

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 Lauramore,
Frank Maloney, Arnold O'Steen, George Scott, Bud Thayer, Jim Bishop

BattleOfOlustee.org

WINTER 2016 EDITION

January 25, 2016

Approaching 40th Anniversary of Reenactment



Not so long ago, we commemorated the 150th Anniversary of the The Battle of Olustee. Now another big anniversary has crept upon us. This February 12th through the 14th weekend event will mark 40 years of reenacting the battle! The reenactment and all that surrounds it has evolved through the years into a hallmark history and cultural event for the state of Florida. Not only has it swelled into the largest reenactment in the Southeast, it has, perhaps more importantly, provided economic stimulus and notoriety for the area. Less than a handful of people have participated in the reenactment since its beginning. Later in this issue, we'll take a look at those honored few who have acquired that much "sand in their boots". Pictured left is a rare photo from the first reenactment at the Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park, in 1977.

The very first reenactment was held in Jacksonville's venerable Gator Bowl in 1964, commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Florida's largest battle! (The above photograph comes to us courtesy of Mr. Lee Bishop.)

From our website: *On February 22, 1964 a ceremony was held at the Olustee Battlefield Memorial to commemorate the centennial of the battle. In conjunction with the centennial, a reenactment of the battle was held at the Gator Bowl sports stadium in Jacksonville. This observance included a parade through Jacksonville, a barbecue for troops in the Gator Bowl, a narrated dramatization of the Battle of Olustee, a costume ball at the George Washington Hotel and memorial services held the day before and the day after the Gator Bowl observance. At the memorial service held at the Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park, two cannons were presented to the park. The Battle of Olustee Centennial Observance, Inc. staged the observance. For more on the history of our event, visit www.battleofolustee.org/after.*



Below: Vintage photograph of Jacksonville's Gator Bowl, site of the very first Battle of Olustee reenactment.

While the CSO Reenactment Committee cranks up for another anniversary event, the museum committee has shifted into another gear as well. As interpretation displays for the museum exterior are close to the fabrication stage, committee members were asked for their input on some of the great quotes from the battle's written history.

A few of the best quotes could quickly be found from an old fundraising publication for the Columbia County Historical Museum. The 100 page pamphlet contains not only Mark F. Boyd's foundational battle analysis, *The Federal Campaign of 1864*; it also has a great personal story in the letters of Private Milton M. Woodford of Bristol, Connecticut. Woodford served as a foot-soldier in the 7th Connecticut Infantry Regiment during the Olustee campaign. He was a "salt of the Earth" fellow and his sharp, biting New England sensibilities come shining through in the articles, *A Connecticut Yankee Fights at Olustee*, and *A Connecticut Yankee After Olustee*. This series of letters, edited by Vaughn D. Bornet, were extracted out of *The Florida Historical Quarterly* January 1949 issue, reprinted with permission from The Florida Historical Society.



Above: The regimental colors of the 7th Connecticut Infantry Regiment showing the duress of many hotly contested battles. Below: A soldier of the 7th Connecticut. Courtesy of the Florida State Archives.



A Connecticut Yankee at Olustee.....

"The 7th Connecticut and the 7th N.H. were both put on the "Ben DeFord," a moderate sized steamer and if you ever saw a flock of sheep, or a drove of pigs in a small pen, you can form some idea of the shape we were in.

Many were the surmises as to the place of our destination, but none seemed to know. The sea was rather rough, and about nine or ten o'clock a good many might have been seen leaning over the side of the vessel, paying their tribute to "Old Nep." In fact, more than half of us were sea-sick. O such a time! Were you ever sea-sick? If so, I need not describe it to you, and if not, I need not try, for I couldn't.

Barbour's is a house, barn, three shanties, two rail fences and a creek where our cavalry had the skirmish. Saunders has a depot, tavern, and one or two houses. The houses between these places are few and far between, in fact, it is a brand new country, and for my part I can't see what there in in here worth sending an army after; but I suppose Gen. Seymour or some other general does.

We had a cup of coffee made and started right on again, and marched ten miles farther that night, making twenty miles march that day. That night it rained, and if I ever passed a disagreeable night, that was one of them. Tired out, the wind blowing, rain pouring, no rubber blanket, and forty miles from our base of operation, with no knowledge of what might be around us, I thought of the warm fire, pleasant faces and good cheer of home.

Our general (Seymour) seemed to think the 7th ought to take the whole thing, and were ordered to advance right on. For the 7th to hear an order is to obey. In less time than I can write it, our men had rushed right up within good fair range and with their seven-shooters, poured in such a fire as cannot be delivered by any arm in use. 'Johnnies' couldn't stand that long and had to send out two Regiments to drive off our line of skirmishers. Just at this time the 7th N.H. came up, but the shot flew too thick for them and they broke and ran, I am sorry to say.

Our men for the most part fought well, and the darkies just as well as any. But we were too few in numbers to do more than hold our ground, which we did til dark (5 hours), when we moved off the bloody field...

We have lost heavily and it seems to me, unnecessarily. Probably you may see different opinions from mine, but it is my opinion that the battle should not have been fought, and Gen. Seymour is the only one to blame. No one here has any confidence in him. I hope he may do better next time."

It's possible you might find some more of Woodford's quotes in our museum one day. As the years have unfolded one after the other since 1864, more and more records and reminiscences came to light, eventually leaving us with a rich repository of information on a unique battle. Who knows? There may still be a tidbit or two out there, in the darkness, waiting to be discovered and shared with our historical association. Ahead in this edition of *The Observer*, check in with the museum committee and see how they are developing content for both the outside experience and what will hopefully be the hallowed hall inside.

CSO MEETING NEWS

From the Reenactment Committee

With the 40th Anniversary Reenactment on the horizon, Reenactment Committee business has taken center stage.

Artillery always looms large in conversations about safety. Rules were reviewed that cannons cannot move for 30 minutes after the battle. There will be one person for each artillery side to monitor the pullers of the cannons so they can be removed safely from the field with two walkers on either side as added safety measures.

Cavalry, Confederate Army, and Federal Army have all made their reports and are ready and on track for the event. FPS is working on the mowing where need be to have the field of battle safe for all the horses and riders. Park Manager Gabby Paxton has reported that the grass is lower so far this year. The lack of frost for much of this early winter has made it difficult to commence a controlled burning. However, we have just had quite a little cold snap in mid- January. We'll see if it carries over to mid-February.

The Olustee String Band, the brass band, and the ball dance caller have all been invited back for Saturday night's dance event under the big tent..

Park Manager Gabby Paxton has stressed again campers must take their trash to designated dumpsters and not leave it in the camping areas. At least six dumpsters have been ordered for the event.

Andrea Thomas at the Park Service office has been overseeing advertising for this year's event. We've had rotating boards in Jacksonville and a digital board on I-75 outside of Lake City. She has given our event an online presence through CivilWar.com. Print ads have appeared in the Gator Homecoming program, the Camp Chase Gazette, and the Courier. Local newspapers have been sent info for their public event notice section. We are also advertising in *The Alligator* coupon book. The Bargain Radio station was reported ready to do trade with us again. Flyers have been distributed and CSO members have been handing them out, tacking them up, slipping them under windshield wipers, and giving them to friends, co-workers, and restaurant staff (whether stopping in for a cup of coffee or dinner) throughout North and Central Florida.

We're again partnering up with University of Florida pharmacy students offering them a 10% commission on all the Olustee tickets they can sell.

(continued above right)

From the Reenactment Committee continued...

The Ladies Tea event will be conducted this year by Rebekah Meritt. Thank you, Rebekah!

There have been requests to have trailer campers parked back in the authentic military camp area. The CSO and FPS would prefer all RV and trailer campers be in the Modern Camping area. People with special needs can be assisted with transport or even campsite preference with reasonable notice. We are considering some ideas for improving our service to modern campers in the future, particularly those with special needs.

Over 600 kids have already been pre-registered for Friday's school day.

Gabby reported we are fortunate to have regional Boy Scouts of America troops sending their best and brightest to assist the Florida Park Service and CSO where needed this year.

The CSO is looking to recruit more African-American reenactors to portray the black troops who made history on the battlefield of Olustee. A couple of avenues are being pursued. Please contact us with any suggestions or interest in this area.

From the Treasurer's Office

Treasurer Duran's latest report for the CSO's holdings has \$300,703 in the General Account, \$347,935 in the Construction Account, and \$24,754 in the Credit Union.

Duran pointed out a trend of declining attendance (excepting the 150th Anniversary) to be a concern. A conversation was initiated to keep the annual event financially healthy and out of the red, as well as brainstorming new avenues to generate funds.

Changes in participant charges were discussed. A vote was taken to increase the sutler base charge from \$100 to \$150, but keep the square footage rate charge where it is.

Some parks are generating interest and funds with "Haunted Trail Hikes" and "Guided History Horseback Rides". All agreed those are worth discussion in the future.

Gabby had an excellent idea to host a special reenactment & living history military training camp at least once a year and charge for that. For many reenactors/living historians, the opportunity to camp and train on the Olustee battlefield might be something special and worth supporting.

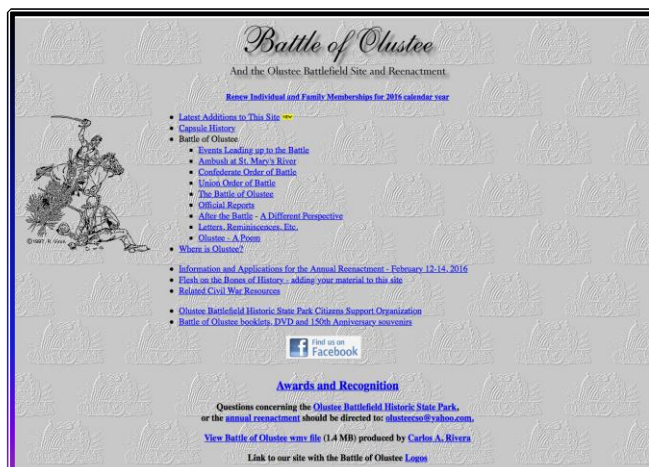
Website Direction

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Webmaster Thomas Fasulo has the 2015 stats in. All the key totals are up from 2014, indicating there is an increase in interest across the nation and the world for our park and the special educational and recreational opportunities it represents.

Total page views were 263,022, an increase of over 60,000 from 2014! Total visits amounted to 74,408, up almost 10,000 from the previous year. Finally, unique visitors tallied at 47,963, up nearly 8,000.

We already know our www.BattleOfOlustee.org is one of the best Civil War sites on the worldwide web. Now, the CSO has commenced the process of updating the site with a new “skin”; a whole new inviting, engaging graphics layout with user-friendly navigation, drop-down menus, etc. Stay tuned for more on this exciting development.



Pictured above: homepage of the CSO's award-winning website

From the Museum Committee

The Museum Committee met back on Halloween Day to address some concerns and move the project forward.

Chris Buchholz of Wilderness Graphics attended the meeting to go over the contract with the CSO to ensure the latest submitted changes to the interpretation plan were exactly what the Committee desired, as well as shore up some errors. The Committee had approved up to \$300,000. Wilderness Graphics follow-up plan submission had come in at \$311, 890. Buchholz wanted to meet with the committee before cutting anything to meet the 300 grand figure.

Construction concerns regarding construction timelines, and wall/ceiling changes were discussed as well as AC duct work possibly compromising the fortification of the internal hall.

Continued above right

The plan for worker campsites was moved further along, stating there would be 2 sites for Park Service volunteers and 2 for USFS volunteers. The architects have gotten permits for the well abandonment of the old ranger residence and other things, so everything is moving along.

Gretchen Miller of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection attended the meeting for the first time. She has replaced the departed Hubert Baxley as the lead architect representing the Park Service.

Buchholz inquired about specific interpretation content and storyline direction. Elaine suggested that Thomas Jessee, James Permane, and Paul Duran be the individuals (or sub-committee) who would be content developers. Mr. Buchholz said they have an interpretation writer who can research and compose paragraphs and then Thomas and James can review or manipulate it. Typically the wording is written at the 9th grade level for easier comprehension.

Overall, regarding the interpretation displays, Elaine is the contact person for Chris Buchholz; Elaine submits to Julieanne for review and Julieanne submits to Heather for review as all plans must be approved by the Park Service.

Everyone agreed that 30 days would be allowed to review the “zone/panel/area” revision submission from Wilderness Graphics.

Chris Buchholz addressed the questions: (1) “*What type of warranty comes with this project?*” He stated typically all equipment comes with manufacturer’s warranty and Wilderness Graphics gives a 1 year warranty. All equipment will be standard sizes which can be easily replaced. (2) “*What type of maintenance fees will be accessed?*” A maintenance manual will be given with each piece of equipment and if there is a problem, WG is just a phone call away.

A display fabrication timeline has been worked up. The completion date for the entire museum is October of 2017.

Our own CSO Board Member, Museum Committee member, and Construction Contractor Jim Bishop is helping us keep a keen eye on construction elements and subtleties. Among the items he is addressing are native stone, a change to bat & board siding or Hardy board, window operation at 20 feet up, hand railing, sufficient water faucet availability, underground power supply, flooring aesthetics, and sufficient ceiling fans for the Florida summers.

It was also first discussed to have a ground-breaking with an invitational BBQ event at the 2016 Battle of Olustee Reenactment weekend. Tickets are to be pre-purchased. They will be promoted at the registration desk and in advance by email and the website.

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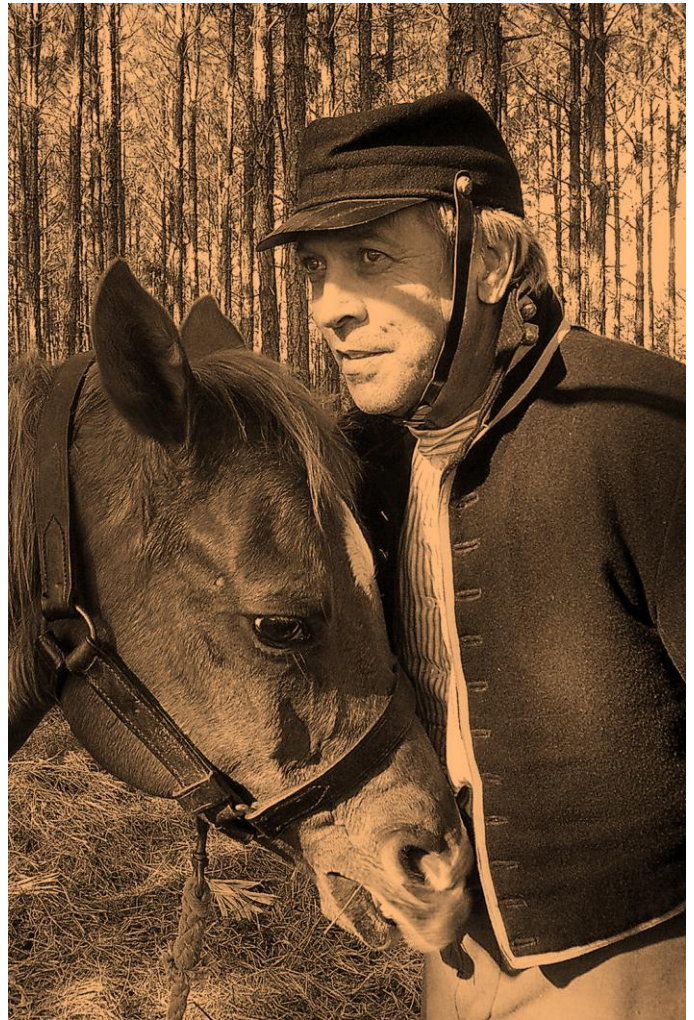
"From the Museum Committee" continued

A follow-up meeting was conducted in November where it was announced that the Barnett Fronczak Barlowe architectural firm is finalizing the building design. It was also announced that the Division of Historical Resources Archeological Monitoring process will begin fairly soon.

Between meetings, a major development decision was made regarding the interior of the museum. It was decided that the committee would go with an interpretive design firm more experienced in working with Civil War artifacts. Wilderness Graphics, with its excellent track record & body of work, would be maintained to implement all the exciting and engaging *exterior* displays developed to this point. The amended interpretation design plan reset the contract figure with Wilderness Graphics at \$201,710, requiring a board vote to approve.



Pictured above: "Gamble's Artillery at the Ready"



Pictured above: Reenactor & Olustee descendant Sam Barber in the Union Blue

Very special thanks to Acting Secretary Gail Jessee for her minutes that were used in building this meeting report.



The Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park CSO often holds its board meetings at the Firehouse Subs in MacLenny. We invite you to become a member and join us as we take care of business, and have some fun & lively discussion!



Upcoming Meetings & Events	Articles of Interest	Odds & Ends
<p>Questions and membership dues can be mailed to: Olustee CSO, P.O. Box 382, Glen St. Mary, FL 32040</p> <p>The 2016 Annual Reenactment of the Battle of Olustee or Ocean Pond will be February 12-14.</p>	<p>By-laws of the CSO and its Board of Directors have been updated. Copies are available through the CSO.</p> <p>Please visit the website at www.battleofolustee.org for updated applications, forms, regs, & schedules</p>	<p>For more information on the Osceola National Forest and other national forests in Florida, visit http://www.fs.usda.gov/florida .</p> <p>Visit floridareenactorsonline.com for a list of living history & reenactment events throughout Florida.</p>

Revisiting the First Reenactments

The upcoming 40th Anniversary will have us looking at the men who have made this extraordinary event a reality, particularly the living history military camps and reenactment presentation.

CSO members Tom Jessee, Jeff Grzelak, and the late, great Don Bowman have been there since the beginning; at least since the reenactment has been held at the Olustee Historic State Park in 1977. Certainly through the years, there have been some great living historians from the Department of the Gulf, Hardy's Brigade, and others units nationally that have helped build this into a premiere event. But there are just 3 gentlemen who have been pillars in this effort from the git-go.

Jeff Grzelak, Tom Fasulo, and Tom Jessee have been kind enough to share some photos of the early days and it's our pleasure to relive these moments with you in this issue and future issues as well.



The reenactment community is observing the passing of Don Bowman. The following is re-posted with permission from General James Permane. Special thanks to Rob Simmons also for passing it along.

General Order #1

Department of the Gulf

General Order #12-08-15

1st Infantry Brigade

Whereas, In Accordance with the Rules and Regulations governing the operations of the Department of the Gulf, and at the Direction of the Commanding General of the Department, the 1st Infantry Brigade will observe a period of Mourning to celebrate the life of Colonel Don D. Bowman, late Commanding Officer of the Florida Battalion of Infantry of the 1st Infantry Brigade.

Therefore, the period of mourning shall be observed by all Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers of the Department, dating from November 25, 2015 to May 25, 2016.

During this period, it is Directed that all military protocols for mourning be observed, to wit; All Colours shall be adorned with black streamers and Officers shall wear mourning bands and streamers in place of sword knots.

By Order of the Commanding General of the 1st Infantry Brigade,
M. Hunter Poythress

Brigadier General,

Commanding
1st Infantry
Brigade

Department of the Gulf

J.E. Permane,
Lt. Colonel,
Fla. Batt'n of Inf'y

2016 BATTLE OF OLUSTEE REENACTMENT

FEBRUARY 12TH-15TH

PREVIEW

The 40th Annual Reenactment of the Battle of Olustee is just days away. The reenactment grows bit by bit every year in the breadth of what it offers. In other words, every year it gets a little better so there ought to be something for everyone. Let's take a look at the 2016 rundown....

SCHEDULED EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

REENACTORS: For general information bulletins and rules & regulations, download .pdf files at www.BattleOfOlustee.org

Friday, February 12th

8:00am – 12 noon: Registration

8:30am: Colors on Museum/Monument Field (announcements & messages made at this time)

ALL DAY: Reenactor Only Campaign

8:45am: Wreath Laying

9:00am: Civil War Memorial Service at Oaklawn Cemetery in Lake City

9:00am – 2:00pm: Tours and Medical Demonstrations for school children and groups

9:00am – 2:00pm: Educational Exhibits and Programs under the Ball tent

9:00am – 6:00pm – Entertainment, Arts, Crafts, and Food Booths in Lake City

5:30pm: BBQ Fundraising Dinner for New Museum

7:00pm: Luminary Memorial Service

8:00pm: Artillery Night Firing

8:30pm – 10:30pm: Old Fashioned Barn Dance & dance instruction under the Ball Tent

Midnight: Quiet Time/all generators off

Saturday, February 13th

6:00am – 11:00am: Registration

8:00am: Colors at Museum/Monument Field

Shuttle buses load for parade in Lake City (light breakfast provided for parade participants)

9:00am – 2:00pm: Authentic Campsites open to the public

10:30am: 40th Olustee Festival Parade in Lake City

11:00am: Artillery Inspection

11:00am – Presentation under the Ball Tent: *The Service of "People of Color" in the Civil War*

12:00pm: Period music concert at demonstration area

1:00pm: Medical demonstration for the public at the Medical Tent.

1:30pm: Ladies Tea at the Ball Tent

2:30pm: Period music concert at the Battlefield

3:00pm: Pyrotechnics Field Orientation for the Reenactors

3:30pm: Battlefield reenactment

8:00pm – 11:30pm: Battle of Olustee Ball at the Ball Tent (period attire required)

Midnight: Quiet Time/all generators off

Sunday, February 14th

8:30am: Colors at Museum/Monument Field

9:00am: Union Monument Ceremony

9:30am – 12noon: Cavalry Drill Coordination. Pyrotechnics Field Orientation for the Reenactors

9:00-9:45am: Medical demonstration at the Medical Tent

9:00-12:00noon: Authentic Campsites open to the public

10:00am – 11:00am: Period church services

12:30pm – 1:30pm: Period music concert at the Battlefield

1:30pm: 40th Annual Reenactment of the Battle of Olustee



From the Blue-Grey Army

The Blue-Grey Army produced a really interesting promotional poster this year; I think one of their best ever. It takes some chances with the color palette, going with the teal and gold compliments against a fresh-looking marbled blue and grey in the background. There's also some unusual character pillars in the background with Frederick Douglas and a Southern naval officer. Good job, BG Army!

The Downtown Olustee Festival will be in full swing before and especially after the parade. Look for "homemade Arts & Crafts from vendors all over the United States, food & entertainment of all kinds, and a Kids Area featuring Bounce Houses, Pony Rides, Rock Climbing Walls, Train Rides and much, much more."

Other traditional activities include the Miss Olustee Pageant on January 30th at 4pm, the "Running Reb 1 Mile Fun Run," the "Olustee 5K", and featured speaker engagements. It's great to get out and support downtown Lake City and the great job they do with the festival!

For more Information about the festival call Angie Adler (386) 984-5142 or Lynn Nicely (386) 344-0936 or email at vendorinfo@olusteefestival.com.



Above: Night Under the Ball Tent, 2013

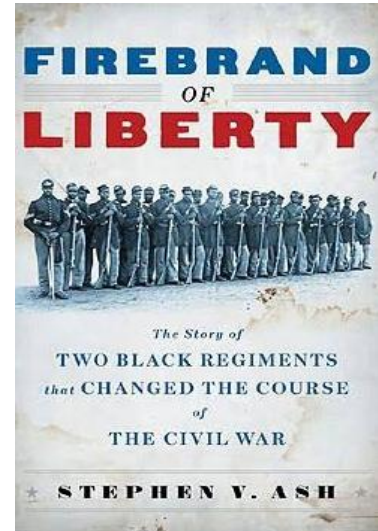
The Reviewer

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

CIVIL WAR

Firebrand of Liberty: The Story of Two Black Regiments That Changed the Course of the Civil War by Stephen V. Ash

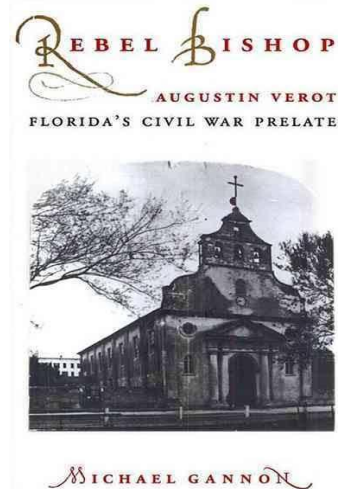
I especially enjoy reading a book about the Civil War in Florida, as there are so few of them. In this history, the author follows the organization of two colored regiments at Hilton Head: the 1st and 2nd South Carolina Volunteers (Colored) USA. Most of these men were previously slaves, some from Florida, and were eager to fight their former owners and free other slaves. The 1st S.C.V. engaged in significant combat before the 54th Massachusetts made its heroic charge at Battery Wagner. The 1st and 2nd S.C.Vs and some reinforcing white units, made an extended raid into Florida, captured Jacksonville and raided other areas. The success and excellent behavior of the 1st S.C.V. was particularly noted in newspapers in both the North and the South, although southern and northern Democratic-leaning newspapers reported unfavorably about the regiments. The author makes a good argument, with supporting data, that the reported actions of these two regiments, in newspapers and official reports, accelerated the Lincoln administration's decision to enlist black troops in large numbers. The author also does a good job of defining the characters of the major players, colonels and generals, as well as many of the soldiers and civilians associated with the units. This is not a dry historical tome, as the details of the lives of the men and women discussed enliven the text and allow the reader to understand these were living people with both good and bad traits. The book is both an easy and enjoyable read and I recommend it to all those interested in the Civil War in Florida. I especially appreciated the detailed discussion of the burning of Jacksonville in 1863 by white Union forces. I knew of this incident but was unaware of the details. This will enhance my living history program in Florida. This book is available from Amazon.com. – *Thomas Fasulo*



ANTEBELLUM/CIVIL WAR FLORIDA -

Rebel Bishop: Augustin Verot – Florida's Civil War Prelate by Michael Gannon

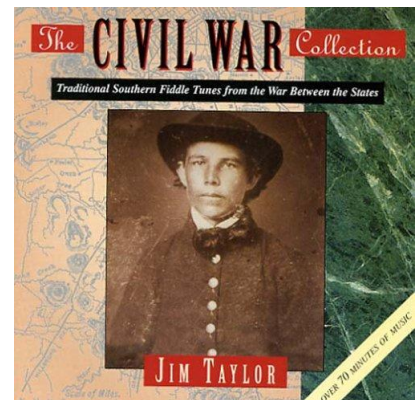
Dr. Michael Gannon is Florida's "Grand Dean of Historical Studies". He has served as Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Florida, written numerous books, and served at the head of state historical commissions. Once you've heard him speak, you never forget it. This epic work chronicles the life and times of the brilliant Bishop Verot. The Frenchman found himself "at the intersection of three fascinating histories: Florida in the mid-1800s, the Catholic church during the first Vatican Council; and a nation torn by Civil War." Verot was passionate, outspoken, and controversial. He argued for the vindication of Galileo (who was condemned by the church) and more liberal attitudes toward scientific progress, against the doctrine of papal infallibility, for reconciliations with Protestants, and for a more peaceful, humane amelioration of slavery. Verot was one of the great Floridians and you can still see his mausoleum in the rear of the Tolomato Cemetery in St. Augustine. Available from AbeBooks.com - *Terrell*



ROOTS & FOLK MUSIC -

The Civil War Collection – Jim Taylor

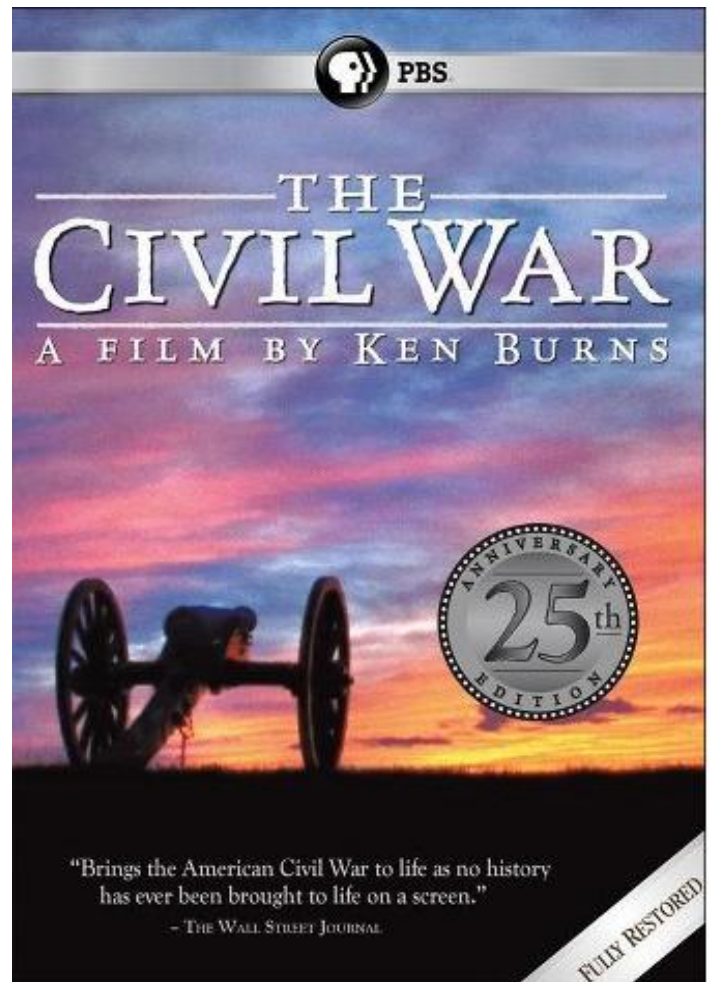
In the days of the Civil War, there was no USO to entertain the troops, no CD Walkmans, iPods, iTunes on iPhones. Back at camp, there wasn't a DVD & TV in a mess hall. There wasn't even a radio. It was the sweet, soothing sounds of a fiddle that made you remember you were a human being. Instrumental compositions such as these were used to accompany square dances or provide entertainment. If you're looking to start a collection in this genre, Taylor's "Traditional Southern Fiddle Tunes from the War Between the States" is a fine place to start. What makes this artist's compilation special is the featured accompaniment of the hammered dulcimer which was experiencing widespread popularity in the mid-1800s as the lead instrument in dances and social parlor settings. The CD's smart booklet provides background on these historic mid-Atlantic tunes that would have been played before, during, and after the war. Available off www.Gourd/TaylorJ.com . - *Terrell*



FILM -

The Civil War – Ken Burns

When Ken Burns told his father he was going to make a film of the Civil War, his dad replied in so many words, “Ok, sure, son.” Certainly when you take down a story from the mantle of the Civil War, there’s a good chance you’ve bitten off more than you can chew. Mr. Burns went on to prove himself one of America’s greatest all-time storytellers. There’s the *The Roosevelts*, *Mark Twain*, *Thomas Jefferson*, *Huey Long*, *Jack Johnson*, *The Brooklyn Bridge*, *The Statue of Liberty*, *The Dust Bowl*, *The West*, *Baseball*, *Jazz*, *Prohibition*, *National Parks*, *World War II* to name a few – all tremendous award-winning achievements. But none and certainly no one else’s compares to the gold standard set in 1990’s *The Civil War*. It is perhaps the most lyrical and hypnotic interweaving of music, voice, sound, and image in the history of documentary film. He didn’t do it alone. His brother Ric co-produced and co-wrote a soulful and brilliant script with Geoffrey Ward. A gallery of carefully chosen celebrity voices breathed life into people that are now 150 years gone. The writer/historian/actor David McCullough delivers a narration you will hear in your head forever. Interviews lend a profound modern perspective while an old Mississippi boy named Shelby Foote, who knew the war from A to Z, proved himself the *muse* of the director and his story. Ken took the vow of poverty to become a documentary filmmaker. It wasn’t one he’d be required to keep. *The Civil War* is the most successful documentary in the history of public television, perhaps the greatest documentary in television history. Many are familiar with these accolades, so what’s new with this old miniseries? Last year for the 25th Anniversary of the broadcast, it was remastered from the original negative to present a higher resolution video image for the high definition /Blu-ray age. From the pbs.org site: *Over the course of two months, 50,000 feet of the original 16mm film negative, which is preserved at the George Eastman House, was scanned frame by frame at 4K (4096 x 2160 pixels, the resolution used for Ultra High Definition). The standard definition 1990 broadcast was taken from a duplicate of the original negative, resulting in a loss of quality. This is the first time the film will be seen with the exact same fidelity and framing as the negative that Burns and his co-cinematographers Allen Moore and Buddy Squires shot over 25 years ago. “THE CIVIL WAR series has never been seen in such visual clarity,” said Daniel J. White. “The colors are brighter and you will see more details in the images. With this transfer, THE CIVIL WAR will be preserved at the highest quality for generations to come.” I’m beyond excited,” said Ken Burns. “For the first time, viewers will see what I saw when I looked through the lens of my camera. It is truly remarkable.”* The new Blu-ray release is available off pbs.org. - Terrell



Above: “Soldier of the 6th Florida Takes Cover”

Historical Profile

Henry's Cavalry Brigade was like a lightning bolt, extending and striking well ahead of the main Federal invasion force in 1864. Their skill and zeal in the march to the interior might be an underappreciated element in the Olustee analysis. They simply gobbled up helpless pickets before they could yell "Help!"

Seymour called them his "Light Brigade" - - the 40th Mass Mounted Infantry, the Independent Mass Cav Battalion, and Elder's Horse Artillery. They also covered an astounding mileage tally in their peripheral probing of the enemy's countryside.

Credit for their success should also come to the memory of local guides, loyal to the Union, such as "Mr. Alsop," an "old and experienced lumberman," "of Northern origin but for 20 years a resident of Florida." (The Alsops became a prominent Jax family, generating a mayor who served in the 1920's, 30's, & 40's. See also the Main Street Bridge named after him.)

Not long out of Jacksonville, scouts in Henry's advance sent back word that a Confederate line of battle had been drawn up at *Camp Finegan* a few miles outside the city. This was a portion of the 2nd Florida Cavalry under Colonel Abner McCormick. The dashing young Henry made an interesting decision to bypass the big camp and instead hit a supposed artillery post 4 miles beyond at *Twelve Mile Station*. It was well for McCormick's men for they were badly outnumbered. They withdrew and fell back to Olustee where they would play an important role "drawing in" the enemy. At the "Station," Henry told his men, "If you ever yell in your lives, boys, yell now." A bugle sounded the charge and rebels ran to the swamp. A sergeant in Milton's Light Artillery wrote, "I could plainly hear the Yankee troopers; 'Surrender, you damn rebels!' and see them use their sabers. Rob Mum, from Apalachicola, had joined me, wounded by a sword on his forehead, which I bound up with a piece of shirt."

"The rebel camp was filled with fat turkeys, chickens, ducks, and geese, and as soon as arms were stacked, the order to charge the hen-coops was given, and the soldiers soon swept away all poultry from before them until feathers flew in all directions. Such a cackling and gobbling were never before heard in Eastern Florida..."

An anonymous correspondent wrote of the mounted infantrymen, "only those who have been through the process can understand and appreciate the pains and trials involved in breaking in a regiment where both men and horse are both ignorant of the principles of the art." "There is much vexation of spirit and no little bodily anguish." This was their first action and the first of the *March to Olustee*.

Born on 9 March 1839 in Fort Smith, Indian Territory, in 1856 Guy V. Henry entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, from which he graduated in early 1861. First detailed as a 2nd and then a 1st lieutenant in the 1st United States Regular Artillery, in November 1863 he was commissioned into the volunteers as colonel and assigned command of the 40th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. After Olustee, he commanded his 40th Massachusetts in the 1864 Virginia campaign. On 5 December 1893, he received the Medal of Honor for his services at the Battle of Cold Harbor, on 1 June 1864, where he led assaults upon the enemy works and had two horses shot from under him.

Colonel Guy Vernor Henry



After the Civil War, Henry continued to serve in the U.S. Army as an artillery officer. Later, from 1870 to 1897, he was assigned to the cavalry, serving in the 3rd and 9th Regiments. He served in numerous actions during the Indian wars, fighting the Apaches, Cheyenne and Sioux. It was during this period that he picked up the nickname "Fighting Guy." He was wounded in the face at the Battle of the Rosebud in Montana and lost an eye. It was for his heroic actions during this battle, continuing to urge on his men until he collapsed, that he was brevetted to brigadier general. In 1892, he became the lieutenant colonel of the 9th Cavalry. In 1897, he became col. of the 3rd Cavalry.

In 1898, while serving during the Spanish-American War, he was given the rank of brevet brigadier general of volunteers and then brevet major general. He commanded the "Provisional Division" in Puerto Rico. On 11 October 1898, he was promoted to brigadier gen. in the U.S. Army. At the war's end, on 6 December 1898, he was designated as governor of Puerto Rico.

In 1899, General Henry succumbed to pneumonia. From the New York Times obit: *It has been decided to take the body to Washington, to-morrow afternoon. It will lie in state in St. John's Church in that city until Monday morning when the interment will take place in Arlington Cemetery. An escort from one of the New York regiments will attend the body to Washington.*

Guy V. Henry Jr. would distinguish himself in both WWI and WWII.

Bibliography: *Battle of Olustee, 1864* by Robert Broadwater, MacFarland & Company, Inc. Publishers. www.BattleOfOlustee.org. Web director & Editor, Thomas Fasulo, New York Times, Carte de Visite above reprinted with permission from *The Richard Ferry Collection*

Osceola National Forest Highlights

Florida's youngest national forest protects a section of the Pinhook Swamp which runs into the Great Okefenokee Swamp. You might want to wear some good water-proof hiking boots as the Osceola is often wet in many places.

Wander Loop of the Florida Trail – If you want to see endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers, here just might be the best place in the stands of these very old pines. Start your hike at the Olustee Trailhead kiosk. (The fire-tower and battlefield are off to your right.) At .4 miles, "loop A" follows blue blazes taking you into a straightaway. The white-banded trees are where the woodpeckers live. At .8 miles, you'll come to a boardwalk over a wet area. Orange blazes lead straight ahead to the main Florida Trail. You can turn right here and follow the white blazes back along a forest road that leads to the gate where the forest footpath began. The Loop B crossover meets the forest road at 1.1 miles, and the Loop A crossover at 1.3 miles. As you pass a "Horse Trailer Parking" sign and a cattle pen, you complete the loop. Continue through the gate and make a beeline to the trailhead, completing the hike after 1.6 miles..

"FROM THE OCEAN POND PHOTO ARCHIVES"



"Confederate Battalion on the Piney Road to Olustee"

Terrell, 2001

(Battle of Olustee Reenactment Photo Gallery Archives)

Farewell to Friends

One of the *original founding members* of our citizen support organization has passed. As it was announced that Alice Williams had moved on to her great reward, many good things were said and remembered about her. *Dedication* was a word that came up often.

Especially memorable was Wilhamena's remembrance of attending the very first CSO meeting with Alice: On the drive back home in the car, Alice looked over at Wilhamena and said, "Well, I came not know' in *what in the world* I was gett' in into and left the *Vice-President!*"

From the *Baker County Press*: *Mrs. Williams graduated in 1975 from the University of Florida and enjoyed teaching craft classes and summer enrichment classes to the youth in Baker County. For over twenty years, she was an active member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Children of the Confederacy and Daughters of the American Revolution. She volunteered for the American Cancer Society for over thirty-five years and was a member of The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Tallassee. During her years in Baker County, Mrs. Williams and husband Wayne made many friends through their involvement in civic and volunteer activities, and their presence was felt on many worthwhile fronts.*

Thank you, Alice, for getting us started. We're so glad you did.



Above: Alice & Gail Jessee at UDC Convention in 1990's. Above Right: Former Vice-President Williams. Right: Alice with family



EDITOR'S CORNER

It's going on 2 years now as the Newsletter Editor and I wanted to quickly thank everyone for their support! It's an honor and privilege to serve the Olustee Battlefield CSO and the Florida Park Service as well.

Thank you to the newsletter editors who served before: *Alice Williams, Jeff Grzelak, Thomas Fasulo, Cris Giddens, et al.* I read some of their works before starting on the job and have endeavored to carry on some of the features and much of the tone they handed down, while starting up some new columns and storylines.

See you in February.

Brian Terrell
Editor



Above: "Advance Union Scouts Spot the Enemy"