



***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."



Camp Meeting Dedication

The February Camp Meeting will be dedicated to the honor and memory of Corporal John Howk, Company D, 4th Kentucky Cavalry Regiment.

“Let us cross over the river and rest under the shade of the trees”.



**Camp Lawton at Magnolia Springs State Park in Jenkins Co. Georgia.
By Finley's Brigade Camp
Compatriot J.R. Miller**

Camp Lawton was the largest prison in the world at the time, and is currently on the National Register of Historic Places. The state park still houses remnants of the earthen fort that guarded the 10,000-prisoner of war camp and today, the state of Georgia operates a fish hatchery nearby. Two huge timbers were recovered from the spring that was possibly from the camp.

The Magnolia Springs site was selected to take advantage of the abundant water supply. Built by slave labor and a group of Union prisoners, the prison camp was built of pine timber harvested on site with the walls measuring 12 to 15 feet high. In order to relieve overcrowding in Camp Sumpter, aka Andersonville, the stockade began receiving the first round of 10,000 prisoners in early October, 1864. The post was abandoned by the end of November 1864 when threatened by Sherman's drive on Savannah.

The prison guard comprised of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Georgia Reserves, the Florida Light Artillery, and the 55th Georgia. The Florida Artillery were Dyke's and Gambel's artillery and possibly Abell's Artillery.

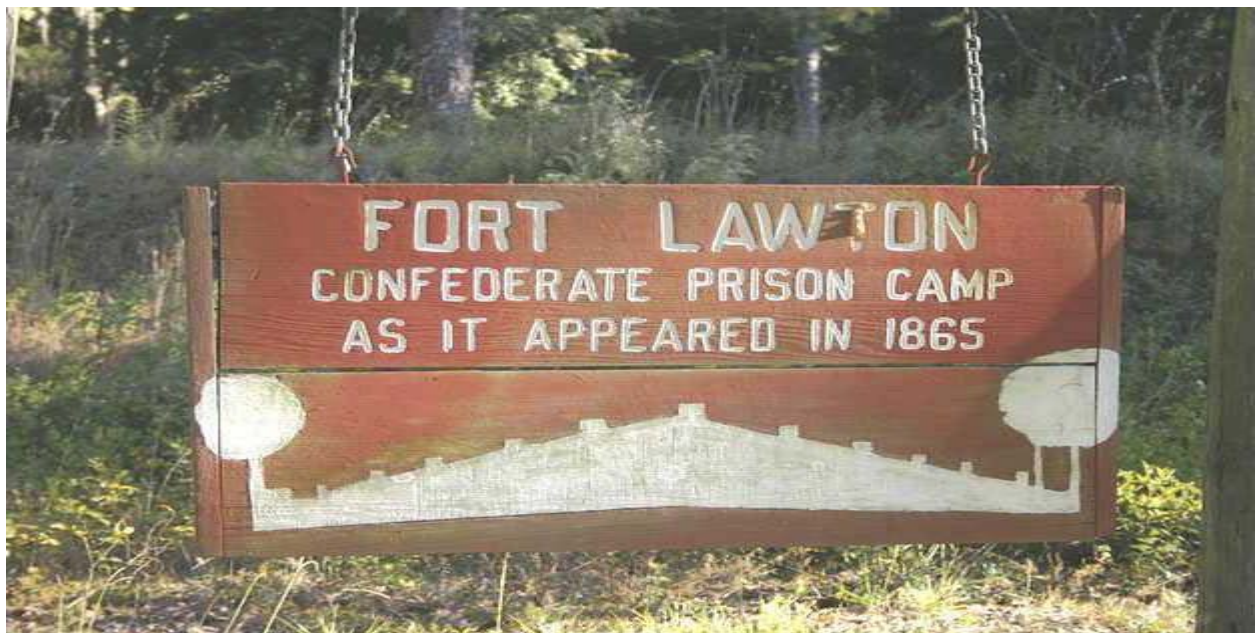
Commanded by Colonel Henry Forno, the reserve units were composed basically of teens and older men who were poorly equipped and trained.

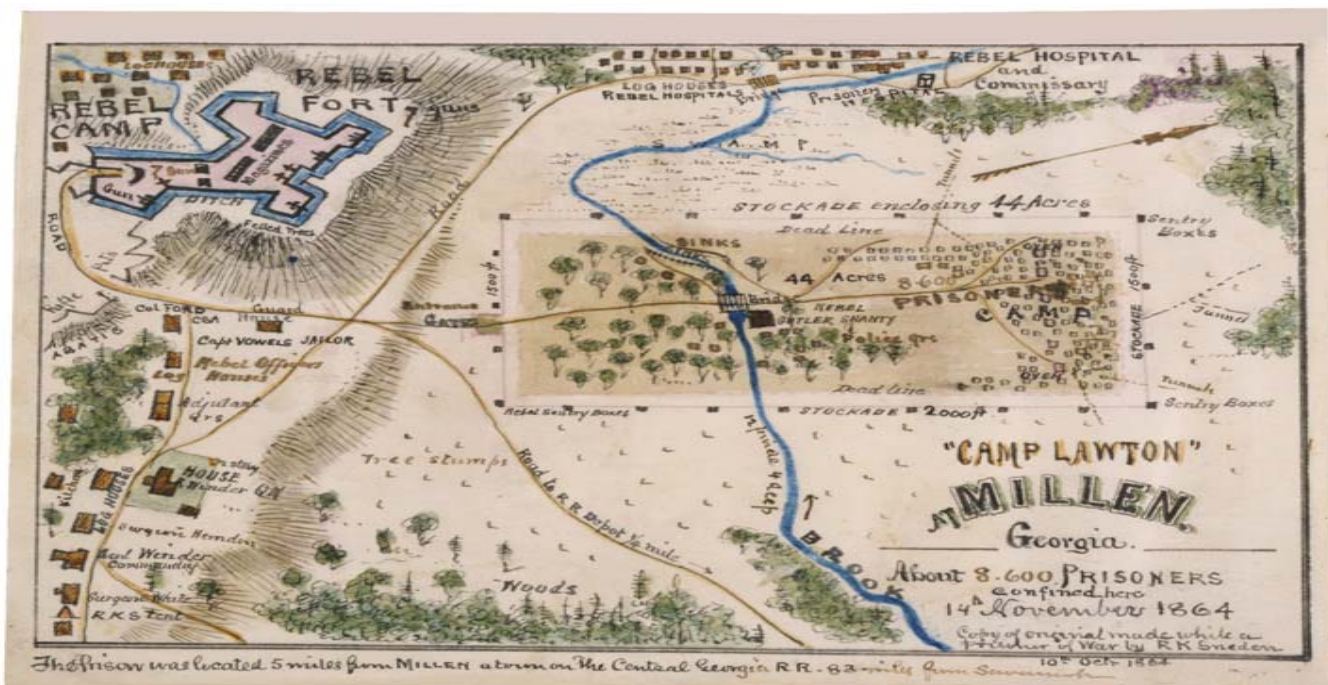
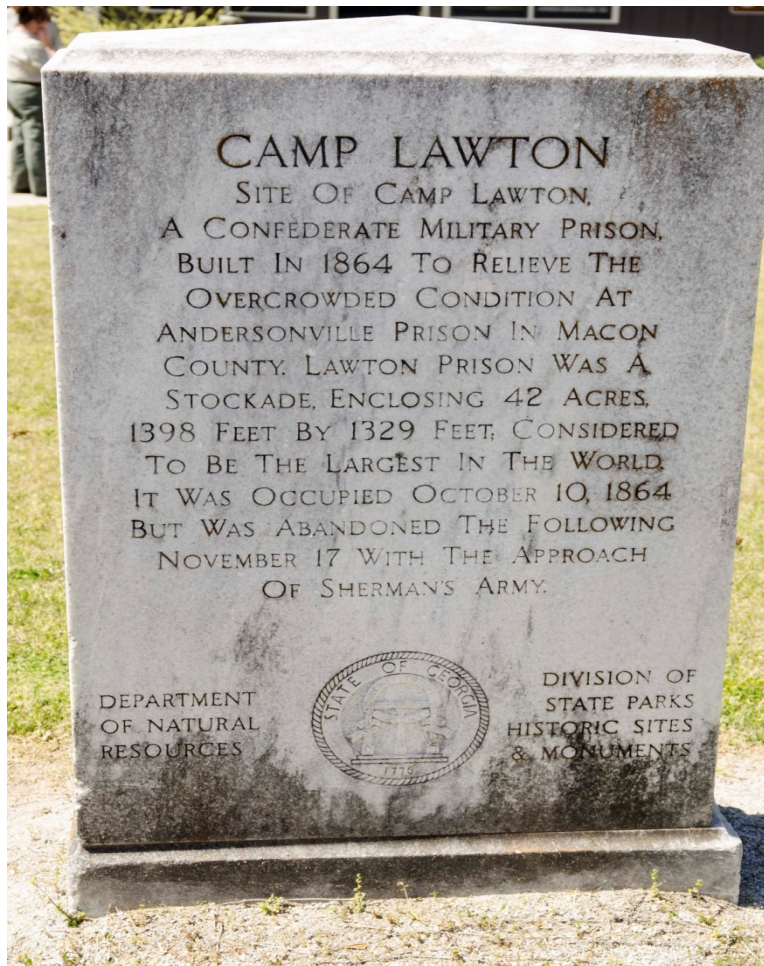
On the high ground surrounding the prison, the Confederates built strong earthworks, sort of earthen redoubts, in addition to a camp barracks for the troops assigned to guard the prison as well as other needed facilities. The earthworks were designed not only to protect the prison from attack, but also to make sure the prisoners did not try to riot and break free. The muzzles of cannon pointed down into the stockade from behind the earthen walls.

The prison commandant was Captain D.W. Vowles, and the chief surgeon was Dr. Isaiah H. White. On November 8, Vowles submitted the only existent camp return to the Richmond authorities. It listed 10,299 POWs at the prison, of whom 349 had enlisted in the Confederate Army, 486 had died, and 285 were working at the prison.

Several brick ovens equipped with kettles were built for cooking purposes. The stream flowed through the prison, bisecting it. The upstream portion was used for washing and drinking, and the downstream portion served as a latrine. At least three earthworks, a guards' camp and hospital, buildings for administrative purposes, a POW hospital, and two burial grounds for POW were located around the stockade. General Winder (Commissary-General of Prisons in Alabama and Georgia) established his headquarters there. Winder was promoted to Commissary-General of Prisons East of the Mississippi. Therefore, for a time the administrative apparatus of much of the Confederate military prisons was located at Camp Lawton.

Archaeological work at the site has been carried out by Georgia Southern University. Working during the summers of 2010 and 2011, the archaeologists have found buried parts of the stockade and other structures, as well as a wealth of artifacts left behind by the prisoners themselves.







CSS *Shenandoah*: Last Flag Down

By Len Ellison

The Confederate Navy raider, CSS *Shenandoah*, was the last Confederate surrender of any branch, which occurred on November 6, 1865 when she sailed into Liverpool, England.

From 1864-1865, the CSS *Shenandoah* had captured, sank or bonded 37 Union merchant vessels totaling a value of \$1.4 million, with most being whaling ships. The *Shenandoah*'s captain, Captain James Waddell, was unaware of the official surrender until he met a British ship sailing out of San Francisco harbor who gave him the news. Waddell immediately set sail around Cape Horn with destination of Liverpool because he knew if he surrendered to Union authorities, they would quite possibly be tried as pirates.

The CSS *Shenandoah* sailed into Liverpool with colors flying and crowds watching on the riverbank. Once she was moored, Captain Waddell surrendered to a British Captain Paynter of the HMS *Donegal* which she had anchored next to. In the end, nothing happened to the sailors or Captain Waddell. The now former CSS *Shenandoah* was sold at auction in Liverpool after a failed attempt to sail her back to the U.S.

Currently, there are several artifacts of the CSS *Shenandoah* still in existence.

Here are some to name a few:

- A Confederate sailor's knife – U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD
- The Signal Gun – U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD
- Captain Waddell's telescope – Civil War Museum, Richmond, VA
- Captain Waddell's sword – Civil War Museum, Richmond, VA
- CSS *Shenandoah*'s Flag – Civil War Museum, Richmond, VA



Tallahassee Veterans Village

Finley's Brigade has been a sponsor of the Tallahassee Veterans Village for at least 8 years, maybe more. Food is always needed; toiletries and linens are welcomed. The Director has suggested that we could give hotdogs as a food item, in addition to can goods. During the winter months, blankets are very needed item and are welcomed. Please contact Compatriot Keith Lassiter if you have any questions on donations.



Work Days – Remembering Our Ancestors

Finley's Brigade had a Cemetery Workday at Tallahassee's Old City Cemetery on January 11. Phase II of resetting stones of one of our CSA veterans – Captain Ephraim Crockett Harbert.

Attendees were Kelly Crocker, Ned Roberts, Larry Thomas, Lee Norris, Stan Willis, Mark Bess, John Bess, Don Turner and Scott O'Steen.







Finley's Brigade Color Guard – Service with Honor

In January, we had the Flagging Day at Havana, FL on New Year's Day at 10:00 am.

We still need as many Compatriots to join our Color Guard Team and help represent Finley's. Drill classes will be scheduled in the near future. If you are interested please contact 2nd Lt Commander Lee Norris or any camp officer.

Finley's Brigade Color Guard Uniform Guidelines – Part 3

Continued from previous month's Cresset:

5. **Belt** – A period belt will typically be of black leather with a three piece buckle installed by literally cutting slits in the leather to secure the buckle. Holes normally come pre-punched but can be easily made with the correct tool or a pocket-knife. Oftentimes they must be cut down as well. These are not hard to find and can often be picked up for about \$20-30 with the buckle. The preferred buckle is the generic 'CS' one and the material of it, cast, lead filled, brass, etc does not matter. The belt is the last piece to be put on as its purpose is two-fold; to hold the cap box and secure the other accoutrements to the body.
6. **Cap Box** – A cap box is a small pouch worn on the belt to the right of the buckle but before the cartridge box where a soldier kept the percussion caps which he used to fire his weapon. They are virtually always made of leather, we prefer you purchase yours in the more common black. These items can be picked up handmade for upwards of \$50, however for our purposes the more common \$15-20 ones will do just fine.
7. **Slung Cartridge Box** – A cartridge box was one of the most essential parts of the uniform. Wholly practical, it was where the soldier stored his ammunition. These are made of leather and can be worn on the belt or over the shoulder on a sling. We wear them slung over the left shoulder on the right side. You will want to procure one for a full size rifle such as a .58 or .69 caliber box. They start in the range of \$60-80 with the sling generally running about \$20. Worth noting is that some sutlers sell a complete set of leathers for a discounted rate.
8. **Haversack** – A haversack is worn over the right shoulder so that it is on the left side of your body. It is an indispensable item that soldiers used to carry equipment and rations. While in Finley's you will often only use it to carry your wallet, car keys, and phone it is still part of the complete look. We use the most commonly sold white canvas haversacks which generally fetch in the neighborhood of \$20-30. On most uniforms where both the haversack and cartridge box are worn the haversack is applied first with the cartridge box worn over it.



Commander's Guidon

The next few months offer a lot of service opportunities for Camp members. We need all members to help and assist with these events.

Natural Bridge Road Clean-up is scheduled for February 29. We will meet at Natural Bridge and Old Plank intersection at 8:30 AM.

The 155th Anniversary of the Battle of Natural Bridge is set for the weekend of March 6 – 8. We need your help setting-up and manning our information table. This is the excellent opportunity to teach our Southern Heritage and show our Southern Pride to others. Please come out at least Saturday or Sunday to work the table.

The Woodville Founders Festival is March 14, and we need assistance manning the Camp's booth.

The Soldiers Cemetery Memorial Service in Quincy is scheduled for April 4, and all Camp members are strongly encouraged to attend this event.

As you can see, there are a lot of opportunities coming up to serve and honor our Ancestors. Let's do it!

Respectfully,

Ned Roberts



The 125th National Reunion of the SCV



The SCV National Reunion will be held July 15 – 18, 2020, near historic St. Augustine, Florida.

This reunion is being hosted by the Kirby Smith Camp 1209 of Jacksonville.

The National Reunion will not get any closer to us than this, so plan to attend if you can. This is our State, so let us show them the true pride of Confederate Floridians.

Registration is currently available online at: www.scv2020reunion.com.



Dates in History - February

February 4, 1861 – Delegates from Florida meet with other Confederate delegates in Montgomery, AL.
February 22, 1862 – Inauguration of President Jefferson Davis in Richmond, VA.
February 12, 1863 – The CSS *Florida* captures USS Jacob Bell with cargo valued at \$2 million.
February 17, 1864 – The submarine, CSS *Hunley*, sinks the USS *Housatonic* off Charleston, SC.
February 19, 1865 – Federal expedition to Milton, FL from Fort Barrancus near Pensacola, FL.



Upcoming Heritage Events and Opportunities

February 1 – The annual 28th Lee-Jackson Southern Heritage Event with Dr. Jonathan Sheppard as Speaker, will be held at the Marzuq Shrine Temple with the social starting at 5 PM and the dinner at 6 PM.
February 11 – Finley's Brigade Camp Meeting at VFW.
February 15 – Stephen Dill Lee Institute at Raleigh, NC.
February 29 – At 8:30am, Battle of Natural Bridge Road Clean Up Day.
March 6-8 – 155th Anniversary and Reenactment of the Battle of Natural Bridge.
March 14 – The Woodville Founders Festival where our camp will be manning a booth.
April 4 – Confederate Memorial Day at Soldiers Cemetery in Quincy, FL will be held at 3pm with Guest Speaker Pat Godwin.
June 5-7 – SCV Florida Division Reunion at Ocala, FL.
July 15-18 – SCV National Reunion at St. Augustine, FL.

For times, locations, and details for the following events please contact Commander Roberts at commander@finleysbrigadescv.com or 850-591-9221.

