



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."



August Camp Meeting

Finley's Brigade Camp 1614 will hold its monthly Meeting scheduled on August 11th at the VFW.



The Only Thing That Could Save the North was War!

By Gene Kizer, Jr.

Major Robert Anderson, Union commander inside Fort Sumter, emphatically blames Lincoln for starting the war Lincoln had to have to save the North.

Lincoln needed to start the war as fast as he could before Southerners completed trade and military alliances with England and other European countries, which they had been pursuing with great enthusiasm for months. With every second that went by, the South got stronger and the North got weaker. Lincoln knew there was no advantage, whatsoever, to waiting.

He also worried greatly about free states joining the South. The Confederate Constitution allowed it. Slavery was not required. Slavery was up to an individual state, and Southerners anticipated that many free states with economic ties to the South, especially along the Mississippi and in the West, would join the Confederacy.

The *Boston Transcript* saw what was happening and realized that the protection to slavery that the North was quite willing to give was not what the South wanted:

[T]he mask has been thrown off and it is apparent that the people of the principal seceding states are now for commercial independence. They dream that the centres of traffic can be changed from Northern to

Southern ports. The merchants of New Orleans, Charleston, and Savannah are possessed of the idea that New York, Boston, and Philadelphia may be shorn, in the future, of their mercantile greatness, by a revenue system verging on free trade.

The South wanted to be INDEPENDENT just as the Colonists had wanted to be independent in 1776. The South wanted freedom and self-government. It was tired of the confiscation of its hard-earned money by the North and the federal government. It was tired of 10 years of Northern hatred and terrorism.

Northern panic and Southern jubilation grew steadily until they reached a crescendo on April 12, 1861, and the orchestra wore gray in the forts and batteries encircling Charleston Harbor, and it wore blue inside Fort Sumter, led by Union Major Robert Anderson.

Anderson saw the events of the day clearly and put the blame squarely on Abraham Lincoln for starting the war that Lincoln had to have to save the Union and the North. Lincoln and Secretary of War Simon Cameron wrote to Anderson and informed him that warships and a military mission to reinforce him were en route.

Anderson and the Southerners in Charleston were standing face to face, each with a cocked gun on a hair-trigger aimed at the other's head. It had been this way for weeks, but Lincoln couldn't wait any longer. He was anxious to get a blockade set up around the ports of the South that would slow the European rush to military and trade treaties with the South. This was a critical thing for Lincoln or suddenly it would have been like the French in the American Revolution who came to the aid of the Colonists and helped mightily to secure American independence.

Once Lincoln got the war started, he could throw up his blockade and force Europeans to take a wait-and-see attitude.

Lincoln knew that sending his warships and soldiers to Charleston during the most critical hour in American history would start the war. That's why it was well publicized nationally, so everybody could get ready. He hoped the Confederates would fire first. Everything he did was designed to get that result. See Charles W. Ramsdell's famous treatise, "Lincoln and Fort Sumter," Part III of *Slavery Was Not the Cause of the War Between the States, The Irrefutable Argument.*, for proof that Lincoln started the war.

Anderson was at ground zero on April 12, 1861 and could judge both sides and pass judgment on who started the war, and he clearly blames Lincoln. This is what he writes in his response to Lincoln and Cameron:

*. . . a movement made now when the South has been erroneously informed that none such will be attempted, would produce most disastrous results throughout our country. . . . We shall strive to do our duty, though I frankly say that **my heart is not in the war which I see is to be thus commenced.** . . . (Bold emphasis added.)*

Anderson sees that the war "is to be thus commenced" by Abraham Lincoln, who had to hurry up and get it started or soon the South with European trade and military alliances would be unbeatable.

Northern greed, hatred and terrorism drove the South out of the Union and cost the North its huge captive manufacturing market in the South. It also cost the North unfettered access to bountiful Southern

commodities needed in manufacturing.

More Northern greed in the form of the Morrill Tariff threatened to destroy the Northern shipping industry and send Northern ship captains South where protective tariffs were unconstitutional. The Morrill Tariff guaranteed that the Northern economy would not recover.

Northern leaders knew that they were headed for an unimaginable disaster and at the same time would have to face the South as a major competitor owning most of the trade of the United States, strongly backed militarily and financially by Europe, and with control of the most demanded commodity on the planet: cotton.

Abraham Lincoln, the first sectional president in American history, was president of the North and the North was clamoring for war. There was gloom, despair and extreme agitation in the North. Hundreds of thousands were unemployed, angry, in the street. The "clangor of arms" had been heard. Every day that went by the South got stronger and the North got weaker. There was no advantage whatsoever to waiting a second longer, so, after agonizing for weeks, Lincoln saw a way to get the war started without appearing to be the aggressor, and he took it. This was the view of several Northern newspapers as Charles W. Ramsdell points out in Part III in "Lincoln and Fort Sumter."

The threatened annihilation of the Northern economy and the rise of the South are what drove all actions in that fateful spring of 1861. Certainly not any mythical desire on the part of the North to end slavery.

The North's choices had been clear: descend into economic hell and mob rule, or fight.

If they fought, because of their overwhelming advantages at that point in history (4 to 1 in native manpower plus unlimited immigration - 25% of the Yankee army ended up being immigrants while close to 100% of the Confederate army were native-born Southerners - perhaps 200 to 1 in weapon manufacturing, an army, navy, etc.), they knew they had an excellent chance of winning everything and gaining total control of the country.

If they didn't fight, the South would surely ascend to predominance.

Of course they were going to fight and use their advantages before they lost them.

Lincoln figured the North would win easily but First Manassas proved him wrong, thus we had the bloodiest war in American history with 800,000 deaths and over a million wounded. The South was invaded and destroyed but fought until it was utterly exhausted before it was all over. It had nothing left to give or the war would certainly have continued on.

It was World War II, seventy-five years later, before the South began to recover from the destruction, but it is a certainty that if 1861 rolled around again and Southerners had the opportunity to fight for independence, they would. To the South, 1861 was 1776 all over. They believed the Founding Fathers had bequeathed to them by the Declaration of Independence, the right of self-government, and they would pay any price to achieve it.

Basil Gildersleeve, still known today as the greatest American classical scholar of all time, was a Confederate soldier from Charleston, South Carolina. He sums it up nicely in *The Creed of the Old South*, published 27 years after the war:

*All that I vouch for is the feeling; . . . there was no lurking suspicion of any moral weakness in our cause. Nothing could be holier than the cause, nothing more imperative than the duty of upholding it. There were those in the South who, when they saw the issue of the war, gave up their faith in God, but not their faith in the cause.*ⁱⁱⁱ

SCV National Convention Photos



2LT Lee Norris (L) and 1LT Larry Thomas (R) conducting Color Guard duties at National SCV Convention 2020 in St. Augustine, FL.



2LT Lee Norris (L), Thomas Jesse aka “General Lee” (Center), and 1LT Larry Thomas during the National SCV Convention.



Compatriot Jay Lindsey escorting Ms. Torey Roberts at the National SCV Ball.



The Past National SCV Commander swearing in the new National SCV Executive Officers.



1Lt Thomas, Commander Roberts, Florida Division Commander Crocker, Compatriot Lindsey



Work Days – Remembering Our Ancestors

Cemetery Chairman: Chris Miller

Smith Creek Cemetery - Lt. Joseph Bostick
By J.R. Miller

Over this past spring and early summer, I visited some local cemeteries to clean some of the headstones and came across information of one Joseph Bostick. After some research I found that he was not marked. I compiled his proof of service and proof of burial, (two items that the V.A. require for a veteran headstone). I also contacted the head of the cemetery committee for Smith Creek Cemetery in Wakulla County in regards to his burial. After several phone calls and a home visit I obtained the necessary paperwork and acquired all necessary signatures. I like to thank Mr. & Mrs. Sammy Landrum of the Mt Elon Baptist Church and head of the cemetery committee of Smith Creek Cemetery both located in Wakulla County for their knowledge and impeccable kindness. Mr. Landrum is a retired trooper from the Florida Highway Patrol and is a prime example of a true gentleman.



Lieut. Joseph L Bostick born 1838 in most likely Twiggs County, Georgia to the farming parents of Reverend George Washington Bostick. By 1850 the family is living in Decatur County Georgia, by 1860 they are living in Wakulla County, Florida between “The Fork of Oclockney and Sopchoppy Rivers, Wakulla, Florida” the nearest post office being Newport. Also, by this time the father had become a preacher. Another interesting point to mention is during the time of 1830-1880 the spelling of the last name changed many times including Bastic, Bostic, Boswick, & Bostwick. The Bostick family would send three of their sons Joseph, Joshua, & William Wiley to war of which only one would survive. Joshua would die in Mobile Alabama in 1862. It is at this time that Reverend Bostick would write a sermon on how the nation’s sins brought the war. That sermon I am told is preserved today at Stetson University. Joseph was sent home in late 1864 from a hospital near Atlanta and died at home in 1865. Wily survived the war, followed in his father’s footsteps, became a preacher and is buried in Miami, Florida.

Cemetery Chairman Chris Miller and JR Miller at Smith Creek Cemetery posing with LT. Joseph Bostick’s headstone.



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 Sergeant: 2nd Lt. Cdr. Lee Norris

July – Guard Detail attended National SCV Reunion with 1Lt. Cdr. Larry Thomas and 2Lt. Cdr. Lee Norris.

August – Nothing scheduled as of today.

September – Mariana Day in Mariana, FL.

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.



Dates in History - August

August 10, 1861 – Battle of Wilson's Creek, MO ended in a Confederate Victory.

August 24, 1862 – CSS Alabama commissioned as a cruiser in the Confederate Navy.

August 21, 1863 – Quantrill's Confederate Raiders sack the Union town of Lawrence, KS.

August 5, 1864 – Battle of Mobile Bay, AL which ends in Union Victory.

August 2, 1865 – CSS Shenandoah learns from a British ship that the war is over.



Commander's Guidon

First, I know everyone joins with me praying for Compatriot Rip O'Steen and his family after the recent passing of Ms. Carol, Rip's beloved wife

Next, I want to thank 1LT Commander Larry Thomas and 2LT Commander Lee Norris for representing Finley's Brigade during the Opening Ceremonies at the National Reunion last month. Their devotion and service to the Cause is appreciated.

Finley's Brigade had a small delegation attending the Reunion, but with the Covid-19 issue that was to be expected. The Camp was represented by 1LT Commander Thomas and Mrs. Thomas, 2LT Commander Norris and Mrs. Norris, Past Commander Crocker, Compatriot Lindsey and Mrs. Lindsey, Commander Roberts and Mrs. Roberts, and Ms. Torey. Hopefully more Camp members and families will be able to attend the 2021 SCV Reunion in Metairie, Louisiana.

At the 2020 National Reunion, Larry McCluney, Jr. was elected SCV Commander-in-Chief. Jason Boshers was elected Lt Commander-in-Chief. These gentlemen need our support and backing in carrying out the mission of SCV, especially during these trying times.

Lastly, to the few Camp members who are still outstanding on the Annual Dues – whether National, Florida Division or Camp 1614 – please submit your dues now. We need you and your support to continue our fight for the Cause. Please continue to stand with us and continue to stand for our heritage.

Respectfully,
Ned Roberts



Upcoming Heritage Events and Opportunities

August 11 – Monthly Camp Meeting at the VFW Post 6:45 PM, Social Hour begins at 6 PM.

September 8 – Monthly Camp Meeting at the VFW Post 6:45 PM, Social Hour begins at 6 PM

September 19 – Natural Bridge Road Clean-up, begins at 8:30 AM

October 13 – Monthly Camp Meeting at the VFW Post 6:45 PM, Social Hour begins at 6 PM

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

