

September 2009

Williamsburg, Virginia

**Last Meeting:** Our last meeting had 32 in attendance. Our program was presented by our **1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson**. Jeff is a nationally recognized author and lecturer. He gave an interesting presentation on his most recent book “*Send Me an Old Pair of Boots and Kiss My little Girls*” based on the letters of Capt Richard & Mary Watkins of Prince Edward County.



1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Jeff Toalson

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be at "Hog Wild Smokehouse Restaurant" at 8864 Richmond Road, Toano, VA 23168 [www.hogwildsmokehouse.com](http://www.hogwildsmokehouse.com) on September 23 at 7pm. Guest speaker will be **Terry Thomann** - Director of Civil War Life - The Soldier's Museum, Fredericksburg, Va. Mr. Thomann will present "Photography in the Civil War".

**Executive Committee Meeting:** The Camp Executive Committee met on September 8, 2009 at "Hog Wild Smokehouse." Members present were Don Woolridge, Ken Parsons, Jeff Toalson, Jerry White, Fred Breeden and Steve White. The following topics were discussed;

- Smoke free Camp meetings
- Status of dues payments
- Outstanding Camp Award progress
- Cemetery Projects
  - Develop a register of known Confederate graves in James City, New Kent and Charles City Counties
  - Future work at Ft. Magruder and new gravesites
- Book placement in area High Schools and public libraries progress report
  - Camp author's publications
- Savings and bank account update
- State Fair staffing

- Develop a Social/Welfare Committee

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

**Commander Don Woolridge:**

In the past couple of weeks the news has been full of stories of big corporations wanting to build close to the hallowed ground of our War Between the States battlefields. The first being located next to the Wilderness Battlefield and second the US Military is proposing a fifteen story hotel next to the Petersburg National Battlefield. When we read news stories of this nature it should reinforce in our minds that our history is slowly slipping away. We as descendants of the brave men that fought on both sides have an obligation to preserve these areas as well as preserving their heritage. James City Cavalry has undertaken numerous preservation projects, especially with the cemetery restoration and maintenance. Although the war was only four years in duration the principles and cause with State's rights to sovereignty long preceded it and still exist today. There are many people in today's society that would like to erase this period in history because of predisposed and education imparted notions as to the cause of the war.

A good example of public approval of our efforts came to my attention recently when I was provided with comments posted on a geo-caching website (GPS Treasure Hunters). The treasure hunters have a locator site at Peach Park Cemetery. It is apparent from the positive comments that there is a vast amount of people that are appreciative of our efforts in preserving our Confederate history. One important step is with public awareness that these sites exist and are right in their own community. James City Cavalry compatriots have taken a commendable pace in the heritage preservation efforts for the future. It is our duty to our ancestors to preserve their heritage, valiant contribution and especially now, their final resting places.

**Adjutant Ken Parsons:**

Compatriots...At this month's Executive Committee meeting we discussed the need to have better communications with our membership. We feel a need to recognize members who are sick, in the hospital or recovering from some mishap or surgery. Also members who may have a family member that is sick, having surgery or experienced a death in the family. We would also like to remember the birthdays of our members. We feel these remembrances would strengthen our camp.

We would like to have your input in naming a committee. Serving on the committee will help connect our compatriots who may need to hear from the Camp. The above suggested committee will help us retain our existing membership level.

You will be pleased to know we will be inducting two new members at the September meeting; George Bridewell and Martin "Sparky" Harcourt. In addition, we have two more prospective members in the process of approval for membership. This is great news and a good showing of our goal to keep growing.

## **State Fair:**

We are now being requested to work the booth at the State Fair on either Sunday 9/27 or Monday 9/28. Please let me know which day you can help with this Virginia Division project. I have worked it several times in the last few years and believe me it is a fun thing to do. I have met some of the nicest, supportive people in Virginia at the fair. I will probably go both days even if the Camp membership cannot go along with me on either day. **So, come on lets go to the fair!**

## **Past Commander David Ware: “The Cause for Which We Fought”**

The forced movement of Africans to other parts of the world began in the ninth century and continued legally until the late part of the nineteenth century. During this period of about a thousand years, there were two great waves of African slave trading. The trans-Sahara wave carried slaves to be sold in the Mediterranean Sea area and in the countries of northern Africa. This wave lasted from the ninth until the fifteenth century. These slave traders were non-European Moslems.

The second great wave began in the mid fourteen hundreds and lasted until the end of slavery in the Western Hemisphere in 1888 when Brazil banned the practice. This was the European slave trade and was begun by Portugal. Later, England, Spain, the Dutch and New Englanders would take part in this commerce. These waves were similar in that each lasted about five hundred years, each was responsible for about ten million Negroes being taken from Africa, each was carried on by religious people, one Moslem, one Christian, each sanctioned by international law. The primary differences in the waves were that the Sahara route was a land route and the other, a route across the Atlantic.

J. C. Furnas in *The Road to Harper's Ferry* observes that ninety nine percent of the Negroes shipped in the Trans Atlantic trade were already slaves. He notes that “kidnapping of free Negroes remained most exceptional.” He further explained: “the Guinea trade went best when the Negro trader on the other side of the bargain was confident of his own safety...kidnapping (by a European) aroused the keenest resentment, for it defrauded the local chief of his dues and the native traders of their opportunities.” The position taken by the West Africans was that this enterprise was the rightful monopoly of themselves and not of white Europeans.

Around 1619, an uninvited Dutch ship landed at Jamestown and sold the first slaves in the colonies. In 1637, the first slave ship was equipped in America. The *Desire* sailed from Salem, Massachusetts and began the Yankee slave trade that would provide financial capital to the North for the next two hundred years. The New England slave trade was based on rum, slaves and molasses. Rum was the primary preservative for flour, meats and other foods. Molasses was a by-product of sugar produced in the West Indies. In New England, rum and fish would be loaded to be traded in Africa for slaves to be traded in the West Indies for molasses. The molasses would then be taken back to New England to be sold to make more rum. After Congress outlawed the importation of slaves, Yankee salving ships found ready markets in the Caribbean and in South America. Ninety-four percent of the African slaves ended up in South America and the Caribbean, six percent ended up in the United States.

Africans were not the only enslaved people in the colonies. In Massachusetts, Native Americans were captured and traded for black slaves in the Caribbean. On June 29, 1658, county court at Salem put into motion the sale of two children whose parents were associated with Quakers.

In this era of politically correct history, it is hard for people to grasp that African slavery was

begun by Moslems and indigenous Africans, profited on by Yankees, the “necessary” war to free them was for six percent of the total trade, and that a full ninety four percent were emancipated without bloodshed.

**1<sup>st</sup> 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 September book will be “*Gardner's Photographic Sketchbook of the War.*” This book is soft bound and contains a marvelous collection of his war photographs. Gardner was an early Brady employee but went out on his own. Many of the great war photos that we assume are Brady photos are actually Gardner.

## **Honoring our Confederate Soldier – August**

### **Captain Richard H. Watkins Company K “Prince Edward Dragoons” – 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry**

Richard was born June 4, 1825 in Prince Edward County.

The 1850 census lists as a lawyer with \$200 worth of real estate.

On August 24, 1858 Richard married Mary P. Dupuy of Prince Edward County.

The 1860 census lists Richard as a lawyer/farmer with real estate of \$10,000 and personal property (mostly slaves) (27) of \$25,000. Richard is 35, Mary is 21 and their daughter Emily is 1.

On June 24, 1861 Richard enlists in the Prince Edward Dragoons as a private.

On July 4, 1861 he is detached to the Commissary Dept. for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry.

Elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. on 4.25/62 during the re-organization of the Confederate armies.

Promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. on 4/27/62.

Promoted to Captain, following the battle of Sharpsburg, on 10/23/62.

*Oct. 28, 1862 – “My Precious Mary - . . . Darling what sort of a Captain do you think I will make . . . I am about as fit for the Captaincy of a Cavalry Company as I am for a Dancing Master . . . my mistake was in allowing myself to be elected Lieutenant . . . now like a bear who thrust his head into a bee hive, having eaten to my satisfaction, I stand with my head so swollen that I unable to extricate it . . .”*

Wounded in the head in a skirmish near Aldie on 10/31/62.

Horse killed during battle of Kelly’s Ford 3/17/63.

In Farmville General Hospital with debilities 8/25/63 to 9/4/63.

Horse wounded 9/19/64 at Winchester.

Wounded in left wrist at battle of Tom’s Brook 10/9/64. Hospitalized 10/64 to 2/65 at Gordonsville Cavalry Hospital and Farmville General. 3/31/65 transferred to the Invalid Corps.

Paroled 5/25/65 in Danville, Virginia.

Returned to Prince Edward County and farmed near Merherrin and later on a farm near Hampden College. Practiced law and was the senior partner in the firm of Watkins, Watkins and Brock of Farmville. Richard and Mary had 5 children; 4 girls (Emily, Mildred, Mary P., and Virginia) and 1 son (Asa).

Richard passed away 7/8/1905 (80 years of age) and is buried at Westview Cemetery, Farmville, Virginia.

*(Send Me a Pair of Old Boots & Kiss My Little Girls – The Civil War Letters of Richard & Mary Watkins, 1861-1865; Jeff Toalson, editor, Bloomington, 2009, p. x, 153, 360, 363.)*

## **JAMES CITY COUNTY CONFEDERATE GRAVESITES**

**By Historian/Genealogist Fred Boelt**

Continuing from last month's discussion of the Hubbard cemetery, Peter Tribble Cowles, the son of John and Drucilla Tribble Cowles, was born on August 23, 1844. He enlisted as a private in the James City Cavalry in Culpeper on April 1, 1863. He was present on rosters for November 1863 through April 1864. He was wounded in action in his right leg and captured at Burnt Ordinary on July 21, 1864, sent to Fort Monroe, transferred to Point Lookout, and exchanged on March 17, 1865. He was sent to a hospital in Richmond on the 19<sup>th</sup> with his old leg wound and was given a 60 day furlough on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March.

After the war on November 21, 1866, Peter Cowles married Laura F., daughter of Dr. Charles M. Hubbard and his wife, Mary Henley Hubbard. They lived at Grove Hill on Diascund Road across from Cowlesville and had twelve children. In addition to running his farm, he was appointed by the State Board of Education to be Superintendent of Schools for the county after the death of Colonel Allen in 1898. He died at his home on May 16, 1929. His funeral was held at Olive Branch and he was interred in the Hubbard family cemetery next door, along with his wife and at least seven of their children. His obituary stated that he was "the last survivor of the Confederate Army in James City County at the time of his death." He had been a member of the Magruder-Ewell Camp, Confederate Veterans. Compatriot Billy Hynes of our camp is great, great grandson of Peter and Laura Cowles.

George W. Tyree, a native of New Kent County, was born in July 1836. When the war broke out, he was farming in New Kent County. Based on the pension application records, G. W. Tyree of New Kent and later James City Counties stated that he enlisted in Williamsburg on May 9, 1861 into the 3rd Virginia Cavalry, and that he later served in Company H, 5<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry; and that he served until the surrender at Appomattox Courthouse. He was requested by General Wise to act as a guide in December 1862 and January 1863. He was paid as a Forage Master in June and July following and his sorrel mare was killed at Brandy Station on October 11. After that, he was absent on horse duty for November and December. He was present on rosters for January through April 1864, but was wounded in action during that period. Tyree was issued clothing in July but there is no official record after that entry.

After the war, George Tyree was living in James City County when the 1870 census was taken. He was single and listed as a lumber man. On April 9, 1872, he married Bettie M. Cowles, daughter of John and Drucilla and sister of Peter Cowles, and they had three children. If the

census-taker followed any logical order, they lived either on a portion of Cowlesville or on an adjacent farm. Bettie died in 1908 and is buried at Cowlesville. On his pension application filed the same year, he stated that he could no longer farm due to general disability and partial loss of sight and that he was a member of the Magruder-Ewell Camp, Confederate Veterans. George Tyree died in February 1917 and was buried in the Hubbard cemetery. His obituary included, "The men who followed Lee are falling like autumn leaves to enrich their mother earth, till few are left to tell the tale of their privations and hardships." His two daughters, Louise Cowles Tyree (1876-1913) and Anne Ruby Tyree (1874-1943) are buried there as well. A direct connection between the Tyrees and the Hubbards so far has eluded the author. These are the only three graves in the Hubbard family cemetery that do not seem to be "family." Perhaps George Tyree's brother-in-law, Peter Cowles, played some part in his being buried there.

As stated last month, there is also a Union Army veteran buried in the Hubbard cemetery. So far, we know that John L. Waterman was born in Massachusetts in 1842. The closest match located for his service record is that he served in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Massachusetts Infantry. If we have the right man, he entered as a corporal and was a sergeant at the end of the war. On January 18, 1866, he married Lizzie M. Hubbard, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Hubbard, in James City County. At that time, his residence was listed in the Marriage Register as Harrisville, New Hampshire, and his occupation as Lieutenant, U. S. A. Was this the culmination of a wartime romance? The 23<sup>rd</sup> was in Virginia at various times and was nearby in Newport News and Yorktown in 1863. For whatever reasons, this Union officer came back to Virginia, married, and had three children by 1873 when his wife died. His young son had died a year earlier. John Waterman died on November 20, 1879 and was buried in with his wife and son in the Hubbard cemetery. His two daughters, Maud and Lizzie, lived with their grandmother, Mary Hubbard, and were included in her will. They, ultimately, joined their family in the cemetery as well.

### **Current Cemetery and Camp Projects: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

- 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](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>

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### Thought for the Month

**"If we were wrong in our contest, then the Declaration of Independence of 1776 was a grave mistake and the revolution to which it led was a crime. If Washington was a patriot; Lee cannot have been a rebel."**

**General Wade Hampton** 