



James City Cavalry Picket Lines



November 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.

Next Muster

Wednesday, November 17th, 2021, 6:30 pm
Colonial Heritage Club House
www.colonialheritageclub.com/find-us
6500 Arthur Hills Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23188



Meal Cost: \$17.00 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

November Guest Speaker

Mr. Bill Miller

“Into the Valley of Death”



The date is Friday, July 3d 1863, several minutes past 3 pm. For the past two hours over 140 Confederate cannon have bombarded Union positions on Cemetery Ridge at Gettysburg. Over 100 Union guns have returned fire. Then over 10,500 Rebel infantry men are rising up from the woods surrounding Cemetery Ridge in response to the order to attack. The massive Confederate attack has commenced. Our speaker will provide details of what has become known as Pickett’s Charge.

Bill Miller regularly attends our camp meetings as a Friend of the SCV. He presently serves as the President of the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable. Bill maintains memberships in numerous battlefield preservation organizations. His membership in the Gettysburg Foundation provided him 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 presentation on the details of Pickett’s Charge.

Camp Journal for Last Muster

Meeting:

Held 27 October at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,
James City County., Va., 34 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 Charles Wood

Comments by Cmdr. Jeff Toalson

Program:

1st Lt. Cmdr. White introduced the evening's guest speaker: Rob Garnett. Mr. Garnett presented "*Victims for the Grave: Cpl. Robert Gwynn – 26th Virginia Infantry at Elmira Prison Camp*", a sobering look into one of the worst Union prison camps of the war.



1st Lt. Cmdr. White and Mr. Garnett

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Cemetery Report

2nd Lt. Commander Steve White reported there will be a Fort Magruder cleanup day scheduled for next January.

Old & New Business

- Adj. Watson reported the new camp roster has been distributed via email. Please review and contact him with any inaccuracies.

Certificate Presentations

New Virginia Division Life Member – Mike Willoughby



Book Raffle

Proceeds of \$54 were donated to the Camp Treasury for the raffle of the six donations.

Benediction

Given by Senior Chaplain George Corbett

Adjournment

8:25 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 paulhuelskamp@cox.net
Quartermaster	George Bridewell gbridewell@aol.com
Historian	Fred Boelt fwb@widomaker.com

The Civil War in November

November 25th, 1863 – The Chattanooga Campaign ended with a loss to the Confederacy when General Grant's armies were victorious over General Bragg's Army of Tennessee.



Commander's Comments

Our November meeting is one week early! We are meeting on the 17th to leave a little room for Thanksgiving. Bill Miller will delve into Pickett's Charge with us as we all move "Into The Valley of Death."

We thank Rob Garnett for joining us in October and sharing stories of Elmira Prison Camp. Point Lookout and Elmira were dreaded by our Confederate ancestors. As we learned from Rob, these fears were well founded. Both Camps received too many "Victims For The Grave." We highly recommend Rob as a speaker to all SCV Camps and UDC Chapters in the Tidewater area up to and including Richmond.

Our Camp, for a second year in a row, will not have a Christmas Party. The Cavalry is almost 100% vaccinated but until the Covid-19 situation is under control we do not want to increase the risk for our members and families by having a large indoor gathering.

Work on the Soldiers and Sailors Monument is basically completed at Fort Magruder. Fill dirt still must be added along the edges of the sidewalk and of course some grass seed. Over the last 6 months you have seen a series of articles and pictures in the *Picket Lines* detailing all the work our Camp has done to support the ladies of the Williamsburg Chapter of the U.D.C. in their project. While this monument honors all the men of Williamsburg and James City County who answered the call of Virginia and the Confederacy, both military and civilian, most importantly it serves as a gravestone for those locals who never returned and lie in unmarked graves, in unknown places and on distant battlefields. This monument was the only spot for their families to grieve.

We honor the memory of them all. We serve in their memory and this is the most important work our Camp can perform.

Jeff Toalson

Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

One thing leads to another. Last month, we looked at the life of Fielding Albert Bloxton. Upon further investigation, it looks like at least two, possibly three of his other brothers saw service during the war and had local connections.

Fielding's oldest brother, Thomas Lawrence Bloxton was also born in Stafford County, Virginia, in 1835/36. He was the son of William Ashby Bloxton and his first wife, Lucy Clift. Thomas was living at the family farm when the 1850 census was taken and has not been found listed in the 1860 census. However, he seemed to have married Sarah Barbour Brown prior to that time, and they had two sons who died young. A military service record has not been found for Thomas. On May 1, 1862, he was paid for 3600 pounds of blade fodder by the Confederate Army. However, there is an intriguing statement found in the family history provided at his gravesite. It was stated that he was a "carrier" during the war and that his servant accompanied him.

We can interpret this as meaning that he passed messages between the lines to and from Confederate troops. When the 1870 census was taken, Thomas, Sarah, and his brother Fielding were living in the Bruton District of York County, Virginia. It has further been said that they lived on a farm called "The Russells," and that this was within one mile of the college gate. Based on a statement in his obituary, Thomas had moved to the area about 1858.

It is highly probable that he was passing messages on market days. The occupied Union territory line was just west and north of the College of William and Mary. On market days, farmers from the surrounding area brought or sent wagons with supplies to be purchased by the inhabitants of Williamsburg. It is a known fact that much news and vital war information was passed in and out of Williamsburg on these days. While there was a military presence at the market lines, the civilians were quite adept at outmaneuvering the soldiers, and accomplished message exchange while trading food and other items.

Thomas Bloxton's first wife died sometime after the 1870 census was taken and before he married his second wife, Mary (Mollie) Williamson Ware on November 12, 1872, in Williamsburg. She was the daughter of John Hockaday Ware and his wife, Elizabeth Pierce, residents of Williamsburg. Thomas and Mollie had one son who died in infancy and three daughters who lived to maturity. Thomas was engaged in farming for the remainder of his life, and the story may have stopped here.

There was a family cemetery on Thomas Bloxton's farm. His first wife and their two sons, Peyton Barbour Bloxton and Floyd Nelson Bloxton, were interred there. Thomas Ware Bloxton, son by his second wife, was also interred in the family plot in 1877. Mary Ware Bloxton died in 1900, followed by her husband Thomas on January 17, 1908. His obituary stated that his funeral service would be held from the residence and conducted by the Rev. W.A.R. Goodwin with interment to follow in the family cemetery.

Again, the story may have stopped here. However, a bronze plaque on a granite bench has been located in the graveyard at Bruton Parish Church. It reads, "The Bloxton Family reinterred from a private cemetery. December 5, 1990." Thomas's descendants found it quite difficult to maintain the family cemetery and had the remains moved to the churchyard. Whether or not Thomas Bloxton saw military service remains unclear. As a "carrier," his civilian service was equally important, and we give thanks for all the civilians who aided the Confederacy.


Tim the Mason's Work At Fort Magruder

It rained without ceasing as the last Confederate soldiers left Fort Magruder late on May 5, 1862, and when the hot sun beamed down in August of 2021, our Compatriot Tim Norman arrived to construct a brick walkway to the Williamsburg Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Our friends at the Williamsburg Chapter 637 of the U.D.C. needed a proper sidewalk to the monument that honors those long-ago heroes. He and his crew of bricklayers built a beautiful walkway that will serve for many years to come.



Montage of Tim's work at the memorial.

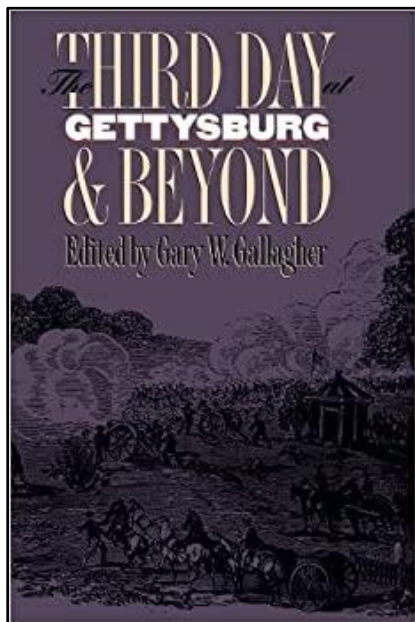
BENEFICIAL MASONRY
 18494 Kayla Dr., Barhamsville, VA 23011
 757-438-4478
 Tim Norman - Owner
 tnorman7@cox.net



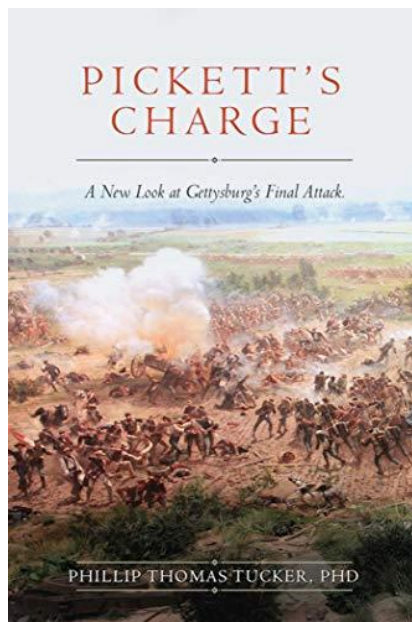


Tim at work in the Summer sun.

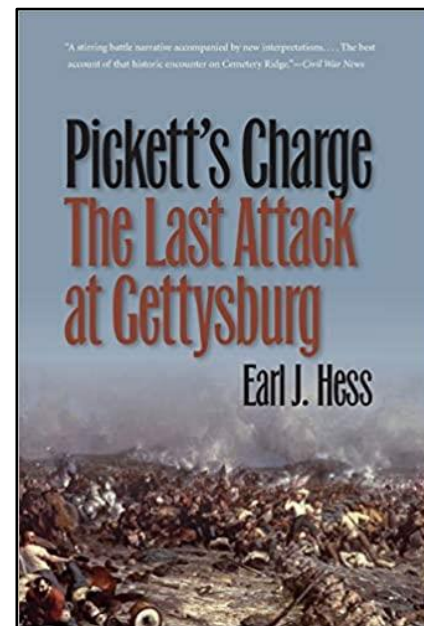
November Book Raffle



“Third Day at Gettysburg & Beyond”
by Gary W. Gallagher



“Pickett’s Charge – A New Look”
by Phillip Thomas Tucker



“Pickett’s Charge – The Last Attack at
Gettysburg”
by Earl J. Hess

November Trivia Question

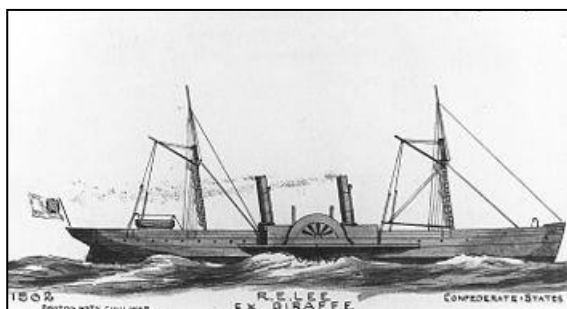
In what city was some of the first Confederate currency printed?

Answer to last month’s question: Castle Thunder prison in Richmond, VA served to house civilian prisoners, including Union spies and political prisoners charged with treason. See:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castle_Thunder_\(prison\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castle_Thunder_(prison))

Williamsburg Civil War Round Table

<http://www.wcwrt.org>



On November 23rd, 2021 - Dr. Charles Ross
will present:

“Breaking the Blockade: The Bahamas during the
Civil War”