



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



February 2017 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, February 22th, 2017, 6:30pm
Colonial Heritage Club
<http://colonialheritageclub.org/home.asp>
6500 Arthur Hills Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23188



Meal Cost: \$17.00 Per Person
(genuine Confederate currency gladly accepted)

Honored Confederate Soldier:
Private Williams Joseph Willoughby
4th Battalion Georgia Sharpshooters, Co. B 54th Reg.

February Guest Speaker

Randolph Watkins

Sysonby, Dinwiddie
County, Virginia

***"The Battle
of the Crater"***



During the summer of 1864, Richmond and Petersburg were under siege by the Army of the Potomac. In an effort to break the siege, the 48th Pennsylvania, composed of mostly miners, proposed to dig a mine under the Confederate defenses. Work was completed by 23 July, despite minimal support from senior leaders. The explosion occurred on the 30th with 8000 lbs. of black powder. It was a monumental explosion, causing great destruction and disorientation in the Confederate lines, but the infantry assault was delayed, and the Crater became a death trap for the Union troops.

Compatriot Watkins was born in Richmond and raised on a farm in western Hanover County. He received his bachelor's degree in history and political science from Virginia Commonwealth University. He then spent tours with the U.S. Navy and Reserve as well as retiring from the U.S. Army Reserve, served in various police departments, and served as an interpretive park ranger and historic weapons supervisor. Currently, he reenacts as the Captain of Company C, 12th Virginia Infantry. He is married to the former Elizabeth Lynn Barnes of Roanoke (Big Lick), Virginia; and they have two grown children, two grown step-children, and two step-grandchildren.

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held January 25th at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club,
James City Cty., Va., 29 attendees

Welcome given by Commander Jeff Toalson

Invocation:

Given by Senior Chaplain Fred Breedon

Pledge & Salute to the Flags

Break for Supper

The SCV Charge read by Quartermaster Jerry Thompson

Ancestral Memorial Candle:

Private Joel Henry White
Badham's Battery, N.C. Light Artillery

Program:

1st Lt. Commander Jim Leach introduced the evening's guest
speaker: Fred Chiesa.

Fred treated us to an impromptu presentation on the Formation
of the Confederate Army after our planned speaker had to cancel
due to dental surgery.

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Cemetery Report

2nd Lt. Commander Steve White reported on cemetery
clean-up efforts at Ft Magruder on Jan 14 and Peach Park
on Jan 21. Cleanup at Spencer Cemetery is planned for Jan.
28 and a Ft. Magruder trash pickup will be scheduled at a
later date.

Old & New Business

- Virginia SCV Convention is planned for April 21 & 22.
Attendees: Toalson, Parsons, Thompson and possibly
Raines.
- Our Outstanding Camp application was mailed on Jan.
24th.

Book Raffle

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

Benediction

Given by Chaplain Warren Raines.

Adjournment

8:49 PM



1st Lt. Cmdr. Leach and Fred Chiesa



Camp Officers



Commander	Jeff Toalson troon24@cox.net
Adjutant	Ken Parsons kparsons320@cox.net
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2nd Lt. Commander	Steve White garrettsgrocery@gmail.com
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Quartermaster	Jerry Thompson JerryLThompson@yahoo.com
Senior Chaplain	Fred Breedon flbreeden@yahoo.com
Chaplain	Warren Raines warrenandpaula@verizon.net



Commander's Comments

I just finished reading *Hidden Figures*. This book is a history of women scientists, engineers and computers at Langley from 1948 through the Apollo space program. The term 'computer' refers to human (female) mathematicians. Many of the 'computers' went on to earn scientific and engineering degrees while at Langley. Our own Jean Clark Keating (FOC) was part of the program and one of those female scientists. From pages 159 and 160 I provide the following quote.

"In 1959, six of Langley's female employees – Lucille Coltrane, Jean Clark Keating, Katherine Cullie Speegle, Ruth Whitman, Emily Stephens Mueller and Dorothy Lee – assembled around a table in a Langley office to sit for a group photo, their elegant, well-made suits amplifying the confidence in their gaze. "Women Scientists," the photographer labeled the picture, though the particulars of the occasion would be lost to the passage of time. They had rated inclusion in the photograph because of some combination of rank, research contributions, and general esteem in the eyes of their bosses. Five of the six women in the photo working in PARD [Pilotless Aircraft Research Division]." (They worked in rockets and rocket flight)

Dorothy Lee was a 'computer,' she would earn her engineering degree while at Langley, and would go on to do years of research on the principles of aerodynamic heating. All of these women, and many more, are just some of the unseen people (very, very intelligent minds) that created the pathway for success in Mercury, Gemini and Apollo. Long before FOC Jean Keating was a breeder of champion Papillons, she was a scientist employed at Langley helping to drive the success of our space program. I like to think that she took some of those 'computers' (both white and black) under her wing and helped them become engineers and scientists.

Jeff Toalson

Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Historian/Genealogist Compatriot Fred Boelt)

William Brown Thompson Christian was born on February 12, 1836, in Charles City County. His parents were Turner and Susan Marston Christian. The family had moved to Williamsburg before the 1850 census was taken. At that time, Turner Christian was serving as Clerk of Court, but he had died before the 1860 census was taken. William Christian was then living with his mother and two younger sisters. His occupation was listed as "D. M. E. D. Va." He does not appear on the alumni lists for the College of William and Mary, so we are without a clue about his educational background.

William Christian enlisted in Company C, 32nd Virginia Infantry, on April 21, 1861, in Williamsburg as 3rd Sergeant. He was appointed 2nd Sergeant on May 12, 1862, but was reduced to private on December 1st of that year. Christian was absent due to sickness frequently: February 12-March 3, Seminary Hospital, Williamsburg; July 3-17 and September 4-28, General Hospital Number 21, Richmond; all in 1862. He was furloughed on September 27th, November 1st and again on December 22, 1862 through April 1, 1863, where he was at Howard's Grove Hospital suffering from a hernia for much of this time.

He was promoted to hospital steward on April 1, 1863, and assigned to duty in Richmond Hospital Number 10. He was discharged from Company C on August 3, 1863 due to his new assignment. He was described at that time as 5'8", light complexion, light hair, blue eyes, occupation Clerk.

On December 14, 1864, he married Jane Sophia Gilliam (1842-1920) in Richmond. Jane was the daughter of Lt. Colonel James Skelton Gilliam, Company C, 9th Virginia Infantry, and his wife, Catherine Birchett. The Gilliams were from Chesterfield County. William Christian was captured at the hospital in Richmond on April 3, 1865, and paroled there on April 16th or 18th. The records give both dates.

By 1870, William and Jane Christian were living at Bellefonte Township in Nottaway County, Virginia. William was a hotel keeper there and they had three young children. Jane's father was a retail dry goods merchant living very near the Christians. By 1880, the Christians had relocated to Williamsburg and were living on Francis Street. Two more children had joined the household and William's occupation was listed as a laborer.

William Christian died on January 21, 1891. His brief obituary stated that he was the clerk of the Williamsburg City Council at the time of his death and that he had held that position for several years. In her widow's pension application in 1910, Jane Christian stated that he had died of consumption contracted from exposure during the war. William Christian was buried in the graveyard at Bruton Parish Church beside his mother and later, his wife.



Winter Work Crew Photos



Ft. Magruder work party L to R: Elizabeth Pierce (President-UDC), Joel Goodwin, Vanessa Cole (UDC), Steve White, Ken Parsons, Jim Leach (kneeling) and Jerry Thompson. Jeff Toalson not pictured.



Peach Park work party: L to R: Jerry Thompson, Ken Parsons, Eric Raines, Joe Sanderson, Warren Raines, Steve White, Jim Leach, Joel Goodwin & Billy Hynes. Jeff Toalson not pictured.

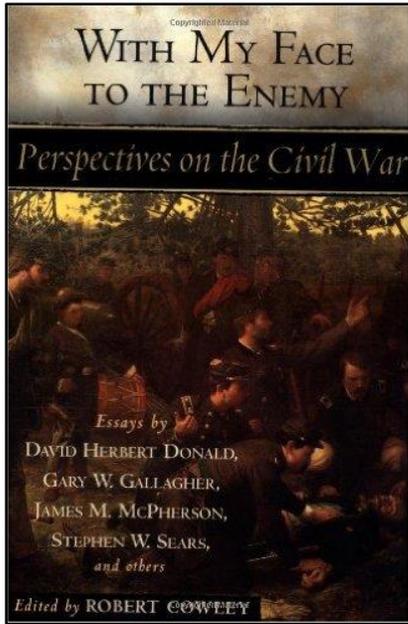


Joe Sanderson routs the leaves with a HD leaf blower at Cowles-Spencer. Bring on the heavy artillery!

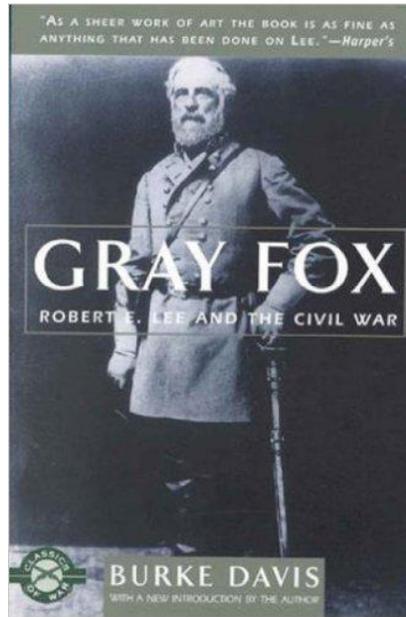


Cowles-Spencer work party: L to R - Steve White, Joe Sanderson & Jim Leach . . . Jeff Toalson not pictured.

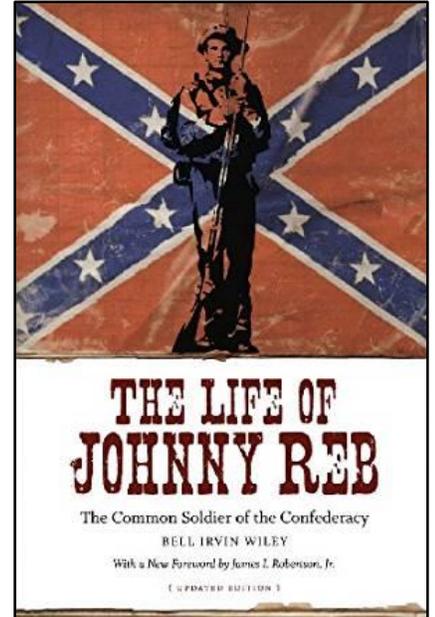
February Book Raffle



"With My Face to the Enemy: Perspectives on the Civil War"
by Robert Cowley



"Gray Fox"
By Burke Davis



"The Life of Johnny Reb"
by Bell Irvin Wiley



February Trivia Question:

What Catholic nun nursed both Union & Confederate wounded, died from typhoid fever and had a funeral escort of soldiers from both sides?



Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwrt.org>

On February 28th, 2017 – Emanuell Dabney will present:

"US Colored Troops at the Battle of the Crater"