

Brief Biographies of Veterans of the Civil War Buried in the Cemetery

The biographies shown below for the five (5) veterans of the Civil War buried in the cemetery have been provided by the **Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV)** organization. The biographies have been published in the James City Cavalry Picket Lines, the newsletter of the local chapter. “The James City Cavalry, SCV Camp 2095, believes the honoring of our Confederate ancestors is an essential part of maintaining and perpetuating the ‘Confederate soldier’s good name and the guardianship of his history’...”² The James City Cavalry, SVC organization honors the five Civil War Veterans buried in the James City Chapel Cemetery by providing a Confederate flag on each of the graves on a continuing basis. Appreciation is expressed to the James City Cavalry for that service, and to Mr. Fred Boelt for permission to include excerpts from his military biography articles. Each of these veterans was from the Toano community. Upon their return, each one served the community in his own way to help the community to grow and prosper, making Toano the economic center of James City County in the late 1900’s and early 1900’s.

James City Cavalry Picket Lines Newsletters, dated April and May 2009 (Excerpts were taken from both.³)

Dandridge Wesley Marston, the son of Dandridge Watkins Marston and his first wife, Ann Eliza Morris, was born on July 22, 1845. His father had purchased Variety Grove on Old Forge Road around 1843, so it is probable that he was born there. He enlisted in Richmond as a private in Company H, 5th Virginia Cavalry on June 1, 1862, and the rolls indicate that he was in a Richmond hospital for most of July and August of that year. Sketchy records of presence and absence run through late 1863 and early 1864. He was captured in Burnt Ordinary on July 24, 1864, sent to Fort Monroe, and then transferred to Point Lookout. He was exchanged on February 1, 1865 and was listed as sick in a Richmond hospital on the next day. He was furloughed for forty days on the 21st and his service record ended there.

Dandridge Marston married Ann Eliza Warren and they lived, with their seven children, on the tract of land now occupied by the Burnt Ordinary Apartments in Toano. He was a merchant and operated a general store on the front of his property, which later became the Wilkinson and Geddy store. He was a member of the Magruder-Ewell Camp, CV (Confederate Veterans). He died in Richmond on December 20, 1913 and his obituary stated, “Mr. Marston was widely known in the business and social circles of the Peninsula and was one of the wealthiest citizens of Toano.”

Enoch Timothy Martin was born on April 2, 1842 at his parents’ home, Aspen Grove, on Old Forge Road in Burnt Ordinary. He was one of sixteen children born to John T. Martin and his wife, Sarah A. Beal. The records that do exist indicate that many of the Martin family were active members at James City Chapel. The roster for the James City Artillery states that Martin enlisted at Williamsburg on May 16, 1861. This unit was originally raised as Company H, 32nd Virginia

Infantry, but it was reassigned as Company B, 1st Virginia Artillery Regiment. He was absent (sick) on April 20, 1862 and was present on all other rolls through December 31, 1864. He returned home, married Ann Bannister Wilkinson, bought Lombardy, and they spent the rest of their lives on Old Forge Road. Enoch Martin died on June 10, 1920 and was buried at James City Chapel.

Cornelius Wesley Taylor, born May 5, 1841, was the son of Pinkethman A. Taylor and his wife, Susan Bowis Marston. Census and court records indicate that Pinkethman was a teacher, county coroner, Methodist clergyman and farmer at different times. He served at James City Chapel. Cornelius Taylor enlisted at Williamsburg in the James City Artillery on May 16, 1861 as 3rd sergeant. He was defeated in reelection on May 12, 1862 and reduced to the rank of private. He was in Chimborazo Hospital # 1 in July 1863 and present on all rolls through December 1864.

After the war, Cornelius Taylor returned to James City County and the 1870 census listed his occupation as "clerk in store." He married Clarinda Lightfoot Hankins on November 27, 1873; they had six children, and were living on and farming his mother's land by the 1880 census. Cornelius Taylor died on October 25, 1892 and was buried at James City Chapel.

William P. Taylor, born c. 1843, was the son of Pinkethman A. Taylor and his wife, Susan Bowis Marston. The 1860 census listed him at age 17, living in his parents' household. On June 24, 1861, he enlisted in the James City Artillery at Williamsburg, just a month after his older brother, Cornelius Wesley Taylor, had enlisted in the same unit. William was absent, sick on the February and April 1862 rolls, present through April 1863, furloughed in May and June, but he was in Chimborazo Hospital #1 from July 25 to September 5, 1863. He was present on all other rolls through December 1864.

After the war, William Taylor returned to James City County and on May 28, 1868, he married Mary Virgilia (Gillie) Hankins, widow of Thomas J. Taylor (who had also served in the JC Artillery and died at City Point, Virginia on April 17, 1865, having suffered multiple wounds at Five Forks on April 1st). William and Gillie had five children and farmed until his early death on June 14, 1888. He was buried with other family members in the James City Chapel Cemetery.

William (M.⁴) Wilkinson was born on September 25, 1840. He was the son of Cary Wilkinson and his wife, Mary R. McCandlish and the family was living at Merry Oaks near Burnt Ordinary in 1860. William Wilkinson enlisted in the James City Artillery at Petersburg on June 15, 1863. He was present on all rolls through December 1864. After the war, Wilkinson returned to James City County where he farmed. He married Elizabeth Marston Power and they had eight children. William Wilkinson died on August 14, 1902 and is buried at James City Chapel. His obituary said that he "had served his state valiantly in the Civil War. Mr. Wilkinson was well known here and was highly esteemed for his high Christian character and gentle manners."

Frederick W. Boelt

It is indeed appropriate for these five brave Confederate veterans to be laid to rest in the James City Chapel Cemetery among their relatives and friends. These men, and many of their relatives played important roles in the life of the James City Chapel, Mount Vernon Methodist Church in Toano, and Kelton Methodist Church in Kelton (now Lightfoot).

¹ Question about William Wilkinson's middle name or initial? The wedding announcement for the July 24th, 1907 wedding of his daughter, Nora Bannister listed that she was the daughter of the late W. M. Wilkinson of Toano. That is the accepted name used in this document. The settlement of the estate of Eliza's mother's estate in May 29th, 1901 said that Eliza's husband was "W. W." Wilkinson. He was a party to the settlement and his name is listed as W. W. Wilkinson. In the Laurel Spring Archeological and History Report in 2002 Eliza Wilkinson's husband was listed a "W. A." Wilkinson. Since there were other errors in that document, "W. A." is believed to be incorrect.

² Sons of Confederate Veterans, James City Cavalry Website , <http://www.jamescitycavalry.org/>

³ Excerpts from two articles written by Fred Boelt and published in the April and May 2009 issues of the **James City Cavalry Picket Lines**, newsletter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Camp 2095, James City County.

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