



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



October 2021 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, October 27th, 2021, 6:30 pm
Colonial Heritage Club House
www.colonialheritageclub.com/find-us
6500 Arthur Hills Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23188



Meal Cost: \$17.00 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.

NOTICE - NOVEMBER MEETING IS ON NOV. 17th . . . a week early . . . mark your calendar.

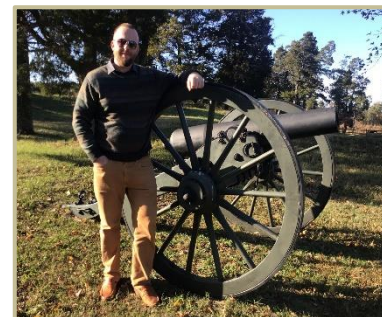
JCC Web Site: <http://www.jamescitycavalry.org>

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

October Guest Speaker

Mr. Rob
Garnett

***“Victims for
the Grave:
Elmira Prison
Camp”***



Elmira was called “Hellmira” by its captives—the deadliest Yankee prisoner of war camp. One of our speaker’s great-grandfathers, Corporal Robert Gwynn from the 26th Virginia Infantry, was sent there after his capture at Petersburg in June 1864. One quarter of the camp’s inmates, including Gwynn, succumbed to exposure, malnutrition, and disease. Our speaker will provide an overview of his ancestor’s capture and insight into the horrible conditions that the prisoners experienced.

Rob Garnett is a Gloucester native and has a Masters degree from ODU. For nearly a decade he has taught a wide array of literature courses at several community colleges as well as at Christopher Newport and William & Mary. Inspired by his grandmother’s stories, Rob researched his family history and uncovered the relationship to Elmira by his great-grandfather.

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held 22 September at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,
James City County., Va., **32** Attendees

Welcome given by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson

Pledge & Salute to the Flags led by Aide de Camp Jon Holland

Blessing:

Given by Senior Chaplain George Corbett

Break for Supper

The SCV Charge read by Quartermaster George Bridewell

Comments by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson

Program:

1st Lt. Cmdr. White introduced the evening's guest speaker:
Compatriot Charles Wood.

Compatriot Wood presented "*Confederate Cavalry 101*". It was a very entertaining talk about the cavalryman, his clothing, his gear, and his horse. Very little of his equipment and clothing was supplied by the CSA government.



Compatriot Wood and 1st Lt. Cmdr. White

Cemetery Report

2nd Lt. Commander Steve White reported the Ft. Magruder security lights have been installed. At Peach Park, the flag has been replaced and the mailbox restocked with brochures. At Sunnyside, branches were picked up and the flags checked.

Old & New Business

- Forrest Burial Ceremonies - H.D.O. Frank Earnest
- Isle of Wight Update - Cmdr. Ed. Whitley

Induction of New Members

Compatriot Denny Griggs
Friend Of Camp Mike Mitchell



New member Denny Griggs, 1st Lt. Cmdr. Jerry White, new F.O.C. Mike Mitchell, Adjutant Dave Watson, and Commander Jeff Toalson

Outstanding Camp Award

Camp 2095 was awarded an Outstanding Camp ribbon for our activities in 2020.



QM Bridewell and Adj. Parsons with the new ribbon

Outstanding Heritage Defense Award

Adj. Ken Parson received a special award for Outstanding Efforts toward Heritage Defense.



Adj. Parsons and H.D.O. Frank Ernest

Book Raffle

Proceeds were donated to the Camp Treasury for the raffle of the three donations.

Benediction

Given by Senior Chaplain George Corbett

Adjournment

8:50 PM

Camp Officers



Commander	Jeff Toalson troon24@cox.net
Adjutant	Dave Watson djwatson61@cox.net
Treasurer	Ken Parsons kparsons320@gmail.com
1st Lt. Commander	Jerry White hfrog66@gmail.com
2nd Lt. Commander	Steve White garrettsgrocery@gmail.com
Chaplain	George Corbett georgecorbett@cox.net
Aide de Camp	Jon Holland jonholland79@gmail.com
Archivist/Editor	Paul Huelskamp paulhuelskamp@cox.net
Quartermaster	George Bridewell gbridewell@aol.com
Historian	Fred Boelt fwb@widomaker.com

Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwrt.org>

**On October 26th, 2021
- Doug Crenshaw
will present:**

“Fort Harrison”

Commander's Comments

ELMIRA

Elmira opened on July 6, 1864. It would close 13 months later. During that time 12,122 prisoners would enter and 2,950 of them would die. The 24.3% death rate would be the highest of all Union prison camps. The average death rate in Union prison camps was 11.7% and that includes the Elmira numbers. The only prison with a higher death rate was the Confederate prison camp at Andersonville, Georgia. ¹

In a prison inspection report of August 25th Captain Munger of the U. S. Army I. G. staff reported, “226 men sick in hospital and large numbers in quarters . . . many in quarters are unable to attend sick call . . . some cases have not seen a surgeon in 4 days. . . . The stench from the stagnant water in the pond is still very offensive.” On August 26th Chief Surgeon Sanger cites “793 cases of scurvy out of 9,000 prisoners.” He formally requests the pond be drained and future water be drawn from the river. No action was taken on this request till early 1865 which was too late. ¹

In September, 1864, 879 prisoners died in Union prison camps. 385 of those deaths were at Elmira. That is 44% of the total for the month. The original Elmira cemetery plot was full after 3 months. ¹

On July, 11, 1865, 256 Confederates walked 2 miles to the railroad station. They were the final prisoners to leave. However, 142 of their comrades, too sick to make the journey, were transferred to the Elmira Prison Hospital. Any of those men who died are not counted in the total deaths for the prison. ¹

This is just part of the story and I am confident our speaker will expand upon these statistics. The local surgeon and the Union Army Inspector General of Prisons had made repeated recommendations and requests to switch the source of the water supply. It was criminal for the Camp Commandant to ignore these requests as diarrhea ran rampant and the death toll soared.

¹ Elmira: Death Camp of the North, M. Horican, 2002 Harrisburg, P. 180, 67, 90 and 179.



Monument Work at Ft. Magruder

Mrs. Gerry Waring, President of U.D.C. Chapter 637 of Williamsburg, and their membership were very concerned about the rough ground leading to the new monument at Fort Magruder. Mrs. Waring and Ken Parsons got their heads together and designed a concrete and brick sidewalk to the monument. They also came up with ideas for security lighting which provides protection against nighttime vandalism. Ken worked with ABBA Concrete, Riverside Brick & Supply, Beneficial Masonry, Don Moore Maintenance, and Riverview Landscaping to coordinate the work schedule. Ken was able to secure assistance from each of these vendors to provide the U.D.C. with their services at significant discounts. We thank all of these owners and companies for their assistance in creating the walkway and security for the monument that honors the men of Williamsburg and James City County who provided their services to Virginia and the Confederacy.



In July, Chuck Mihalcoe and ABBA Concrete poured the base for the walkway from the gate to the Soldier & Sailor's Monument.



In August, Compatriot Tim Norman and his crew from Beneficial Masonry laid the sidewalk.



In late August, the sidewalk was power-washed by Don Moore of Don Moore Maintenance.



Mr. Steve Moore of Riverview Landscaping brought his bucket truck to Fort Magruder on Sept. 18 to lift the poles for our solar powered, motion activated lights into position. Pictured L to R: Jon Holland, Steve Moore, Gregory Johnson, Steve White & Ken Parsons.



Following the placement of the light poles, they were shimmed and secured in position. L to R: Jon Holland, Steve White, Ken Parsons and Dave Watson. Not pictured are Joe Duggan and Jeff Toalson.

Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

Again, referring to the 1892 application of the Magruder-Ewell Camp, Confederate Veterans, F. A. Bloxton was listed as Sergeant. Fielding Albert Bloxton was the second son of William Ashby Bloxton (1807-1864) and his first wife, Lucy Clift (1810-1846). He was born in Stafford County, Virginia, in August 1839. His father was a very successful farmer of a large estate. Fielding, or Albert as he was known to family and friends, was living at his father's home in both the 1850 and the 1860 censuses, and he was listed as a farm hand in the latter census.

Fielding Bloxton enlisted in Fredericksburg, Virginia, at Camp Maury, on August 9, 1861, in Captain John R. Cooke's Company, Stafford Light Artillery Battery, 47th Virginia Regiment. He served as a sergeant at the time of enlistment. Present during August through October, he was marked "absent, sick at home since November 5, 1861." He was promoted to Full Corporal on December 31, 1861, and continued in that position through October 31, 1863.

Bloxton's service record is incomplete, but he seems to have been active for most of the war years. On June 11, 1864, he was admitted to Receiving and Wayside Hospital, or Hospital #9 in Richmond, Virginia, for reasons now unknown. He surrendered at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, and he was paroled in the Northern Neck District at King George County Court House on May 1st.

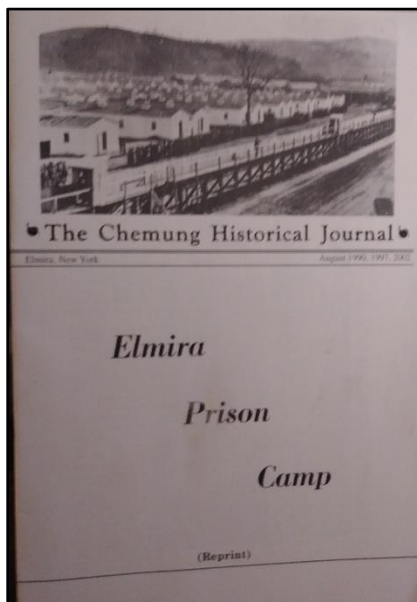
Fielding Bloxton's father had died in 1864, and based on his will filed in Stafford County, his second wife, her six children and Fielding appear to have inherited the bulk of the estate. Perhaps, the three other sons from the first marriage had been compensated before the war. It is not certain what Fielding did with his inheritance. Many southerners lost all that they had after the war. At any rate, in 1870, Fielding was living in Bruton District, York County, Virginia, with his oldest (full) brother, Thomas Lawrence Bloxton. Both men were engaged in farming.

There is no indication that Fielding Bloxton ever married. He was marked as "single" on the census records. He has not been found on the 1880 census, but we know that he was in the Williamsburg area in 1892, when he was listed on the Magruder-Ewell camp application. The next time that he was enumerated was in 1900, when he was a resident of Williamsburg, Virginia, and was working as an attendant at Eastern State Hospital.

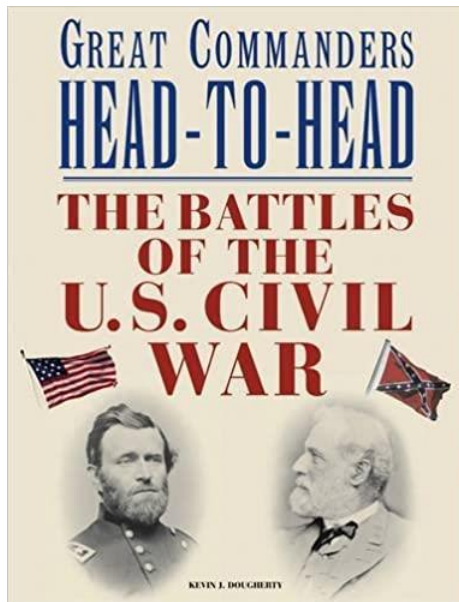
At some time in the next decade, he relocated to the Aquia District of Stafford County, Virginia, and was working as a farm hand. In the 1910 census, Bloxton was living with several members of the Clift family who were his cousins, nieces and nephews of his deceased mother. He was listed among the attendees for the Magruder-Ewell camp meeting held in January 1907. He did apply for his pension from Stafford County on April 18, 1908, and received an annual stipend of \$36.00.

An article in a Richmond newspaper provided the details of the sudden death of Fielding Albert Bloxton. He and his brother, Alexander Edwin Bloxton, came to Richmond from Stafford Court House on Monday evening to take in the State Fair. They had engaged a room on Randolph Street for the night. The next morning, October 9, 1917, when Alexander awoke, he found his brother, Fielding, dead in the bed beside him where they had been sleeping. The coroner who was hastily summoned, said that death was probably due to old age, brought on by the exertion of sightseeing. The remains were sent back to Stafford County for burial. The exact location of his grave has not been determined. His father did have a family burying ground, and he may have been interred there.

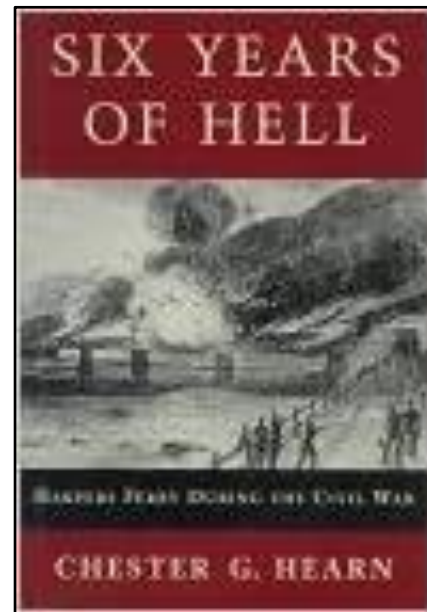
October Book Raffle



"Elmira Prison Camp"
Chemung Historical Journal



"Great Commanders Head-To-Head"
By Kevin J. Dougherty



"Six Years Of Hell"
By Chester G. Hearn

October Trivia Question


What Confederate prison incarcerated political prisoners, including "semi-Yankees"?

Answer to last month's question: James W. Jackson is regarded as the first martyr of the Confederacy for defending the flag at the Marshall House in Alexandria, VA. Source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_W._Jackson

Monument Project Supporters

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