

# James City Cavalry PICKET LINES



January 2012 Dispatch – Williamsburg, Virginia – <http://www.jamescitycavalry.org>

Camp #2095 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Virginia Division Army of Northern Virginia

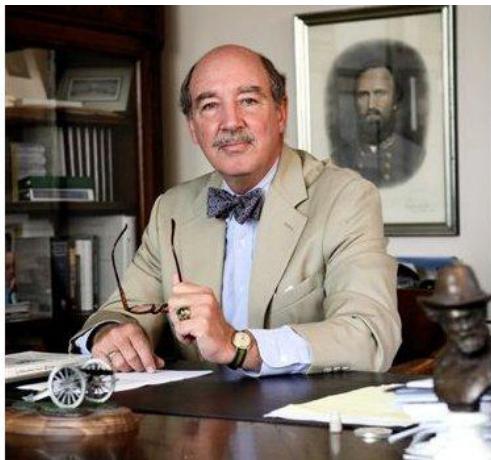
## NEXT MUSTER

Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 6:30pm

Colonial Heritage Club

<http://www.colonialheritageva.com/club.html>

6500 Arthur Hills Drive  
Williamsburg, VA 23188



Guest Speaker:

S. Waite Rawls, President and CEO,  
Museum of the Confederacy

**"The opening of the new Museum of the Confederacy facility in Appomattox, Virginia and MOC plans for the Sesquicentennial"**

Meal Cost: \$15.00 Per Person

Menu: Fried Chicken & Other Fare  
(genuine Confederate currency gladly accepted – will reluctantly accept US \$5 notes)



No RSVP currently required  
per Adjutant Ken Parsons

Compatriots' Ladies & Guests Encouraged To Attend

## CAMP JOURNAL FOR LAST MUSTER

### Christmas Social:

Held at 6:30 PM, Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at Toano Women's Club, James City Cty., Va., approx. 60 attendees.

Commander Jerry White welcomed Compatriots and Guests. Quartermaster Jim Swords read the Charge. Opening prayer and blessing of the food was given by Chaplain Bill Blizzard followed by a Pledge and Salute to the Flags.

This was the Camp's Second of many Christmas Socials to come. Camp Compatriots displayed a most impressive collection of artifacts from the War Between the States.

After dinner a short but appropriate program was given by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson and Compatriot Charles Eugene Bush. They read excerpts from letters written by family and soldiers during the Christmas Season during the war.

A closing prayer was given by Past Camp Chaplain Fred Breedon. Commander White, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Toalson and Adjutant Ken Parsons thanked Staff Officers and all who had helped out during the previous year to include the ladies who collect dinner payments, the Troop Support Coordinator, the Web Site Master, the Quartermaster, and Compatriot Willard Gilley who contributes books for the book auction and thanks to those who help sell book auction tickets. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander Steve White indicated there will be work schedules developed during the winter for Cemetery maintenance and invited all to participate.

A great time was had by all. Thanks to all who prepared and shared a great variety of Southern cooking. For Christmas Social photographs, please visit the Camp website at:

<http://www.jamescitycavalry.org/id26.html>

# ADJUTANT'S REPORT

As you all know, the Lee-Jackson observance was held in Lexington this past weekend. No one our the Camp was able to attend but my contacts across the SCV report it was very successful. There were approximately 500 SCV members and re-enactors in the parade and about 1500 lining the parade route, many of whom were holding our flag. The Lexington police dept. estimated 1500 at the wreath laying at the cemetery. They came from several states, some from as far as Florida and Indiana. A friend commented "It was an immensely inspiring and gratifying experience and I am grateful to have been part of it"

The next event in the state of interest to our camp is being held in Richmond at The Confederate Memorial Chapel on Sunday, January 22nd at 4:00 PM, located at Grove Ave and Boulevard. Historian Bill Young is presenting a program "Why I Love The South". He shares his legacy of Civil War related stories and artifacts he acquired as a youth in Richmond. Tours of the Chapel will also be conducted.

We have renewed our contract with Colonial Heritage for another year and meal costs will remain at \$15. Additionally, plans are being laid to have SCV Camp officer training on February 18th at Colonial Heritage. We will confirm that date and place a little later this month, hopefully by our next meeting on the 25th. Meeting will be conducted throughout the state in locations such as our in order for as many members as possible to attend. You do not have to be an officer to attend and we want as many of our camp members to attend as possible. It will serve to make us an even better camp. Plan to come and meet compatriots from other camps.

**Confederate Heritage Rally:** On Sunday, February the 25th the National Sons of Confederate Veterans is planning a rally in Richmond. There will be a parade down Monument Avenue and rally around the statue of General Robert E. Lee for the festivities. The rally is to recognize the 150th year of the Confederacy. You will be hearing more about this as plans are finalized.

**Trivia Question of the month:** *What was a "Quaker Gun" and where were they used and why? You will hear the answer at the meeting on the 25th.*

Ken Parsons

# COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. Thanks to all those who made our annual Christmas supper a success. The food was excellent and the fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Unfortunately, at the end of the holidays our Chaplain Bill Blizzard passed away unexpectedly. The funeral was on 7 January and several members of the camp attended. Jeff Toalson delivered a tribute to Bill. The text is posted on the website. Fred Breeden has graciously stepped up to assume Bill's duties.

I have been forwarding emails from the Virginia Division about activities in the state which include the flag issue in Lexington. I do not want to burden you with unnecessary emails and will only send those which are significant. The SCV is asserting its First Amendment rights and I believe they will prevail over the "PC" crowd.

Our next speaker, Waite Rawls, the director of the Museum of the Confederacy will provide an interesting update on the new facility at Appomattox and the museum's plans for de-centralizing some of its exhibits. I hope to see a good attendance, and I encourage you to bring a friend.

Deo Vindice,  
Jerry White



# SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS FEDERAL LAWSUIT

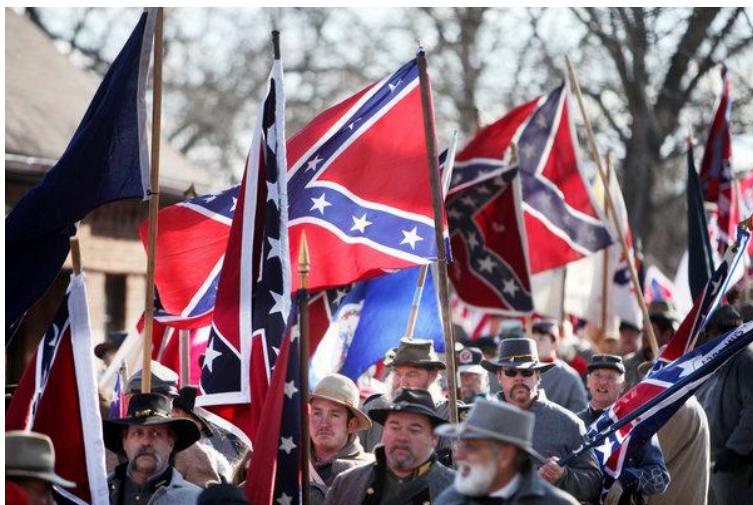
PRESS RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012

## The Lawsuit:

The Sons of Confederate Veterans hereby give notice of the intention to file a federal action against the City of Lexington, in the U.S. District Court of the Western District of Virginia, Roanoke Division on Thursday, January 12, 2012. The Sons are represented by the law firm of Strickland, Diviney, and Strelka of Roanoke which has worked in conjunction with The Rutherford Institute, a Civil Liberties organization based in Charlottesville, Virginia. Attorneys Thomas E. Strelka and Correy Diviney are serving as lead counsel.

## Conference:

The Sons and their attorneys held a Press Conference at the steps of the Federal Courthouse located at 210 Franklin Road in Roanoke at 3PM on January 12th.



*Parade participants from several different states line up in the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery in Lexington in observance of Lee-Jackson Day, Monday, 16 January 2012*

(photo by Jeanna Duerscher/The Roanoke Times)

## Background and Merits:

This case is to be filed by the Sons in reaction to the City Council of Lexington's adoption of a flag and banner ordinance. The Sons assert that the ordinance was adopted due to the sole reason of the City's disapproval of the Sons' Constitutional rights to display historic Virginia state and Confederate flags.

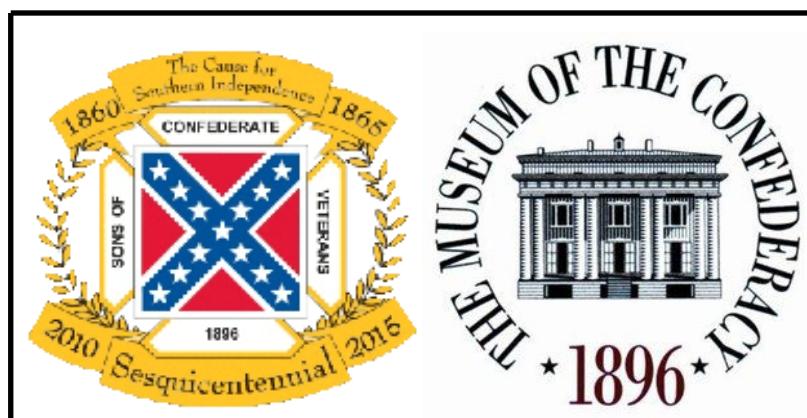
The Sons requested that these flags be hung for the annual observance and ceremonies for Lee-Jackson day in January, 2011. The Sons advised the City Council that it believed the adoption of the ordinance would be a violation of a 1993 Federal Court Order and Consent Decree. The Court Order was entered subsequent to a prior dispute between the Sons and the City over the public display of Confederate flags.

The Order, endorsed by a Judge of the Western District of Virginia, provides: "*The City of Lexington . . . [shall not] deny or abridge the right of the plaintiff organization or its members . . . to wear, carry display or show, at any government-sponsored or government-controlled place or event which is to any extent given over to private expressive activity, the Confederate Flag or other banners, emblems, icons, or visual depictions designed to bring into public notice any logo of 'stars and bars' that ever was used as a national or battle flag of the Confederacy.*" The federal action to be filed will further contend that the ordinance is a violation of the Son's First and Fourteenth Amendment rights under the Constitution.

The filing requests that the Court issue a Judgment against the City for equitable relief; find the City Council and officers to be of civil contempt; requests the awarding of attorney's fees, costs and sanctions; requests compensatory, liquidated and punitive damages; and requests such other and further relief as may be just.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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The Stonewall Brigade SCV  
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# CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES

(Written & Contributed by Historian/Genealogist Compatriot Fred Boelt)

Moses R. Harrell, Jr., son of Moses R. and Delia Harrell, was born on March 12, 1844, at Piney Grove Farm in James City County. Piney Grove was a 1,249 acre tract located where the Chickahominy River flows into the James River. Today, this area is the location of the Governor's Land developmental along John Tyler Highway. The young Moses grew up at Piney Grove, and later attended the College of William and Mary from 1859 until 1861 when he entered service for the Confederacy.



Harrell enlisted as a private in Company W, 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry, on June 24, 1861, in Williamsburg. He was absent due to sickness from July through October of that year, but appeared again on the roll in January 1862. At some future time, he reenlisted in Company H, (James City Cavalry), 5<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry, as 4<sup>th</sup> Sergeant. He received a severe wound in his leg at Spotsylvania Courthouse on May 6, 1864 and was in a Richmond hospital by May 9<sup>th</sup>. He was later paid \$2,500 for his horse that was killed at Meadow Bridge. He was granted a sixty day furlough on June 7<sup>th</sup>, and was listed again in the pay records in September. Moses Harrell was paroled in Williamsburg on April 26, 1865.

Harrell returned to his family home after the war. Court documents testify to the fact that his father did not escape the loss of property due to an unmanageable debt load after the war. In 1870, Moses' father and step-mother were living in the city, where

his father was serving at City Sergeant. Moses was living in a hotel, and his occupation was listed as a farmer. In 1876, succeeding his father, Moses Harrell, Jr., was elected Sheriff of Williamsburg and James City County. In most subsequent elections, he either served as sheriff or deputy sheriff for over twenty years, declining additional nominations due to feeble health. He also served as City Sergeant for a time in Williamsburg.

Moses Harrell also began to make a name for himself in local real estate. He was able to buy and sell to his advantage, increasing his holdings over the years. He eventually bought the 3,000 acre Kingsmill farm. Later, with a partner, lots and streets were laid off for a planned community, but this venture never materialized, and the majority of the land was sold for timbering around 1900. At the time of his death in 1904, he owned "Spratleys," the large farm now known as the "Gospel Spreading Farm," seen along the Colonial Parkway, and several other smaller tracts in James City County. He also owned several dwellings and retail buildings in Williamsburg.

In 1887, only a few months after the Peninsula Bank was chartered in Williamsburg, Harrell was elected president, a position that he held until his death. He was also the Commander of the Magruder-Ewell Camp, Confederate Veterans, for a number of years, also holding that position until his death. His obituary stated that he had been "a gallant soldier [who] was always loving and kind to his comrades in arms, and his happiest hours were spent with them. Before his death he made ample and liberal provision for several of his most intimate friends."

After several years of poor health, death came to Moses Harrell, Jr., on July 2, 1904. His funeral was held at Bruton Parish Church under the auspices of the Magruder-Ewell Camp, and the directors of Peninsula Bank attended in a body. Burial followed at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Williamsburg. Since Harrell had never married, he left small bequests to his two sisters and the bulk of his sizeable estate to his four nephews, all of whom were Methodist ministers.

# OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

(Written & Contributed by Compatriot David Ware)

Alexander H. Stephens was born in central Georgia in 1812. His mother died when he was a month old and his father, Andrew, a Revolutionary War soldier, took a second wife. He was orphaned by both parents at 14 and raised by an uncle. He was recognized as a man of superior intellectual abilities. Enrolling at an academy in Wilkes, run by a Presbyterian minister, Alexander Hamilton Webster, Stephens adopted his middle name.

Stephens was a small, frail man who developed a political thought process that was consistent and congruent throughout his life. He became a defender of State's Rights, though a moderate as opposed to Calhoun. Perhaps his greatest contribution was his steadfast opposition to imperialism and the centralization of government. He was opposed to the Mexican War. He viewed the government's policy of conquest to gain new territory as not expansion but imperialism. *"No principle is more dangerous than that of compelling other people to adopt our form of government. It is not only wrong in itself, but contrary to the whole spirit and genius of the liberty we enjoy,"* he suggested. Before becoming Vice-President of the Confederacy, he held several elective state and national offices. Disillusioned with party politics and his political future he left Washington in 1859. He explained: *"When I am on one of two trains coming in opposite directions on a single track, both engines and high speed, and both engineers drunk, I get off at the first station."*

Stephens was elected Vice-President of the CSA in an effort to include Georgia in the central government. He was instrumental in drafting the Confederate Constitution. He literally worshiped the American Constitution because of his perspective that its power emanated from the states and preserved their rights. He thought the same relationship should hold true between the CSA and the states that created it.

He and Jefferson Davis held opposing views which led to much estrangement. Stephens would have preferred that the South take a much longer time toward the conclusion to secede. He felt that even one

slave state would have been secure in the Union and was accordingly against secession. Because of the tremendous military advantage enjoyed by the North, he was one of a handful of men that thought the South should adopt a strategy of guerrilla warfare like that employed later in Viet Nam, Afghanistan and Iraq. He steadfastly opposed mandatory conscription and centralization of the Confederate government. In fact, he viewed centralized government as synonymous with imperialism.



After the War, Stephens spent time writing several books and briefly entered the political world though not as influential as he was in his pre-war years. As a precursor to Lord Acton, he noted: *Power is corrupting. It fascinates, intoxicates, turns the brain, and changes the nature of man: it transforms those who touch and handle it.*

Writing in 1870, the CSA's only Vice-President, in a dazzling moment of clairvoyance wrote: *If the worst is to befall us: if our most serious apprehensions and gloomiest forebodings as to the future, in this respect, are to be realized, if Centralism is ultimately to prevail; if our entire system of free institutions as established by our common ancestors is to be subverted, and an Empire is to be established in their stead; if that is to be the last scene in the great tragic drama now being enacted; then, be assured that we of the South will be acquitted, not only in our own consciences, but by the judgment of mankind, of all responsibility for so terrible a catastrophe and from all guilt of so great a crime against humanity!"*

# CEMETERY REPORT FOR JANUARY

Our scheduled clean-up day at Fort Magruder was a great success. Two dump truck loads and one trailer load of organic debris plus bags of trash were removed in three hours.

Thank you to the participants from our Camp – Mike Garrett, J. Norman Goodwin, Billy Hynes, Ken Parsons, Warren Raines, David Ware, Jerry White, and Steve White. Thanks greatly to Compatriot Terry Machen of the SCV's Chester Camp for his assistance and equipment. Special thanks to our "Friends of the Camp" – Mike Apperson, Jolie and Paul Huelscamp, Jonathan Lenthall, and also to Rob Davis for the use of his dump truck.

What an honor for our Camp to have the opportunity to maintain a historical site such as Fort Magruder as one of our community service projects. Very few SCV Camps have the chance to do anything like it.

I have been told that Fort Magruder looks better than it has in years. As I looks around the Fort, I am proud of what we have done but even more proud of our ancestors that have fought at this spot and at the many other battle sites around the Confederacy.

Our Charge from Gen. Stephen D. Lee reads to preserve their memory. The James City Cavalry lets action speak louder than words. Thanks to all of you for your assistance, in whatever way, towards this goal.

Yours in preservation and respectfully submitted,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander Steve White –  
Cemetery Liaison



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## JANUARY MEETING BOOK AUCTION

"The Orphan Brigade" by William C. Davis.

A story of the "First Kentucky Brigade" which was composed of the 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 9th Kentucky regiments. They served from the early battles of Donelson and Shiloh, their banners were on the field at Murfreesboro and Chickamauga, and they fought with distinction under Johnston and Hood before Atlanta. Their battered remnants surrendered with Johnston at Washington, Georgia in 1865.

Hardcover, 316 pages, 1980, FIRST EDITION.

"Sword Over Richmond" by Richard Wheeler.

An excellent account of the Peninsula Campaign. A perfect book to have in our opening auction of 2012 the 150th anniversary year of the Peninsula Campaign.

Hardcover, 370 pages, 1986, FIRST EDITION.



## CAMP OFFICERS

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander**

**Historian/Genealogist**

**Archivist**

**Quartermaster**

**Chaplain**



**James York**  
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