



**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."*



**July Camp Meeting To Be Held**

Finley's Brigade Camp 1614 will hold its monthly Meeting scheduled on July 14<sup>th</sup>.



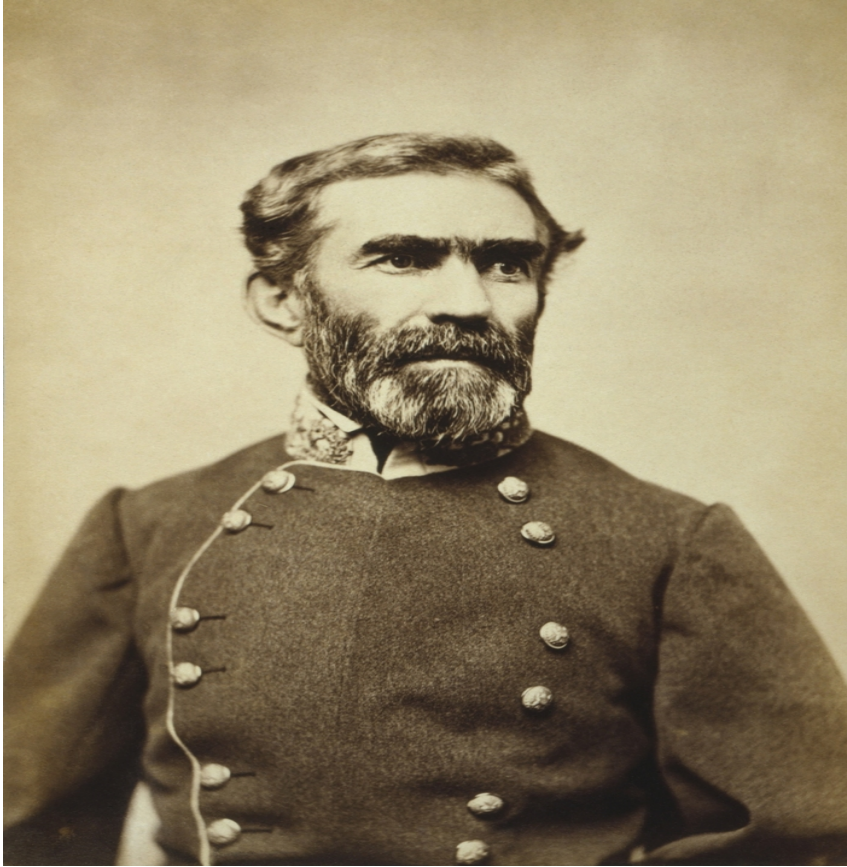
**For a Want of a Virus: Pensacola in 1861**

By Chris McIlwain, May 1, 2020

[blueandgrayeducation.org](http://blueandgrayeducation.org)

We all know that Union-held Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor was forced to surrender in April 1861 following a huge Confederate bombardment. Why not Pensacola Harbor, which remained in Union hands throughout the war and thereby denied the Confederates the use of one of the best harbors in the South? It wasn't for lack of trying.

Gen. Braxton Bragg, who was in command of the Confederate siege troops in the Pensacola area in 1861, was determined to take the Union-held Fort Pickens, but unlike the situation in Charleston, there were an insufficient number of siege guns available. So he planned a nighttime attack by a select number of men to row across the bay, climb the walls of the fort, and overwhelm the Union forces inside. This plan was to be executed on the night before the bombardment of Fort Sumter. As fate would have it, a reporter for the local Pensacola newspaper revealed the plot, and the Union forces inside the fort were augmented from nearby ships and the attack was called off. (Yes, Bragg had the reporter thrown into jail.)



Gen. Braxton Bragg | Library of Congress

To successfully take the fort would now require many more troops than Bragg had. But this was a period in which the Confederate high command was focused on defending Virginia as preparations were being made to move the capital to Richmond. Rather than gaining new troops, Bragg actually lost a portion of his own men when they were transferred to Virginia. Bragg complained to President Jefferson Davis but to no avail.

The President had a different idea. On May 23, 1861, he wrote to Bragg of his belief that the Union forces at Fort Pickens would surrender during the upcoming summer due to fears of a deadly virus for which there was no cure at that time: yellow fever. As Davis knew, the Gulf Coast was struck on an annual basis by this merciless killer. He had no doubt recalled the thousands of deaths that had occurred in 1853 during an epidemic known as the "Harvest of Death." In his letter to Bragg, Davis predicted that "panic may seize on the garrison" if yellow fever appeared. Bragg's response to this unorthodox strategy is unknown, but we do know it did not work.



Yellow fever mosquito | CDC

There was no significant yellow fever epidemic that summer, and Bragg eventually was transferred with a large portion of his men to Corinth, Mississippi, in preparation for the expected invasion of Unions troops under Gen. U.S. Grant from Tennessee. Ultimately, the Confederates abandoned Pensacola in 1862, and it was eventually used as a major staging area by Union forces for the final invasion of Alabama in 1865.



Fort Pickens today | NPS



# Funeral of the "Gallant" Pelham, Boy Hero of the Confederacy

By Norman Dasinger, Jr., May 22, 2020  
[blueandgrayeducation.org](http://blueandgrayeducation.org)

On Tuesday, March 31, 1863, the city of Jacksonville, Alabama, and its citizens witnessed the funeral of John Pelham, perhaps the most well-known artillery commander to have served during the Civil War.

Pelham was born September 7, 1838, along Cane Creek in the Alexandria community of northeastern Alabama. He grew up and entered the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, on July 1, 1856. He did not complete his five-year course of study, but resigned in 1861 just before his class was scheduled to graduate.

He joined the Confederate States Army and served as an artillery officer under the command of famed cavalry Gen. J.E.B. Stuart, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel. Mortally wounded at the battle of Kelly's Ford, Virginia, on March 17, 1863, he died early the next morning in Culpeper.

His body arrived at the Pelham home in Alexandria on Saturday, March 28, 1863, having been pulled by four white horses from the Blue Mountain railroad depot near present-day Anniston, Alabama.

After a meeting of community leaders at the Calhoun County Courthouse in Jacksonville on the 30th, it was decided the order of the funeral procession from the Baptist Church to the Jacksonville City Cemetery would be arranged as follows:

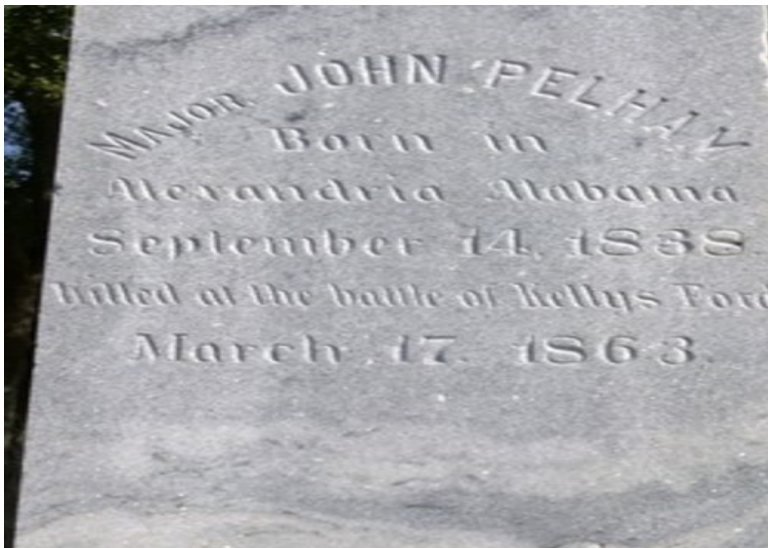
1. The body of John Pelham and pallbearers
2. Family/relatives
3. Clergy
4. Attending CSA officers
5. Teachers and Students of the Female Academy
6. Teachers and Students of the Male Academy
7. Ladies
8. Committee for the Arrangement of the Funeral
9. The County Grand Jury
10. Citizens
11. Carriages.

On the morning of the 31st, the body was loaded onto an open wagon and transported from the Pelham home in Alexandria to Jacksonville. It was a bright spring day, and it was stated, "The attendance was at the time the largest body of people ever seen together in Jacksonville." At the Baptist Church, Chancellor Foster delivered the eulogy and then by order of procession, Pelham was delivered to the city cemetery. He was lowered into ground as schoolchildren filled his grave with lilac blossoms before caretakers shoveled dirt upon the casket.



John Pelham in his West Point uniform | Alabama Department of Archives and History

Today, he rests under a large marble statue of the young artillerist with one of his five brothers—all of whom served in the Confederate Army—buried at his side.



Etchings on Pelham monument, Jacksonville, Alabama | Find a Grave



## *Work Days – Remembering Our Ancestors*

Cemetery Chairman: Chris Miller

June 13 – We cleaned up the Mile at Natural Bridge at 8:00am.



June 13 – Rhodes Cemetery was also cleaned up by Marshall Carroll and Mark Bess.





## **Tallahassee Veterans Village**

Veterans Chairman: Keith Lassiter

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: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Cdr. Lee Norris

June – No Guard Services scheduled.

July – Guard Detail scheduled for National SCV Reunion with 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cdr. Larry Thomas and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Cdr. Lee Norris.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Commander Lee Norris or any camp officer.



## **Commander's Guidon**

The Camp will be meeting on July 14 at the VFW Post. I hope to see you all there.

Later that week, National SCV will be holding it 2020 National Reunion in St. Augustine. Let me know if you plan to attend.

The Adjutant has mailed out the final notices for Membership Dues. If you have not renewed yet, be sure to do so – or you can bring it to July's Meeting.

Lastly, during these trying times, stay vigil and strong – the anarchist might be able to tear down a monument, but they will never be able to tear down our pride in our heritage!

Respectfully,

Ned Roberts



## **Dates in History - June**

July 21, 1861 – First Battle of Manassas, VA and ended in a Confederate Victory.

July 17, 1862 – U.S. President Lincoln signs the Confiscation Act.

July 1-3, 1863 – Battle of Gettysburg, PA.

July 4, 1863 – Vicksburg, MS surrenders to Union forces under Grant.

July 11, 1864 – CSA General Jubal Early and his troops enter Washington D.C. suburbs.



## **Upcoming Heritage Events and Opportunities**

July 14 – Monthly Camp Meeting, VFW Post, Social Hour begins at 6 PM.

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](mailto:commander@finleysbrigadescv.com) or 850-591-9221.

