



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



June 2018 Dispatch – Williamsburg, Virginia – <http://www.jamescitycavalry.org>

Camp #2095  1st 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, June 27th, 2018, 6:30pm

Colonial Heritage Club

<http://colonialheritageclub.org/home.asp>

6500 Arthur Hills Drive

Williamsburg, VA 23188



Meal Cost: \$17.00 Per Person

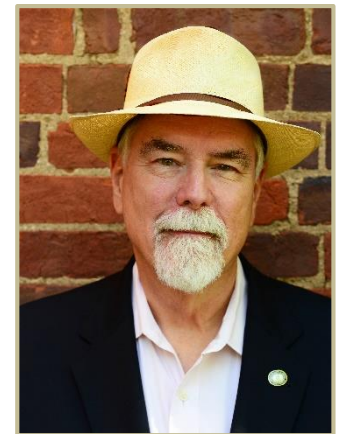
You must call or email Jon Holland (757 869-2774 / jonholland79@gmail.com) to make a dinner reservation. Attendees without a reservation are welcome to attend the meeting but will not receive a dinner.



June Guest Speaker

David Goetz

*“Ever the
Gray Ghost”*



David Goetz will discuss his new book "Ever the Gray Ghost: Col J.S. Mosby and the Lincoln Conspiracies" He will examine background of individuals and groups from both sides in the Civil War who wanted to capture or kill President Jefferson Davis and President Abraham Lincoln. He offers new insights considering Mosby as an integral part of the Lincoln Conspiracies.

Mr. Goetz is descended from the family of **Chaplain Father James M. Graves**, a Jesuit priest who served with Generals Joe Johnston and Stonewall Jackson in the Army of Virginia in 1861-62. He is a past commander of the Black Horse Camp #780, Sons of Confederate Veterans in Fauquier County, Virginia, serving from 2009-13. He currently serves as vice-president of the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society and is a member of the Fauquier Historical Society board of directors.

Mr. Goetz has a professional background in public relations, sales and marketing, primarily with non-profit organizations. He holds an undergraduate degree in English from Bellarmine University, Louisville, Kentucky, and a Master of Science in Community Development from the University of Louisville. He is a U.S. Army veteran, received an Honorable Discharge, and lives in Culpeper County, Virginia.

Camp Officers



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Commander's Comments

Reflecting back to our Confederate Memorial Service at Olive Branch, we continued a long time honored tradition. As early as April 25, 1866, ladies in Columbus, Mississippi strewed flowers on the graves of the Confederate dead from the Battle of Shiloh. As they looked around the cemetery, they realized that the Union graves were unattended and decided to place flowers on those graves as well.

Two years later, on May 5, 1868, the leader of a Union veterans organization proposed *decorating* the graves at Arlington. A large crowd turned out and placed flowers on both Union and Confederate graves there. The idea soon spread throughout the country and the dates varied according to when the flowers were in bloom. Known for many years as Decoration Day, the name was changed over time to Memorial Day. The last Monday in May was declared a national holiday in 1971.

Locally, as recently as the 1940s-1950s, the Armistead sisters, who lived on Duke of Gloucester Street where Charlton's Coffee House has been reconstructed, spoke of taking flowers down through the woods behind Bassett Hall to decorate the Confederate graves. The question is, did they know of unmarked graves in the woods or were they going through the woods to redoubts #1 and #2? My speculation is that they were going to the redoubts, for as the crow flies, the redoubts are located just beyond those woods.

Today, we still *decorate* the graves. Occasionally, a wreath is placed in a cemetery, but now the custom is to place small flags at the graves. Our camp provides these flags for Peach Park, Sunnyside, and James City Chapel cemeteries. Hickory Neck Church and Olive Branch Church also place flags on the Confederate graves in their cemeteries. We strive to keep the tradition going.

Looking ahead, these are challenging times for anything "Confederate." Statues are threatened and the names of streets and schools are being changed on a daily basis. History will be rewritten unless we stay vigilant. Locally, the College of William and Mary removed the tablet erected to honor the memory of students that left the college to fight for the Confederacy. President Reveley will be retiring at the end of June and in his parting remarks, he has stated that a new tablet will be erected this fall listing students who fought for both sides. We will see if this is actually accomplished.

Join us for our camp meetings this summer. Vacation season is here, but we meet year round. Enjoy fellowship and learn more about our history!

We serve in their memory,

Fred Boelt
Commander

Williamsburg Civil War Round Table

<http://www.wcwrt.org>

The Round Table is on summer break. The next meeting will be in September.



Confederate Remembrance Service

Olive Branch Christian Church - May 25th - 42 Attendees



Commander Boelt and Chaplain Raines



Commander Boelt and the camp.



The camp at the remembrance service.

Flags set out for the memorial service.



Thanks to Jeff Toalson and Lorraine Beasley for these photos.

Memorial Day Picnic



Ray Adams and Linda Baker



Jackson Darst and Bill Harrison



Catherine and Lauren Bridewell



Jim Harris and George Bridewell

Amy and Katherine Holland.
Katherine is almost 2.



Letter Reading

(Contributed by Compatriot Jeff Toalson)

Letter from Private Edgar Steel – Co B, 85th New York Infantry (Newport News, VA) to John Debow (Ontario Cty., NY)
SC01325, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William & Mary

“ . . we are hemed in on three sides by water and on the fourth by the enemy . . ”

Camp Near Newport News

Va, April 13, 1862

Dear Chum [John Debow]

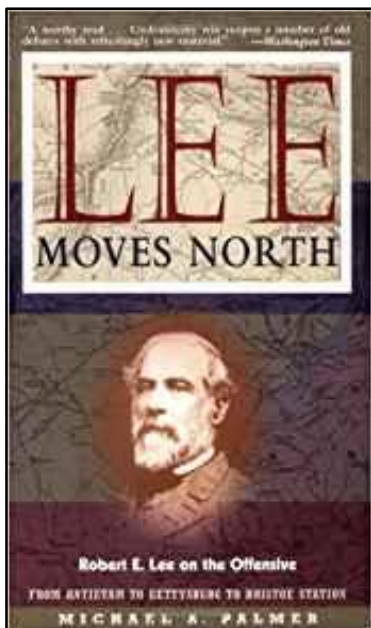
As marching down to Dixie has made me quite lazy I have delayed writing much longer than usual the reason for so doing is that Sunday was my writing day and for the last two Sundays we have marched. We left Camp Warren Washington the 28th of March just at sundown marched ten miles to Alexandria laid down on the brick sidewalk the rest of the night the next morning found me tough as ever that was the first time I ever slept out over night the next morn we went out of the city about two miles to wait for transports to take us down the river the next day was Sunday and as luck would have it marching orders came to go to the landing after landing ourselves there we made out five companies of us to get aboard the *Elm City* the best boat that runs in the river the next morning found us sailing on to Dixie it was a very pleasant voyage being on board two nights and one day we found ourselves at Fortress Monroe then we march through Hampton the place that the rebels burnt before leaving it it was once a fine village inhabited by three thousand people but now it lays a heap of ruins so much for war finely we encamp about ten miles from Fortress Monroe on the road to Yorktown we waited there for the rest of our division they came along however in due time the next Sunday we went a short distance encamp again the rest of the time we have done picket duty and made roads for the Artillery as the land here is low and swampy and the rebels took up all the bridges and burnt every thing they could but the report is that we leave here to morrow in the direction of Yorktown there is over one hundred thousand union troops here and the report is that the rebels have nearly that number and perhaps more it will be by no doubt the hardest fought battle of the campaign as they are so well fortified Yorktown is about twenty miles from here we are hemed [hemmed] in on three sides by water and on the fourth by the enemy and time will show whether we stay hemed so or not and that before long already I have heard their guns and seen their tents across the river they have sent a few shells at us but did no harm, the monotor [Monitor] is here in the harbor I have also catch a glimpse of the rebel merimac [Virginia] much oblige for that paper you sent me as newspapers are out of the question here E H Steele Washington DC 85th Regt NYV 3rd Brigade of Caseys division Company B care of Capt Clark

 (ed: *Marvelous detail on sailing time to Fort Monroe, the destruction of Hampton, the Gen. McClellan and Alan Pinkerton estimates of 100,000 Confederate troops [Gen. Magruder had about 25,000 in early April], and also his notes of seeing the two ironclads . . . the monotor and the merimac. Edgar will be killed in action in the battle of Seven Pines on May 31, 1862.*)

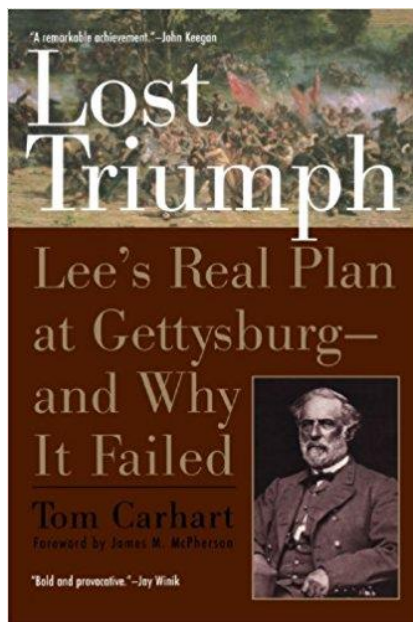
Camp 2095 note: We alerted the Swem regarding the availability of this wonderful local letter and Jay acquired it.

(ed: *Also included is a marvelous carte de visit of Pvt. Steele in uniform. Advertising on the back is for the Weed Sewing Machine Company and notes a branch office in Elmira, NY. Elmira could well have been the collection and training point for the Regiment before they went to Washington and Alexandria.*)

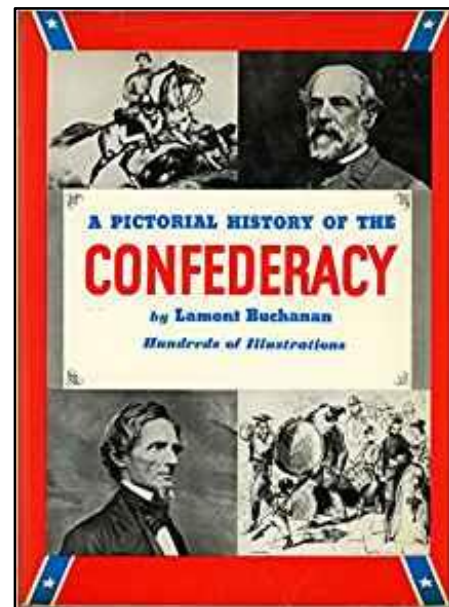
June Book Raffle



"Lee Moves North"
by Michael Palmer



Lost Triumph: Lee's Real Plan at Gettysburg-- and Why It Failed"
by Tom Carhart



"A Pictorial History of the Confederacy"
by Lamont Buchanan

June Trivia Question:

What was the overall inflation rate for Confederate States of America currency?



Books Donation

The James City Cavalry would like to thank Mrs. Marilyn Birbeck for the gift of 14 various works on the WBTS relating to the Trans-Mississippi theatre. Marilyn's late husband, Dr. Herb Birbeck, was the director of the Special Education Department at Mankato State University in Mankato, Minnesota, and a dedicated student of Civil War history. Marilyn is pleased that some of his books will find a new home with our members who are also have a deep interest in the history of the conflict. Additionally, she thought it was wonderful that our monthly book raffles raised funds to pay for our guest speaker expenses. We appreciate this gift from Marilyn and she can be assured that Herb's books will be moving forward to the libraries of other Civil War buffs.

