"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."

Compatriot Mark Romminger to Present at March Meeting

Compatriot Mark Romminger will present a program to the Camp entitled “The Weapons used by the Florida Brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia.” He will have authentic weapons on hand for us to see. Please bring your children to the meeting! They will be able to touch a piece of history. Compatriot Romminger is a firearms instructor and an expert on weapons used in the War Between the States. He also reenacts and does Living History from the Revolutionary War to the Spanish-American War. He is also an expert on the “Battle of Natural Bridge” and is often the Battlefield Commander for the annual reenactment. So, come to the meeting, bring your questions; I promise that you will learn something!

THIS MONTHS MEETING IS DEDICATED TO: PRIVATE WILLIAM PETER TAYLOR of COMPANY A 9TH VIRGINIA INFANTRY
Ancestor of Camp Adjutant Michael Grissom

Confederate Trivia

Last month we learned that the two Confederate Generals born in Florida were: General Edmund Kirby Smith and General James McQueen McIntosh. During the WBTS, Florida had many types of units, including: Infantry, Artillery, Cavalry, Coast Guard, Rangers, and Dragoons. This month’s question is: What kind of unit were the Dragoons?
Commander’s Comments

February has been a busy month for Finley’s Brigade. We have worked in cemeteries, ordered headstones for Confederates, attended and participated in the Battle of Olustee parade and reenactment, and cleaned-up two miles of Natural Bridge Road! It is good to be busy! I am very proud of all of you and Finley’s Brigade Camp 1614.

Our Color Guard is now up to nine fully equipped members, with two more in the process of getting uniforms. I would love to see at least 15 members in the unit. We are often called to help with two events on the same day. With our growing Color Guard, we will be able to do that. Wouldn’t you love to see Finley’s Brigade marching in parades, bearing all the Colors, with a rifle squad, or two?

Please make plans to come out to Natural Bridge this weekend. Stop by and visit our recruiting station, visit the soldiers’ encampments, and watch the battle reenactment. This place is significant in the history of Florida and the War Between the States. Hope to see you there.

In the bonds of the South,  
Kelly

Chaplains Comments—“Bonding”

Bond – There are many different definitions of this word. Their meanings are many and varied. So, let’s narrow our thinking to the use on a personal level.

My father drilled into all seven of his children, “Your word is your bond. If you tell someone that you will do something, then you have given your word, so you will perform even if it hairpins the King.” He further explained to us that a written contract would be unnecessary and superfluous.

That being said; how does this apply to our relationship to God? Well, we “gave our word” when we accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior. Doesn’t that follow that there would be a bonding between God and us? We were “born again” as a new creature, a child of the King. This was a result of our “bonding” when we gave our word that we would follow Him.

May God’s richest blessing be yours; in your “bonding” with Him.  
Chaplain John Howell

JROTC and SDYC

It is that time of year. Finley’s Brigade is preparing for the awarding to well deserving Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) cadets the SCV’s JROTC H.L. Hunley Award. Finley’s has partnered with five local schools to present our award at their annual award ceremonies. We are trying to get more schools on board. If you are interested in sponsoring an award ($30) or being a presenter let me know. Also, it is time to be thinking about the Sam Davis Youth Camp (SDYC) (June 15-21). Do you have a family
member, friend, or neighbor that would benefit from the camp? Finley’s has been sponsoring campers for years. If you know a young lady or gentleman that would be a candidate for the scholarship, let me know.

David R. Cline
850-228-9891 or postalbuffalo@yahoo.com

The Milton Light Artillery
Compatriot JR Miller

On February 6, 1862, The Columbus, Georgia, Sun reported that five cannon manufactured in that city had been shipped out for the defense of Apalachicola, Florida:

**BATTERY FOR APALACHICOLA**

A splendid battery of three brass 6-pounders and two 12-pounder howitzers were sent down the Chattahoochee yesterday, by the steamer Jackson, for the "Milton Artillery," stationed at Apalachicola. - They were cast and finished at the Columbus Iron Works, and are pronounced by competent judges to be equal to the best cast anywhere.

The "Milton Artillery" mentioned in the brief notice was the Milton Light Artillery, a Florida unit organized at Apalachicola by Captain J.L. Dunham in 1861. Named for Governor John Milton, Florida's Confederate Governor, the battery was originally organized for the defense of Apalachicola, but would go on to serve throughout Florida.

By February of 1862, Apalachicola was only one month away from being evacuated by Confederate forces. No one knew at the time the guns had been shipped, however, a major effort was then underway to construct fortifications in and around the city. The primary battery, mounting heavy guns recently removed from Fort Mallory offshore, was located in an area of the city still called "The Battery" today. In addition, Confederate engineers supervised the construction of a line of entrenchments on the west side of the city that protected it from attack via the St. Joseph Road. The field guns of Captain Dunham's battery would help defend this line, although it never came under attack. After Apalachicola was evacuated in March of 1862, the Milton Light Artillery was moved first up to Ricco's Bluff on the lower Apalachicola River and from there to the Chattahoochee Arsenal. The unit stayed within the State of Florida for the duration of the war and fought in the many battles and skirmishes there.

The Commanding Officer of “The Milton Light Artillery” was one Captain Joseph L. Dunham. There is little information that I have found on this man. He appears to be a Native Georgian and a school teacher by trade and arrived in Apalachicola between 1850 and 1860. After the war he may have moved to Columbus, Georgia.

Second in command was Lieut. Henry Francis Abell, a native born Marylander. Census records tell that he was living in Franklin Co., Florida at the time of the war and was a druggist by trade. He would become captain of Abell’s Florida Artillery which I will write about at a later time. After the war he went into private business with a partner in Columbus, Georgia which made specialty syrup’s. He was married to Laura C. Kilbee in 1852 in Jackson Co., Fla. He is buried in Jacksonville Florida.
The Junior Officers were the sons of means and of society most of which were from Decatur Co. Georgia. They all would have had some form of extended education, or connections in certain circles of society. Some of these officers had served under the 1st Georgia Infantry (Ramsey’s) which for a brief time was stationed under the command of Stonewall Jackson. This unit would later be discharged due to expiration of service which was the only Georgia unit to do so. Some of the junior officers were: First Lieutenant Drury Fort Rambo (that’s right they had their very own Rambo), First Lieutenant Simon K. Bull, Second Lieutenant M. Balls, Senior Second Lieutenant Mortimer W. Bates.

The enlisted men came from all over North Florida and Southwest Georgia. Most came from what are today the Florida counties of Franklin and Gadsden, and the Georgia counties of Seminole, Decatur and Grady. Their occupations include, but are not limited to Fisherman, Lightermen, Farmers, Warehouse workers, etc. Many of those who were fishermen were later transferred to the navy due to their experience on the water which is what the Confederate Navy needed. Unfortunately some of these men were transferred to the C.S.S. Chattahoochee which of course had that awful boiler explosion near Blountstown.

The battles the Milton Light Artillery were in include: Olustee, Natural Bridge, St. Johns Bluff, Cedar Run, Milton, and several places in and around the Jacksonville and St. Mary’s River area. The unit did great service on the St. Johns River damaging several “Lincoln Gunboats.” The Artillery Unit hardly ever fought as a combined battery. Due to the lack of soldiers to defend the entire state the army had to post soldiers at key points which were usually around the railroad, supply depots, ports, and river crossings. The artillery was key in defending these areas... To Be Continued!

**Adopt-A-Road**

Members of Finley’s Brigade met Saturday morning on February 22, to do our part in serving the community. We have a two-mile stretch of Natural Bridge Road that we clean-up four times a year. We always try to have the road looking good for all the visitors who will attend the Battle of Natural Bridge re-enactment held on the first weekend in March. This year’s event will be March 1st and 2nd. Leon County officials say that the Adopt-a-Road program is very effective; thanks to groups like ours.

Finley’s members: Jim Windsor, David Cline, Lamar Cox, Lawson Gerrell, Graham Smith, Mike Grissom, JR Miller, Chris Miller, John Howell. (Not pictured: Bobby Goodlin, Kelly Crocker)
Florida Against the War of Northern Aggression

THE BATTLE OF NATURAL BRIDGE

Compatriot Chris Miller

Well folks its March and we all know what that means! The Battle of Natural Bridge! I have been going to this reenactment sense I was about 6 years old. Like many of you, I have a deep love and respect for this beautiful hallowed ground. I often picture myself as if I was there 149 years ago, among the ranks to protect my native state and city willing to lay down my life so others can live. The fear, the terror, the yell and the glory is what I picture these men went through, for fighting what is right. I often picture Confederate troops marching in the roads and fortifications being built around the city, the cadets from the West Florida Seminary (now “Florida State University”) and Confederate soldiers marching to the oncoming battle. What a fearful and glorious sight it must have been. I recommend buying the book, “The Battle of Natural Bridge, the Confederate defense of Tallahassee” by Mr. Dale Cox.

The Battle of Natural Bridge was fought on March 6th 1865; the battle lasted most of the day. The union was under the command of Brig. Gen. John Newton and the Confederates were under the command of Brig. Gen.William Miller. The Confederates got there first which they knew it would be the most logical place that Yankees would cross at natural bridge. The union troops had landed at the St Marks lighthouse and came up the St Marks River under the cover of night to avoid being fired upon by cannons and muskets by Confederates stationed at San Marcos de Apalache, "Fort Ward." Once word got out the Yankees got up the St. Marks River some of the Confederates that were stationed at the fort were deployed to the natural bridge.

Brig. Gen.William Miller troops won the foot race to the natural bridge and began to build breast works “which are still seen today” and setting everything up for the battle to come. The cadets from the West Florida Seminary had to get notes from the parents to fight at natural bridge.

Around dawn on March 6, 1865, the gunfire could be heard at natural bridge crossing. The Confederates numbering 1,000 at the beginning of the battle, but by the end they roughly numbered about 2,500 with 500 in reserve. The union numbered almost a 1,000. The first charge attempted by the Yankees was checked by southern fire and both sides reinforced. The Yankees tried to find another way to cross but couldn’t find a place so natural bridge was their only option. The fighting could be heard all through the swamp area and by midday the fighting has gone on for several hours. After the third charge, the yankees retreated back to the coast. The Yankees had 148 casualties and the confederates had 26 casualties. This great victory kept the capitol of Florida from falling into the enemy’s hands. I am proud to say that Tallahassee is the only capitol east of the Mississippi River that was not captured. Also a fun fact about the Cadets; the ROTC program at FSU is authorized to carry a battle streamer on their flag for the cadets participation at the Battle of Natural Bridge.
HELP WANTED

Finley’s Brigade has immediate openings for Genealogists. We need Camp members to help prospective members find their Confederate ancestors. Also, we know of Confederate Soldiers, whose living Family we need to locate. Computer experience is helpful, but not required. Some training is available.

We also have openings for Videographers/Photographers. Put your skills to work!!!

Interested parties should contact Commander Crocker for details @ 850-339-3051 or kvcroadingking@yahoo.com.

Please visit our website at http://www.finleysbrigadescv.com/

Like us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/235023710735/?ref=br_tf or

Finley’s Brigade SCV Camp Tallahassee

Heritage Opportunities

Mar 1&2 – Battle of Natural Bridge weekend. Come visit our Recruiting tent.
April 12 – Cemetery Clean-up Soldiers Cemetery, Quincy, Florida 9:00am
April 19 – Decorations Day at Soldiers Cemetery 4:00 pm with Susan Hathaway, Virginia Flagger
April 27 – Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony at Old City Cemetery, Tallahassee, FL
June 6-8 – Florida Division SCV Reunion in Ocala, Florida, This is an Election Year.
June 14 – Memorial Service for Pvt John L Farrior of L.M. Gamble’s H.G. and Leon County Sheriff Deputy
Jun 15-21 – Sam Davis Youth Camp in Virginia
July 16-19 – SCV National Reunion in North Charleston, South Carolina
For times, locations, and details for the following events please contact Commander Crocker at kvcroadingking@yahoo.com or 850-339-3051.

Our meetings are always held on the second Tuesday of each and every month at the Golden Corral restaurant on North Monroe Street across from Lake Ella. The program will start promptly at 6:45 so be sure to arrive early (6:00) to enjoy a fine meal and socialize before the meeting starts.