



# James City Cavalry Picket Lines



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

Camp #2095  1<sup>st</sup> 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, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:jonholland79@gmail.com)) to make a dinner reservation. Attendees without a reservation are welcome to attend the meeting but will not receive a dinner.



## April Guest Speaker

Eric Wittenberg  
Lawyer & Author



*“The Battle of  
Brandy Station”*

Eric Wittenberg, the pre-eminent authority on Eastern Cavalry Operations in the WBTS, will provide a fast paced 45 minute discussion of the largest cavalry battle ever fought on the North American continent. Major General Alfred Pleasonton had three divisions of Union cavalry led by John Buford, David Gregg and Judson Kilpatrick. General J. E. B. Stuart had 5 brigades of Confederate cavalry commanded by Rooney Lee, William Jones, Fitz Lee, Wade Hampton and Beverly Robertson. In total some 10,000 Confederate and 12,000 Union troopers converged on Fleetwood Hill and Brandy Station. Eric will help us understand this battle of charges and countercharges, fought with sabers, pistols and carbines, as Fleetwood Hill changed hands multiple times.

Eric is the author of more than 18 books on cavalry operations involving the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia. He is also the author of numerous articles for magazines and historical publications. He is the historical host of a driving tour of the Trevilian Station Campaign the weekend before speaking with us and he is performing the same function on a driving tour of the cavalry actions on the retreat from Gettysburg to Williamsport 2 days after our visit.

# Camp Journal for Last Muster

## Meeting:

Held March 28th at 6:30PM at Colonial Heritage Club,  
James City Cty., Va., **28** attendees

Pledge & Salute to the Flags

## Blessing:

Given by Chaplain Warren Raines

Break for Supper

The SCV Charge read by Quartermaster Joel Goodwin

Welcome given by Commander Fred Boelt

Letter Reading  
Compatriot Jeff Toalson

## Program:

Compatriot Toalson introduced the evening's guest speaker: John J.  
Fox.

Mr. Fox presented "*The Confederate Alamo – Bloodbath at Petersburg's Fort Gregg on April 2, 1865*", an often overlooked event in the Petersburg Campaign.



John Fox, Nancy Fox and Commander Boelt

## Committee Reports and Announcements:

### Cemetery Report

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander Steve White

### Old & New Business

- Fort Magruder April 7 at 0900 brush pile recovery work
- April 20-21– Virginia SCV Convention in Roanoke
- April 22 Wmsbg. Battlefield Assn Clean-up 0900-1300
- Memorial Day Service – Olive Branch on May 25 (5:00 pm)
- Memorial Day Picnic – Boelt Farm on May 25 (6:00 pm)
- The Starbuck Family is donating our BBQ for the picnic
- Meeting Attendance – Call List
- Special April Speaker – Eric Wittenberg - Compatriot Toalson

### Book Raffle

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

### Benediction

Given by Chaplain Warren Raines.

### Adjournment

8:35 PM



## Camp Officers



**Commander** Fred Boelt  
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**Senior Chaplain** Fred Breedon  
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**Chaplain** Warren Raines  
[warrenandpaula@verizon.net](mailto:warrenandpaula@verizon.net)

## Commander's Comments

Compatriots,

Be prepared for a double header coming in April. Eric J. Wittenberg will be speaking at the Williamsburg Civil War Round Table on Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and at our camp on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. His topics will be "*The Devil to Pay – Buford at Gettysburg*" and "*The Battle at Brandy Station*" respectively. Wittenberg is a renowned American Civil War historian, author, lecturer, tour guide and battlefield preservationist. His lectures are sure to be crowd pleasers. We encourage you to bring family and friends to these lectures.

Supper reservations will be particularly important for our April camp meeting. We have established a call committee that will contact our compatriots and friends the week before the meeting as we have to give Colonial Heritage a reservation count by Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Please bear with us as we fine tune this necessary procedure. But please know that eating a meal is not a prerequisite for coming to the meeting. All are welcome!

May 5<sup>th</sup> will be the 156<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Williamsburg. At the time of the battle, my great, great grandparents, Thomas and Lucy Whitaker, were living along the Williamsburg-Yorktown Road. Today, their home would be located in the parking lot of the motel across the road from the Marquis Shopping Center and Whitaker's Mill was to the east where the road crossed King's Creek. My great grandmother, Zelica Whitaker Wynne was nine years old at the time.

She had vivid memories of the day the Yankees came. At the mill, they first took what they wanted for personal consumption and then dumped all of the remaining flour, meal and grain in the road and let the horses tromp through it making it unfit for human consumption. At the house, they ransacked the kitchen, again dumping supplies in the yard. Zelica remembered seeing several horsemen ride off with her mother's china teacups tied around their mounts' necks.

Major General William F. Smith, commanding Union detachments, soon seized the house for his headquarters. The family made a hasty retreat to Thomas's father's home, "Alabama," located at the intersection of Croaker and Ware Creek Roads which remained in Confederate territory. The family's oldest son, Richard Christopher Whitaker, was serving in the 5<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry when all of this took place.

While this pales in comparison to the suffering and deprivation of so many in the Confederacy, it made an indelible impression on a young girl who passed the story on to her children and their generations. The point here is that oral history has an important place in the annals of time. Record your own family stories before they are lost by later generations.

We serve in their memory,

Fred Boelt  
Commander

## Commemorating the Battle of Williamsburg



The Williamsburg Chapter, UDC has invited the camp to their annual ceremony commemorating the Battle of Williamsburg to be held this year **on Sunday, May 6, 4:00pm, Fort Magruder**. The ladies will provide refreshments after the ceremony honoring our camp's continuing work at the fort.

# Letter Reading

(Contributed by Compatriot Jeff Toalson)

General Orders #11 – June 14, 1864

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Head Quarters U S Forces  
Fort Magruder Va June 14<sup>th</sup> 1864

General Orders  
No 11

The galloping or fast driving  
of all public animals unless directed is  
strictly prohibitive. Order to go beyond  
an ordinary pace must be in writing

By Command of Col W. H. P. Steere  
E. V. Brown.  
Capt & AAAG <sup>1</sup>

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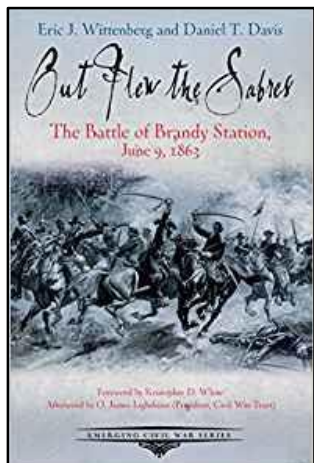
*(ed: Williamsburg is under military control. There have been some problems with raids and this General Order tells the populace that persons 'galloping and fast driving' are subject to be fired on without being warned by Federal troops. This is a hand written order by the AAAG.)*

*You will note that the Union headquarters is at Fort Magruder. They maintained the Confederate name for the fort and erected a variety of additional redoubts facing up the peninsula vs the redoubts of the Williamsburg line which faced down the peninsula. Fort Magruder was the headquarters for Union troops through the end of the conflict. The fort was Confederate for a year and a Union fort for 3 years.)*

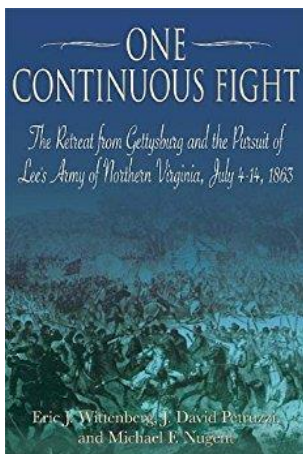
1. **SC00058 Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.**  
The James City Cavalry donated this document to the SCRC in 2016 to begin our preservation project.

# April Book Raffle

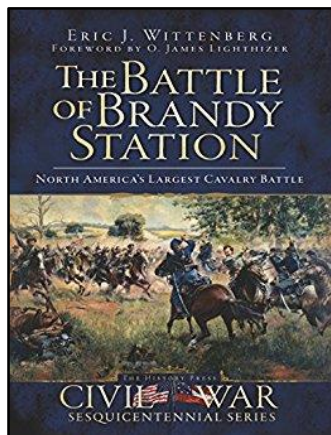
## Nuthin but Cavalry - Nuthin but Eric



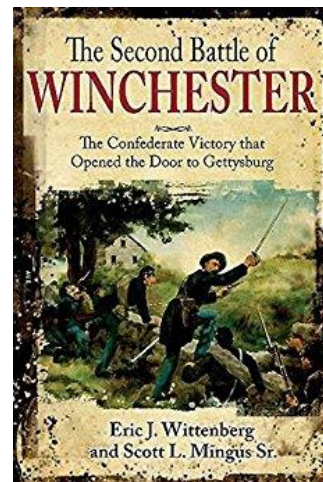
**Out Flew The Sabers -  
The Battle of Brandy  
Station**



**One Continuous Fight -  
Lee's Retreat From  
Gettysburg**



**The Battle of Brandy  
Station – North  
America's Largest  
Cavalry Battle**



**The Second Battle of  
Winchester – The  
Confederate Victory the  
Opened the Door to  
Gettysburg**

# April Trivia Question:

How many Confederate casualties were inflicted when the magazine of the *USS Westfield* was fired?



# Williamsburg Civil War Round Table

<http://www.wcwrt.org>

On April 24th, 2018 - Eric Wittenberg  
will present:

**“The Devil to Pay – Buford at Gettysburg”**