

# Olustee Observer

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OLUSTEE BATTLEFIELD HISTORIC STATE PARK  
CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

Gary Dickinson - President, Tom Jesse - Vice-President, Mitzi Nelson - Secretary, Paul Duran - Treasurer,  
Boardmembers: James Permane, Bill Danforth, Bob Farrar, Tom Fasulo, David Richardson, Wilhamena Lauramore,  
Frank Maloney, Arnold O'Steen, George Scott, Bud Thayer, Jim Bishop

BattleOfOlustee.org

FALL 2014 EDITION

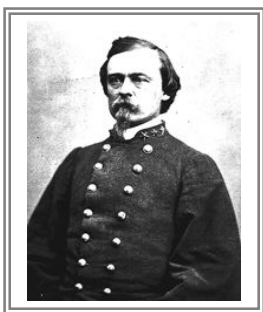
November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014

## DOUBLE HEADLINES!!

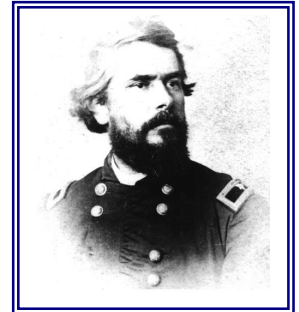
**THE BATTLE OF OLUSTEE 150<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY REENACTMENT A  
SUCCESS! ONE OF THE HIGHEST  
ATTENDANCE NUMBERS EVER.  
HIGH MARKS ON THE BATTLE  
REENACTMENT!**

**BARNETT FRONCZAK  
BARLOWE ARCHITECTS OF  
TALLAHASSEE SELECTED TO  
BUILD THE NEW  
BATTLEFIELD MUSEUM, GIFT  
SHOP, & EDUCATION CENTER!**

As the newsletter resumes publication, it is proud to report two major stories coming from the oldest state park in the perennial award-winning Florida State Park system. First, the highly anticipated reenactment event marking the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the actual battle came off with very good reviews. Then, the CSO and its museum committee in conjunction with expert representatives from the Park Service, after considerable debate, made what was a difficult decision in a very tight competition between 3 top Florida design firms to build the new museum center. More on this later!



"General Seymour sent a flag of truce...with a letter" to Gen. Finegan, requesting that the wounded Federal prisoners be paroled. "A horse-car or ambulance will be sent for the wounded...should this proposal be acceded to". Gen. Finegan responded, but declined to parole the wounded who he claimed were "properly taken care of, to await the future action of my government". On the following Friday, another unsuccessful attempt would be made by Lt. Jackson of Gen. Seymour's staff, the reason given "that the wounded would convey to us valuable and



dangerous information. Lieut. Jackson had an interview with Gen. Finegan in person. He was received in a gentlemanly and courteous manner, and occupied a full three hours in conversation...There were also present Gen. Gardiner and Walker."

From Lewis G. Schmidt's *The Civil War in Florida - A Military History, Volume II* containing excerpts from *The Official Records of The War of the Rebellion, Union & Confederate Armies* and the *New York Times*, March 8, 1864. Pictured left: Confederate commander at Olustee Joseph Finegan. Pictured right: Federal commander at Olustee Truman Seymour.

In the aftermath of an ordeal that distinguished Florida's unique frontier role amidst the war-at-large, Finegan and Seymour's liaison met to find common ground and possibly reflect on a battle still fresh in their minds and horrible in the broken bodies of their comrades. 150 years later, we find ourselves also reflecting -- not just on the battle, but also on an eventful year serving as caretakers of this hallowed ground. As the air chills and the leaves begin to fall, it's time to take an accounting and look forward to some very exciting developments for one of Florida's oldest protected grounds.

## CSO MEETING NEWS

### *From the Treasurer's Office*

In lieu of the many impending developments, Treasurer Paul Duran acknowledged the CSO should commit to spending significant amounts during the year. As of this writing, the official figures show \$51,981 in the checking account at Country Federal Credit Union, \$273,387 in the Investment Account at Edward Jones, and \$398,283 in the Construction Account. In addition to his regular duties as Treasurer, Paul is also serving a vital role on the Museum Committee, relating his knowledge of our funds to all questions that arise during committee meetings. Paul has announced an audit for the CSO at year's end with the large amounts of funds now held. He is also looking for someone to insure us.

### *Membership Direction*

Dues are needed to make the organization operate. So here's an official reminder that the *annual membership ends on April 1<sup>st</sup> for those who do not have the Life Membership*. Mark your calendar and pay your dues by then to ensure you retain membership. In addition to recruiting new individual members, Bill Danforth also has some ideas on building corporate memberships in coordination with the museum as it develops. Another item of note is discussions on rebuilding the membership database. Mitzi Nelson and Elaine McGrath are working on updating the membership brochure. Key chains & event tickets have been suggested as just a few elements comprising a new member gift package.

### *From the Blue Grey Army*

This very special year of the annual festival in Lake City lived up to expectations. All the food, fun, and heritage from one of the state's oldest cultural festivals were in full force. Arts and craft booths along the old main street offered up an ever-increasing quality of home goods, toys, paintings, and memorabilia. Live music filled the air as the smell of simmering sausage dogs, saucy BBQ, and fried seafood assaulted the senses! There was no lack of games for the young with spinning water ball

### *Website & Library Direction*

Many know that Thomas Fasulo is the man behind the award-winning Battle of Olustee CSO Website, but did you know the former Marine captain is also spearheading a CSO Library project. This promises to be a pertinent, vital body of literature and media that would serve as a cornerstone in the future vision of the anticipated museum complex as a Civil War education center for Florida. One of Thomas's program points is to educate children. He has been purchasing several books for children to sell at the CSO table at the reenactment. Thomas is also working through a book swap program and Friends of the Library in Gainesville to acquire more Civil War and antebellum history books for our library.

We know that part of Mr. Fasulo's duties as Webmaster is maintaining an impressive body of viewing statistics for our website. He reported 81,000 visitors in the past year! It seems there's a great interest in The Battle of Olustee in faraway places like Great Britain, Russia, Ukraine, and Germany. One important addition Tom has made to the website is adding information for persons who are looking for reenactment particulars.



*Above left: Grandparents hold grandson aloft to enjoy the 2014 Olustee Festival parade in Lake City. Below left: Youngster inside a rolling water ball in the Kids' Area.*

(Continued from *The Blue Grey Army*) capsules, daunting rope towers, and towering water slides.

A festival feature, the popular parade, had a great turnout and reached a new high with Florida reenactor favorites and the CSO's own Tom Jesse and James Permane donning the honor of Parade Marshals. Bud Thayer, CSO board member and Blue Grey Army representative hoped for and received a larger contingent of the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Reenactors Regiment here on the battle anniversary.

*Pictured right: 1860's period hearse pulled along by huge draft horses at the 150<sup>th</sup> Battle Anniversary Olustee Festival Parade in Lake City.*



### *From the Florida Park Service*

Michelle Waterman is Manager of the Stephen Foster State Folk Culture Center/Big Shoals/Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park complex. She diligently oversees all the immediate needs of our battlefield park.

This past year, she has spoken on the bad condition of the signs on the Battlefield Trail. There is a consensus that any new signs should be consistent with the design of the new museum. The CSO Board is looking into grants for their replacement. The overall plan is for both the CSO and FPS to hold on this until such a time that the design of the new museum and exhibits take official form.

### *From the Store*

You know about the new DVD documentary, but there is other retail news from the CSO Store. 150<sup>th</sup> Battle Anniversary souvenir collectibles including hats, t-shirts, coins, key chains, mugs, and much more are now available for purchase at the Stephen Foster Gift Shop in White Springs. The old CSO stock of maps and postcards are also available for purchase.

Volume II of the official Park Service/CSO-produced battle history publication is in the works. Look for news of the release date here in the *Observer*.

### *Media Corner*

The long-awaited official DVD documentary re-make of the battle has finally become available. A mid-Atlantic production house called Lionheart Productions was tapped to take on the project. This all-new production has stepped up the production value from the original 1996 program which served us well for nearly 20 years. Get your copy for just \$23. Send a check or money order (please do not send cash) to:

Olustee Battlefield Citizens Support Organization  
Post Office Box 382  
Glen St. Mary, Florida 32040

Please include your name, shipping and e-mail addresses. Proceeds from the sale of the DVD and other items support development of educational programming and archive acquisitions at Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park. These materials are available at discount prices for resellers or bulk buyers. Contact the CSO and ask for information on wholesale prices.

With the assistance of Andrea Thomas at the Park office in White Springs, the Board will be advertising the 2015 reenactment in the *Civil War News* and *Camp Chase Gazette*. This should continue to help brand our presence in history aficionado and national reenactment circles.

*At the March 29<sup>th</sup> CSO meeting, park manager Michelle Waterman announced the retirement of longtime Olustee Battlefield Historic Site Supervisor Ranger Frank Loughran.*

***Thank you, Frank, for your many years of dedicated service!***  
***THE CSO WISHES YOU A HAPPY & PROSPEROUS RETIREMENT!***



## *From the President's Office*

**If you haven't heard, the HTR Foundation awarded the CSO \$1,000,000 to construct a new museum!!!** President Dickinson officially made this announcement back at the April 2013 meeting. The good people at HTR were shown around the park and were very impressed with the "new museum site tour". More on exciting museum developments later in this edition.

Gary is working in the coming year to bring our big February festival's promotion and coverage in the Jacksonville media to the same level it is in the smaller markets of Lake City, Tallahassee, and Valdosta.

The intersecting rail line is an important and compelling component in the history of the battle. As such, President Dickinson is also chatting with interested persons at CSX Railroad to do something on the railroad in conjunction with the reenactment such as -- *an 1860's period train going back to Jacksonville (there can be found one at a recent train show that was converted from steam to diesel) -- Eric Hague has proposed a similar run to and from Lake City -- or perhaps even a facsimile of the ominous big railroad gun platform car that hurled massive shells deep into Federal lines.* Such ideas may be cost-prohibitive at this time but why not dream big!

Another big item Gary has proposed is the construction of a big welcome banner at the entrance during the event. There was a suggestion that Clay Electric might donate poles for such a construction. There remains the question of an extensive archeological survey that might be required before the holes are dug.

Gary helps oversee a Veteran's Day parade float in Jacksonville and has planned to adorn a trailer with a promotional banner for the 2015 event as well as membership in the Blue-Grey Army.

Have you noticed the beautiful new park signage out by Highway 90? Union soldiers adorn the eastside approach from Jacksonville. Confederates stand firm on the sign from the westside Lake City approach. It's been there a while now, but we're finally proud to report here in the newsletter this successful CSO effort at park enhancement.

There has been some discussion of having a fund-raising committee for the enhancement of the annual reenactment and bolstering the goal of having one of the premier Civil War or history museum/visitor centers around.

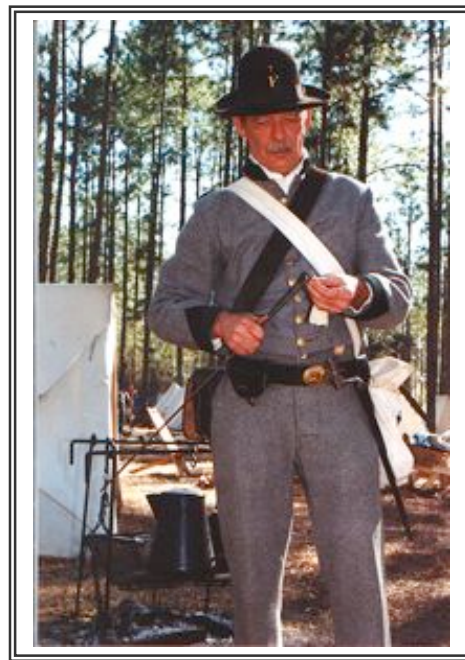
*Pictured right: CSO President Dickinson aboard the promotional float at Jacksonville Veteran's Day parade*

## *2014-2015 Elections*

Gary Dickinson was retained as President. Longtime living historian from "The Florida Department of the Gulf", "General" Tom Jesse was elected Vice-President and is serving his first term as an officer on the Board. Longtime Secretary and retired Florida Park Service employee Mitzi Nelson was retained in that position. Paul Duran also continues in his position as Treasurer. The annual meeting saw elections that retained Arnold O'Steen, Bill Danforth, Bud Thayer, Wilhamena Lauramore, Thomas Fasulo, and Bob Farrar as board members. James Permane is a newly elected board member.

## *From the U.S. Forest Service*

Service liaison Debbie Stucki reported extensive mowing and burning was done in the summer of 2013. The Forest Service has also increased the size of the Union parking area.



*(from the President's Office continued)* With the large amount of funds now accruing, a financial committee has been appointed with Paul Duran, Wilhamena Lauramore, Michelle Waterman (Park Manager), and President Dickinson as members. An audit committee was also appointed with David Richardson the chair, Gabby Paxton (Assistant Park Manager) and James Permane.

## **150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE BATTLE OF OLUSTEE REENACTMENT - A RETROSPECTIVE ON SUCCESS**

### *Severe Weather in the North Couldn't Stop Everyone*

Our friends from up North were slammed with some blizzard-like conditions in mid February before the great anniversary reenactment. Many were delayed in their annual pilgrimage here. Others were stopped cold in their tracks and then there were those who were *not* to be deterred whatsoever. Their numbers added to the ranks and made this certainly one of the best Olustee reenactment events ever. We thank them!

### *Reflections on Fun*

An outdoor movie screening at the event was remembered as great fun. *The Great Locomotive Chase* starring one of the finest, Fess Parker, was viewed on a big screen in the evening hours. Let's face it - Disney has always been one of the best with American history. This fan-favorite was based on an amazing true story of Ohio Federals stealing a train to do damage behind Confederate lines. Doubtless, many of the younger viewers had never seen it before.

At the March board meeting, interesting stories of the weekend circulated with laughter. There's talk of posting some of these stories to the website -- creating sort of a memory chest.

Jimmy Bishop, Board member, and a leading cavalry reenactor, spoke for both blue and grey horse soldiers, saying all were very happy with the event. James Permane, Board member, and reenacting Union general, spoke for his army, saying all were very pleased with parking and supplies. Tom Jesse, CSO VP and reenacting General of the Southern Army, was very pleased with the event and the outcome of the reenactment.

### *Awards to the Ladies of the Reenactment Committee*

At the first board meeting after the great anniversary reenactment, Bob Farrar of the Reenactment Committee spoke with pride to the success of the event -- but not before presenting roses to the ladies of the committee. Wilhamena Lauramore, committee chair, was presented with a plaque recognizing her hard work throughout the preceding year preparing for what was to be an Olustee reenactment of unprecedented scale.

There were present at the event some committee folks from the incomparable Gettysburg reenactment and they were very impressed with our event and the roster of activities!

### *Pyrotechnics a Blast!*

The explosions, blasts, flash charges, and flying debris thrilled the crowd like never before! President Gary said Senator Bean was in attendance and absolutely loved the pyrotechnics. The obvious care and craft that went into this, never mind the danger of it, brought a sense of authenticity and scale that warrants great applause. Thank you, Clement and Annette Lindsey, for producing such a wonderful and safe show for everyone's enjoyment.

### *Modern Camping Made Easy*

The report on the modern camping area was that all the visitors seemed very well pleased. Attendance was up and it went off nearly without a hitch! The demands of firewood were great and the provision of this and other items to our campers was no small task, but it was accomplished with good cheer. The sites were left fairly clean!

*(Reflections on Fun continued)* President Dickinson noted that the ball ran long because everyone was having such a fabulous time. Tom Fasulo was commended for bringing a noted female period musician to the reenactment. There is a very positive effect from music at the event and efforts will continue to invite top period bands and artists.

## *Always Room for Improvement*

One of the early concerns was the high grass on the battlefield. The artillery reenactors disliked it while the infantry felt the opposite; that it was very authentic for the time. A couple spectators complained that it was too tall (apparently viewing from the ground level). The topographical goal is to help nature restore the understory to more of a wiregrass habitat instead of the thick palmettos which have come to dominate. It's worth noting cactus were more than a prickly problem for battlefield spectators and reenactor casualties.

Every year the blast holes from pyrotechnics get a little deeper, posing an increasing danger to cavalry horses. A request has been made to fill them in.

Davis Richardson, Director of Baker County Emergency Management Services, reported that an EMS vehicle had a flat tire, causing a delay in its arrival on-station.

It's been noticed that many folks are hauling off hay and firewood when the event winds down on Sunday. The question has arisen if we need to retain this surplus.

While most left the fields and camping spaces clean, rangers were still spending several hours the next week bagging leftover trash and litter on the ground. There will be an effort to address this in the reenactment package; to respect the special ground we are fortunate enough to celebrate this festival on and the heritage it represents.

A small fire was caused by a pot-belly stove being too close to a canvas. The fire was quickly contained. Safety reminders for combustibles will be posted for next year.

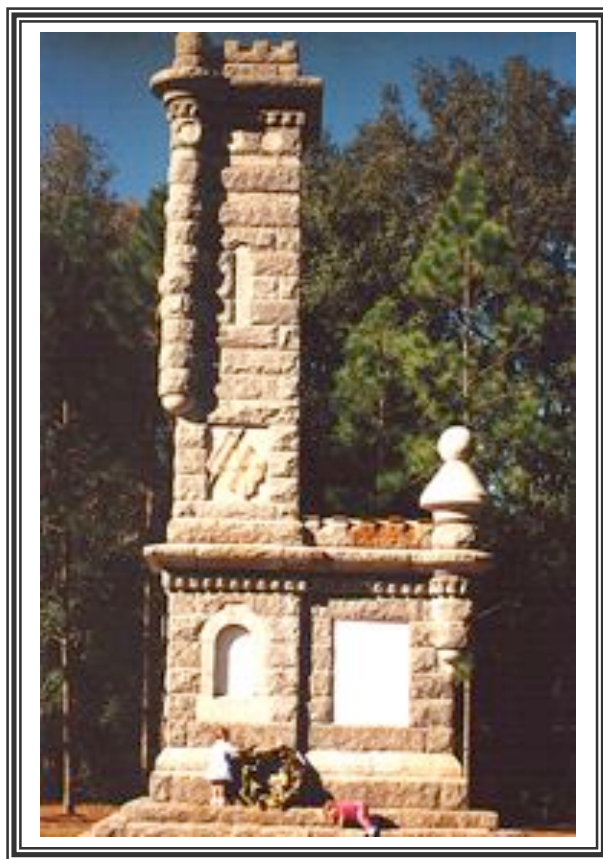
Some spectators expecting they could pay the entrance fee by card were let in free of charge, instead of being coldly turned away. It's been suggested that we have a portable debit/credit card device in the future to service these visitors. It was also proposed to have 2 lines at the entrance: one for cash and one for credit, to keep it moving. Until then, our official policy is that ATMs are not available and cards not accepted.

*(Always room for improvement continued)* Mitzi suggested that wristbands be used instead of tickets and that each spectator be offered a plastic bag to carry all their purchasable goods. It was reported that some unauthorized vehicles and horses were in the sutler area, probably by accident. An effort will be made to more clearly monitor this next year.

Some sutlers continued to sell unauthentic items or wares unrelated to the antebellum & Civil War period. It should be noted that some of these items were pre-ordered by customers who had arranged a pick-up in Olustee. Sutler rules and regs need to be updated. A proposal is on to set a time limit on the sales of bird-tweet whistles, wooden toy weapons, and bullwhips which can be annoying to some. The majority of sutlers are very professional and a huge benefit to the event.

Some ladies wanted to be in the Ladies' Tea without being in period attire and that was a bit of a challenge. Spectators to the tea are more than welcome to stand on the periphery of the tent to enjoy the event. Wilhamena has asked for volunteers to take up the mantle of Ladies' Tea in 2015. A keynote speaker is also being sought at this time.

Orange blazes and/or signage may be set up next year to shy people away from the reenactor access trails and other sensitive areas.





*The beautiful photos for this article are courtesy of Paul Duran.*

## 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY Photo Highlights



*Above: Iconic figure of reenactor Don Bowman leading troops from the monument. Below: Confederate cavalry scouts on the front lines.*



*At left: CSO President Gary Dickinson and Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park Manager Michelle Waterman welcoming representatives from the HTR Foundation to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reenactment. HTR is awarding the CSO one million dollars for the construction of a new museum/visitor center!*





*Above: The Union command pauses for a portrait*

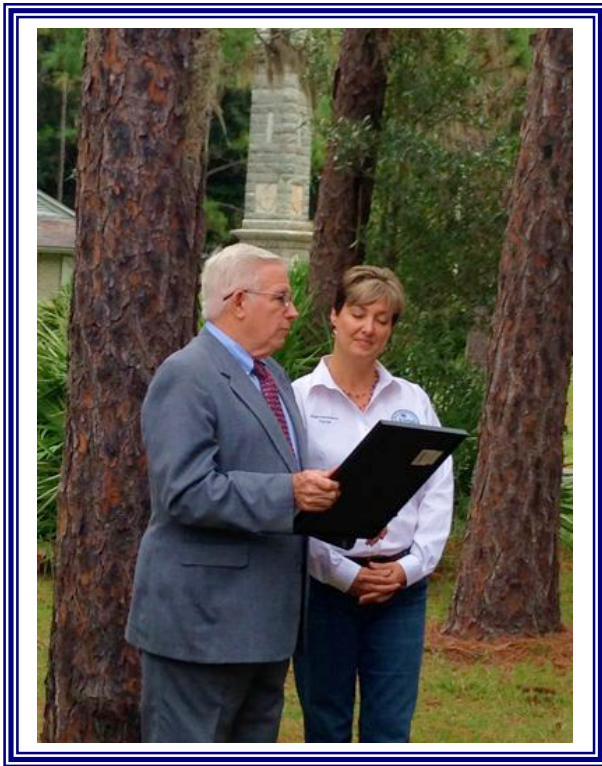


*Above: On behalf of the CSO, President Dickinson receives a commemorative one million dollar check from our amazing friends at HTR in a public announcement from the grandstand! For this exciting storyline and the latest developments, see more on page 10.*



## FLORIDA LEGISLATURE RECOGNIZES 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF OLUSTEE!

At the September 27, 2014 CSO Board of Directors Meeting held at the park, a presentation was made by Florida House Representative Charles E. Van Zant and Florida House Representative Elizabeth W. Porter of HR 9017 -- a resolution recognizing the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle.



This important gesture demonstrates that the cultural significance of the battle and its preserved site is perpetually remembered and respected in the halls of our great state government.

### Upcoming Meetings & Events

The next CSO meeting is Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am at Firehouse Subs in MacLenny.

Questions and membership dues can be mailed to: Olustee CSO, P.O. Box 382, Glen St. Mary, FL 32040

The 2015 Annual Reenactment of the Battle of Olustee or Ocean Pond will be February 13-15.

Visit [floridareenactorsonline.com](http://floridareenactorsonline.com) for a list of living history & reenactment events throughout Florida.

### Articles of Interest

Volunteers are needed to sell retail items in the CSO tent during the big weekend in February.

By-laws of the CSO and its Board of Directors have been updated. Copies are available through the CSO.

Enticing corporate membership packages are being developed (including comp tickets at will-call). More on this later.

Please visit the website at [www.battleofolustee.org](http://www.battleofolustee.org) for updated applications, forms, regs, & schedules

### Odds & Ends

The Expo has been temporarily put on hiatus while we work on the new Museum/Visitor Center.

Board members now have nametags available. If you still need one, let Gary know.

A "Civil War Florida" Teacher Program is being funded by our good friends at the Florida Humanities Council. Olustee Battlefield Park may host one of their field trips. More on this very interesting project later!

# OLUSTEE BATTLEFIELD CIVIL WAR FLORIDA MUSEUM OFFICIAL CONCEPTUALIZATION BEGINS!

**2014 saw the Olustee Battlefield Citizen Support Organization shift into the next gear on the raising of a very special museum complex for the people of Florida as well as the nation!**

## *The Grant of a Lifetime!*

What had been a vision of the CSO for over 15 years is being realized. The Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park CSO received a 1 million dollar grant from the HTR Foundation to initiate the construction of a new museum on the site. The foundation was established in St. Petersburg by the late Arthur Copeland Hill, owner of Hill Truck Rentals. The foundation's aim is the preservation of Civil War battlefields. According to HTR board member Dennis Sexton, the support of the museum is "...in telling the story of all Confederate and Union activity on the site, including honoring those units participating and those that gave their lives....There are a number of items from the Olustee information available that would mandate national prominence for the site, including the involvement of Confederate and Union troops from several states."

Additional funding for the museum will include \$150,000 in funds earned and invested by the CSO over many years of the annual reenactment, as well as private donations and corporate gifts.

## *Conceiving a New Museum*

The first imagining is for the museum to be located in the general area behind the monument right at the Olustee Battlefield State Park. A trail to and from the monument to the front door of the museum would create an initial sense of flow and direction for the visitor. The secure facility will include both indoor and outdoor exhibits that tell the story of the Civil War in Florida, culminating or climaxing with The Battle of Olustee. Initial construction will include a new building of approximately 2,000 square feet, housing interactive exhibits, Civil War artifacts, rest rooms, and the permanent home of the Olustee CSO Civil War Library.

## *Moving Forward*

In January, talks began on moving the project forward. March was to be a key month with proposals from

(*"Moving Forward" continued*) architects coming due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. Then would come a review the next week of all candidates at the Stephen Foster State Folk Culture Center conference building. Finally, the end of the month had the museum committee scheduled to make its recommendation to the Board. As the committee waited on proposals to come in, the timetable was to be delayed.

From the beginning, it was deemed important that CSO member Dicky Ferry be a vital part of this process. His heritage, local history knowledge, incomparable Olustee artifact collection and inroads to a network of history museums make him an invaluable player on the path to construction.

Another important consideration off the top was the site preparation and survey. Northeast Region-District 2 FPS Manager Cliff Maxwell stated the Park Service would require that the CSO do this because any construction on a sensitive historic site would warrant by law an archeological survey to be conducted. This was fairly well expected. An environmental impact survey might also be required. Park Manager Michelle Waterman submitted quarterly reports to the HTR Foundation on the status of the project as it moved forward.

So they might be publicly recognized for this tremendous gift, a special invitation was extended for HTR to come and present the "check" at the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reenactment.

## *Demolition/Initial Bids*

It was proposed early that the buildings on-property would be demolished. This included the current museum, the ranger house, and the work shed. The demolishing of these structures would require lead and asbestos surveys. By the end of March, bids were received for these hazardous material surveys and by June, they were taken care of. Concurrently, requests were sent out for scope of work proposals for the design.

## *Museum Committee*

By mid summer, the Musuem Committee had gelled with the following members (containing representatives from the CSO and the FPS): Elaine McGrath (doing the front work with the design firms), Michelle Waterman, Jim Ellis, Tom Jesse, James Permane, Jimmy Bishop, Paul Duran, Dick Ferry, George Paxton, Brian Terrell, Gary Dickinson, Ellen Andrews, Heather Shuke, Herbert Baxter, Brian Fugate, JulieAnne Tabone, Bud Thayer, Lew Scruggs, and Cliff Maxwell.

## *The Pitches*

By early summer, proposals were in for 3 highly credentialed architectural firms. Pitch presentation day was set for Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at Stephen Foster in White Springs. Barnett Fronczak Barlowe of Tallahassee presented first and from the git-go, it was apparent they had done a lot of homework. Their presentation package was extensive and proposed making use of existing buildings as annexes for separate exhibits and such. They demonstrated early on a sense of stretching our funds to get more of what we needed. Their track record was sound with Cracker Vernacular architecture in their portfolio as well as the Florida State Seminole football program multi-level exhibit hall/museum. Next came RLF out of Orlando. They gave a very dynamic presentation with multiple department heads. Their impassioned project manager even had Battle of Olustee bloodlines. Presenting last was H2A+SVM of Melrose and Gainesville. Owner Ronald Haase literally wrote the book on Cracker vernacular architecture. It was clear the committee had three very strong candidates to choose from.



*Pictured left: A Southern pioneer home with dogtrot through center is a style aim of the architectural design, only on a larger scale to accommodate extensive exhibits.*

## *The Follow-Up*

Committee members conversed and debated in the weeks that followed. This was, after all, an analytical decision, based on something we're all passionate about. With such a tight race, It was deemed reasonable and prudent to extend the timeline a bit further and come up with several follow-up questions to be answered in 250 words or less.

*("The Follow-Up" continued)* As members of the committee were gaining experience through this process, they were now able to submit a more carefully crafted, informed, and pointed group of questions than had been asked in the live presentations. So the candidates were sent a package of follow-up questions. The resulting answers were then distributed amongst the committee. Elaine suggested a conference call amongst all the committee members to discuss the answers. In the June 26 call, the members felt all 3 were still strong but there was a consensus that Barnett Fronczak Barlowe had raised its stock enormously. Their follow-up answers were absolutely thorough and elaborated in such ways that created a high level of confidence in their sensitivity to the project. A big plus was the partnership they demonstrated with Wilderness Graphics, a world-class museum exhibit designer, also headquartered in the Tallahassee Big Bend area. On June 28<sup>th</sup>, the committee made its official recommendation for Barnett Fronczak Barlowe Architects to the CSO Board of Directors. The recommendation was approved in a vote by the CSO board.

## *The Launch*

Elaine initiated the contract process with BFBA. CSO legal counsel Frank Maloney reviewed the 2 contracts provided; one a Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Architect, the other a Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Architect with a Predefined Scope of Architect's Service.

Committee members reviewed the contracts, generally approved, and took one more internal meeting to discuss all the information they would need to provide to assist BFBA in setting up the Pre-Design Meeting and the Design Charettes. While Michelle Waterman is the Contract Manager, the CSO designated Elaine McGrath as the Official Coordinator/Point-of-Contact for the contract on behalf of the CSO. Dicky Ferry offered his help in contacting some MVPs in the Civil War museum circle to attend the design charette and/or be involved the process -- among them A. Wilson Greene - Director of the National Musuem of the Civil War Soldier (he has built 4 Civil War museums), Gordon Jones - Director of the Atlanta Historical Society, Bruce Graetz of the Florida Museum of History in Tallahassee, and Ken Johnston - Director of the innovative National Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus, Georgia. Finally in the meeting, a quorum of voting was established for moving work forward.



(*"The Launch" continued*) The first day of official work began Saturday, October 11 with the *Pre-Design Phase* day. During the meeting, overall goals for the project were discussed, particularly a primary benchmark that the construction allow for add-ons at a future juncture, while staying within the budget we currently have. Property parameters, visitor flow, priorities, phasing, and rough scheduling were also discussed. A basic planning of the Design Charette was undertaken. ("Charette" is a word borrowed from the French and according to BFBA represents "a collaborative design event that channels the talents and energies of all interested parties to create and support a feasible plan that is realistic and which represents the constituents' overall vision."

The Design Charette will go a long way to shaping our museum complex. The activities will consist of a Kickoff, Walking Tour, Focus Groups, Open Design Session, Closing Presentation, and a "Deliverable" ("a report containing information and data gathered during the charette...") Currently; the Design Charette is scheduled for December.



Barnett Fronczak Barlowe's initial presentation pitch program-booklet

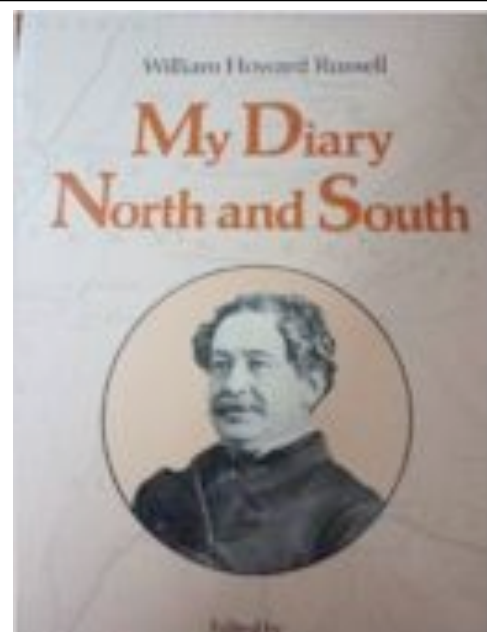
## *The Reviewer*

Reviews and recommendations of related books, music, & film....

### **CIVIL WAR**

*My Diary North and South* by William Howard Russell

William Howard Russell was a British journalist who traveled with Union and Confederate troops from March 1861 to April 1862. He was a highly regarded Irish reporter with "The Times", and is considered to be one of the first modern war correspondents. Many books on the American Civil War reference William Russell's dispatches from the U.S. and the Confederacy at the beginning of the Civil War. For whatever reason, I received a false impression of his stand on many aspects of the American conflict. Upon reading the description of this edition of his journal, I think I know why I was misled. Previous editions apparently left out his social commentary. Militarily, Russell was not impressed with the early Federal Army and the men who commanded it, whereas he was more favorably impressed with Confederate military efforts and morale; however, when you add his social comments, the entire tone of the book changes. One wonders if previous editors deliberately removed the social comments to make Russell's diary seem more favorable to the South - *Thomas Fasulo*

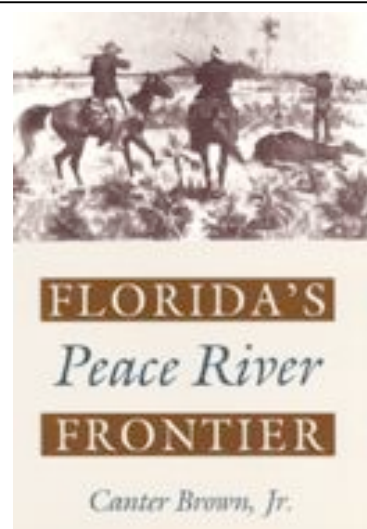


## ANTEBELLUM/CIVIL WAR FLORIDA -

*Florida's Peace River Frontier* by Dr. Canter Brown, Jr.

For any serious student of antebellum Florida, *Florida's Peace River Frontier* is must reading. It's a who's who of historic families in Central Florida. Crews, Driggers, Jernigan -- names we Native Floridians have grown up with. Learn their pioneering past as they migrated down into the Peace River Valley. This is a powerful, substantive work that also serves as much more than a primer on Seminole history. Explore the origins of Osceola, the Peas Creek Tallassees, and more. Sam Proctor said of this 1991 book from UCF Press: "*The spirit of the 19<sup>th</sup> century south Florida frontier, with the intensity of its isolation, struggle, and excitement, comes alive in Canter Brown's outstanding book. This is a meticulously researched scholarly work that can and will be enjoyed by everyone interested in Florida history and the American frontier.*" Jerrell Shofner said, "*Brown is a narrative historian who believes in telling a story. This is local history at its best.*"

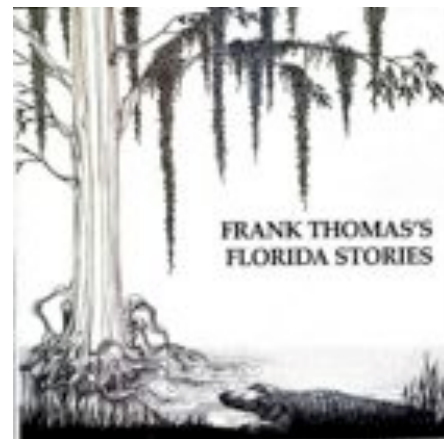
-Brian Terrell



## ROOTS & FOLK MUSIC -

*Frank Thomas's Florida Stories* - Frank & Ann Thomas

If you haven't heard Frank's *Florida Stories*, my friend, you haven't felt the full Florida effect. It's my honor to make this classic the first music recommendation in our new column. If you're a native and "can't even afford to pitch a tent", there are songs here to make you laugh ("Pass around a jug of alligator milk. Lord have mercy, it's smooth as silk.") and a couple to make you cry. There's bluegrass style stompdowns to Olustee and Natural Bridge ("The command was Truman Seymour and he was Tallahassee bound with 5000 regular soldiers, 16 cannon bear'in down.") and melancholy ballads to the Seminole Wars. Last year, Frank was rightfully inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame. CDs are available from Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble. - Terrell



## FILM -

*The Florida Humanities Council Civil War Series.*

Several years ago, the Florida Humanities Council released an outstanding edition of their magazine, on the Civil War in Florida. They continue to fund a teacher's program on the subject with historic site immersions. Now available for viewing on YouTube: a series of 4 FHC-produced documentaries on Florida's role in the conflict, including one on Olustee featuring interviews with our own Thomas Fasulo. Go to our website and visit *Latest Additions to Our Site*. You'll find the link at the 9/27/14 entry. Other installments are *Florida Women in the Civil War*, *The Maple Leaf - A Civil War Shipwreck*, and *Florida: Secession to Surrender*. These are appointment-viewing for Florida historians.



## Osceola National Forest Highlights

The battlefield is situated in the Osceola National Forest, an important link in the biodiversity corridor connecting to the Okefenokee Swamp. Recreation and relaxation opportunities are many. With each issue, we'll highlight some notables in this vast wilderness area. **Pull out the camper or pitch a tent and enjoy the great outdoors at the Ocean Pond campground or the West Tower campground.**

# Historical Profile

Each quarter, we'll share a character or story from the battle. Send yours in and we'll be happy to post to the newsletter.

## Alfred H. Colquitt

The "Hero of Olustee" himself is a fitting first entry in this new column for the CSO newsletter. Many of us are familiar with how he held the Southern line at the pinnacle moment of danger and death, but did you know Alfred H. Colquitt continued on very much in the limelight? This peacher, soldier, and lawyer lived a very compelling life of public service, political notoriety, and entrepreneurship. In 1876, he became the 49<sup>th</sup> governor of the great state of Georgia.

Colquitt was born in Monroe, Georgia. His father, Walter T. Colquitt was a United States Representative and Senator from Georgia. Alfred graduated from Princeton College in 1844, studied law and passed his bar examination in 1846. He began practicing law in Monroe. During the Mexican-American War, he served in the United States Army at the rank of major. After the war, Colquitt was elected as a member of the United States House of Representatives from 1853 to 1855. He then served in the Georgia state legislature.



Colquitt was a delegate to *The Georgia Secession Convention of 1861*—voting in favor of secession and signing Georgia's Ordinance of Secession on January 19, 1861. At the beginning of the Civil War, he was appointed captain in the 6th Georgia Infantry. He saw action in the Peninsula Campaign and the Seven Days' Battles. He rose through the ranks to become a brigadier general in 1862. He led his brigade under Stonewall Jackson in the Battle of South Mountain, Battle of Antietam, the Battle of Fredericksburg, and the Battle of Chancellorsville. After Chancellorsville, some questions arose about Colquitt's performance during that battle and his brigade was transferred to North Carolina in exchange for another. His brigade was transferred again in the summer of 1863 to protect Charleston, South Carolina. In February 1864, Colquitt marched his brigade south to help defend against the Union invasion of Florida, and was victorious in the Battle of Olustee where he helped secure the "breadbasket of the Confederacy" and defended his home state of Georgia from a southern-end invasion. After this battle, Colquitt's brigade rejoined Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Late in the war, the brigade returned to defend North Carolina where Colquitt surrendered in 1865.

He defeated Republican candidate Jonathan Norcross for Governor of Georgia in 1876. Around that time, several thousand friends asked for about thirty open government jobs. Those who did not get one of the jobs tried to turn voters against Colquitt. There also were rumors that Colquitt had been involved in illegal dealings with the Northeastern Railroad. A legislative committee found Colquitt innocent. He was then reelected in 1880 to serve two years under the new state constitution. Under his term, debt was reduced. He was opposed to Reconstruction. In 1883, he was elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate and became chairman of the powerful committee that oversaw the post office and post roads. He was re-elected in 1888.

Colquitt, along with John B. Gordon and Joseph E. Brown, formed what was known as the Bourbon Triumvirate, a term used to describe the restoration of the prewar planter class to political power in the state. Nonetheless, the term did not accurately reflect the policies supported by Colquitt or the other two men, who all sought to develop Georgia into an industrialized state with an efficient railroad transportation system. As governor, Colquitt was involved in speculation deals with Gordon in two railroad systems, a textile mill, a fertilizer factory, and coal mines. Despite his pedigree as one of Georgia's most propertied planters and a member of the antebellum aristocracy, Colquitt clearly advocated for industry and economic change in the South after the Civil War. He died on March 26, 1894 and was buried at Rose Hill Cemetery in Macon.

*Information courtesy of Wikipedia and The Georgia Encyclopedia*





“From Pulaski to the Pond” Terrell, 2001  
*(Battle of Olustee Reenactment Photo Gallery Archives)*

## EDITOR’S CORNER

There was a great deal to catch up on with this return issue. Please send us any suggestions for headlines, feature stories, articles of interest, media recommendations, historical profiles, and reenactment photo gallery selections. Whether you’re a scholar, reenactor, history buff, or a friend of the state parks, if you’re not a member of the Olustee Battlefield Citizen’s Support Organization, there’s truly no time like the present to join! Visit [www.BattleOfOlustee.org](http://www.BattleOfOlustee.org). The CSO bids you Happy Holidays!

*Brian Terrell*  
*Editor*