



***Camp Cresset  
Finley's Brigade  
Camp #1614  
Havana, Florida***



***Recipient – 2011 and 2012 Dr. George R. Tabor “Most Distinguished Camp” Award***

***"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."***

**Camp Officers**

***Commander***

Graham F. Smith

***1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander***

Marshall Carroll

***2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander***

Bill Beckham

***Adjutant/Secretary***

Ellis Harvey

***3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Commander/Chaplain***

Kelly V. Crocker

***Color Sergeant***

Anthony Harvey

***Color Guard Drill Instructor***

Richard Witt

***Past Commanders***

Bill Beckham

Marshall Carroll

Doug Croley

**Editor's Comments**

*David R. Cline*

Greetings Compatriots! If you get this issue before Saturday, I look forward to seeing you Saturday at the Lee/Jackson Southern Heritage Event. If I do not see you, know that you were missed, but I am sure you will read all about it in next month's issue.

The Finley's Color Guard had to split up into two groups to be able to attend two events on the same day. You will read about those events in this issue. Kudos go out to Compatriots Richard Witt, Marshall Carroll, and Commander Smith in coordinating both the events simultaneously.

The Order of Confederate Rose Florida Society Corp essay contest is underway to send a child to the Sam Davis Youth Camp. Encourage a child in your life to apply. My daughter won the contest last year and we had a great Southern experience and learned a lot. I will be taking my daughters again this summer and will be available to transport others from Florida to the camp in Virginia.

## Commander's Comments

*Graham F. Smith*

While performing research on my Confederate ancestors of North Carolina a couple years ago I came across the following newspaper article/letter to the editor written and submitted by my Great-Great Grandfather John A. Stikeleather. This man, other than having served as Ensign (flag bearer) for Company A, 4th North Carolina State Troops did what he could to ensure one destitute Confederate soldier was provided for. This is an instance of his caring and generosity extended to a fellow veteran. In May 1888, his article below was published in the newspaper The Landmark in Statesville, North Carolina:

*To the editor of The Landmark:  
In The Landmark of May 3d you ask, "Who is he?" and then give a statement in regard to an insane ex-Confederate soldier in indigent circumstances, by the name of Charles M. Eidson, now in Mississippi. This unfortunate man belonged to Company A. Capt. Simonton's company of the 4th North Carolina regiment. Mr. Eidson was familiarly known in Company A as Momen Eidson. He was the son of the late Charles Eidson, who died last October a few miles north of Olin. Momen Eidson was with the 4th regiment until the spring of 1862, and left for the hospital just before we broke up camp at Manassas. In consequence of his bad health he never did any more active service in the regiment. Momen Eidson was a messmate of the writer, a good natured, social fellow, without much fondness for the stern realities of war, but until disabled himself by sickness, was one of the best nurses in the regiment. Mr. Eidson left Iredell*

*soon after the close of the war, and has not, to my knowledge, been back since.*

*Enclosed find one dollar, which you will please send to Col. T.J. Formsby, Burnsville, Miss., for the use of the unfortunate old soldier. Perhaps others would like to do something for him and I suggest the The Landmark office as a good place for the same.*

*J.A. STIKELEATHER, Olin, N.C.,  
May 7, 1888*

*In accordance with a suggestion in a private letter from Capt. Stikeleather, we will hold his contribution for a week or two in order to see if any of our other citizens want to add to it. If so, we will take pleasure in receiving and forwarding the money, acknowledging in the paper the receipt of such funds.*

Since finding this article I have given much thought to the character of my Great-Great Grandfather. Obviously, he was a caring soul thinking of his fellow man, messmate, and Confederate soldier. He showed concern and compassion for his war-time comrade who had fallen on hard times. John Stikeleather was an ordinary citizen in his community but felt the need to provide what he could and give an identity to the "unfortunate soldier", a Confederate veteran who had, (24 years previous) taken a stand to defend his country.

I've thought of this in relation to the cause we, Finley's Brigade, have recently undertaken with the Tallahassee Veterans' Village. The similarities of my Great-Great Grandfather's situation and the one we have undertaken are uncanny. Just like him, we have recognized that there are fellow human beings who have been defenders of our country that due to circumstances in their lives could be considered "unfortunate soldiers." These

men and women have, for whatever reason, fallen on hard times and are doing their best to regain their identities and reenter a society as productive citizens.

The soldier in my Great Great Grandfather's article had no identity and was identified as "insane" and in "indigent circumstances." The men and women of Veterans' Village are obviously not insane but are indigent in that they lack the necessities of life like food, clothing, and shelter. All that these veterans need is for the grateful citizens of this nation to care enough to stand with them through an adjustment period in their lives and give them an opportunity to get back on their feet.

Our efforts to support these veterans go beyond simple "patriotism". As with the veterans of previous wars that made this country as great as it is today, all of these people made a commitment to the citizens of the United States (you and me) to defend our country from enemies both foreign and domestic. They deserve better treatment than they often receive by the public at large, and any effort to reach out to, and lift up, the men and women who sacrificed, suffered, and endured great hardship on our behalf is a truly worthy cause. As descendants of Confederate soldiers, we truly understand what it means for valiant soldiers to be forgotten, or to have the cause they fought for dishonored by those who don't understand or simply wish to revise history. We must not forget these veterans who, at one time joined the military and figuratively speaking, wrote a check to the people of the United States, an amount up to and including their lives so that we and other people of the world can remain safe and free.

Like John A. Stikeleather, we need to reach out with compassion and humility to those veterans who are in need of a helping hand. There is a "camp" of them right here in our

community. We can help them with contributions of the very basic necessities of life like clothing, food, toilet articles (soap, shampoo, razors, tooth brushes, tooth paste, bathroom tissue, and deodorant), and etc.

At the March Camp meeting we will have Shawn Noles, a representative from the Tallahassee Veterans Village, present a program and tell us about their facility and what we can do to support and lend a helping hand to these "unfortunate soldiers."

### **Color Guard – Kinchen Re-internment** *Marshall Carroll*

January 12, 2013 was one of those beautiful warm winter days that we in the South are so blessed with. It was on this day that Confederate Private Thomas A. Kinchen and his wife Annie were re-interred in the Providence Church Cemetery near Whigham Georgia. The Ochlocknee Rifles, Camp 1807, with the assistance of other likeminded Southerners planned and executed this once in a life time event. After all, how often do we get to attend the funeral of a Confederate veteran even as a re-interment? Finley's Brigade members Ellis and Anthony Harvey along with Lt. Carroll were there to assist with the ceremony. With them was Libby "Dixie Rose" Smith who photographed the entire event for prosperity.

The procession was led by the Alabama 3rd Calvary followed by two horses pulling the funeral wagon. The wagon contained two handcrafted pine coffins, one being draped with our 3rd National flag. Finley's Brigade members fell in behind with the riflemen. As we arrived on the hill of the cemetery a stiff breeze caused the flags to stand out as if at attention. They remained that way throughout the service. At the grave site the formalities and eulogies were delivered by Commander Robert Harrell, Georgia Division

Commander Bridwell and Reverend Nathan Fowler with banjo music and songs by Steve Grice. Mrs. Annette Harrell delivered a moving speech about the women that keep home and family together in those dark days in our land. Members of the Alexander H. Stephens Camp 78 of Americas, Georgia served as pallbearers. They lowered the coffins by rope as was done in days passed. After the rifle salute by the 4th Georgia Regiment, all the men in uniform approached the open grave for a final salute. I wonder if I was the only one there with a lump in my throat.



Finley's Color Guard members Marshall Carroll, Ellis Harvey, and Anthony.

## **Color Guard – Couliette Cemetery**

*Richard Witt*

On Saturday, January 12, 2013 the Finley's Brigade Color Guard had the honor of supporting the Theophilus West Camp in dedicating a headstone for Private John Thomas Couliette. Private Couliette was a native of South Carolina and enlisted in March of 1863 and was detailed as a nurse at the Confederate Hospital at Marianna and possibly participated in the Battle of Marianna.



Finley's Color Guard members David Cline, David Brinkley, Graham Smith, and Richard Witt.

We had a beautiful day with plenty of sunshine and a balmy breeze. The ceremony was conducted by the West Camp with an unveiling of the headstone and "Button and Rose" ceremony performed by Larry Clere of the West Camp and Barbara Witt of the Mary Ann Harvey Black Confederate Rose Society.



Barbara Witt

The family of Private Couliette was very impressed with the ceremony and

complimented our Color Guard on a precision team presentation of Colors.

Many thanks to the members of our Color Guard their participation and dedication to the "Cause".

### **Chaplain's Comments**

*Len Patterson Th.D.*

#### **Confederate Heroes!**

I already had a copy of our SCV Chaplain's Handbook, and also Chaplains in Gray by Charles F. Pitts. To these I added The Great Revival in the Southern Armies by W. W. Bennett and Christ in the Camp by J. William Jones, which I purchased at a recent National reunion. I completed reading (they're quite lengthy) and conducting a preliminary study of these books, and can't help but be greatly impressed at the insight and perspective they present on the life of our brave men in Gray. These books contain hundreds of letters and reports describing the hardship, suffering, tenacity, and dedication of the officers and men of our Southern armies. They were mostly submitted by Confederate Chaplains of a number of different denominations who worked together during the War for Southern Independence to present the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Confederate chaplains, colporters, and missionaries were in the trenches, they were in the camps, they were on the long hard marches, and they were in the hospitals. They were there and give first-hand accounts of what our Confederate soldiers thought, said, and how they acted. Our Confederate forefathers were not only Confederate patriots, but Confederate heroes.

They not only faced the enemy with brave determination, but their own death as well. Many a time a young soldier lying on the cold ground or crude hospital bed in severe pain, his body mangled by enemy shells, would say to the chaplain, "I am dying. Please write my

mother and tell her all is well, and I will meet her in heaven." The Scripture says, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." (Rev. 14:13)

We, as the Sons of Confederate Veterans, are charged to emulate their virtues, and perpetrate those ideals which made him glorious. It is our duty, our responsibility, and our honor to do so. So, let us be as faithful to our duty as they. Let us be as dedicated to our ideals as they. Let us be as committed to our Christian faith as they. And, let us be as they . . . Confederate heroes.

Brother Len Patterson, Th.D  
Chaplain, Army of Trans-Mississippi  
Sons of Confederate Veterans

### **Adopt a Road Committee**

*JR Miller*

We will be meeting on February 23, 2013 at 9:00 AM at the Confederate Monument at Natural Bridge.

### **Marie H. P. "Pilkie" Crawford Scholarship Award**

The Order of Confederate Rose Florida Society Corp (OCRFS) commenced their annual essay contest which provides tuition expenses for at least one young adult to the Sam Davis Youth Camp. The winners will be selected by their winning essay. The topic this year is: Who is your confederate hero, why, and what would you say to him or her? The Scholarship is open to children from age 12 to 20. Essay competition runs until March 15th. The essay must be at least 500 words. All entries must be postmarked by March 15th to qualify. For further information contact scholarship trustee: Lynda O'Neal, Past President OCRFS at [flrosepres@hotmail.com](mailto:flrosepres@hotmail.com)

Our meetings are always held on the second Tuesday of each and every month at the Golden Corral restaurant on North Monroe Street across from Lake Ella. The program will start promptly at 6:45 so be sure to arrive early (6:00) to enjoy a fine meal and socialize before the meeting starts.

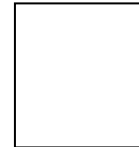
I hope to see you all there!

**Upcoming events**

For times, locations, and details for the following events please contact Commander Smith at [GFSmith@embarqmail.com](mailto:GFSmith@embarqmail.com) or 877-9183.

- February 2 - The Lee/Jackson Southern Heritage Event
- February 9 - Cemetery work day Plains, GA,
- February 9 - Torreya State Park Re-enactment
- February 12 - Finley's Camp Meeting
- February 15 - 17 - Olustee Battlefield Re-enactment
- February 23 - Adopt a Road cleanup day at Natural Bridge Road
- March 1 – 3 - Natural Bridge re-enactment
- March 2 – Family History Day at the Mormon Church

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