



***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

1st Lt. Commander

Marshall Carroll

2nd Lt. Commander

Bill Beckham

Adjutant/Secretary

Ellis Harvey

3rd 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! First I must apologize for being so late in getting out this month's edition. Last weekend I traveled to Miami to watch my oldest daughter, Cynthia, graduate from high school. It really is a touching memory to have. It was nice to see the principal at the school mention the students that had already enlisted into the military. I saw this last month when I presented the SCV JROTC Hunley Award to the cadet at Lincoln High School. They also recognized several cadets who had enlisted into the military as well as a former cadet visiting home on leave from the Navy. See you all this weekend at the Watermelon Festival Parade in Monticello this Saturday.

Commander's Comments

As I talk with compatriots from other camps, not only in our area but around the state and nation, they often tell me that their camps aren't very active. They are often envious of our camp, and the many activities we

undertake. Well, one thing is for sure, it can never be said that Finley's Brigade Camp 1614 is not an active Camp. Obviously, each member of our Camp is dedicated to the cause of preserving the memory of our honorable ancestors and the noble stand they made for what they knew was right.

All that we do, and the frequency that we do it, invokes surprise from so many compatriots that I talk to. For instance, I was talking to a gentleman at one of the JROTC Hunley award presentations a couple weeks ago, and he told me that he used to be a member of one of the other SCV Camps in our area. However, due to the inactivity of the Camp, he dropped out. He also stated that he was pleased to see someone presenting an award on behalf of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and he was proud to see that our Color Guard unit participated at the Veterans Day parade in Tallahassee.

The gentleman asked about other activities we were involved in, and I told him about our graves and cemetery clean-up and restoration work, our Soldiers Cemetery project in Quincy, our Color Guard activities, headstone setting and dedications, Havana flag site maintenance and grounds keeping, Natural Bridge Adopt-A-Road, Veterans Village support, and the Mechanized Cavalry...to name a few. He further inquired about our Camp meetings and I told him that without fail, we have a meeting each and every month with interesting programs and speakers. He also asked how, with so many members, we disseminate information about Camp meetings and activities. I told him about our monthly newsletter, The Camp Cresset, sent via email or US Mail to each member to keep them informed.

I wasn't bragging (well...maybe just a little), I was just stating the facts while answering his questions.

When I told him about our Camp earning the coveted "SCV Camp of the Year" honors for the last two years, he said that he was unaware of our honors, but could understand why. He was also complimentary of our Camp for earning such a prestigious award...twice. Our Compatriot then told me that when he was still a member of his old Camp there were infrequent meetings and when they did meet, there were seldom programs with interesting speakers. He stated that the Camp newsletters were as infrequent as the Camp meetings. He went on to say that there were definitely no special events or activities for the membership. This is not the first time that I and other members of Finley's Brigade have heard of the inactivity of other Camps. It seems to be quite common throughout the Confederation. I find this to be very disappointing.

The members of Finley's Brigade do not participate in camp meetings, programs, and activities for the awards, accolades, and public recognition. The passion and enthusiasm of our members is rooted in their patriotism, individual honor, love for their family, ancestors, and Southern heritage, and the fellowship enjoyed when gathered with likeminded Southerners. The many meetings, programs, and activities of Finley's Brigade are considered to be normal/routine Camp operations, and this is due to our outstanding membership, and their love for our shared Southern heritage.

In Dixie Land I'll take my stand!

Graham F. Smith

Another reason to love April

Marshall Carroll

April was a very busy month across the Confederacy. All across Dixie, Southern minded folks honored Confederate Memorial month with memorials large and small.



Finley's Brigade was no exception. We held the Camp's second largest event of the year with our own "Decorations Day" at Soldiers Cemetery. Gadsden County Commissioner, Douglas Croley, gave us an inspirational speech that reinforced my resolve to uphold "the charge". Our ladies were there to make us look good as they always are and the Honor/Color Guard brings an added respect to our flags.



It was a historic day in that we dedicated thirty seven headstones for known veteran's graves that were unmarked. Throughout the entire restoration project, we had a rule that has become our motto: "Let's make our work last for another hundred years." This, I believe,

has been achieved with the Soldiers Cemetery restoration. Those white marble gravestones are pleasing to the eye and will continue to be in years to come as they age. The iron fence will endure rust as did the original since the late 1800's. The records for the Florida Historic Marker will always be in the files of the State of Florida identifying Soldiers Cemetery as a "historic place". Yeah, Finley's Brigade really is the best of the best.

*With a love for our history and heritage,
m.carroll*

SCV H.L. Hunley Award

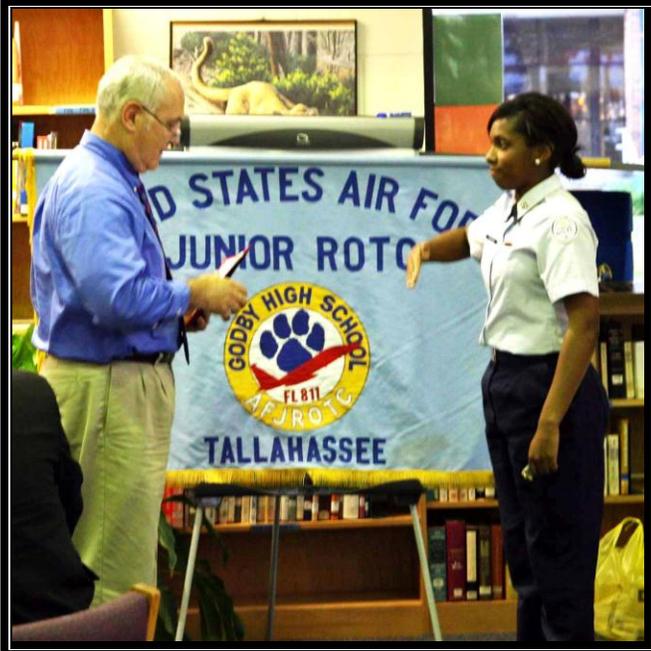
David R. Cline

Camp members took part in the presentation of the SCV's H. L. Hunley JROTC Award ceremonies at numerous local high schools. Thank you to all the compatriots that sponsored and presented the awards, and participated in these events. The following are the schools, Cadets and Camp presenters:

East Gadsden High School Army JROTC Cadet First Lieutenant Jewelisia Fagg received her SCV Hunley Award from Compatriot Richard Witt (Vietnam Veteran) on May 1, 2013.



Godby High School Air Force JROTC Cadet Senior Airman Adrienne McDonald received her SCV Hunley Award from Colonel Phil Smith USAF (Ret) Ceremony on May 5, 2013.



Rickards High School Army JROTC Cadet Corporal Charles Smith received his SCV Hunley Award from Compatriot Richard Witt (Vietnam Veteran) on May 8, 2013.



Wakulla High School Navy JROTC Senior Cadet Chief Petty Officer Charissa Hill received her SCV Hunley Award from Chief Ellis Harvey US Navy (Ret) on May 10, 2013.



Lincoln High School Navy JROTC Cadet Lieutenant David Newsome received his SCV Hunley Award from Compatriot David Cline (Gulf War Navy Veteran) on May 4, 2013. It has been an honor to be a presenter of the SCV Hunley Award for the past couple of years.



Veterans Village Committee Report

Chris Miller, Chairman

Hello fellow southerners, compatriots, and camp members. All I can say about the support of Veterans Village at our last meeting is...**WOW!**

The residents and staff of Veterans Village were very excited and grateful for all the new items we provided. They wanted me to relay their thanks to the members of Finley's Brigade for their support.

Personally, I was impressed with all the towels and wash cloths that were brought to our last meeting. Therefore, I want to personally thank each one of you for your generous donations.

The target item for our June meeting will be CFL light bulbs (the curly/spiral florescent ones) between 40 to 60 watts. These bulbs are more energy efficient and last considerably longer than regular bulbs. Believe me, these folks are trying to cut back on expenses any way they can; and this is a very good way. Don't forget to bring your bulbs to the meeting and keep in mind that they always need everyday items. Thank you for your generosity and God Bless DIXIE and our Veterans.

David Reeves Grave Marker Dedication

Due to my tardiness in getting the newsletter out, I hope you all were able to attend the Memorial Service and Grave Marker Dedication for Confederate Veteran David Reeves this past June 8, 2013. It was hot and humid, but a very outstanding memorial service. There will be more photos and information in next month's *Cresset*.

Natural Bridge Road Outing *Graham F. Smith*

On Saturday May 25th at 9:00 a.m., Jason Nipper, Kelly Crocker, Mike Grissom, Anthony Harvey, Ellis Harvey, Chris Miller, J.R. Miller, Marshall Carroll, and I met near the Natural Bridge monument to commence the adopt-a-road clean-up. Our "adopted" road, a two mile stretch of road starting at the monument heading north toward Woodville, was relatively clean considering we had picked up a mountain of litter in February (obviously the road hadn't been cleaned for quite some time.) This time we had two all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) Marshall, Ellis, and Anthony utilized.

Because of the number of members and two ATVs we had this time, the activity took only an hour and a half and we all went our separate ways to enjoy the rest of our Saturday.



While walking my stretch of road I began thinking about the activity that must have taken place on this same location almost 150 years ago. I thought that prior to the commencement of the battle soldiers and horse drawn cannon and limbers were all advancing to engage the enemy at the natural bridge. Then it came to me that during the battle, how the wounded were

hastened along this road to receive the medical attention awaiting them in a safe location away from the fighting. I envisioned their departure and how they must have felt being victorious in halting the enemy's advance. I also thought about the Confederate dead being transported back to their loved ones along this very road.

I don't know what the other Camp members were thinking or feeling while taking part in this activity but I felt honored to be a custodian, however fleeting, of such hallowed ground.

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.

The June meeting is dedicated to the memory and honor of Lieutenant Hugh Black of the 6th Florida Infantry.

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 or 877-9183.

June 11 – Monthly Camp Meeting

June 15 – Watermelon Festival Parade in Monticello, Florida

June 17 - 21 – Sam Davis Youth Camp

July 9 - Monthly Camp Meeting

2620 Sarawood Lane
Tallahassee, Florida 32309



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