



***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: Veteran's Day Parade



On Monday, November 12th, Finley's Brigade color guard participated in Tallahassee's annual Veteran's Day Parade down Monroe Street. Members Larry Thomas, Jim Windsor, and Tim Cotton marched with the U.S., first national, and battle flag while compatriot Doug Moon pulled the camp trailer behind. Commander

Crocker walked the route to take pictures and observe. We were very well received w by the crowd with cheers for the southern flag and no negative incidents.

27th Annual Lee & Jackson Southern Heritage Event



Sponsored by

Finley's Brigade Camp #1614

Mary Ann Harvey Black, Confederate Rose Society

January 19, 2019

Social Hour: 5:00 p.m.

Supper/Program 6:00 p.m.

Location: Marzuq Shrine Temple 1805 N Monroe St Tallahassee FL 32303

Tickets: \$45.00 in advance Door Prizes and Silent Auction

Come embrace our Southern Heritage

Our Guest Speaker: Paul C Graham



PAUL C. GRAHAM is a native of Columbia, South Carolina and holds a Bachelor and Master's Degree, in Philosophy from the University of South Carolina. He is past president of the South Carolina Masonic Research and the former editor of The Palmetto Partisan, the official journal of the South Carolina Division of the Sons of Confederate

Veterans. He was a contributing author to Understanding the War Between the States, and editor of a collection of accounts from the South Carolina Slave Narratives entitled When the Yankees Come: For South Carolina Slaves Remember Sherman's Invasion. Mr. Graham's writings have appeared in several publications including the Simms Review, the Palmetto Partisan, the Transactions of the SC Masonic Research Society, and the Abbeville Institute's Blog and Review. He is the co-founder of Shotwell Publishing, LLC and lives near old Granby, South Carolina, with his beautiful bride of over 20 years, Mrs. Suzette.

Tickets are available in advance by contacting Finley's Brigade P. O. 16006 Tallahassee, Florida 32317. Or contact Adjutant Thomas Williams III at 850-942-2866 Or Commander Kelly Crocker at 850-339-3051 kvcroading@yahoo.com. Tickets are \$45 each, supper included.

Come expecting a good time.



Confederate Ancestor Memorial Request Form

Please include a \$15.00 donation per Ancestor Memorial. Please print name, rank & regiment/unit of your ancestor(s).

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Request made by: _____

Your Confederate Ancestor's name will be published in the 2019 Lee/Jackson Event Program. Thank you for honoring your Confederate Ancestor.

Confederate Trivia of the Month

Naval Edition

1. In what body of water was the *CSS Alabama* sunk?
 - A. South Atlantic
 - B. Caspian Sea
 - C. Indian Ocean
 - D. English Channel
2. What was Admiral Buchanan's flagship?
 - A. *CSS Harriet Lane*
 - B. *CSS Tennessee*
 - C. *CSS Texas*
 - D. *CSS Florida*
3. Who was Commandant of the Confederate Marine Corps?
 - A. Stephen Mallory
 - B. Lloyd Beall
 - C. Charles Sumner
 - D. Richard Ewell
4. Raphael Semmes commanded briefly commanded what ship in the U.S. Navy?
 - A. *USS Somers*
 - B. *USS Buchanan*
 - C. *USS Stars and Stripes*
 - D. *USS Water Witch*
5. The *CSS Shenandoah* surrendered in what foreign port?
 - A. Hong Kong, China
 - B. Halifax, Canada
 - C. Liverpool, England
 - D. Veracruz, Mexico

See last page for answers



Tallahassee Veterans Village

Our commitment to Veteran's Village is ongoing as ever, target items remain canned goods and toiletries. The facility is in possession of a freezer and can accept some perishable meat. However, with the cold months moving in anything warm; coats, blankets, or socks are also in demand. Please bring your donations to the meeting Tuesday evening. Direct all other inquiries to our liaison, Keith Lassiter.



Meeting Dedication

December's meeting will be dedicated to Private Alexander Roan Curles of the 51st Georgia Infantry.

Repugnant to Humanity; Mosby, Reprisal, & the Front Royal Murders

September 1864, Front Royal, Virginia, six men in the custody of General Custer whispered their final prayers as they readied themselves for martyrdom. Five of them were rangers under the command of the Gray Ghost, John Singleton Mosby; the other was a teenage boy named Henry Rhodes. They had been captured after a failed raid on a federal wagon convoy where a beloved federal lieutenant had been killed. With hatred in their hearts, their captors lashed four of them to stakes and shot them through the skull one at a time. The remaining two prisoners were offered a chance to live should they give up Mosby's whereabouts. They refused. Moments later they were hanged to a tree. As they swung from the branch, notes were pinned to their coats reading in part "the fate of Mosby and his men".

Shortly afterwards another prisoner from Mosby's Rangers was executed in the custody of Colonel Powell. Seven summary executions, *war crimes* had been committed against Mosby's command. The murdered men had been unarmed prisoners who had surrendered with the understanding that they would be treated humanely in accordance with the tradition of civilized war. Even if the federals did not accept their moral obligations to the guerillas; Mosby's men had taken hundreds of prisoners over the course of the war and always treated them with dignity and humanity. If nothing else, it would have been simple *quid pro quo* for Custer and Powell to afford Mosby's partisans the same.

At the time, Colonel Mosby himself was away from his unit. He had been wounded and was recovering in safety with his captains leading raids in his absence. After returning to the front and learning of these summary murders he responded swiftly. Under his orders seven union prisoners were selected at random to be executed. He then sent a letter to General Sheridan explaining that the executions were a reprisal for the executions of his men and that he would resume good treatment of union prisoners unless some other crime against his men compelled him to act similarly. Never again was a captured ranger murdered. This was perhaps the most controversial moment of Mosby's career. The legitimacy and ethics of reprisals in war, especially concerning prisoners have always been contested primarily because the stakes involved are innocent lives. To be sure the execution of union prisoners was by no means an ethical act nor would it ever have been justifiable outside of the context of what had happened in Front Royal. However, this is not to mean that it was an unethical act. Rather it was an admittedly unpleasant, but well conducted and justifiable action that was necessary to save innocent life and preserve good soldierly conduct in the closing days of the war. Accepting that the executions in Front Royal were indeed war crimes, the next step in judging Mosby's actions is to clearly establish a working definition of just what a reprisal is. For the purpose of this argument, a reprisal is any proportional action which would otherwise be considered illegal that is done in response to a violation of enumerated or traditional rules of warfare with the express purpose of coercing the offending party back into compliance.

With this framework in mind, Mosby's reprisal can be judged for proportionality and the goal of encouraging compliance with the rules of war. In terms of the former, Mosby cannot be said to have been anything but proportional. Several newspapers and recollections of the event state that as the rope was being tightened around his neck, one of the rangers prophesized that Mosby would hang ten federals for every confederate murdered that day in Front Royal. As poetic as those final words may have been, the colonel's wisdom prevailed over such sentiments. Had he killed seventy federal soldiers or suspended the taking of prisoners then any of his men who fell into enemy hands would certainly have been killed as well

and a long cycle of abuses destructive to human dignity would have almost certainly been initiated. By ordering the deaths of seven men (only three actually died, two escaped and another two both extraordinarily survived pistol shots to the head), the “account” was balanced.

Worth noting as well was Mosby’s clear intentions in carrying out his reprisal. Before ordering any deaths, he went up his chain of command and received the written approval of General Lee and James Seddon, the confederate secretary of war. After giving his orders he immediately wrote Sheridan explaining what he had done and that he had done it solely for the purpose of ceasing further mistreatment of prisoners and would resume benevolent quarantine of all future captives assuming it was reciprocated. The fact that it was premeditated, approved, and immediately explained makes it easier to defend. While the Front Royal murders were done in the heat of the moment, the reprisal was done in a calculated way to achieve a good objective and not as some may characterize it, done out of fury and revenge.

What must be addressed however is that prisoners are not typically legitimate targets. The outrage of Front Royal was that the murdered men were protected by the tradition of war. It is easy then to see how one could condemn Mosby’s reprisal as a classic of case of two wrongs not making a right. To be clear, Mosby himself did not consider his reprisal *good*; rather he considered it *necessary*. Mosby’s two options were reprisal or inaction. The notes affixed to the hanged corpses explicitly threatened more extrajudicial violence upon Mosby and his men. Doing nothing could have easily emboldened union troops to lynch more captured rangers. While this would mean that no one with protected status would have died by the colonel’s hands, it is likely that more of the colonel’s own men would have died. In such a supposal it would be hard to absolve Mosby of all guilt for this since as commander of his unit he had a responsibility to protect his men. By doing nothing in the name of not righting a wrong with a wrong he would have committed a greater wrong by neglecting to penalize the enemy for their illegal actions. While it was undoubtedly an unethical act by itself it was the lesser of two evils when faced with the possible repercussions of doing nothing. Mosby adhered to basic consequentialist theory and chose the option which he foresaw would result in the least amount of harm done to innocents.

Concerning the point of prisoners as the legitimate targets of reprisal, it is easy to see an attack on Mosby’s actions that claims that while reprisal was justified; committing it on prisoners was not. Those in this camp are working with facts; the prisoners were innocent, entitled to protection, and had nothing to do with the deaths of Mosby’s men. To argue their lives were forfeit because of something their commanding officer had done or that they shared some collective guilt in the murders simply by being in Custer’s unit is hard. It is likely that all the men who were killed knew of the murders, and possible that some may have witnessed it, but all accounts indicate clearly that men were killed for a crime that they personally did not commit. While this is undoubtedly unjust the question presents itself, what alternative did Mosby have that would have coerced union troops in the area into better treatment of rangers taken prisoner?

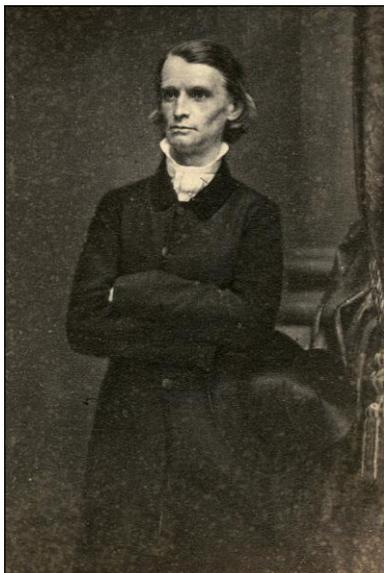
He could have ramped up his raids against federal troops in retaliation but that was his role to begin with. Answering illegitimate conduct with legitimate conduct is hardly a deterrent, if anything it would have sent the message that no special consequence would come of murdering confederate prisoners. He could have petitioned to Washington to have Custer tried as war criminal; however, the odds that such an endeavor would have reaped any fruits are slim. He could have simply lied and said he executed prisoners, however his men would have known and the information that it was a lie would have likely gotten out by way of

loose lips. Had this happened not only would union troops think there were no repercussions of abusing prisoners, they would have only been more emboldened by what would have been perceived as cowardice and a lack of resolve on Mosby's part. Ultimately it was Custer who initiated a grim game with Mosby where the stakes were innocent lives, to end it Mosby had no choice but to play along. In making final judgments on the Front Royal affair it is best to let Mosby speak for himself. In his letter to Sheridan dated the 11th of November 1864 which he included in his post-war memoirs he wrote Accordingly, on the 6th instant, seven of your men were, by my order, executed on the Valley pike – your highway of travel. Hereafter, any prisoners falling into my hands will be treated with the kindness due to their condition, unless some new act of barbarity shall compel me, reluctantly, to adopt a new line of policy repugnant to humanity.

Here we see him confess that his response was nothing he was proud of and in all reality something he had no desire to do. There is no doubt that he hated the choice between inaction and reprisal was thrust upon him, but there is also no doubt that he responded to the outrage of Front Royal with deliberated conviction that what he was doing was the necessary thing to safeguard his men even if it meant carrying a heavy load on his personal conscience. Much of Mosby's reputation revolves around the cavalier romance of daring nighttime raids behind enemy lines and harrowing escapes from veteran officers sent to hunt him down. The story of the Front Royal Murders however shows a darker more nuanced side to the Gray Ghost then is typically seen and paints a picture of a pragmatic leader who was willing to make hard choices not because he considered them right, but because they would lead to a greater good. In his reprisal Mosby chose to shoulder the guilty of a deed both violent and cruel so that more could be spared from similar fates. In this there is honor.

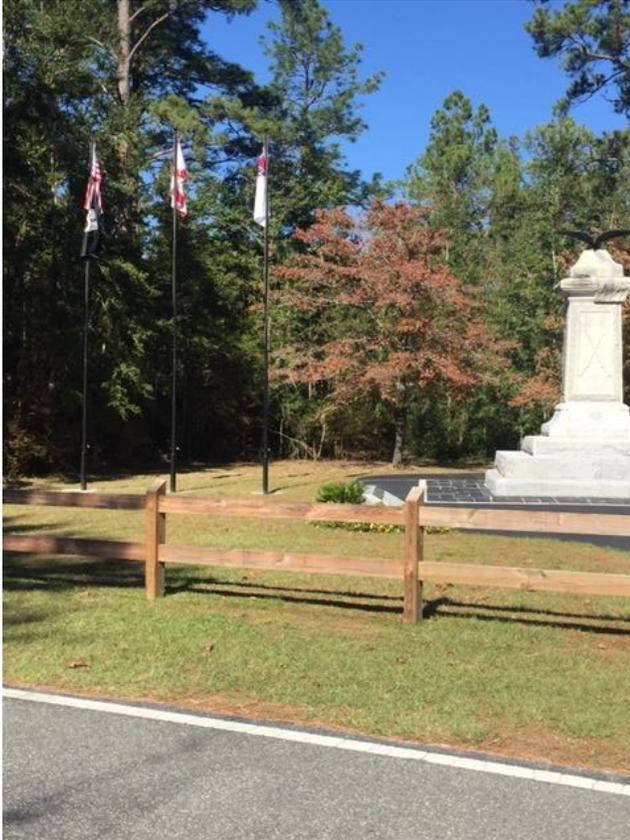
Upcoming Event: Adopt a Road Saturday December 8th

Come one, come all! Saturday at 8:30am we will do our Adopt-a- Road commitment at Natural Bridge Road. Meet at Old Plank Rd and Natural Bridge Rd. See you there!



Happy Birth-Month!
General Henry A. Wise

December 3rd, 1806



Second National Flag is flying at Natural Bridge

A recent visit to survey the Natural Bridge Battlefield Park, revealed that the State Park Service has kept their word. Finley's Brigade has supplied the Park Service with First, Second, and Third National Flags to be used at the Monument. Finley's also paid for and installed anti-theft devices on all three of the Flag-poles onsite.



Heritage Opportunities

December 8 – Adopt-a-Road 8:30am

December 11 – Regular Camp Meeting

January 8 – Regular Camp Meeting

January 19 – Lee-Jackson Banquet 5:00pm 1805 North Monroe Street

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

For comments, questions, concerns, or submissions to the newsletter please contact the editor at 2ndltcommander@finleysbrigadescv.com

Trivia answers: D,B,B,A,C