

James City Cavalry PICKET LINES



March 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, March 27th, 2013, 6:30pm
Colonial Heritage Club

<http://www.colonialheritageva.com/club.html>

6500 Arthur Hills Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23188

Guest Speaker:

Mr. Christopher L. McDaid
Williamsburg, Virginia

*“Archeological work and Discovery on the
Warwick Line around Mulberry Island
& Fort Crafford”*



**Meal Cost: \$17.00 Per Person –
Includes Dessert & Coffee**

**(genuine Confederate currency gladly accepted –
will reluctantly accept US \$5 notes)**

Honored Confederate Soldier:

Private Joseph P. Hoover
Co D - 45th Tennessee Infantry

No RSVP Required

Compatriots' Ladies & Guests Encouraged To Attend

MARCH GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Christopher L. McDaid
Williamsburg, Virginia

*“Archeological work and Discovery on the Warwick
Line around Mulberry Island
& Fort Crafford”*

Fort Crafford anchored the James River end of the Confederate defensive line that ran across the peninsula from Yorktown to Mulberry Island. Mr. Christopher McDaid, who is the Cultural Resources Manager for the 733rd Civil Engineer Division at Fort Eustis, will give us insights and background on the property which was part of the Crafford farm, the construction of the fort which was designed to work in conjunction with Fort Huger on the opposite side of the James, and the construction of the additional land defenses to the fort in with the total Warwick line. Chris will discuss how the fort was designed and positioned to take advantage of swamps and marshes. The remains of two earthen bombproofs, the hidden 'Mulberry Point Battery, and other items of archeological interest will be discussed. The land was acquired for Fort Eustis in 1918. The War Department deemed the land historic and it remained untouched for decades. In 1974 Fort Crafford was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The earthworks at are some of the best preserved in all of eastern Virginia.

Christopher is currently the lead archaeologist for Fort Eustis, Virginia. He will receive his doctorate from the University of Leicester's School of Archaeology and Ancient History in July, 2013. He has worked in the Archaeological Research Departments at The University of Denver, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation & William and Mary.

Bring a guest to our March meeting. Supper will be served at 6:30 and we will introduce our speaker at 7:30. Our buffet costs \$17 per person. Non members please contact Ken Parsons at 757-564-0878 for reservations. (217 Sherwood Forest, Williamsburg 23188)

1st Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson



CAMP JOURNAL FOR LAST MUSTER

Meeting:

Held 23 Jan. 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
Guest Introduction by Commander Jerry White

Ancestral Memorial Candle:

Read by Compatriot Charles Eugene Bush *in honor of*
Private Elijah Thompson Hassell,
Co. B - 50th Tennessee Infantry.

At this time Chaplain Fred Breeden gave a short benediction for Jean Clarke Keating, a faithful friend of the James City Cavalry Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp who passed away on 12 Feb 2013. Jean had assisted Linda Lightfoot collect dinner payments before each meeting for sometime. Jean had a very accomplished career which was highlighted in the last Camp Newsletter. We were very fortunate to have Jean as a friend of the Camp.

Program:

1st Lt. Commander, Jeff Toalson, introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Tim Smith of Yorktown, Virginia. Mr. Smith's presentation was highlighted by photos and personal stories of numerous York County residents who served, and many who made the ultimate sacrifice, during the War Between the States.

Committee Reports and Announcements

Treasurer's Report

Adjutant Ken Parsons indicated we have \$2,837 in the bank.

Trivia Question

Who owned Fort Sumpter when the first shots of the War Between the States began? Was it the Federal Government or the State of South Carolina?

Answer. South Carolina.

Support the Troops

Scott Summerfield was not present, but Ken Parsons indicated we need to identify a deployed military member/unit for the Camp to support.

Old Business

2nd Lt. Commander Steve White indicated the following cemeteries had been worked on in the recent past: Fort Mcgruder 2 Feb, Old Hockaday Cemetery in New Kent 9 Feb, Peach Park 16 Feb, Old Lacy Burial Ground, New Kent (Chris Hockaday) 24 Feb

Old Business

None.

New Business

Ken Parsons announced that part of his job in Division is to try to purge inactive members or to reactivate them. There are 6,600 inactive members on the rolls. He said the SCV goal is also to increase from current membership of 33,000 to 50,000 members by 2016. The James City Cavalry now has 65 members and Ken would like us to grow to 95 members by 2016.

Book Raffle

\$81.00 was donated to the Camp Treasury for the raffle of the two donations: Fighting for the Confederacy: The personal Recollections of General E.P. Alexander", edited by Garry Gallagher, 1989, and Antietam - The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day", William A Frassanito, New York, 1978.

Benediction

Given by Chaplain Fred Breeden.

CAMP OFFICERS

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Chaplain

Fred Breeden
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SUPPORT THE TROOPS

At our Christmas Supper, we announced Scott Summerfield is now handling the Support The Troops program and we want the membership to continue bringing the items for him to mail out monthly.

Also, the cost of mailing the packages have been covered entirely by anonymous donations and we want to thank all of you who have contributed the money and the goods. We hope to continue this program as long as our soldiers need your contributions.



Items desired :

Baby Wipes
Slim Jims
Beef Jerky
Mints
Gum
Nuts (all kinds) & Dried Fruit
Single powdered drink mixes
 (such as Crystal Lite)
Soap Bars
Disposable Razors
Shaving Cream
Shampoo (regular and dandruff)
Deodorant
Lotion
Floss
Advil
Stamps
Paperback Books & DVDs

COMMUNITY SERVICE & HISTORICAL EDUCATION

Fort Magruder

We do annual clean-up and maintenance to the trees, shrubbery, moat, fortifications and general grounds.

Local Family Cemeteries

We have restored and we maintain local family cemeteries in James City County including Sunnyside, Peach Park and Cowles-Spencer-Durand plus Hockaday cemetery in New Kent County.

Support of U. S. Troops Overseas

We send three monthly care packages to servicemen who are stationed overseas. For the last three years our soldiers have all been in either Iraq or Afghanistan.

College Scholarship

We sponsor a \$500 historical essay contest for local high school seniors. For more detailed information, see www.jamescitycavalry.org.

Genealogical Research Site

We maintain genealogical cemetery research information on family cemeteries in New Kent, James City & Charles City Counties and the City of Williamsburg on our website: www.jamescitycavalry.org.

Historical Education

We schedule well known historians and authors for historical talks 10 months per year at our meetings. Guests are welcome. Our meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month (except May & December) at the Colonial Heritage Country Club. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. and our speaker is introduced at 7:30 p.m. Reservations are required. Cost is \$17 per person, paid in advance. Contact Ken Parsons at 757-564-0878 to reserve your seats (217 Sherwood Forest, Williamsburg, Va. 23188).

CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES

(Contributed by Historian/Genealogist Compatriot Fred Boelt)

Robert Pryor Taylor was born in James City County in 1832. There were several men by this name in the county over a number of years. They were probably all descendants of Edmund Taylor and his wife Sally, who had eleven children. Edmund's oldest son, Robert Pryor Taylor, died during the War of 1812, and undoubtedly, the name was passed down through several generations.

The Robert Pryor Taylor of this study was the son of R. P. and Mary A. Taylor. The father died sometime between the 1840 and 1850 censuses. Living in Williamsburg, Mary Taylor was head of household in 1850. Son Robert was listed as a clerk. His older sister Catherine M. and younger brother William M. were also in the household.

About 1858 or 1859, Robert Taylor married Sarah Harwood Pettis. Born in 1834 in York County, Sarah, known as Sallie, was the daughter of Elizabeth Harwood Semple and her second husband, Rev. Madison Pettis. Elizabeth had been raised by her uncle Judge James Semple of New Kent and had inherited a sizeable estate from him. She had five children with the reverend before he abandoned the family and settled in Orange County. In a letter to a cousin written in 1851, Elizabeth indicated that she had sacrificed to give her children educations. Sallie was being trained to be a teacher at that time.

In 1860, Robert was the Steward at the Eastern Lunatic Asylum, and he and Sallie had a four month old son, another Robert Pryor Taylor. His mother Mary Taylor was also living with them. On April 28, 1861, in Williamsburg, Robert enlisted as a private in Company C, 32nd Virginia Infantry. He was listed as 1st Sergeant on February 28, 1862, a brevetted 2nd Lieutenant on May 1st, and was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant on January 29, 1863. Taylor's service records include several requisitions from the Quarter Master for

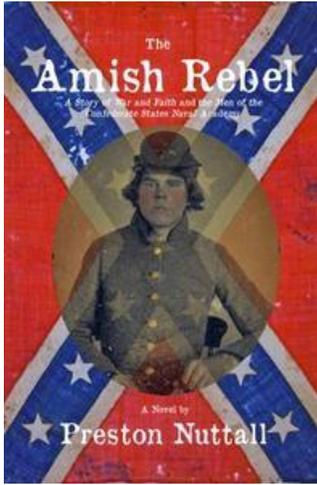
supplies for his men. In addition to the regular clothing and ammunition requests, he also asked for paper, envelopes, pens and ink. Though these supplies became scarce as the war dragged on, they were morale-boosters for the men.

Robert Taylor was present on all rolls with the exception of being out due to illness for several short periods. He also was granted a forty day furlough beginning on December 22, 1862. Additionally, he had shorter leaves granted in January of 1864 and 1865. The application for leave in 1864 specified "to visit family in Orange County." His wife's father, Madison Pettis had settled there in the 1840s. It is possible that Robert's family had refugeed there at some point to get out of Williamsburg. Robert Taylor was paroled at Appomattox on April 9, 1865.

In addition to Robert and Sallie's first son, Robert, they had three more children: Carleton, born November 18, 1862; Mary Elizabeth, born about 1864; and Sallie Semple, born on September 18, 1867. The exact date and cause are not known, but Robert Pryor Taylor died in 1867 and was buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery. In 1870, Sallie was head of household and her four children and her mother, Elizabeth Pettis, were living with her in Williamsburg. Sallie was a "retail grocer" at the time and was a "dry goods merchant" in 1880.

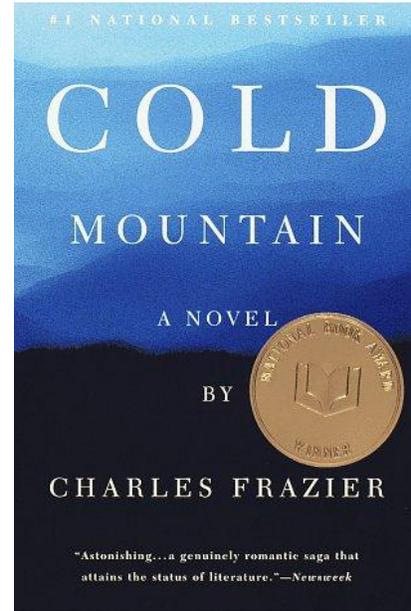
There is a relatively new looking granite shaft marking the graves of Robert, his wife Sallie, who died in 1920; and three of their children: Carleton, who died in 1884; Robert Pryor, Jr., who died in 1889; and Sallie Semple Taylor, who died in 1948. Small crossed Confederate flags are engraved at the top of this monument. Daughter Mary Elizabeth is not included. Perhaps she married and had descendants who may have placed this marker.

MARCH BOOK RAFFLE



'The Amish Rebel - The Story of the Confederate States Naval Academy', Preston Nuttall, 2012, Camp Hill, soft cover, 245 pages.

Preston, who spoke with our camp a few months ago, uses a fictional Amish sailor to mix with actual cadets and midshipmen at the Confederate Naval Academy to tell the story of that institution from it's birth through the end of the conflict.



'Cold Mountain', Charles Frazier, 1997, New York, hard cover, 353 pages.

After being badly wounded at Petersburg, Inman walks away from the hospital and begins a journey back to the mountains of western North Carolina.

MARCH TRIVIA QUESTION:

Many battles and campaigns had more than one name, ie.: Sharpsburg/Antietam/, or First Manassas/First Bull Run... there was campaign late June 1862 in Virginia with seven names. What were they?



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HONORING THE CONFEDERATE DEAD AT HISTORIC ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

By Mark St. John Erickson of The Daily Press, March 19th 2013

Cecil W. Thomas III strides down an old brick walk outside historic St. John's Church, scanning its ancient cemetery left and right for the tell-tale signs of Civil War soldiers.

Hundreds and hundreds of tombstones and monuments rise from the earth as he walks. But what he's searching for much closer to the ground are the low gray forms of Confederate memorial crosses.

Singly and in clusters as large as six and seven, these cast-iron markers crop up like mournful flowers here — and Thomas nods toward every one with the reverence and familiarity of someone who feels a personal attachment.

For nearly a year, he spent much of his free time alongside them on his hands and knees, wearing out a half-dozen wire brushes in a determined one-man campaign to scrape off the rust and restore every one of 166 crosses.

That's fewer than half, however, of the nearly 400 he's brushed off, primed and repainted over the past four years in a string of cemeteries that stretches from St. John's in Hampton across the James River to his old family burial ground at Mill Swamp Cemetery in Isle of Wight County.

"Most of these guys were simple, ordinary people. They believed they were fighting for their homes and their families," says Thomas, whose blood ties to the war include not only 28 kinsmen who fought for the South but also distant cousin George Henry Thomas, the Southampton County soldier whose battlefield prowess as a Union general sparked such nicknames as "The Sledge of Nashville" and "The Rock of Chickamauga."

"My great-great-grandfather John Henry Thomas was shot six times but still survived the war — and I don't want people like him to be forgotten."

Such devout acts of remembrance are one reason why the Civil War and the culture of honor and mourning it spawned continue to draw scholarly attention more than 150 years after the conflict started.

Many of the distinctive military burial rites taken for granted in the United States today reach back to that turbulent time, says historian J. Michael Cobb, who will explore the origin of these traditions in a free lunchtime program scheduled for noon today at the Hampton History Museum.

Before the Civil War, the country had no systematic way to count and identify its fallen warriors, no way to notify next of kin and no provision for the decent burials of those killed in the line of duty.

But as described by Harvard University historian Drew Gilpin Faust in her ground-breaking 2008 book — "The Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil

War" — all that changed dramatically with the deaths of as many as 750,000 Union and Confederate soldiers.

"At the center of the war was the vast number of the killed and wounded. It was unprecedented," Cobb said, recounting losses that would be the equivalent of 6 million killed today.

"And in the South — where three in five men of military age fought and one in five died — practically everyone was touched."

Thomas learned about that impact early on, hearing story after family story about the war as a child. But not until the Chesapeake man visited the Isle of Wight graveyard of his ancestors for the first time in 1986 did he begin to grasp the full extent of its consequences for his kin.

More than a dozen of those who fought are buried at Mill Swamp, and — as the only surviving male Thomas in the region — the young man started tending their headstones and memorial crosses.

Five years later, he says, he decided to remember their sacrifice by marking their graves with small Confederate flags.

Over time, that act of family devotion expanded to include the burial places of other Southern soldiers. Soon Thomas was planting some 200 flags twice each year in a ritual that cost him hundreds of dollars.

Not long after joining the Isle of Wight camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in 2008, he took on the added task of restoring the soldiers' cast-iron crosses.

"Whenever I put out the flags I saw the way they looked — and it really upset me," Thomas said.

"Some of the crosses at St. John's looked like they hadn't been kept up for 50 years."

Even that diligence may not be enough, however, for a man whose reverence for the fallen now takes him as far as Old Blandford Church in Petersburg, where more than 20,000 Confederate graves inspired one of the first Memorial Day observances in 1866.

"I'm very serious about this," he says, looking out over the crosses at St. John's.

"I'm going to come back and clean off every single tombstone, too."

PROPOSED JAMES CITY CAVALRY CAMP CHARGE

"The James City Cavalry, Camp 2095, Sons of Confederate Veterans, is proud of the brave men who left their homes and families in defense of Constitutional Liberty and States Rights to face overwhelming odds. Many paid the ultimate price; all endured hardships and suffering while maintaining the reputation of the greatest fighting force the world had ever known. Placing their faith in God, the Southern Soldiers fought for a just cause and the light of their accomplishments can never be dimmed or shadowed by any revision of history."