

# James City Cavalry PICKET LINES



January 2011

Williamsburg, Virginia

**Last Meeting:** Our Christmas Social had 58 in attendance. The Social was held at the Toano Women's Club in Toano and was the Camp's first of many Christmas Socials to come. The event was most enjoyable and the Southern Supper provided by our Compatriots and Friends was outstanding. All involved worked hard on the planning, setup and preparation did an excellent job and are commended for their work.



**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be at "Colonial Heritage Club" located at 6500 Arthur Hills Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23188 [www.colonialheritageva.com/club.html](http://www.colonialheritageva.com/club.html) on **January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm**. Our Speaker **Mr. Will Molineux** – will present "An Incident at City Point - May, 1862" A Union naval surgeon responds to a plea for medical assistance from a Hampton woman who is a refugee in the City Point area. While he is at her bedside, under a flag of truce, he and his party are attacked and taken prisoner. Three members of the shore party are killed, a Federal gunship fired shots in retaliation, and both Southern bystanders and a Union Admiral argue for the surgeon's release from captivity. This and other tales are all part of George Randolph Woods recollections of service on supply barges on the James and Appomattox rivers during the great conflict.

### **Commander Don Woolridge:**

The Camp started 2011 in true form with two clean-up projects already completed at Fort Magruder. Two more are scheduled for the remainder of January to complete our winter clean-up. Our meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup> will be the first held at Colonial Heritage and we have experienced a robust response from those that plan to attend. I am sure that all our Compatriots are looking forward to Camp meetings, socials and projects for the New Year. We will soon be in the warmer months and will focus our attention on keeping our cemeteries in good order. Peach Park Cemetery remains one of our most important projects and a focal point of our Heritage preservation efforts. At the January meeting we plan to induct Jackson Darst, Herman Floyd, and Bob Clayton. We welcome these fine Gentlemen into the ranks of the James City Cavalry and look forward to their becoming Compatriots working for the Cause!

Deo Vindice!

### **Past Commander David Ware:**

The Spiritual Cause and Effect of the War to Prevent Southern Independence, part 4

Perhaps no other concept has suffered such a radical deleterious transformation as a result of Lincoln's War as that of community. The Ante-Bellum agrarian Southern community was a complex connection between human beings and their relationship to their land especially their homeland. All nature and neighbors were included. This is the community that our ancestors lived in. They knew one another. Their fathers knew one another. Their grandfathers, great-grandfathers and great-great grandfathers knew one another.

Today we have the gay community, the black community, the Asian community, the Hispanic community, the retired community, the education community, the homeless community, the poor community, the military community, the medical community, the legal community and all the communities defined by guarded and unguarded subdivisions. The word today is used to separate and divide. Exacerbating the transformation of community is that the Yankee-industrialist-money-oriented culture has created a nation of nomads. People move into various regions of the country to advance careers, because they like the area or because they could sell their house "up North" and move "down South" and live "cheaper." Additionally, the warfare state started by the Lincoln regime has literally moved millions of people all over the United States in the interest of "national defense."

Consequently, most people now have no roots in the land or its inhabitants; they believe that the community is complete only because they are in it. They promote the tyrannical forces of planning, zoning, building regulation, confiscatory taxation, fees and other regulation to perpetuate true community. Following in the self-serving hypocrisy leveled at Southern community, the Yankee mentality wants cell phones with no cell towers, electricity with no generating plants, gasoline with no oil refineries, tires with no tire factories and airplanes with any airports. This makes perfect sense to a people that teach that you spend to save, borrow to get out of debt and kill for peace.

This economic structure based on parasitic dependency cannot survive in an environment of true community. This is, of course, one big reason our detractors rail against "the Cause." Our critics come mainly from academia and the nationalized mass media, which owe their financial existence to promoting the party line that "it was all about slavery." <sup>TM</sup>

Destruction of true community is perhaps the most tragic consequence of the events from 1861 to the present. One reason that the Confederate soldier was such a fierce soldier was that he was fighting for his community.

Epitomizing the principle of devotion to his people, Robert E. Lee resigned his commission in the army of the United States. He wrote to his sister: “.....yet in my own person, I had to meet the question whether I should take part against my native state. With all my devotion to the Union and the feeling of loyalty and duty of an American citizen, I have not been able to make up my mind to raise my hand against my relatives, my children, my home.”

Our blessed ancestors fought to keep this country from turning the way it has. Against their will, a self-sufficient independent culture has now been supplanted. We now live in crowded cities, riding on the merry-go-round of consumption, obsolescence, and waste. We are incessantly told that our every need and problem can be met by a gaggle of arrogant bureaucrats administering some program of “compassion.” We are a nation of prostitutes wandering in search of a life filled with no work and endless monetary reward. We stare, glassy eyed as government thugs sexually molest two year olds so that they can board a plane. This today is what it means to be an “American.”

**1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson: Book Auctions:** "For the Sake of My Country" - The Diary of Col. W. W. Ward, 9th Tennessee Cavalry, CSA. 1992, Murfreesboro, soft cover, 170 pages

"The Common Soldier in the Civil War"

Bell I. Wiley, New York, 1953, hardcover, 440 pages. This has both "The Life of Billy Yank" and "The Life of Johnny Reb" in one volume.

## **JAMES CITY COUNTY CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES**

**By Historian/Genealogist Fred Boelt**

In the August 2008 issue of *Picket Lines*, we discussed two veterans, brothers James Robert Warren and Henry B. Warren, who were buried at “Alabama” farm off Ware Creek Road in Croaker. At the time, there was the possibility of a third veteran’s grave being located there, but the sketchy evidence from the WPA survey of that cemetery was inconclusive. A misspelled name and incongruous dates from that survey as well as lack of access to the site necessitated further research. An opportunity to go on site presented itself last August, and the gravestone with the correct name and dates was unearthed , proving that there is a third Confederate veteran buried at “Alabama.”

Fletcher C. Davis was born in Mathews County on July 18, 1840. He was the son of Ralph Armistead Davis and his wife, Julia A. Cully. In the 1860 Mathews County census, Fletcher was listed in his parents’ household, and his occupation was “merchant clerk.” Fletcher enlisted at Mathews Courthouse on July 18, 1861, into Captain Andrew D. Armistead’s Company, Mathews [Virginia] Light Artillery. This unit was an outgrowth of Company H, 61<sup>st</sup> Virginia Militia. Fletcher was paid as a teamster for 111 days, July 1- October 20, 1862, was present on the April 30, 1864 roster, and received clothing on July 29, 1864, with no further record after that date.

After the war, Fletcher ended up in James City County working as a teamster. By the time that the 1870 census was taken, he had married Louisa R. Cowles, and they had a four month old son, Robert V. Davis. Louisa was the daughter of John and Drucilla Cowles who lived at

“Cowlesville” on Diascund Road. Three of Louisa’s brothers had also served in the Confederate Army [see *Picket Lines*, September 2007]. The Davises had seven more children, Marion G., Ellen D., Luther T., Bertha, Hunter C., Calvin T., and F. Cleveland Davis, before Louisa’s untimely death at age 36 on February 9, 1883. She was probably buried in the large cemetery at Cowlesville in an unmarked grave.

In 1874, Fletcher Davis purchased a portion of the Aspen Grove tract from the heirs of John P. Vaiden. By 1885, he owned about 275 acres, having purchased additional portions from the heirs. This farm is on the south side of Forge Road, east of the intersection with Lake View Road, and continues across Lake View (beyond the intersection) on the west side toward the present day reservoir. He also owned eight acres on the southwest corner of this intersection where he operated a retail business known as the Cellar Hole store.

After Louisa Davis died, Fletcher married Elizabeth Bryden Warren, daughter of James Robert and Georgianna Chandler Warren. They had a son born in December 1885 who lived only six days, and a daughter born in May 1887, who lived less than three months. Fletcher had died on February 26, 1887, before this little daughter was born. Fletcher’s estate included a large inventory of dry goods which he apparently sold at the Cellar Hole store. Fletcher was buried in the Warren family graveyard at “Alabama” with his two infant children from his second marriage. His wife, Betty Warren Davis, was also interred there many years later in 1926.

Compatriot Travis Turner and Cadet Mitchell Turner are descendants of Fletcher C. Davis.

**Newsletter:** "In an effort to help save on the cost of the newsletter, you can now have it e-mailed to you in an adobe format. Please e-mail Commander Don Woolridge at [dsw317@earthlink.net](mailto:dsw317@earthlink.net) to be added to this list." Newsletters are also posted on the website for your convenience.

**Visit our website at:** <http://www.jamescitycavalry.org>

### **A moment to pause and reflect....**



Happy Birthday to Robert Edward Lee (January 19, 1807 – October 12, 1870) a career United States Army officer and combat engineer. He became the commanding general of the Confederate army in the American Civil War and a postwar icon of the South's "lost cause". A top graduate of West Point, Lee distinguished himself as an exceptional so...soldier in the U.S. Army for 32 years. He is best known for having commanded the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia in the American Civil War. In early 1861, President Abraham Lincoln invited Lee to take command of the entire Union Army. Lee declined because his home state of Virginia was, despite his wishes, seceding from the Union. When Virginia declared its secession from the Union in April 1861, Lee chose to follow his home state. Lee's eventual role in the newly established Confederacy was to serve as a senior military adviser to President Jefferson Davis. Lee soon emerged as the shrewdest battlefield tactician of the war after he assumed command of the The Army of Northern Virginia after the wounding of Joseph Johnston at the Battle of Seven Pines. His abilities as a tactician have been praised by many military historians and were made evident in his many victories such as the Seven Days Battles (1862), Second Manassas (1862), Battle of Fredericksburg (1862), Battle of Chancellorsville (1863), Battle of the Wilderness (1864), and Battle of Cold Harbor (1864).

## Camp Officers

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**SUPPORT THE TROOPS PROJECT:** Be sure to bring items for the project to the next meeting. Norman especially needs . . . wet wipes, hard candy, slim jims, dental floss picks, bubble gum, disposable razors... Please bring a couple of items with you to the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## Thought for the Month

**"Get correct views of life, and learn to see the world in its true light. It will enable you to live pleasantly, to do good, and, when summoned away, to leave without regret."**

**General Robert E. Lee** 



## CAMP JOURNAL

December 15, 2010

- **Christmas Social:** Held 7:00 PM at the Toano Women's Club, James City County, VA
  - 58 attendees
  - Welcome given by Commander Don Woolridge
  - Blessing by: Chaplin Fred Breeden
  - Pledge and Salute to the Flags:
    - US flag pledge, Virginia flag salute, and CS flag salute by Camp members
  - The Charge: was read by Quartermaster Jerry White
- **Christmas Program:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson and Compatriot Charles Eugene Bush; Letters from the Troops during the Christmas Seasons of the War
- **Benediction:** Chaplin Fred Breeden
- **Adjournment:** Camp adjourned at 8:30 PM. Next regular meeting scheduled for January 26, 2011 at Colonial Heritage Clubhouse.

Respectfully submitted,

*Don Woolridge*  
*Commander*



*James City Cavalry, SEV Camp 2095  
Williamsburg, Virginia*



Fellow Compatriots,

For those of you that are able to assist in the clean-up of the Fort Magruder site on Penniman Road in Williamsburg, the following work dates are scheduled:

January 8, 2011 at 1:30 PM

January 15, 2011 at 1:30 PM

January 22, 2011 at 1:30 PM

January 29, 2011 at 1:30 PM

If any of you would like to start working at Fort Magruder at an earlier time of the day, please contact Ken Parsons at 757-876-6967. He is our liaison for the access key for the site from the UDC.

Tools needed will be hand tools such as loppers, axes, pruning saws, chain saws, pole saws, rakes, and brush axes if you have any of them. Trash bags will be provided.

Hopefully, the moat area will not be as wet this year so we can advance toward the back corner from each end of the berm. In the event of inclement weather work days are automatically canceled. Thank you in advance for your help.

Steve White  
Cemetery Projects Liaison