



## *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."***



### **Recent Event: Adopt a Road**

On September 15<sup>th</sup> we had an excellent showing to our quarterly adopt a road commitment near Natural Bridge. Our crew showed up bright and early around 8:30, split into teams, and knocked out the two mile stretch we have to patrol in only about an hour. Thanks to compatriots Anthony & Ellis Harvey, Jim Windsor, Jay Lindsey, Ned Roberts, Marshall Carroll, Keith Lassiter, Kelly Crocker, Tim Cotton, and Tom Williams.



***This month's meeting will be dedicated to the memory of Private Alexander "Alec" Haire of the 55<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry. Prisoner of war and 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather of compatriot Stan Willis.***

### **Recent Event: Marianna Memorial Service**

On September 29 our color guard participated in the Theophilus West M.D. Camp's memorial service in Marianna with Camp Commander Crocker acting as the keynote speaker. It was, as it typically is, a small event held in downtown Marianna at one of the two confederate monuments in the town. This service has run over a century and it is our honor that year after year our color guard has had the opportunity to participate. After the event several of our members drove west to Chipley where other members were participating with the North Florida Artillery at the Washington County Heritage Festival where they were firing an artillery piece every forty-five minutes. Thanks to all who participated in one, the other, or both.



### **Confederate Trivia of the Month**

1. All of the following confederate generals were teetotalers except for?
  - A. Jeb Stuart
  - B. Nathan B. Forrest
  - C. Patrick Cleburne
  - D. Stonewall Jackson
2. Judah P. Benjamin lived out his post-war life in exile where?
  - A. Holland
  - B. Paraguay
  - C. Britain
  - D. Turkey
3. Laurell Hill Farm is the birthplace of which confederate general?
  - A. Leonidas Polk
  - B. Braxton Bragg
  - C. William Nelson Pendleton
  - D. Jeb Stuart
4. How many men served as Confederate Secretary of War?
  - A. 2
  - B. 3
  - C. 4
  - D. 5
5. James Longstreet converted to what faith after the war?
  - A. Mormonism
  - B. Catholicism
  - C. Presbyterianism
  - D. Fifth Monarchism

*See last page for answers*

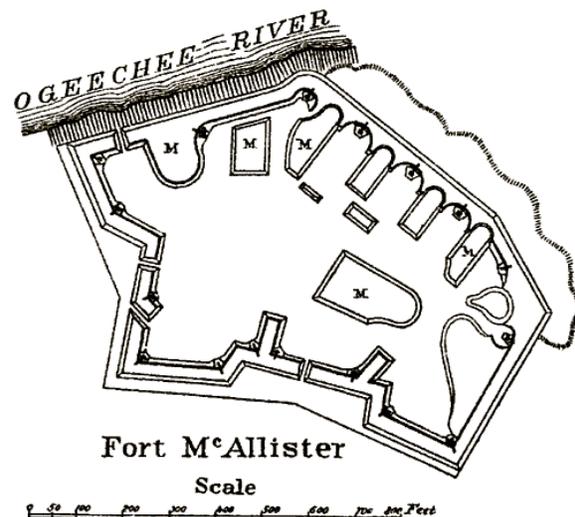
## **Fort McAllister.** **By Compatriot J.R. Miller**

Fort McAllister was one of three forts protecting Savannah, the others being Fort Pulaski and Fort James Jackson standing in Confederate defiance of the Union naval blockade. It was the southernmost of the forts defending Savannah and was involved in the most battles. Fort McAllister was the key to unlocking the defenses around Savannah, one of the most important Confederate ports on the Atlantic Ocean.

Fort McAllister was designed by Capt. John McCrady. In 1861 Gen. Robert E. Lee inspected the fort and recommended making it stronger. McCrady made the changes recommended by Lee and the earthen walls were better able to withstand bombardment from artillery fire. The fort had seven cannon emplacements. The bombproof area in the center housed a hospital, supply area, barracks, officer's quarters, gun power, and additional guns. A 10-inch mortar was kept outside the fort to keep it from shaking the dirt off the walls when it was fired. On December 13, 1864, Gen. William T. Sherman reached the fort on his March to the Sea. Gen. William B. Hazen's infantry division attacked the fort, defended by Maj. George Wayne Anderson and some 230 troops. The Union force overpowered the fort's defenders in about 15 minutes of battle. Fort McAllister was the last fort defending Savannah. After it fell, Gen. William J. Hardee withdrew his 10,000 troops that were defending Savannah and Sherman captured the city without resistance. Sherman's army abandoned the fort and burned its bunkers.

General Sherman and his staff, along with the Signal Corps, observed the attack from Cheve's Rice Mill, about 3 miles from the fort. As they stood on the roof of the mill, nervously awaiting the assault to begin, a staff member remarked "George Anderson is in command, General; the flag will never be lowered. You will have to capture that fort." He knew Anderson from boyhood, and that he would not surrender, even with his forces outnumbered 25 to 1.

Fort McAllister proved not only to be resilient, but fall gave birth to some of the kindness and compassion that would ease reconciliation. After Union forces under General Hazen's 2nd Division attacked, the 47th and 70th Ohio, 90th and 111th Illinois overwhelmed the defenders. Attacking from sides, as well as along the riverbank, the fight was over quickly. The battle ended after Confederate Captain Nicholas B. Clinch, engaged in ferocious hand-to-hand combat, was overwhelmed and subdued.



Even as the battle was ending, Captain Nicholas B.

Clinch engaged in remarkable man to man combat. Captain Stephen Grimes of the 48th Illinois Infantry demanded that Clinch give up his sword. The Southern captain struck Grimes in the head with the flat of his sword. As Union soldiers watched, Clinch and Grimes engaged in a fierce sword fight. The Confederate officer had been shot in the arm earlier in the battle, but now fought on despite his wound. When it

became obvious that Clinch was going to defeat and probably kill Grimes, six Union soldiers rushed forward and attacked the Confederate Captain with bayonets.

By the time he went down, Captain Nicholas B. Clinch had received 11 wounds, but had become a Southern hero. Clinch was the last man to go down in defense of the fort. By the time the battle ended, the Federals had lost 24 killed and 110 wounded. The Confederate loss was 16 killed and 54 wounded. Including the wounded, the total number captured was 195 men.

General Hazen was one of the first Union soldiers inside the fort, where he spotted both Clinch and Major Anderson in the thick of the fight. Having attended the US Military Academy at West Point with Anderson's older brother, General Robert H. Anderson, Hazen was familiar with both the Anderson and Clinch families in Savannah. Seeing the stunned and bleeding commander sitting on a wooden crate, Hazen spoke to him, "Major Anderson, my apologies for your rough treatment." Anderson looked up at him and said "It's war, General. My men gave it their best, I assure you. These men were not prepared to give you anything".

"The fort never surrendered, it was captured by overwhelming force", recalled Anderson. General Hazen agreed with Anderson's accounting of the battle, reporting that his forces fought "the garrison through the fort to their bomb-proofs, from which they still fought, and only succumbed as each man was individually overpowered." Before being confined, Anderson observed a company of Union soldiers marching out of the fort, on a course that would lead them into some buried ordinance that would have detonated under their feet. Taking their hand, Anderson led them out of harm's way. This story was fondly remembered years later in a letter from the once-young lieutenant George W. Sylvis of the 47th Ohio, when he wrote to his old adversary. The old wounds were beginning to heal.

During the evening that the fort fell, Anderson was being held at the McAllister family home, the new headquarters of General William Babcock Hazen. General Hazen and Lt. Col. Strong invited General Sherman to dinner, to celebrate their victory. In a kind gesture of respect, General Hazen also invited Major Anderson to attend the meal, after clearing the request with Sherman. The discussion was surely lively - during the meal Anderson engaged in a heated exchange with General Sherman about the tactics employed to defend the fort and the bravery of all who fought there. Cigars were exchanged and smoked, and tributes were made to the fallen.

Henry Ford bought the property and began restoring it. In 1935 Ford had the earthworks cleared of brush, the collapsed bombproofs rebuilt and other repairs made. In fact, he spent over \$14,000 of his own money on the project.

The International Paper Company purchased the property from Ford's estate and gave it to the State of Georgia in 1958. The Georgia Historical Commission continued to restore the fort to its 1863-64 appearance. The museum displays many artifacts. The fort was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970. The fort site was combined with the adjacent Richmond Hill State Park to create the Fort McAllister State Historic Park.

Please see <https://gastateparks.org/FortMcAllister>

### **Upcoming Event: Caverns Cultural Celebration**

Friday October 5th and Saturday October 6th Finley's will be participating the Caverns Cultural Celebration at the Florida Caverns State Park. In addition to highlighting rural historic life across Floridian history, this event will also have a heavy focus on the historic Battle of Marianna which happened not far from the park. We will be vending our wares and setting up a living history display for the educational pleasure of our visitors. Assuming enough participants a skirmish is planned for Saturday. The Saturday event starts at 9 AM CST and runs until around 4 in the afternoon.

### **Upcoming Event: Blountstown Pioneer Day**

Saturday October 20th, we will be participating in Pioneer Day at the Blountstown Panhandle Pioneer Settlement. The day is dedicated to Florida history from the 1820's through World War Two and will primarily focus on Florida crackers and early settlers. We plan on participating as living history exhibitors to help educate visitors on Florida in the War Between the States. The event begins at 9 AM CST with setup around 7-8. We will wrap up around 4 PM.

### **Upcoming Event: St. Mark's Stone Crab Festival**

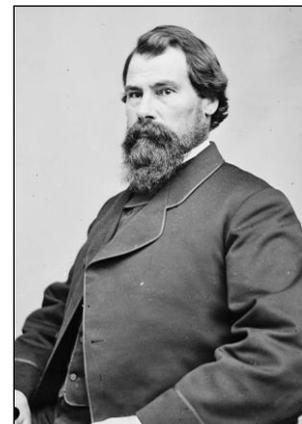
We will once again be participating in this year's St. Mark's Stone Crab Festival in the Park Service's "Forts, Flags, and ArtiFACTS" event at the historic San Marcos de Apalachee, known to Confederates as Fort Ward. Like last year we will set up on the fort grounds and educate any visitors on the Civil War history of the site as well as go into town. A parade is also planned for this year which would give our uniformed members a chance to march through the town of St. Marks. Any and all are welcome regardless of possessing a uniform, it was a fun event last year and we hope to see even more participating this year. We are also looking for volunteers who would be interested in manning a booth at the festival to vend our merchandise and direct visitors to the fort.

### **Upcoming Event: Veterans Day Parade**

It's getting to be that time of the year again that we are now looking forward once more to participating in Tallahassee's Veterans Day Parade! Veterans Day will fall on a Sunday this year, but the parade will be held the next day on Monday, November 12th. We are hoping to once again field a float and color guard. If you have a uniform we would be glad to field you in a marching unit, and anyone regardless of uniform may ride on the float. If you are interested in participating, please contact a camp lieutenant.

## **Happy Birth-Month!** **Postmaster General John H. Reagan**

**October 8, 1818**



## ***Heritage Opportunities***

October 5 & 6 – Caverns Cultural Celebration Festival (Battle of Marianna)

October 9 – Regular Camp Meeting

October 20 – Blountstown Pioneer Days

October 27 – St. Marks Stone Crab Festival

November 12 – Veterans Day Parade

November 13 – Regular Camp Meeting

December 11 – Regular Camp Meeting

January 8 – Regular Camp Meeting

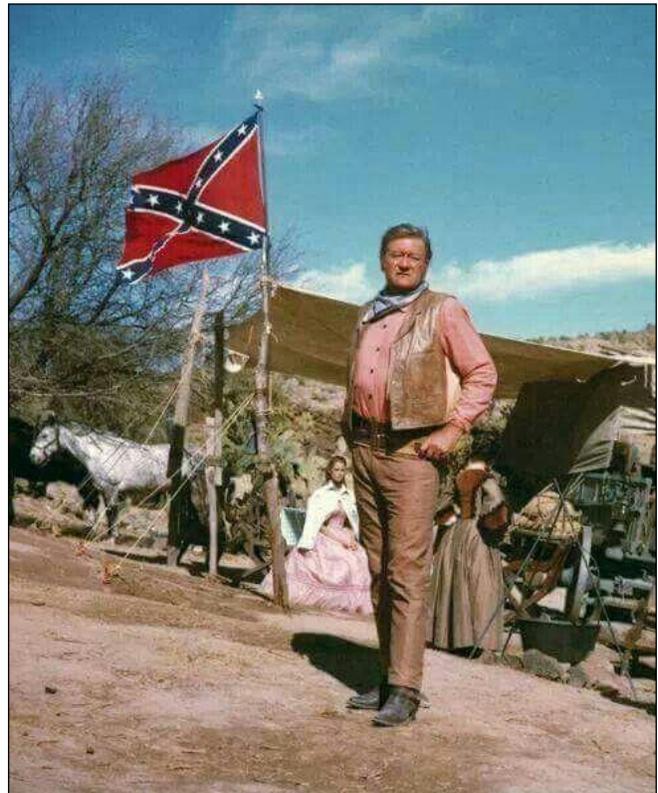
January 19 – Lee Jackson Banquet

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

For comments, questions, concerns, or submissions to the newsletter please contact the editor at [2ndltcommander@finleysbrigadescv.com](mailto:2ndltcommander@finleysbrigadescv.com)

(John Wayne on the set of *The Undefeated*)

*Trivia answers: C, C, D, D, B*



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