



***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."



The Original “Finley’s Brigade”

When I talk to people about the Sons of Confederate Veterans, I tell them with pride, that I am a member of Finley’s Brigade. We have long been a top caliber Camp, even before SCV HQ made it official by recognizing us as the “Most Distinguished Camp of the Year” a few years ago. All of us have a part in making our Camp, the “Best of the Best”. I hope that we will continue to serve in a way that brings honor to our Camp’s namesake.

Now, most of you know the biographical information on Jesse Johnson Finley. How he was born in Tennessee, was once mayor of Memphis, and how he practiced law. After moving to Jackson County, Florida, he continued his law career, served in the State Senate, and was elected as a judge in the Confederate court. In 1862, he resigned from the court, and enlisted as a private in Company D of the 6th Florida Infantry Regiment. He was immediately elected Captain and in less than a month promoted to Colonel of the 6th. But, how and when did Finley’s Brigade come to be?

Men from Florida served throughout the war on many fronts, in the CS Army, CS Navy, Marines, and Militia. Most Floridians served in either the Army of Northern Virginia (ANV) or the Army of Tennessee (AOT). The 2nd, 5th, and 8th Florida Infantry Regiments were quickly brigaded together in the ANV. They were later joined by the 9th, 10th, and 11th Infantry Regiments, with all six comprising the Florida Brigade in the ANV. However, Florida regiments in the AOT were not brigaded together until late in 1863 and were often parceled out to brigades from other states. Florida units served together at times but were never under a single command, or a General from Florida, until November of 1863. Florida units in the Army of Tennessee were the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 6th, and 7th Infantry Regiments, and the 1st Cavalry Regiment.

In October of 1863, AOT Commander, General Braxton Bragg, set out to reorganize the units under his command. The primary reason was to weed out officers who had been trying to get him sacked. The other reason was to streamline the commands of the shrinking Army of Tennessee. One of the changes that the General made was the consolidation of all Florida troops in the AOT, which created the Florida Brigade. The next decision that had to be made was; which one of the six Colonels in the brigade would become its commander? In the General's order he stipulated that the Florida Brigade would be commanded by the senior Colonel, until a General could be confirmed by Congress. Colonel William Scott Dilworth of Monticello was the senior Colonel, but he was on furlough at the time. Col. J.J. Finley was next in line and assumed temporary command of the new brigade. There was a lot of political wrangling going on for the promotion to General for this new brigade. General Simon B. Buckner had recommended both Colonels Troup Maxwell and Jesse Finley, while giving priority to Maxwell. Major General John C. Breckenridge had recommended Colonel Dilworth. Florida Governor John Milton appealed to President Davis to promote Col. Finley. In reality, Col. Finley was the only one in the running, since, President Davis liked General Bragg, and General Bragg liked Colonel Finley. Colonel Jesse Finley was promoted to Brigadier General on November 16, 1863.

The new structure of the Florida units and its Commander set well with the Florida troops. They now had their own brigade with their own General. The men respected and admired General Finley. The Florida Brigade soon became known as Finley's Brigade, and would keep that name until the end of the war, and then some. Finley's Brigade first fought together at Missionary Ridge, in late November of 1863. They performed bravely and received accolades from Generals Bragg, Breckenridge, and Bate.

The Army of Tennessee spent the first months of 1864, wintering near Dalton, Georgia. During this time, General Bragg stepped down as AOT Commander and was replaced with General Joseph E. Johnston. General Johnston's first priority was to build-up the morale of his worn-down army. He made sure that the men were paid, clothed, and fed. Brigadier General Finley took part in this effort also. What supplies he could not obtain through the Confederate Army; he appealed directly to Governor Milton for help. General Finley also sent troops to Florida to pick-up supplies donated by faithful Floridians.

Soldiers' letters from this time at Dalton tell us a little about General Finley. Washington Ives wrote ***"on Christmas Eve a crowd gathered around the General's tent as the Florida Brigade Band serenaded their commander. The band played "My Old Kentucky Home" and called for the General who responded with a short and appropriate speech. The band then, at Gen'l F's request played Dixie, Marseille, and a waltz known by the band as the 'Lovely Waltz'".*** Another letter by John Inglis recalls the General's participation in the famed snowball fight of March 22, 1864. It seems that Gen'l Finley led the Floridians and Kentuckians in attack on Stewart's Division. Inglis wrote that General Finley was at the head of his troops leading ***"with the enthusiasm of a School Boy"***. General Finley is also mentioned in the book "The Great Revival in the Southern Armies" where Reverend J. J. Hutchinson states ***"I preached to Gen. Finley's Brigade, where the General and his staff were present, and he united audibly with our prayers."***

By May the Confederate Army were engaged by the federals in what we now call the Atlanta Campaign. Early in the campaign, at Resaca, the General was twice wounded. The first came as an artillery shell impacted a tree near the Floridians line, sending splinters flying in every direction. John Hill reported "That one of these fragments struck General Finley in the face. He passed his hand over his face and saw blood

and remarked: ***'This is the first blood that I have lost in this war.'*** The next day another yankee artillery round severed a heavy limb from a tree near Finley's headquarters; in falling the limb crashed down on the General's shoulder. General Finley refused treatment for two days, until he was compelled to see the surgeon. A quick examination revealed that he had a broken collar bone and he was sent home to convalesce. General Finley rejoined his brigade in August 1864 at Jonesboro, Georgia. On August 31, 1864 the General was wounded again. In the War Between the States, most Brigadier Generals led from the front, and General Finley was no exception. In an attempt to rally the Florida boys at Jonesboro, an enemy round hit the General's foot and killed his mount. It has been written that ***'the General declined to be sent***

to the rear until all of his wounded were embarked, and that in doing so, he narrowly escaped capture.' Jesse J. Finley would never lead the Florida Brigade again, although he did continue to serve with General Cobb in Georgia. It is interesting that in his absence, the brigade was still known as Finley's Brigade. Even, Sam Watkins, author of "Company Aytch" refers to the Florida Brigade as ***'Finney's Floridians'*** in his account of the Battle of Franklin in December 1864.

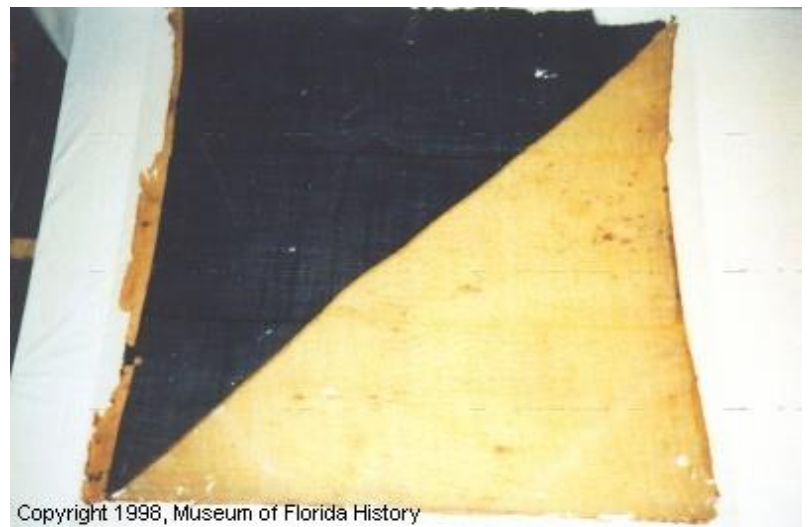


After the War, J. J. Finley returned to Florida where he had a long career in public service. He served in the Florida Legislature and in the Courtroom. He lived in Lake City and later in Gainesville, Florida where he has an elementary school named for him. The General and his family are buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Gainesville.

The Bible tells us that "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches", and I believe that "Finley's Brigade" is a good one.

Y'all think about it,
kelly

General Finley's Headquarters Flag



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**FRIENDS OF SOLDIERS CEMETERY
MEMORIAL BRICK PROGRAM**

What a perfect way to honor a veteran, family, event or business with a commemorative brick. The bricks will be incorporated in Soldiers Cemetery around a monument bearing the names of men who died in Gadsden County hospitals 1861-1865

ENGRAVING INFORMATION

4X8 brick contain three (3) lines with twenty (20) characters per line

8X8 brick contain six (6) lines with twenty (20) characters per line

Characters include all letters, numbers, punctuation and spaces

Price

4X8 75.00 each, 8X8 110.00 each

10.00 discount per brick for multiples

Payment Method

Name _____ Phone _____

Address or Email _____

Cash _____ Check _____ Card _____ Type AX MC Visa

Credit Card # _____ 3 Digit on back _____

Credit or Debit? _____ Expiration date _____ Zip Code _____

Mail to: **Friends of Soldiers Cemetery**
4315 Lonnie Gray Rd Tallahassee, Fl 32305
Phone 850-545-6804
Or e-mail to: vacarroll@msn.com

Over for order form

Your Name _____

Phone _____

Address or Email _____

Number of 4X8 _____ Number of 8X8 _____

Text for 4X8

Text for 4X8

Text for 8X8

Finley's Brigade New Shirts

Finley's Brigade has bought some new shirts and we are making them available to our members at a discount. Hopefully, they will be here by the May Meeting. These are "Dry-Wicking SPF Performance Shirts" or as I call them "Super High-Performance Fishing Shirts."

For SCV Members only.

Sizes XS-XL are \$35 each (for Finley's members) Sizes 2X-4X are \$40 each (for Finley's members) We have a minimum order to get the best price. Please notify Commander Crocker at kvcroadking@yahoo.com or 850-339-3051 (leave message) if interested. You can let us know at the June Camp meeting as well.



Georgia's Irish Militia.

By Compatriot JR Miller

The Irish Jasper Greens of Savannah Ga.

Before the Civil War, there was a growing population of Irish immigrants coming to Savannah in search of work. To help them feel more a part of their new home, many of these young Irish men got together, and formed their own military unit.

Formed in 1842 and named for Revolutionary War hero William Jasper who was killed in the 1779 siege of Savannah, Capt. John Foley's Irish Jasper Greens was one of Savannah's dominant volunteer militia companies, and the only one from Savannah to be accepted for service in the Mexican War.

At the start of the Civil War the Irish Jaspers tried unsuccessfully to expand to battalion size, but a second company was formed in May 1861. The two companies went into the 1st Georgia Volunteers (Mercer's) as Cos A & B and served at Fort Pulaski on the Georgia coast. The company was disciplined at both heavy artillery and infantry. Fortunately for these men, they were not at Fort Pulaski when it fell under heavy siege in April 1862.

The Irish Jaspers received a silk flag in August 1861: green on one side with an Irish harp and inscription "Irish Jasper Greens, 1842". and white on the other with the Georgia state seal and 11 gold stars.

The Irish Jasper Greens wore dark blue shakos with white feather plumes and wreathed "IJG" insignia; dark blue coats with a single row of brass buttons, and green collars and cuffs; and dark blue pants with green stripes edged with buff. They later adopted gray Confederate uniforms, as did the rest of the 1st Georgia.



Meals at the VFW

For the record: If you eat there, you must purchase a meal ticket first! You can do that at the bar when you get your non-alcoholic beverage. It is customary to tip. All employees of the VFW Post 3308 are strictly volunteer. Five bucks for some tacos and one dollar for a soda-water aint bad. Pop for a tip now and then.

Tallahassee Veterans Village

Finley's Brigade has been a sponsor of the TVV for many years. Veterans need food! Veterans need linens! Whoever brings the most to the May Camp meeting will win a free book! Bring a can good with you to the meeting! **The Veterans Village needs Can goods and Dry-food. Toiletries are always needed.**

Heritage Opportunities

Jun 7-9 – SCV Florida Division Reunion in Ocala, Florida

Jun 11 – Regular Camp Meeting at VFW

Jun 15 – Adopt-a-Road at Natural Bridge ay 7:30 am

July 9 – Regular Camp Meeting at VFW

July 10-13 SCV National Reunion in Mobile, AL

Nov 10 – Annual Captain Henry Wirz Memorial Service, Andersonville, GA 3 PM

For times, locations, and details for the following events please contact Commander Crocker at commander@finleysbrigadescv.com or 850-339-3051.



African Christian freedom fighters holding the St. Andrews Cross while defending their families.