

## Civil War Roundtable Richmond, VA trip – March 21-23, 2014

This was an interesting trip as it took us to locations we had not been to before and introduced us to facilities which played an integral part in the war effort.

One of the most impressive and meaningful events on all of these trips is a visit to a military cemetery where we honor local people who had been



killed in the war. Scott Britton reads about an individual and then people are selected from the group to place a flag beside the grave stone. This was the first time we were given this privilege and it was a very moving experience. This is one of the



things that make these trips with the Civil War Roundtable so special. Not only does the group pay honor to those local people from Washington County, but they include Wood County, WV as well. The photo at the

right shows the monument dedicated to the four Smith brothers from Williamstown.



The visit to City Point near Petersburg, VA was very interesting. We saw a reconstructed cabin that had



served as the headquarters of General Grant during the siege of Petersburg. City Point is located at the confluence of the James and Appomattox Rivers and became a large Union port during this phase of the war and a supply hub. In 1864, a bomb was placed on one of the ships by a Confederate saboteur and the resulting explosion killed many people and resulted in massive destruction to the wharf. City Point was also a location that was visited twice by President Abraham

Lincoln – in 1864, and just a week before he was assassinated in April of 1865.

The Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond, VA was owned by Joseph Anderson who used slave labor to run his factory. It was one of the largest in the country before the war and the largest in the South during the war. It supplied half of the artillery for the Confederate war effort and iron plating for the USS Virginia. It also built locomotives. Anderson served in the Confederacy during the war and paid to have it protected when the Confederate Army left the city. After the war Anderson applied to President Andrew Johnson for a pardon for himself and Tredegar and was back in business before the end of 1865. Thus, it is one of the few industrial sites in Richmond which was not destroyed when the Confederates burned the city. It continued operations until the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

