



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



February 2022 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, February 23rd, 2022, 6:30 pm
Colonial Heritage Club House
www.colonialheritageclub.com/find-us
6500 Arthur Hills Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23188



Meal Cost: \$20.00 Per Person
Payment by Check is Preferred

Non-camp members please contact Jeff Toalson (757) 220-0131 or troon24@cox.net to make a dinner reservation. Camp members will be contacted by the 'Call Team' for your reservation. Attendees without a reservation are welcome to attend the meeting but may not receive a dinner.

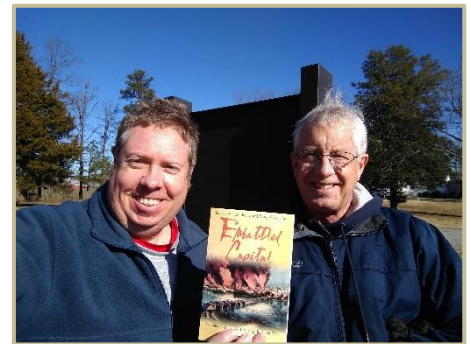
JCC Web Site: <http://www.jamescitycavalry.org>

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

February Guest Speaker

**Bert Dunkerly
& Doug
Crenshaw**

***"Embattled
Richmond"***



Embattled Richmond presents the story of the relentless campaign of the Yankee army's continuous struggle to capture the Confederate capital in four years of war. Less than 100 miles from Washington, the city served as a symbol of the rebellion itself as it was home to the Confederate government but also some of the Confederacy's most important industry and infrastructure as well as the military leadership. Doug Crenshaw and Bert Dunkerly co-authored *A Guide to Richmond During the Civil War* and will share some of the stories of the embattled capital.

Bert Dunkerly is currently a Park Ranger at Richmond National Battlefield Park. He is a historian, award-winning author and speaker who is involved in historic preservation and research. Bert has degrees from St. Vincent College and Middle Tennessee State University. A past president of the Richmond Civil War Roundtable, he has taught courses at Central Virginia Community College, the University of Richmond and the Virginia Historical Society.

Doug Crenshaw is a board member of the Richmond Battlefield Association, past president of the Richmond Civil War Roundtable and presenter and tour leader. His book, *Fort Harrison and The Battle of Chaffin's Farm* was nominated for a Library of Virginia Literary award. Doug studied history at Randolph-Macon College and the University of Richmond and is a volunteer for the Richmond National Battlefield Park.

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held January 26th at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,
James City County., Va., **30** Attendees

Welcome given by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson

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

Blessing:

Given by Senior Chaplain George Corbett

Break for Supper

The SCV Charge read by Compatriot Tom Campbell

Comments by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson

Program:

1st Lt. Cmdr. White introduced the evening's guest speaker:
Marilyn Iglasias.

Ms. Iglasias, assisted by Gwen Wood, presented "*The Sweetest Thing – Valentine's Day in the Confederacy*", a light-hearted look at the custom of Valentine's Day over the ages.



Ms. Iglasia, 1st Lt. Cmdr. White and Gwen Wood

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Cemetery Report

2nd Lt. Commander Steve White reported all January work dates, except Ft. Magruder, were cancelled due to weather. Upcoming work dates in February:

Sat. Feb. 12 @ 11:00: Ft. Magruder – continued cleanup around the berm.

Sat. Feb 26 @ 11:00: Cowles-Spencer – weed-eat, haul organic debris and trim lower limbs. Olive Branch Christian Church – fill in stump area, seed and cover (time permitting)

Old & New Business

- Adj. Watson reported the new camp roster has been distributed. Please review and contact him with any discrepancies.
- Treasurer Parsons reported on the current state of monument preservation.

Book Raffle

Proceeds of \$49 were donated to the Camp Treasury for the raffle of the three donations.

Benediction

Given by Senior Chaplain George Corbett

Adjournment

8:05 PM

Camp Officers



Commander	Jeff Toalson troon24@cox.net
Adjutant	Dave Watson djwatson61@cox.net
Treasurer	Ken Parsons kparsons320@gmail.com
1st Lt. Commander	Jerry White hfrog66@gmail.com
2nd Lt. Commander	Steve White garrettsgrocery@gmail.com
Chaplain	George Corbett georgecorbett@cox.net
Aide de Camp	Jon Holland jonholland79@gmail.com
Archivist/Editor	Paul Huelskamp paulwhuelskamp@gmail.com
Quartermaster	George Bridewell gbridewell@aol.com
Historian	Fred Boelt fwb@widomaker.com

Southern Crosses of Honor Installed

On January 9th, at Sunnyside Cemetery in Toano, 2nd Lt. Commander Steve White installed Southern Crosses of Honor at the graves of 1st Lt. Cyrus Branch of the James City Artillery and Private George W. Bacon, Co. H - 5th Virginia Cavalry. He was assisted by Lorraine Beasley who provided the photographs.



1st Lt. Branch



Pvt. Bacon

Commander's Comments

Sometimes events converge in unusual patterns. As we all know, John Sharrett had a passion for monuments, preservation, and history. On the day of John's funeral, I was in South Carolina and happened to be reading a collection of essays by Bill Holm, an English professor, who was employed for a year at a Chinese Engineering University, in Xi'an, teaching English to the engineering students. The book is entitled *Coming Home Crazy – An Alphabet of China Essays*. I was reading an essay with the simple title of *Violin*.

" . . . Lao Wie looked down from his high balcony. 'My accompanist, my dear friend, jumped from a balcony like this . . . or was pushed. That was during the bad days of the Cultural Revolution. She was a wonderful pianist. We worked hard on Beethoven and Mozart, and I have not felt like playing those pieces for many years.'

After a year in China, I had heard countless horror stories of the Cultural Revolution, each one sad and brutal. These stories did not, and will not, lose their power over me. A dead pianist, pianos set afire, violins smashed, Ming drawings shredded into a toilet pit, Tang statues with heads sledge hammered off, bonfires of old books, heaps of smashed porcelain, more bodies lying crushed under balconies or sunk at the bottom of ponds. How can this civilization, where Engineers play Mozart in the middle of the night, and hide their violins for years on end from fright, do it to itself again, and again, and again?"

My thoughts were of John trying to save "Tang statues" from two mayors, and one governor who were using "sledgehammers" in Virginia.

Coming Home Crazy – An Alphabet of China Essays, Bill Holm, Minneapolis, 1990, p. 192-193.



Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

Continued from last month

A large ravine extended for over half a mile to the east of the Williamsburg line. Today, Route 60 east crosses the northeastern end of this feature that runs on down toward Redoubt #2. Such extensive fighting took place in this ravine on May 5th, that to this day, it is called the Bloody Ravine. Many men from both sides were wounded or killed here. For days after the battle, details were sent in to rescue the wounded, but were thwarted by the abattis and natural terrain, as well as a fire that additionally took the lives of many wounded. In numerous cases, the dead were simply buried where they fell in mass graves. Later attempts were made to remove the fallen men for reinterment elsewhere, but it is assumed that all were not found and some remain there today. Many of the Union graves were marked, and between 1866 and 1868, most of these bodies were moved to the Union cemetery in Yorktown.

In December 2021, the American Battlefield Trust, using federal and state matching grants and private donations, acquired twenty-nine acres of the Bloody Ravine from Colonial Williamsburg. This opens up a venue to interpret another part of the story of the Battle of Williamsburg at the actual location. We are fortunate to have at least part of the Williamsburg line preserved.

And from the western end of the county, there is a tale related by Mrs. Ruth Hankins who lived in Toano. This was told to her by her husband's uncle, George Hankins. He was listed in the roster of the James City Artillery and lived at Marlbrook, adjacent to Hickory Neck Church. The story goes that some Union cavalry came up the road from Williamsburg one evening, which they did from time to time. There was a small group of Confederates camped at Hickory Neck that particular night. Learning that the cavalry was on the way, they stretched trip wires across the road, which threw one horse and rider. The Union cavalryman was badly wounded and left where he fell as the other cavalry retreated. The Confederates gave some medical attention to the unconscious man, but later in the evening, a civilian was passing by, who had lost his home and possessions to the Yankees farther down the peninsula. The civilian shot the Yankee in retaliation. Not wanting to be found with a dead Union cavalryman in their midst, the Confederates buried him in the woods across the road from the church. George Hankins said that he marked the grave with a chinquapin bush so it could be located later.

Sometime after the war, Union sympathizers came back looking for the man that they knew was lost at the church. George Hankins took them to where he remembered that the man was buried, but his remains were never found. How many other unmarked graves have not been found or even looked for? The names and resting places of many victims of the war may still be hidden in James City County's woods, fields and ravines.

John Sharrett 1943 – 2022

The Virginia Division of the S.C.V. has lost a dedicated historian and defender of monuments to the Southern dead. As both a friend and compatriot John will be sorely missed by his friends at the James City Cavalry.

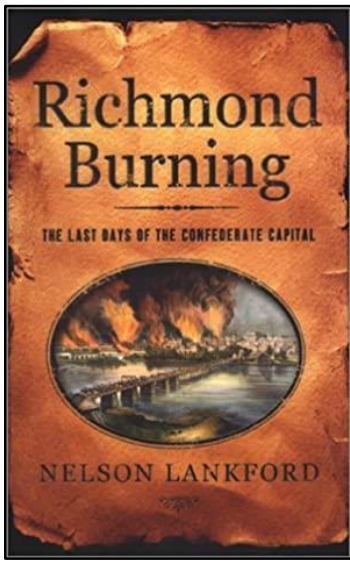
John was a founder and past commander of the Dismal Swamp Rangers of the N.S.S.A., he was a founder and past commander of the Stonewall Camp #380 of the S.C.V. and he was a 60+ year member of the North-South Skirmish Association. As an N.S.S.A. member he was a re-enactor at the 1963 Centennial Celebration of the battle of Gettysburg (age 19) and at the 2013 Sesquicentennial Celebration of the battle (age 69). He had a lifelong fascination with the history and preservation of monuments to Southern history.

This 1907 postcard of the Isle of Wight monument is from John's personal collection.

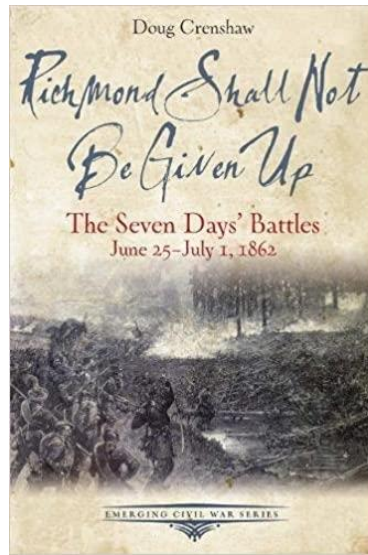


John joined us in 2014 to tell stories of the Sesquicentennial Celebration at the Gettysburg battlefield. John was recognized by the National Park Service for being one of a handful of re-enactors to be at the 1963 and 2013 celebrations. Pictured LtoR: Adjutant Ken Parsons, 1st Lt. Commander Ed Engle, John Sharrett & Commander Jeff Toalson.

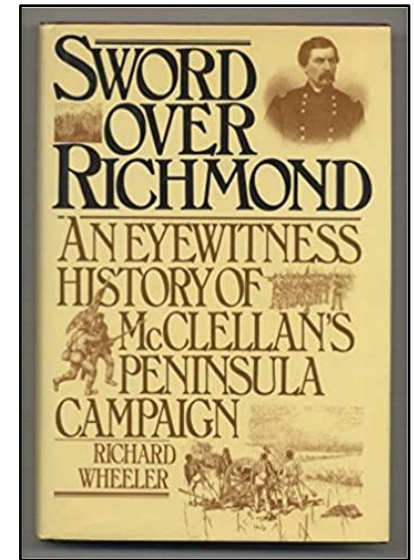
February Book Raffle



"Richmond Burning"
by Nelson Lankford



"Richmond Shall Not Be Given Up"
by Doug Crenshaw



"Sword Over Richmond"
by Richard Wheeler

Cemetery & Fort Magruder Work Update

(Submitted by 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Steve White)

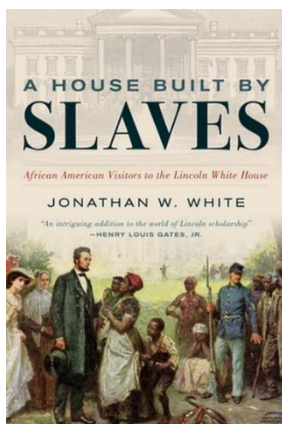
1/28 Fort Magruder – A work detail met at 11:00 to clear all the cut limbs and trash by Penniman Road and we loaded all the cut sections of tree trunk and removed. Compatriots Parsons, Dasher, Toalson, Duggan, & S. White were done in 30 minutes.

2/2 Fort Magruder – A Richneck Farms delivery of 2 yards of dirt was received by Ken Parsons and Jeff Toalson at 3 p.m. They spread a portion of the load along the edges of the monument walkway.

2/3 Fort Magruder – A work detail with wheelbarrows spread the rest of the dirt and added grass seed. Compatriots Parsons, S. White, Duggan, Tuck, Dasher, Griggs, & Hastedt completed the work in a little over an hour.

2/5 Sunnyside & Peach Park - Did weed whacking and brush removal at Sunnyside. At Peach Park did trimming of branches on the pine and spruce trees. Compatriots Toalson, Dasher, & S. White completed in less than an hour and also installed a new 1st National Flag.

Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwrt.org>

On February 22, 2022 - Dr. Jonathan White
will present:

**"A House Built By Slaves: African American Visitors To The
Lincoln White House"**