



## 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*

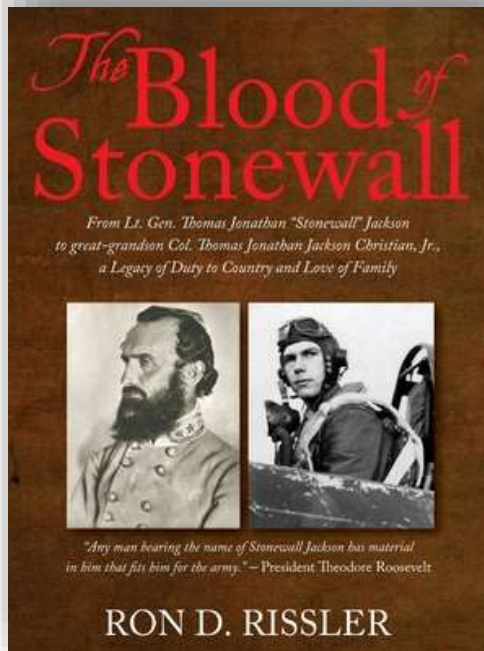


## January Camp Meeting

**Finley's Brigade Camp 1614 will hold its monthly Meeting on January 10th at the VFW.  
Social time at 6:00 and meeting at 6:45.**

## The Blood of Stonewall

by [Ron D Rissler](#)



*From Lt. Gen. Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson to great-grandson Col. Thomas Jonathan Jackson Christian, Jr., A Legacy of Duty to Country and Love of Family*

*Over the past 120 years scores of books have been written about Lt. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson. No books, however, have been written about his widow, Mary Anna, who lived another fifty years following her husband's death, and who was honored by five U.S. presidents. This book also details the life of Julia, who was but six months old when her father died, and was followed almost daily by newspaper reporters, both North and South, who sought to learn as much as possible about the daughter of the famed Stonewall Jackson. It further expounds on the lives of Julia's son and daughter, the only grandchildren of Stonewall Jackson. The book further covers the life of Col. Thomas J.J. Christian, Jr., Stonewall's great-grandson, who not only possessed many of the same attributes of his famous ancestor, but whose life was tragically cut short during World War II, leaving a widow and six-month-old daughter.*

**Ron Rissler** and his wife live in Jefferson County, W.Va. on a farm owned by his family since 1852. After working on the farm, serving in the U.S. Navy, and being employed as a paralegal for twenty years, he retired in 2011.

Ron, from an early age, has read several books about Lt. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson due to the fact that four direct ancestors served in the Stonewall Brigade during the Civil War. Because none of the writings addressed what happened to Jackson's wife and daughter after his death, Ron, over an eight-year period, researched the lives of his widow, daughter, two grandchildren and his great-grandson who, more than any other, simulated the attributes of his famous ancestor.

**Ron will be our guest speaker at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Lee & Jackson Southern Heritage Event on January 28, 2023. You will not want to miss this event!**



On December 10, your loyal road crew met on Natural Bridge Road to pick up trash from the two miles we have adopted to keep clean. This is the area terminating in the State Park.

Commander Ned Roberts brought his bags and pick-up tools for the crew and also took the picture seen here. Those pictured are **Adjutant Tom Williams, Compatriot Pat Adams, Chaplin Keith Lassiter and Editor Gerald Bell.**

Many of our usually faithful were unable to attend and we missed them. We removed 4-500 pounds of trash from the roadside and even cleaned up the intersection at Old Plank Road.

This is a worthwhile project and one we hope you will join.



## Grave Keepers Report – Remembering Our Ancestors

Gerald Bell, Editor



*Please allow me the opportunity to relate my experience in securing a grave marker for my Great Grandfather, **Joseph H. Bell Jr.***

I have been honored to work with **Commander Kelly Crocker, Lt Mark Bess, Historian Stan Willis and Compatriot JR Miller** to research the history of Confederate Soldiers whose final resting places have been unmarked all these years. We have applied to the U.S. Veteran's Administration for gravestones and installed them where appropriate. After many months of participating in these endeavors, it dawned on me that my own veteran has no marker.

**Joseph H. Bell, Jr.** was a private in the CSA 7<sup>th</sup> Georgia Cavalry. He and his father served in the same unit as wagon masters. On June 11, 1864, they were both captured by George Custer in the battle of Trevilian Station in Louisa County Virginia. This was reported to have been the bloodiest and largest all-cavalry battle of the war. Each of them survived the infamous POW camp at Elmira New York and returned to Dahlonega Georgia where they had been gold miners. Toward the turn of the century, Joseph Jr. moved to College Park Georgia where his sons were raising vegetables for the Atlanta market, and he would continue as a Baptist pastor. In 1916 he passed away, following a medical procedure, and was buried in the College Park Cemetery.

I had already done the research, but I had to confirm that no marker had been installed since I was at the grave site many years ago. That was confirmed by cemetery personnel who were most helpful in assisting with the VA application and in setting the marker. This particular cemetery has strict rules on who can install grave markers, including restricting them to 48"x24" granite markers rather than standing gravestones. Part of the application involves a place for the markers to be delivered and an agreement from the site that it will be installed. After I supplied all of the required documentation, the cemetery completed the application and sent it to the VA. The marker was received and installed the middle of December 2022.



I am pleased to report that my Great Grandfather's grave is now properly marked!

I have been honored to have had a small part in making it happen.



## Color Guard

1<sup>st</sup> Lt Commander Mark Bess



*On this, the last day of 2022, I wanted to take a few minutes to reflect on the past year.*

*It has been my honor and privilege to be a part of Finley's Brigade, Camp 1614. The friendships I have made, the camaraderie I have witnessed, and the determination of our members has been an inspiration to me. This camp, and its members, have allowed me to do things that I had never dreamed would be possible. I have made discoveries in my genealogy I never imagined...Hell!!! I'm related to at least half of you!!!*

Here are a few things you should all be proud of accomplishing.

- Cleaning the memorial at Battle of Natural Bridge State Park. To everyone's knowledge, this was the first time anywhere the state of Florida Park Service allowed a private, Southern Heritage group to do this!
- Conducting the first Confederate Military Honors funeral service for a fallen compatriot, at Tallahassee National cemetery!
- Researching, applying for, obtaining, and installing twenty-seven markers, for unmarked Confederate veterans. What an accomplishment!!! The list of forgotten heroes is long, so we have much more to do.
- Reclaiming the "Gregory Family Cemetery." This long-neglected cemetery still has much work to be done, but we got a good start on it.
- Adopting to maintain several cemeteries protecting our Confederate dead. We may not see it, but people do notice our efforts and appreciate them.
- Veterans Village cook-out and charity support. The smiles and gratitude of those veterans we support is heartwarming.
- Soldier's Cemetery, Quincy, Confederate Memorial Day remembrance and bar-b-que activities.

This is just the tip of the iceberg of what Finley's Brigade has accomplished in 2022. I look forward to surpassing these and making 2023 an even better year.

I want to wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year, and I look forward to working with you all in 2023. Thank you all for allowing me to be a part of this exemplary organization and band of brothers.

*Mark Bess*



## Chaplain's Corner



*I was thinking this past weekend on what to write this month for the “Chaplain’s Corner.” Then, I remembered that the **Lee-Jackson Banquet** is fast approaching. In wanting to honor these two men with whatever I would write, the main thing that kept reverberating in my head was the word “virtue.” Well, I remembered writing about exactly that on January 24<sup>th</sup> of this year—just before the 2022 Banquet. I hope you will forgive me, but I believe a reprint is warranted and timely. I hope you enjoy the reprint.*

As we approach the annual Lee-Jackson Banquet, my thoughts have been on reflection. Reflection is good, and the Word of God admonishes us to do just that. Let us reflect on at least one thing. May I suggest VIRTUE. Again, as we approach our banquet, let us reflect on the virtues possessed by these two men who we are remembering and honoring. What is it about these men that has endeared them to millions over the years? Why would even those, who opposed our cause in general or Generals Lee and Jackson in particular, have praise for them? In every way—demeanor; speech; attitude; conviction; etc....--they carried themselves as Christians. No one can doubt that they were followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In I Cor. 11:1, the apostle Paul exhorted the Corinthians to, “***Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.***” This was not an arrogant boast by Paul, but rather, as stated, an exhortation. Paul patterned his life after the Lord and was “sold out” to Him in EVERY way. Generals Lee and Jackson both took this exhortation to heart, and their lives bear witness to this fact. In every way, they conducted themselves as Southern gentlemen; courageous and moral leaders; model citizens, and most of all, as exemplary Christians. If we could hear them speak to us today, I have no doubt, they would echo the words of Paul.

*Father, may we live a life that mirrors the lives of two of the most respected men the sovereign State of Virginia--and the United States as a whole today—has ever produced. Help us to follow their example, as they followed the example of the Lord Jesus.*

**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](mailto:greynole01@yahoo.com)

Deo Vindice



## Tallahassee Veterans Village

Veterans Chairman: Reginald Roddenberry

Last month I asked the camp members to give \$5.00 each meeting towards a monetary donation to the Veteran Village. I resend that request, my mistake! Instead, I have decided to only pass around the donation box on a quarterly basis because I understand many members feel hard pressed to give such money on a monthly basis, and I agree, because that includes me as well. So be it!

Now, starting this month, until the month of March, there will be no requests for monetary donations. However, I still am asking the camp members, if they are so inclined, to donate any non-money items, such as clothes, goods, or other things. Also, I am asking for any volunteers who would like to join my committee to assist me in making decisions as they apply to our veterans. If there are any members who wish to join the Veteran Village committee, I recommend we meet on a monthly basis, perhaps before or after the camp meeting time, or any other time or place if that is acceptable.

I still believe it is important to take the time to meet with the veterans housed at the village. In fact, as of this month, I will meet with a selected individual (of their choice) and briefly report on that discussion. These folks have given their service to our country during a period when doing such a thing was not satisfactory to many. Also, it is planned for **Tori Callan** to visit our meeting this month. Many of our camp members are veterans, such as I am, so we know the sacrifice that was made to our families, our nation, and, sometimes to us personally. Some of us are “combat veterans” who faced dangers “above and beyond the call of duty”, as it has been said. This generation now have a distinct lack of service minded discipline, meaning, volunteering for active duty (or even reserve duty) in a service is not likely to occur in numerous numbers.

Please do not forget to bring items to the Lee & Jackson Event. Canned goods, paper goods, or any other goods will be donated to the Village from a thankful camp.

At this time, there are no donations for the Veteran Village noted for this month. If there are donations at a later date, they can be documented next month! I will speak to the camp during our January meeting about my conversation with the Veteran Village individual.

By the way, let it be known, in reference to the post in the last newsletter, I include this statement: *I did choose to become a member of SCV because my G-G-Grandfather decided to defend his farm, county and country against northern aggression!*

So do I.

*Reggie Roddenberry*

Deo Vindice



## Commander's Guidon

Commander Ned Roberts

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and will have a joyous New Year.

Unfortunately, the news of late had sad tidings. The passing of **Compatriot David Cline** was unfortunate. He will be missed, but not forgotten. I know you will join me in praying for his family.

**The deadline for ordering tickets and requesting ancestor memorials for the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Lee-Jackson Southern Heritage Event is January 11.** You still have time to buy tickets if you haven't already. This is the Camp's major fund-raiser, so your participation is encouraged and welcomed. If you can't make it – buy a ticket for a friend.

We will be doing a food drive at the Lee-Jackson Event to benefit Veterans Village. Please bring some canned or boxed food items, let's show support for the Veterans in need.

With the start of a New Year, I hope everyone will renew their support and participation in Camp events. Finley's Brigade is just a dozen or so members – it is all of us - the Camp members and the spouses.

I, we, need your support – so please join us at Camp events and projects.

Happy New Year Everyone



## Dates in History of the War – January

**January 9-26, 1861** – Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana all follow South Carolina from the previous month and vote to succeed from the Union making a total of six states at this time.

**January 18, 1862** – The territory of Arizona is formed by the Confederacy.

**January 1, 1863** – The Emancipation Proclamation and the Homestead Act go into effect.

**January 17, 1864** – Battle of Dandridge, TN where CSA forces push back Union forces from the area.

**January 13-15, 1865** – Fort Fisher, outside of Wilmington, NC, finally falls to Union forces essentially closing off the last Confederate port to the outside world.



## Upcoming Heritage Events and Opportunities

**Jan 28<sup>th</sup>** – Lee & Jackson Southern Heritage Event. Social Hour starts at 5:00 with Dinner/Speaker at 6:00.

**Feb 14<sup>th</sup>** - Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 with meeting at 6:45 PM.

**Feb 26<sup>th</sup>** - Natural Bridge Road Cleanup at 8:30 AM. Meet 7000 Natural Bridge Road.

**Mar 4<sup>th</sup>– 6<sup>th</sup>** – Battle of Natural Bridge Reenactment.

**Mar 14<sup>th</sup>** - Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 with meeting at 6:45 PM.

**Apr 11<sup>th</sup>** - Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 with meeting at 6:45 PM.



## Birth Days

Stephen Douglas Moon, Jr. 1-2

Robert Lee Gunn, Jr. 1-17





## **Ready for your display, your holster, or the firing range!**

This is your chance to win this beautiful reproduction

### **1851 COLT SHERIFF'S MODEL**

It is a 36 caliber, black powder, fully functional pistol.

Tickets will be available for purchase at  
the Lee/Jackson event (January),  
Natural Bridge event (March)  
and anytime by contacting

Lisa Bess

239-240-9095

Lisabess21@icloud.com

The drawing will be held at the Florida Reunion in Trenton on June 3, 2023.

**Need not be present for drawing as long as your contact information is on the stub.**





## **31<sup>st</sup> Annual Lee & Jackson Southern Heritage Event**



**Sponsored by**

**Finley's Brigade Camp #1614, Sons of Confederate Veterans**

**Mary Ann Harvey Black Chapter #5, Order of Confederate Rose**

**January 28, 2023**

**Social Hour: 5:00 PM    Supper/Program: 6:00 PM**

**Jackson Lodge No 1  
2818 Apalachee Pkwy  
Tallahassee, FL 32301**

**Tickets: \$35 in advance    Door Prizes and Auction**

**Guest Speaker: Mr. Ron D. Rissler  
Author of "The Blood of Stonewall"**



**For tickets contact:  
Adjutant Thomas Williams, 850-942-2866,  
[Adjutant@finleysbrigadescv.com](mailto:Adjutant@finleysbrigadescv.com)  
or  
Commander Ned Roberts, 850-591-9221,  
[Commander@finleysbrigadescv.com](mailto:Commander@finleysbrigadescv.com)**



## The 53rd Annual Florida Division Reunion

220 NE 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Trenton, Florida – June 3, 2023

### REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Fee: *Members Only*

If Postmarked by May 15<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

After May 15<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ X \$40.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ancestor Memorials: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total remitted \$ \_\_\_\_\_

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.

We will have an Awards Luncheon and no Evening Banquet

**NOTE: We will not be able to take meal reservations received after May 20th**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

CAMP NAME & NUMBER:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please Mail Registration Form & Check to:**

**Commander Calvin Hart**

**4884 Victoria Chase Ct, Jacksonville, FL 32257**

**Please Make Checks Payable To: SCV Florida Division Inc.**

