

Providence Forge

Nov. 2nd 1935-Va

Mr. Donald W. Davis.

Commander Peninsula Post No. 39

American Legion

Williamsburg Va.

My Dear Mr Davis,

Your very kind invitation for November The 15th at The Mayfield Inn. Woods, has been duly received.

My military career began when General Robt. E. Lee was made the Commander of The War Forces, with his office in Richmond.

I served as Engineer for Genl. John B. Magruder at Yorktown and at "Lee Hall" where our headquarters were removed to before Genl. Johnston relieved our Army, under the request of Genl. Magruder.

The fortifications at Williamsburg were constructed by order of Genl. Magruder, over which the battle was fought.

I was present at the battle

of "Bethel", The first Battle of
The year.

The Commanding Confederate officers
of Fresh Bay were, Lieut. John B. ^{Magruder}
Lieut. D. H. Hill, Lt. Col. Edgar
Montague and one of The Company
of Horitzell, I think under The
Commanding officer's name.

General Hill commanded The
first North Carolina Infantry and
occupied The position on The left of
The road opposite The monument
which stands at Bethel.

My career in The Confederate Army
ended in Texas under General
E. Kirby Smith who commanded
The Dept. and I was Chief Engineer.
I filed with The Dept. of The
Confederate Museum at Richmond
five commissions which I held
under The Confederate Government.

I constructed at C. Laffin's Bluff
on The James River The Defenses at
Fresh place, under The direction
of Genl. Robt. E. Lee. The note from

General Lee ^{3rd} ~~from~~ ^{to} Johnston
calling me to Richmond from
The Army in the field, was written
by Genl. Robt. E. Lee and signed
by Genls. Johnston & Magruder
when we were on the North Side
of the Chickahominy River on
our retreat from the Peninsula.

The Dash Battle of Hool's Mills
Texas Brigade of Culled near
"Elthum" where Whiting had been
sent by Genl. Johnston to meet
of McClellan's Army which had
been sent up the York River.

There are many other incidents
of my military career which might
mention and would be interesting
to you I have no doubt but I will
be unable in consequence of my
poor health to be present at
the meeting to which you have
so kindly invited me.

I commanded a Brigade in
The 7th Corps of The U.S. Army in
Cuba, commanded by Genl. Fitzgibbon
Lee. Wishing you a very happy

meeting at Focus and regretting
exceedingly my inability to
be present

I am with great
Respect

Your Obedt. Servt.
H. S. Douglas