



# James City Cavalry Picket Lines



December 2020 Dispatch – Williamsburg, Virginia

Camp #2095  10<sup>th</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.

## Future Camp Meetings Cancelled

Due to the continuing COVID epidemic all camp meetings up through the spring of 2021 are cancelled. The camp will continue to keep in touch with camp members and friends via emails for the immediate future. The next issue of *Picket Lines* is scheduled for late February 2021.



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 to: [jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com](mailto:jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com)

## Camp Comments

Compatriots,

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We all hope that COVID-19 will be defeated with various vaccines in 2021, and that things can return to normal.

Our Christmas party has been cancelled due to health concerns. The Cavalry has had 10 Christmas parties beginning with our first in 2010. A recap of our 'Christmas Party History' is included in this issue.

In lieu of Fred Boelt's normal historical biography of a local soldier or family we have chosen, what is in our opinion, one of the best Christmas letters written to a soldier during the war. Enclosed you will find the December 24, 1863, letter from Mary Watkins of Prince Edward County, Virginia, to her husband Captain Richard Watkins of Co. K – 3rd Virginia Cavalry. Richard received this letter upon returning to winter camp near Madison, Virginia, after a month-long pursuit of Union General William Averill.

We have installed two Southern Crosses of Honor and you will see photographs of both in this issue.

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# Camp Journal for Last Muster

## Meeting:

Held November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,  
James City County, Va., **21** attendees

Pledge & Salute to the Flags led by Aide de Camp Jon Holland

## Blessing:

Given by Historian Fred Boelt

Break for Supper

The SCV Charge read by Quartermaster George Bridewell

Welcome given by Adjutant Ken Parsons

## Program:

Adjutant Ken Parsons introduced the evening's guest speaker:  
Mr. Fred Taylor.

Mr. Taylor presented "*Through the Lens: History As Seen in Period Images*", an overview of early photographic methods and image types, and delved into individual images from his personal collection and how those images can launch research and preserve history.



Quartermaster Bridewell, Mr. Taylor and Adj. Parsons

## Committee Reports and Announcements:

### Cemetery Report

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander Steve White reported that the Southern Cross has been placed at Richard Garrett's grave at Olive Branch Christian Church and plans are formulating for one for Roland Woodward (He and George did work out those details).

### Old & New Business

- \$300 of camp funds was donated to the Lee-Jackson camp to support their radio ad campaign to save the R. E. Lee statue on Monument Avenue.
- The UDC has acquired a permit to move the Williamsburg Memorial monument to Fort Magruder
- There will be no more camp meetings until the COVID virus is over.

### Book Raffle

A free book was raffled for all attendees.

### Benediction

Given by Historian Fred Boelt.

### Adjournment

8:40 PM



## Camp Officers



**Commander** (open)

**Adjutant/Treasurer** Ken Parsons  
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## Camp Comments (Cont.)

Lastly, we should collectively congratulate ourselves for the fine work we as a Camp performed during 2020. Just a few of our Camp highlights would include:

- Raising \$2,035 or over 16.25% of the monies needed to purchase and preserve a key tract, containing the 'Ravine', at the Williamsburg battlefield.
- Donating \$400 to support UDC Chapter 173 in their Confederate Shield Project at the Cedar Hill Cemetery in Suffolk.
- Completing our pledge of \$1000 to the new SCV Confederate Museum in Columbia, TN.
- Providing more than \$500 to the Virginia SCV Heritage Defense Fund.
- Donating, in memory of Jean Keating, 8 significant Confederate items to the Swem Archives at William & Mary as part of our ongoing Southern Historical Preservation.
- A \$300 donation to the radio ad campaign to save the R. E. Lee statue in Richmond.

Merry Christmas to you all and thank you for your dedication, service and support.

Camp 2095 Staff



## Williamsburg Civil War Round Table

<http://www.wcwrt.org>

On January 26th, 2021 - Steve Phan  
will present:

**"Early at The Gates: The Battle of  
Fort Stevens"**

# Christmas Letter of December 24, 1863

*Letter from Mary Watkins in Prince Edward County to her husband, Captain Richard Watkins, Co. K, 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry.*

Linden, Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 1863

“Tis the night before Christmas and all through the house not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse” except one.

My darling Husband

It seems a very long time since I heard from you . . . [thought] perhaps you would drop in from [winter quarters near Madison, Va.]. Willie Dupuy dispelled that illusion this morning with the information that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regt was in pursuit of Averill . . . Emmie and Minnie hung up their stockings before going to bed and I have just filled them with apples, ground peas [home grown peanuts] some candy . . . and some cakes Mrs Baker sent them. Our negro men have been over to get pay for their corn and get their overcoats. They made eighteen barrels of corn this year [from the servant gardens]

Dec 25<sup>th</sup> Little Mary waked up last night and would not go back to sleep again until I went to bed with her so I could not finish my letter. She and Minnie both sleep with me. Minnie sleeps at the foot to keep my foots warm she says and she is a regular little stove . . . You never saw children more delighted than Emmie and Minnie were at finding their stocking full Christmas morning . . . Emmie was rather expecting a china doll but I told her the Yankees would not let Santa Claus get such things nowadays . . . I asked [Minnie] how she got so black [with soot] she said she had been looking up the chimney to see if Santa Claus was up there now. . . .

. . . I can't help think about you shivering in a cold rain and can hardly enjoy a good fire when I think that you are perhaps suffering with cold.

We are all well here. Little Mary has one tooth . . . I want to send this letter to the Depot now. Good bye for the present. Hope too see you at home soon as you get here . . . begin to think about your going back.

Your own  
Mary

P.S. Please get me some stamps when you come through Richmond

*Send Me a Pair of Old Boots & Kiss My Little Girls – The Civil War Letters of Richard & Mary Watkins, 1861-1865, Jeff Toalson – editor, Bloomington, 2010, p.244-245.*



# Cross Of Honor Installations

Two Southern Cross of Honor monuments were recently installed by camp members.



2nd Lt. Richard M. Garrett served in the James City Artillery and is buried in the cemetery at the Olive Branch Christian Church in Toano. On October 30, 2020, 2nd Lt. Commander Steve White added the Southern Cross Of Honor beside his headstone.



On November 29, 2020, 2nd Lt Commander Steve White, Quartermaster George Bridewell and Aide-de-Camp Jon Holland installed a Southern Cross of Honor beside the grave of Sgt. Roland H. Woodward, Co B - 53rd Virginia Infantry. Sgt. Woodward is buried in the Hockaday Family Cemetery in New Kent County.



Detail of Sgt. Woodward's Southern Cross Of Honor



# Ten Years of Cavalry Christmas Parties

It all began in 2010 at the Toano Women's Club. The effort was spearheaded by Compatriot David Ware and the girls (Sherron Ware, Wendy Blizzard and Marily Johnston). David Ware made BBQ and Don Woolridge brought Brunswick Stew. We used the club for 4 years, drew excellent crowds of 60 or more per party, and the food was awesome as each couple brought their own favorite dish. We did our own entertainment and in 2011 had some 15 tables of personal collectibles, artifacts, weaponry, Confederate bonds and monies, and other minutia provided by our members for viewing. It was like a pop-up Confederate museum.



Because of parking difficulties in Toano we moved to Hickory Neck Church and continued the tradition. In 2014 Timothy Seaman was our entertainment and played a wide selection of his hammered dulcimer music and had members of the Camp involved in the performance. We had over 50 people both years at Hickory Neck. All of the home cooked food was awesome and a comment in the Picket Lines following the 2015 party noted, "There were 3 different pots of corn pudding & I went back for seconds trying to pick the Corn Pudding Blue Ribbon winner. Alas, more research was needed."



Setting up, decorating, and tearing down became a bit of a burden and Ken Parsons negotiated with Colonial Heritage to see what they could provide in the way of a buffet. We held four parties with CHCC from 2016 thru 2019. We had Carson Hudson and his banjo doing Southern songs in 2016 and Billie Earnest joined us in 2017 with *Christmas Letters During the War*. We had more than 50 people for both of those parties. Our attendance fell for the 2018 and 2019 parties when we failed to get 40 people. It may be time to get some fresh ideas on how folks would like to do a Christmas party once we are able to resume.

