



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



January 2025 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 22nd, 2025, 6:30 pm
Colonial Heritage Club House
www.colonialheritageclub.com/find-us
6500 Arthur Hills Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23188



Meal Cost: \$20.00 Per Person
Payment by Check is Preferred

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.

January Guest Speaker

Ms. Shelly Liebler
Executive Assistant
and Docent

***“Fort
Pocahontas:
Preservation
and Memory”***



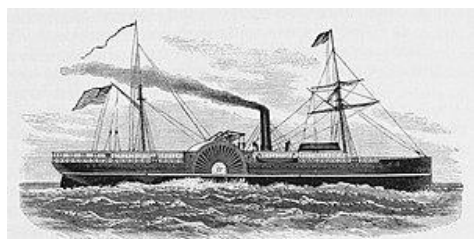
The Action at Wilson's Wharf on May 24, 1864, is one of the lesser-known Virginia Civil War engagements. This battle and its location may have faded into obscurity if preservation had not intervened. This presentation will give a history of the location, including information on the battle between USCTs and Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry, along with the story of how one historian and the grandson of President Tyler put Fort Pocahontas back on the map and into Civil War memory.

A Wisconsin native, Shelly Liebler is Executive Assistant and Docent at Sherwood Forest Plantation Foundation and Fort Pocahontas. She had a 15-year career in marketing, sales, and administration before raising her family. As a homeschool parent she developed an interest in history which has translated to her current role as tour guide and docent. Shelly is also a freelance photographer, conveying stories of the Civil War and other subjects through images.

Camp Officers

Commander	Jeff Toalson troon24@cox.net
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2nd Lt. Commander	Steve White garrettsgrocery@gmail.com
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Chaplain	David Stover gor_cabot1@msn.com
Quartermaster	Tom Campbell tgcampbell1781@gmail.com
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Webmaster	Don Woolridge dsw1229@gmail.com
Archivist/Editor	Paul Huelskamp jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com

The Civil War in January



On January 9th, 1861 the Union steamship *Star Of The West* failed to resupply the Federal garrison at Fort Sumter after being fired upon by cadets from the Citadel Academy. Three shots from the cadets hit the ship. This attack predated the barrage on Fort Sumter by two months.

Commander's Comments

“Wee cant kno wher wee are going untwill wee get there.”

This is a quotation from Captain Shepard Pryor of Co. A – 12th Georgia Infantry. He has no clue because the higher ups in the chain of command don't pass that information to the Captain of Company A.

As we enter 2025, I have an idea where we are going and how we will get there but there will be unknowns and course corrections that will be required. In the near term there are several key areas requiring our attention.

First, it is winter and time to do the annual clean-ups at our family cemeteries and at Fort Magruder. The only logical time is in cold weather when the mosquitoes, wood ticks, chiggers and gnats are not around to drive us insane. Also, the poison ivy is dormant. 2nd Lt Commander Steve White will be advising us on dates and times and of any changes due to weather.

Secondly, the folks in western North Carolina are in dire need of support. You have received information on our campaign to raise more money for Mercy Chefs to provide hot meals for our neighbors. A goal of \$10,000 seems achievable and to accomplish this we need each of you to send the flyer in this newsletter to other groups in which you are a member. Encourage them to support this effort and to also forward the email to their friends. We will keep you updated.

Third, we are meeting with Colonial Heritage on menu items and costs for providing our suppers during 2025. We will keep you posted.

We have a fine group of officers providing our leadership and I am confident the Cavalry will have a successful 2025 and provide many needed services and projects to honor the memory of our ancestors.

Jeff

Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

We continue here to look at the lives and service records of men from the Peninsula who were interred at Oakwood Cemetery in Richmond.

Richard Christopher Whitaker was born on March 23, 1839. At the time of his birth, his parents, Thomas Wills Whitaker and Lucy Curtis Whitaker were living in York County on land near Essex Lodge, site of Washington's headquarters during the Revolutionary War. Known to his family as Dick Kit, he was the oldest of seven children. Both his father and grandfather operated several grist mills in James City and York Counties. Thomas Whitaker also owned a schooner and, operating out of Kings Creek, he shipped commodities to nearby markets.

The family lived briefly in 1845-47 in James City County where Thomas Whitaker continued his farming operations and operated the mill located on the mill pond along present-day Newman Road. The family then returned to York County and lived at Mill Quarter Plantation along the old Williamsburg-Yorktown Road. The house was located across from the entrance to Water Country approximately where the motel is situated today. (The Union army used this house as their headquarters on May 5th.) Thomas Whitaker also owned the adjacent Springfield tract and Whitaker's Mill (formerly Burwell's Mill) where the road crossed the King's Creek dam.

Little is known of Richard Whitaker's early life and education. In the 1860 census, he was living in Williamsburg in the household of Richard W. Hansford, a merchant. Richard's occupation was listed as "store clerk," and he was undoubtedly working in Hansford's store. He enlisted as a private in Company I, 3rd Virginia Cavalry, on June 24, 1861, in Williamsburg. He was present on all rolls through November. On December 1st, he was detailed as a wagoner by order of Gen. Magruder through February 1862. He reenlisted in Company H, 5th Virginia Cavalry on February 24, 1862.

On October 6th, he was admitted to General Hospital No. 6 in Richmond with typhoid fever. He died there on October 18, 1862, and was interred in Oakwood Cemetery. It should be noted here that his military papers indicate that he died on October 18th, but the cemetery records and the family Bible give the date as November 5th.

On March 23, 1863, his mother, Lucy Whitaker, registered a claim for a deceased soldier's back pay. It was determined that, as a private, he was owed \$209.00 which included a daily stipend of 40 cents for the use of his personal horse and a \$25.00 clothing allowance. It was stated that since the deceased had no widow, children or father, his mother qualified as recipient. Later, an affidavit vouching for Whitaker's service was submitted by Capt. James H. Allen on February 1, 1864. In it, he noted that Whitaker "was of dark complexion, black hair, dark eyes, five feet – 7 inches high." The claim was finally certified on March 9, 1864. It was not recorded when the settlement was completed.

Richard Christopher Whitaker was my great, great uncle.

Richard
Christopher
Whitaker



Whitaker
House



Guns of the CSS *Pee Dee*

The CSS *Pee Dee* was built at Mars Bluff Shipyard, South Carolina in 1863-1864. Mars Bluff is on the Great Pee Dee River a few miles downstream from Florence. For armament she would mount a 9" Dahlgren Smoothbore reclaimed from the USS *Southfield* sunk at Plymouth, North Carolina. This would be the pivot gun and was mounted amidship. The aft gun was a 6.4" Brooke Rifle and the forward gun was a 7.0" Brooke Rifle. Both Brooke Rifles were manufactured at the Selma Naval Foundry in Alabama. Both were shipped to Mars Bluff in July, 1864. These cannons are in a small park adjacent to the National Cemetery in Florence, South Carolina.

Working at the Mars Bluff Naval Yard were two men named Charles Haselden. One is a purchasing agent and the other is a pinch operator. Ken Parsons is a descendant of Lt. William M. Haselden, Co. G – 15th South Carolina Infantry. All of these Haselden's are from the Georgetown area and many of the Mars Bluff workers were from the Georgetown area. Ken has one of his relatives doing some research on the two fellows named Charles Haselden.

If you are cruising down I-95 the National Cemetery is about 5 miles east of the interstate. It is the first exit south of Buc-ee's heading toward Florence.



6.4" Brooke Rifle (L) and the 9" Smoothbore Dahlgren (R). The Dahlgren is aimed at the National Cemetery.

Camp Makes Good Showing at the State Fair



As many of you know The Confederate Memorial Hall Museum in New Orleans is the oldest Confederate museum in the United States. On January 8, 2025 the Museum celebrated their 134th Anniversary.

Their winter magazine featured a picture of the James City Cavalry at the Virginia State Fair on October 4, 2024. Pat Ricci wrote a very nice article stating, "*It is always nice when you spot someone wearing a ball cap featuring the Confederate Memorial Hall Museum. Longtime member, Jeff Toalson, sent in this photograph of members of the James City Cavalry #2095. . . .*" She then went on to mention all of our names and the type of cap we were wearing.

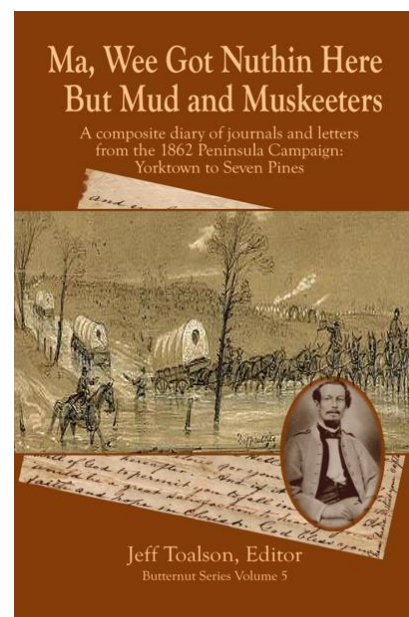
Hot Meals Needed in W. North Carolina

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



Please send donations (checks) to:

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

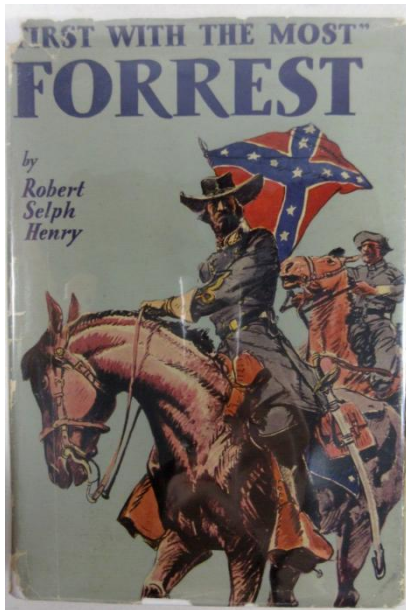
Make checks payable to: James City Cavalry
Contact Commander Jeff Toalson with any questions at troon24@cox.net

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

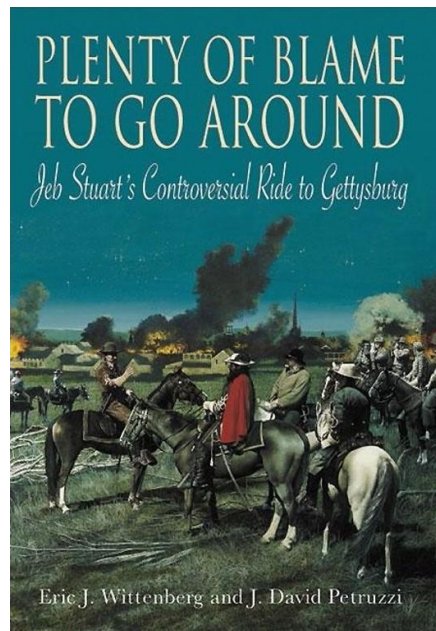
All other donations can be made out to 'James City Cavalry' or 'Mercy Chefs.' Jon will send in the donations in batches. Please note 'Mercy Chefs N. Carolina Relief' on your check memo line.

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

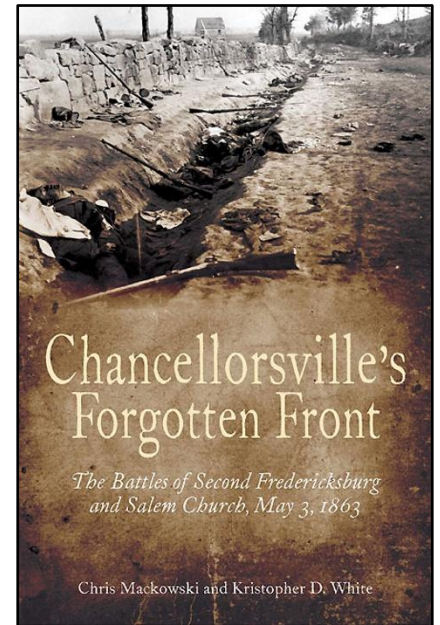
January Book Raffle



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

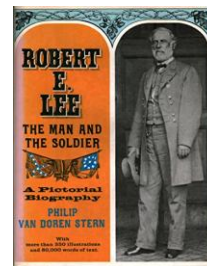


"Plenty of Blame to go Around - Jeb Stuart's Controversial Ride to Gettysburg"
by Eric J. Wittenberg and J. David Petrucci

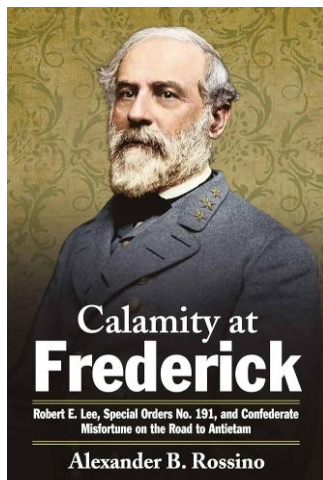


"Chancellorsville's Forgotten Front"
by Chris Mackowski & Kristopher D. White

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



Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwr.org>

On January 28th, 2025 - Alex Rossino
will present:

"Calamity at Frederick: Robert E. Lee, Special Orders No. 191, and Confederate Misfortune on the Road to Antietam"