



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."

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, UCV Commander General



June Camp Meeting

**Finley's Brigade Camp 1614 will hold its monthly Meeting on June 13th at the VFW.
Social time at 6:00 and meeting at 6:45.**

The Saga of the CSS Chattahoochee

The CSS Chattahoochee was 141 feet long with a beam of 30 feet 8 inches and had a draft of 7 feet 3 inches. She was well armed, requiring 78 personnel to man the cannons and guns. Throughout her life, the Chattahoochee never fired her guns in anger at an enemy ship, installation, or unit.



The Chattahoochee was a twin-screw steamer with three retractable mast sails capable of reaching speeds of about 37 mph or 32 knots. Named for the river on which she was built, she was commissioned early in the war to break up the Federal blockage around Apalachicola Florida and protect the valuable waterways of the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers that became the Apalachicola River near the Florida/Georgia border. Nearly 200 miles upstream from the Gulf of Mexico on the Chattahoochee River, Columbus GA was a major industrial city, turning out cloth, furniture, rails, train cars and even steam

engines for the Confederate States. Many yards of lumber were floated down the Flint River to the mills around Bainbridge GA and numerous bales of cotton began their journey to Europe on this waterway. Disrupting this commerce was a definite blow to the economy of the South.

On October 19, 1861, a contract was signed giving the shipyard at Saffold, Early County GA 120 days to construct the gunboat. In July 1862, the Confederate States Navy (CSN) took over the activities at the yard to complete the building of the ship. As the Chattahoochee was under construction, the city of Apalachicola FL could no longer be defended and was abandoned to the Union forces. In order to impede Federal traffic, a chain was stretched across the river and by March 1863, the captured debris was backed up 100 yards. While this prevented Federal traffic upriver, it also prevented anything but small Confederate crafts from reaching the Gulf. The newly commissioned CSS Chattahoochee, built to operate in open water, was captured upstream in the river. Plans were made to blast through this obstacle, retrieve the Confederate blockade runner, *The Fashion*, that had been captured in early May and then engage the Federal blockade. However, low water levels and a near hurricane strength rainstorm forced the ship to leave its anchorage near Blountstown FL and return to its home port in Chattahoochee FL.

As the ship was being prepared to get underway, the crew noticed the pressure in the boilers was not increasing. The engineer was ill that day and had not seen that the tanks were empty of water needed to make steam. Someone discovered this mistake and opened the valves, allowing the cold river water to flood the cherry-red metal boilers. The crew in the boiler room were instantly killed by the explosion while others were scalded to death by the steam or had severe burns. Thinking the fire would set off the powder room, the order was given to pull the scuttle plugs and sink the ship. The dead and wounded were taken to shore where they remained, exposed to the violent storm for two days. The 19 who died were buried in Chattahoochee FL.

That is not quite the end of the story of the CSS Chattahoochee. She was salvaged from the Apalachicola River and taken back to Columbus GA where attempts were made to revive her. On April 17, 1865, after Columbus was captured and the Navy Yard burned, she once more was scuttled by her crew in the Chattahoochee River to keep her from Federal hands.

In 1963, the sunken remains of the CSS Chattahoochee were removed from the river and are now on display at the National Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus GA.

NEWEST MEMBERS



At the May meeting of Finley's Brigade, we welcomed two new members into our ranks. Pictured here with **Commander Ned Roberts** are **Jason** and **James Munn**.

They come to us with much enthusiasm and devotion to the Confederate cause. They are eager to become involved in our activities and events.

What a great addition to the camp!

Chaplain's Corner



"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;" --Philippians 3:10

On Wednesday, April 19th, I put down my best friend—my dog, "Uncle Luther." Many of you remember him. It was one of the worst days of my life! I loved him so very much, and I miss him immensely. During the time I was waiting for the doctor to come in and do what she had to do, I seared into my brain, into my heart, and into my soul every hair, every spot, every breath. I took in his smell. The eyes that would soon close forever were inextricably linked with my spirit. I never wanted—and never do want—to forget these things about him, because of my deep and abiding love for him.

Last night after church, we had a supper and time of fellowshiping for friends—a couple and their children—who will be moving to Oklahoma and for another friend who was home for Mothers' Day and was to return to Arkansas this morning. I shared with Bro. Alex how I took in every word he spoke, as he preached; how I watched and listened to him and Sister Rachel as they sang; how I burned into my inner self all about them that I could. Why would I do this? It is because I love them dearly and will miss them so very much.

Unbeknownst to some of you who will read this, I have (and not in a morbid sense either) taken in things about you that I never want to forget, such as the way your head may nod when you talk; the way you fold your hands when you sit; the deep sound of your voice; the way you hold the attention of a crowd when you speak. My, what conviction I found myself under upon reading the above scripture in the pages of holy script!

Have I seen; smelled; heard; felt, and tasted of the Lord Jesus? One may say that is impossible, but I beg to differ. I read a book years ago that my high school British Literature teacher introduced me to while I was in college. The book is called *The Little Prince*. The book is considered a children's fantasy; however, if one takes the time to look beyond the surface and takes a deep dive into the words, it is laden with wisdom on the meaning of friendship, and believe it or not, it is also possessed of biblical doctrine. I go back to my statement that some would say it is impossible to have seen; smelled; heard; felt and tasted of the Lord Jesus. One of the best quotes from this book is from the Little Prince himself, when he states, "... *and now here is my secret, a very simple secret: It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.*"

Again, I was convicted after reading that scripture from Philippians. Have I drawn as close to the One Who died for me as I did to Uncle Luther? James 4:8 tells us to "*Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.*"

May we "... *taste and see that the Lord is good.*"—Psalms 34:8

My duties as Chaplain include assisting members in need. With that in mind, please let me know if you are aware of any who are sick, bereaved or in need of any services we may offer. Contact me as indicated below.

Chaplain Keith Lassiter
(850) 567-0645
greynole01@yahoo.com





Compatriot **Reggie Roddenberry** becomes the latest Finley's Brigade *Florida Division SCV Guardian*.

He is pictured here receiving his certificate and pin from **Commander Kelly Crocker** at the May camp meeting.

Reggie is planning to sponsor more than one veteran's grave and encourages each of you to consider this worthwhile program.

Tallahassee Veterans Village

Veterans Chairman: Reginald Roddenberry

Before I get into listing all the donated items for our Veteran Village members it is appropriate that I speak a few words about this particular day, Memorial Day.

As a Vietnam War veteran, I am always conscious of honoring those men and women we left behind; those who gave their final moments of life here on earth! To paraphrase a comment from Commander Kelly Crocker

– this is not a time to celebrate this holiday weekend with just feasting. It is a time to honor our fallen military members who never made it back home to America. It is also a time to remember the sacrifice all those fallen comrades did for our freedom. Those of us who served in the military, particularly during war time, knew we could be sacrificed for our freedom. Let us never forget that “last full measure” our fallen veterans gave to keep and maintain our freedom.

The fight is not over as it will never be over. There will always be people who wish to dispel our freedoms! We need to close ranks and guard each other as we continue to protect our freedom of life, properties, and country.

I will add that we look forward to giving these veterans in the village a cookout on the 24th of June this year as our measure of celebrating their service to our country and the freedoms we all enjoy!

THESE ARE THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE VETERAN'S VILLAGE:

25 Tops, 4 Shirts, 4 Slacks,
3 Jewelry, 1 Sweater, 1 Dress,
5 Shower Caps, 3 Shirts,

5 Cans of Coffee, 1 Box of Sugar
Packets, 1 Creamers Container,

1 Sheet Set, 2 Jars of Peanut Butter,
& 1 Six Pack of Gatorade.

God Bless our veterans!

Grave Keepers Report – Remembering Our Ancestors

1st Lt Commander Mark Bess

The month of May has been an eventful and fulfilling one indeed.

On May 08, Finley's Brigade Compatriots Kelly Crocker, Stan Willis, Gerald Bell, and Rob Crisler traveled with me to the quaint little town of **Wewahitchka Florida**. Our mission was to meet with Compatriots from the **Lt. Thomas H. Gainer Camp # 1319, Lynn Haven FL.**, to install the headstones for three "War of Northern Aggression" veterans and a "Spanish American" war veteran.

This was the culmination of a concerted effort by all involved. SCV Florida Division **Adjutant, Rick Roberts**, had researched these men and applied for the VA markers. The markers were delivered to Finley's in Tallahassee, and then transported to Wewa for storage. The day was chosen, and we all gathered for the event.



Our first stop was at the Jehu Cemetery, to install the markers for **Wiley Jenks, 28th Georgia Siege Artillery**, and **Nathaniel Scott, 54th NC Infantry**. All went well until we unboxed the marker for Nathaniel Scott and revealed the marker had broken in transit. Undaunted, the marker for Wiley Jenks was installed with several family members present. (Adjutant Roberts contacted the VA and secured approval for a replacement marker for Compatriot Scott.)

Along with the marker for Compatriot Jenks, we returned the marker of **John Mitchell Griffin** to its rightful place. Mr. Griffin is the 2nd Great Grandfather of **Wakulla Guards, Camp #742 Commander, Wayne Willis**. The marker had been dealt a mortal blow during Hurricane Michael and was broken in two. Commander Willis asked if it was possible to repair, and

not being the ones to shy away from a challenge, we effected repairs and returned the marker to its former glory.

We then traveled south to the "Roberts Cemetery" and installed the markers for **Charles H. Wilbur, Dunham's Battery, Florida Light Artillery**, and **George K. Swindell 118th battery, Coastal Artillery, Spanish American War**.

The tale of Mr. Swindell's demise is a sad one. In August of 1935, Mr. Swindell was living in Wewa, having moved from Huntsville Alabama the previous year. Mr. Swindell's humble abode was just a canvas tent he shared with his three dogs. His tent was struck by lightning which killed all involved. He had survived a war, only to be struck down by the force of nature.





In attendance at Wewa were family members of the soldiers as well as news reporters from Wewa and Port St. Joe.

All in all, it was a terrific day and another example of the camaraderie of the SCV and working together toward a common goal.



Speaking of camaraderie and working together, **May 27th was another shining example.**

Quincy Young Guards, Camp #703, hosted the 160th Anniversary of the CSS Chattahoochee tragedy. The event was held in Chattahoochee Florida, at the downtown memorial site of the mass grave of the eighteen men who died in the boiler explosion on the Apalachicola River.

Compatriots from Georgia, and as far away as Fort Pierce Florida answered the call and arrived to assist in the memorial. **Representatives from the Quincy Young Guards, Wakulla Guards, Finley's Brigade, Private George W. Thomas Camp, and the Mary Ann Harvey Black chapter OCR were all in attendance.** Following Jack Cowart's address recalling the events of the tragedy, living obituaries were offered and a bell tolled for each of the

deceased. After my offering of "Why We Remember The Dead", a 21-gun salute was presented by mixed Honor Guard from the camps and playing of "Taps" closed out the event.

In my position as commander of the Florida Division SCV 3rd Brigade, my goal has been to build esprit de corps among the camps, assist one another in projects, and build working relationships. We have many opportunities planned to do just that. So, stay tuned.



Commander's Guidon

Commander Ned Roberts

The Florida Division Reunion was held this past Saturday, June 3rd, in Trenton at Division Headquarters. The meeting was a good meeting, not as rowdy as it has been in the past, but still had some discussion of the issues at hand. All of the proposed amendments to the Charter passed.

Let's have a big round of applause for our fellow Camp member – Kelly Crocker, who was presented the **Corporal Charles P. Ulmer Award**, which is the highest award bestowed upon a member of the Florida Division. He is definitely deserving of this award!

Please put the following dates on your calendar – June 17 and June 24. On Saturday, June 17, we will pick up trash on Natural Bridge Road. Meet me and your fellow compatriots at the Natural Bridge Rd and Old Plank Rd intersection at 8:30 AM. Then on the following Saturday, June 24, we will be serving hamburgers and hot dogs to the Veterans at Veterans Village. Meet there at 10:00 AM.

Lastly – your SCV membership dues are coming due. Deadline for paying your National, Division and Camp dues is July 31.

I hope to see you at the June Camp Meeting!



Upcoming Heritage Events and Opportunities

- Jun 3rd** - 53rd Annual Florida Division Reunion. Trenton FL. Starts at 9:30 AM
- Jun 13th** - Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 with the meeting at 6:45 PM
- Jun 17th** - Trash Pick Up along Natural Bridge Road – Natural Bridge & Old Plank Rds – 8:30 AM
- Jun 24th** - Veterans' Village Bar-B-Q – 10:00 AM
- Jul 11th** - Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 with the meeting at 6:45 PM.
- Aug 8th** - Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 with the meeting at 6:45 PM
- Sep 12th** - Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 with the meeting at 6:45 PM



FLORIDA DIVISION SCV GUARDIAN



1. Purpose:

The purpose is designed to honor the memory of our Confederate ancestors and through its implementation will provide the preservation of their final resting places and will document for future generations their sacrifices.

2. Eligibility:

Any Florida Division camp member in good standing, who is at least 12 years of age and who has demonstrated his desire and ability to serve as a GUARDIAN. All compatriots are encouraged to participate in the program to honor our ancestors and to protect their final resting place.



3. DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

- (A) He shall care for and protect the grave(s) of a Confederate Veteran, ensuring that the gravesite is kept clean and well-maintained year-round. He shall perform these duties personally unless he is physically unable because of health reasons. At no time shall these responsibilities be passed on to another without the approval of the GUARDIAN committee for the Florida Division.
- (B) He will be responsible to mark the grave, so it is designated as the final resting place of a Confederate Veteran. This can be marked by stone, plaque, Cross of Honor, etc.
- (C) He will also be responsible for replacing or repairing any marker that is worn, damaged or destroyed.
- (D) He shall personally visit the grave a minimum of four times a year to include Confederate Memorial Day or at least a week prior. He shall place a wreath or a small Confederate flag or both on the grave.

4. APPLICATIONS, REVIEWS & APPROVAL:

- (A) **Multiple Gravesites:** GUARDIANS may care for more than one gravesite and will be recognized by the Guardian Review Committee. The cost of additional certificates is \$3 each.
- (B) **Forfeiture of Guardian position:** A Guardian who cannot meet the requirements of his position due to relocation, health or other reasons must notify the Review Committee. All fees are non-refundable.
- (C) **Bequeathing of GUARDIAN position:** A Guardian may transfer his responsibilities as a Guardian to another SCV member in good standing with the prior approval by the Review Committee. There is a \$10.00 fee for transferring the Guardianship. This fee will cover the new Guardian's membership pin and certificate. If he is already in the Guardian program, there will be a \$3.00 fee to cover the certificate designating the new guardianship he is undertaking.
- (D) **Revocation of GUARDIAN status:** The Review Committee may revoke the status of a participant in the Guardian program if he fails to carry out his duties and responsibilities as outlined. The committee reserves the right to inspect, with or without notice, any GUARDIAN'S Confederate Veteran's gravesite to confirm compliance with all the rules and regulations specified in the program.



FLORIDA GUARDIAN PROGRAM APPLICATION**Turn Application in to Camp Commander**

Name of Applicant: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone #: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

SCV Camp Name & Number: _____ Ancestor: _____

GRAVESITE DETAILS

Confederate Veteran's Name: _____ Rank: _____ Unit: _____

Born: _____ Died: _____ Condition of Gravesite: _____

Location of Grave: (Include Name of Cemetery, City, State & Country) _____

Marker on Grave denoting Confederate Service: _____ Cross of Honor: _____

Documentation of Confederate Service: _____

I affirm that all the information here is true and accurate.**I agree to faithfully care for and protect this Confederate Veteran's grave in accordance with the GUARDIAN PROGRAM rules for as long as I am able.****In the event I cannot carry out my duties, I shall notify the Review Committee immediately.****I also understand that the Review Committee can revoke my status as a GUARDIAN for good cause.**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Camp Commander: _____ Date: _____

Mail the completed forms to the attention of:
Florida Guardian Program/ Florida Division, SCV
3428 Laura Street
Tallahassee, FL 32305
Make checks payable to Florida Division, SCV

*******DO NOT WRITE ON LINES BELOW*******

Application Approved: _____ Disapproved _____ Date: _____

Approval Signature: _____

