



Camp Cresset

Finley's Brigade

Camp #1614

Havana, Florida

www.finleysbrigadescv.com



"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



February Camp Meeting

Finley's Brigade Camp 1614 will hold its monthly Meeting on February 13th at the VFW. Social time at 6:00 and meeting at 6:45.



Old Fort Park



This earth work is located on ground that once was part of the E.A. Houston Plantation. He was the father of **Captain Patrick Houston** who commanded the Confederate Artillery at the **Battle of Natural Bridge**. It is a silent witness of the efforts of the citizens of Tallahassee to protect the Capitol of Florida from capture when it was threatened by Federal troops. General John Newton's Federal forces landed near the St. Marks Lighthouse and marched up the eastern side of the St. Marks River only to be decisively repulsed at Natural Bridge on March 6, 1865, by a hurriedly assembled Confederate force commanded by **General Sam Jones**. The force included a company of cadets from the West Florida Seminary which is now Florida State University.

This old fort is the last remnant of thirteen earthen fortifications built to protect Tallahassee during the War between the States. It is located in the Myers Park area of the city.



Remembering Benjamin W. Saxon



Benjamin W. Saxon, of Company "C", 3rd Florida Infantry became the Sheriff of Hernando County Florida after the war. He served as Sheriff from 1871 until his death in 1876. While transporting ballots to Tallahassee he had to travel covertly and became sick after reaching the Capital. He died in Tallahassee as a result of that illness and was buried in the Old City Cemetery in Tallahassee Florida. His grave has been unmarked until 15 January 2024 when Florida Division Aide-de-Camp **Kelly Crocker**, Commander **Mark Bess** of Findley's Brigade and Finley's 1st Lt Commander/Historian **Stan Willis**, accompanied by **Mr. Bill Browne**, friend of the SCV installed Sheriff Saxon a headstone.

RIP Sheriff Saxon.

The Crypt Keeper's Report

J. R. Miller



The installation of the headstone for **Benjamin Saxon** has been completed. Mr. Saxon died in the line of duty. He was sheriff of Hernando Co. when he died in Tallahassee. The design for the extra emblem and wording for the back of his headstone was completed by **Halls Monuments**.

Application for **W.G. Lester** has been mailed to the VA. It could be a couple of weeks or several months before we hear back from them. Headstones for **J.Q. Gallagher** and **Edward Gallagher** are also at Hall Monuments for extra engraving on the back reflecting their membership in the Order of Odd Fellows. When completed the headstones will be installed in the Tallahassee Old City Cemetery.



The replacement headstone for **Hugh Black** has been received and was delivered to Hall Monuments. Extra engraving was completed and is now back in our possession. The placement of Black's headstone in the Fort Braden Cemetery was completed on February 3.

We will also need to paint the fence at Solders Cemetery. Lately it seems that every weekend it is pouring down rain or is too cold for the paint. I may issue a last-minute work day to paint the fence. I will do my best to give advance notice. We are at the mercy of the weather gentlemen. It should be our goal to have the fence painted by the time of our annual memorial service at Solders Cemetery. Keep in mind this is a long project that I suspect will take at least 3 workdays to complete.

Compatriot Kelly Crocker has acquired an interment list and section map for Roseland Cemetery in Monticello. One afternoon we made a trip to find some of the unmarked veterans and we had nearly 100% success in finding all of the graves. We are not 100% sure on one grave but we know that someone is buried in that spot. Kelly has been working with a local and the information obtained says about a dozen are unmarked. Expect big things to happen in Jefferson County this year (2024).



Chaplain's Corner

"And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play." Exodus 32: 6

A few weeks ago, I was reading through the book of Exodus. I have read through this book many times, and I can never read this portion of scripture without thinking of America. America has thrown in her lot with the ungodly and sacrificed all on the altar of secular humanism. The moral decay, economic downturn, and spiritual apostasy are results of this sacrifice. The people have sat down to eat the meat and drink the blood of devils and have risen up to play in a morally bankrupt and perverse manner. Crime is at an all-time high in most of the nation's largest cities. Politicians are being caught in scandalous and even criminal activities. The judicial branch of our government, instead of being given the green light to go after and prosecute these nefarious individuals, is being "weaponized" to protect them, and to go after and prosecute those who expose these corrupt and immoral people. The governor of California is now wanting to use tax dollars of hard-working Americans to pay for sex change operations for illegal migrants. Anti-Semitism is allowed to be spewed from the mouths of all, on our college and university campuses—even the presidents of these institutions are allowed to preach this filth! These institutions, which had as their very reason for existing (to teach men to read and understand—and preach—the Word of God) have become the leading voices against God and everything for which He stands. Bathrooms have replaced Biology; "Gender Studies" has replaced Geometry; Physical Education has been reduced to a semester course "online!!!; English is out, and Equity is in. What brought all this craziness about, you ask? Two things: First and foremost, there has been a "great falling away," as the Bible plainly foretold was coming. The book of Judges shows a continual back and forth between revival and apostasy, revival and apostasy. This country is no better than the children of Israel. Will it take another September 11th to drive us to our knees? Secondly, our government changed in 1865, and the federal government was given the superior position, and the States the inferior. Ever since, Washington has been telling the States what they will and will not do, and the States—like piglets at the teats—are being nourished from an out-of-control central government, like the one our forefathers fought a revolution to get out from under. We are, as the proverb states, like a washed sow returning to her wallowing in the mire, and a dog returning to his vomit. In a letter to the governor of Texas, Gen. Lee wrote the following: *"Governor, if I had foreseen the use these people desired to make of their victory, there would have been no surrender at Appomattox, no, sir, not by me. Had I foreseen these results of subjugation, I would have preferred to die at Appomattox with my brave men, my sword in this right hand."* Gen. Lee seemed to know what lay ahead for the country. If we think things are bad now—with only 60-80 years of perspective—think what men of his era would think of what has become of the republic, as well as the position God holds in the hearts and minds of the people of the republic. I want to say something here, and I hope you will agree with me. We have gotten the cart before the horse. We are so busy trying to change the government. Now, there is absolutely NO DOUBT that the government needs to change; however, the government will never change, until the people's hearts and minds change. My challenge to you, gentlemen, is to help me pray the latter gets fixed, so that the former will fall into place.

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



Compatriots.

We are well on our way into this new year 2024. Our 32nd annual Lee and Jackson heritage banquet was a resounding success. The event was catered by “Texas Roadhouse.” I received numerous compliments from guests in regard to the food and decorations. Our guest speaker, **Thomas Jessee**, did a magnificent job as General Robert E. Lee. Thomas gave us insight into the General as a person, and not just as a military leader. I learned a great many things about General Lee’s life as the man, that you don’t read in history books. The time to start planning for our next banquet is now!!

The beginning of the year is gearing up to be a busy one. I want to share some of the things our camp can look forward to.

The 159th anniversary and 47th battle reenactment of Natural Bridge is March 1-3, 2023. Finley’s Brigade has been assigned to our usual location at the entrance to the park. Set up will begin March 01, 2024, at 08:30am.

In preparation for the weekend, we will conduct the “Adopt-a-road” clean-up, February 24th, 2024. The usual meeting place will be at 08:30am, intersection of Old Plank Road and Natural Bridge Road. This date was originally set as a workday event for Bannerman and Iamonia Cemetery. More on that later.

The Woodville Founders Day festival is set this year for March 16th, 2024. Finley’s has once again been invited to attend. Finley’s Brigade has supported this event since its inception. Let’s not disappoint the organizers.

I have spoken at previous meetings in regard to the Bannerman and Iamonia Cemeteries. Both are located on private property. I was able to coordinate with the property manager in regard to accessing the area to inspect them. At the last meeting I mentioned that it has been ten years since Finley’s Brigade had been granted access to the cemeteries. My recent inspection confirmed my fears.

Both cemeteries are in desperate need of attention. The underbrush is very thick and high. This will be a slow and methodical process. I am coordinating with the property manager to set up a schedule to access these areas. I will keep you posted as everything progresses.

See you all at our next meeting on February 13th.

Mark R. Bess, Commander, Finley’s Brigade, Camp 1614

I am committed to this task. I hope you will be too.

Your faithful servant, in the bonds of the South!
Commander Mark R. Bess



Upcoming Heritage Events and Opportunities

Feb 13th - Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 with the meeting at 6:45 PM

Feb 24th- Natural Bridge Road Clean-up. Natural Bridge Rd & Old Plank Rd. 8:30AM

Mar 2-3rd-Battle of Natural Bridge Reenactment, Woodville FL.

Mar 12th - Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 with the meeting at 6:45 PM

Mar 16th – Woodville Founders’ Day

Apr 9th - Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 with the meeting at 6:45 PM

May 14th - Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 with the meeting at 6:45 PM





FLORIDA DIVISION



SCV GUARDIAN

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.

Eligibility: Any Florida Division camp member, Friend of the SCV, UDC, or OCR member, in good standing, who is at least 12 years of age, and who has demonstrated the 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.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- A. You shall care for and protect the grave of a Confederate Veteran, ensuring that the gravesite is kept clean and well-maintained year-round. You shall perform these duties personally unless you are 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. You will be responsible to appropriately mark the grave, so it is designated as the final resting place of a Confederate Veteran. This can be by stone, plaque, Cross of Honor, etc. You will also be responsible for replacing or repairing any marker that is worn, damaged or destroyed.
- C. You shall personally visit the grave a minimum of four times a year to include Confederate Memorial Day or at least a week prior. You shall place a wreath, a small Confederate flag or both on the grave.

Applications, Reviews & Approval:

- A. **Individuals who wish to participate in the GUARDIAN program must complete and submit the Guardian Application Form to a Camp Commander, or UDC / OCR Chapter President. The Camp Commander, or UDC / OCR Chapter President will submit the form to the Guardian Committee of the Florida Division. The application must be accompanied by a map showing the location of the gravesite along with written driving instructions to the cemetery. A photograph of the gravesite must be submitted before approval. Additional photographs can be submitted for the file as cleanup work is completed.**
- B. **The applicant must also remit a one-time \$10.00 fee with the application to cover the cost of the GUARDIAN pin and certificate, which will be awarded upon the candidate's approval for membership in the GUARDIAN program. The fee is non-refundable.**
- C. **Individuals who are not accepted into the GUARDIAN program will be given an explanation in writing by the review committee. The applicant can request an appeal of the decision. The Review Committee will review the applicant's appeal and render a decision. The decision of the Review Committee is final.**

Additional Information:

- A. **Multiple Gravesites: GUARDIANS may care for more than one gravesite and will be recognized by the Guardian Review Committee. The cost of additional certificates is \$3.00 each.**
- B. **Forfeiture of Guardian position: A Guardian who cannot meet the requirements of the 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 Guardian, SCV member, Friend of the SCV, UDC, or OCR member in good standing, with prior approval by the Review Committee. There is a \$10.00 fee for transferring Guardianship. This fee will cover the new Guardian's membership pin and certificate. If they are already in the Guardian program, there will be a \$3.00 fee to cover the certificate designating the new guardianship they are undertaking.**
- D. **Revocation of GUARDIAN status: The Review Committee may revoke the status of a participant in the Guardian program if they fail to carry out the duties and responsibilities as outlined. The committee reserves the right to inspect any GUARDIAN'S Confederate Veteran's gravesite, with or without notice, to confirm compliance with all the rules and regulations specified in the program.**

FLORIDA GUARDIAN PROGRAM APPLICATION

Turn Application in to Camp Commander

Name of Applicant: _____
Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone #: _____ E-Mail Address: _____
SCV Camp Name & Number: _____ Ancestor: _____

GRAVESITE DETAILS

Confederate Veteran's Name: _____ Rank: _____ Unit: _____
Born: _____ Died: _____ Condition of Gravesite: _____
Location of Grave: (Include Name of Cemetery, City , State & Country) _____
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 understand that the Review Committee can revoke my status as a GUARDIAN for good cause.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Camp Commander: _____ Date: _____

Mail the completed forms to the attention of:

**Florida Guardian Program/ Florida Division, SCV
3428 Laura Street
Tallahassee, FL 32305**

Make checks payable to Florida Division, SCV

Submit a separate form for each soldier you are requesting to be a guardian for.

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

Application Approved: _____ Disapproved _____ Date: _____

Approval Signature: _____