



***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
Michael Grissom

3rd Brigade Commander/Chaplain
Kelly V. Crocker

Color Sergeant
Anthony Harvey

Color Guard Drill Instructor
Richard Witt

Past Commanders
Bill Beckham
Marshall Carroll
Paul Nicholson

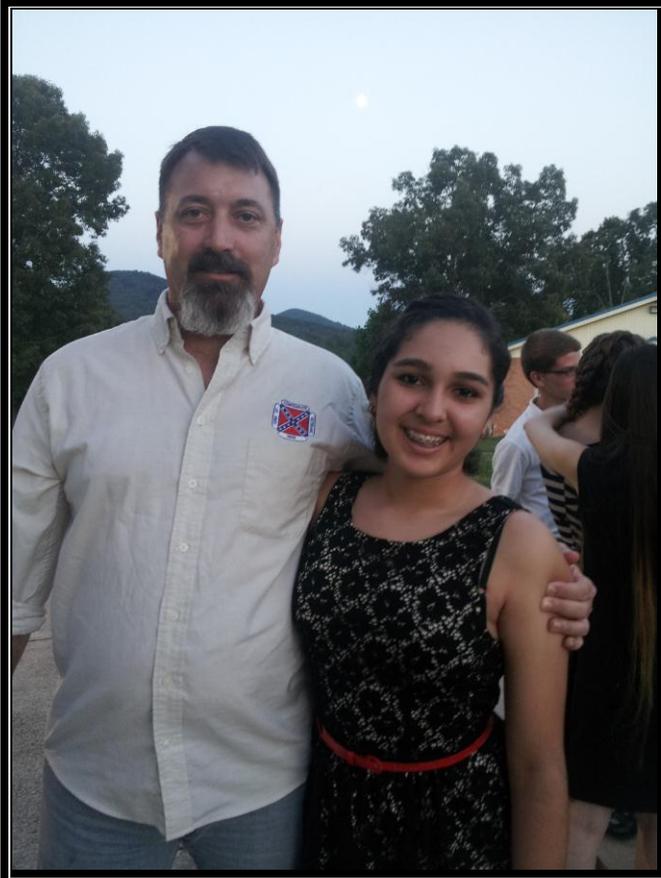
Sam Davis Youth Camp 2013

David R. Cline

Greetings Compatriots! This article is going to substitute for the Editor's Comments section this month. I hope to encourage everyone to attend this month's meeting next week. The meeting is going to be all about the Sam Davis Youth Camp 2013 that was held in Thaxton, Virginia. Finley's Brigade again sponsored a counselor and their daughter this year. Vallery and I had a great time, and wish to thank the camp immensely for giving us this opportunity to attend the best summer camp in the country. The Florida Division needs to send more campers so we are not the only ones representing Florida. I would love to drive a van full of our youth and future to next year's camp. This year there were approximately 60 campers in attendance. This amount of campers set a record.

This year we planned to leave at 1:00 AM to make sure we arrived by 4:00 PM on Sunday, June 16, 2013. The trip started at 3:30 AM with Paola waking me up and asking me if we were going to leave. I woke Vallery up and we were on the road by 4:00 AM. I expected to have a nice drive the first few hours while Vallery slept, but nothing was going as planned. Vallery was so excited to

see her friends and go to camp that she was like a little chatterbox the whole trip. I learned everything that happened to her in school in the first few hours. She did sleep, but only for about 45 minutes thru South Carolina. We made great time and arrived at the camp just after 2:00 PM.



There were not that many campers there yet, so we went to the cabins to get the best choice of beds after we checked in. I got me a bottom bunk in a corner and set up my bed. This included making my bunk and then putting up my Cherokee Braves flag along the side and my Battle Flag along the foot of the bed. With my fort made up, I met Vallery back at the auditorium to wait for her friends to arrive. Vallery did not want to be left alone. This year her big sister Cynthia did not come so she was a little nervous. She was waiting for her friend Dixie to show up, but met a new girl while waiting. All of sudden she did not feel the need to be around me anymore. The campers then arrived in force and we had the “set the ground rules” meeting and ate supper. The week of long days and nights started.

Monday morning started off with the firing of the cannon and after breakfast we had our morning devotion and sang our songs. Then our lectures started and the campers learned the truth about our history, not the politically correct version that has been forced down our throats for the last 150 years.

The campers sat politely through the lectures until it was dinner time. Then after one more lecture, it was activity time. The Woodmen of the World facility is very nice and they had set up archery, riflery, rock wall climbing, zip lining, canoeing, and swimming in the pool. The campers signed up for the activities they wanted to do each day and counselors signed up to be with each group. After activities we had supper, then one more lecture. This led to the nightly dancing led by Compatriot Kirk Lyons. This was the routine all week. Some evenings we gathered at a camp fire and sang our favorite songs like Bonnie Blue Flag, Goober Peas, and of course Dixie.

This year the campers were the best behaved and most attentive during the lectures. The camp had some great speakers new and old and some exciting hands on learning for the campers.



On Tuesday, the campers were shown how and then given the opportunity to cast their own bullets. On Wednesday, they got to shoot the

bullets from period replica rifles. The compatriots from the local SCV camp that sponsored this casting and shooting did a great job and the campers loved making and shooting their own bullets.

The campers also sent Morse code messages back and forth to each other. One of the guest lectures put on an awesome one man play that was very emotional. The following day he had the campers write a song about the Sam Davis Youth Camp and then put it to music. The campers and I learned so much about their Confederate ancestors.

Friday came so quickly for everyone. The only difference was the after dinner lectures were replaced with the oratory contest. Vallery had volunteered earlier in the week to be a part and did an awesome job without her sunglasses on this year. That night when the winners were announced, she did the camp proud by placing second place again this year. One of these years we hope to get first place. She was also considered for female camper of the week, and one of the other counselors approached me and told me what a good daughter I had and how she had impressed him. This made me very proud.

The grand ball was held and the campers were all dressed up, some in their period finest uniforms and dresses. Most of the campers left that night with their parents who had come for the ball. Vallery and I headed out early the next morning. As we drove along, Vallery took a break from texting her new and old friends from camp and told me that she wants to get more involved with our camp's activities to honor our Confederate ancestors. The Sam Davis Youth Camp has this effect on all of the campers. It was exciting to watch the growth in these campers over the week, and if you come to this month's meeting I will relate my experience educating a young camper about a fact of our Confederate ancestors that she was misinformed on.

The Sam Davis Youth Camp is a great thing for our youth. The campers learn so much about the Southern history that they have been taught wrong

in schools. The Florida Division needs to support the camp by sending more campers each year. These young adults are the future of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy, and other of our organizations. We must do our part to spread this message around the Division.

Color Guard Activities

Richard Witt

June 2013 has been an active month for the Finley's Brigade Color and Honor Guard. On June 8, 2013, we gathered together at Munson Cemetery to dedicate a headstone for Pvt. David Reeves. Our Color and Honor Guard had the privilege of participating in the "We Drank from the Same Canteen" program and, for the first time we had an opportunity to fire our new rifles in salute to this honored Confederate veteran. In addition we unveiled our new bugle and played taps at the end of the ceremony.



Compatriots Ellis Harvey and David Cline fire a gun salute at the Reeves headstone dedication.



Color Guard Drill Sergeant Richard Witt solemnly plays Taps on the new bugle at the Reeves headstone dedication.



Our Flag/Color bearers made us proud marching through the streets of Monticello.

Currently, we have 7 members in the Color and Honor Guard and are always looking for more to help us in cemetery programs and parades. If you are interested in joining the Finley's Brigade Color Guard, please contact Richard Witt, Drill Sergeant.



Finley's Brigade Color Guard members participate in the "We Drank from the Same Canteen" ceremony.

On June 15, 2013 our Color Guard marched in the Watermelon Parade in Monticello and was able to carry 6 flags in the parade. Our float won the "Best Civic Float" award and we look forward to participating in many more activities.



Finley's Brigade Color/Honor Guard poses for a picture after the parade at the Confederate monument on the Courthouse grounds in Monticello.

1st Lt. Commander's Comments
Marshall Carroll

Finley's Brigade members are to be commended for the outstanding memorial service preformed for Pvt. David Reeves and his wife Vestey. On June 8, 2013, descendants, friends, Camp members and a few folks from the neighborhood gathered at Moody Cemetery to remember a Confederate soldier who lay in an unmarked grave. Over time he was all but forgotten, even by family members. I do not remember a service

that received greater compliments than this one. Attendees who have no idea as to what our memorials consist of are often pleasantly amazed. We had a David Reeves descendent so impressed that he joined the Camp on the spot with several others indicating interest in joining.

Private Reeves headstone has the addition of his wife and children's names engraved on the backside. A hundred years from now when someone stumbles across this stone they will know that this family existed. If our Confederates are to be remembered we must continue locating, recording, and marking their graves whenever possible.

It took over a year to bring it all together, but in the end it was well worth the effort. My special thanks to those that researched, made a marker for the wife, provided refreshments, participated in the ceremony, and attended. This is the second of my Grandfathers that I have had the pleasure of placing a stone for that identifies them as Confederate Veterans.

I thank you Finley's Brigade for being the outstanding camp that you are and your dedication to the "Charge".

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

The Front Lines at Veteran's Village

Chris Miller, Chairman

Dear Southern compatriots and fellow camp members,

First, I want to thank everyone for their support for Veteran's Village. They are very extremely grateful for what our Camp is doing to help them.

I encourage everyone to drop by there to visit for a while and get to know some of them. These men and women are some of the nicest and amazing folks I have ever met and I am truly grateful for their unselfish service to this great country. It breaks my heart to see our country's heroes left out in the cold like this. They are bigger men than I will ever be and I hope to one

day be as great as these folks. I feel truly blessed to even be able to shake their hands. My heart and prayers go out to the residents of Veteran's Village and to all veterans and their families dead or alive. While I was talking to Mr. Less, one of the residents, he told me that there are about 3,000 HOMELESS veterans in Tallahassee and the surrounding counties.

Our target item for our next camp meeting will again be CFL light bulbs (the curly bulbs). They are 300 bulbs SHORT of their goal so I encourage every member to buy at least one package of CFL light bulbs and let's help them achieve their goal. Please keep in mind that they can always use every day household items.

From the bottom of my heart I want to thank you all. GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD BLESS DIXIE!

100 SOUTHERN GENTLEMEN

Congratulations y'all, our camp is now one-hundred and one members strong!! I can't tell you enough how proud I am of each and every one of you individually, and collectively as Finley's Brigade Camp 1614, Sons of Confederate Veterans. It is amazing to me that only three years ago we had, to the best of my recollection, thirty-eight members. However, these thirty-eight loyal Southern gentlemen decided to increase the momentum of our Camp's efforts toward the perpetuation of the history of the cause for Southern independence and our Confederate/Southern ancestors who sacrificed everything, even their lives, for it. In doing so, old cemeteries containing our Confederate heroes have been lovingly revitalized. Many soldiers' headstones have been humbly refurbished or honorably set. Our extreme pride in our heritage and ancestors is exhibited every time our sharply dressed color guard participates in a civic function or memorial service. In essence, we are proudly proclaiming our Southern heritage.

Over the past three years, people with a love for the South and pride in their Confederate ancestors have noticed and decided to join our ranks. We have been observed at genealogy fairs, reenactments, parades, memorials, motorcycle rallies, cemetery clean ups, and headstone placements and dedications. Quite often, in casual conversation with an unknown fellow Southerner, we'll talk about or exhibit our pride in our

Confederate ancestors and their fight for Southern independence. Over the past three years, all of these situations have, in one manner or another, motivated sixty-three fine Southern Gentlemen to join our ranks. Some of these new members participate in one or more of our activities and increase the visibility by openly exhibiting their Southern pride. Many participate by coming to our monthly meetings and learning about the ways of their Confederate ancestors and the nuances of their Southern heritage. Others, who occasionally come to meetings, enjoy being a member of an organization steeped in Southern tradition and heritage.

No matter whether you are an active or passive member, I am extremely proud and honored that you have chosen to be a member of Finley’s Brigade, “The Most Distinguished Camp” in the Sons of Confederate Veterans for two consecutive years.

In Dixie Land I’ll take my stand.
Graham F. Smith

2620 Sarawood Lane
Tallahassee, Florida 32309

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!

This month's meeting will be dedicated to Captain James Hamilton Hicks, Company F, 14th Georgia Volunteers.

Upcoming events

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

- July 9 – Monthly Camp Meeting
- July 13 – Birthday of Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest
- July 18 – 20 SCV National Reunion at Vicksburg, Mississippi
- August 13 – Monthly Camp meeting

