



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



March Camp Meeting

**Finley's Brigade Camp 1614 will hold its monthly Meeting on March 14th at the VFW.
Social time at 6:00 and meeting at 6:45.**

Twenty-Five Years of Service to SCV



For demonstrating strength in defending our noble ancestors, being a guardian of their history, being committed to the vindication of the cause for which they fought, and for enduring support for the Sons of Confederate Veterans and Finley's Brigade, Camp 1614, **Chaplin Keith Lassiter** was presented the 25 Year SCV Service Metal.

He is shown here being presented with the certificate and the metal by **Commander Ned Roberts** at the February camp meeting.

Grave Keepers Report – Remembering Our Ancestors

1st Lt Commander Mark Bess

“A Journey of one thousand miles, starts with a Single Step.”

Chinese Proverb



February 20, 2023, marked the end of such a journey.

It has taken several years, lots of resources, many talented people, and a lot of grit and determination to make this journey. I am referring to the headstones that were installed in section 43 in Old City Cemetery, Tallahassee Florida, to honor the memory of the men who died at the battle of **Natural Bridge Florida**, on March 06, 1865.

Kelly V. Crocker is a man of strong will and moral compass. Like many of us with deep southern roots, Kelly is a staunch defender of Southern heritage and history. One of his most fervent passions, is to identify un-marked

Confederate Soldier's graves, and secure a proper marker to identify their resting place. For many of these forgotten souls, the grave marker is the only thing they have to tell their story and give us a glimpse into the lives they lead.

The battle of “Natural Bridge” occurred on March 06, 1865, in what is now called ‘Woodville’, fifteen miles from Tallahassee, and was a victory for the Confederates. This battle prevented the Florida state capital of Tallahassee from being captured. In fact, Tallahassee was the only Confederate capital not captured by Union forces during the war. Although the battle had no significant impact on the war as a whole, it was a resounding victory for the South. Three Confederate soldiers died as a result of that engagement. The soldiers fated to die that day were **John Grubbs, Eli Triplett Jr, and John B. Ellis**. Kelly was determined to locate these men and insure their final resting place had appropriately identified them and recognized their actions. Years, and long hours of research went into this project.



The National Cemetery Administration, a branch of the U.S. Veterans Administration, oversees a program whereby a grave marker is provided at no charge to qualifying veterans. There are specific criteria that must be met, and the documentation must be irrefutable. Sadly, some of the required evidence to secure markers for these men was missing.

Undaunted, Kelly forged ahead. This project was obviously going to require many more volunteers and

financing to come to fruition. Rallying like-minded and equally determined people to this noble cause was paramount. Meeting together in a small restaurant, these intrepid souls devised a plan of action, and so was born the **“Historic Cemetery Preservation of North Florida” (HCPNFL)**.

The HCPNFL is a 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation, organized to “Restore, preserve, and maintain historic cemeteries in North Florida.” Its first project would be securing markers for these men. It was estimated that the cost of the project would approach \$1,000.00. Friends, family, and anyone who would listen were approached for donations. The “Natural Bridge Historical Society” quickly answered the call with a substantial donation, along with many individuals, too numerous to name. With financing secured we were ready to begin.

Enter Charles Hall, owner of “Hall’s Monuments” in Donalsonville Georgia. Charles is a jovial, hardworking, and friendly man, who also respects and supports Southern heritage. Having worked with Sons of Confederate Veterans, Finley’s Brigade, Camp 1614 on other projects, Charles was approached and readily agreed to assist in this project. Charles worked closely with the HCPNFL in purchasing, designing, and preparing the markers. His knowledge and skills were indispensable in accomplishing the project.

Finally, after several years of ‘Treasure, Blood and Toil,’ long hours of research and preparation, the day had arrived to place the markers. Even after all those years and hours of research, the final resting place(s) of these men could not be absolutely identified. There was much reflection and thought, on where better to honor these men. The “Confederate” section of the “Old City Cemetery” in Tallahassee, Florida, the Capital they fought and died to defend, was the obvious choice. “Old City Cemetery” is located at #400 West Park Dr. Tallahassee, Florida, 32301 (entrance is on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd).

The ‘Confederate’ section of the cemetery protects the remains of Confederate soldiers/sailors who died in and around Tallahassee during the war and post war years. Records indicate that there is at least one hundred and eighty-six souls interred there, possibly more. Sadly, many are unmarked and unknown, dying of wounds or disease in area hospitals, their identities having never been known by those caring for them.

What better place to put these markers? This place certainly puts them in good company. February 20, 2023, marked the end of the long journey to honor these men. Finley’s Brigade members Kelly Crocker, Mark R. Bess, John W. Bess and Stan Willis, set the markers in block #43 of the “Confederate” section.

On April 23, 2023, the Anna Jackson Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, will hold their “Confederate Memorial Day” services, in Old City Cemetery, starting at 03:00pm. In conjunction, the markers for John Grubbs, Eli Triplett Jr and John B. Ellis will be unveiled, with military honors rendered by Finley’s Brigade Honor Guard.

May their souls rest in peace.



Chaplin Keith Lassiter is shown here receiving his Guardian Certificate and Metal from **SCV Florida Division Aid-de-camp Kelly Crocker** at the February meeting of Finley’s Brigade, SCV Camp 1614.

Keith has been appointed Guardian for the devoted care and protection of the final resting place of **Thomas Howell, M.D.** (home Guard) in the Salem Cemetery, Gadsden County, Florida.



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 appropriately mark the grave, so it is designated as a final resting place of a Confederate Veteran. This can be 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. Cost of additional certificates are \$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 into Camp Commander

Name of Applicant: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone #: (____) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

SCV Camp Name & Number: _____

Confederate Ancestor: _____

GRAVESITE DETAILS

Confederate Veterans Name: _____

Rank: _____ Unit: _____ Co.: _____

Born: ____/____/____ Died: ____/____/____ Condition of site: Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent
(circle one)

Location of Grave: *(Include name of cemetery, city, and county):*

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 completed forms to the attention of
Florida Guardian Program
Florida Division, SCV
3428 Laura St
Tallahassee, FL 32305
Make checks payable to Florida Division SCV**

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

1. Application Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Date ____/____/____
2. Approval signature: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE A FORM FOR EACH SOLDIER YOU ARE REQUESTING TO BE A GUARDIAN





Two miles of the Natural Bridge Road leading to the State Park have been adopted by Finley's Brigade. Once a quarter, brave officers and compatriots walk the distance, picking up any offensive materials that have found their way onto the roadside.

Commander Ned Roberts provided this picture of those who met early on Saturday, February 25th.

From L-R, **Adjutant Tom Williams, Compatriot Pat Adams, Compatriot Mike Browne, Compatriot Reggie Roddenberry, Chaplin Keith Lassiter, Compatriot JR Miller, and 1st Lt. Commander Mark Bess.**



Dates in History of the War - March

March 11, 1861 – Brig. Gen. Braxton Bragg assumed command of all CSA forces in Florida.

March 09, 1862 – Battle of Hampton Roads between USS Monitor and CSS Virginia.

March 26, 1863 - The Confederate Congress passes act authorizing the impressment of any property or slaves for the Army's needs.

March 31, 1864 –Skirmish at Palatka, FL.

March 06, 1865 –Federal troops are repulsed at Battle of Natural Bridge near Tallahassee, FL by West Florida Cadets and other Southern troops.



Chaplain's Corner



But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, 'Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.'

Luke 9:55

I have begun rereading the gospels again as of January 1st. On January 17th, I read this portion of scripture and knew immediately around which February's Chaplain Corner would center... ***'Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.'*** I told no one but mused on this for days. I cannot change these words into red on this computer; however, these are the words of the Lord Himself.

The day following our Lee-Jackson Banquet, my pastor, Bro. Todd Hill, preached a sermon (from a series he is beginning on GENEROSITY) that he prefaced with this: He said that the word GENEROSITY in the Webster's 1828 dictionary meant having to do with one's birth or origin... where one comes from or to what family one belongs. He said to us, and now I say to you, "Now you see where this is heading." Well, I went to Webster's 1828 Dictionary to see if what he said was true and by the way, you should always check behind me to see if I am telling the truth. The following is what I found: **Primarily, being of honorable birth or origin; hence, noble; honorable; magnanimous**

Now, compare that with the words of Jesus. Gentlemen, this is obviously applied to Christianity and how a Christian should conduct himself/herself. That being said, even people who are not Christians can and should apply it to their walk in this world. I would hope that as GENTLEMEN—and especially SOUTHERN gentlemen, that we would keep this in mind every day.

Ungodliness abounds in today's world, and truth is attacked relentlessly. I know of no other group of individuals (whose beliefs, whose convictions, whose rock on which they stand) who are attacked and berated more, and against whom eradication of beliefs, thoughts, and heritage is the goal, than the person with Confederate ancestors. We are hated with a vitriol, the likes of which I have not seen in my lifetime. Yes, we can say that law enforcement is hated or that white people are hated, but I have not seen the other side trying to erase their heritage. No statues of policemen are being removed; no schools bearing the names of white people are being renamed. That is of course unless they were Confederate veterans or if they happened to own slaves. Jesus once told His disciples that the world would hate them BECAUSE they hated Him. He was and still is truth. Truth is hated, because it contains absolutes, and absolutes are hated, because they expose sin. While NOTHING is or should ever be put on the level with the Lord Jesus Christ, I will say that truth, no matter what truth, is still and always will be hated. We have truth on our side, and I want you to remember that.

With that being said, I want to encourage you to remember the words of the Master and remember ***"... what manor of spirit ye are of."*** One of Gen. Lee's generals was talking very badly about him, and it was known of by many. One day, a certain general asked Gen. Lee what he thought about this general. Gen. Lee replied in a favorable manor stating that he believed him to be a very capable and knowledgeable leader. When this officer heard Gen Lee's response, he replied, "But general, do you not know the manner in which he is slandering your name in this army? Gen. Lee replied, "You did not ask me his opinion of me but mine of him."

We should learn a lesson from Gen. Lee. The Bible tells us that the Lord, in like manner, when He was reviled, He reviled not. It IS difficult not to get angry and lash out at our foes, and I wish I could say that I never have, but that is not the case, and I was wrong! God help us to follow the examples of Gen. Lee and the Lord Jesus Himself. Help us to pray for them to study that they would understand the TRUTH of our history and especially the TRUTH of the gospel.

Remember, "what manner of spirit ye are of."

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



Tallahassee Veterans Village



Veterans Chairman: Reginald Roddenberry

Since I was absent from the last camp meeting February 14th (due to a medical procedure), I missed out on the information about the Veteran's Village by **Tori Callan**, Program Manager for the Village. The following is a brief report I received from the meeting notes:

The village is in need of full-size bed sheet sets, blankets, towels, laundry detergent (liquid, powder or pods), cleaning supplies and boxed or powdered milk. The village residents currently number 48 men and 2 women. Veterans can stay there no more than 2 years, but, usually, they only stay 7 to 10 months.

I have not been able to schedule an appointment to interview a village veteran as yet. I endeavor to conduct such an interview and report to the camp members next month. There were no donations this time period.

An appointment with a local Publix store is being scheduled for next month to ascertain if they will donate food sources to the Veteran Village. Our

Lee-Jackson Event was a great success on the 28th of February with plenty of donations given to the village.

We are always grateful to those who donate to the ones that gave their service to our nation! The following is a recipe by Wilma Scofield, one of our OCR ladies.

FLANNEL CAKES

A recipe from the Hartley's cookbook "Serving Up History: 1776-1860."

Flannel cakes are plain pancakes made with flour but leavened with yeast instead of baking soda or powder.

Original: To 2 oz of butter add one pt of hot milk to melt it. Add one pt of cold milk, 5 eggs, 1c flour, one tsp salt, and two tbs yeast to make a stiff batter. Let it rise in a warm place 3 hours. Fry on a griddle and serve warm with butter and maple syrup or molasses.

Modernized: 1 tbs butter, 1 lg well-beaten egg, 1 c milk, 1 c flour, 1 tsp fast-acting dry yeast, ¼ tsp salt.

In small kettle, heat milk and butter just until small bubbles form around the edge. Remove from heat, pour into large bowl, and cool until lukewarm. Sprinkle dry yeast over milk and let stand 5 minutes to soften. Stir in beaten egg. Mix together flour and salt. Stir milk mixture into flour and beat 200 strokes. Cover bowl and set in warm place to rise for approximately 2 hours.

When the batter has risen, stir gently. Heat greased griddle until drops of water sizzle when sprinkled upon it. Pour ¼ cup batter onto griddle, cook until light brown on the underside. Turn pancake and brown other side. Serve warm with butter and maple syrup or molasses.

Yield: 7 to 8 pancakes.





Florida 3rd Brigade Commander **Mark R. Bess** presents **Ms. Judy Franklin**, Administrative Assistant, City of Bainbridge Georgia, her certificate of appreciation from the Florida Division SCV, for her work in assisting the Florida Division SCV and Finley's Brigade, Camp 1614, in the headstone dedication of **Capt. Thomas Jefferson Bruton**.

Her knowledge and hard work was instrumental in obtaining the permits and authorization from the city officials to allow the many elements of the dedication to be conducted.

It was a pleasure working with Ms. Franklin, and the Florida Division looks forward to working together with her in future events.



Commander's Guidon

Commander Ned Roberts

My Fellow Compatriots –

There are a lot of events happening in the coming weeks. Two weeks after the Reenactment of the Battle of Natural Bridge is Woodville Founder's Day celebration. Next month we will have at least two Memorial services to attend.

April is Confederate History Month, which is a great time to renew your support and defense of our Confederate ancestor's good name. We are the guardians of their history. We all need to work together in the coming weeks to remember them and to perpetuate those principles which they loved, and which you love also. The vindication of the cause is in our hands – lets fight for it!

Show your support and attend a Camp event – together we will make a difference!



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March 6, 1865 – Federal troops are repulsed at Battle of Natural Bridge near Tallahassee, FL by West Florida Cadets and other Southern troops.





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.



The 53rd Annual Florida Division Reunion

220 NE 4th Ave Trenton, Florida – June 3, 2023

REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Fee: *Members Only*

If Postmarked by May 15th _____ X \$30.00 \$ _____

After May 15th _____ 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.

