



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."



South Carolina Division Commander Mark Simpson to Speak



Commander Mark Simpson will present a program entitled, “The Conspiracy that caused the War Between the States.” Mark has identified several of the key conspirators who drove this Country to War. His program has been well received throughout the Confederation.

Commander Simpson is a Life Member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) and he has served in various leadership positions, which have included: National Adjutant-in-Chief, South Carolina (SC) Division Adjutant, Camp Commander, and he is currently serving as the SC Division Commander. He is also a member of the SCV Mechanized Cavalry. Mark has formally announced his candidacy for SCV National Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief. This is our organization’s second highest office. He has 40 years of business experience that augments his leadership skills; making him a very qualified candidate. Mark has been a friend of Finley’s Brigade for some time, and we thank him for coming to Florida.

THIS MONTHS MEETING IS DEDICATED TO: PRIVATE ASBERRY W MILLER of CAPTAIN ABELL’S COMPANY, FLORIDA LIGHT ARTILLERY.

Ancestor of Compatriots JR and Chris Miller

Commander's Comments

Commander Kelly Crocker

I would like to thank all of you who have supported me in my efforts to lead this very special SCV camp. These last two months have definitely been a learning experience. I ask for your continued patience and support.

I would like to thank all of those who made this last Lee/Jackson Event the grandest and most successful ever. I had virtually nothing to do with its success, but have received many compliments. The credit goes to the Camp in general, but to some of you more specifically: Libby Smith, President of our Confederate Rose Society, and all of the Ladies, for the beautiful venue, the programs, the prints for auction, and so much more. Marshall Carroll and Ellis Harvey sold 18 ads between them. Bill Beckham sold ads and almost 30 tickets. And, Rip O'Steen who acted as Concierge for our Speakers while they were here.

We have many upcoming events on our schedule. We have a Cemetery workday on the 1st and an Adopt-a-Road workday on the 22nd. We will have our Recruiting/Information tent setup at the Battle of Natural Bridge on the 1st and 2nd of March. On Sunday March 2 at 1pm, our Color Guard will present the Colors for the Memorial Service at the Natural Bridge Monument. Also, many members will be participating in the battle re-enactment that weekend. Please check out all of the upcoming events. We have many "Opportunities to Excel" coming up!

*In the bonds of the South,
Kelly*

Chaplains Comments -Loyalty

Inherent within the understanding of true and Godly Loyalty, the definition fails to mention the willingness to place the object, person, or organization (such as the SCV) of loyalty, before oneself. To attain and retain loyalty necessitates daily focus, and a network of supporting relationships such as: Church, Family, friends, and organizations such as the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The concept of loyalty is quickly fading away; to an ever-growing culture that is obsessed with self-gain, over the expense of others. In essence, we should pursue a God-driven loyalty that would rather see oneself die, than to compromise the relationship he or she has with God, spouse, or others. Without Loyalty; what would our lives look like? What about our churches and families? What about the Sons of Confederate Veterans?



Remember; God loved us so much he sent his only Son, JESUS, to die for the remission of our sins.

GOD BLESS YOU,
Chaplain John Howell

Lee - Jackson Southern Heritage Event 2014



The 2014 Lee/Jackson Southern Heritage Event is over and in the history books (or scrapbook). Once you think the annual event cannot get any better, Finley's Brigade and the Mary Ann Harvey Black Confederate Rose Society do it again. The ballroom at Historical Mission San Luis was beautifully decorated with navy blue tablecloths and red and white flower arrangement in old milk glass.

At the front of the ballroom was a table designated for the celebrated generals with a portrait of each general positioned on a chair at their place setting. Honor Guard members Richard Witt and Dave Cline lit a candle for each general while announcing their birth dates as Rip O'Steen read the explanation of the "General's table." At the band area, the wonderful "Joyful Noise" was playing gospel and period music for the large crowd's entertainment during the meet and greet hour. The supper was absolutely fantastic. This year the Lee/Jackson Southern Heritage Committee chose a Finley's Brigade longtime favorite caterer, Judi Bunch. Once again she delivered her famous bread pudding which is always a hit with everyone. We constantly heard praises the entire night about how wonderful the food was.

Sons of Confederate Veterans member Wayne Jones and his wife, Pam Jones, were the speakers for the evening. As they delivered their interpretation of JEB and Flora Stuart's life, they not only introduced us to these two interesting characters of the 1860's, they made us experience their feelings during this trying time in the South's history. During their educational talk, I looked around the room and everyone appeared to be taken back in time and was enjoying their fellowship with these two amazing people.

There was four, yes I said FOUR, beautifully framed War Between the States prints from artists such as Mort Kunstler, a canvas art piece from John Paul Strain and a touching picture from Dale Gallon to auction this year. I know that everyone who received their piece of art is thrilled with them. Again this year we had the silent auction table that was as always a big hit with many surprises for both the male and female guests.

It was wonderful to see so many fellow SCV members from other camps including Monticello, Panama City, and Tampa. Finley's Brigade's Annual Lee/Jackson Southern Heritage Event is known Nationwide for how they honor these two courageous generals with the dignity they both showed in their lives. So as we put away the items to make such a memorable event, we look forward and start planning for next year's event and hope to see more of our friends that share our love of the south at the 2015 Lee/Jackson Event.

A Southern Lady

Florida Against the War of Northern Aggression

THE BATTLE OF OLUSTEE

If the Battle of Olustee was fought in the western or eastern theaters it would have been considered a small battle and perhaps not much would have been written about this heroic struggle. Confederate and union troops had about 5500 men each, and rifles that were accurate up to 200 yards, so the odds for battle were pretty equal.

Headquarters for the union troops was in Jacksonville, Florida, under the Command of General Truman Seymour. The union troops conducted raids towards Gainesville and soon captured the city on February 14, 1864, and soon after its capture they withdrew. On February 20, 1864, General Seymour ordered 5500 men to march westward along the rail line towards Lake City. The union troops were from New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. In the early afternoon the union troops approached Ocean Pond, just east of the Olustee station. The union troops had with them cavalry and artillery.

Equal number of Confederate troops under the command of General Joseph Finegan advanced to meet them. The Confederate troops were mostly from Georgia and Florida. The Confederate forces also had artillery and cavalry and were more than ready to defend and die for the protection of the State of Florida. The battle began in a forest of tall pine trees.

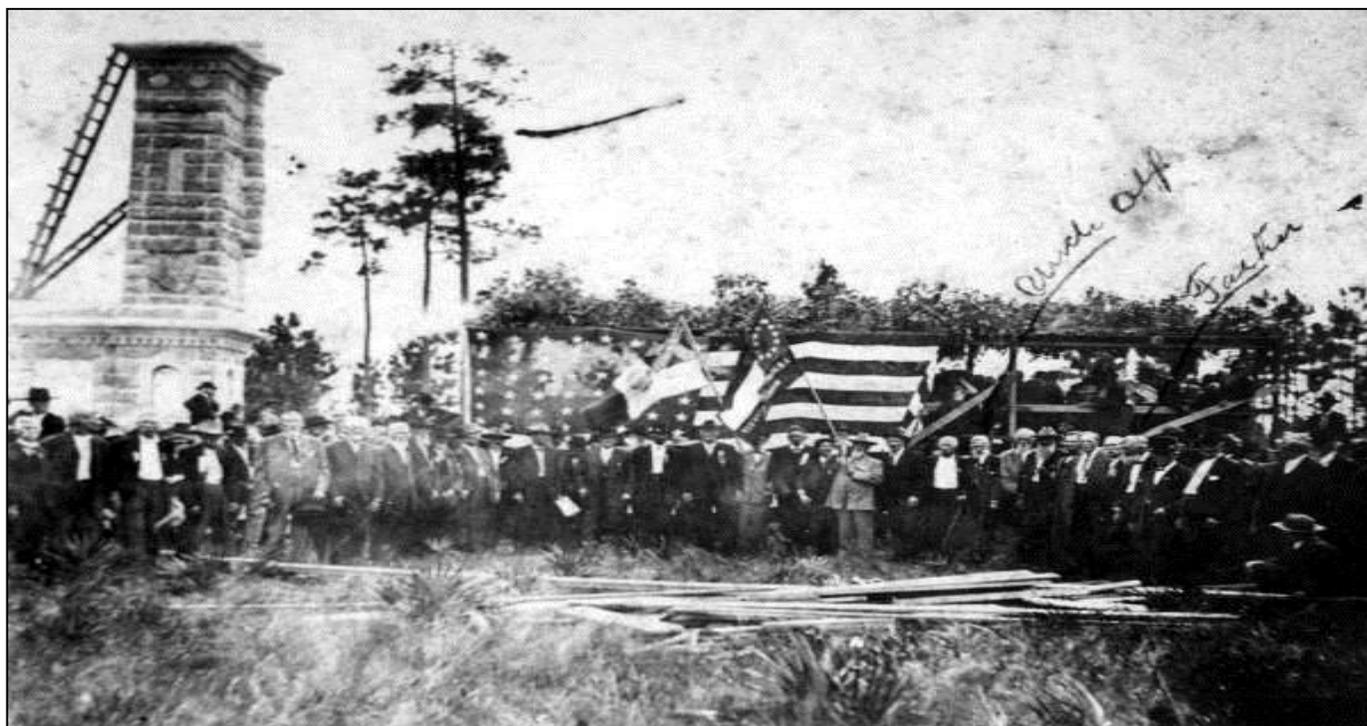
General Seymour was unsure of the Confederate numbers and their experience so he sent his troops in peace meal. The confusion caused by his orders led one regiment to retreat instead of advancing. It was hard for the union units to move forward due to how thick the pine tree forest was, this led to a loss of formation of General Seymour's men.

The Confederate forces stretched a line about a mile long. The Georgia troops were for the most part seasoned veterans. The high point of the battle was around 3 p.m. when the Confederate and union troops just stood there and fired volley after volley into each other. Men fell by the 100s while the day went on. The union casualties were greater than Confederate losses 2 to 1.

At one point some of the Confederate troops ran out ammunition so instead of retreating which would have led to a loss of the command of the field they stood there and took losses until more ammunition arrived and the Confederates remained in command of the field. By the end of day, with the threat of being out flanked the union troops began a long retreat back to Jacksonville. Two regiments of colored troops covered the rear of the retreat to keep Confederate forces off the union's main body until they got to union lines in Jacksonville.

The union lost some 2000 men, and the Confederates loss was half that number, making this the bloodiest battle in Florida and a proud victory for the Confederate troops which prevented the enemy from capturing the interior of Florida.

Compatriot Chris Miller



Battle of Olustee Survivors at the Monument dedication. October 23, 1912 Photo courtesy of the Florida State Archives

HELP WANTED

Finley's Brigade has immediate openings for Genealogists. We need Camp members to help prospective members find their Confederate ancestors. Also, we know of Confederate Soldiers, whose living Family we need to locate. Computer experience is helpful, but not required. Some training is available.

We also have openings for Videographers/Photographers. Put your skills to work!!!

Interested parties should contact Commander Crocker for details @ 850-339-3051 or kvcroadking@yahoo.com.

Confederate Trivia

Last meeting Compatriot Lamar Cox asked us “What Confederate General is buried in Tallahassee?” After a few hints the answer was given by Compatriots Don Turner and John Booth. Of course it is General Theodore Washington Brevard, the last Confederate officer promoted to Brigadier General. General Brevard commanded the Florida Brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia.

This month’s question should be an easy one. It is, While the Confederate Army had over 400 Generals; only two were born in Florida. Who were they?

Please visit our website at <http://www.finleysbrigadescv.com/>

**Like us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/235023710735/?ref=br_tf or
[Finley’s Brigade SCV Camp Tallahassee](#)**

Heritage Opportunities

Feb 1 - Cemetery Work-day at Bannerman Cemetery at 9:00am

Feb 11 – Regular Camp Meeting 6:45pm at Golden Corral on North Monroe Street

Feb 22 – Adopt-a-Road clean-up. Meet at Old Plank and Natural Bridge Rd. 8:30am

Mar 1&2 – Battle of Natural Bridge weekend. Come visit our Recruiting tent.

April 12 – Cemetery Clean-up Soldiers Cemetery, Quincy, Florida 9:00am

April 19 – Decorations Day at Soldiers Cemetery 4:00 pm with Susan Hathaway, Virginia Flagger

April 27 – Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony at Old City Cemetery, Tallahassee, FL

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

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.

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