



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



May 2020 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.

May Memorial Service & Picnic Are Cancelled

We appreciate your patience and understanding. We will continue to send monthly newsletters to keep you informed of ongoing James City Cavalry Camp 2095 efforts and services. Hopefully our meetings will be able to resume in the next few months. Our number one concern is the health and safety of our members, guests and the CHCC staff.

Virginia Division Reunion Update

Due to the CoVid-19 virus the annual SCV Virginia Division Reunion has been rescheduled for September 11-13 at the Berry Hill Resort in South Boston. We have 2 rooms reserved at present for the night of September 11. We will car pool and have room for 1 additional compatriot in our current two rooms. See Ken Parsons if interested in attending. John Holt, Ken Parsons, Jerry Thompson and Jeff Toalson are currently registered from the 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

Commander's Comments

Confederate Memorial Day makes May one of our special months. In addition to our Memorial Day Service, at a chosen local cemetery, and our Picnic on the Boelt farm, we also join the ladies of the Williamsburg Chapter of the UDC at Fort Magruder for their service of remembrance. Covid-19 has changed all of that for 2020. However, as you will see in this May issue of Picket Lines the Cavalry is involved in a variety of projects and historical articles remembering our ancestors.

Fred Boelt has included an article on the key monuments in Williamsburg honoring the service of local citizen soldiers. There is also a monument at the Cedar Grove Cemetery honoring soldiers from many different Confederate states.

We provide another article on the 1951 Final U.C.V. Reunion and some memorabilia that the Cavalry acquired for donation to the Swem Archives at William and Mary.

There are articles on two Camp donations: One to help maintain the Pelham Chapel and a second to assist the Suffolk U.D.C. Chapter 173 in their Confederate Shield Project at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Suffolk.

Please read these various articles. We will not have a chance to meet as a Camp to honor the memory of our ancestors this Confederate Memorial Day but after reading these pages I hope we can all find a quiet moment to remember the service and sacrifice of our ancestors.

We serve in their memory,

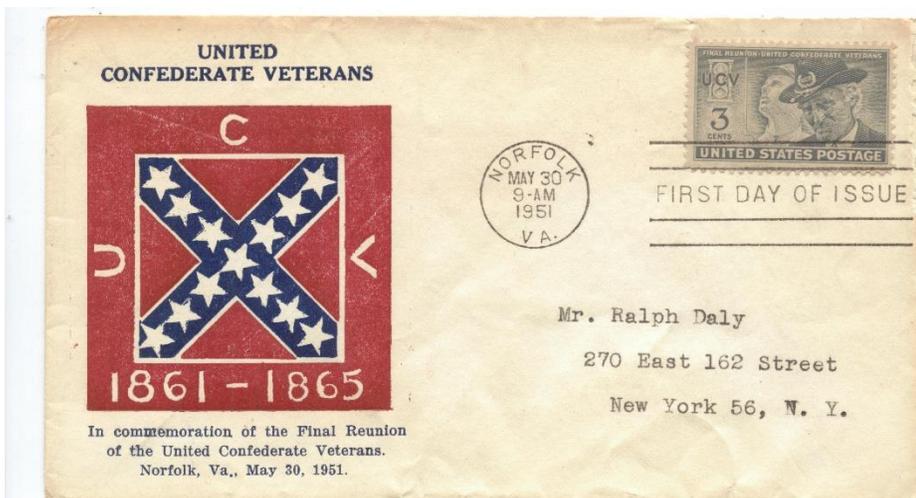
Jerry Thompson

Keating – Camp 2095 Swem Archives Donation

In the April Picket Lines we advised that we had acquired 6 First Day of Issue Commemorative Envelopes for the 1951 Final U.C.V. Reunion in Norfolk, Virginia. In the below picture are the three Confederate veterans who were able to attend. Each of them is over 100 years of age. Our good friend, Mrs. Billie Earnest, was able to confirm for me the identities of these gentlemen. From left to right are Mr. William Bush of Fitzgerald, Georgia; Mr. John Salling of Slant, Virginia; and Mr. William Townsend of Olla, Louisiana.

Here are two more of the First Day of Issue Commemorative Envelopes we will be gifting to the Swem for their archives.

Compatriot Jeff Toalson



Cavalry aids the UDC Suffolk Chapter

In 1905 Suffolk Chapter 173 of the U.D.C. purchased and installed 100 metal shields at the graves of soldiers in the Cedar Hill Cemetery in Suffolk, Virginia. The current Chapter members, headed by Betty Ann Stewart Hart, using one of the few original shields that was not either destroyed or stolen, had a new mold made (\$3500) and began producing shields.

There were 197 identified Southern graves at Cedar Hill. Lee Hart and Billie Earnest have discovered an additional 65 soldiers. The shields cost \$50 each and the project is nearing completion. The Chapter normally orders 50 at a time. The final order of shields will be placed in late 2020.

Betty Ann Hart died unexpectedly on February 10, 2018. The Chapter changed the name of the project to *The Betty Ann Stewart Hart Confederate Shield Project*. The family requested that in lieu of flowers donations in Betty Ann's memory be made to this project. Along with those donations, DHR contributions and donations from individuals and Camps such as the James City Cavalry more than \$15,800 has been raised to fund this project. Lee and Billie will do a final walk of the cemetery late this year to make sure they have not missed any Confederate soldiers.

The James City Cavalry was honored to assist the Suffolk U.D.C. Chapter 173 with \$400 in support of their work.



Capt. J. B. Riddick Co I 41st Va Regt C. S. A.



Shield Text: Confederate Veteran / Suffolk Chapter 173 U.D.C.

Camp Officers



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Adjutant's Update

1. Due primarily to health reasons both Fred Breeden and Ed Engle have transferred out of the Camp. Fred has served many years as our Chaplain and Ed served as 1st Lt. Commander. We thank them both for their service and dedication to the Camp.



Sr. Chaplain Breeden



1st Lt. Cmdr. Engle

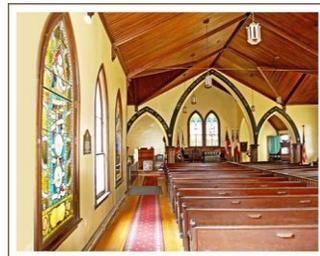
2. Charles Wood, who has twice been a guest speaker, is working on completion of his membership application.
3. Bill Miller and I traveled to the Mathews SCV camp where he presented his essay on "Into The Valley of Death".
4. I am working on moving the son of compatriot Travis Turner from scout to full member status.

Adjutant Ken Parsons



Support of the Confederate War Memorial Chapel

The Confederate War Memorial Chapel (Pelham Chapel) was dedicated to the "memory of the Confederate dead" in 1887. It was originally part of the Confederate Veterans Soldier's Home complex. Pelham Chapel was the site of funeral services for over 1700 Confederate Veterans.



Interior View of Pelham Chapel

We sent a check this month in the amount of \$100 to assist Lee - Jackson SCV Camp #1 with the care of the facility.

Jerry Thompson - Commander

Confederate Monuments Of Remembrance

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

Within a few years after the war was over, a movement began throughout the South to honor the memories of our fallen warriors lest they be forgotten. The idea gained momentum and soon began to become a reality in our home area.

The Battle of Williamsburg, fought on May 5, 1862, had brought the war close to home. The churches in town were pressed into service as makeshift hospitals for the wounded. Many of these men did not survive, and in the case of Bruton Parish Church, they were hurriedly buried right outside the church building. In time, under the auspices of the Confederate Memorial Society, many of these remains were reinterred farther out into the church yard, and a small marble tablet honoring these men was installed inside the north transept of the church. It is inscribed: "IN MEMORY OF THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS who fell in the BATTLE OF WILLIAMSBURG May the 5th 1862. And of those who died of the wounds received in the same. THEY DIED FOR US." This was the first local monument erected honoring our Confederate dead.

The second monument, located within the City of Williamsburg honoring these men, was dedicated on May 5, 1893. It stands in the Bruton Parish Church graveyard and is inscribed, "Erected in memory of the Confederate Soldiers Who Fell in the Battle of Williamsburg May 5th, 1862 and Lie Buried Under and Around this Monument." The names of twenty-nine men and their regimental information are also inscribed on this monument. There are at least eleven other marked veterans' graves in the churchyard and also an unknown number of other men hastily buried after the battle.

The third monument is now located in Bicentennial Park on Court Street. This monument started out being located on the Palace Green. In 1902, the Magruder-Ewell Camp, United Confederate Veterans, began to raise funds, and ultimately, the United Daughters of the Confederacy and local citizens brought the project to fruition. The monument honoring local citizens who served was finally unveiled on May 5th, 1908, amidst great ceremony. The front of the shaft of gray granite is inscribed, "1861 – 1865, To the Soldiers and Sailors of Williamsburg and James City County." On the left side, "Erected by the Daughters of the Confederacy and the Citizens of Williamsburg and James City County," and on the right side, "Lord God of Hosts, Be With Us Yet, Lest We forget, Lest We forget!"

When the town was being restored, the monument was first moved to Cedar Grove Cemetery in January 1932. Unhappy with that location, the UDC and other groups petitioned the court in April 1932, and won permission to move the monument to the east side of the new Courthouse on the corner of Francis and South England Streets. And when the third Courthouse was erected on Court Street, the monument was again moved there. In 2000, it finally went to its present location across Court Street, next to the Galt family cemetery.

A fourth monument erected to honor our Confederate dead was placed in Cedar Grove Cemetery on South Henry Street. On November 15, 1859, the City of Williamsburg purchased four acres of land from Judge John B. Christian to create a public burial ground, and the grounds were later expanded to seventeen acres. Erected in 1935, this monument is a fourteen foot rough hewn granite shaft on a granite base. There are crossed battle flags and the dates 1861 – 1865 on the monument. Additionally, there is a granite threshold in front of the burial area inscribed, "1861 Our Confederate Dead 1865."

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Confederate Monuments Of Remembrance

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Soon after war was declared in 1861, military forces were stationed locally working on the Williamsburg line. During the early months of the war, there were many deaths due to disease. Richard Manning Bucktrout, a local coffin maker and undertaker, began burying these men in Cedar Grove in July with numerous deaths continuing through the fall and winter months. The burials tapered off in early May 1862.

Bucktrout maintained a Daybook and Ledger from 1850 through 1866. He systematically buried the dead in rows by their state of origin. He recorded the name of the deceased, rank and regiment if he knew it, date the order was taken, and where he placed the remains of each man in the state row. Some entries note that the deceased was "sent home" or later "exhumed and sent home." It is believed that the remaining burials by row are twenty-four Alabama, four Florida, fifty-seven Georgia, forty-three Louisiana, nine Mississippi, eight North Carolina, twelve South Carolina, two Tennessee, and twenty-four Virginia. It is thought that additional casualties from the battle of Williamsburg were hastily buried in this same area.

When the Cedar Grove monument was placed in 1935, there was no knowledge of Bucktrout's ledger and of his burial rows. The area was thought of as a mass grave of up to 250 men. Since Bucktrout's Ledger was discovered in 1997, the story has changed. In addition to the Bucktrout burials, there are at least another fifty-one veterans buried throughout the rest of the cemetery, many in family plots. These men are all listed in the James City Cavalry Camp website under Gravesite Locations. We have already written about many of these men in Picket Lines, and will continue to chronicle their lives in future issues.

For many years, there were elaborate commemorative ceremonies at the Bruton Parish and Palace Green monuments on May 5th. Newspaper articles spoke of orations at first by the old veterans, and later by city leaders. School children came to sing and recite poems appropriate for the day. Graves at Bruton Parish and Cedar Grove Cemetery were strewn with flowers by the ladies of the UDC. In time, some of these ceremonies were moved from May 5th to the modern Memorial Day observances later in May.

Each year our camp has held a memorial service at one of the local cemeteries followed by a barbeque supper. This year circumstances preclude gathering for this occasion. However, let us keep the tradition going privately as we remember the service and sacrifice of all Confederate veterans and their families. They have now "crossed over the river." Let their lives be not forgotten.



**Monument to the
Soldiers & Sailors
of Williamsburg &
James City County**

Bicentennial Park



**Cedar Grove Cemetery
Monument to the
Honored Dead 1861-
1865**

**James City Cavalry
Camp 2095 Memorial
Day Service in 2012**