



# James City Cavalry Picket Lines



January 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, January 22<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



**NO MEAL SERVED** in January and February while Colonial Heritage is undergoing remodeling. Our meetings will be held DOWNSTAIRS in the CRAFT ROOM without food or beverage service. No cost for the evening. Meeting will begin at 6:30. Park at golf course lot or behind CHCC by pro shop. Enter through the rear, lower level center door.

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)

## January Guest Speaker

Mr. Bill Miller  
President,  
Williamsburg Civil  
War Roundtable



*“Into the Valley  
of Death -  
Pickett’s Charge  
at Gettysburg”*

Bill Miller’s presentation, entitled “Into the Valley of Death”, tells the story of Pickett’s Charge.

Bill regularly attends the James City Cavalry meetings as a Friend of the SCV, and currently serves as the President of the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable. After retiring from a career in commercial building construction, Bill has expanded his lifelong interests in Civil War history by making extensive battlefield tours and attending numerous conferences and seminars. Bill maintains memberships in numerous battlefield preservation organizations, including the American Battlefield Trust, the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Trust, and others. His membership in the Gettysburg Foundation has provided opportunities to make focused tours of the various actions that developed over the span of that three day battle, and led to the development of his narrative of Pickett’s Charge.

# Camp Journal for Last Muster

## Meeting:

Held Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,  
James City County, Va., **32** attendees

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

## Blessing:

Given by Chaplain Warren Raines

Break for Supper

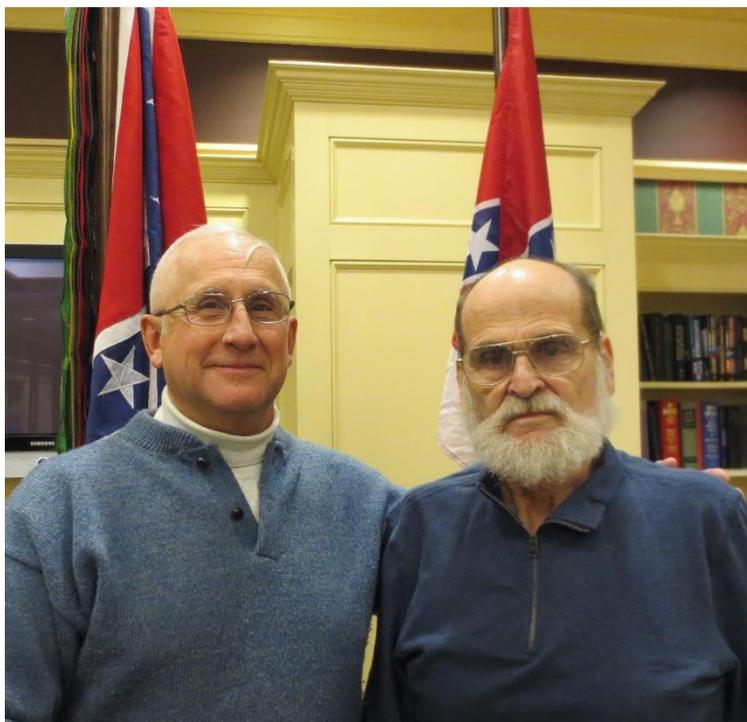
The SCV Charge read by Quartermaster Joel Goodwin

Welcome given by Commander Jerry Thompson

## Program:

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander David Hastedt introduced the evening's guest  
speaker: Mr. Charles Wood

Mr. Wood returned to our camp to present "*JEB Stuart and Wade  
Hampton: A Study in Command*", illuminating the leadership styles and  
tactics used by these two key cavalry generals during the Trevilian  
Station Campaign.



1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cmdr. Hastedt and Mr. Wood

## Committee Reports and Announcements:

### Cemetery Report

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander Steve White reported on the work at Peach  
Park: another seven trees have been planted, more trimming has  
been done, and a new flag has been installed on Col. Allen's  
grave.

### Old & New Business

- Passing of Two Compatriots -- Compatriot Boelt
- REMINDER: Christmas Supper Party Date— Saturday,  
December 14th — Adjutant Parsons
- REMINDER: Jan. & Feb. meetings will be held downstairs in  
the Arts & Crafts Room from 6:30 to 8 pm — Adjutant Parsons

### New Member Inductions

**Kole Butler**  
**Curtis Johnson**



Adj. Parsons, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cmdr. Hastedt, Compatriot Butler, Compatriot  
Johnson, Cmdr. Thompson

### Book Raffle

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

### Benediction

Given by Chaplain Warren Raines.

### Adjournment

8:40 PM

## Camp Officers



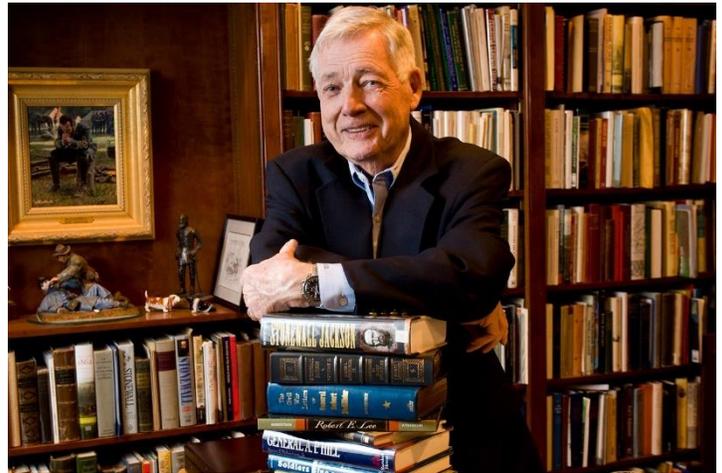
<b>Commander</b>	Jerry Thompson <a href="mailto:jerrythompson@yahoo.com">jerrythompson@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Adjutant/Treasurer</b>	Ken Parsons <a href="mailto:kparsons320@gmail.com">kparsons320@gmail.com</a>
<b>1st Lt. Commander</b>	David Hastedt <a href="mailto:dhastedt@cox.net">dhastedt@cox.net</a>
<b>2nd Lt. Commander</b>	Steve White <a href="mailto:garrettsgrocery@gmail.com">garrettsgrocery@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Chaplain</b>	Warren Raines <a href="mailto:warrenandpaula@verizon.net">warrenandpaula@verizon.net</a>

## Annual Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas Party in December was a total success! We had 38 members and guests in attendance. It was very special to have so many wives and friends of the Camp present. The meal was outstanding; many said it was the best meal of this year. Jeff Toalson entertained us with in and out of character stories from one of his books about letters from home to the soldiers during Christmas in 1863. It brought home to his audience of how fortunate we are in this age to have warm homes and good food at Christmas time.

The book auction and raffle was also a big hit and fun by George Bridewell. As usual, we increased our bank account to pay for our speaker this year. Thanks to all who contributed pictures and books to the raffle.

## Dr. James “Bud” Robertson



James I. Robertson Jr., an authority on the Civil War who published several dozen deeply researched books that humanized historical figures like Stonewall Jackson, died on Nov. 2 at a hospital in Richmond, Va. He was 89.

His wife, Elizabeth Lee Robertson, said the cause was complications of metastatic cancer. He had taught at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg for 44 years.

Dr. Robertson, who went by Bud, wrote books that appealed to general audiences as well as academics. “History is human emotion,” he said in an interview for “Dr. Bud, The People’s Historian,” a documentary film scheduled to be released next year, and it “should be the most fascinating subject in the world.”

“You take away the humanization of history,” he added, “and you’ve got nothing but a bunch of boring facts, and history poorly taught is the worst, most boring subject in the world.”

Dr. Robertson wrote or edited many books about the Civil War, including “For Us the Living: The Civil War in Paintings and Eyewitness Accounts” (2010), which featured lavish illustrations by the artist Mort Kunstler; “Robert E. Lee: Virginian Soldier, American Citizen” (2005); and “General A.P. Hill: The Story of a Confederate Warrior” (1987).

His most lauded book was “Stonewall Jackson: The Man, the Soldier, the Legend” (1997). More than 900 pages long, it was the product of seven years of research.

*Extracted from The New York Times*

# Civilian Glimpses

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

The third letter from Dr. Jennings to his wife is also archived at the Virginia Historical Society [Mss 2 J4413 b] and there is no envelope with this letter.

“Jan 11, 1865

Camp Hamilton near Fort Monroe

To my Dear Wife,

Yours of the 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. came to hand a few days ago & I was more than grateful to hear from you and your health. I have for the last few days suffered with pains in my limbs from cold but am now better from it. My cough too is somewhat improved. I expect to be able to get some clothes shortly as I have met with a friend in time of need. I am hoping every day to be sent home, Hope on, Hope ever. The party, who came with me, are here yet, all well, also Mr. Gilliam as well. Tell all to do their best in my absence. You must act for the best in every particular of my interest my wife. I hope soon to see you. My love to my boys and all the family & friends, a large portion for yourself.

From your affectionate Husband

A J E. Jennings”

In the first line of this letter, Dr Jennings stated that a letter from his wife dated December 16<sup>th</sup> had arrived only a few days before he was writing back on January 11th. This means that it took about twenty days for the letter to travel about sixty miles. Getting mail through the lines was a challenge in itself.

Dr Jennings was forty-four years old at the time of his incarceration. It sounds like he suffered from arthritis at a comparatively young age, undoubtedly aggravated by the damp, cold weather by the bay. Also, his cough may have been a result of the weather. Again, he was seeking clothes. Very probably, he still only had the clothes that he had worn when he was marched off to prison. It sounds like someone was finally helping him; a sympathetic prison official or guard, but he is careful not to divulge that person's name.

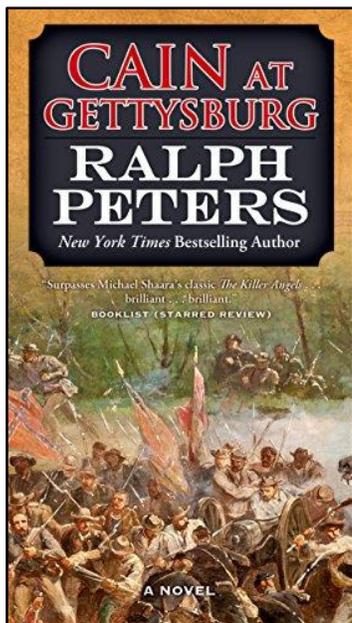
Again, vaguely, he sent the message that all of the other men who came with him were still there and were all right. He does mention that a Mr. Gilliam is there as well. There were several Gilliam families living in James City County during the war years. This may have been a family friend or it may have been a message for his wife to convey to Mr. Gilliam's family.

The doctor again requested that his wife and whoever else was at home look out for his interests in his absence. It was important to him that they stay ever vigilant in protecting what was left of their home and farm. The hope of the war ending and peace returning certainly had to be a constant concern.

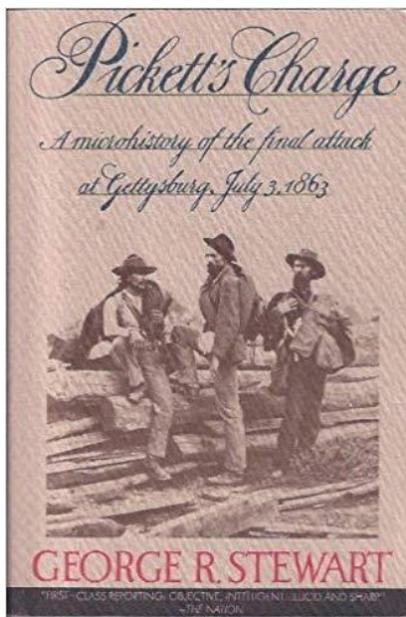
There is no mention in this letter about Christmas. At best, it was just another gloomy day for the prisoners; certainly no feast, wassail or eggnog. The day probably served as a deeper reminder that they were separated from their loved ones with no idea of when they might be reunited. It must have been equally gloomy at the homes and farms of the families whose men were fighting or in prison as well as families who had lost husbands and sons during the conflict.

As the war dragged on, there must have been a fervent prayer for peace at Christmas in 1864.

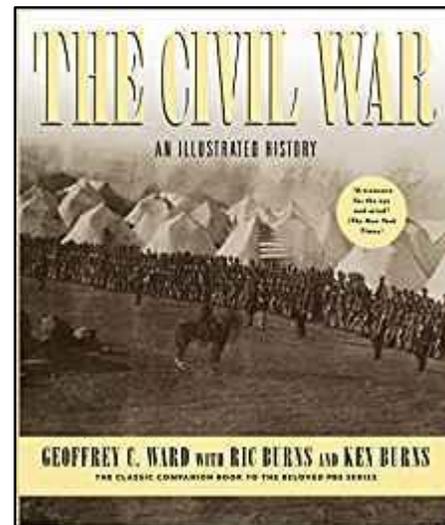
# January Book Raffle



"Cain at Gettysburg: A Novel"  
by Ralph Peters



"Pickett's Charge, a microhistory of the final attack at Gettysburg, July 3, 1863"  
By George R. Stewart



"The Civil War, An Illustrated History"  
by Geoffrey C. Ward with Ric Burns and Ken Burns



## January Trivia Question:

What was the northernmost point in Union territory to be raided by Confederates?



## Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwrt.org>

On January 28th, 2020 – Drew Gruber will present:

**"The Battle of Williamsburg - Then and Now"**

Drew will discuss the battle and the current ongoing battle to save the battlefield.