



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."



April Camp Meeting Cancelled

Due to the current pandemic situation, Finley's Brigade Camp 1614 April Meeting scheduled for April 14th has been cancelled.



Service Pin Presentations



Service Pin Presentations: Compatriot Russ Pridgeon and Compatriot George Pridgeon received 5 year pins, Compatriot Rip O'Steen received 20 year pin



Cap & Ball Confederates

Compatriot Reggie Roddenberry

Most Sons of Confederate Veterans Compatriots are familiar with the weapons used by our Confederate soldiers, especially the rifled muskets. However, many of us may not be aware of the side arms carried by the officers and certain noncommissioned officers (NCO) during the War Between the States (War of Northern Aggression). Three of the main revolvers carried by officers and NCO are shown as: The 1851 Colt, the 1860 Colt and the 1858 Remington. These pictured “cap & ball” revolvers were produced by the north. The Confederate revolvers that were produced in the south were copies of the Colt Model 1851 and Remington’s Model 1858. The Confederacy produced revolvers were the Leech & Rigdon and the Spiller & Burr. Almost all of these revolvers were produced in 36 caliber.

The term “cap & ball” describes the ammunition used to load these revolvers. This includes Triple F G (FffG) granulated black powder and a 36 caliber, .375” diameter round lead ball or a lead conical bullet. Some reproduction revolvers, especially the Colt 1860 or Remington 1858, are now made to fire a .451” or .454” diameter, 44 caliber bullet. The 36 caliber load used 17 grains of 3FG powder and the 44 caliber load used 28 grains of 3FG powder. A primer cap, usually size 11, was placed on each nipple located over the loaded cylinder of the revolver. Most revolvers had six cylinders.

The maximum effective range of these revolver loads were 25 yards. However, in the hands of a proficient sharpshooter, the range could be extended to 50 yards! The Confederate officer or NCO normally carried the revolver in a flap holster worn on the right side placed on a belt around the waist, butt forward. A leather Pistol Cartridge Box could also be worn on the belt that contained Combustible Paper Cartridges in the 36 caliber. Or, the box could be used to carry several accessories such as a revolver nipple wrench, nipple pick, small pistol flask filled with 3FG powder, and several lead balls or bullets.

Since the Colt 1851 and the Colt 1860 required an extended amount of time to reload (usually a couple of minutes), the soldier would carry an extra cylinder, fully loaded, in a spare pouch fashioned on the belt. The Remington 1858 revolver was the quickest in reloading an extra cylinder! This loading, reloading procedure, as well as other factual information will be demonstrated during the lecture to our camp at a later date to be announced in the future. The cap and ball revolver was a deadly weapon that produced a lot of injuries and death during the Northern Invasion of our southern states.

References: Dixie Gun Works, Inc. 2020 Catalog #169, Cabela’s Instruction Manual for Muzzle loading...Pistols, F. Lli Pietta Instruction Manual for Black Powder Revolvers, An Introduction To Civil War Small Arms.





BLUE AND GRAY DISPATCH

Fort Harrison: What can a little known fort teach us?

By Bert Dunkerly



Have you ever heard of Fort Harrison, outside of Richmond? Maybe you have, if you're well read on the Richmond campaigns, but chances are you haven't. Built as part of the lines defending the city, the Fort was attacked and taken by Union troops on September 29, 1864. The next day Confederates tried to take it back, and failed. What can a little known fort and small battle teach us about Civil War history?

For starters, in the big picture, a historic site like Fort Harrison shows us the complexity of the war, its ups and downs. Often we see a narrative that has Confederate defeat as inevitable by 1864. After Gettysburg it was just a matter of time: sure, the Confederates fought well in the Overland Campaign, but they were just holding off the inevitable.

Yet Confederates were still confident in the late summer of 1864, pinning their hopes on the Union election that fall. Union forces had driven across Virginia in the Overland Campaign and were besieging Petersburg by September. There had been no major Union victories in the Old Dominion that summer.

Fort Harrison was the largest fort defending one of the most fortified cities in the world. It anchored a key spot on high ground in the Richmond defenses. It was built over a two year period with soldier,

civilian, and slave labor. It featured large traverses, a moat, abates, and other engineering features.

During the Union assault, troops charged over open ground, down into the moat, and scaled the steep walls. The outnumbered garrison was overwhelmed and retreated. During the fighting 23 Union soldiers earned Medals of Honor.

Both Lee and Grant were on the scene. So important was the Union attack that Grant came over from his City Point headquarters to see things for himself. So vital was the effort to retake the captured fort that Lee himself came up from his headquarters to oversee it personally.



Fort Harrison after Union occupation

The fort would be in Union hands for the rest of the war. The Confederates fell back, dug a new line of defenses, and both sides settled into a monotonous siege warfare. It featured daily sharp shooting and occasional barrages. For 175 days this was the front line, with Union and Confederate pickets just 600 yards apart.

That fall the fort's garrison voted in the Presidential Election. Many states allowed its soldiers to vote absentee. Some of the USCT troops who were also voted, one of their first acts of citizenship.

From here Union troops marched into Richmond. On the night of April 2, 1865, soldiers head

explosions, saw the sky glowing, and surmised the Confederates were evacuating their capital. The next day the Union troops rose early, crossed to take possession of the abandoned Confederate forts, and continued on, marching down Main Street to the Confederate Capitol.

Fort Harrison, a small, relatively little known site, contains all these stories, and more. It shows us the complexity of the war, the intersection with politics, issues of race and citizenship, siege warfare, military engineering, among other things. A visit to Fort Harrison reveals as much about the war as a stop at more famous battle sites like Antietam or Shiloh. Don't overlook the Fort Harrison's out there, and don't discount the preservation of lesser known sites that may have much to teach us.



Ranger-guided tours are offered at Fort Harrison in the summer. NPS Photo

This Civil War Dispatch has been brought to you by the Blue and Gray Education Society, a non-profit 501-3C educational organization. Please visit us at www.blueandgrayeducation.org.

Work Days – Remembering Our Ancestors

Cemetery Cleanup Report – Chris Miller

No Report due to cancellations caused by the current pandemic situation.

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.



Finley's Brigade Color Guard – Service with Honor

Color Guard Report – Lt. Lee Norris

No Report due to Cancellations caused by the current pandemic situation.



Commander's Guidon

I hope that everyone of you, and your families, are doing good during this current pandemic situation. It is unfortunate that we had to cancel the April Camp meeting and cemetery cleanup dates. The Quincy Soldiers Cemetery Memorial Service has been postponed – it will be held at a date to determined.

We will have a lot of work to do once we can gather together – we have cemeteries to cleanup and at least one headstone to lay. Now is a good time to do research on your ancestors, so that you can request a Camp Meeting be dedicated to them.

Normally I would recognize our members having a birthday this month during our Camp meeting, so I would like to wish the following a very Happy Birthday – Compatriot John Bess, Lt Commander Marshall Carroll, Compatriot Orville Cummings and Historian Reggie Roddenberry.

If any Camp member needs any assistance during this time, please contact me or one of the Camp Officers. If you need help with picking up groceries or other items, let us know. Together we will stay strong.

I look forward to seeing all of you very soon.

Respectfully,

Ned Roberts



SCV Florida Division Headquarters



Upcoming Heritage Events and Opportunities

April 4 – Confederate Memorial Day at Soldiers Cemetery in Quincy, FL – Postponed Date TBD.

April 14 – Monthly Camp Meeting – Cancelled

May 12 – Monthly Camp Meeting, Social hour 6 pm, Meeting 6:45 pm

June 6 – SCV Florida Division Reunion at Trenton, 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.



Dates in History - April

April 12-13, 1861 – Ft. Sumter, SC, fired upon and surrenders to Confederate officials.

April 6, 1862 – Battle of Shiloh, TN.

April 17, 1863 – Union Cavalry raids into MS known as Grierson's Raid and leads to famous John Wayne movie called Horse Soldiers.

April 12, 1864 – Confederates led by General N.B. Forrest capture Ft. Pillow, TN.

April 2, 1865 – Federal troops capture Selma, AL.

April 9, 1865 – General Lee surrenders the Army of Northern Virginia to General Grant at Appomattox Courthouse in VA.

April 12, 1865 – Federal troops capture Mobile, AL.

April 14-15, 1865 – President Lincoln is assassinated by John Wilkes Booth. VP Andrew Johnson of TN is sworn in as President.

April 26, 1865 – General Joseph Johnston surrenders to General Sherman at the Bennett house in Durham, NC.



Camp Meeting Dedication

The month of April will be dedicated to the honor and memory of Private and Bugler Ransom Lockler, Company C, Jeff Davis Cavalry Legion who was Compatriot Jay Lindsey's 2nd Great Grandfather.

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

