort Macon



Canister Display

UDC Military Service Award Ceremony

(Contributed by Chief of Staff Ken Parsons)

At the September camp dinner, UDC Chapter 637 President Lynne Jakobowski and Recorder of Military Service Awards Eleanor Hunter presented medals and certificates to three of our members.

Quartermaster Tom Campbell received the Pioneers in Space Technical Achievement Certificate for his work with N.A.S.A. at Langley.

Compatriots Jim O'Donnell (United States Army) received the Meritorious Service Medal and Denny Griggs (United States Navy) received the National Defense Service Medal. Both Jim and Denny received these medals for service in various Middle East operations.



LtoR: Eleanor Hunter, Denny Griggs, Jim O'Donnell, Tom Campbell and Lynne Jakobowski



Lynne and Denny



Jim and Lynne

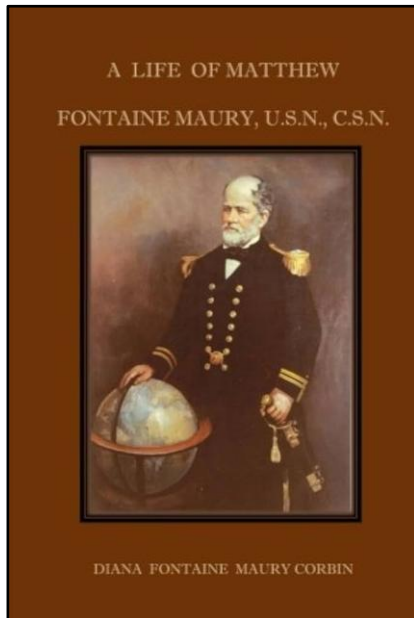


Tom and Lynne

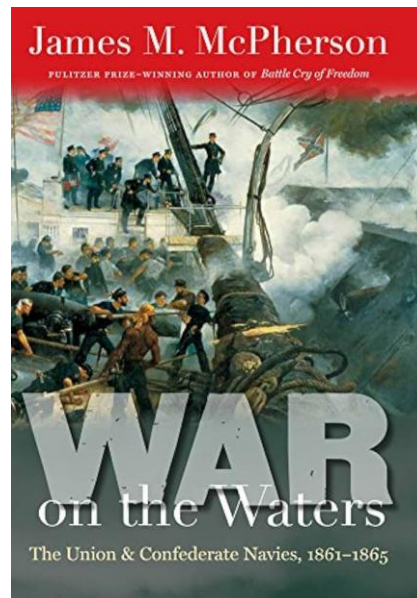


October Book Raffle

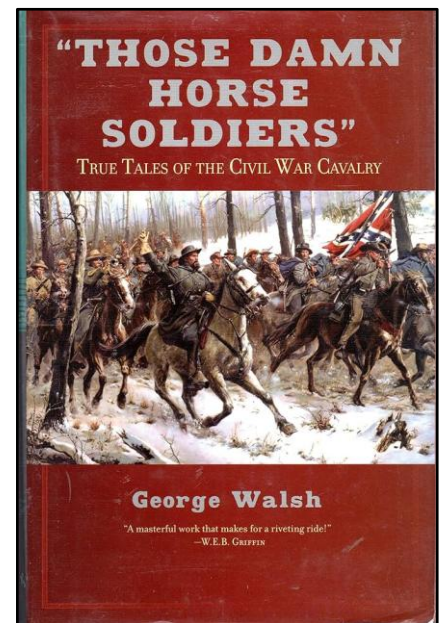
(Contributed by Compatriot Derick Hayman)



"A Life of Matthew Fontaine Maury, USN, CSN"
by Diana Fontaine Maury Corbin

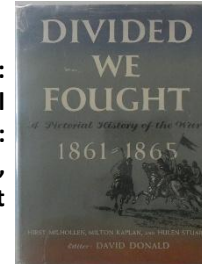


"War on the Waters (The Union & Confederate Navies, 1861-1865)"
by James M. McPherson



"Those Damn Horse Soldiers (True Tales of the Civil War Cavalry)"
by George Walsh

Bonus Book:
"Divided We Fought (A Pictorial History of the War 1861- 1865):
by Hirst Milhollen, Milton Kaplan,
and Hulen Stuart



Williamsburg Civil War Round Table

<http://www.wcwrt.org>

At 6:30 PM on October 21st at the
Williamsburg Library Theatre speaker Mr.
Owen Lanier will present:

"Civil War - Yorktown"



Nelson House Hospital sketch by A. R.
Waud

Join the James City Cavalry

At a Confederate Christmas Supper!

A book raffle and
silent auction of
WBTS and other
items will be
held.

Joe Duggan will
be strumming
tunes on his
guitar.

The Camp is
providing BBQ and
requesting one large
potluck dish from
each family/party.
We are expecting
over 50 attendees.

JCC Christmas Trivia Question:
Saint Nick or Steve White?

Wednesday, December 10th, 2025

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

at the

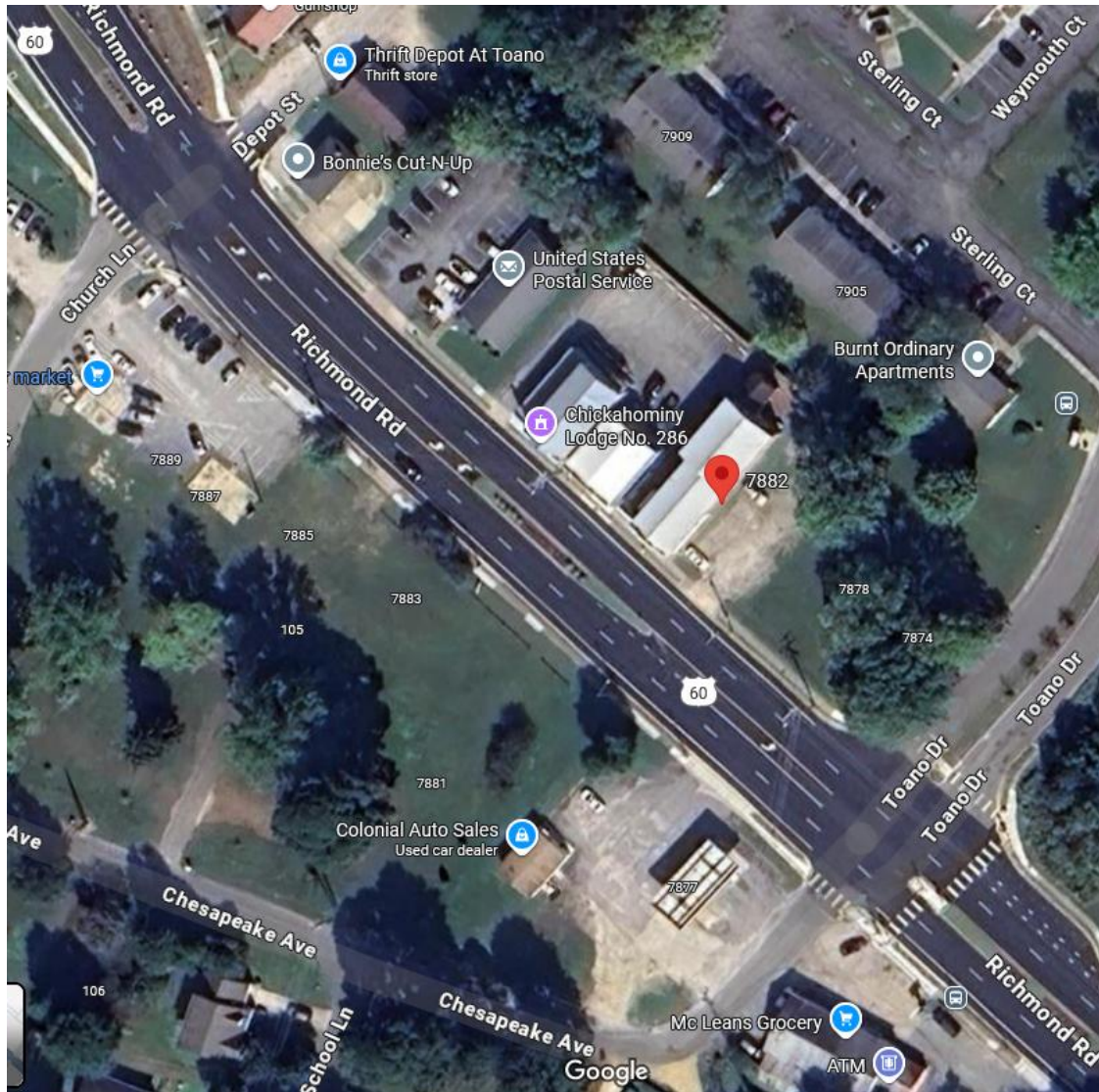
W.C. Martin Store

7882 Richmond Road, Toano



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Parking is available in the large store lot and behind the adjacent Masonic Lodge or next-door Post Office. The entrance is at the back door.

