



# James City Cavalry PICKET LINES



July 2013 Dispatch – Williamsburg, Virginia – <http://www.jamescitycavalry.org>

Camp #2095 1st Brigade Virginia Division Army of Northern Virginia

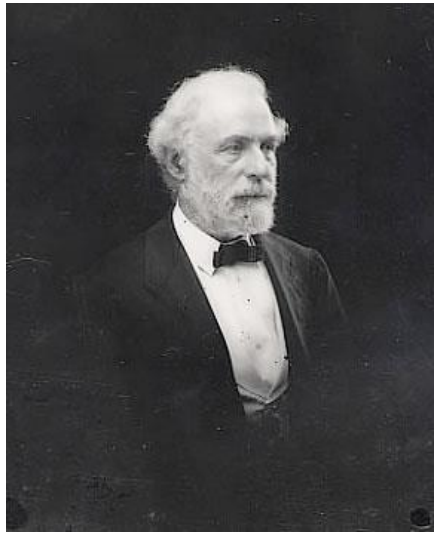
A PATRIOTIC HONOR SOCIETY DEDICATED TO SERVICE AND PRESERVING THE TRUE HISTORY OF THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

## NEXT MUSTER

Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 6:30pm  
Colonial Heritage Club  
<http://colonialheritageclub.org/home.asp>  
6500 Arthur Hills Drive  
Williamsburg, VA 23188

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Mrs. Billie Earnest**  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

*“Lee’s Photographer –  
Mr. Michael Milley”*



**Meal Cost: \$17.00 Per Person –**  
**Includes BBQ Chicken, Dessert & Coffee**  
(genuine Confederate currency gladly accepted –  
will reluctantly accept US \$5 notes)

**Honored Confederate Soldier:**  
1st. Lt. Thomas R. Harrison - Acting Adjutant,  
Garnett's Brigade, Pickett's Division, Lee's ANV

**No RSVP Required**  
Compatriots' Ladies & Guests Encouraged To Attend

## JULY GUEST SPEAKER

**Mrs. Billie Earnest**  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

*“Lee’s Photographer –  
Mr. Michael Milley”*

During the WBTS Michael Miley served as a private in Company C – 27<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry of the Stonewall Brigade. Captured at both Middletown 6/5/62 and Spotsylvania 5/12/64 and both times he was sent to Fort Delaware. He was exchanged 2/27/65 and admitted to the Richmond hospitals with scurvy. He was paroled on 5/10/65 in Staunton. Postwar he returned to Rockbridge County and opened a photography studio in Lexington, Virginia. Over the next 5 years he would form a close relationship with Robert E. Lee, his former commander, who was now the president of Washington College. Some of the best known and most engaging photographs of Robert E. Lee were taken by Michael during this time period. Lee encouraged him to also photograph landscapes and buildings. Lee significantly influenced his career and development in the art of photography. Billie will share many key photos with us this evening and expand our understanding of period photography, Michael Miley and Robert E. Lee.

Billie Earnest is a 20 year member of the UDC, a friend of the Norfolk Grays Camp of the SCV, a past chapter and division officer with the UDC, and a genealogist and historical researcher relating to the WBTS. Twice before she has graced us with her talks. In June of 2009 she spoke on George and Sallie Pickett and in October of 2010 she presented a marvelous talk on General Billy Mahone. It is our pleasure to have Billie, and her husband Frank, joining us this evening.

Bring a guest to our July meeting. Supper will be served at 6:30 and we will introduce Billie at 7:30. Our buffet costs \$17 per person. Non members please contact Ken Parsons at 757-564-0878 or [kparsons4@cox.net](mailto:kparsons4@cox.net) to confirm reservations.

1st Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson





# CAMP JOURNAL FOR LAST MUSTER



## Meeting:

Held 26 Jun. at 6:30PM at Colonial Heritage Club,  
James City Cty., Va., 45 attendees

Welcome given by Commander Jerry White

## Invocation:

Given by Chaplain Fred Breeden  
Pledge & Salute to the Flags  
Break for Supper

The SCV Charge read by Quartermaster Jim Swords  
James City Cavalry Charge

Welcome and introduction of guests given by  
Commander Jerry White

## Trivia Question:

Who is the only Confederate General honored by an  
outdoor statue in the District of Columbia?

Answer: **Albert Pike**

(December 29, 1809–April 2, 1891)

## Ancestral Memorial Candle:

Read by Compatriot Charles Eugene Bush *in honor of*  
Private John Jackman  
Co B, 9th Kentucky Infantry

## Program:

Introduction of Guest Speaker by 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant  
Commander Jeff Toalson: Our guest speaker was Mr.  
Robert Montague, oldest living relative of General  
John C. Breckenridge. Mr. Montague discussed the  
political successes and intrigues of his Kentuckian  
relative, as well as his wartime exploits and post-war  
activities.

## Committee Reports & Announcements:

### Treasurer' Report

Adjutant Ken Parsons indicated that the focus of HQ  
in the next year will be recruitment. Ken indicated that  
the 2015 Nat'l Convention will be held in Richmond.

Ken also reported that the Camp has three new  
Virginia Division Life Members.

### Cemetery Report

Provided by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander Steve White.

### Support the Troops

Provided by Compatriot Scott Summerfield.

### Old Business

Mention was made of establishing a webpage link to  
our Camp Scholarship in order to more thoroughly  
disseminate to students in the future.

### New Business

The camp is still considering selling birdhouses as a  
potential fundraising activity. More to follow.  
Arrests were made in Lexington for the display of the  
Stars & Bars and Confederate Battle Flag. Those  
interested in donating to the defense of the arrested  
can get more details from Adjutant Ken Parsons.

### Book Raffle:

\$55.00 was donated to the Camp Treasury for the  
raffle of the volumes: "Soldier Life in the Union &  
Confederate Armies" by Philip Van Doren Stern and  
"The Army of Tennessee" by Stanley Horn.  
The lucky recipients of these raffles were a surprise  
to all and deftly overturned recent trends.

### Benediction:

Given by Chaplain Fred Breeden.

## SUPPORT THE TROOPS

### Immediately Needed Items :

Q-Tips  
Hard Candy  
Slim Jims  
Lip Balm  
Beef Jerky  
Dental Floss  
Moisture Lotion



## CAMP OFFICERS

Commander

Jerry White  
[jerry47@cox.net](mailto:jerry47@cox.net)

Adjutant

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1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander

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Archivist

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Quartermaster

Jim Swords  
[james.swords@cox.net](mailto:james.swords@cox.net)

Chaplain

Fred Breeden  
[flbreeden@yahoo.com](mailto:flbreeden@yahoo.com)





# CAMP PICTORIAL



## INDUCTION OF NEW JAMES CITY COUNTY CAMP MEMBERS



*Photo Above: (L to R) Adjutant Ken Parsons, Compatriot David King, Compatriot Charles Ware, Compatriot Claude Perkins, Compatriot Doug Douglas, Compatriot Paul Huelskamp, Compatriot Bill Miller, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander Jeff Toalson, Commander Jerry White*



*Photo Right: (L to R) 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson and Guest Speaker Mr. Robert Mantague, oldest living relative of General John C. Breckenridge of Kentucky pose between a campaign poster for James Buchanan and Breckenridge, who served as Kentucky legislator, a Congressman, Vice President of the United States, Confederate General, and the final Confederate Secretary of War.*





# CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES

(Contributed by Historian/Genealogist Compatriot Fred Boelt)

Talbot Sweeney was born about 1830; birth place unproven. His parents were Moses and Mary Eliza Cosby Sweeney. Mary was from Gloucester County, but the Cosby family had ties to the Peninsula as well. Talbot studied at the College of William and Mary from 1847 to 1850, and began practicing law when he graduated. On October 14, 1854, Talbot was appointed to a three year term on the Board of Directors for the Eastern Lunatic Asylum. In the 1860 census, Talbot and his mother were living in Williamsburg where he was listed as a lawyer.

Talbot enlisted in Company C, 32<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Infantry, in Williamsburg on April 28, 1861. The only record of his service is dated August 31, 1861, and stated that he had been detailed as a quartermaster clerk since May 15<sup>th</sup> and had been last paid on June 30<sup>th</sup>. A note stated that he was discharged by order of the governor on April 28<sup>th</sup>, but that his name appeared in a column of names present. These confusing entries are unexplained so far.

Talbot Sweeney was in Williamsburg after the occupation in the spring of 1862. Letters written by Williamsburg resident, Robert Saunders, indicate that Sweeney was attending to business for him and for the asylum during that time. In October, as the "deposed and rightful attorney for the asylum," Sweeney wrote to Governor Letcher and told him about the deplorable conditions of the inmates at the asylum, stating that the (Union) physician had gone to Philadelphia, the servants had left, and the treasurer had no money to purchase food or clothing.

Sweeney ended the letter by telling the governor to avoid referring to the letter and to send his answer "by 'Express' to William L. Spencer, James City County, Centerville Road, about ten miles from this city, who will give it to me safely. Send to this gentleman the injunction of the utmost secrecy about the delivery. An 'Express' can safely come to Mr. Spencer at this time, but of course, as a prudent man he would feel his way. At present the enemy's pickets extend only two miles above the city, on the stage road (Richmond Road) to a place called Casey's (intersection with Ironbound Road) and a mile on the College Mill Road or the James Town Road. His scouting party numbers

generally about 75 men and goes only six miles or so on the stage and Centerville Roads."

William Llewellyn Spencer was an uncle of David Warren Spencer (Cowles, Spencer, Durand Cemetery) and owned Locust Hill located at the intersection of Jolly Pond and Bush Neck Roads. Family lore states that one of his daughters, Harriett, as a teenager, carried dispatches between CSA troops, perhaps serving as a spy for them. In one incident as Union troops approached her homestead, Harriett grabbed a rifle, and as she was running toward them, she shot herself in the foot. After the war, Harriett married Captain John Bertram Cowles in 1866, and raised a large family at Cowlesville on the Diascund Road, where she is buried [see *Picket Lines*, September 2007]. Perhaps Harriett earned a Confederate gravestone, too?

In April 1863, Talbot Sweeney, as Attorney and Collector for ELA, assumed the functions of the director. Surgeon P. Wages of the U. S. forces was director after the 1862 occupation but was absent at the time. It is not known how long Sweeney remained in that position. On August 16, 1865, in Henrico County, Talbot Sweeney married Cornelia M. Jones, widow of Wilmer A. Jones who had died in 1859. Cornelia and her three daughters by Jones were living in Williamsburg in 1860 and may have refuged to Henrico during the war.

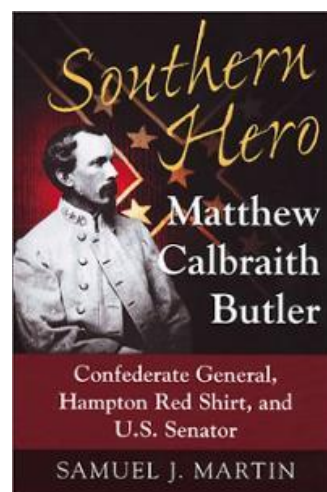
At any rate, the Sweeney family was back in Williamsburg when the 1870 census was taken. Talbot was again listed as a lawyer, and he and Cornelia had a son and a daughter of their own by that time. And, so far unexplained, this family showed up in Littleton, Warren County, North Carolina when the 1880 census was taken. Talbot's occupation continued to be listed as a lawyer and one of the Jones step-daughters was living in the household. And the story ends here so far. Did they remain in North Carolina or return to Virginia? A death date and burial site has not been found for Talbot Sweeney. There is a stone in the Bruton Parish graveyard for Mordecai Talbot Sweeney and his wife, but the dates do not work for this Talbot Sweeney family. Further research is required!

# JULY BOOK RAFFLE



**“Mama, I Am Yet Still Alive – A Composite Diary of 1863 in the Confederacy” Jeff Toalson – Editor, Bloomington, Soft Cover, 463 pages**

Uses the first person 'voices' of 220 men and 50 women from their diaries, letters and journals to tell the story of 1863. These are the ' voices' of farmers, housewives, nurses, clerks, privates, sergeants, riverboatmen and chaplains. If you want to sense what your ancestors experienced during the WBTS then these are the voices and stories you need to read.



**“Southern Hero – Matthew C. Butler; Confederate General & U.S. Senator” Samuel J. Martin, Mechanicsburg, 2001, Hard Cover, 388 pages**

A long overdue biography of General Butler. He served as a cavalry officer for the entire conflict. He was badly wounded at Brandy Station but would recover and see action at Trevilian Station, the Kautz-Wilson raid, Ream's Station, Petersburg, McDowell's Farm, Burgess Mill, and other Virginia battlefields. In January, 1865 he was ordered to South Carolina to resist the advance of General Sherman. Postwar he would be elected in 1878 and serve three terms as a United States senator . An interesting read about a virtually unknown Confederate.

## JULY TRIVIA QUESTION:

What was the single most important thing that our soldiers needed all during the war that they had the most difficult time obtaining?



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