



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



February 2021 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.

Camp Schedule

The March and April meetings are canceled.

The May picnic is canceled.

Scheduling of summer events will depend on the progress of the diminishing effects of COVID-19.

New Camp Members

Dave Watson
Ben Vincent
Joe Duggan

Welcome to the James City Cavalry!

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

Williamsburg-J.C.C. Confederate Memorial

In June of 2020, the memorial to our ancestors was vandalized and the City Council immediately acted to remove it from Bicentennial Park. The memorial was erected in 1908, and the city moved it to four locations before this recent removal. The City of Williamsburg had co-ownership of the memorial with the Williamsburg Chapter of the U.D.C.

The City of Williamsburg paid to take it down, store it, and then transport it to whatever location the U.D.C. selected as long as it was not in the City of Williamsburg. The City of Williamsburg surrendered their ownership to the U.D.C. Sadly, the city councilpersons, all of whom have Southern roots, no longer felt a need to honor their Confederate ancestors.

The Williamsburg Chapter of the U.D.C. will be placing the memorial on private land, they have their permits, and re-erection of the memorial will be accomplished in 2021. Total cost of the project will approach \$15,000. A major portion of this money has been raised. Our Camp will be sending the ladies a \$1000 check to support their efforts and honor our ancestors.

Many of you had ancestors from Williamsburg and James City County who served the Confederacy. Several served in the James City Cavalry, the Williamsburg Junior Guard and the James City Artillery. Individual donations would be appreciated to fund the final \$3000 of the building fund. Please send your check to the Williamsburg Chapter U.D.C., c/o Bonnie Mittelman - Treasurer, 122 Blackheath, Williamsburg, Virginia 23188. On the memo line please write 'Monument Fund.'

Camp 2095 Staff

CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

Robert Morris, a well-known farmer who supplemented his income by teaching school, lived in the vicinity of present-day Croaker. He kept a diary beginning in 1845, and continued making entries for a number of years. This diary has been preserved at the Virginia Historical Society and has provided a wealth of knowledge about his life and the surrounding area. From Croaker, he and his family moved to Williamsburg in October 1846. They lived in the President's house at the College of William and Mary, and Robert Morris held a school there until the family moved again to Warwick County in 1847. He opened a school there as well.

Robert Morris and his wife, Araminta Dormer Vaiden Morris, had several children. Among them was a son, Bernard Peyton Morris, born March 4, 1837. Bernard is listed on the rolls for his father's schools for 1846 and 1847. Undoubtedly, he continued to attend his father's schools. The family moved back to the Croaker area before the 1850 census was taken. Bernard has not been located in the 1860 census, but presumably, he was living in the Tidewater area.

Bernard Morris enlisted in the James City Artillery, assigned to the 1st Regiment Virginia Artillery, at Camp Picket near Drewry's Bluff on October 26, 1863. On November 12th, the battery was ordered to Chaffin's Bluff, four and a half miles away. Morris was present on all rolls through June 1864. He was listed as AWOL on the August muster roll. However, he was in Chimborazo Hospital #2 from August 28th through September 29th of that summer. Again, he was present on the rolls through the end of 1864.

The James City Artillery remained assigned to the 1st Regiment until early 1865, and was disbanded after that. Morris transferred to the 2nd Richmond Howitzers on February 27, 1865, and his service record ended there. The Howitzers continued to serve in the Petersburg area until the end of the war.

Bernard Morris returned to Williamsburg after the war was over. About 1868 or 1869, he married Celestia Lindsay, daughter of John and Adaline Lindsay of York County, Virginia. The 1870 census listed Bernard and Celestia and their young daughter, Elizabeth, living in Williamsburg and he was farming.

Credence is given to his occupation by items that he bought at an auction held on November 4, 1872, for the estate of James T. Farthing in James City County. In addition to household items, Morris purchased a bin of potatoes, empty barrels, five barrels of corn, one-half of the shucks in the middle barn, a lot of old iron, one drag (double horse), a plow, yokes, scythe blades and part of a stack of oats. Including his household purchases, Morris paid \$45.07 for his newly acquired possessions in 1872, which was a considerable amount of money at the time.

Bernard, Celestia and daughter Elizabeth Morris were living in the Stonehouse district of James City County in 1880, and he continued to farm. Perhaps they had returned to the Croaker area where Robert Morris and family had lived when Bernard was growing up. Bernard Peyton Morris died on March 10, 1882. His place of interment has not been located. His wife, Celestia, died in Williamsburg in 1917, and is buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery. This is perhaps another case of a Confederate veteran resting in an unmarked grave.