



# James City Cavalry Picket Lines



February 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.

## Next Muster

Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 6:30 pm  
Colonial Heritage Club House  
[www.colonialheritageclub.com/find-us](http://www.colonialheritageclub.com/find-us)  
6500 Arthur Hills Drive  
Williamsburg, VA 23188



## February Guest Speaker

Mr. Aaron Firth  
N.P.S. Ranger

*“Freedom's  
Fortress:  
1861”*



Mr. Firth will discuss events at and around Fort Monroe in 1861, including the Contraband Decision.

Aaron Firth is a Newport News native with degrees in Fine Art and History from Virginia Tech and Old Dominion. Aaron has been with the National Park Service since 2003, working at parks in Massachusetts, Kansas, and Virginia. He has been a park ranger at Fort Monroe National Monument since November of 2012.

Aaron's family has a long history of service at Fort Monroe, from a private in the 7th New York Infantry "Steuben Guard" during the Civil War to his father, a colonel stationed with TRADOC in the 1970s who went on to a second career there as a civilian. Aaron's family history also extends on the Confederate side through a private and his brother in the 32nd Virginia Infantry, captured at the Dunker Church at Sharpsburg while tending wounded soldiers.

Aaron travels, camps and hikes; often planning routes around neighboring parks. He has visited nearly half of America's 419 treasures in the National Park System; as well as parks in Canada and the United Kingdom. His service has afforded opportunities to hike the Grand Canyon rim-to-rim and tour the second-largest arms collection in the world. Aaron was an invited guest of Queen Elizabeth II and the subject of a joke told by Prince Philip, just to name a few.

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 Journal for Last Muster

## Meeting:

Held 22 January at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,  
James City County., Va., **27** attendees

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

Welcome given by Commander Jerry Thompson

## Blessing:

Given by Chaplain Warren Raines

The SCV Charge read by Quartermaster Joel Goodwin

## Program:

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander David Hastedt introduced the evening's guest  
speaker: FOSCV Bill Miller.

Bill presented *"Into The Valley of Death"*, a moving narrative of Pickett's  
Charge with a comparison to the Charge of the Light Brigade.



1<sup>st</sup> Lt Cmdr. Hastedt and FOSCV Miller

## Committee Reports and Announcements:

### Cemetery Report

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander Steve White reported that Saturday, February  
8<sup>th</sup> at noon, will be the annual cleanup of Fort Magruder. Please  
join the cleanup crew for a couple hours to help preserve this  
important battlefield locale. Also, the parking area at Sunnyside  
is now limited to one vehicle

### Old & New Business

- Commander Thompson reminded the camp that next month's  
meeting will also be in the Arts & Crafts Room as this month's  
meeting was.
- Adj. Parsons discussed the current state of monument  
protection legislation in Richmond

### Book Raffle

Proceeds were donated to the Camp Treasury  
for the raffle of the three donations. There was enough donated  
to raffle a bonus book.

### Benediction

Given by Chaplain Warren Raines

### Adjournment

7:40 PM



# Olive Branch Church in the News

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

*Richmond Enquirer*, Volume 59, Number 93, February 20, 1863, page 3:

“The Petersburg ‘Express’ of yesterday published the official report of the successful skirmish on the 7<sup>th</sup>, near Williamsburg, in which the Yankees were chased into that city, with a loss of forty-five killed, wounded and prisoners. Adjutant Hume, in his official report says:

‘In conformity to your request, I give you a brief account of the fight at Olive Branch Church on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst., between the forces of – 100 cavalry and 150 infantry – of this post commanded by Col. W. B. Tabb and a detachment of the enemy’s cavalry numbering 100 men. Early on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> our whole force moved down the telegraph road towards Williamsburg. About four o’clock in the evening we reached Olive Branch, where a halt was called, and the cavalry of the Holcombe Legion, commanded by Capt. Frost and the battalion commanded by Capt. Hewlett were ordered to picket their horses and await further orders. In obedience to this order several of the men had dismounted, when the command to ‘mount’ was passed rapidly down the line, and the squadron formed to meet the approaching danger. The infantry took position on our left, and as our pickets rushed at full speed, fixed upon the pursuing column of the unsuspecting enemy, the enemy staggered, wheeled and fled in rapid retreat towards Williamsburg. Now the Holcombe Legion and the 32d battalion with loud yells, rushed after the disoriented foe, shooting and sabering at every stride. The retreat of the enemy was changed into a wild frightened gallop for life; the pursuit on our part degenerating into a disorderly rush of men against men, the fastest horses taking the lead, and the bravest troopers \_\_\_\_\_ all the fighting.

The fruits yielded by our victory were as follows: seven men killed, two wounded and thirty-six captured and a like number of splendid horses. One commissioned office, a Lieutenant, was among the slain. We lost neither man or horse.”

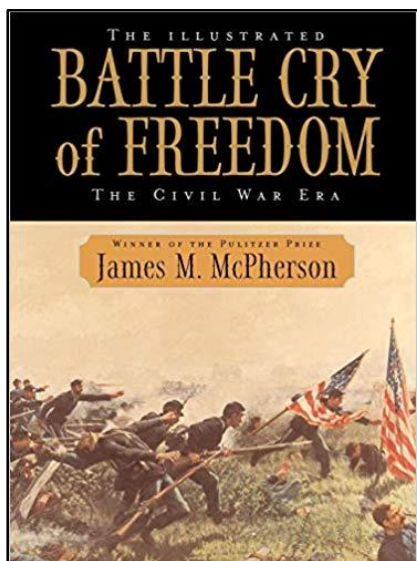
Lt. Francis Charles Hume (1843-1920), a native of Texas, was assigned duty as Adjutant for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Cavalry in 1862. This assignment included commanding scouts for picket duty on the lower Peninsula near Williamsburg for several months. The Holcombe Legion, originally from South Carolina, had been moved to the Richmond area in the fall of 1862, and men from this unit were among Hume’s scouts. Colonel William Barksdale Tabb (1840-1874) from Amelia County, Virginia, had been promoted to colonel of the 59<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry in 1862. Infantrymen under his command were also involved in this foray.

There were numerous encounters of Union troops making foraging raids from the Williamsburg area into James City County, often being rebuffed from watchful Confederate troops. In this case, Olive Branch Church provided a convenient resting point as Colonel Tabb’s troops moved east along the Telegraph Road [present day Richmond Road]. The rest stop was suddenly interrupted by the approach of Union troops only to be rebuffed and chased back to Williamsburg with the Confederates racking up the spoils of the day. Numerous similar events happened along this road and also over toward Centerville.

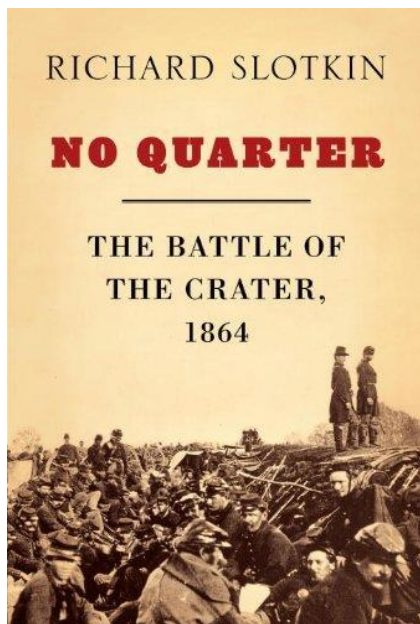
Olive Branch Church was highly desecrated during the war years and was eventually repaired for worship services after the war. Over the years, a number of the men from the church families who served in the Confederate forces were interred in the graveyard there. At least twenty-one veterans are in the church graveyard plus five more are in the adjacent Hubbard family cemetery. Over the years, the James City Cavalry Camp has helped to obtain markers for some of these men and has held several Confederate Memorial services in their honor.



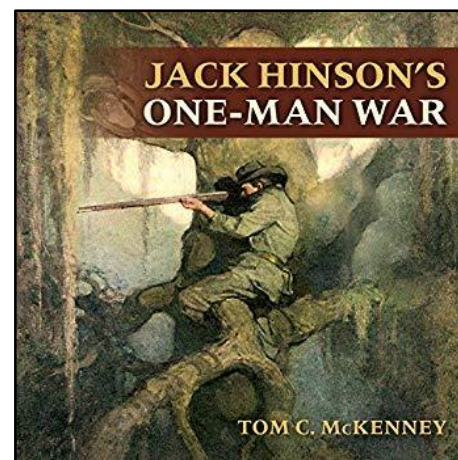
# February Book Raffle



“The Illustrated, Battle Cry of Freedom, The Civil War Era”  
by James M. McPherson



“No Quarter, The Battle of the Crater, 1864”  
by Richard Slotkin



“Jack Hinson's One-Man War, A Civil War Sniper”  
by Tom C. McKenney

## February Trivia Question:

What newspaper was widely considered to be the most “anti-Richmond” publication of the C.S.A.?



## Williamsburg Civil War Round Table

<http://www.wcwr.org>

On February 18th, 2020 - Matt Atkinson will present:

“Vicksburg - The Siege and Surrender”

Note: this meeting will be on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month

