



# James City Cavalry Picket Lines



March 2022 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, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, 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



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

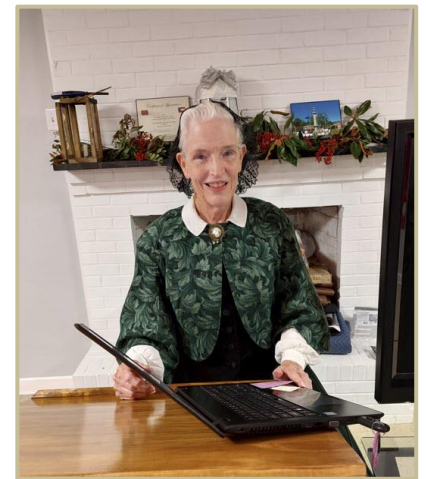
Non-camp members please contact Jeff Toalson (757) 220-0131 or [troon24@cox.net](mailto:troon24@cox.net) to make a dinner reservation. Camp members will be contacted by the 'Call Team' for your reservation. Attendees without a reservation are welcome to attend the meeting but may not receive a dinner.

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](mailto:jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com)

## March Guest Speaker

Marilyn Iglasias  
President of the  
Captain Sally  
Tompkins Chapter  
of the UDC



*“Magnolias  
and Muskets”*

The role of Southern women shortly before and during the War Between the States is often overlooked. They certainly fought those battles in their own ways as they took over the running of farms and businesses in addition to their already arduous responsibilities of caring for children, home and hearth. And often embraced those new roles long after the shooting stopped. Marilyn will describe what a pivotal time this was for our Southern Magnolias!

Although originally from California, Marilyn has always had a fascination with early American history. Retirement and moving to Virginia has given her the opportunity to develop that interest. She has just finished her 16th year as a member of the Captain Sally Tompkins Chapter of the UDC and is in the 8th year as president. She is a founding member of Ladies Victorian which enables her to research and present programs on everything from early American history to the medical side of the War Between the States.

# Camp Journal for Last Muster

## Meeting:

Held February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,  
James City County., Va., **33** 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

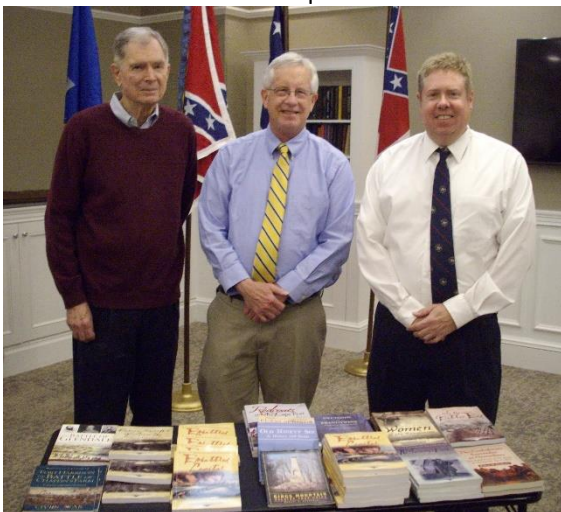
The SCV Charge read by Compatriot Jim Redford

Comments by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson

## Program:

1st Lt. Cmdr. White introduced the evening's guest speakers: Bert Dunkerly and Doug Crenshaw.

They discussed selected highlights from their latest book, "*Embattled Capital*". This is a guidebook to Richmond during the war and has chapters on Hospitals, Prisons, Historic Sites, Battlefields, Cemeteries, Landmarks, Monuments and much more. A very enjoyable evening of discussions and questions.



1st Lt. Cmdr. White, Doug Crenshaw and Bert Dunkerly

## Committee Reports and Announcements:

### Cemetery Report

See the report on Ft. Magruder work on page 6. More work will be scheduled at Spencer-Cowles-Durand and other cemeteries in March.

### Old & New Business

- Treasury Report - Treasurer Ken Parsons
- Heritage Update - Treasurer Ken Parsons

### Book Raffle

Proceeds of \$62 were donated to the Camp Treasury for the raffle of four books.

### Benediction

Given by Senior Chaplain George Corbett



## Camp Officers



Commander	Jeff Toalson <a href="mailto:troon24@cox.net">troon24@cox.net</a>
Adjutant	Dave Watson <a href="mailto:djwatson61@cox.net">djwatson61@cox.net</a>
Treasurer	Ken Parsons <a href="mailto:kparsons320@gmail.com">kparsons320@gmail.com</a>
1st Lt. Commander	Jerry White <a href="mailto:hfrog66@gmail.com">hfrog66@gmail.com</a>
2nd Lt. Commander	Steve White <a href="mailto:garrettsgrocery@gmail.com">garrettsgrocery@gmail.com</a>
Chaplain	George Corbett <a href="mailto:georgecorbett@cox.net">georgecorbett@cox.net</a>
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Historian	Fred Boelt <a href="http://fwb@widomaker.com">fwb@widomaker.com</a>

## The Civil War in March

### First Battle of Kernstown March 23, 1862

The opening battle of Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign.



## Commander's Comments

It was great to have Bert Dunkerly and Doug Crenshaw as guests of the Cavalry again. Their new book, *Embattled Capital*, is a long needed, updated, guide to the many WBTS sites in Richmond. The city is a treasure trove of statuary, battlefields, monuments, cemeteries, historical markers, buildings, and many other noteworthy points of interest. We appreciate their time last month to share their latest work with our camp.

The Cavalry seemed to spend all of our February work days at Fort Magruder. Mother Nature has provided us with dry weather and therefore a dry moat. We needed to 'make hay while the sun shined.' See the report in this issue.

The American Battlefield Trust is working to pay off the remaining debt on the Eggers – Custis Farm Tract. Those 245 acres of the Williamsburg battlefield include the site of the farmhouse which was used as a hospital, redoubt #11 which was unmanned and captured by Hancock's troops mid-afternoon on May 5, 1862, and an unknown number of Confederate graves from the Confederate counterattack. Most of those Confederate dead are from the 5<sup>th</sup> North Carolina & the 24<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantries in Jubal Early's Brigade. Only \$57,000 in donations are needed to pay off the contract. See the **enclosed article** for more details **on** donations and **how those donations can make their maximum impact.**

We serve in their memory,

Jeff Toalson



# Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Historian Fred Boelt)

Recently, the American Battlefield Trust achieved a truly outstanding goal in local preservation. The purchase of the 245-acre Egger Tract, also known as Custis Farm, has been secured with both federal and state grants. Redoubt 11 was located on this land and hospitals for both Confederate and Union casualties were set up in the barn and farmhouse. Undoubtedly, there are unmarked graves from both armies located here, and the possibilities for interpretation at the site are numerous. But who was Custis who owned the farm in 1861?

James Walter Custis was born on April 11, 1811, at Deep Creek Plantation in Accomack County on the Virginia Eastern Shore. He was the son of John Hancock Custis and his wife, Tabitha Gillett Custis. In his obituary, it was stated that, "His early life was passed amidst almost every social pleasure and advantage that a man could reasonably desire." Custis represented Accomack County in both the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates for many years.

James Custis married Margaret Pettitt Bayly in March 1840, and they had five daughters before her demise in 1856. The family was enumerated in Accomack County in the 1850 census. Perhaps they were contemplating a move to Williamsburg for in March 1849, Custis was the highest bidder on a five-hundred-acre tract held in the estate of Henley Taylor. This land was in York County, but the western boundary was a line in front of the Governor's Palace site, and then northerly to the Carr Hill tract. The move to Williamsburg must have been in the early 1850s, for James Custis was listed as a trustee at Bruton Parish Church in 1856.

In 1858, Custis acquired 388 acres of land in James City County one-half mile south of Frances Street. After his first wife's death, he married Clara Margaret Southall, who was born in New York in 1814. She had acquired the Semple House on Francis Street around 1857, and James Custis became owner in right of his wife in 1859. The family was enumerated in Williamsburg in the 1860 census.

Although the date of acquisition is not determined, it was a third tract of land, 245 acres with Queen's Creek as its northwestern boundary, that is the site now being acquired. There is no indication that Custis and his family actually lived on this land. Instead, these tracts of land were probably for income derived from agricultural pursuits and timbering.

Based on the following, it seems probable that Custis and his family refugeed after Williamsburg fell into Union hands. On October 9, 1862, Colonel Benjamin Ewell, James Custis, a Williamsburg farmer, asylum director, and member of the House of Delegates, and Major John Munford arrived under a flag of truce to inspect the college and Eastern Lunatic Asylum, but they never gained admission to the town and returned to Richmond. Again, on April 17, 1863, Custis was among a delegation sent to check on the welfare of the inmates at the asylum. They were allowed entry under a flag of truce and reported on the deplorable conditions that they found.

James Custis, his wife, Clara, and five daughters were living in Williamsburg in 1870. In March, he served as a delegate to a meeting to discuss the construction of a railroad from Richmond to Newport News, and was appointed to a committee to investigate the possibilities and report back.

James W. Custis died in Williamsburg on August 14, 1878. He was interred in the Custis family cemetery at Deep Creek Plantation in Accomack County. His land will now be interpreted as a lasting memorial to what he gave up for the cause.

# SAVE 245 ACRES OF THE WILLIAMSBURG BATTLEFIELD

## The James Custis Farm and Redoubt # 11

\$9,300,000 remains of the purchase price for this key tract of the Williamsburg battlefield. Some generous donors are providing a \$163 for each \$1 match for your donations. **Donations of \$57,000 will pay off the balance of the purchase!**

The James City Cavalry urges your support of this project by the American Battlefield Trust. In the 'Commander's Comments' we highlighted some of the key features of this piece of land.

The **number of donors is critical** for the **Williamsburg Battlefield Association** to gain maximum impact for obtaining grant monies for projects like roads, trails, signage, and elevated walkways around and over Redoubt 11. Therefore, when you donate, divide the amount of your donation in two and send a check from yourself and a check from another family member. **Two twenty-dollar checks have more impact than one forty-dollar check.**

Mail to: American Battlefield Trust, PO 1751, Merrifield, VA 22116-1751 and note on the check memo line: "Williamsburg – Custis Farm."

You may mail in using the below form and fill in the Donor Name in the appropriate space.



**AMERICAN  
BATTLEFIELD  
TRUST** \* \* \*

PRESERVE. EDUCATE. INSPIRE.



**An Extraordinary \$163-to-\$1 Match to Save 245 Threatened Acres on the Williamsburg Battlefield!**

David, I'm thrilled that the Trust's ability to work collaboratively with partners at the national, state, and local levels means we can acquire the largest piece of sacred ground left to be preserved on the Williamsburg battlefield, 245 acres, with an incredible \$163-to-\$1 match. To help complete this historic transaction, as well as promote the Trust's crucial mission all across America, I'm enclosing my most generous gift of:

\$50  
  \$100  
  \$250  
  \$500  
  \$1,000  
  \$2,500  
  \$5,000  
  \$10,000  
  \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other Gift Amount

Please make your personal check payable to American Battlefield Trust and mail to:

American Battlefield Trust \* PO Box 1751 ^ Merrifield, VA 22116-1751

Supporting the drive of  
The JAMES CITY CAVALRY  
CAMP 2095 – S.C.V. of  
Williamsburg, Virginia, to  
SAVE the Custis Farm.

Donor name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

## February work at Fort Magruder



On February 12th, several members met at the fort to do clean-up work in the moat and haul off a trailer load of tree limbs. L to R: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Cmdr. Steve White, Joe Duggan, Ron Perry, James Gilley and Ken Parsons. Not pictured: Jeff Toalson and David Hastedt.

On Saturday, February 19, Compatriots Hastedt, Parsons, Perry, Symer and White continued the clean-up of brush and tree trash in the moat and on the walls of the fortifications. Another trailer load of tree trash departed for the dump.

On Sunday, February 20, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Cmdr. Steve White returned with his brush-hog to do some serious brush removal on the outer wall of the southwestern bastion. Steve hauled off one more load in his trailer. It has been more than 8 years since we had a dry moat for our winter clean-up. The dry weather has been a godsend.



## CLARENCE EDWARD DOUGLAS 1938–2022

Clarence Douglas was born on August 4, 1938, in Newport News, Virginia but grew up in Williamsburg. Known to his friends as Doug, he attended Mathew Whaley School and James Blair High School, followed by Chowan College. He enjoyed exploring Colonial Williamsburg and spending time at Douglas Bakery, the family business located in present day Merchants Square.

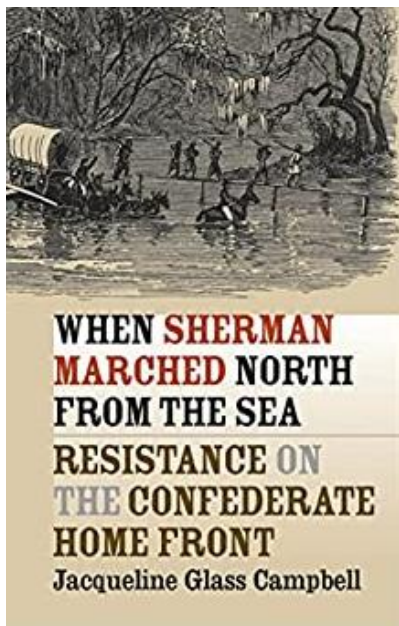
Doug had a very interesting career. On the national level, he was Lead Advance for President Ronald Reagan and was Deputy Director of Operations for the 1983 G-7 Summit of Industrialized Nations held in Williamsburg. On the state level, he served for forty years as the Executive Director and lobbyist for the Virginia legislature.

Doug was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Kentucky Rifle Association. Antique long rifles were a passion for him. His confederate ancestor was his great grandfather, Robert Franklin Craig (1842-1893) from Albemarle County, Virginia. Craig enlisted in Company H, White Hall Guards, 56<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, on May 3, 1862, in Richmond, Virginia. He later transferred to Company B, 46<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, on July 26, 1864, and was a prisoner of war at least once during his enlistment. Doug was an active member of our camp as long as his health allowed.

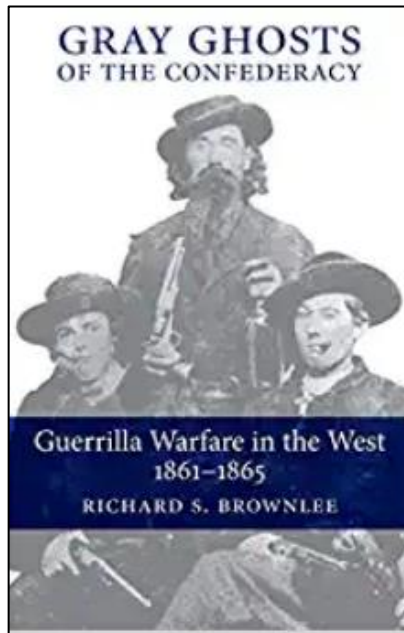
Doug enjoyed spending time with his family. The summer home on the York River and hunting lodge in Charles City County were frequent gathering places where the family spent time fishing, crabbing and hunting ducks in the fall.

Doug passed away on February 28, 2022, and he was interred at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Williamsburg on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. He was predeceased by his wife of fifty-nine years, Sharon Stout Douglas. He is survived by their four sons and their wives and ten grandchildren. Doug led a very interesting life and is now at rest.

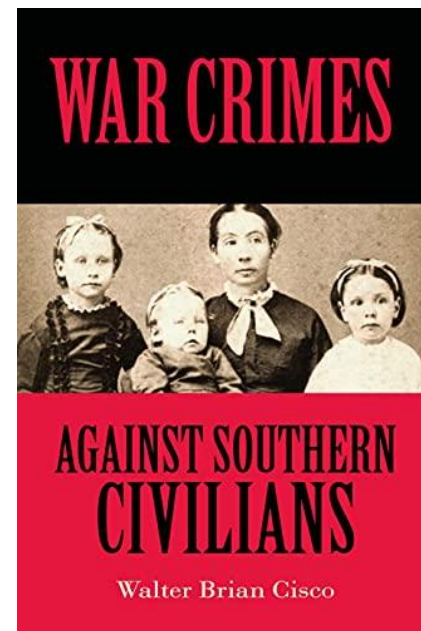
# March Book Raffle



“When Sherman Marched North from the Sea”  
By Jacqueline Campbell

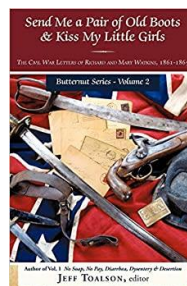


“Gray Ghosts of the Confederacy – Guerilla War in the West”  
By Richard Brownlee



“War Crimes Against Southern Civilians”  
by Walter Cisco

Bonus Book: “Send Me a Pair of Old Boots & Kiss My Little Girls”  
Edited By Jeff Toalson



# Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwr.org>

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 - Shelly Liebler will present:

“Fort Pocahontas - Action at Wilson's Wharf”