



# James City Cavalry Picket Lines



June 2017 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, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 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:**

Sgt. Benjamin Porter

Co. E - 11th Alabama Infantry

## June Guest Speaker

John J. Fox, III  
Author

*“Stuart's  
Finest  
Hour”*



Mr. Fox discusses his book: “Stuart's Finest Hour: The Ride Around McClellan, June 1862”.

John J Fox III grew up in Richmond, Virginia. He graduated from Washington & Lee University with a U.S. history degree. After school he served on active duty in the U.S. Army for seven years as an armor officer and aviator. He belongs to the Museum of the Confederacy, the Civil War Preservation Trust and is a member and past commander of Turner Ashby Camp #1567, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

## Camp Officers



<b>Commander</b>	Jeff Toalson <a href="mailto:troon24@cox.net">troon24@cox.net</a>
<b>Adjutant</b>	Ken Parsons <a href="mailto:kparsons320@cox.net">kparsons320@cox.net</a>
<b>1st Lt. Commander</b>	Jim Leach <a href="mailto:wltrepro4u@verizon.net">wltrepro4u@verizon.net</a>
<b>2nd Lt. Commander</b>	Steve White <a href="mailto:garrettsgrocery@gmail.com">garrettsgrocery@gmail.com</a>
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## Commander's Comments

Compatriots –

Thank you all for the marvelous turnout for the Memorial Service and the picnic. We had 50 people at the services at Peach Park and a total of 65 people at the picnic. Our largest turnout ever! Well done.

The weather was magnificent with a nice breeze to discourage any mosquito participation in the festivities. The sheep, geese, peacocks and roosters provided entertainment for all.

My appreciation to everyone who assisted in the planning, preparation, and presentation of both the memorial services and the picnic. We could not have done it without all of your efforts. It is true that many hands make for easy work.

The June meeting will be special. We will have our historical talk on 'General J. E. B. Stuart's Ride Around McClellan,' the presentation of the Lt. Col. Allen Memorial College Scholarship to Mr. Kyle Mastracci of York High School, and the induction of new member Jim Wells.

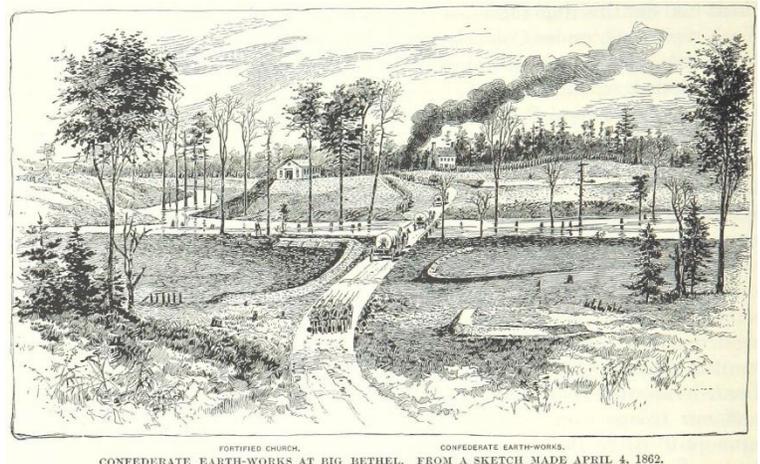
Our thanks to the Starbuck family for the donation of the BBQ for the picnic and to Historian Fred Boelt for again providing the beautiful grounds of his farm for our gathering. Our Commander underestimated the size of the crowd and only had potato salad and coleslaw for 50 people. He should, at the least, be reduced one pay grade for this infraction.

Jeff Toalson

## This Month in the Civil War

June 10<sup>th</sup> 1861 – The Battle of Big Bethel

Col. John B. Magruder's Confederates defeated General Benjamin Butler's Union advance up the Virginia Peninsula. No further attempt would be made by the Federals until Spring 1862.



FORTIFIED CHURCH. CONFEDERATE EARTH-WORKS. CONFEDERATE EARTH-WORKS AT BIG BETHEL. FROM A SKETCH MADE APRIL 4, 1862.

# Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Historian/Genealogist Compatriot Fred Boelt)

Sydney Smith was born in York County, Virginia in 1821. His parents were Henry Smith, a native of Accomack County, and his wife, Martha Presson of York County. Between the years 1837 and 1846, Sydney attended grammar, undergraduate, and law school at the College of William and Mary. Upon completion of his education, he opened his law practice in Williamsburg. About 1848, he married Virginia Constance Bucktrout, daughter of Benjamin Earnshaw Bucktrout and his wife, Lucy Talbot Cosby.

In 1849, Sydney Smith purchased the house now known as the Thomas Everard House on Palace Green from Daniel P. Custis. This remained the home of Smith and his heirs until 1928. Within the first year or two of his tenure, he had a small brick building erected next to his home for his law office. Seven children were born to Sydney and Virginia Smith between 1849 and 1862.

Sydney Smith enrolled for active service on April 1, 1861, at Burnt Ordinary. He was listed as a private in Company I, (Geddy's Troop), 3rd Virginia Cavalry. Smith was mustered into service in Williamsburg on June 24th by Colonel Ewell for twelve months. He was absent on vedette duty until July 1st. At that time, he was detailed for special service with the Commissary Department in Williamsburg by order of General Magruder. Smith continued service in this capacity through February 1862. The last entry in his service record indicated that Colonel Ewell assigned him to post up the commissary books during the winter months. When Colonel Allen wrote his article and listed a roster for the James City Cavalry in 1896, he included Sydney Smith, noting that he was dead. Perhaps Smith did transition to the 5th Cavalry for a short time, but there is no official record for this.

Little is known of Smith's whereabouts during the latter years of the war. There is an interesting aside that sheds a little light on this. In July 1864, Lt. Cronin, Provost of Williamsburg, was sent out to the Bush plantation near Burnt Ordinary (Windsor Castle on Forge Road) to investigate the murder of a Union straggler. While there, he discovered that Lt. Edmond Macon Ware had been brought to the plantation to recover from serious gunshot wounds received at Haws Shop on May 27, 1864. Ware had been shot in the face, left hand and left thigh. Word got back to Williamsburg about Ware's condition and several ladies offered to nurse him if he was brought through the lines.

Lt. Cronin arranged for an ambulance and surgeon from Fort Magruder to bring Lt. Ware to Williamsburg. He was carried to the home of Virginia Constance Smith where he convalesced. And though maimed for life, he returned to active service and later married Trittie Bush, daughter of William Bush, the plantation owner. This incident offers proof that the Smiths remained in Williamsburg for at least part of time that the city was occupied. On November 23rd, Richard Bucktrout wrote a letter to Sydney Smith who was then in Richmond. Perhaps he had been in Richmond for some time or perhaps the Smith family had finally left Williamsburg.

Little is known about Sydney Smith's life after the war other than he and his family lived on in Williamsburg and he continued to practice law. Virginia Smith died in 1878 and Sydney Smith died in 1881. They are both interred in the Bruton Parish Church graveyard.

# Memorial Day Ceremony & Picnic



Compatriots Bill Harrison & Jackson Darst



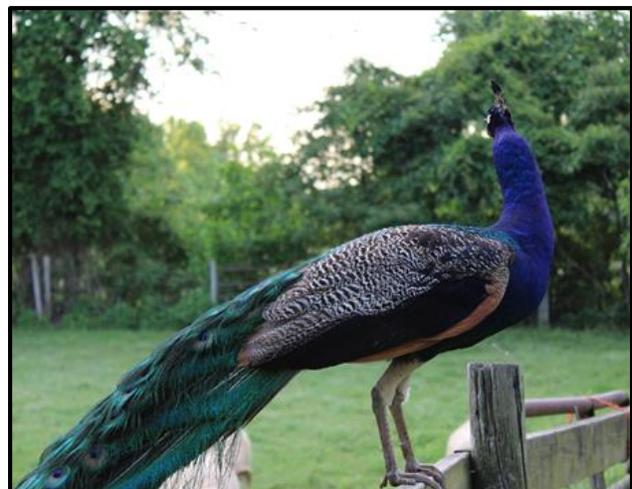
Wendy Blizzard, Steve White and Sherron Ware



Peach Park - Arrival



Sherron Ware, Walker Ware, Sug Ware & Jeff Toalson



I am the boss!

# Memorial Day Ceremony & Picnic



Picnic on the farm

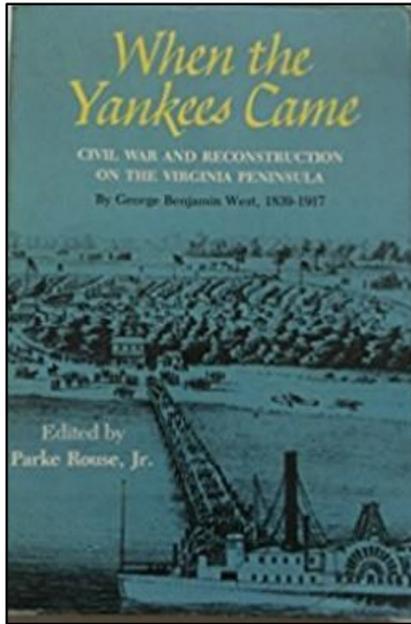


Ware Family

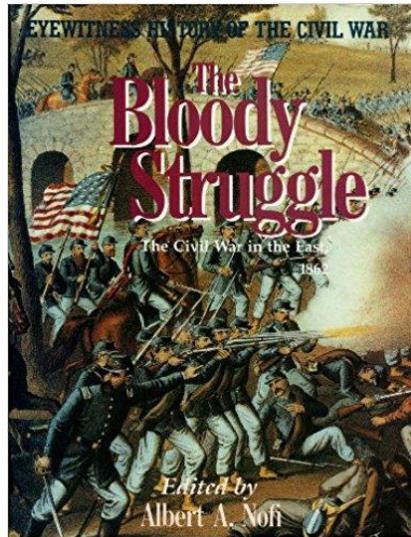


Sug Ware and the Memorial Bench

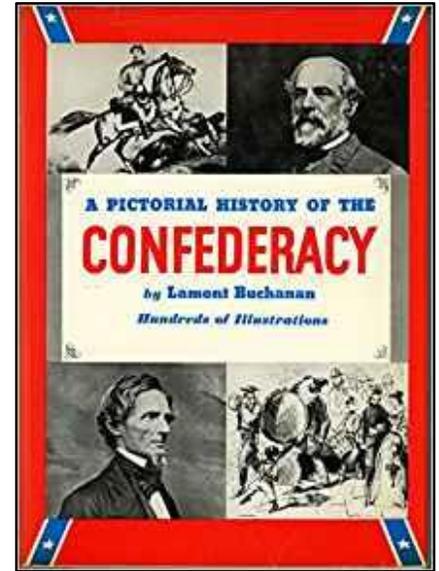
# June Book Raffle



"When the Yankees Came, Civil War and Reconstruction on the Virginia Peninsula" by George Benjamin West



"The Bloody Struggle, The Civil War in the East, 1862" Edited by Albert A. Nofi



"A Pictorial History of the Confederacy" by Lamont Buchanan



## June Trivia Question:

What celebrated 20<sup>th</sup> century author's great-grandfather led a regiment at the Battle of First Manassas?



## Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwrt.org>

No meetings over the summer. Next meeting is September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017