



# James City Cavalry Picket Lines



February 2025 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.

## Next Muster

Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 6:30 pm  
Colonial Heritage Club House  
[www.colonialheritageclub.com/find-us](http://www.colonialheritageclub.com/find-us)  
6500 Arthur Hills Drive  
Williamsburg, VA 23188



**Meal Cost: \$23.00 Per Person**  
**Payment by Check is Preferred**

Non-camp members please contact Jeff Toalson (757) 220-0131 or [troon24@cox.net](mailto: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](mailto:jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com). To email one of the camp officers directly, see **Camp Officers** on page 3.

## February Guest Speaker

**Andrew Bennett  
Morehead**

***“Exhumation and  
Transfer of Gen  
A.P. Hill's  
Remains to  
Culpeper, & The  
Rest of The Story”***



In his presentation, Andrew will give a first-hand account of the removal of Lt. Gen. A. P. Hill's remains from its repose at the grave site in Richmond. You will also learn of the events leading up to the removal of the remains and the on-going lawsuit for possession of Gen. Hill's grave marker with the city. Merchandise will be available, for a strongly suggested donation threshold, with all proceeds benefitting the A. P. Hill Memorial Association.

Andrew is a second-generation funeral director with Bennett Funeral Home. He grew up, and still resides, in Eastern Hanover. Andrew received a BA in Economics from Hampden-Sydney College in 1998. He has been a member of the SCV since 2007 and was a founding member and current Commander of the Brig. Gen. W.C. Wickham Camp 2250, SCV. Since 2020, Andrew has been involved with the descendants of A.P. Hill in their ongoing fight over the monument that served as his grave-marker. In 2022, he founded the A. P. Hill Memorial Association as a non-stock/non-profit organization as the sole means of funding this endeavor.

# Cemetery Work Report

(Contributed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Cmdr. Steve White)

On January 25 and February 1, we had work details attack the brush and tree fall at Fort Magruder. On the 25th I was joined by Ron Perry, Mark Griggs and James Gilley. On the 1st I was joined by Ron Perry, Mark Griggs, Derick Hayman, Lang Shelton, Bob White, Jeff Toalson and Joe Wert. We have now removed the majority of the tree trash from the interior of the fort and will concentrate our attentions on upcoming work details to the moat and brush-hogging the battlements.

Thanks to everyone for your work. The fort is looking good. It is wet and that is slowing down our efforts. We will have it in great shape by the time the U.D.C. is ready for their Memorial Service.



L to R - Compatriots Wert, Hayman, White, Perry, Griggs & Shelton

# Hurricane Relief Update

(Contributed by Treasurer Jon Holland)

On January 22, 2025 we sent a donation in the amount of \$1,395.00 to Mercy Chefs. Since sending that check I have received an additional \$570.00 in donations and hope to send a second donation mid February. This was our initial donation in our drive for \$10,000. By this publication date I expect we will have passed the \$3,000 mark in our campaign. Mercy Chefs has moved their HQ Kitchen to Black Mountain to be in the center of the area where they are serving 4,000 hot meals a day at their cost of \$3.00 a meal and they will be there supporting these folks into the spring.

Please forward our flyer (see last page of this month's *Picket Lines*) to your friends to solicit help for our neighbors in North Carolina.



## 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>
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Historian	Fred Boelt <a href="mailto:fwb@widomaker.com">fwb@widomaker.com</a>
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## WBTS in February

### 10 Feb. 1862: Battle of Elizabeth City

The Battle of Elizabeth City was a naval engagement between the US Navy and the Confederate Mosquito Fleet. The latter was supported by a shore-based battery of four guns at Cobb's Point. The defeat of the Mosquito Fleet and capture of Elizabeth City by the Federals isolated Norfolk and lead to its later abandonment by Confederate forces.



## Commander's Comments

We are off and running in our campaign to raise \$10,000 to support the Mercy Chef operations aiding the small North Carolina towns that got flooded by Hurricane Helene. Now they have even had two forest fires break out around Old Fort. As Jon notes in his article, we have sent in our first donation of \$1,395 and more monies are arriving. We will be sending our second donation very soon. This campaign will continue through April to help get these folks back on their feet.

Please help us. Email the flyer on the last page of this newsletter to several groups of your friends. You may need to scan and save the document and then forward as an attachment to a short email. We need your help to reach our \$10,000 goal.

We have an excellent speaker joining us this month. Andrew Morehead has been intimately involved with the removal and transfer of A. P. Hill's remains from his Richmond gravesite to Culpeper. As a mortician he stepped forward from the S.C.V. to oversee this project. Several of us went to a 2024 Dearing-Beauregard Camp meeting to hear his presentation. It is fascinating and is supported by great power-point pictures to increase your understanding. This is an evening not to be missed.

Seating for supper is limited to 42. Make your reservations with your call captain or with me. After three years our meal cost has increased to \$23 from \$20. We will discuss this at the meeting, but we have all seen the costs climbing in the grocery stores. Between the call team and *Picket Lines* we wanted to advise you of this change.

Jeff Toalson



# Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

As noted in the January edition of *Picket Lines*, Richard Christopher Whitaker's family moved around several times in James City and York counties as he grew up. But their last home in York County witnessed a major upheaval in May 1862, as the Union army pushed up the peninsula.

On November 24, 1853, Thomas Wills Whitaker purchased Mill Quarter farm containing 265 acres, and in 1858, he purchased the adjacent grist mill, situated along the Williamsburg-Yorktown Road in York County. The Burwell family of Carter's Grove had built the mill where the road crossed the dam over Kings Creek and owned the farm until 1839. Whitaker employed a miller and operated a very successful business there. On May 30, 1856, he purchased the adjacent 300-acre tract known as Springfield. The 1860 York County Production of Industry survey indicated that the mill had produced 2,500 bushels of flour and corn meal.

The house at Mill Quarter was located approximately where the present day motel is located across from the entrance to Water Country, and not far from Fort Magruder. It was in the direct line of the advancing Union forces as they approached the Williamsburg Line. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, Wickham's 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry was posted at Whitaker's Mill. As the Union forces approached, the Confederates spiked a howitzer, withdrew and headed toward Fort Magruder with the Union Army in hot pursuit. Afterwards, the federals occupied Whitaker's Mill and the adjacent Whitaker house. Brigadier Generals Winfield Scott Hancock, Samuel Heintzelman, Erasmus Keyes, and Edwin Sumner used Thomas Whitaker's house for the next two days as their headquarters during the Battle of Williamsburg. Major General George McClellan also visited the house after arriving on the battlefield near dusk on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Only three of the Whitakers' seven children were alive when the Yankees rode into Mill Quarter. The oldest son, Richard Whitaker, was fighting with Company H, 5<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry. His younger brother, Thomas, born in 1860, and his sister, Zelica Ann, nine years old, witnessed what followed and Zelica spoke of it for the rest of her life. When the Yankees rode in to the mill and main house, they took all the supplies that they could carry off, poured everything else into the lane and road, and rode their horses though it making it unfit for human consumption. She also remembered that several men had her mother's china tea cups strung around their horses' necks, clanging as they galloped off. Her story has been handed down through her later generations.

The family made a speedy retreat to "Alabama," home of Thomas' brother, Richard Harwood Whitaker, Jr., located at the intersection of Croaker and Ware Creek Roads, within the Confederate territory (see *Picket Lines*, August 2008). Thomas Whitaker died at Alabama in August 1862, followed shortly by his young son, Thomas. And then, as we learned last month, Richard Christopher Whitaker died in Richmond of typhoid fever on November 5<sup>th</sup> of that same year. Lucy Curtis Whitaker and her daughter Zelica, were then the only survivors.

Devastated by the loss of their family and their home, Lucy and Zelica eventually went to live with her brother, Thomas Curtis in Petersburg. He had gone there from his farm in Warwick County. Other than spending time with Wills relatives of Fluvanna County during the latter half of 1863, Lucy and Zelica remained in Petersburg until the war was over. They returned to Warwick County with Thomas Curtis and continued to live with him. In 1871, Zelica married her half first cousin, Robert Christopher Wynne and over time, they had ten children.

(continued next page)

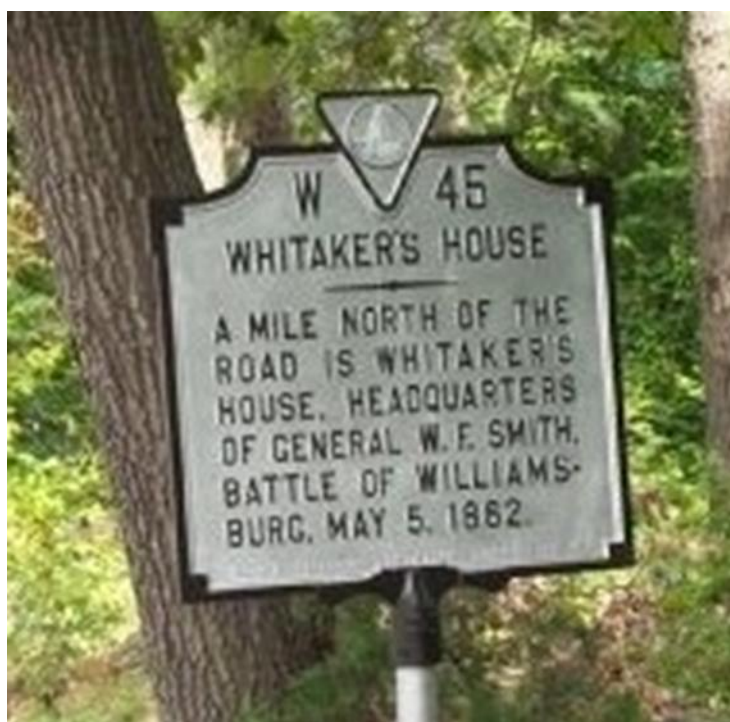
## Confederate Gravesites - Continued

The family did not have the funds to rebuild the mill and the farm went up for auction in 1868. Whether or not the house was occupied after that is not known. The picture of the house in last month's *Picket Lines* was taken about 1920, based on the approximate ages of my mother and her brother standing on either side of Zelica Whitaker Wynne.

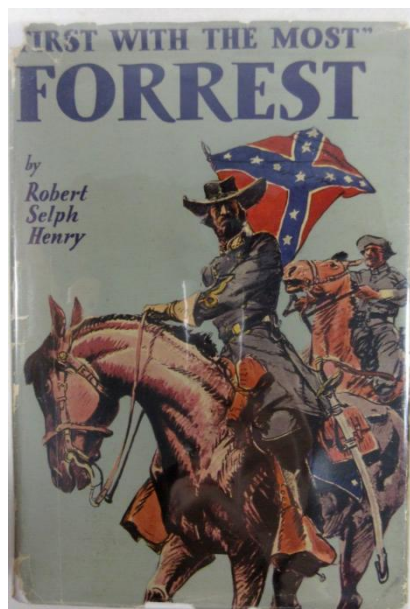
The story of the house does not end here. Sometime in the late 1940s, the house was sold for building materials. Sim Tillery paid \$350.00 for the house, tore it down and re-erected a home on Delaware Avenue in Williamsburg. He constructed a story and a half house that is sixteen feet shorter across the front than the original house. He found one board that had a three-line inscription: 300 – Williamsburg – Capt. Whallen, undoubtedly someone who occupied the house during the war. The later version of the Whitaker House stands today!

There is a historical marker located on Route 60 adjacent to the west bound lane immediately east of the intersection with Route 199. This sign was moved to the present location when Black's Crossing (a railroad crossing) was closed when Route 199 was constructed. The sign indicates that the house was used as headquarters by Union General William Farrar (Baldy) Smith. It is possible that he was among the generals who occupied the house during the Battle of Williamsburg.

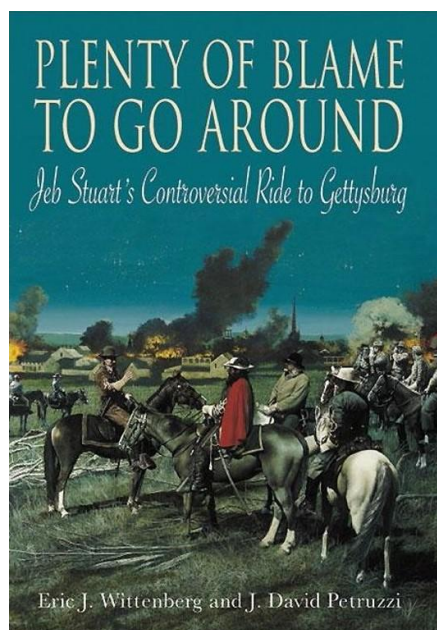
The Whitaker House lives on, though in another form. The descendants are lucky to have the mantle clock and a marble top table that were in the house at the time of occupation. Thankfully, both items were unappealing or simply too heavy to carry off!



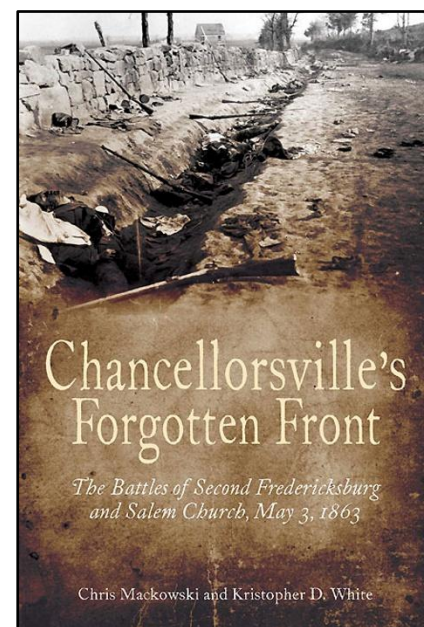
# February Book Raffle



**"First with the Most - Nathan Bedford Forrest"**  
by Robert Selph Henry

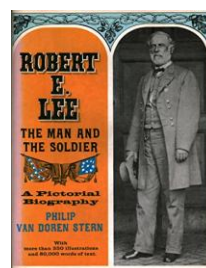


**"Plenty of Blame to go Around - Jeb Stuart's Controversial Ride to Gettysburg"**  
by Eric J. Wittenberg and J. David Petrucci



**"Chancellorsville's Forgotten Front"**  
by Chris Mackowski & Kristopher D. White

Bonus Book:  
**"Robert E. Lee -The Man and The Soldier"**  
by Philip Van Doren Stern



## Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwrt.org>

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - Dr. E. C. Fields, aka General Ulysses S. Grant, and Morgan Gates, aka General John C. Pemberton, will present:

**"The Surrender of Vicksburg"**

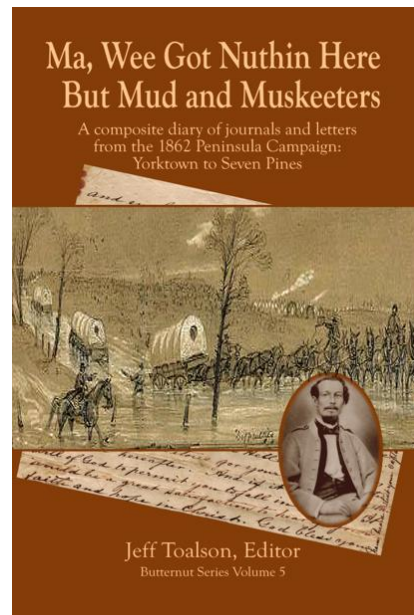


# Hot Meals Needed in W. North Carolina

Our neighbors in Western North Carolina need more help. In the river valleys the waters from Hurricane Helene wiped out homes, jobs, vehicles and even their land. People have lost literally everything except what they were wearing. The continuing stories on The Weather Channel and Fox Weather keep us updated. Families are living in tents, in pop-up campers, in camper trailers and in community centers with 40 other people in one room.

They can park small camper trailers on their property without building permits. They of course do not have water, sewerage and electricity. **THESE FOLKS REALLY NEED HOT MEALS AND THAT IS WHY WE RAISE MONEY FOR MERCY CHEFS.** They prepare and deliver up to 3,000 hot meals each day in Bat Cave, Swannanoa, Black Mountain, Chimney Rock, Old Fort, Burnsville, Marshall, Hendersonville and other communities around Asheville who have been devastated.

THIS IS OUR THIRD DRIVE. Each meal costs Mercy Chefs a little over \$3. **Your dollars can have a big impact. Our neighbors truly need our help.** We have obtained a special price on Jeff Toalson's *Ma, Wee Got Nuthin Here But Mud and Muskeeters* and as a 'thank you' a free copy will be shipped to each person who donates a minimum of \$65 to the James City Cavalry to support our campaign to help our neighbors in North Carolina.



Last fall we sent Mercy Chefs \$3,000 in donations from our first two campaigns. With winter arriving this campaign is even more important. We need your help. They need our help. Articles in our newsletter will provide updates and can be viewed at [www.jamescitycavalry.org](http://www.jamescitycavalry.org)

Please send donations (checks) to:

Mr. Jon Holland, Treasurer  
James City Cavalry  
6273 Centerville Road  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23188

Make checks payable to: James City Cavalry  
Contact Commander Jeff Toalson with any questions at [troon24@cox.net](mailto:troon24@cox.net)

If making a donation that includes a free book(s) the check must be payable to the James City Cavalry.

All other donations can be made out to 'James City Cavalry' or 'Mercy Chefs.' Jon will send in the donations in batches. Please note 'Mercy Chefs N. Carolina Relief' on your check memo line.

Donation: \$1,000 \_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_ \$65 \_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_