



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



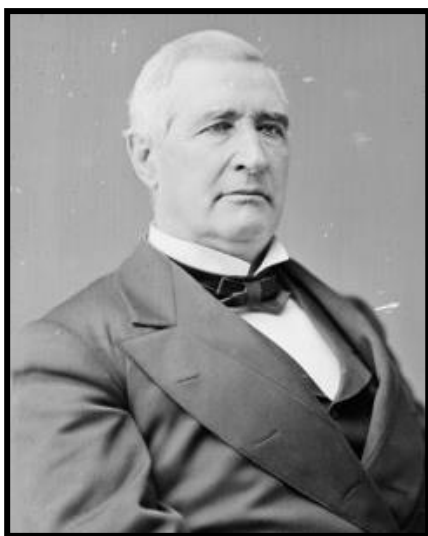
August Camp Meeting

**Finley's Brigade Camp 1614 will hold its monthly Meeting on August 9th at the VFW.
Social time at 6:00 and meeting at 6:45.**



The Original “Finley’s Brigade”

Commander Kelly Crocker



When I talk to people about the Sons of Confederate Veterans, I tell them with pride, that I am a member of **Finley's Brigade**. We have long been a top caliber Camp, even before SCV HQ made it official by recognizing us as the “Most Distinguished Camp of the Year” a few years ago. All of us have a part in making our Camp, the “Best of the Best.” I hope that we will continue to serve in a way that brings honor to our Camp's namesake.

Now, most of you know the biographical information on **Jesse Johnson Finley**. How he was born in Tennessee, was once mayor of Memphis, and how he practiced law. After moving to Jackson County, Florida, he continued his law career, served in the State Senate, and was elected as a judge in the Confederate court. In 1862, he resigned from the court, and enlisted as a private in Company D of the 6th Florida Infantry Regiment. He was immediately elected Captain and in less than a month promoted to Colonel of the 6th.

But how and when did Finley's Brigade come to be?

Men from Florida served throughout the war on many fronts, in the CS Army, CS Navy, CS Marines, and CS Militia. Most Floridians served in either the Army of Northern Virginia (ANV) or the Army of Tennessee (AOT). The 2nd, 5th, and 8th Florida

Infantry Regiments were quickly brigaded together in the ANV. They were later joined by the 9th, 10th, and 11th Infantry Regiments, with all six comprising the Florida Brigade in the ANV.

However, Florida regiments in the AOT were not brigaded together until late in 1863 and were often parceled out to brigades from other states. Florida units served together at times but were never under a single command, or a General from Florida, until November of 1863. Florida units in the Army of Tennessee were the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 6th, and 7th Infantry Regiments, and the 1st Cavalry Regiment.

In October of 1863, AOT Commander, General Braxton Bragg, set out to reorganize the units under his command. The primary reason was to weed out officers who had been trying to get him sacked. The other reason was to streamline the commands of the shrinking Army of Tennessee. One of the changes that the General made was the consolidation of all Florida troops in the AOT, which created the Florida Brigade. The next decision that had to be made was which one of the six Colonels in the brigade would become its commander? In the General's order he stipulated that the Florida Brigade would be commanded by the senior Colonel, until a General could be confirmed by Congress. Colonel William Scott Dilworth of Monticello was the senior Colonel, but he was on furlough, currently. Colonel J.J. Finley was next in line and assumed temporary command of the new brigade. There was a lot of political wrangling going on for the promotion to General for this new brigade. Major General Simon B. Buckner had recommended both Colonels Troup Maxwell and Jesse Finley, while giving priority to Maxwell. Major General John C. Breckenridge had recommended Colonel Dilworth. Florida Governor John Milton appealed to President Davis to promote Colonel Finley. Finley was the only one in the running, since President Davis liked General Bragg, and General Bragg liked Colonel Finley. Colonel Jesse Finley was promoted to Brigadier General on November 16, 1863.

The new structure of the Florida units and its Commander set well with the Florida troops. They now had their own brigade with their own General. The men respected and admired General Finley. The Florida Brigade soon became known as Finley's Brigade and would keep that name until the end of the war, and then some. Finley's Brigade first fought together at Missionary Ridge, in late November of 1863. They performed bravely and received accolades from Generals Bragg, Breckenridge, and Bate.

The Army of Tennessee spent the first months of 1864, wintering near Dalton, Georgia. During this time, General Bragg stepped down as AOT Commander and was replaced with General Joseph E. Johnston. General Johnston first priority was to build-up the morale of his worn-down army. He made sure that the men were paid, clothed, and fed. Brigadier General Finley took part in this effort also. What supplies he could not obtain through the Confederate Army; he appealed directly to Governor Milton for help. General Finley also sent troops to Florida to pick-up supplies donated by faithful Floridians.

Soldiers' letters from this time at Dalton tell us a little about General Finley. Washington Ives wrote "on Christmas Eve a crowd gathered around the General's tent as the Florida Brigade Band serenaded their commander. The band played "My Old Kentucky Home" and called for the General who responded with a short and appropriate speech. The band then, at General F's request played Dixie, Marseille, and a waltz known by the band as the "Lovely Waltz."

Another letter by John Inglis recalls the General's participation in the famed snowball fight of March 22, 1864. It seems that General Finley led the Floridians and Kentuckians in attack on Stewart's Division. Inglis wrote that General Finley was at the head of his troops leading "with the enthusiasm of a School Boy." General Finley is also mentioned in the book "The Great Revival in the Southern Armies" where Reverend J. J. Hutchinson states "I preached to Gen. Finley's Brigade, where the General and his staff were present, and he united audibly with our prayers."

By May the Confederate Army were engaged by the federals in what we now call the Atlanta Campaign. Early in the campaign, at Resaca, the General was twice wounded. The first came as an artillery shell impacted a tree near the Floridians line, sending splinters flying in every direction. John Hill reported "That one of these fragments struck General Finley in the face. He passed his hand over his face and saw blood and remarked: 'This is the first blood that I have lost in this war.'" The next day another Yankee artillery round severed a heavy limb from a tree near Finley's headquarters; in falling the limb crashed down on the General's shoulder. General Finley refused treatment for two days, until he was compelled to see the surgeon. A quick examination revealed that he had a broken collar bone, and he was sent home to convalesce. General Finley rejoined his brigade in August 1864 at Jonesboro, Georgia. On August 31, 1864, the General was wounded again. In the War Between the States, most Brigadier Generals led from the front, and General Finley was no exception. While attempting to rally the Florida boys at Jonesboro, an enemy round hit the General's foot and killed his mount. It has been written that 'the General declined to be sent to the rear until all of his wounded were embarked, and that in doing so, he narrowly escaped capture.' Jesse J. Finley would never lead the Florida Brigade again, although he did continue to serve with General Cobb in Georgia. It is interesting that in his absence, the brigade was still known as Finley's Brigade. Even, Sam Watkins, author of "*Company Aytch*" refers to the Florida Brigade as "Finney's Floridians" in his account of the Battle of Franklin in December 1864.

After the War, J. J. Finley returned to Florida where he had a lengthy career in public service. He served in the Florida Legislature and in the Courtroom. He lived in Lake City and later in Gainesville, Florida where he has an elementary school named for him. The General and his family are buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Gainesville.

The Bible tells us that “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.” I believe that “**Finley’s Brigade**” is a good one.

Y’all think about it.



Membership Challenge

Commander Ned Roberts

"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."

Having attended the Florida Division Reunion in June and then the National Reunion last week, I realize that all Camps in the SCV are having issues in recruiting new members. But these issues should not and cannot stop us from reaching out to potential new members. We need to present ourselves to new recruits, we need to invite them to Camp meetings and/or to assist in work projects. We need to show them who we are and what we stand for. The Charge says it all – “*vindication of the cause..., defense of the Confederate soldier’s good name..., guardianship of his history..., perpetuation of his principles and ideals...*”

Here is the challenge - for the next three months I am asking all members of Finley's Brigade to reach out to a new, potential member each month. Talk to that recruit on why you are a member of SCV and why they might want to join. Invite them to a meeting or

invite them to help us with one of our workday projects. Do this each month for the next three months, and I genuinely believe we will see positive results.

If your recruit needs help in researching ancestors and their confederate veteran lineage, then let me know. We can help with the research.

If you would like to get some recruiting flyers and brochures, then come to the August Camp meeting. I will have a box of them. You can contact me, and I will get some to you.

You know people who would be good members of Finley's Brigade and SCV. Reach out and let them know we need them.

Let's, all of us, live the Charge each and every day!



Grave Keepers Report – Remembering Our Ancestors

Cemetery Chairman: Mark Bess

July has been a good month for obtaining memorials. Thanks to the efforts of Commander Kelly Crocker, Historian Stan Willis, and myself, we were approved for and received, four more VA headstones. Our little band of brothers, we like to refer to as the “**Confederate Soldier Investigators**,” have done it again.

The soldiers we identified and researched are:

Sergeant Major, John Drysdale,
2nd Bn Florida Infantry.

Sergeant, Georgia A. Bowen,
2nd Bn, Florida Infantry.

Private, (teamster) William Duncan,
3rd Bn, Florida Infantry.

1st Lieutenant, Milford A. Bull,
1st Florida Infantry

Lieutenant Milford Bull was a special treat to get approved. While researching the records of Lt. Alexander Bull, one of the Immortal 600, we encountered Milford’s name on the 1850 census record in the household of their mother Dulcida Bull. Dulcida is buried in block #54, in Old City Cemetery, directly between graves #3 and #4. Dulcida outlived both her sons and two husbands by many years. Alexander is interred in grave #4.

We were able to use St. John’s Episcopal Church records to verify that Alexander Bull was buried in Old City Cemetery, however, no “record of internment” was located for Milford. We have been searching for anything on Milford for over twelve months. Through many hours of searching through genealogy records, newspaper accounts, military records, and by dogged determination, we were able to locate two newspaper articles mentioning Milford. Both Alexander and Milford were members of the ‘Independent Order of Oddfellows,’ Leon Lodge #5, here in Tallahassee. The newspaper articles reported that the Oddfellows held yearly memorial services at old City Cemetery to visit and remember their departed brethren. Our “Aahaa” moment was when the articles included Milford A. Bull as one of the departed brethren.

With much apprehension, I contacted Zach Becvar, a VA case manager in the Memorial Products section. I Have worked with Mr. Becvar on other headstone applications and have had several phone conversations with him. Mr. Becvar reviewed all the evidence we provided and agreed that Milford A Bull met the criteria to receive a VA headstone.

I tell you this story because it is a good example of, DON’T GIVE UP!! Added information becomes available every day. New records are released, and new clues are located.

As Commander Kelly Crocker has stated many times.

“In fifty years, no one will remember that I had anything to do with obtaining or setting this headstone. But people will know that these men are buried here, and they were Confederate Soldiers!”

I believe that every member of Finley’s Brigade should identify, research, and apply for at least one VA headstone. We have several compatriots that are well versed in the process and are always willing to assist. You may contact me anytime to help get you started.



Color Guard

Farewell Compatriot Witt

Richard Marshall Witt, 1946 - 2022

A memorial service for Compatriot **Richard Marshall Witt** was held at 1:00 PM on 26 July 2022 at the Tallahassee National Cemetery. Compatriot Witt was a veteran of the US Army, serving in Viet Nam in 1964 and 1965.

The service was attended by a large group of his family, friends and church members, as well as 12 members of Finley's Brigade, several members of other camp and 5 ladies from the Order of Confederate Rose and the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Finley's Color Guard members Larry Thomas, Rob Crisler, Gerald Bell Jim Windsor and, Camp Adjutant Tom Williams, under the command of Color Sergeant Mark Bess stood watch over the ceremony. Finley's Chaplain Keith Lassiter presented Mrs. Witt a certificate from the Sons of Confederate Veterans National Headquarters. After which, Finley's Commander Ned Roberts, assisted by Color Sergeant Mark Bess, presented Mrs. Will with a Confederate Battle Flag.



Compatriot Witt was a **National Life Member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans**. He crossed over the river to rest in the shade of the trees on 30 June 2022 in Tallahassee, Florida.

REST IN PEACE COMPATRIOT WITT, TIL WE MEET AGAIN

By Compatriot Stan Willis



Former Commander Kelly Crocker and Camp Commander Ned Roberts present Certificates of Appreciation to Charles Hall of Hall Monuments, LLC in Donaldsonville GA for donating his engraving of various gravestones

Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Keith Lassiter



President Theodore Roosevelt was entertaining several heads of state from various countries at the White House. After supper one of these nights, he took them on the lawn behind the White House and began staring up into the night sky. The night was clear and, the stars were clearly visible. He uttered not a word. The others, not knowing what to say, followed suit, staring at the stars in complete silence. After several minutes of observing the majesty of God's creation, the president said, "Alright gentlemen, I believe we are all sufficiently small enough now; we can retire for the evening."

My what a contrast to today's politicians—and people in general. We live in a day and age in which each individual believes himself/herself to be the center of the universe. Today's populous is blind to "the bigger picture"—the idea that there are things bigger than we are. What kind of country, what kind of world will we find ourselves in if this line of reasoning continues?

Throughout our history as a nation, young men and women have answered the call to serve an idea bigger than themselves. From the American Revolution through today, American blood has been shed because these brave individuals did NOT think of themselves but of something bigger than they were. The American patriots in the American Revolution and the Confederate patriots in the War for Southern Independence are two examples of ones who fought against overwhelming odds for something bigger. Of course, the greatest example of all is that of the Lord Jesus Christ! His words echo from the Garden of Gethsemane to all of us today. "*Not my will but Thine.*"

I encourage you all, my friends, in the words of President Kennedy, "*Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.*" If this generation passes off the scene of human history without passing the torch to the next, where will this once-great nation be? I challenge each of you to not only live this, but to teach it.

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

Deo Vindice



Tallahassee Veterans Village

Veterans Chairman: Reginald Roddenberry

Once again, our camp has provided donations to the veterans at the Tallahassee Veterans Village. This is a special gift following up from our awesome cookout we held there last month.

Donations this month were:

1. One package of 45 rolls of Bath Tissues.
2. Two packages of mixed bath soap.
3. One package of mixed toothpastes.
4. One package of mixed shampoo and conditioners.
5. Women's Clothing:
2 Blouses; 2 Sweatshirts; 8 tops; 6 dresses; 1 pair of shorts; 2 sweater tops; 2 purses; 1 bath robe. 7 pants; 7 pantyhose; 6 pairs shoes; large handbag.
6. \$ Donations: \$125.00 from Camp 1614 members.

I am especially thankful for you who donated cash at our camp meeting this month. I will continue to pass the donation box around at each meeting in hopes that we can continue to donate the needed cash to our veterans! Please feel free to bring any other donations to the meetings so I can get them out to Veteran Village residents.

Deo Vindice



Commander's Guidon

Commander Ned Roberts



I would like to thank all who attended Compatriot Richard Witt's funeral service at Tallahassee National Cemetery. The Honor Guard looked sharp – I am sure that the former Color Guard Sergeant was looking down on us and smiling. Richard definitely deserved the honors rendered. He will be missed.

Go ahead and mark on your calendar January 28, 2023, for the 31st Annual Lee-Jackson Southern Heritage Event. The banquet will be held at the Jackson Lodge No. 1, on Apalachee Parkway. Our keynote speaker this year will be Mr. Ron Rissler, who authored the book "The Blood of Stonewall." He will be speaking about General Stonewall Jackson and his family that came after him. Should be interesting.

While you still have your calendar handy, mark September 10th for the next Natural Bridge Road Cleanup. Start time will be 8:30 am.

I hope to see you at the August Camp Meeting on the 9th. Going to be a good one cause Quartermaster Larry Thomas will be doing a presentation on **The Immortal 600**.



The 2022 National Reunion of the Sons of Confederate Veterans was made even more special to one family by the presentation of **Miss Torey Roberts** at the Debutante Ball by her father, Finley's Brigade **Commander Ned Roberts**, recently elected as 5th Lt. Commander for the Florida Northwest Region.

She is shown here with her father and her mother, **Rose Ann Roberts**, recently elected as Vice President of the Mary Ann Harvey Black Chapter #5, Order of Confederate Rose in Tallahassee Florida.

Finley's sent only its finest to be the **Belle of the Ball!**

Commander Ned Roberts presents Florida Division SCV Certificates of Distinguished Service to Jim Windsor and Larry Thomas.

Well done, Compatriots!



Dates in History of the War – 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.



Upcoming Heritage Events and Opportunities

Aug 9th - Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 pm with meeting at 6:45 pm.

Sep 13th - Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 pm with meeting at 6:45 pm.

Oct 11th Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 pm with meeting at 6:45 pm.

Nov 8th Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 pm with meeting at 6:45 pm.



Birth Days

Matthew Mortimer 8/5

Randy Nichols 8/4

James Parrish 8/21

