



***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.”



MILLER FAMILY HEADSTONE DEDICATION

It was a beautiful breezy day on October 12 when the men of Finley's Brigade held the headstone dedication for Pvt. Asberry W. Miller and Pvt. Daniel Green Miller both who served with Abell's Florida Light Brigade during the War Between the States. These two honorable men were ancestors of Finley's Brigade members JR and Chris Miller. The event was very moving and took place at 4:00 in the afternoon at the Corinth Freewill Baptist Church in Iron City, Georgia.

The ceremony began with a welcome to family and friends by Commander Graham Smith which was followed by a moving and very appropriate prayer by Pastor James Miller (also an ancestor of the two soldiers) of the Corinth Freewill Baptist Church. The very familiar southern song “The Bonnie Blue Flag” was played on a CD player at the rear of the spectators. JR Miller read a moving tribute to the brave soldiers being honored on this special day. Richard Witt escorted Barbara very somberly to the grave where they placed a wreath and removed the black draping the headstone recently placed in honor of one of these two defenders of the South.

Libby Smith, President of the Confederate Rose Society (an organization created to assist and support the men of Finley's Brigade) read the poem “Dear Ancestor”. The Finley's Brigade Color Guard enacted a special tribute to the soldiers by forming a line behind the grave and performed the moving ritual of “We Drank from the Same Canteen” while Graham Smith read the poem. It was very moving when the canteen reached the end of the line where Chris Miller knelt and poured the remainder of the water on his ancestor's grave.

After the song “Trending on the Old Camp Ground”, Chris Miller read “Cleburne’s Prophecy.” Oh, how appropriate at such an event. James Harrell of the North Florida Artillery brought his canon, better known as “Baby”, and fired a “double load” shot that sent a chill down your spine knowing it was to honor these brave soldiers. After the smoke cleared “Taps” was mournfully played by Richard Witt. The ceremony was closed with John Howell playing his harmonica and everyone in attendance broke out with a cheerful rendition of “Dixie”.

It was such a joy to see so many of Finley’s Brigade members in attendance at the dedication. Driving from Tallahassee to Iron City, Georgia showed a tremendous commitment and show of support for the camp and our endeavors. Along with their supportive wives were Graham Smith, Marshall Carroll, David Cline, John Howell, Orville Cummings, Richard Witt, Kelly Crocker, Mike Grissom, Charles Smith, J.R. Miller and Chris Miller.

Afterwards several people gathered in Bainbridge, Georgia at the “Bonnie Blue Restaurant” for some fine fellowship and food.

It was such an honor to hold a ceremony celebrating the placement of the long overdue headstones honoring two of the South’s finest defenders.



The Miller family descendants of Daniel Green Miller stand proudly behind his newly placed Confederate headstone in Iron City, Georgia.

VETERAN’S VILLAGE

By Chris Miller

I had the honor of visiting veteran’s village to drop off some items and was greeted with smiles and a big thank you. I met the new housing manager, Mr. Sylvester. I touched base with him and explained how Finley's

brigade has been helping out with veteran's village's needs. I also shared how the process was handled with past housing manager, Mr. Less.

Mr. Sylvester came up with an idea on a different approach on how to get better "target items", the items more in demand for the residents. . He will be holding a community meeting with the residences once a month, the first Tuesday of each month to get in contact with me and let me know what the "target item" or items will be. I think this is a great idea to better assist with veteran's village and to better support our heroes.

Thank you to my fellow camp members, friends and family for supporting this project.
God Bless You and God Bless DIXIE!!!

SAUSAGE AND BOSTON BUTT FUNDRAISER

Finley's Brigade is holding a fundraiser with Johnson's Meats in Monticello, Florida. We are selling smoked boston butts which average 5 to 7 pounds and smoked sausage in 5 pound packing. These tickets sell for \$25 dollars each. The tickets are available from Adjutant Mike Grissom. The delivery date of the product will be on Friday November 22 at the new facility of Johnson's Meats at 3497 Mahan Drive (at the entrance to Bass Pro Shop/Wal-Mart.) The sale ends right in time for Thanksgiving Holiday and the sausage and Boston butts will also freeze well for the Christmas Holiday for gift giving so be sure and get your tickets and sell as any as you can. The profit of this sale will help Finley's accomplish their goals for the coming year. Time is running out.

SCV NATIONAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

On November 2, Kelly Crocker, John Howell, Mike Grissom, and I attended a SCV National Leadership Workshop in Lake City, Florida. I had already attended the workshop in Burlington, North Carolina and knew it was well worth attending again. The workshop was developed in an effort that members better understand the challenges of leadership roles and to aid our leaders in acquiring the knowledge to better perform their duties. The workshop included the welcome and SCV Protocol by Florida Division Commander Jim Davis and introduction/overview by Commander in Chief Michael Givens and Lt. C.i.C. Kelly Barrow. An informative workshop for adjutants was held by Mark Simpson that really appealed to Adjutant Mike Grissom. A lesson on member retention and recruiting was conducted by Kelly Barrow. Tom Hiter, Vision 2016 Coordinator explained how the program will benefit the SCV and each camp in the confederation. I feel this workshop was time well spent and I want to thank each of the gentlemen from Finley's Brigade who took the time to attend.

Veterans Day Parade

Finley's Brigade will once again participate in the Tallahassee Veterans Day Parade on November 11. The parade will start at 10:45 am. The Color Guard will be in full uniform proudly representing Finley's Brigade; however, this year we will not have a float. We would like to ask members and supporters of Finley's Brigade to come and support our compatriots marching in the parade. You don't know how much it means for us to look around and see that the members that are participating in the parade or memorial service that they are still support the "Cause".



LEE/JACKSON SOUTHERN HERITAGE EVENT

The 2014 Lee/Jackson Southern Heritage Event promises to be as grand an event as it has been in years past. This year's event will be held on January 18, 2014 and will begin at 5:00 with the social hour to enjoy appetizers and fellowship. During that hour we will enjoy gospel and period music from "Joyful Noise", a band we have enjoyed for the past two years. Dinner will begin at 6:00. Even though we have not settled on a caterer, you can rest assured that we will have fabulous food just as we've had in previous years.

The guest speaker for this year will be Compatriot Wayne Jones, a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Wayne and his wife, Jan, who will be joining him, portray Mr. and Mrs. JEB Stuart. Libby and I enjoyed his performance at a re-enactment at Laurel Hill in Ararat, Virginia, the home of JEB Stuart and found it mesmerizing, as I am sure you will also.

The annual silent action and bidding items have begun to pour in and I think you will be in for some wonderful items and some surprises so don't forget your checkbook.

Because the rental of the ballroom at Mission San Luis and the cost of food increased considerably this year the price of tickets is \$40 each. The tickets will go on sale in November so buy them early because, as you know from past years, they sell out fast. We are very excited about this year's Lee/Jackson Southern Heritage Event and excited and anxious to visit with members from all the camps that support us each year. For reservation of tickets, call Libby at 850-877-9183

Upcoming events

- Nov. 11 – Downtown Tallahassee Veterans Day Parade - 10:45 am
- Nov. 12 – Monthly Meeting at Golden Corral (eat at 6:00 and meeting starts at 6:45.) Camp officer elections and a special program
- Nov. 14 – Crestview City Council Meeting – Heritage Defense 6:00 pm (central)
- Nov. 22 – Pick up Boston butt and Sausage 4 – 7 pm at 3497 Mahan Drive (just west of the entrance to Bass Pro Shop/ Wal-Mart)
- Jan. 18 – Lee/Jackson Southern Heritage Event
- April 19 – Decorations Day at Soldiers Cemetery 4:00 pm with Susan Hathaway, Virginia Flagger

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