

# 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, Thomas Fasulo, David Richardson, Wilhamena Laumore,  
Frank Maloney, Arnold O'Steen, George Scott, Bud Thayer, Jim Bishop

BattleOfOlustee.org

FALL 2015 EDITION

October 1, 2015

## Florida Humanities Council Hosts Teaching Encampment at Olustee Battlefield

In 2014, one of the sunshine state's stellar non-profit foundations, the Florida Humanities Council, reached out to Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park and the CSO. We are happy this excellent organization could use our event to provide an authentic and immersive reenactment experience for a group of Florida teachers. The mission of the Florida Humanities Council is to "build strong communities and informed citizens by providing Floridians with the opportunity to explore the heritage, traditions, and stories of the state with its place in the world." Established in 1973 and headquartered in St. Petersburg, this affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities develops and funds public programs around Florida. Later in this edition, we'll get a report from our own Thomas Fasulo.

### Museum Moving Forward

Also in this issue, we'll update you on the progress of the new Battlefield Museum. The committee has been hard at work with the Barnett-Fronczak-Barlowe architects and the Wilderness Graphics museum interpretation firm. Building details are being refined. The interpretation focus has wisely narrowed down. Challenging areas are being identified and spirits are high. More details follow in the pages ahead.



John Readdick was a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> Georgia Cavalry. After being wounded in 1862, he returned to his home in Georgia. Soon after, the 3<sup>rd</sup> GA Cavalry Battalion was expanded to a regiment. In '63, young Readdick was made Captain of the Camden County Chasseurs (Co. D) in the new 4<sup>th</sup> GA Cav. Up until the occurrence at Ocean Pond, they spent much time patrolling coastline between the Altamaha and St. Mary's.

Duncan Clinch, commanding the 4<sup>th</sup> Georgia Cavalry left a memorable anecdote on an opening maneuver at the Battle of Olustee. General Finegan had ordered him to "move at once and ascertain, but on no consideration to engage the enemy." After Colonel Clinch had discerned a huge Federal force, he discovered the 64<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry already advanced and drawn up on the road. Certainly, at least in his mind, a command had been misinterpreted that was about to result in his fellow Georgians deploying for slaughter. He ordered their inquiring colonel to "retire as quickly as possible" back to the entrenchments near Olustee Station..

"I thought then that a fatal mistake had been committed by someone, but determined not to abandon them."

As Clinch's Cav set about assisting the 64<sup>th</sup>, Colonel Carraway Smith comes riding up and lights up Clinch with questions about his maneuver. He is shortly placed under arrest! Clinch recalled even General Gardner who had been assisting Finegan, rode out from the trenches to ask "what in the h-ll I was doing."

It was fact that Finegan had a plan. In the advance were Confederate skirmishers staring down not only experienced United States cavalry, but also these strange, new destructive repeating rifles of the 7<sup>th</sup> Connecticut. One company of the 64<sup>th</sup> and one of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Georgia performed this dangerous duty. One of these men later recalled - -

"The program was to fall back and fight them behind the works."

What a difficult position Colonel Clinch found himself in – just as his famous father had found himself imperiled by a different deadly foe on another Florida battlefield 28 years earlier, forced to make judgement calls affecting the lives of hundreds of men far from home. Clinch Jr. was only concerned for the safety of other men. Perhaps he hadn't been briefed on Finegan's plan. Perhaps his father's experience against the Seminoles bred into the man some extra cautiousness. Perhaps he just didn't fully understand Finegan's plan and therefore didn't carry out the order as it was intended, no questions asked. Whatever the case, one might call this in modern lay terms, "a teaching moment."

There are plenty of teaching moments from this unique battle. There were unique circumstances leading up to its commencement. There were unique events in its aftermath. Whether from war or peace, lessons from the past can make us all the wiser today. Certainly, the highly regarded group of teachers from the Florida Humanities Council encampment learned some interesting things from their experience at the Olustee Battle Reenactment this past February.

As for Colonel Clinch, he learned the lesson of perseverance – rallying himself after the arrest, fighting with honor, and receiving a musket ball to the fibula! "He was treated on the battlefield and sent by train to the hospital at Madison." The slow healing wound bothered him all through the Atlanta campaign and he wound up in a hospital in Macon where he remained nearly to war's end. For a closer look at Clinch's correspondence, see the letters section at [BattleOfOlustee.org](http://BattleOfOlustee.org).



*Pictured above: Union cavalry on the Road to Olustee. Taken at 2001 battle reenactment.*

# CSO MEETING NEWS

## *From the Reenactment Committee*

A reenactment committee meeting was held on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Some aspects of the 2015 reenactment were revisited and the group began planning for the 2016 event.

Bob Farrar reiterated that the artillery will go back to firing the guns in the traditional parallel line on each side. The policy of having the big guns not moving until 20 minutes after the battle or until the crowd is cleared, was reviewed. The reason being is that for safety's sake, it's important to have a clear path for the cannon pullers. The rangers agreed to hold off on the Kubota tractor movements until then.

Generals Jesse and Permane restated the armies will be working to make Saturday's battle friendlier to the public.

The park service will be working to remove sharp stumps and cacti. They requested that we stress to our reenactors and living history campers to dispose of all trash before they leave. Please take it to the dumpsters. Confederate reenacting Colonel Don Bowman was in attendance and said this will be addressed to the reenactment community as a major sanitation concern. It was noted by the committee that this is actually more of a problem in the Modern Camping section.

Park service marketing specialist Andrea wants to have nine rotating billboards within a 300 mile radius. She also recommended we do the affordable CivilWar.com advertising gain. An ad will placed in the UF homecoming parade program. We may also advertise in the well-known

*(continued above right)*



## *From the Reenactment Committee continued...*

Camp Gazette again. Treasurer Paul Duran suggested a \$1 off coupon incentive in this ad which was well received by all. Another suggestion was made to pursue PSA ads in local newspapers. President Gary Dickinson proposed another run in the popular Jacksonville Veterans' Day parade.

Mrs. Jessee suggested a new budget line item for the wreaths that go up on the monuments. As this ceremony sets the tone for the weekend, it is felt that the proper respect be given to these offerings of remembrance. The motion was passed for the wreaths to be made fresh each year for both the Union and Confederate monuments to the amount of \$200.



## From the Florida Park Service

New park manager Gabby Paxton sat in on the CSO meeting this past August. He addressed the change of staff and made some introductions. Stephanie McLean, the new Assistant Park Manager was there to meet the CSO. The Assistant Manager's job is to provide support to the park by listening to needs expressed by citizens, park staff, and the CSO, and working to meet those needs so that the Olustee Battlefield CSO and the FPS accomplish their goals and objectives. JulieAnne Tabone, Park Program Development Specialist for this region was also introduced. One of her many tasks is to be a liaison to the CSOs in the region. She's also been doing an excellent job working on the museum committee and helping to move that forward.

We sure are proud of our Florida Park Service and the Department of Environmental Protection; protecting and caring for the remaining treasured places in our great state. Thank goodness for them. We can be especially proud of our Stephen Foster State Folk Culture Center rangers as they generally handle significantly more than a typical park staff.



## From the U.S. Forest Service

The Forest Service stated they will work on burning the main field. It is usually done after the first frost in winter. Members enjoined that is especially important to get the spines of those cactuses burnt off! They will also work on cleaning up the cattle fencing area and replacing boards. The parking area will be mowed the same as always.

The Forest Service will also help with getting water lines to the various camps before the commencement of the February reenactment.

It was also announced that a new biologist will start on the Osceola national Forest staff soon.



### Upcoming Meetings & Events

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

The 2016 Annual Reenactment of the Battle of Olustee or Ocean Pond will be February 12-14.

The next CSO board meeting, 1st Quarter 2016 will be held Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at the park.

The next museum committee meeting will be held Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 10am at the old ranger residence to discuss exhibit and budget revisions with Wilderness Graphics

### Articles of Interest

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. More on this later.

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

A very small fraternity of gentlemen have actually participated in every reenactment at OBHSP. Look for them to be honored at the upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. More later. later.

### Odds & Ends

For more information on the Osceola National Forest and other national forests in Florida, visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/florida>.

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

A website is in development that will make logging volunteer hours with the Florida Park Service much easier!

Acquisition of the Plum Creek lands across Highway 90 may be in the works. There have been meetings to discuss boundaries.

# *Teacher's Encampment is Hands-On-History!*

On Saturday, during this past 2015 reenactment event, Thomas Fasulo lead a tour of the encampment for teachers hosted by the Florida Humanities Council (FHC). The tour historian was Dr. Sean Patrick Adams, Chairman of the University of Florida Department of History. There were slightly over 30 teachers in the group, most of whom were "alumni" of a 4-day *Civil War in Florida* seminar funded by the FHC.

According to FHC personnel, the teachers thoroughly enjoyed the tour, which began with a visit to the Confederate monument. They also sat in on the "people of Color" presentations lead by Mrs. Mary Fears, had an authentic infantry meal in Captain Jeff Grzelak's camp, and received a short talk and demonstration of period females by Mrs. Sue Bonifay. Mrs. Fears and and Captain Grzelak are both current CSO members. Authentic background music for the meal was provided by Miss Leah Oxendine.

*Special thanks to Thomas Fasulo for contributing to this report*

The group was also fortunate enough to interact with a fifer and two drummers practicing military commands and period music, and had a long and entertaining discussion of cavalry accoutrements and tactics with one of the Federal cavalry personnel. The teachers ended the day viewing the reenactment battle.



*Veteran reenactor & CSO member Jeff Grzelak delivers a seminar prior to an authentic Civil War soldier camp meal*



*Above: Dr. Sean Adams, Chair of the University of Florida Department of History, serves himself some camp stew. Below left: Thomas Fasulo instructs educators in the 1860's U.S. Army experience. Below right: Teachers gathered around the campfire. Bottom left: Sue Bonifay relates a woman's experience. Bottom right: FHC group saw military wagon re-creations such as this ambulance.*



# Museum Project Moving Along

2015 has seen the museum project move along at pace. Committee Chair and FPS liaison, Elaine McGrath, summed it up well in this summer's CSO meeting. She stated that we've not only made appreciable progress, but we're also identifying areas of challenge and working on those.

Springing from an initiative in the April 9<sup>th</sup> committee meeting, a new starting point for defining the museum's interpretation plan was worked up. CSO board member and Federal Reenacting General James Permane teamed up with fellow committee member and Park Program Development Specialist JulieAnne Tabone to refine Wilderness Graphics' initial museum interpretation proposal which detailed mostly the exterior.

In review: shortly after the "charrette" back in December, there was a general consensus that the space available for interpretation was easily overwhelmed by the totality of ideas that had been generated. Even during the charrette, it became easy to discern that a comprehensive story of the Civil War in Florida replete with a contextual backdrop of people and places was simply too much at this time given the space we could afford. With some restraint then, attendees, in the open spirit of the charrette, enthusiastically poured forth ideas that might fit the bill. Wilderness Graphics took the sum of that brainstorm and filtered it into a general proposal. Even narrowing the focus to the Civil War in *Northeast Florida* as prologue and epilogue to Olustee proved enough to take away from the space needed to interpret the great battle story we want to tell, arrayed with modern technological interactive displays, tactiles for the kids, and hopefully traditional artifact displays inside. The feeling is that *Olustee*, being an extraordinary battle amongst the annals of the Civil War, rich with provocative quotes, correspondences, military maneuvers, and most importantly, personal stories, demands the lion's share of the interpretation proposal.

JulieAnne and James took this first WG proposal and contributed a considerable amount of time and effort whittling that down to a very "Olustee-centric" plan. Some displays from the original proposal were eliminated in this revision while others were moved around. The input of our group in this refinement was very much needed to begin a new starting print for the interpretation (and thus an overall footprint for the museum complex). It focuses mostly on the exterior where the majority of the special engineering design features have to be considered before moving forward with a more detailed floor plan and schematic.

In June, the museum committee met up with representatives from the Florida Park Service to reach the next benchmark in the process. Within the cozy confines of the meeting room wing of the Stephen Foster museum, the joint-group

*"Museum Project Moving Along" continued...*

communicated its needs and concerns with Chris Buchholz, Vice-President and CEO of Wilderness Graphics.

The meeting began with a reiteration of where we're at in the timeline. Architect Rick Barnett conveyed that the committee should start thinking about budgeting interpretation engineering considerations ahead of the next schematic design so there is a seamless interweaving of space with the electronic and security needs of the exhibits when it comes construction time.



*Above: Rick Barnett addresses Florida Park Service reps and the CSO in the Stephen Foster Museum meeting room*

Immediately, square footage concerns contrasting with the concept of having an unmanned facility were vocalized. The currently "self-managing" concept necessitates a more outdoor exhibit orientation at this time. Chairwoman McGrath offered up that we are in Phase 1 of a long-range plan, thus; additions and enhancements will be possible in the future.

Parking became a topic for discussion, particularly having a designated handicap space and a grass area for overflow handicap parking. A big question after the presentation of the schematic to the state is what soil sampling, elevation, and archeological surveys have to be done.

Now came the time to discuss interpretation and arrive at a juncture to move forward with detailed design plans. WG (Wilderness Graphics) reminded us that to this point, we have been reviewing exhibits in terms of undetailed "bubble diagrams. ("What is it?" "Where does it go?")



*Above: Jim Bishop and James Permane listen to presentation at Stephen Foster Museum in June*

JulieAnne began the review of the committee's interpretation revision document. Some special interpretation items given floor-time included the communication display. Bugle calls, flags, and telegraphs may be elements of a re-conceived exhibit to be incorporated later into the design. Exterior wayfinding was reiterated to be critical to making this exterior concept museum work well and connect with the grounds beyond. Geo-cache wayfinding as an exploring initiative for teens was expounded upon. An outdoor fire pit and/or cooking demonstration area could be handled in-house by the CSO or FPS. The durability and maintenance of the outdoor video map was discussed. The topic of Florida women, or more specifically local women, was discussed with a consensus to keep this subject condensed, probably in the "Aftermath" exhibit. Most importantly, it was stated that the most relevant interpretations involved the approach to the battle, the battle itself, and the retreat.

With the review and discussion of the revision document satisfactorily concluded, other business was discussed such as a campsite which would provide quarters for rotating museum volunteer workers.

WG's Chris Buchholz concluded his input stating the committee needed to discuss any changes to the overall museum plans and finalize a budget so the interpretation can start moving into the fabrication phase.

FPS noted that DEP will need time to approve and make construction selections. Architect Rick Barnett was satisfied that now enough of a "footprint" between building and exhibit design had been created to move forward architecturally.

The committee resolved to have one more meeting to discuss any creative tweaks in all design aspects before giving the green light to construction documents.



*Above: CSO President Gary Dickinson sits on the June museum meeting at Stephen Foster. Below: Chris Buchholz of Wilderness Graphics elaborates on interpretation mechanics. JuileAnne Tabone goes over the latest interpretation layout*





### *Follow-up August meeting*

The committee met again August 29<sup>th</sup>. Since the last meeting, Rick Barnett and then-Senior Florida Park Service architect Hubert Baxley had discussed some key points - - The project should be under construction by the spring. Construction elements should include heavy trusses, Hardiboard instead of stucco, a limestone base, and sloping entrances into the building. A wider entrance made of pavers from the parking lot for loading was also cited as a feature of importance. Exposed beams under the roof was deemed desirable as well.

Rick Barnett and Chris Buchholz had also met over the interim and discussed the generally approved revision of the interpretation content and flow so a full floor plan could be drawn up.

The premium on interior space remained an item of concern. Chairwoman McGrath proposed eliminating the folding wall in the back of the room; just having one continuous exhibit hall. This would essentially be the meeting space sacrificed for more interior exhibit space. Rick stated that would save money as a retractable wall is a considerable cost. Committee members generally agreed to this. Enveloping perimeter conduit, corner cisterns to aid in irrigation, and full rising vertical walls to exclude nesting vermin were all discussed.

In the matter of security for retaining special artifact collections on the inside, Jim Bishop, CSO board member, lent his valuable insight as a veteran construction contractor. He proposed walling in the “exhibition hall” with concrete. Other than the question of how to maintain the exterior interactive video map, Jim’s idea was well-received and looked upon as at least a partial solution to the vexing security cost issue.

A final concern was the clean, modern interpretation on the “Cracker vernacular” look. While the design is looking good, some are wishing for a more rustic appearance, somewhat more reminiscent of an authentic Florida pioneer construction. Would there be any room for cosmetic and veneer work that could help achieve this? Rick responded that the selection of building materials could make a difference for us here.

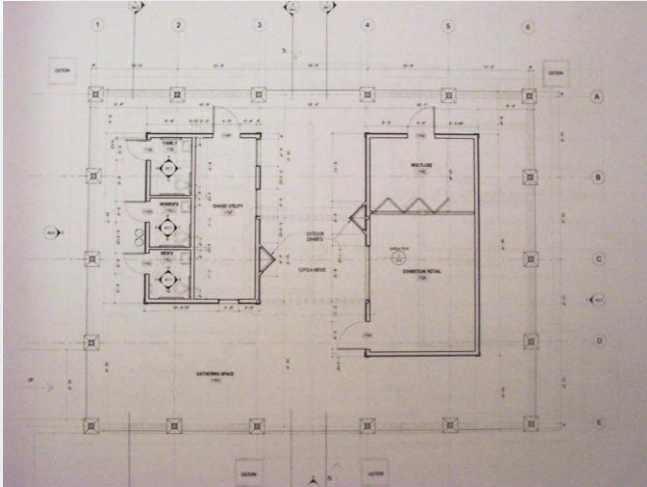


*Above left: a new frontage rendering from the June-issued Schematic Design Packet ( from the Schematic Design Project Phase). Above: Master Plan from the same issue.*



*Above: At the August meeting, Rick Barnett goes over new floor plans inside the old ranger residence*

Top: The first floor plan, from the Design & Development Phase.  
 Middle: a revised video window docent featuring "Farmer Brown" who owned the property.  
 Bottom: A 54<sup>th</sup> Mass reenactor at Olustee event.  
 There should be a large display dedicated to the African-American troops of the battle



## Follow-up September meeting

September found the museum project moving well into the Design Development Phase. This month's meeting focused on collections, security (how it impacts the facility structurally), exhibits, budget, and fundraising.

Minutes were read and items for immediate discussion included the "video windows" (one Union and one Confederate), the color scheme being various shades of grey, and readily available design options for increasing the interior "exhibit hall" space. How can the video windows still be integrated into exterior walls which are now being considered as fortification barriers? Would the increased thickness of said walls significantly encroach upon exhibit hall square footage which is currently planned as less than 500 square feet. The committee took time to consider these questions and other interesting options in an effort to maximize interior space.

Since the August meeting, a special detachment of committee members enjoined with Chris Buchholz of Wilderness Graphics to review the Richard Ferry Collection. CSO member "Dicky" Ferry is well-known as the engineer of an extraordinary world-class Civil War artifact collection, much of it related to Olustee. Indeed, what makes the Olustee cache of this collection all the more special is the detail and documentation connecting personal stories to extremely rare artifacts. He has spent a lifetime procuring these articles from the lives of the men who fought on this battlefield. The discussion became one of how to securely house this collection and display it in the creative interpretation theming design it deserves. The talks evolved into a brainstorm on establishing a separate fundraising committee to begin the movement to expansion. With expansion would come a return to the initial dream of a comprehensive tourist-destination *Civil War in Florida* museum.

The September museum committee meeting heard the results from the Ferry meeting and turned its focus for the moment to the challenge of fundraising. With timeline commitments made to our donor, an initiative was breached for not only moving ahead with current museum budget plans, but also how to anchor that as a cornerstone for building or "compound" expansion in the light of a fundraising campaign. Possible donors, start-up materials, and a campaign kickoff cookout for VIPs and donors was discussed.

For shoring up our current design for fortification, Jim Bishop offered up a list of construction methods to present to BFB: concrete-poured block walls reinforced with rebar, metal studs to the roof with a drop ceiling, steel fire-door protection, and others.

It was agreed to now begin the focus on procuring a timeline for exhibit fabrication.

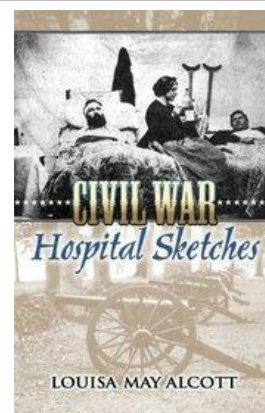
# The Reviewer

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

## CIVIL WAR

*Civil War Hospital Sketches* by Louisa May Alcott

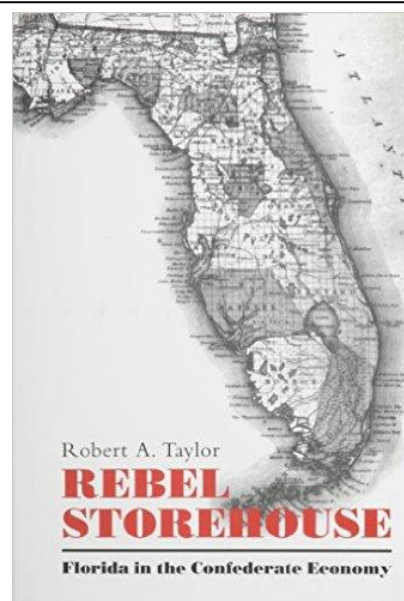
This is a short book containing six letters written home by the woman who would later write that famous novel, "Little Women." It tells of her short service in a Union hospital, where she cared for wounded soldiers, before having to leave due to her own illness. As they were received, the letters were published by her family in a local newspaper. They touched the hearts of so many people they were soon combined in this little book and sold during that terrible war. I have read many books about war, about wounded soldiers, those who died and the suffering they all endured. But never have I read a book that so captured the essential hope and hopelessness of the wounded and dying and those who administered to them. Like "The Red Badge of Courage," this book transcends the war it was written about and becomes a book about all wars. - *Fasulo*



## ANTEBELLUM/CIVIL WAR FLORIDA -

*Rebel Storehouse – Florida in the Confederate Economy* by Robert A. Taylor

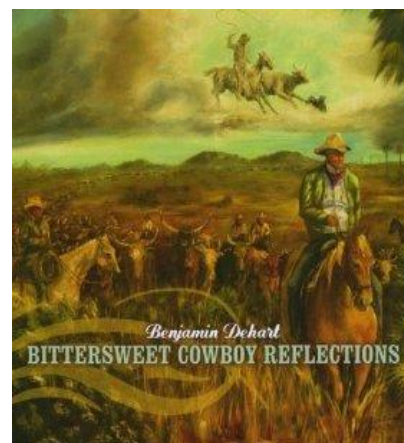
Salt, beef, pork, and corn. Without these, Dixieland's army would wither. With the Southland under siege, it would fall upon old Florida to deliver. The land of flowers began to emerge as an agricultural power in the South by the 1850's, but who would have anticipated its role as the breadbasket of the Confederacy. Food shortages dramatically affected Southern soldiers around Chattanooga and those on critical garrison duty about Charleston. After Vicksburg fell to General Grant, the supply of Texas cattle across the Mississippi chokepoint was cut off, rendering the situation dreadful. "Starvation stares us in the face - - the handwriting is on the wall." These are the stories of Florida figures Captain James McKay, commissary officer Pleasant Woodson White, "Cracker" cattle baron Jacob Summerlin, and others. This is the story of the peninsular blockade and the background to the Battle of Olustee. This is nuts and bolts Civil War economics masterfully woven into a narrative. Lynn Willoughby of Winthrop University said, "Taylor has done a good job of relating wartime economic conditions within Florida in a way that no one has done previously." Donald Curl of FAU said of the book, "I know of no other work that both details the state's contribution and evaluates its effectiveness toward the Southern cause." *Rebel Storehouse* is available on Amazon. The author received his Ph.D. from FSU and has served as President Emeritus of The Florida Historical Society. - *Terrell*



## ROOTS & FOLK MUSIC -

*Bittersweet Cowboy Reflections* – Benjamin DeHart

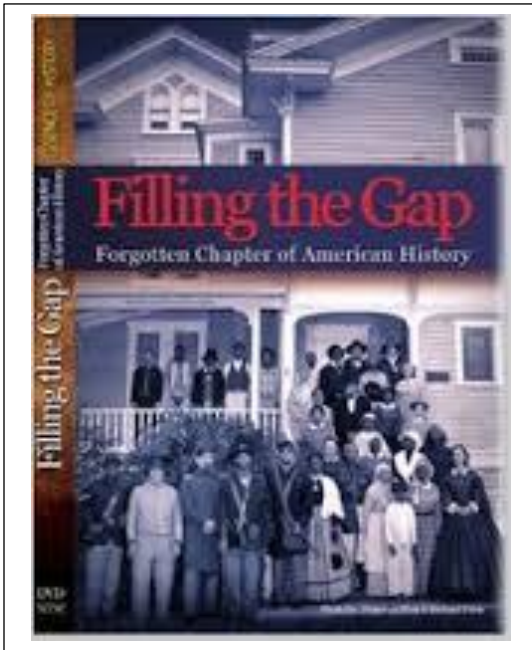
"So sing about Olustee and of Ocean Pond, but remember these two brothers and what a war has done." "Incident at Ocean Pond" is a melodic tribute to the tragedy and travails of Florida's legendary battle. The author is Benjamin DeHart, also known as *The Cracker Tenor*, an extraordinarily gifted singer/songwriter who brings the Florida feelings and stories front and center. DeHart is an accomplished horseman with old cowhunter connections. He breathes what he loves and knows into the music. From his DeHart Productions website, he states his devotion for "cultivating the culture of the Florida Cracker and expressing my love for the cowboy way of life." If you're expecting a country twang or a western drawl with songs about drinking, you won't get it here. "These are songs from the heart with a tenor's flair – not country, not western, not folk, not opera, but an eclectic mix of all these elements." *Bittersweet Cowboy Reflections* is just that. There is a longing for a Florida that will never be again. This album might not teach you to accept that, but it does give you something to hang your hat on. "Said he hunted cattle from Hastings to Georgia. Worked the scrub rain or shine. Now he braids cow whips with hands of arthritis, mending saddles in his spare time." CD available at [www.TheCrackerTenor.com](http://www.TheCrackerTenor.com). Digital downloads are available from Amazon. - *Terrell*



## FILM -

### *Filling the Gap* – Essence of History

Back in 2008, I had the honor of serving as the camera operator on a day of filming for *Filling the Gap - Forgotten Chapter of American History*. Like any film project I've been hired for, I wasn't sure what challenges the day would bring, but it sounded interesting enough. I met up with cast and crew at a beautiful historic 1880's church in downtown Jacksonville. Many of the cast I already had the pleasure of knowing from the reenactment community. There was also a splendid veteran actress playing Sojourner Truth addressing a gathering of women contemplating their rights the same as men. The gifted director Tyrone Young was one of the nicest, most generous people I've ever worked with. Our own Mary Fears, CSO member, was working behind the scenes coordinating the various complex elements. In short, it was one of the most memorable production days I've ever had. After years, I finally availed myself of the opportunity to watch *Filling the Gap*. It was worth the wait. I've never seen anything quite like it. Many books and documentaries have explored the 19<sup>th</sup> century African-American experience, but it seems there's been little to convey the dignity and achievement people of color aspired to and indeed attained. The film itself is full of handsome location shooting throughout the South. I caught up with Mary recently, and asked her for a retrospective on her *Filling the Gap* production odyssey.



*"I, Mary Fears, a dedicated Civil War Re-enactor, received a personal thrill filled with excitement to have the experience of making a movie - - then to have the origin of the project, based on my programs presented during the annual Reenactments of the Florida Civil War Battle of Olustee, made it a double pleasure. I had the experience of finding most of the characters and film locations. I gave assistance in writing the script. Being with the filming crew and director on locations was fun just being there to actually witness how movies are made was educational. A film project to be successful must have finance and plenty of it. That was a challenge. With persistence and determination, Florida and California supporters were sought and invested the needed funds. I presented several public storytelling programs and proceeds from them supported the project which ended in three years.*

*The film's contents aimed to fill the gap in African-American achievements which occupy so few pages in school American history textbooks. The film was primarily based on the industrial skills, creative and artistic talents of little known black artisans and craftsmen, together with the inventive powers of bonded and free black people during the antebellum period in America. It specifically highlighted the lives of African-American historic characters who served in the Civil War in both military and non-combat service. It demonstrates how that service led to the Union victory, the re-uniting of the nation and freedom of those in bondage. It received excellent reviews by educators and was purchased by many schools and other educational institutions and above all, it was nominated for the 2011 NAACP Image Award.*

*This highly recommended film for viewing by people in all walks of life is available for purchase on the Internet. One student who saw the film wrote a letter to the director, Tyrone Young, asking, "Why have I not learned about the people in this film before?" The answer to her question vividly states, as written above, why the film was produced: to fulfill the gap of omissions in school American History textbooks."*

Mary has published a book on her reenactment experiences, *The Memoir of a Re-enactor of Voices from the Past: The "People of Color" In The Civil War*. It will deliver a full explanation about the incentive to produce the film, *Filling the Gap, Forgotten Chapter of American History*. The book is now available for \$25 plus \$3 shipping.. She hopes to be selling it in person at the 2016 reenactment. You can Google Mrs. Fears and read further additional interesting material on this extraordinary woman. *Filling the Gap* is available from the website [www.EssenceOfHistory.com](http://www.EssenceOfHistory.com) & various DVD vendors on the net. (Also on *Filling the Gap*, look for the excellent portrayal of Col. James Montgomery by the CSO's own Bud Thayer!)

# Historical Profile

## Colonel Joseph Roswell Hawley

So what did Colonel Hawley have to say about the piney woods folk tween Jax and Lake City? *"Most of the people we find are truly in a miserable condition. I do not think that they have suffered yet for food but they are a scrawny, lack lustre dead looking people with little intelligence. They are very poorly clothed. The country is quite thinly settled. I have heard of but one church in going 50 miles."*

We will try to overlook that unflattering comment as we reflect on the life of this great soldier and gentleman. At Olustee, he commanded an entire Union brigade. "Hawley's Brigade" consisted of his own 7<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Infantry Regiment, the 7<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Infantry Regiment, and the 8<sup>th</sup> United States Colored Troops. Before the main body of the Federal invasion force reached tiny Sanderson, the Colonel ordered the 7<sup>th</sup> Conn ahead on the quick to support Colonel Guy Henry's probing horse soldiers. Indeed, his brigade would be the first to make contact with the Confederates at Olustee.

Hawley was actually born a Southerner. This son of a Baptist preacher was birthed by a Southern woman on Halloween day, 1826, in Stewartsville, North Carolina. His father was an abolitionist and was threatened with assault during the dicey period of the nullification crisis (occurring during Andrew Jackson's showdown with South Carolina). By 1837, young Joseph left with family to his father's native state of Connecticut. Within 5 years, they were in New York state where Joseph graduated with honors from Hamilton College. After teaching, he studied law and practiced in Hartford for six years.

Hawley was an active Republican. Having served as a delegate to the Free Soil Convention, he then organized the first Republican party with Gideon Welles in 1856. He also edited the Republican/abolitionist newspaper *Hartford Evening Press*.

At the break of war, Hawley was made Lt. Colonel of Rifle Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Connecticut Volunteer Regiment. After 1<sup>st</sup> Bull run, the unit was disbanded and Hawley was appointed Lt. Colonel of the 7<sup>th</sup> Connecticut. Hawley distinguished himself in campaigns up and down the coast, including the capture of Fort Pulaski in '62 and the Siege of Charleston Harbor including the attacks on Fort Wagner in '63. He eventually rose to brigade commander.

He served as garrison commander at St. Augustine for a time. His wife, to whom he was devoted, joined him there, serving as a teacher and a nurse. Hawley was excoriated for expelling relatives of Confederate soldiers from the ancient city, including the aged mother of General Edmund Kirby Smith. But this was apparently an order from Major General David Hunter. Letters were written on Mrs. Smith's behalf. An adjutant replied. *"Madam: I am instructed by the Major General Commanding Dept. to acknowledge the receipt of your note dated 9th inst. relative to the case of your mother, Mrs. Josie Smith, of St. Augustine Fla; and in reply to acquaint you: That there was not the slightest disposition on*



*the part of the Officer Commanding St. Augustine to molest or deport any of the peaceful, or non-combatant, residents of that place; until it was found, that, by the abuse of your injudicious license of speech, defamatory of the government, serious difficulties were likely to arise among the more ignorant and turbulent of the population; and until it had also been found, that communication with the enemy, of a nature prejudicial to the public interests, was being kept up from within the lines of St. Augustine."*

At Olustee, Hawley had some of his brightest and darkest moments. *"Now, Boys, give them the seven shooters!"* The rapid fire rifles were pumped out with "astonishing rapidity" shocking the Confederate vanguard and "leaving the path strewn with dead and wounded." Finegan brought up the lines and eventually made the 7<sup>th</sup> pay for their spearhead movement. They fell back and unmasked the 7<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire. According to a history of the 7<sup>th</sup> NH, Hawley, under fire (his saddle was bullet-riddled), first ordered to deploy company on the 5<sup>th</sup> column, then corrected himself, *"on your 8<sup>th</sup> company, Col. Abbott,"* then again, *"on the 10<sup>th</sup> company, sir!"* In the din of musketry, the men were responding to the orders as given. The resulting stumbling and embarrassment led to confusion, chaos, and hell as the Union center was enfiladed with fire, caving in, and losing the momentum of the battle early.

Hawley would go on to command at the Siege of Petersburg and the Fort Fisher campaign, rising to Brigadier General, even leading the entire division. He would return to North Carolina as military governor. His crowning achievement would be serving as the Governor of Connecticut (1866-1867).

Bibliography: Battle of Olustee, 1864 by Robert Broadwater, *Far From Fields of Glory* by David Coles, *DrBronsonTours.com* History of St. Augustine by Gil Wilson, Wikipedia

## *Osceola National Forest Highlights*

We are so fortunate to have our park surrounded by this vast forest region. By the proclamation of Herbert Hoover, this land of low pine ridges, cypress and bay swamps, was created in 1931 and named in honor of the great Indian warrior.

**Boating** – Leaves turning colors along the shores of Ocean Pond present quite a site this time of year. Boat landing facilities in Osceola National forest are all found at the big lake. The four spots to put in are Ocean Pond Campground, The Landing Group Area, Hog Pen Landing, and the Olustee Beach Day Use Areas. If you come early, you can camp by the lakeshore and keep your boat at your site in the Ocean Pond Campground.

### “FROM THE OCEAN POND PHOTO ARCHIVES”



“Ghost of Warrior Past” Terrell, 2006  
(Battle of Olustee Reenactment Photo Gallery Archives)

## *Farewell to Friends*

This past summer marked the passing of a great lady from our community, **Jane Royal**, the bass violin player in the *Olustee String Band* moved on to “join Heaven’s Bluegrass Band.”

*“Jane was an avid Bluegrass musician and played many instruments such as the Piano, Banjo and Dulcimer but primarily the Upright Bass. She was extremely talented and passionate about her music and played in multiple Bluegrass bands including Woods & Bridges, The Briar Pickers, The Olustee String Band, Coastal Blue, Some Day and John and the Gang, just to name a few. Her influences in the Bluegrass music community run deep and she was an inspiration to many. Miss Jane had a stroke in 2008 and always said that her music and her music family saved her and assisted greatly in her recovery. She was an incredibly smart, fearless, selfless, funny, kind and compassionate woman who cared deeply for her family.”*

*“She is survived by her husband, Harvey Smith Royal, Jr., who was the love of her life for 60 years, her son, Doug Royal and her daughter, Debi Royal Wilkinson (David Tarbert).”*

She will be tremendously missed.



*“Around the Campfire” Warming up on a cold Saturday night – photograph by Paul Duran*

## EDITOR'S CORNER

The news of Mrs. Royal's departure from this life made me think of all those wonderful nights under the ball tents and the terrific performances through the years of both the string and brass bands, not to mention the various musicians seated around dozens of campfires beneath the tall pines. Music brings a special joy to reenactment events. I sure wouldn't mind seeing an increase in period musicians from all over the country making a pilgrimage to Olustee to share their art and the heart behind it.

*Brian Terrell*  
*Editor*



*Above: young musician, Leah Oxendine, at the 2015 Olustee reenactment*