

November 2009

Williamsburg, Virginia

Last Meeting: Our last meeting had 27 in attendance. Our program was presented by **Mr. Jack Marlar** – SCV Field Representative, who gave a historical presentation on "The C.S.S. Submarine Hunley - Southern Ingenuity & Engineering Advances."

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be at "Hog Wild Smokehouse Restaurant" at 8864 Richmond Road, Toano, VA 23168 www.hogwildsmokehouse.com on **November 25th at 7pm**. Guest speaker will be **Mike Hendricks**, who will give a presentation on "Richmond Clothing Bureau – Organization, Operations, Problems, Challenges, & Uniform Types produced for the Army of N. Virginia" Mr. Hendricks has been involved in Confederate living history for over 25 years. He is the current President of the Princess Anne Grey's Living History Association. Mike has researched and studied original CSA uniforms for over 20 years and has been producing museum quality reproductions since 1995. Mike's primary focus is the Richmond Clothing Bureau of the Richmond Depot. Mike will bring a large selection of uniforms which will be displayed and discussed at our meeting. Make plans to attend and bring a guest or prospective new member.

Executive Committee Meeting: The Camp Executive Committee met on November 6, 2009 at "Hog Wild Smokehouse." Members present were Don Woolridge, Ken Parsons, Jeff Toalson, Fred Breeden, Jerry White, Fred Boelt, David Ware and Steve White. The following topics were discussed;

- Membership and retention
- Support our Troops project
- Outstanding Camp Award progress
- Ft. Magruder mailbox placement and brochure
- Bus tour discussion for future camp activities

Executive Committee meetings will be published in the future and all Camp members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Commander Don Woolridge:

James City Cavalry has embarked on one of the most ambitious and important projects to date. The "Support our Troops" project launched last month has taken on a much welcomed enthusiasm. We are looking forward to supporting our Troops in Afghanistan during the upcoming holiday season as well as the future. Since distributing our email to Camp members and our newsletter recipients, we have received a good response.

I hope that all of you will join me and the Camp with this project and give our troops the well deserved support during their deployment.

As we close in on the end of 2009, our Camp has made strides of accomplishments with our current projects. Our cemetery restoration and maintenance has been one of our more gratifying endeavors. As an example, Peach Park visitors log has been signed by over 140 visitors since restoration work was completed in 2008. The visitor comments have been very complimentary and supportive of our work. Hosting the 2009 Division Convention was a huge undertaking and resulted in a successful and enjoyable time for all that attended. Adjutant Ken Parson's leadership and direction with oversight of the Convention, Camp members that worked long and hard, showed that James City Cavalry is one of the strongest camps in Virginia and possibly the entire country.

In 2009 our membership has increased by six new members as well as one transferring from another camp. It is apparent by the increasing numbers that our Camp is being recognized in the community as a solid heritage organization. As the troops on the battlefield would say and we will continue with our efforts to do as well, "Forward the Colors!"

Deo Vindice!

Adjutant Ken Parsons:

Support Our Troops-

I am very pleased to see our Camp support this effort, it is something I have been hoping we could get involved in. I have seen other Camps and different organizations supporting this effort, now it is our turn. Over the up coming months we will have additional soldiers of our Camp members families being assigned over there and I'm sure it will mean a lot to for them to get our support.

Please remember, cash donations will allow us to buy those items that are not collected. If you do not have time to pick up those needed items on our list, bring a little extra cash to the next meeting and we will purchase anything missing.

The Storm-

If anyone is in need of help after our latest "Norida" visit let us know so we can help our brother members. The river at my house was at war with my pier and dock. The crashing and banging must have been like the sounds of battle in the Valley during the Great War. The river won!

A book recommendation....

As I was enduring the howling winds and high tides I have been reading a great book that I wish to recommend to all. It is titled "*I RODE WITH STONEWALL*" by Henry K Douglas. It is a first person account about the great General Thomas J Jackson with considerable information about the men who served in and around the General. Captain Douglas also tells us a lot about some of the finest men in the South that lost their lives for the Cause. One by one they were killed, wounded or badly maimed fighting for freedom from an ever oppressive government.

I like the book because the writer does not discuss the complicated battles but the actions and decisions made by those involved.

A new battle for the SCV-

The Williamsburg Battlefield is now in danger from Riverside Healthcare. I'm sure many of you are aware Riverside wants to build another Hospital in Williamsburg. They are proposing to combine two large pieces of property totaling 337 acres. The northern portion which is the smaller of the two lies completely within the core battlefield boundary. The southern portion is partially within the core battlefield boundary. Included in this proposal are over 200,000 sq. ft. of office space, 95 single family homes, 882 condominiums & townhouses, and 400,000 sq. ft. of shopping centers in addition to the hospital and a nursing home. Naturally there are thousands of square feet of roads, sidewalks and parking lots that will be paved over.

This information will serve as an alert for us since we have not been involved in this transgression of sacred grounds. We must learn more in the coming months of the true nature of this project and decide where we stand. There will soon be a meeting of the planning commission where we will have the opportunity to learn more. An alert will be sent out to all members so that you can be present when it takes place.

Past Commander David Ware: "The Cause for Which We Fought"

Thirty-five of the fifty-five signers of the Declaration of Independence were slave owners. At the Constitutional Convention in 1787, the controversy arose over how to handle the slavery population for the purposes of taxation and political representation. The South took the position that slaves should be counted for representation, but that they (slave owners) should not be subject to taxation because of them. The North took the opposite position. Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution was the resulting compromise counting each slave as three-fifths of a person for both taxation and representation. Eli Whitney secured a patent for his cotton gin in 1794. This machine revolutionized cotton production and consumption. The South's terrain and climate rendered it most favorable to the growing of cotton. This, coupled with the North's continuing industrialization, rendered demand for slaves to grow exponentially in the South and decline in the North. As slavery became increasingly uneconomical in the North, Northeastern states began to outlaw and phase out slavery altogether. They accomplished this by declaring that children born to slaves would be free. Northern slave holders, realizing a dramatic loss in the market for their slaves were able to multiply their fortunes by selling them to Southerners rather than freeing them. The majority of non-slaveholding whites viewed free blacks as a threat to their own economic and physical security providing even more incentive to ship blacks southward. Indeed, most Northern states prohibited free blacks from serving on juries and inhabiting their states altogether! The majority of the nation, both North and South, opposed slavery. They became basically divided into two camps: (1) Anti-slavery. This view held that slaves should be gradually emancipated with some sort of financial compensation to the owners. The South put forth plans based upon the British model carried out by the patient efforts of John Wilberforce. With the exception of the "fire-eaters" who supported a separate Southern nation, Southerners supported this method of emancipation. (2) Abolitionists. These demanded the immediate freeing of all slaves with no compensation. Some became radical and encouraged slaves to take up arms against their owners. Virtually no whites supported the idea of free blacks remaining in the U. S. In 1817 the American Colonization Society was formed to resettle blacks in Africa. It founded the modern West African nation of Liberia whose capital, Monrovia, is named after President

James Monroe who oversaw the effort. The Colonization's efforts were endorsed by Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, John Marshall, Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, William Seward, Francis Scott Key, General Winfield Scott and Abraham Lincoln. A series of nightmarish bloodlettings and the actions of radical abolitionists hardened the South by increasing the perception that the people of the North were part of a conspiracy to instill a slave uprising and destruction of the region. In the 1790's all black slaves in the French colony of Haiti were freed. The newly freedmen raped, tortured and slaughtered the white French planters. Napoleon Bonaparte dispatched 45,000 troops to wrest control back for the rampaging ex-slaves. The French troops were exterminated by disease and by the free blacks. Then, they proceeded to massacre the entire white population of the island-20,000 men, women and children, and establish an all-black society. In 1831, Nat Turner, a slave, gathered several other slaves and murdered his master and family. He was tried and hanged after 55 killings of which 18 were women and children. In 1859, John Brown galvanized the South by seizing control of the Federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry. The first man shot was a black man. Robert E. Lee, along with J.E.B. Stuart captured Brown and brought him to trial where he was sentenced to execution. A contingent of VMI cadets commanded by Thomas J. (later "Stonewall") Jackson provided much of the force to assure that the sentence was carried out. It was discovered that Brown was bankrolled by six wealthy Northerners (The secret six) several of which were Unitarian ministers rejecting biblical authority; another was a New York congressman. One was Dr. Samuel G. Howe whose wife Julia Ward Stowe would write the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" the original title of which was "John Brown's Body." These events put in place the seeds of a war which would provide for the destruction of individual liberty, self-responsibility and the Constitution as intended by our Forefathers.

1st Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson: Book Auctions: Jeff will be conducting his book auction monthly and donating the proceeds to the Camp's general fund. The November book is "*Chancellorsville - Lee's Greatest Battle*" by Edward J. Stackpole. This is a hardbound, 1958, first edition in very nice condition (no dustcover). The book has many excellent maps, a good selection of pictures, 384 pages.

Honoring our Confederate Soldier – October
4th Corporal Stephen B. Sweeney
Company B – 53rd Virginia Infantry

The 1860 Census for James City County shows Stephen age 22, farmer, married to Elizabeth age 20.

Stephen enlisted May 11, 1861, at West Point by H. B. Tomlin for 1 year. On April 30, 1862 he re-enlists for three years and receives a \$50 bounty.

August 28 to September 22, 1862 he is in Chimborazo Hosp. #3 with Remittant Fever.

Shown on the June, August, October and December, 1862 muster reports. Shown absent without leave from 21 December 62 to 7 January 63.

February, 1863 muster report notes the deduction of 2 months pay as the sentence of the court martial. This is per Court Martial G. O. #16 HQ Dept. Northern Virginia 2/9/63. Also sentenced “to cut wood and bring water to his company & regiment till 4-1-63.”

Stephen listed as a 4th Corporal on the August 31, 1864 muster report.

May 30, 1864 to September 5, 1864 he is in Chimborazo Hospital #5 and Howards Grove Hospital, Richmond, VA. with dibility. S. B. Sweeney receives clothing allowances 6-30 at Chimborazo and 7-13-1864 at Howards Grove Hospital.

December 31, 1864 he receives a clothing issue in Chester, Virginia.

Captured April 1, 1865 at Five Forks.

Received at Point Lookout Prison on April 6, 1865

Oath of Allegiance at Point Lookout Prison, Maryland on June 20, 1865. Stephen is recorded as a Corporal, fair complexion, brown hair, 5’ 7” from James City County.

The 1870 census in James City County shows Stephen as a carpenter, age 32. He and Elizabeth have a 2 yr. old boy and a 4 yr. old girl. In the 1880 census they have 5 children; 3 girls and 2 boys.

Stephen dies on/about September 27, 1919 at the age of 84 at his home near Toano, VA.

[Compiled Service Records – Confederate; United Daughters of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia – Micro Copy 324, Roll 951; Information provided by Fred Boelt from his upcoming book on James City County cemeteries; Gregory G., 53rd Virginia Infantry, Lynchburg, 1999, p. 194]

JAMES CITY COUNTY CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES

By Historian/Genealogist Fred Boelt

There are at least twenty Confederate veterans buried at Olive Branch Christian Church on Richmond Road near Toano. Twenty men and women met at Hill Pleasant farm in 1833 for Bible study and communion, and the church was formed from these early gatherings. The charter members followed the Disciples of Christ teachings of Alexander Campbell. Dr. Charles Miles Hubbard and his wife, Mary Henley Hubbard, donated land, and a few years later, the earliest part of the brick church was erected.

During the war, the Union army occupied the church, tore up most of the pews and flooring for firewood, and smoked up the interior walls to the extent that the church was left unusable. In 1866, restoration work was undertaken, services were again held there, and continue to the present day. Many of the veterans buried there were church members before the war and undoubtedly, helped to repair the damage done by their old enemy. It seems fitting that they rest in the shadow of their church that rose again like the Phoenix from the ruins left by the Union army. We will begin to look at the lives of some of these veterans.

Francis Ward Hammond, the son of M. L. and Laura Hammond, was born on October 4, 1821 in Brookhaven, Long Island, New York. After he graduated from Wesleyan University, he came to Virginia during the 1840s and lived with the Geddy family at White Hall. In an oral history, one of his granddaughters, Mary Mowbray Branch, said that she had letters indicating that he taught at Hickory Neck Academy at least during the years 1852-1855. On February 26, 1857, he married Mary Octavia Henley, daughter of Richardson L. Henley and his wife, Catherine Norvell Lightfoot Henley, of Hill Pleasant.

In a letter written on November 18, 1857 to his mother, Hammond told her that in October, he and Octavia had set up housekeeping about a mile from Mr. Henley's [present day home of the Bradshaws in Norge], and that he had taken a steamer to New York to buy their household goods. He continued to say that they had opened a school at their home and had about thirty students. He had employed a German gentleman to give piano lessons as well as instructions in French and German. Additionally, he had two boarding students, a son and a daughter of Mr. Edmund Wynne from York County, who would pay \$100.00 each for the ten month sessions. He was teaching the boys and older girls while Octavia was teaching the younger girls.

The Hammonds seem to have had four or five children. Their first son, born in May 1858, died in November 1859 and was buried at Hill Pleasant. The 1860 census listed no children in the Hammond household. A daughter, Catherine M., was born in 1861, and a daughter, Laura O., was born in 1866. [For those of you familiar with old Toano residents, Catherine was the mother of Joe Carlton and Laura was the mother of Hammond, Mary Mowbray, Margaret and Catherine Branch.] Another son, Frank, was born in 1869, but must have died young as well.

Francis Hammond enlisted in Company W, 3rd Virginia Cavalry on June 24, 1861. He was "discharged for overage" on July 16, 1862. He was listed on Colonel Allen's post war roster for the 5th Virginia Cavalry, so he may have transferred to the 5th Cavalry before he was discharged. There are a couple of references for Hammond's whereabouts during the war years after his discharge.

Referring back to Colonel Gordon's diary cited in last month's *Picket Lines*, after the Colonel's interview with Dr. Hubbard on June 18, 1863, the diary continued, "Hardly had the doctor turned his face homeward, when more cries for help were poured into my ears....Bringing up the rear, I acknowledge the salutation of the New York schoolmaster [Hammond], who discourseth of his continuing woes with, 'General, I have got my horse; but I can't take him home without your consent.' The woe-begone countenance has the precedence, and I listen while the translated New Yorker pleads: 'I know I am an object of suspicion among your soldiers, but I am almost distracted at the losses my family is suffering. My wife's parents [the Henleys] are old and feeble, and would not survive removal from their homes; we remain here, therefore on their account. Our fences are destroyed, our fields are open to your horses and mules, and they destroy our wheat and corn. Nor are these the worst of the evils we are called upon to endure; our servants are enticed away from our house; we have not one left to help us.'"

The dialogue continued about how Mr. Henley had asked for the Colonel's help in persuading his servants to stay at Hill Pleasant and how the request had been denied and, in fact, all of the servants had left. "Well, sir," replied the schoolmaster, 'we ask for and must rely on your protection; so powerless am I and so distracted am I at times, that I fear I am not in my right mind.'" From this, it seems that after Hammond was discharged in 1862, he remained in James City County with his family and his in-laws.

In a letter written from Chaffin's Farm on February 7, 1864, by Richard Henry Wynne, serving in the 32nd Virginia Infantry, to his sister, Mary Elizabeth Wynne at the Wynne farm on York point, he said, "I saw Mr. Hammond just before Christmas, the only time the peninsula was evacuated. He had two children when I saw him, but I have understood since that the youngest has died." Richard and Mollie Wynne were the boarding students at the Hammonds' school in 1857.

After the war, Francis Hammond and his family lived in the Holly Forks area, and he taught school there for the Richardson Family. By 1870, his occupation was listed as "oyster planter" in the census. His first wife died about 1872 and was buried at Hill Pleasant. Sometime after that, he married Alice Brown Hankins, daughter of George and Mary Savage Hankins. However, this marriage was cut short on December 2, 1876, when Alice died from Typhoid Fever. She was buried in the Hankins family cemetery at Marlbrook, later moved to the Hickory Neck Church cemetery. The 1880 census listed Hammond and his two daughters in the Croaker area, and his occupation was "waterman – oysters."

Francis Ward Hammond, the northerner who fought for the southern cause, died on November 4, 1894, and was buried at Olive Branch Church. Both of his daughters and most of their children are buried there with him.

Current Cemetery and Camp Projects: 2nd Lt. Commander Steve White

Peach Park Cemetery, Little Creek Dam Road and Forge Road

- Expand brush clearing along Little Creek Dam Road
- First National Flag replaced August 11, 2009

Sunnyside Cemetery, Forge Road

- Winter maintenance

Cowles-Spencer Cemetery, Theodore Allen Road

- Winter maintenance, removal of large tree and repair the chain link fence

Fort Magruder, Penniman Road

- Install mailbox for brochures
- Winter maintenance of the berm and clean up of the moat area

Richardson Road Cemetery Site, Hockaday Farm, New Kent County

- Future assessment of the site for restoration and clean-up

Clean-up dates for the above projects will be scheduled in the near future.

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. E-mail Commander Don Woolridge at 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>

**President Jefferson Davis and Sons
"Beauvoir"
Biloxi, Mississippi**

On Tuesday, Oct. 13, it was my pleasure to deliver my most recent sculpture to Mr. Rick Forte, Director of Beauvoir, Confederate President Jefferson Davis with son Joe and adopted son Jim Limber. The piece was unloaded and placed on its temporary mooring on the grounds of historic "Beauvoir", the last home for the Davis family.

In the near future, the figures will be installed at the entrance of the newly constructed Davis Presidential Library near his home. Commissioned by the Sons of Confederate Veterans, it was my pleasure and honor to sculpt this most important figure in Southern culture and history.

Jefferson Davis, Mexican War veteran, Congressman, Secretary of War and only President of the Southern Confederacy.
Gary Casteel, Sculptor
Lexington, Va.



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Thought for the Month

"The flags of the Confederate States of America were very important and a matter of great pride to those citizens living in the Confederacy. They are also a matter of great pride for their descendants as part of their heritage and history."

Winston Churchill





CAMP JOURNAL

October 28, 2009

- **Meeting:** Held 7:00 PM at Hog Wild, James City County, VA
 - 27 attendees
 - Welcome given by Commander Don Woolridge
 - Invocation: given by past Chaplin Bill Blizzard
 - Pledge and Salute to the Flags: US flag pledge, Virginia flag salute, and CS flag salute by Camp members
 - The Charge: was read by Compatriot Jerry White
 - Recognition of guests (9) by Commander Woolridge
 - Ancestral Memorial Candle: 4th Corporal Stephen B. Sweeny, Company "B", 53rd Virginia Infantry. Report read by Compatriot Charles Bush
 - No meeting break
 - Adjutant/Treasurer's Report: \$ Unknown as of 28 Oct 2009
 - Adjutant Parsons explained Camp dues disbursements
 - Spoke on State Fair experience
 - Compatriot Ray Adams gave report on Camp participation at State fair booth
- **Announcements:**
 - Continuation of various projects toward Outstanding Camp Award
 - *Adopt a soldier project entertained and approved*
 - *Sponsor the Sam Davis Youth Camp*
 - Commander addressed importance of voting in upcoming election for Republican candidate (McDonnell) who would support Confederate History Month
- **Upcoming events:**
 - Nov 14: Graham' Battery Living History at Newport News City Park
 - Nov 25: Monthly Camp meeting at Hog Wild
 - December 6: Mechanicsville, VA Christmas Parade
 - December 12-13: Christmas in the Field at Heritage Park in Windsor
 - December 23: Camp show & tell (*bring something for the Camp to view*)
 - Cemetery & Ft Magruder clean up-dates to be announced
- **October Minutes:** Approved as published in *Picket Lines*
- **Committee Reports:**
 - None
- **Old Business:** The Executive Committee meeting held earlier in the month discussed the following and presented to members for consideration and action as required:
- **New Business:**
 - Camp book auction generated \$65
 - Camp bus trip to various historical points of interest being planned for May 2010 by Compatriot David Ware. More to follow

- **Program:** Guest speaker Mr. Jack Marlar SCV Representative for the raising and preservation of the CSS Hunley. His presentation documented the many advanced engineering technologies and ingenuity utilized by our Southern forefathers in the design and construction of the CSS Hunley
 - If you enjoyed the presentation by Jack Marlar you are encouraged e-mail Jack a short thank you note at fieldrep1@scv.org
 - Compatriot and author Jerry White presented the speaker with a copy of his book, "Rebel and the Rose"
- **Benediction:** Given by past Chaplin Bill Blizzard
- Adjourned at 9:20 P.M. Next meeting scheduled for 25 Nov 2009

Respectfully submitted,

Robert H. Tuck