



## 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."*



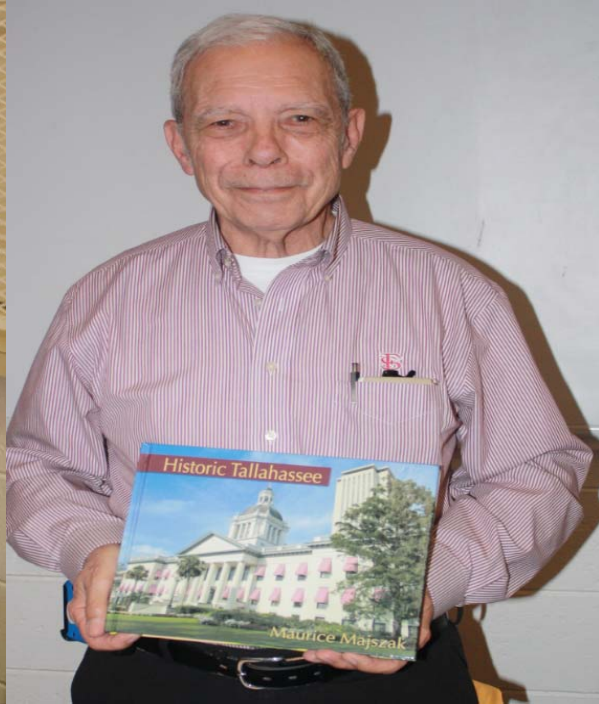
### February Camp Meeting

Finley's Brigade Camp 1614 will hold its monthly Meeting scheduled on February 9<sup>th</sup> at the VFW.




### 29<sup>th</sup> Lee Jackson Southern Heritage Event









## THE VAUSE BOYS AT THE BATTLE OF STONES RIVER

By Barbara Allen Kent

I had read some of Vivienne Weaver's research, where-in she mentioned that some of the Vause brothers had fought at the Battle of Stones River, and had seen the commemorative marker at the Vause Branch Cemetery in Sopchoppy, Florida, in memory of William James Washington Vause, who died as a result of that battle, and whose burial place was unknown. Having always been one who loves a mystery, I decided in the summer of 1992 to visit Murfreesboro, Tennessee, the site of the battle, to look for Jim's grave. Here is what I found.

### Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Tennessee was considered a bread-basket state during the Civil War, and the winter of 1862-63 found both sides low on supplies. The small town of Murfreesboro, located beside Stones River, was important because it was a key stop on the Nashville Turnpike for the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, and from it food-laden trains could travel north or south. The following is a four-day account of what would become known as the bloodiest battle fought west of the Appalachians.

### December 30, 1862

General Braxton Bragg's Confederate Army had been camped outside Murfreesboro for a month. A division under the command of John C. Breckinridge, former Vice-President of the United States, was posted east of the river. Three sons of Ephraim and Margaret Vause fought under Breckinridge: William James Washington (Jim), Thomas Evander (Tom), and Francis Marion (Med) Vause. Their brother, John had enlisted for 12 months and returned home at the end of his enlistment.

The previous evening Federal forces under the command of William S. Rosecrans began to arrive. Rosecrans positioned his army along the Nashville Turnpike, reportedly within 700 yards of the Confederate lines. By the morning of December 30, Rosecrans had amassed 44,000 troops. Bragg's 38,000 Confederate soldiers readied themselves for

battle, but declined to engage the Federals on this day. Oddly, both generals had decided on the same plan of attack: hold with the right, attack with the left.

### December 31, 1862

Led by General William J. Hardee, the Confederates attacked at dawn, catching the Federals at breakfast near the Widow Smith House, which lay across Stones River from Murfreesboro. Intense fighting continued throughout the day. Most of the casualties were inflicted on this day, with the hottest spots in a round grove of trees that would become known as "Hell's Half Acre," an outcropping of rocks that later was dubbed "the slaughter pen," and a large grove of cedars, where Breckinridge's boys withstood a relentless onslaught from Gen. Philip Sheridan. The Federal troops finally retreated when Confederates captured their ammunition trains. Out of ammunition, parts of several Federal divisions had to pull back.

By four o'clock that afternoon, General Rosecrans had recalled his troops to positions behind his lines and regrouped. Further Confederate charges did not gain any ground, and the fighting would down. A freezing rain had fallen all day and continued into the night. Many soldiers were without shoes. No fires were allowed for fear of drawing enemy volleys. Large numbers of wounded from both sides, still lying on the battlefield, froze to death during the night.

Around midnight a band began to play Dixie. The Federal band struck up the Battle Hymn. The battle of the bands continued until one band played an old familiar hymn about home, and the night fell silent.

### January 1, 1863

The day dawned cold and bright. No fighting occurred as Generals Rosecrans and Bragg repositioned their respective troops. Rosecrans, having lost so much ammunition the previous day, provided protection for his supply trains. Bragg mistakenly assumed Rosecrans was preparing to retreat back to Nashville. He thought he would leave under cover of dark.

### January 2, 1863

General Bragg awoke to find himself still con-

fronted by the Union army. The morning passed with no movement from either side. Shortly after noon he ordered Breckinridge to take his division and push the Union back from the east bank of the river. Breckinridge argued that the move was unwise. Bragg was unconvinced. The attack was scheduled for four o'clock.

Breckinridge's division, which included Jim, Tom, and Med Vause, positioned themselves along a rise above a bend in the river known as McFadden's Ford. To reach the Union troops the Confederates had to charge 500 yards across as open field right into the face of Union artillery.

William D. Rogers, 1st Florida, offered this comment about the day of January 2 in a letter he wrote January 22, 1863: "We were all pretty certain that we would go to the rear to rest and warm a little after being relieved in the Cedars, but no such luck, tis true they carried us where it was warm enough but nary rest. They took us back across the river near to our first position and pitched us right into the Yanks before we knowed what we were about, and I tell you I never want to go into another such fight as long as I live."

Washington Mackey Ives, 4th Florida, recounted, "Heaps of unburied dead lay in the cornfields. We kept on through the fields and woods until we came to the east of the Yankees, having been to the southwest of them. We formed line of battle in an old field."

Breckinridge's Confederate division advanced over the rise and down toward the river into the face of 58 cannons. Federal troops had been ordered to lay flat until the enemy was within twenty yards. Upon seeing the tops of gray caps, they arose and both lines began to fire. Wrote Sgt. Samuel Welch, of Ohio, "When the sudden shock of this double volley was over, it seemed to me that both lines...were annihilated, and before I had time to notice who had fallen their second line came over the ridge." Wrote Lt. Col. G.C. Kniffin, "As the mass of men swarmed down the slope they were mowed down by the score. Confederates were pinioned to the earth by falling branches. For a few minutes the brave fellows held their ground, hoping to advance, but the west bank bristled with bayonets."

Breckinridge was forced to retreat after a mere 20 minutes of fighting, leaving 1,800 of his men laying dead or wounded on the field. Among them was Jim Vause, severely wounded

in the arm. We do not know if Tom and Med knew he had fallen when they scrambled back up the rise from the river. Federal troops captured the wounded while General Bragg beat a hasty retreat.

### The Aftermath

General Bragg retreated south to Georgia, where Med Vause was captured by the Union army near Jonesboro.

Tom Vause was sick with typhoid, but had fought anyway. In his weakened condition he could not keep up with the fleeing army and was left in the care of a civilian near Nashville, until he was captured by the Federals and taken to the prison there. He was 16 years old.

Back in Murfreesboro, the Federal troops had commandeered all private homes and buildings for the care of the wounded from both sides. Food was in short supply and Federal soldiers were already eating fallen horses. Medical supplies were scarce. Jim Vause lingered for nine days and died on January 11, 1863, probably from gangrene. He was 22.

Both sides claimed victory. In the two days of fighting, over 19,000 men lost their lives and 8,800 were taken captive.

Union dead were buried in the fields and were moved to Battleground Cemetery after the war. Confederates were buried in the city cemetery in marked graves, but were later disinterred and placed in two mass graves in Evergreen Cemetery at Murfreesboro. It is uncertain which of these two graves holds the remains of William James Washington Vause.

I was able to walk across the battlefield and down to the water's edge, look up the rise where the Confederates descended, and turn to study the line where 58 cannons awaited them. For a researcher, the fun is in the chase, and this chase is over. The 130-year-old Vause family mystery has been solved. Jim has been found.



## Southern Recipe of the Month 'Southern Black Eyed Peas'

Mark Bess

*A slow-cooked recipe for traditional Southern black-eyed peas with ham hocks (or ham bone).*

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pound dried black-eyed peas
- 4 cups water
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 medium onion, finely diced
- 2 ham hocks or ham bone
- 1-2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Soak peas in 6 cups water overnight (10-12 hours). Drain peas, rinse well with cold water and then drain again. Set aside.
2. In a large stock pot or Dutch oven, sauté onion in butter until onion is translucent and tender. Add 4 cups water, ham hocks, 1 teaspoon salt, pepper and drained peas to pot. Cover and simmer over medium-low heat for 4 hours, stirring occasionally.
3. Remove ham hocks and trim off ham; discarding bones, cartilage and skin. Add ham pieces back to peas and stir. Add more salt to taste then simmer peas on low for one additional hour. If you have more liquid than you'd like, simmer on medium heat, uncovered, until liquid has reduced to your liking.

I usually serve mine over white rice with some fresh diced onion sprinkled on top but you can serve them on their own as well with Cornbread.



## Work Days – Remembering Our Ancestors

Cemetery Chairman: Chris Miller

Midway/Beard Cemetery Clean-up scheduled for February 13, starting at 8:30 AM. Meet in the cul-de-sac outside the construction area.

If you have any questions, contact Compatriot Chris Miller at [xrebornxster@gmail.com](mailto:xrebornxster@gmail.com).





## **Tallahassee Veterans Village**

Veterans Chairman: Keith Lassiter

Hello gentlemen,

Tuesday, I was pleased to drop off all the food and clothing we collected at the Lee-Jackson Banquet Saturday night. There is no way I can put a dollar amount on the items that were collected, but even with the lower number of attendees, it was substantial. Ned and Rose Ann won the 4X6 poly Confederate Battle flag, for bringing the most. At last month's meeting, we did not take up any items, because the banquet was only two weeks after the meeting. The need continues to be food. Please remember that there are six (as last count) women veterans there too. If any of your wives or girlfriends have clothes they would like to donate, please call the Veterans' Village to find out sizes needed. Sheets/pillow cases for FULL SIZE beds are needed sometimes as well. In addition, if you would prefer to give a check or cash, I will be glad to take that and shop for food for them, or I can give it directly to the Veterans' Village. Thank you for your continued support of this worthy cause!

If you have any questions, contact Compatriot Keith Lassiter at [greynole01@yahoo.com](mailto:greynole01@yahoo.com).



## **Commander's Guidon**

My Fellow Compatriots –

I would like to thank all who came out and supported the Camp at our 29<sup>th</sup> Lee-Jackson Southern Heritage Event. Considering the state of the world, this year's event was a success. Our keynote speaker – Ms. Donna Faulkner Barron, was very informative. I appreciate all the businesses who provided financial backing – we couldn't have done it without you. Additionally, I would like to thank Delmas Diamonds and Jewelers for donating the pendant, Bumpas Local 349 and Buffalo Wild Wings for donating gift cards, and Tallahassee Car Museum for donating some family passes. I appreciate Southern Yellow Pines Publishing for sending Author/Historian Maurice Majszak to sell and sign books.

The next big event on the Camp's calendar is the Rally at Natural Bridge, to be held on Saturday, March 6 at the Natural Bridge Battlefield Memorial. Bring your flag, bring your Confederate spirit! We will honor our ancestors who fought to protect the capital of Florida. More information will be sent out in the coming days – so stay tune!

Respectfully,

Ned Roberts



### **Dates in History of the War - 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 9<sup>th</sup> – Regular Camp Meeting at VFW – 6:00 PM  
February 13<sup>th</sup> – Cemetery Clean-up – Midway/Beard Cemetery – 8:30 AM  
February 27<sup>th</sup> – Natural Bridge Road Clean-up – 8:30 AM  
March 6<sup>th</sup> – Rally at Natural Bridge Battlefield Park due to cancellation of the Re-enactment  
March 9<sup>th</sup> – Regular Camp Meeting at VFW – 6:00 PM  
March 20<sup>th</sup> – Graves Preservation Training – Jacksonville Old City Cemetery – 8:30 AM

For times, locations, and details for the following events please contact Commander Ned Roberts at [commander@finleysbrigadescv.com](mailto:commander@finleysbrigadescv.com) or 850-591-9221.

