



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



December 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

Camp Christmas Supper

Saturday, December 15th, 2018, 6 pm

Colonial Heritage Club

<http://colonialheritageclub.org/home.asp>

6500 Arthur Hills Drive

Williamsburg, VA 23188



Meal Cost: \$20.00 Per Person

Please contact Ken Parsons (kparsons4@cox.net) if you have not made reservations but would still like to attend.

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

Camp Officers



Commander	Fred Boelt fwb@widomaker.com
Adjutant/Treasurer	Ken Parsons kparsons320@cox.net
Assistant Adjutant	Jerry Thompson jerrythompson@yahoo.com
1st Lt. Commander	Jim Leach wltrepro4u@verizon.net
2nd Lt. Commander	Steve White garrettsgrocery@gmail.com
Aide de Camp	Jon Holland jonholland79@gmail.com
Archivist/Editor	Paul Huelskamp paulhuelskamp@cox.net
Quartermaster	Joel Goodwin joelnorman3@yahoo.com
Senior Chaplain	Fred Breeden flbreeden@yahoo.com
Chaplain	Warren Raines warrenandpaula@verizon.net

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held 28th November at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,
James City Cty., Va., **34** attendees

Pledge & Salute to the Flags
- Aide-de-Camp Jon Holland

Blessing:

Given by Senior Chaplain Fred Breedon

Break for Supper

The SCV Charge read by Quartermaster Joel Goodwin

Welcome given by Commander Fred Boelt. Guests included:

- Tommy Thomas - Brigade Commander
- John Sharrett - Stonewall SCV Camp
- Harry Linger - Stonewall SCV Camp

Letter Reading:

Letter from Sergeant Robert W. Johnson – Co. H - 8th N. Jersey Infantry
Read by Compatriot Rob Symer

Program:

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

David presented "*My War Between the States Ancestors*", a highly
informative presentation on his research into his ancestors who fought
on both sides of the war.



Compatriot Hastedt and 1st Lt. Cmdr. Leach

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Cemetery Report

2nd Lt. Commander Steve White commended Joe Sanderson for
diligent mowing of the grass at Peach Park Cemetery.

Old & New Business

- Brigade Commander Tommy Thomas spoke on the new
brigade organization and other topics.
- Christmas Party – December 15
- Carpenter bee traps are available thru John Sharrett of the
Stonewall Camp. See Ken or Jeff to order at \$20 each.

Book Raffle

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

Benediction

Given by Chaplain Warren Raines.

Adjournment

8:30 PM



Commander Comments

At our November camp meeting, we were treated to an outstanding program given by our own compatriot David Hastedt. David became interested in his family history and while researching it, he discovered that he descends from men who fought for both the Confederate and Union armies. David's thorough documentation provided the basis for a fine presentation. We are pleased that David chose to honor his southern heritage and join our camp. Incidentally, John Sharrett and Harry Linger from the Stonewall Camp in Portsmouth joined us for the evening. As it turns out, David and Harry are second cousins and met in person for the first time at our meeting.

Our SCV headquarters, in its quest to begin a southern victory plan, has launched a new website: makedixiegreatagain.org. Still in its infancy, the site already has an interesting video explaining why our region is different as well as a message from our Commander in Chief. We are all aware of the shameless cleansing of our history, attempted destruction of our monuments and desecration of graves. To help even the score, all contributions toward defending the old South will be appreciated. Checks made payable to our camp with Heritage Defense in the memo line may be given to Adjutant Parsons. The aggregate total of all contributions will help attain victory.

Brigade Commander Tommy Thomas joined us at our November meeting. In addition to explaining the brigade split, he announced that he will be holding a Division Executive Council meeting at Colonial Heritage on Saturday, January 12th. All camp members are welcome to attend this gathering. It will be a good chance to learn more about the SCV at the brigade level and also about other nearby camps.

Our camp Christmas supper will be held in our regular meeting room at Colonial Heritage on Saturday, December 15th. As you will recall, reservations were required by November 28th and since this is not a buffet, we cannot accept late reservations. However, if you would like to join us for the program, book auction and camaraderie with fellow camp members, please feel free to come around 7:00. Extra chairs will be waiting for you.

As we get caught up in the season, take a moment to stop and think about our ancestors' Christmas during the war. Included in this addition of the *Picket Lines* are excerpts from two letters and a diary that give some insight into just how bleak those days were. Virtually, life itself was a blessing for those who escaped death or being wounded. There are many other references to how Christmas day was like every other day without sufficient food, warm clothing, or fires to warm their cold, aching bodies. As we enjoy the revels of the season, pause for a moment and reflect on the hardships that our ancestors endured throughout the war but especially at Christmas.

Personally, I wish each of you and your families a Blessed Christmastide and a healthy, happy New Year!

We serve in their memory,

Fred Boelt
Commander

Williamsburg Civil War Round Table

“Creative Science and Technology in the Civil War”

The Civil War occurred at an important time in the history of technology as the industrial revolution increased the demand for scientifically literate men. Due to their West Point education many of these men found themselves on battlefields between 1861-1865 and were able to use their scientific knowledge in ingenious ways. In this presentation Dr. Ross will examine two specific examples of such application of knowledge, the mine at Petersburg and the Confederate Powder Works in Augusta, Georgia. He will also explore acoustic shadows, a battlefield phenomenon that was widely observed in the Civil War but little understood at the time.

<http://www.wcwrt.org>

**On December 18th, 2018
- Presenter: Dr. Charles Ross**

Historical Letters

(Contributed by Commander Fred Boelt)

As the Christmas season approach's, have you ever thought about how our troops spent their holidays during the War Between the States? In general, the holidays were all together different compared to our over commercialized extravaganzas today. But in the nineteenth century, families did gather for church services and festive dining. This came to an abrupt halt as will be witnessed from the written word entered below.

In winter quarters on the Peninsula, on Christmas Day, 1861, Sergeant Thomas Wynne of the Nelson Guard, 32nd Virginia Infantry, wrote to his wife, Henrietta:

“...This has been a beautiful day. How have you spent it? I hope pleasantly. I’ve spent it as any other day in camp save a short time that I took a walk for exercise. The dull monotony of camp life has not been varied any of consequence, the only difference being in the glass of Eggnog I drank this morning. Little did I think last year this time that I would be soldiering and you many miles distant...”

Times gradually worsened as witnessed from a letter, in a private collection, from John William Wynne to his sister, Mary Elizabeth Wynne, living at her family’s farm on York Point, Chisman’s Creek, York County, Virginia:
Camp 1st Va Inft Dec 29th/63

“ My dear sister, what do you think I had good for my Christmas dinner, you could not guess in a year. It was a cake of dry bread, flour and water, nothing else, we drew no rations for two days, that’s one item on camp life, what think you of my Christmas cake, I have nothing more to say about camp, I leave you to imagine...”

And another account from the diary of John F. Charlton, 5th Louisiana Infantry continued the gloom. Charlton was captured by the 5th Maine of General Sedgewick’s corps on November 7, 1863, on the south side of the Rappahannock River. He was eventually sent to Point Lookout prison where he spent a bleak Christmas.
“Thursday Dec 24 Cold weather...Beast Butler & staff come for the purpose to inspect the camp & prisoners with a strong guard to protect him. For the wrongs of 1862 in NO (New Orleans). Promises to increase rations (never done it) ...without money or provisions a poor prospect for a merry Christmas. Friday Dec 25 Christmas Pleasant weather. 5 crackers & one cup of coffee for breakfast. A poor day I must confess. Hungry & cold. No money to get tobacco. Would give the world to be in Dixie. At either Lynchburg, Richmond or Staunton. A miserable dinner. Cannot spend a Christmas more miserable.”

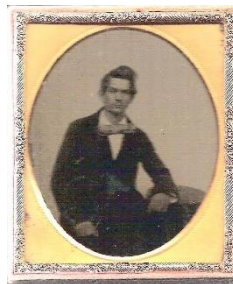
These are but three testimonies to the agonies of death, destruction and deprivation particularly poignant during the Christmas season. As we celebrate a joyous Christmastide, let us not forget our ancestors, both military and civilian, that endured hunger and hardships for the Confederacy!

Jensen, Les, 32nd Virginia Infantry. Lynchburg. H. E. Howard, Inc. 1990. Pp 50-51

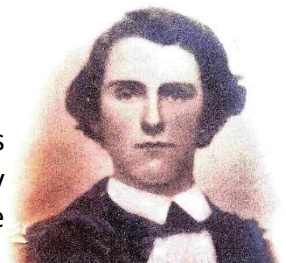
John F.
Charlton



John
William
Wynne



Thomas
Humphrey
Wynne



Join the James City Cavalry At a Confederate Christmas Supper!

**Buffet Dinner:
Caesar Salad
Chicken Breast
Cauliflower & Peppers
Mashed Potatoes
Vanilla Sundae Bar**



Program:

**A journey back in time with
John & Josephine Robison of
Maury County, Tennessee**

Cost:

**\$20 per person
(reservations needed by Nov. 28th)**

Saturday, December 15th, 2018

6 pm – 9 pm

at the

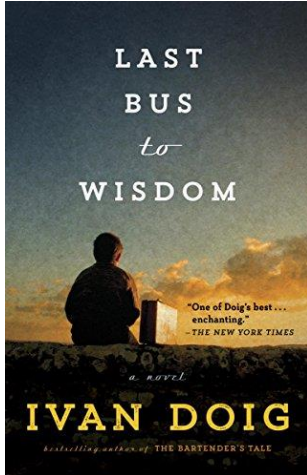
Colonial Heritage Country Club

6500 Arthur Hills Dr.

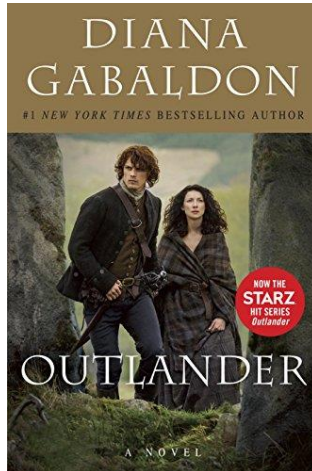
Williamsburg VA 23188

Christmas Presents Raffle

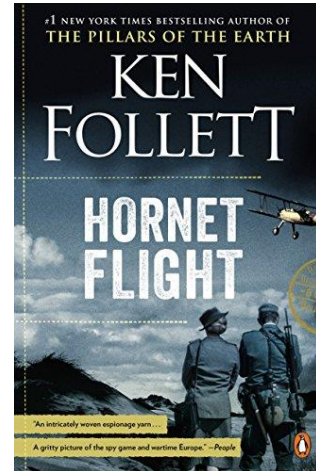
Support our camp Speaker Fund and win a gift for someone on your Christmas list.



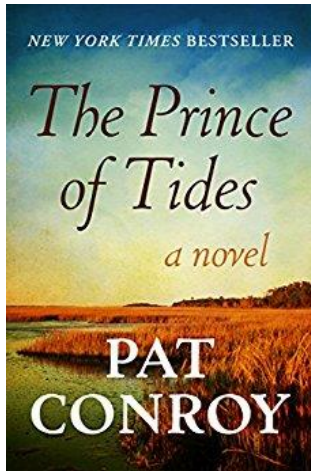
"Last Bus to Wisdom"
- Ivan Doig



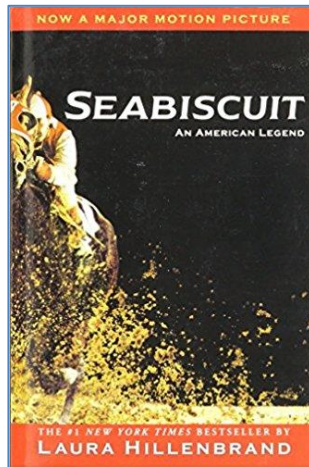
"Outlander"
- Diana Gabaldon



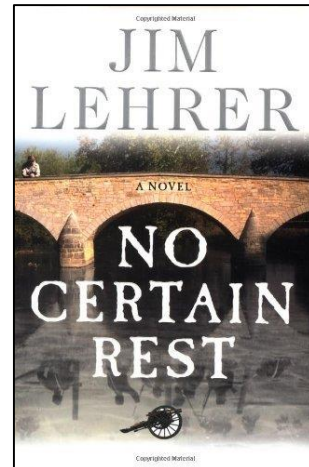
"Hornet Flight"
- Ken Follett



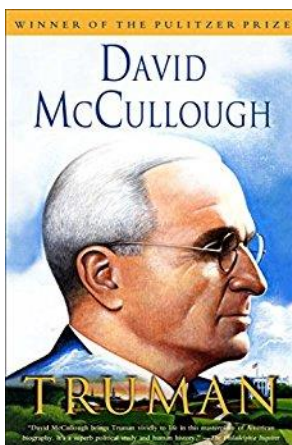
"The Prince of Tides"
- Pat Conroy



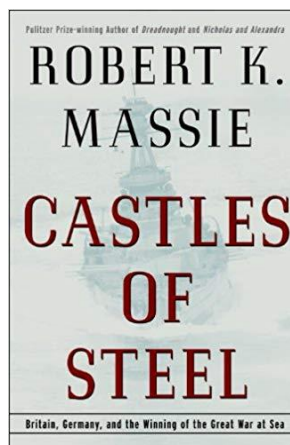
"Seabiscuit"
- Laura Hillenbrand



"No Certain Rest"
- Jim Lehrer
(a novel about Antietam)



"Truman"
- David McCullough



"Castles of Steel"
- Robert K. Massie



Girl with the Dragon Tattoo
2 book set:
The Girl with the Dragon
Tattoo", "The Girl Who
Played with Fire"
- Stieg Larsson