



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



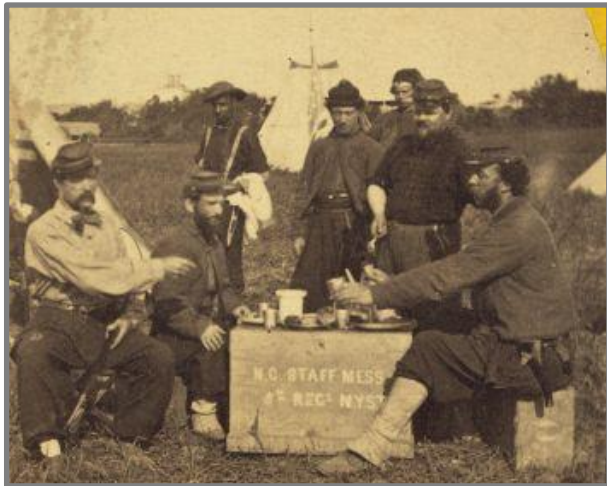
September 2021 Dispatch – Williamsburg, Virginia

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, September 22nd, 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

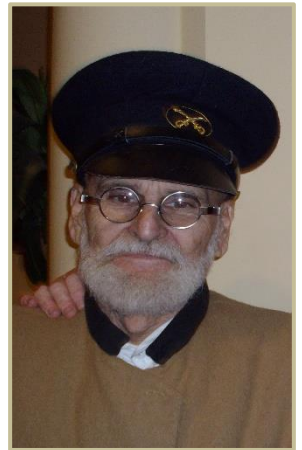
Non-camp members please contact Jeff Toalson (757) 220-0131 or troon24@cox.net to make a dinner reservation. Camp members will be contacted by the 'Call Team' for your reservation. Attendees without a reservation are welcome to attend the meeting but may not receive a dinner.

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

September Guest Speaker

Charles Wood
Confederate Cavalryman
Re-enactor



***"Confederate
Cavalry 101"***

Chuck will reprise his October 2018 talk, dressed as a cavalryman, giving a very humorous presentation about the horse, the man and his weapons. Representing the horse's gear, he will bring a saddle, feed bag, curry comb and hoof pick among other things. The rider's compliment will be complete with blanket, spurs, canteen, hard tack, carbine and pistol.

Charles Wood is retired from Colonial Williamsburg and has been around horses most of his life. He has worked as a coachman at Colonial Williamsburg, and as a military artificer at the Colonial Williamsburg Magazine. He helped make the leather Portmanteaus(carriers) to hold the Colonial Williamsburg reproduction of George Washington's Tent that was made for the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held 25 August at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,
James City County, Va., 42 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:
Lee Ann Rose.

Ms. Rose presented "*Hoop Skirts and Gunpowder*". Appearing in first
person as Margaret Ryan, she shared her memories
of the Brown's Island Explosion.



1st Lt. Cmdr. White and Ms. Rose

Committee Reports and Announcements

Cemetery Report

2nd Lt. Commander Steve White reported the paved path to the
Soldiers and Sailors Memorial at Ft. Magruder has been Installed.
See article on page 5.

Old & New Business

- Cmdr. Toalson reminded the camp members that if they had
previously made a supper reservation and find they can no
longer attend, to contact him not later than the Monday prior
to the meeting. Reason being, the camp is responsible to pay
for all meals reserved unless a revised count is provided on
the Monday prior to the meeting.
- Adj. Parsons reported on the progress of camp dues.

Installation of New Adjutant

Compatriot Dave Watson was sworn in as the new Camp
Adjutant. Ken Parsons will continue to serve as Assistant Camp
Adjutant for the next year.



Cmdr. Toalson, Adj. Watson and Asst. Adj. Parsons

Book Raffle

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

Benediction

Given by Senior Chaplain George Corbett

Adjournment

8:24 PM

Camp Officers



| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Commander | Jeff Toalson troon24@cox.net |
| Adjutant/Treasurer | Dave Watson djwatson61@cox.net |
| Asst. Adjutant/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 |

Book Donations

We have recently received two large groupings of WBTS books from Bill Harrison and Sherron Ware. We appreciate Bill thinking of us as he thinned his collection, and we thank Sherron for donating some of David's books to the Camp. All of them will be put to good use in our raffles to support our activities.



Commander's Comments

We thank Lee Ann Rose for a marvelous talk. Margaret Ryan arrived in character, with her Irish accent, and captivated 42 people with her heart wrenching stories of the explosion, fire, suffering and death of her fellow workers at the CSA Laboratory on Brown's Island. Bridget Grimes, an ancestor of our Compatriot Richard Schwartz, was one of those who perished and was a key part of Margaret's story. We were captivated.

The American Battlefield Trust has a new website that was announced in the summer issue of *Hallowed Ground*. The website offers 360-degree views of 55 WBTS and Revolutionary War battlegrounds. Go to www.battlefields.org/visit/virtual-tours

I clicked on Antietam and the first of about 10 views was the West Wood, North Woods, Cornfield area of the battlefield. You can spin the scene in an entire circle, you can go up and down, and you can click on a variety of white dots. Each of them will open with info regarding that point on your 360 view. To leave that dot you click the 'X' in the upper corner of what you opened. At the bottom-center of the scene is an icon to click for the additional battlefield views. Antietam goes from the West Woods in scene 1 to the Burnside Bridge in the final scene.

There are additional things you can click in the upper right-hand corner and if you scroll down with the bar on the far-right margin you will be able to access other talks, films, articles, maps etc. relating to your selected battlefield. At the Fredericksburg site you can take three Ranger video talk/walks on various areas of the battlefield.

Gaines' Mill, Fort Sumter, Wilsons Creek, Stones River, Perryville, Pea Ridge, the Siege of Yorktown, and Bentonville are just a few of the sites. The list is amazing. 44 WBTS battlefields in all.

This is a very interesting project. Check it out in your spare time.

Jeff Toalson

Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

Again, looking at the Magruder-Ewell Camp application submitted in 1892, John McLees was listed as the Quartermaster. He continued in that position on camp reports through 1895. In 1897, he was listed as 3rd Lieutenant Commander, and each year, his residence was listed as Williamsburg. The 1897 report is the last one located to date.

John McLees was born in Ireland on June 5, 1833. He was the son of Dennis and Sarah J. McLees, and he had an older sister and two younger sisters. The three older children were all born in Ireland and the youngest child was born in New York about 1838. The family probably immigrated about 1836/37.

The 1850 census enumerated the family in Brooklyn Ward 5, Kings, New York. Dennis McLees was a potter, and there were several other people, including another potter, living in his household. By 1860, the parents and their older daughter and son John were living in Charles City County, Virginia, where the family was farming. The two younger daughters were not in the household and may have been married or deceased by this time.

John McLees mustered into Captain George M. Waddill's Company K, 53rd Virginia Infantry, at Charles City County Courthouse, on May 9, 1861. At that time, his occupation was listed as a mason, and he was appointed 1st Corporal when he mustered into the company for twelve months. He was present on all rolls and received a \$50.00 bounty in April. McLees was wounded slightly in the face on May 31st at Seven Pines, and was appointed 2nd Sergeant on June 1, 1862.

At the Battle of Gettysburg, McLees was wounded and captured in Harrisburg on July 6, 1863. On July 18th, he was listed among the prisoners in the School Hospital in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. On the 21st, he was transferred to the U.S.A. General Hospital, West Walnut Street, in Harrisburg. On the order of the Provost Marshall, McLees was transferred to U.S.A. General Hospital, West's Buildings, in Baltimore, on August 14th. He was among the prisoners paroled there on August 23rd, and he was delivered to City Point, Virginia, on the 24th. McLees was absent, at home on a furlough in September and October, and again present on the November and December rolls in 1863.

John McLees was wounded again on May 10, 1864, at Chester Station, and was admitted to Chimborazo Hospital #1 on May 11th. He was reported as "deserted" on the 20th of May. With some rolls missing, he was issued clothing on October 18th, and he next appeared on the November roll listed as "in the field." The December roll was taken at Chester, Virginia.

McLees was again captured at Five Forks on April 1st and arrived at City Point on the 6th. From there, he was sent to Point Lookout, and he remained there until he took the oath of allegiance on June 15, 1865, and was released. He was described as a resident of Charles City County, dark complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, and was five feet, nine inches tall.

Somehow, John McLees made his way back to his family farm in Charles City County. In 1870, he was listed as a laborer living in his father's household. His life after this is sketchy at best. He did move to Williamsburg, but so far, he has not been found in the 1880 census. Newspaper articles attest to McLees being active in the Democratic Party in 1885, and again in 1893, And as stated above, he was active in the Magruder-Ewell Camp during its early years.

His death date and final resting site remain a mystery. An article in the *Virginia Gazette* dated September 17, 1898, detailed a suit brought by Ruth Pease against a Mrs. Jane Clark of Williamsburg who had unlawfully disposed of McLees personal property. One of John's sisters was named Ruth, and it may have been she who was unhappy with the handling of her brother's estate. There was no further report given on the outcome of this action. Perhaps some of our readers can fill in the gaps of the life and death of another Confederate veteran?

Camp 2095 Swem Archives Donation

(Contributed by Commander Jeff Toalson)

Last month we provided you with a few highlights of articles in the *Tri Weekly Constitutionalist* of Augusta, Georgia. Our other donation, for 2021, was a copy of the November 3, 1864, issue of the *Richmond Daily Dispatch*. The paper contained a significant listing of prices for crops and manufactured goods. A gallon of cider vinegar was \$2, a gallon of whiskey was \$10, and a gallon of molasses was \$25. A pair of Army shoes was \$15 and wool socks were \$2. Think about those prices for a private making \$13 a month and needing items for himself and also needing to send some money home. Below are a few other interesting articles. Please note that a 'sink' is not found in the kitchen but refers to an 'outhouse' or in an Army camp it would be a 'latrine.'

"CITY SCAVENGER – The subscriber having been appointed CITY SCAVENGER is prepared to clean out sinks, culverts, back yards, cellars, alleys and lots, and remove all nuisances therefrom at the shortest notice and on reasonable terms. Orders left at the Richmond post-office, box 1580 will receive prompt attention. R. H. ALLEN.

STRAYED AWAY from my house, the 24th ultimo, my COW. She is giving milk – She is white, all except her head; she has a few red marks about the head. I will give one hundred dollars for her if delivered to me. JOHN RANDAL.

TAKEN UP, in my cornfield, on the Grove road, three WHITE HOGS. The owner must come forward, prove property, pay charges and take them away. M. C. MEEDS.

FROM PETERSBURG – It seems that a most ludicrous mistake occurred among the Yankees during Grant's grand reconnaissance. One brigade of Yankees, lately arrived in the Army of the James, and unacquainted with localities, became separated from the rest of the troops in the advance on the Boydton plankroad. They wandered around for some time in the hopes of meeting with their comrades. Suddenly, however, they came out upon a railroad – the Southside railroad, or course, - the very road they were looking for. They set to work upon it in a trice, and enthusiastically tore up about a mile and a half of it. Suddenly they hear the whistle of the train. They wait for it eagerly, ready to pounce upon the unwary passengers and satiate themselves with plunder; but the engineer sees danger ahead and stops the locomotive with a shriek. The Yankees had torn up a mile and a half of Grant's new railroad, just laid down from the vicinity of Petersburg to City Point."



New Brick Sidewalk at Ft. Magruder

Our work detail that augured the holes and set the two pipes to receive the steel light standards for the solar lighting. One more step in the process completed.

(L to R: Ken Parsons, Dave Watson, Bob Tuck, Jon Holland and Joe Duggan) not pictured are Steve White & Jeff Toalson



On August 23rd, Compatriot Tim Norman (L) and Eric Willis work on the final segment of the brick sidewalk from the Fort Magruder gate to the Soldier and Sailors Monument. Shannon Powell also worked with Tim on the project.

On August 26th Compatriot Ken Parsons arranged with Don Moore (Don Moore Maintenance LLC) to power wash the bricks. Dirt and grass seed will be added to both sides of the walkway, as final grading, to complete the project.

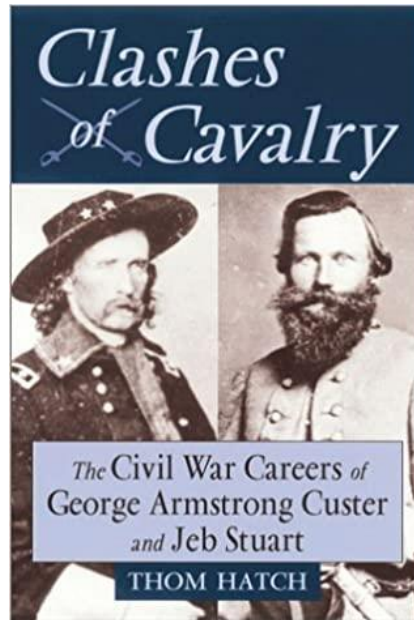
The walk is truly a beautiful piece of workmanship.



September Book Raffle



"The Confederacy's Greatest Cavalryman –
Nathan Bedford Forrest"
by Brian Steel Wills



"Clashes of Cavalry – Custer and Stuart"
By Tom Hatch



"Confederate Cavalry West Of The River"
by Stephen B. Oates

September Trivia Question

Who is regarded as the first martyr of the Confederacy?

Answer to last September's question: Richmond, VA was regarded as the most corrupt and licentious city in the south.

Source: The Civil War: A Narrative – Shelby Foote

Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



Live events are back at the Williamsburg Library! This is the week after our camp meeting.

On Tuesday, September 28th, 2021 - Chris Makowski will present:

"The Battle of Spotsylvania's Bloody Angle"

<http://www.wcwr.org>