



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



November 2018 Dispatch – Williamsburg, Virginia

Camp #2095  10th 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, November 28th, 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 Jerry Thompson (202 441-7455 / jerrythompson@yahoo.com) to make a dinner reservation. Attendees without a reservation are welcome to attend the meeting but may not receive a dinner.

JCC Web Site: <http://www.jamescitycavalry.org>

To add or remove an email address for the Picket Lines distribution list, or for questions or comments regarding the newsletter, email: jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com

November Guest Speaker

Dave Hastedt
Major, US Army
(retired)

*“My War Between
the States
Ancestors...a
Yankee Amongst
Us”*



David will examine his search for a single Confederate ancestor and his discovery of ancestry far greater than he'd ever imagined...heroes, victims, the famous and infamous. As well, he'll share a few tidbits about his Union ancestors. .

Compatriot David Hastedt retired as Major following 22 years of active duty in the U. S. Army and then worked 16 years with the U. S Joint Force Command. During his Army career he was company commander of the 1st Engineer Battalion which was formed in 1846 for the Mexican War. The original company Lieutenants were George McClellan and P. G. T. Beauregard. A young officer named Robert E. Lee was their liaison officer to General Winfield Scott. David's military service, and his ancestors, tie him to our American heritage and the WBTS. David lives in Gloucester with his wife Kathleen. They have 4 children and 6 grandchildren.

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held 24 October at 6:30PM at Colonial Heritage Club,
James City Cty., Va., 28 attendees

Pledge & Salute to the Flags
Given by Compatriot Toalson

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:

Letter to father of Pvt. Benjamin A. Marston
- Read by Compatriot Rob Symer

Program:

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

Mr. Charles Wood

Mr. Wood (dressed a Confederate cavalryman) presented "*Confederate Cavalry 101*", an informative presentation on the elements of a cavalryman, his horse and his role in battle.



Mr. Charles Wood and 1st Lt. Cmdr. Leach

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Old & New Business

- Christmas Party – December 15
- Christmas Party – 50 max – need reservations by November 28
- Hurricane Relief – Mercy Chefs, Carolina Cavalry, SCV Relief Fund

Book Raffle

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

Benediction

Given by Chaplain Warren Raines.

Adjournment

8:20 PM



Camp Officers



Commander Fred Boelt
fwb@widomaker.com

Adjutant/Treasurer Ken Parsons
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Senior Chaplain Fred Breedon
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Chaplain Warren Raines
warrenandpaula@verizon.net

Commander's Comments

At our October camp meeting, we were treated to a great "show and tell" presentation entitled Confederate Cavalry 101 by Charles Wood. Chuck, dressed as a cavalryman, gave a very humorous presentation about the horse, the man and his weapons. Representing the horse's gear, he brought a saddle, feed bag, curry comb and hoof pick among other things. The rider's compliment was complete with blanket, spurs, canteen, hard tack, carbine and pistol.

Maintaining a healthy horse was a major problem. The horses were evaluated and assigned a monetary value when they were mustered into service. If the horse was lost during the war, the owner was paid in Confederate dollars which decreased in actual value throughout the war years. It was the responsibility of the cavalryman to replace his steed. The scarcity of horses drove prices up as currency value fell. Men were often furloughed to go home to find replacement mounts.

When I was researching the article about Benjamin A. Marston [Picket Lines, October 2018], I found the following concerning one of his brothers, Oliver D. Marston. Oliver enlisted in Company D, 3rd Virginia Cavalry, in Yorktown on March 17, 1862. And though his records do not indicate it, he would have had a horse at that time. His record for July-August 1863 listed him as "Absent – Detailed to get a fresh horse."

A subsequent record indicated that Oliver's horse was killed in battle at Tom's Brook in the Shenandoah Valley on October 9, 1864. Oliver was taken prisoner on that same day. In November, a claim for \$1,800.00 was entered for reimbursement for the horse. It was noted that the Board of Livery had established this value when the horse began service. There is no record of payment being received.

Many horses died in battle but a lot more died from starvation. Eventually, there were no fresh horses left in the Confederacy to be had at any price. Additionally, the deflated Confederate dollar amount, if received, was not sufficient to purchase horses even if they could be found. The majority of the horses that made it to the end of the war were emaciated and the diminished cavalry was reduced to riding nags.

In most years, the fourth Wednesday in November falls on the night before Thanksgiving Day. Our attendance is usually comparatively low with families preparing for the holiday. This year, we get a reprieve; the fourth Wednesday will fall on the 28th, the week after Thanksgiving.

Former Commander Jeff Toalson has been doing some attendance tracking for ten meetings per year, excluding the annual picnic and Christmas party. Total numbers: 2014 - 399; 2015 - 329+; 2016 - 319; 2017 - 307. For 2018 for nine meetings, we have had 316 attendees. If we have a minimum of 35 people attend the November meeting, that will give us an average attendance of 35 for this year. This figure will place us at the top for attendance in our Brigade and very near the top for the Virginia Division.

This being said, plan to come to our camp meeting on November 28th and hear a fine presentation by our own Compatriot David Hastedt, and help boost our camp into a top attendance position!

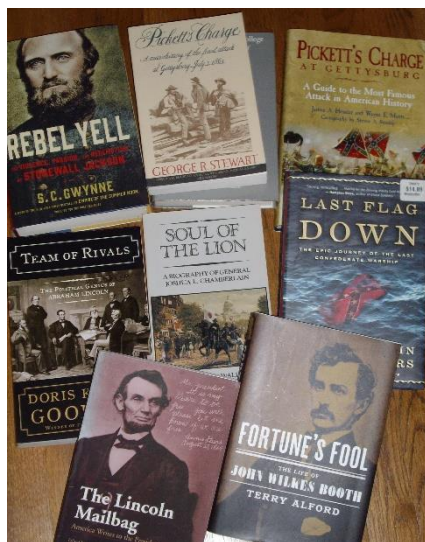
We serve in their memory,

Fred Boelt
Commander

Books Donated

Several books on WBTS subjects were recently donated to the James City Cavalry for our 'Speaker Fund Book Raffles' by Mary Inman and Roger Ticconi of Williamsburg.

Thank You!



Letter Reading

(Contributed by Compatriot Jeff Toalson)

Letter from Sergeant Robert W. Johnson – Co. H - 8th N. Jersey Infantry to his sister 5-21-62
SC01349 – Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William & Mary

“Richmond is being evacuated . . . our Cavalry . . . brought in the news.”

Camp of the 8th N. J. Vol.
 Near Pamunky River
 “On the road to Richmond”
 May 21st 1862.

Dear Sis –

Your 2nd letter of the 17th came at hand soon after I wrote you, and I am happy to hear you have received the money.

We are now within 21 miles of Richmond, and perhaps we will be in the City before you receive this. A Flag of truce was brought in yesterday as we where marching to our present encampment but I have not learned what it was for. . . .

I give you a full account of the battle [Williamsburg] in my other letter therefore it will not be necessary to say much in this. I believe I did not tell you the Rebels had a Fort on the other side of [a] Ravine. . . . On this Fort is where Hancocks Brigade won so much praise on a charge. . . .

It is all very nice for a lot of fresh men to come in when the Battle is at an end, and make a “gllant charge” thereby winning the praise of all the papers. Dont you think so.

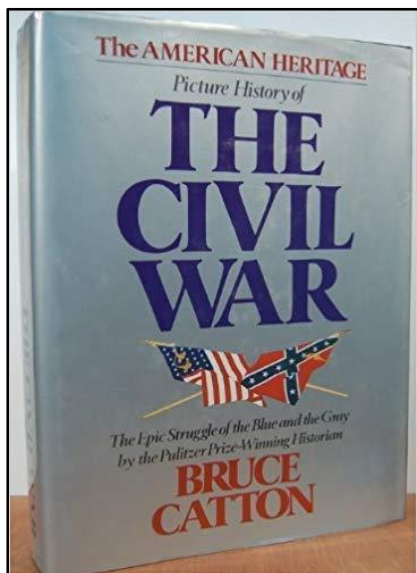
After we had cleared the woods of all the killed and wounded we set it on fire, and as the fire ran over the dry twigs (the wood and leaves had all dried off now) and through the woods, now and then a Torpedoe would explode, which the Rebels had planted for us. I believe I have not given you a discription of Williamsburg yet. Before the breaking out of the war there was about 2000 inhabitants in it. There is several Hotels in it and Stores of every description There is also a Court House and Insane Asylum. The town is beautifully situated on a level tract of land and about 2 miles from the James River. But to change the subject. It will be an utter impossibility to procu[re] those bodies I think for they are decayed a great deal by this time, and then they where not buried in cofins for we could not get them. Even the Officers where buried the same as the men no distinction in death. . . .

I received the postage stamps you sent me and they where very acceptable. When you write again tell me how Mother is you dont mention her any more . . . Don’t think me inquisitive in asking so much but I would like to know.

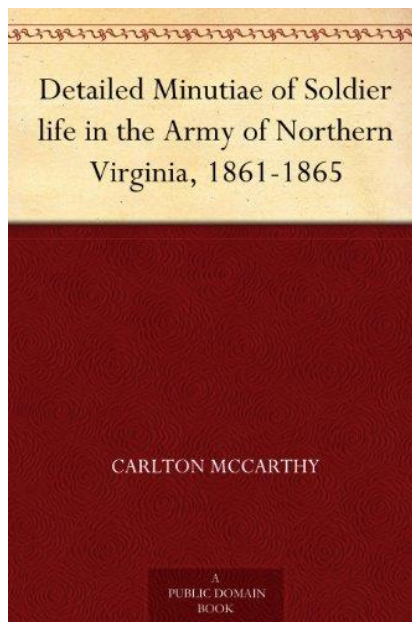
As I said before, keep the shop for I have a presentiment we are going to be home again before long Latest news is Richmond is being evacua[t]ed, our Cavalry has been out on a scout and brought in the news. I don’t know wether it is so or not, but hope it is.

Write soon
 Yours &c
 Robert W. Johnson

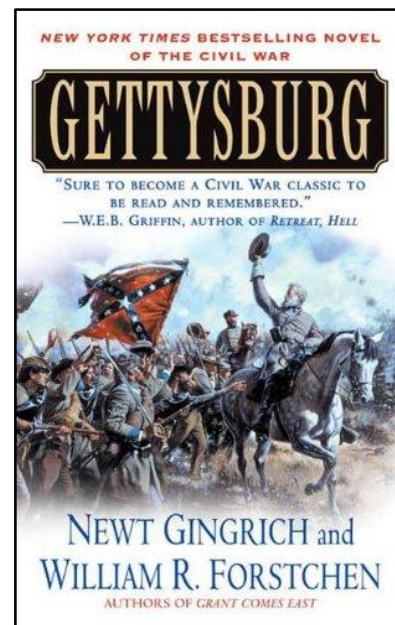
November Book Raffle



“Picture History of The Civil War”
by Bruce Catton



“Detailed Minutiae of Soldier Life In the Army
of Northern Virginia 1861 - 1865”
By Carlton McCarthy



“Gettysburg”
by Newt Gingrich and William R. Forstchen



November Trivia Question:



When Nathan B. Forrest left Columbia, Tennessee on a December 1862 raid, how were most of his men armed?

Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwrt.org>

On November 27th, 2018 – Mr. J. Michael Moore
will present:

“The Civil War Comes to the Lower
Peninsula”

**2018 James City Cavalry
Christmas Supper
Saturday, December 15th**

Colonial Heritage Country Club
In our regular meeting room
Time: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

MENU

Caesar Salad with croutons
Seared Chicken Breast w/ mushrooms, ham & a Chablis Blanc sauce
Roasted Cauliflower and Red Peppers
Mashed Yukon Gold Potatoes w/ garlic & chives
Warm Rolls with butter

Vanilla Ice Cream Sundae Bar with fixings
Coffee, Iced Tea, Water

Vegetarian Option Available

COST

\$20 per person PREPAID reservations required December 1st.
We must have 50 confirmed reservations by November 28th to keep the price at
\$20.00 per person.

Seating is limited to 60 people on a first come, first reserved basis.

Reservation: Mail with check to Ken Parsons, 217 Sherwood Forest, Williamsburg, VA 23188

Names: _____ \$20.00
_____ \$20.00

Write VEGGIE after your name if you need vegetarian option

Total: \$

Need to be 90% booked by the November 28th meeting.