



***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."



Tallahassee Women during the War and Reconstruction



Michelle Kirby will present a PowerPoint program at our next meeting on the subject of local women during the War and Reconstruction. The accounts by Ellen Call Long and Susan Bradford Eppes will be highlighted. Come out and hear how they viewed what happened.



Susan Bradford Eppes on the left and Ellen Call Long on the right
Photos courtesy of the Florida State Archives

THIS MONTHS MEETING IS DEDICATED TO: CAPTAIN ANGUS McMILLAN of COMPANY K, 6TH FLORIDA INFANTRY

Ancestor of Camp Members Finley McMillan and Andy Gowan

From the New Commander in Chief



Compatriots and Friends,

Let me take this time to tell you what an honor it is to be elected as your Commander-in-Chief. Words cannot adequately describe my feelings. I am humbled to hold an office that only seventy-three men before me have held. It is my pleasure to be a thirty-five year member of the SCV. I remember attending my first Lee-Jackson Banquet at Aunt Fanny's Cabin in Smyrna, Georgia where all of my family was inducted into the SCV, UDC and CofC. It was a special moment for me but little did I know what the future held.

Through the unity of our organization and the strength of our Confederate Ancestors, we shall continue to move forward to be the preeminent authority on Southern heritage. There are many days ahead of us in the Sesquicentennial and beyond that give us opportunities to promote and honor the heroic deeds of the men and women of 1861-1865. By their examples we can learn a considerable amount; it is our ancestors who endured "Total War" from an illegal invader. Today, like our ancestors, we must also choose to stand fast or retreat? They knew their duty, do we know ours? General Robert E. Lee once said, "Duty then is the sublimit word in the English language, you should do your duty in all things, you can never do more; you should never wish to do less."

The Confederate soldiers we honor and whose DNA flows in our veins took a stand to proclaim to the world the values of our American Liberties and their commitment to its Cause. Those Principles of 1776 and 1861 are still alive today. Friends, let us reconfirm our commitment to those liberties and the Cause which we hold so dear.

I would like to close with a quote from Jefferson Davis' proclamation from April 5, 1865 in the capitol in Danville, Virginia. "Let us not, then, despond, my countrymen; but relying on the never-failing mercies and protecting care of our God, let us meet the foe with fresh defiance, with unconquered and unconquerable hearts."

I now ask you to make a stand as they did, to be unified with others of the same mindset and lineage. As with anything in life, a unified group is more effective than any individual could ever be. I hope you will join me as we honor our Confederate ancestors and as we re-dedicate ourselves to those Principles of 1776 and 1861. May God Bless You and My God Bless the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Deo Vindice!

Commander in Chief Charles Kelly Barrow

Chaplains Comments-Fear

Chaplain John Howell

Have you ever been afraid? The kind of fear that actually makes you tremble? It could have been "hot" fear or a "cold" fear that left you in a cold sweat? Perhaps it was so strong that it woke you up from a "deep" sleep. You were perhaps so afraid that you got out of bed and checked to see if a stranger was in your home to rob you or to do you physical harm? Do you still remember the fear you felt deep in your soul? Even after some years have passed, you still feel the tingle of that fear?

This is what I want to discuss with you.

Have you looked at the situation in the bright light of day? And you may not remember what it was that produced such an unreasoning fear in you. I attended a seminar several years ago. The speaker was giving some insights into our thinking, in order to aid us in building up our self-confidence. What he shared with us that day has been with me like a touch of reality, a touch that I could reach out and do a "reality check". He wrote one word on the white board to illustrate this truth. It read:

F
E
A
R

He then told us that with this one word we would have peace from all pervasive fears. This one word acronym translates to:

F - False
E - Evidence
A - Appearing
R - Real

No matter if that something in your subconscious, lingering on years after that traumatic event, if you reach out in your memory to remind yourself what constitutes "FEAR", you will gain peace.

I would suggest to you, that you may wish to put it in another context. If FEAR "breaks out" of your subconscious and attempts to control your thinking; does that make it real? Not really. It simply implies that by your continuing to bring the situation to the fore-front of your conscious, you have unwittingly given the devil access to your mind and you are giving him space to do his "dirty work" on you, instead of "welcoming" the devil to your consciousness, go stand in front of a mirror, look yourself in the eyes, and speaking aloud, tell your image in the mirror, "Devil, I know you think you have found another convert, BUT, let me make myself perfectly clear, you do not live in me. I rebuke you, leave this minute and go back to the pits of HELL where you belong. I have given myself to be a follower of GOD and his son, JESUS. Now, GIT! You stinking nothing. You will never be welcome here in my body and soul.

If you will do this every day until you find that peace has taken up residence with you, you will find you have put FEAR away from you.

Will you do this?

Now that you have peace, how are you doing? Is your reply, "Good", is it "better than I deserve, excellent, etc., etc." Personally, I answer with "fantastic, but I'm getting better". How can you get better than fantastic? My reply is, "there is always room for improvement."

Will you do this?
GOD BLESS YOU.
GOD LOVES YOU, and so do I.
PRAISE GOD!
John Howell, Chaplain.

Commanders Comments-Kelly Crocker

Well, the national Reunion has come and gone. You were well represented by Adjutant Grissom, Past Commanders Carroll and Smith, and me. You have noticed already that Kelly Barrow is our new Commander in Chief. Tom Strain of Alabama was elected LT Commander in Chief. The full slate of appointed officers will be in the next Confederate Veteran.

While we did not win any Camp awards this year, Past Commander Graham Smith won a Heritage Defense Award and a Meritorious Service Award. Congratulations Graham! Graham also received an appointment as Deputy Director of Heritage Operations. He will assist the new Heritage Operations Director Ben Jones who is also known as "Cooter" from the TV Series "The Dukes of Hazard." Come to the next meeting for a full report.

See you there,
Kelly

Tallahassee Veterans Village

Howdy Confederates,

This will be short and sweet since Mr. Shawn is in St. Pete right now.

He still wants the target items to be canned goods and bed sheets (double bed size). I know these items might be redundant but that just goes to show how badly they need these items! Let's try and help them out with these items the best we can. They still have 52 residents and 4 of them are women. The residents and staff send their "thanks" for all we are doing for them. Also remember that everyday items will gladly be welcomed.

Thank you Finley's Brigade,

DEO VINDICE!

Chris Miller

The Cadets of the West Florida Seminary Part II

By Kelly Crocker

As we mentioned last month, we have identified the Cadets of the West Florida Seminary, using several resources. We have used "Official" military records, State Confederate pension applications, writings of the Cadets themselves, and writings of others.

One of these other writings is by Susan Archer (1850-1933), who was a student at the Seminary, and her brother Thomas Brown "Tod" Archer was a Cadet. Tod and Susan were the children of James T Archer former Florida Secretary of State and Mary Simpson Brown. They were the grandchildren of Governor Thomas Brown who was Florida's second Governor after Statehood.

Susan wrote a lengthy letter to the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1911, and this letter was reprinted in the Tallahassee Daily Democrat in November of 1919. In her letter she mentions that the Cadets were from "Tallahassee and vicinity, Quincy and Jefferson (county) and some from Bainbridge and Thomasville." This month's Cadet was one of those from Decatur County, Georgia (Bainbridge). It is hard to tell this Cadet's story without telling you a little about his father, too! I hope you will enjoy.

Colonel Charles J Munnerlyn Sr.

By JR Miller



COLONEL CHARLES J. MUNNERLYN.

CHARLES JAMES MUNNERLYN Sr. FEB.14, 1822 - MAY 16, 1898 was most likely the wealthiest man in Decatur County, Georgia at the outbreak of war. He was also one of the biggest land owners and slave owners in the county as well. Since he was in the gentry' class he had a set of hounds. However, unlike other southern gentlemen throughout the South, these were not fox hounds. Due to the fact that Georgia and much of the lower south was overrun with grey foxes which were quick to take up a tree or run into a burrow. The red fox were more up to a chase and therefore more sporting. So, Georgia's gentry' class pursued the whitetail deer. Mr. Munnerlyn and his sons had deer hounds, most likely some sort of Walker hound. Deep in the archives in the Decatur Co. courthouse is a diary started in 1861 of an unnamed boy most likely a teenager. It says a lot about secession and the beginning of the war to which this child was proud to be a secession stating that he hopes "*the flag of secession never fails to fly.*" This boy I

think most importantly mentions a deer hunt with hounds. He mentions those involved and those who were lucky to get a deer including an old man who got a fine buck which turned out to be his first, and Charles Munnerlyn Jr. got a deer also. He mentions the hounds that were in the chase being Ring, Buck, Old Leon and one other hound.

At the outbreak of war Charles Sr. enlisted as a private in the Bainbridge Independents. This company became part of Ramsey's 1st Georgia Infantry Regiment and served for a short time in Virginia under Stonewall Jackson. However before his stint in the army he had been a delegate to the secession

convention, representing Decatur Co, and pushed for Jefferson Davis to be President of the Confederacy and would be a close friend to Mr. Davis for the rest of his life.

After his term in the army he was elected to the Confederate Congress serving as a representative from 1862-1864. He only served one term; for he voted for the conscription act which was a very unpopular act.

After his term in Congress he enlisted in Col. Scott's battalion of Florida Calvary. President Davis upon hearing his good friend responding to the call of patriotism once again secured him a rank of Major and sent him to south Florida to organize a regiment of Calvary to protect the supply lines there. This unit would become known as First Battalion Florida Special Cavalry also known as Munnerlyn's Cow Calvary which he commanded as a Lieutenant Colonel. The outfit's main mission was to guard the cattle herd from south Florida to Gainesville.

Towards the end of the war Munnerlyn was ordered to lay low and to help with, and aid confederate government officials escape. There is some evidence that Munnerlyn helped with the escape of Secretary of State Judah Benjamin.

After the War, Colonel Munnerlyn rebuilt his estate and became a successful Planter, again. He was also an advocate of the railroads and invested heavily in them. He died at his home, *Refuge*, and was buried near there with full masonic honors.

Cadet Charles James Munnerlyn Jr.

By JR Miller

Nov. 27, 1847 - Nov. 27, 1916 was born at "Refuge" Plantation House near Bainbridge, Georgia to Charles Munnerlyn Sr. and Harriet Eugenia Shackelford, and was also a great grandson of a Revolutionary soldier. Charlie, as he was called was born into the gentry or elite class of society. He was offered the finest of the finest of what South Georgia could offer. His early education would be at home with his mother, a little later he may have been schooled at the local academy. On April 21, 1864, at the age of 16, Charlie joined Company D of the 5th Florida Cavalry Battalion. At some point after this he was enrolled at the West Florida Seminary. Whether this was a move to protect his son from the military or for a superior education or maybe a little of both, is not certain. At first the Seminary did not teach military tactics but as the war came they did add military drills for the boys. By 1864 the Southland began calling up their 'seed corn' to the front lines to repel the invasion of the South. Charlie and the rest of the cadets of the West Florida Seminary were sent to the grinder on the St. Marks River one fateful March morning and marched into the manuals of military history. Charlie and the rest of the Cadets made it back to Tallahassee, minus one. A great reception was held and newspapers across of what was left of the Confederacy told of a gallant battle of old men and young cadets that repelled the invasion to capture the capital of Florida.

After the War, Charlie married Lucy Branch in 1871 and they raised nine children together in South Georgia. Charles, Jr. worked as a railroad agent and farmer. He died on his 69th birthday and was buried in Oak City Cemetery in Decatur County, Georgia.

Sam Davis Youth Camp

I feel that it is important for you, the Camp, to see what our children are learning at the SDYC. The following is the winning speech given by Vallery Cline, daughter of David Cline. Vallery is 15 years old.

2014 Sam Davis Youth Camp Oratory Contest
Thaxton, Virginia
Vallery Cline

Topic: Why the South seceded, why the South fought, and why we must remember.

"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." – Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee C.S.A

My father is responsible for this Charge, as well as you all are!

Southerners and northerners are totally different people. They came from different parts of the United Kingdom and other countries. They did not get along over there, and they did not get along over here in America.

The South seceded for many reasons. We were taught in school that it was because the Southerners wanted to keep their slaves. I learned here that slavery was not the reason. The reasons were:

- High tariffs;
- Centralization versus states' rights;
- Christianity versus secular humanism;
- Cultural difference;
- Control of western territories;
- Northern industry versus Southern resources;
- Slander of the South by the yankee press;
- Instigations of slave rebellions;
- Slavery itself; and
- Military aggression against the South.

The South went to war to preserve states' rights and to protect their liberties given to them under the Constitution. That tyrant Lincoln decided to call for troops to force the seceded states to remain in the union. This caused the remaining Southern states to secede. Virginia and other Southern states did not agree with Lincoln calling for troops to make war against their fellow states so they joined the rest in secession.

Now you know why our Southern states fought for independence, now let me tell you why we must remember. The number one reason why we must remember is because the north won the war and we know that the victors in war get to write the history books. I have learned that I have been given false information in school and through television.

Lincoln and his generals were racist. They did not free their slaves until after the war when they were forced to. The emancipation proclamation did not free any northern slaves. There were more northern slave holders than Southern slave holders that fought during the war, and the north wanted to take all the South's money through taxes without giving the Southern states their equal share.

Our Confederate ancestors were honorable, valiant, and chivalrous. They fought to defend their homes from invading forces. We must remember and educate others about the true history of the War Between the States.

“Every man should endeavor to understand the meaning of subjugation before it is too late... It means the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the enemy; that our youth will be trained by Northern schoolteachers; will learn from Northern school books their version of the war; will be impressed by the influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors, and our maimed veterans as fit objects for derision... It is said slavery is all we are fighting for, and if we give it up we give up all. Even if this were true, which we deny, slavery is not all that our enemies are fighting for. It is merely the pretense to establish sectional superiority and a more centralized form of government, and to deprive us of our rights and liberties.” – Gen. Patrick Cleburne C.S.A.

Heritage Opportunities

Aug 2 – Annual Meeting of the Florida SCV Mechanized Cavalry at Lakeland Harley-Davidson

Aug 9 – Unveiling of The Florida Confederate Memorial Wall at the Tampa, Florida Flag site

Aug 12 – Finley's Brigade Camp meeting 6:45 at the Golden Corral

Sept 13 – Sesquicentennial Heritage Rally in Franklin, Tennessee

Sept 26, 27 – Sesquicentennial of the Battle of Marianna, Florida – Monument dedication Saturday

Sept 26-28 – “Rifles, Rails, and History” event in Tavares, Florida - Sponsored by the FL Div SCV

Oct 25 – Memorial Service for Pvt Allen Scott at Rhodes Cemetery in Woodville, Florida

Jan 24, 2015 – Lee Jackson Heritage Event at Mission San Luis – Guest Speaker – Lt Gen Thomas J Jackson

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.

The Camp Cresset Newsletter is the official publication of Camp 1614, Finley's Brigade, Sons of Confederate Veterans. No content may be reproduced in part, or in whole, without the expressed written authorization from the Editor-in-Chief. All parts herein remain the sole property of SCV Camp 1614. ©2014