

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

SPRING 2016 EDITION

May 20, 2016

Attendance Back Up for 40th Anniversary Reenactment

Saturday and Sunday of 2016's Battle of Olustee Reenactment experienced a modest attendance gain of about 5% from the previous year, but back on the rise nonetheless! Last year's 2015 event had endured an expected drop-off after the much-heralded 150th anniversary reenactment (of the actual battle) in 2014. The biggest success this year was experienced on the Friday school day. Paid attendance went from 878 to 1683, a whopping 91% increase! This bodes well for the future as these young people will remember the experience and plan to return again someday. See some highlights and experience a special retrospective of the *original 1964 reenactment*. later in this issue!

All-Star Slate of Ray Giron Award-Winners Honored at the 40th

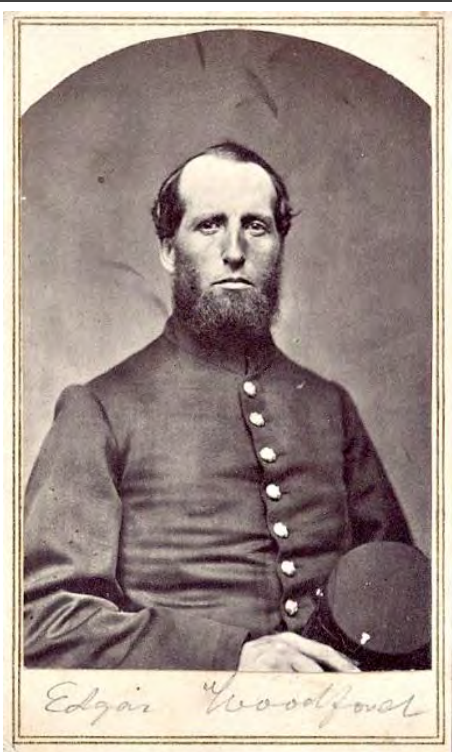
"Dr. Raymond E. Giron was a primary force in organizing the Florida reenactment community to support the concept of an annual reenactment of the Battle of Olustee. Beginning in 1977 and for the next twenty years, "General Ray" would not only command the Union forces at the Battle of Olustee, but was instrumental in organizing the annual event and developing the high authenticity standards that characterize the event today." Now each year, individuals who have demonstrated exemplary service to the Olustee Citizen Support Organization are honored with the Ray Giron Award. This year, an extraordinary roster of Olustee "veterans" received this distinguishing honor. Find out who the winners were in this issue's Reenactment Review.



The Museum Committee has commenced the process of plumbing Olustee battle history for some of its most interesting material. Relics, reproductions, artifacts, antiques, personal stories, before & after local history, military maneuvers, general facts - - this is the stuff that makes a museum. Once we have it, how do we then present it in an interesting and creative way? By the way, if *you* have anything of interest that you would like to donate, please contact us. (See the Odds & Ends section on how to reach the CSO.)

Sometimes the most thought-provoking element in a study of history can be a simple little quote from a private letter or official correspondence. Last issue, we visited the letters of Private Milton M. Woodford, 7th Connecticut Infantry Regiment. He shared how *A Connecticut Yankee Fights at Olustee*. Now, from the companion series of letters, we will learn a little bit about what it was like to be *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.)



Pictured above: Quatermaster Sergeant Edgar Woodford in the 7th Connecticut and Milton's cousin. He had died during a prior military occupation of Jacksonville. Special thanks to John Banks Civil War Blogspot. Pictured below: Hiram Barrett, Co. K, 7th Connecticut Infantry Regiment



A Connecticut Yankee after Olustee speaks.....

"[Truman's] congratulatory orders, praising the men for their 'heroic daring and unflinching courage' in the late battle, does not soft-soap them in the least. They think of the remark he made when the men were nearly worn out with hard marching, sore-footed and hungry. One of his officers ventured to ask if he was not marching the men harder than they could stand it. 'No,' he said, 'this is just what I want; I shall get rid of the poor trash, and get at the cream of the army'.

After I got the money, I took advantage of the time that still remained to me before my pass ran out, to visit the graveyard where Edgar M. Woodford [Quatermaster Serjeant], Seventh Connecticut Volunteer Regiment] was buried. The burying ground is in sad condition, the fences all torn down around the entire lot; and those that stood around the *small* lots. Anything that will *burn* is apt to suffer when soldiers are encamped near. I found Cousin Edgar's grave with a board at his head, with his name and the date of his death. His wife and family would feel sad indeed if they knew just how the place looks.

It made me feel sad and home-sick to pass through the streets, now deserted by their former owners, and see what war has done for this once beautiful place [Jacksonville]. What would our Northern places be if Jeff should succeed in invading the Northern states! If anything that I have done has tended to keep him away, I am amply rewarded for all that I have done within the last three years; and were it not that I owe a duty to my *family* as well as to the *country* I presume I should not leave the army til the war is over. I hope the war may be ended by the time my time is out.

I have seen something the last two nights on picket that I never saw before. I have heard of 'Jack-o-lanterns' and 'Will-o-the-wisps', but I never expected to see them, and never *did* till the nights I speak of. It is a kind of phosphorescent light that rises from the swamps, and looks like the light of a lantern. Sometimes it moves slowly, as though it was carried by some person; then again, it goes swiftly, and clear up into the tops of the trees. The first one I saw went so swiftly that I knew at once that it could not be carried by a man, otherwise I should have called the attention of the officer to it. Since then I find that others have seen a number. I would rather see them than rebels.

Yesterday morning it cleared off, but the wind blew cold, and today is a real Conn. March day. Tomorrow may be hot enough to roast an egg.

I don't like the way our people have, of making a little god of a man when he is successful. I don't think any one man is going to save this country, not even General Grant. We are apt to trust the arm of flesh. We want more faith in God, and less of man worship. For my part, I am sick of hearing and reading so much of these great and good officers. In nine cases out of ten, if the truth were known, these very men are guilty of practices that would disgrace a private citizen or soldier. I don't know of an officer of any note in this Department who does not keep himself more or less soaked with liquor, if I have been rightly informed....."

CSO MEETING NEWS

Membership Direction

We are excited to announce the following new members to the Olustee Battlefield Citizen Support Organization:

Dennis Short, Middleburg
Brittany M. Lefevers, Alachua
Marvin Lotus, Starke
Daniel R. H. Cook, Keystone Heights (new lifetime member!)

Let's welcome these folks to the organization! We appreciate their support and look forward to meeting them someday!

From the Museum Committee

The Museum Committee met in February, after the reenactment weekend, to discuss the latest developments. Chief on their agenda was reviewing architectural firm Barnett Fronczak Barlowe's proposal for the planning and engineering work on the museum volunteer workers' RV campsites, and also to meet for the first time, Mr. Brent Ward, a Civil War Museum-authority and expert on artifact preservation and protection. Brent has been tapped to help guide the committee in the development of the interior museum; helping us with artifact exhibition technique and getting the most content & creative bang out of the space we have available.

BFB's quote for the planning and engineering work of the campsites was \$11,187. This includes work that would completely prep the campsite for construction. The amount did not include an impending archeological survey fee (currently just for the ditch and culvert area as the roadway has already been graded) and the St. Johns River Water Management application fee. These are fees the committee must anticipate as it budgets the unfolding work.

The committee reviewed the initial-first bill for project prep fees from Wilderness Graphics in the amount of approximately \$16,000. WG is now focusing its efforts on the development of the "exterior museum" which would always be open to the public.



Above: site plans for museum volunteer workers' campsites. The left shows the campsite's spatial relationship to the museum. The right is a closer look at the campsite and its access road. This work was sub-contracted by BFB with Hydra Engineering and Construction of Crawfordville.

Brent Ward was introduced to the committee. (Prior to the meeting, Chairwoman Elaine McGrath sent a link to Ward's company website. Many agreed that the work displayed therein was very exciting top shelf quality!) Brent immediately addressed our chief challenges: a rather small building for a Civil War museum, and the current staffing proposal of one 28hr./week employee. The committee informed him that because of these factors, the broader interpretation must be on the outside. The artifacts with more detailed interpretation and personal stories would then be on the inside. He was also made aware of the four campsites being built for *volunteer* workers. Brent stated that the most important design concerns for the inside should be security and fire protection.

Glass casing was discussed. Mr. Ward noted that bullet-proofing adds a whole new level of complexity to a project. Alarm and motion sensors would be placed inside the glass. This would be fine as long as we have a masonry enclosure. Invasive pests can set the motion sensors off, depending on their sensitivity setting.

Also very important to remember in the overall maintenance plan is a regular inspection of the sprinkler heads. If the heads aren't maintained, a set-off could damage textiles and documents. There is a chemical spray fire extinguisher that won't damage these items. Water-sensing devices could alert the Park Service office in the event of flooding or sprinkler set-off. The committee also learned that HVAC moisture level is another concern. There is an activating carbon product that can help with moisture control.

Inert sealants should be a preservation component within enclosed artifact displays. We should also be aware of toxins that are given off by some types of building products.

Essentially, our interior museum should be maintained periodically. The displays themselves should have a schedule for being opened and maintained. Brent says he has an on-staff architect that can work good preservation technique into the design, help us come under budget, and also be within monthly electric bill budgets. Brent added that there are now wireless monitoring systems that report back environmental measurements such as temperature within their display read-out. Alerts could be sent for designated data such as temp spikes, door-openings, and attendance.



Above left: Elaine commences the committee meeting on another cold winter day in the old ranger residence. Above right: Brent Ward hears the concerns of the committee.

Museum content was then discussed. Elaine stated the committee's desire to use the Richard Ferry Collection as its base display collection but then we would also have rotating exhibits supplied by many of the reenactor-owned collections. Also, the Florida Division of Historical Resources collections and possibly other national museums would loan out to us. Piper Ferriter suggested that we perhaps plan to change out the exhibits every 6 months. We would brand this 6-month rotational period first and then later do quarterly changes or as-needed. The museum committee and/or the CSO Board might have an ongoing voice in the rotational selection process in order to apply input from the community and help meet their needs.

Items discussed were cannon and arms from the state Division of Historical Resources, flags, uniforms, various weapons, diaries, letters, and photos (especially daguerreotypes). The very modern interpretation technique of integrating interactive QR code maps with our displays was discussed. (After scanning with a personal device such as a smart phone or computer tablet, in-depth information on that particular exhibit would display on the device.) The question is – on what server would this information live? Would it be a proprietary/stand-alone server? Would we have to upgrade the QR software from time to time due to the operating system upgrades the big computer companies increasingly turn out? Could we obtain this QR software off the shelf or would we need to custom-design? Port devices for digital read-outs can help eliminate the need for physically big text panels on a display. Too many of these can clutter an exhibit gallery so the digital/personal device option is certainly a consideration for us given the premium on space.

Another important preservation technique discussed was the “mount” for the artifact. (how the artifact is actually held up on a panel in order to be viewed) Brent was quick to note that you shouldn’t go cheap on the mounts. He likened it to “putting a cheap engine in an expensive car.”

Miscellaneous mentions were: LED lights to save on electric as well as motion-sensored lighting on the displays and mylar over books to help with UV-ray protection. Brent assured the committee that the 480 square foot interior’s air conditioning needs could easily be handled by a standard HVAC system.

The next important topic was – how do we layer and texturize the display? This is the aesthetic design of each display, including the visual and aural accompaniment for interpretation. Our current space may be too small for standard audio-video set-ups; however, there are “sound domes” and more highly directional speakers that can interpret the artifacts. It was noted this technique is put to great effect at Ft. Mose in St. Augustine. (This is a museum that some committee members have cited for excellent exhibit design & interpretation.). There is some “bleed-over”, even with this technique. Headphones were brought up. It’s been discovered through the years there can be hygiene issues with headphones. Brent said that display panels could be designed with a headphone option. For possibly crowded times in the museum (like during the reenactment weekend), the headphone option could be turned on at a general resource panel. “Soundsticks” are another possible substitution for headphones. With “biography-heavy” exhibits anticipated in our museum, the issue of sound in the interpretations could be an important one.

Backgrounds for objects might be a simple backing board, or a textile such as muslin or silk. In any event, backing materials should be pH-balanced and acid-free. Again, cases should be sealed up and lined with protective materials.

Brent requested a general object list & timeline with a wish-list for our very first museum-showing (which might have 80% of what we want in artifacts). We should also include desires for storyline writing, audio-video, and software apps. Once he has this, he will get a proposal to us. His proposal would include input on HVAC, temperature, roofing, and electrical needs.

The meeting continued with our resident construction contractor Jim Bishop and electrician Tom Jessee addressing concerns on the museum and campsite plans. Better septic tank location at the campsite, floor elevation for water drainage at the museum, and revising the plans to reflect all utilities running underground were put on the table for discussion.

Between meetings, the latest design outline revision from Wilderness Graphics was emailed to committee members for review and comment. Concern was expressed for the aesthetics of the large photos on the bathroom doors and perhaps having a bit more on the Florida troops who served in the battle. Comments on the latest design development plans from BFB, including the topographic survey, were also disseminated. Among additional concerns from Jim and Tom were: *problems with synthetic stone, lap siding, and hand-rails, stone work around columns creating maintenance problems, power pole relocation, need for temporary feeds to the shop building and existing museum, spare conduits for future museum needs, best locations for new electrical service, need for an in-ground pull box to service electrical needs over 200 feet in length, relocation of electrical panel A, appropriate specification of light fixtures, adding a ceiling fan, moving the AC condenser away from building, gravel under concrete to help with moisture control, removing the “expanding wall” from the plans, electrical mounted in concrete instead of floor, placement of AC vents/emergency lighting/security/fire-prevention features, placement of electrical outlets and data ports, location of HVAC controls and fire/security panel, installation of a pigtail for emergency generator hook-up, location of a working space for the museum staffer, metal stud framing in lieu of wood,*

Thanks to some input from James Permane and others, the committee received Brent Ward’s proposal relatively quickly, by mid-March. His company, *Riggs Ward*, based out of Richmond, Virginia, broke down the cost proposal into the following categories: *Gallery Improvements, Permanent/Interior Gallery* (this includes the AV program, AV hardware, cabinetry, and installation, exhibit graphics, exhibit components), *Design Fees*, and *Miscellaneous Expenses*. The low-end cost came in at \$158,650 and the high-end at \$209,650. A *museum/battlefield app* was estimated at an additional \$15,000 to \$20,000 if desired - depending upon our future budget funding availability.

The committee met again by phone conference in April. Elaine informed the committee the latest revision requests were approved by regional Park Program Development Specialist Julianne Tabone. Afterwards, they were then sent on and approved in Tallahassee by Heather Shuke.

It was announced that text panels were currently being worked on by Wilderness Graphics. Also, James Permane has submitted a good deal of photographic information and other helpful exhibit commentary. BFB was awaiting the campsite footprint to move forward and help us move us to the next stage of the process which is the archeological survey. After the committee squares away the developing building costs, Treasurer Paul Duran recommended that we ask HTR for a matching grant to assist us in reaching the new minimum overall budget requirements now raised after receiving the initial Riggs Ward cost proposal. We were reminded that the Florida Division of Historical Resources needs to approve our final plans before it can bid out for construction. When BFB gets the final approval needed, they will begin working with the FPS lead architect.

From the Blue-Grey Army

Saturday in Lake City presented a gorgeous North Florida-winter-Chamber of Commerce day. The sky was crystal clear blue and the temp barely bracing as the parade geared up and took its first steps forward. Afterwards, the craft festival down the old main street greeted hundreds of eager, smiling shoppers. Children played, young people mingled, and old folks danced as the scent of barbecue and the sound of music permeated the air. It was simply one of the best festival weekends ever in the Gateway City.



Above: The CSO's own Tom Jessee & Bud Thayer lead the reenactment columns in the parade. Immediate Below: Flag bearers follow past dignitaries and one of the many beautiful horse-drawn carriages on the route. Bottom left: Lake City Middle was one of the several local schools with a presence in the parade. Bottom right: Even Smokey the Bear was there!





Above: Our incredible award-winning Florida Park Service drew cheers and applause along every stretch of the parade route as they proudly bore their banner.



In the courthouse courtyard, festival goers were treated to rock, pop, jazz, R&B, country, blues, and folk music from top local and regional acts such as the Spur of the Moment band shown above.



Above: The activities for children seem to get better every year – from trains to ponies. Below: The same could be said for the craft vendors. From hilarious puppet shows to some of the finest hand-crafted furniture you can find. Below left: Couple from Alabama displays beautiful and extremely affordable solid wood handmade furniture. Yours truly bought a coffee table/magazine rack that continues to please.



The Olustee Festival in Lake City & the Battle of Olustee Reenactment in Olustee are perfect complimentary venues to one of the greatest annual festival & commemorative events in all of Florida!

Upcoming Meetings & Events

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

The 2017 Annual Reenactment of the Battle of Olustee or Ocean Pond will be February 17-19.

Fees will be:
\$10 for adults
\$5 for children
Pre-school age children are FREE

Articles of Interest

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

Please visit the website at www.battleofolustee.org for updated applications, forms, regs, & schedules

Attention Reenactors! Be sure and sign in at the registration tent. There is NO fee and you become an official Florida State Park volunteer for the weekend

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 for a list of living history & reenactment events throughout Florida.

Questions on the park and annual reenactment should be directed to: olusteecso@yahoo.com

2016 BATTLE OF OLUSTEE REENACTMENT REVIEW

The 2016 Battle of Olustee Reenactment was a special one. Overall attendance was back up with the Friday School Day being perhaps the biggest ever! This year's event marked the 40th anniversary of the reenactment, consecutively held on the actual hallowed battlefield itself since 1977. Remarkably, there were 3 individuals who had participated in every single one of those 40 years! These men were rightfully honored this February winter weekend. Thomas Jesse, Jeff Grzelak, and Donald Bowman (posthumously) all received acknowledgement to the adulation of the crowd. Then there were the Ray Giron Award-winners: all longstanding CSO members who have given so much over the years to the growth, enhancement, and success of this event and the preservation of the battlefield with all its values memories and lessons. Wilhamena Lauramore, Mitzi Nelson, Eric Hague, and Don Bowman (posthumously) were all recipients of the prestigious Giron Award.

Our treasurer, Paul Duran, does double duty as the official photographer for the CSO and the reenactment event weekend. Mr. Duran captured so many great moments at the 2016 event, we're compelled to show a few more than usual for this year's *Photo Gallery*.



Above left: Wilahmena Lauramore receives the Ray Giron Award from President Gary Dickinson. Above right: Mitzi Nelson receives the Giron Award. Directly above: Eric Hague receives the award. Left: "General Jesse", being honored as one of the "original 3" doffs a grateful hat to the Floridian faithful and other history enthusiasts from across the nation in attendance this year.



Top: Jeff Grzelak, 17th Connecticut Reenacting Infantry Regiment, receives special recognition as being one of only 3 people who have attended every Battle of Olustee reenactment since the very first one held at the park in 1977 – a span of 40 years! Above: “General” Tom Jessee, Florida Department of the Gulf, delivers a special address to the 40th Anniversary crowd. He also received the special recognition as did Don Bowman. Photos by Paul Duran.

2016 REENACTMENT WEEKEND PHOTO GALLERY

Featuring the photography of *Paul Duran*



Top: Interesting civilian reenactor with big stove top hat in sutler's tent. Campfire cooking demonstration with a rabbit dinner. Above left: cleaning out a cast-iron pot. Above right: knitting demonstration with children exploring in the background.



SCHOOL DAY



Top: Teaching the science of military topographical surveying. Above left top: holding a group of youngsters captivated by the battle story. Above left bottom: pumping water the old fashioned way. Above right: young living historians re-creating their ancestors' lives on the Florida frontier.



Top: Period-dressed toddler interested in 1860's Valentine's cards (February is the month!) Above: Special education program on the mainstage.

Faces of the 54th





SUTLERS, AUTHORS, & SPECIAL DEMONSTRATIONS

Top left: CSO member Mary Fears was promoting her new book this year.. Above: CW firearms demonstration. Top right: Sutler selling jarred goods. Above right: Preparing beverages.



Above: Night glow through a sutler's tent. Below: Morning Colors on the parade ground.



under the Ball Tent







BATTLEFIELD







POST-REENACTMENT BATTLEFIELD NEWS

University of Florida U.S. Army ROTC Conducts Staff Ride at Battlefield

On 11 March, Thomas Fasulo helped lead a Staff Ride of the Olustee Battlefield for senior U.S. Army ROTC cadets from the University of Florida. Fasulo worked with the ROTC unit, providing reading materials from our Web site, to educate the cadets on what went right, what went wrong, and other facets of the battle and the troops involved. During the Staff Ride, each cadet delivered his or her analysis of what happened during the battle and why. About 15 cadets participated, along with Lt Col Roach, the commanding officer of the U.S. Army ROTC faculty. As of graduation, these cadets are now officers serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed forces.

According to Ranger Jim Ellis, U.S. Army ROTC cadets from the University of Central Florida also used the Olustee Battlefield for a Staff Ride that same month. These events are more significant than their size would indicate. After all, how many state parks are used to train young officers in our armed forces? If you don't know what a Staff Ride is, it is explained in full on Wikipedia.

Special thanks to Thomas Fasulo for contributing to this report.

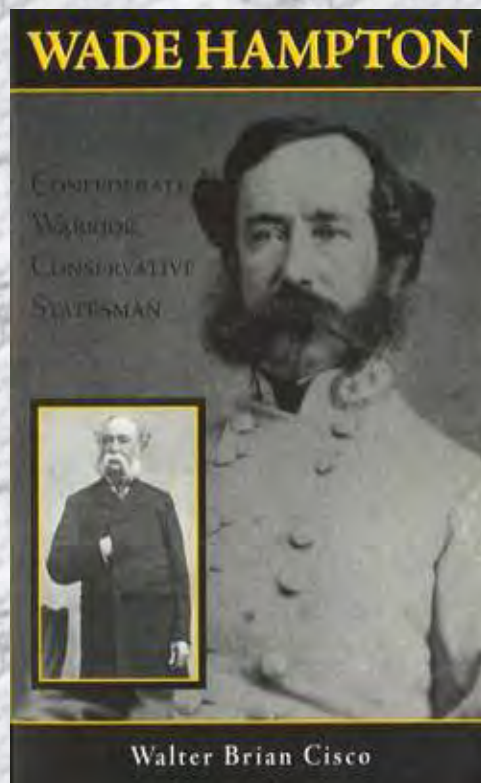
The Reviewer

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

CIVIL WAR

Wade Hampton: Confederate Warrior, Conservative Statesman by Walter B. Cisco

Wade Hampton was one of the richest men in the South before the Civil War, and was one of its best combat leaders during that war. The author makes the point Hampton often didn't receive the honors he deserved. This was because, according to the author, while Hampton served with the Army of Northern Virginia, J.E.B. Stuart, its cavalry leader, could never forgive the South Carolinian Hampton for not being a Virginian. As such, this is an interesting biography to read. Hampton eventually rose to the rank of lieutenant general, a rank only a handful of Southerners attained. However, like many books written from the Southern point of view, the author, while constantly describing Hampton's victories, never seems to list Federal victories. Plus, he also neglects to list the casualties the Confederates' suffered when he lists Federal casualties, as if the Federal forces were the only ones doing the dying. Too many books written from the Southern point of view make it appear the Federals were incapable of winning battles and the South only surrendered because the Confederates felt sorry for the Federals' military incompetence. This book joins that group, and is why I only gave the book three out of five stars on the site where I reviewed it. Only in the case of General McClellan's attack on Richmond, does the author report the Confederates suffering 20,000 casualties in one week. After the War, Hampton intelligently counseled his countrymen to cooperate with the Federal forces occupying the South. This was difficult, as, even from my point of view, South Carolina was the worst example of corrupt Reconstruction of any state in the former Confederacy. The author correctly points out Hampton intelligently made efforts to include Afro-Americans in his terms as governor of South Carolina and tries to make it appear Hampton was pro-Negro. At the same time, the author quotes Hampton describing Negroes as not having much intelligence and planning to use them to control the government. On page 187, he quotes Hampton as stating: "We can control and direct the negro if we act discretely..." Of course, this is what all politicians do, tell the voters what they want to hear and then, once in power, the politicians do what they want. Still you have to give Hampton credit for including Afro-Americans in governmental posts. After Hampton finished his several terms as governor of and senator from South Carolina, the incoming reactionary and racist administrations did their best to erase Hampton's achievements from political history. – *Thomas Fasulo*



ANTEBELLUM/CIVIL WAR FLORIDA -

Discovering the Civil War in Florida by Paul Taylor

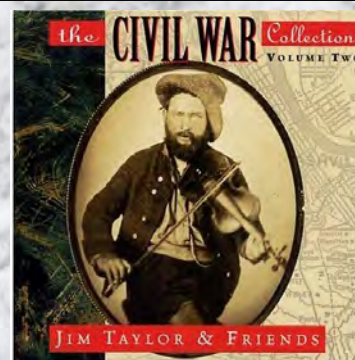
History-tourism is a term that has caught on recently as more and more Americans seek to fill a void in their knowledge and experience of national and local heritage. This "Reader and Guide" is an excellent primer for Civil War Florida history that not only illuminates the highlights, it literally gives you a roadmap for experiencing them. We've come to realize the sunshine state is much deeper in Civil War secrets and lore than was previously realized. This book is a key to exploring related rare sites. Taylor breaks down the guide into geographical areas, even logging site amenities, directions, hours, and admission fees. There are magnificent structures such as Fort Zachary Taylor in Key West or the Castillo/Fort Marion in St. Augustine and then there are battlefield sites and memorials in wild, isolated spots or on a street corner in a small town, all of which can present the opportunity for memorable family adventures. Available from Pineapple Press. - *Terrell*



ROOTS & FOLK MUSIC -

The Civil War Collection Volume Two – Jim Taylor

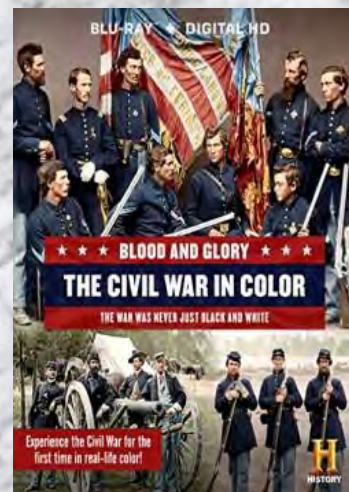
Last issue we reviewed Volume 1. In this go-round, we recommend the volume 2 companion CD. Here again, the soothing sounds of hammered dulcimer, acoustic guitar, whistle, flute, cello, and harp take you back to another century. Here are more tunes that kept spirits bright during dark times around the campfire, at barn dances, and traveling music shows. Listen to the likes of *Old 1812*, *Hog Eyed Man*, *Old Liza*, *Col. Crockett*, *Run Rebel Run*, *Gunboat*, *Abe's Retreat*, *Granny Will Your Dog Bite?*, *Grey eagle*, & *The 22nd of February*. Detailed liner notes tell the fascinating stories behind these classic compositions. "A rare treat for lovers of string band music and a treasure trove for students of the War Between the States." Available off Gourd/TaylorJ.com. - *Terrell*



FILM -

Blood and Glory, The Civil War in Color – Prometheus Entertainment

You won't be able to take your eyes off this stunning documentary produced for The History Channel company. *"The War was never just in black & white."* This four-part documentary series combined into an all in one set uses state-of-the-art technology to colorize Civil War photography. These are not just the images we've seen repeatedly of Gettysburg and Lincoln; here are also long sought after government archive and private collection pictures. The story of the war is retold in these brilliantly executed and artistically enhanced photographs – complete in a narrative, high-ptiched, quick-cut History Channel style. Reenactment re-creations fill in the gaps. I'm a purist and prefer the original black & white, but I have to admit that many of these re-touched pictures are jaw-dropping. Exclusive interviews with celebrities, historians, and modern military figures the caliber of General David Petraeus and General Colin Powell provide authoritative insight into the re-telling. The cased set even comes with a digital ultraviolet copy you can access online for all your personal devices. Warning: this is not for children. This war, often sentimentalized, is often made all the more real in its horror with these detailed colorizations. Available at Wal-Mart. - Terrell



Above: Several of the CSO family gather together to commemorate the 40th Anniversary Reenactment conclusion. Among the group is President Gary Dickinson on the far left. Reenactment committee chairwoman Wilahmena Lauramore is center. To her left is commanding Union General James Permane. CSO boardmember Gail Jessee wears the green hat. Commanding Confederate General Tom Jessee stands to her left. To the far right is our treasurer and photographer Paul Duran. At left is a moment from the always picturesque color guard ceremony on Saturday morning.

Historical Profile

Here was one of the Civil War's most unique and capable characters. The French Creole Beauregard was the overall commander of the Department of Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina during the Battle of Olustee.

Pierre Gustave Toutant-Beauregard was born May 28, 1818 on his family's sugarcane plantation outside of New Orleans in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana. He was the third of seven children born to Jacques Toutant-Beauregard. His French-speaking aristocratic upbringing valued European manners and held American culture in contempt. His family had him educated in a New Orleans boarding school before enrolling, at age eleven, in the Frères Peugnet School in New York City. The school's founders had served as officers under Napoléon Bonaparte and helped to inspire Beauregard's lifelong interest in the statesman-general. Against his family's wishes—they worried he was over-assimilating into American culture—Beauregard entered the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York in 1838. He finished second in a class of forty-five. After graduation, Beauregard served as an assistant to artillery instructor Robert Anderson and the two developed a close relationship. Later, the dashing “Gustav” would serve but a few days as the superintendent of West Point before stepping down to defend his native Louisiana in the new Confederacy. He enrolled as a private in the Orleans Guard, but was soon commissioned the very first Confederate brigadier-general and given command of the forces in South Carolina bearing down on Fort Sumter. In an ironic, if not sad turn of events, Beauregard now faced off against his former friend, co-worker, and teacher, Major Robert Anderson. The 35 hour bombardment blasted away the sea fort, ignited the war, and arguably made the Creole the first Confederate hero.

Before the Civil War, Beauregard served as a staff officer with Winfield Scott in Mexico. He won two brevets and was wounded at both Churubusco and Chapultepec. In the interwar years he was engaged in clearing the Mississippi River of obstructions. After the siege of Sumter, he was given command of the “Alexandria Line” and led his troops at Manassas Junction, Virginia to the first major Confederate victory. The battle shocked the North as the “Little Napoleon” (with the help of Gen. Joseph Johnston) defeated another Westpoint comrade, Irvin McDowell. At Shiloh in the West, PGT and fellow full-general Albert Sidney Johnston squared off with Grant. Johnston was killed. The Confederates drove the Federal army to the banks of the river when Beauregard called off the pursuit and declared victory. Grant was reinforced by riverboat and counter-attacked the next day. Southern forces fell back to Corinth, MS where typhoid decimated their ranks. Beauregard was forced to evacuate his army to Tupelo, leaving Corinth defenseless. This action and the increasing strains of war worked to deteriorate Beauregard's relationship with Davis and the Confederate government. A recurring throat forced his leave and recuperation for a time. When recovered, Beauregard was transferred to the Department of Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. He bolstered defenses at Charleston Harbor and repelled Federal forces, including the famous storming of Battery Wagner by the 54th Massachusetts.

As the 1864 Federal invasion of Florida unfolded, Beauregard

General P.G.T. Beauregard



took it very seriously. The frontier state had become important as a repository of food for the Southern armies. The “Frenchman” had trouble trusting the “Irishman” with the task at hand and for good reason: Finegan had no formal military training and experience prior to commanding the Florida state forces. PGT thought of going to Florida himself. When that became problematic, he directed Gen. William Taliaferro to proceed to the sunshine state and take command. Meanwhile, he ordered Finegan to harass and delay the enemy as best he could. Joseph Finegan made due and proved himself fully competent. Some say it was Colquitt's steadiness and daring that won the day, but it can also be said that Beauregard's remarkable management and concentration of troops that made victory in Florida possible.

PGT had reviewed the Florida forces in the summer of '63. “...We had one of the grandest times yesterday I have seen since the War commenced. Genl Beauregard came down to Review the troops at this place and with him came his Staff Genl Finegan and his Staff and about five wagonloads of ladies with their Staff. I think without any exaggeration there must have been about 75 -100 ladies. We gave a salute to the Genl of 9 guns fired from Dunham's Artillery, and My Co., Capt chambers, and Capt Row formed an escort for them. The day was suffocating and we had to be in the broiling sun and dust for about two hours “that part of it was dreadful.” The Genl complimented the command and said if the War continued, he would be glad to lead us into battle as we would win laurels...” Wintston Stephens, 2nd FL Cav.

Bibliography: Battle of Olustee, 1864 by Robert Broadwater, MacFarland & Company, Inc. Publishers. Confederate Florida, The Road to Olustee by William Nulty, University of Alabama Press, Rose Cottage Chronicles, edited by Blakely, Lainhart, & Stephens, Jr., EncyclopediaVirginia.org by Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, Who Was Who In the Civil War by Stewart Sifakis, Hand-tinted photo of Beauregard courtesy of KnowLA.org.

Osceola National Forest Highlights

There are two very short trails in the Osceola National Forest that are perfect for the very young and the very old. One we have previously mentioned is the *Fannie Bay Trail*, a one mile accessible trail that can be reached from Forest road 257-E off Forest Road 207, northeast of Ocean Pond.

Trampled Track Trail - Here is the other little trail. At only .1 mile, Trampled Track Trail around Ocean Pond delivers some historic education as well as beauty. While sauntering this little run, you can learn about the history of a turn of the century sawmill that was located nearby.

"FROM THE OCEAN POND PHOTO ARCHIVES"



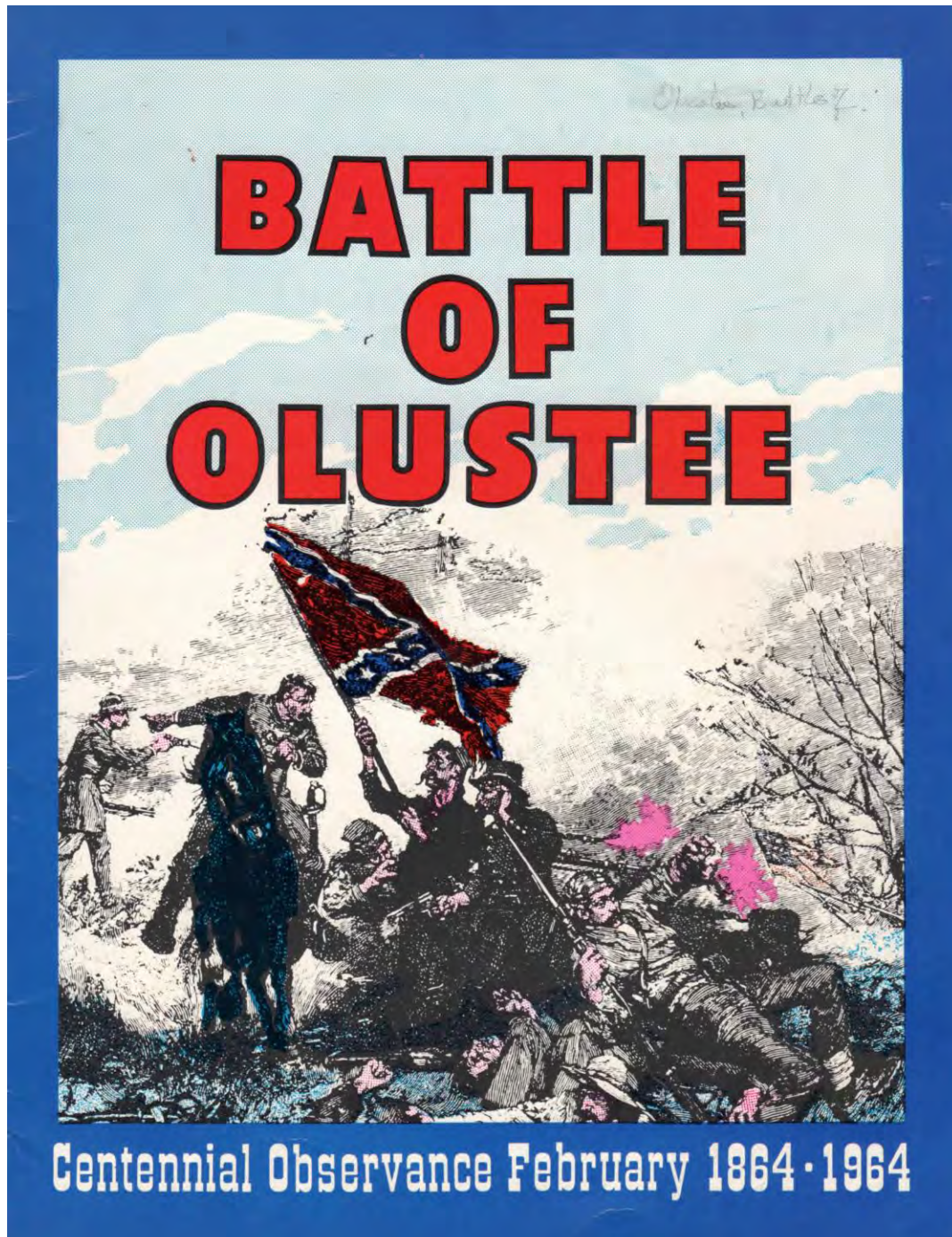
"Connecticut Colonel on a Cold Olustee Morn"

Terrell, 2004

(Battle of Olustee Reenactment Photo Gallery Archives)

SPECIAL EDITION EXTRA

In celebration of the 40th anniversary, the *Observer* continues its retrospection of reenactments past. On short notice, we could only turn up one photo from the first 1977 reenactment at the park. We featured that on the cover of the last issue. But we wanted to go even further back to the *original* 1964 reenactment at the Gator Bowl over 50 years ago. This was the 100th anniversary of the actual battle. An official request for photos from the Florida Time-Union archives yielded no results, but our friends at the *Jacksonville Historical Society* were able to deliver a beautiful PDF reproduction of the one remaining event program they have in their files. As we featured a few highlighted pages from this printed program, we offer very special thanks to the good people at JHS, especially Executive Director *Emily Lisska* and Archivist *Taryn Rodriguez-Boette*. Thank you!



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The Purpose



Today, with deep sentiment, we turn back the pages of our history one hundred years to the Battle of Olustee, small in comparison with some of the other conflicts of that war in numbers involved, but the largest and, by far, the most important battle in Florida during the War Between The States.

By our dramatization of this event today, we pay tribute to the valor of our forefathers, both Confederate and Union, who fought at Olustee.

In doing so we do not glorify war but we do glorify the heroism, devotion to duty, spirit of sacrifice and willingness to fight and die for the cause in which they believed, exhibited by the Americans on both sides who fought there.

When we Americans, now united as a nation, no longer admire and pay tribute to such qualities, when we are no longer willing to fight and die, if need be, for our country, no longer will we remain a free nation or a free people.

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FLORIDA IN THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

By DR. FREEMAN H. HART

A check of names listed in the Census of 1860 shows that the white population of Florida was less than 80,000, or only about one twentieth the size of Virginia the largest Confederate state or half as large as Arkansas the next smallest. However, Florida furnished eleven regiments of infantry to the Confederate Army and these participated in the great campaigns and battles of the War, in Virginia, Tennessee and wherever the action was decisive; at Shiloh, Gettysburg, Chicamauga, Cold Harbor. Counting the Cavalry regiments and battalions as well as batteries of artillery, the state furnished somewhere between eight and fourteen thousand men to the Confederate forces. This was the largest percentage of white population of any state in the Confederacy. (One conscription report for Florida claimed over 18,000. The Census of 1860 shows Florida had only 16,000 men of normal military age, that is 18-45. Virginia had 196,000 and Georgia had 111,000 men in this age group.)

In addition to fighting men, Florida's contribution in supplies was equally substantial. A report on the state as a source of supply made by a prominent official in 1864 showed that Florida was furnishing to the Confederacy annually 25,000 cattle, 10,000 hogs, 100,000 barrels of fish, 1,000 hoghead of sugar, 100,000 gallons of syrup along with leather and cotton and other material for equipping the armed forces. As the supply of salt for the South was cut off by the blockade this most necessary of supplies became one of Florida's leading contributions to the War effort. Using the ready method of making salt by boiling sea water the industry developed during the war until Floridians were producing salt by the thousands of bushels and to the extent that one of the major objectives of raiding Federal gun boats was to destroy the salt works that sprang up along the coast, particularly in West Florida.

Because of its location, newness as a state, and rather sparse population the Confederate government in Rich-

mond found it difficult to find a necessity for detaching Florida, especially when pressure was greater elsewhere. As a result Florida was left to shift for itself. After the Federal navy took over such strong points as Fernandina, St. Augustine, Key West and Pensacola, the armed conflict (except for the crucial battle of Olustee) took the form chiefly of a number of smaller engagements and of raids by Federal warships against such coast towns as Apalachicola, St. Marks, Cedar Key and Tampa on the west coast and New Smyrna on the east coast. The three or four occupations of Jacksonville were little more than prolonged raids, except that control of the St. Johns River was continued during the later years of the war and extended as far inland as Palatka. These raids sometimes involved fights between Confederate and Federal gun boats, some of which still lie on the bottoms of Florida rivers.

One of the chief results of the coastal raids was that the Confederates fled to the interior towns leaving the coastal towns in the hands of loyalists to the Union. This gave Mr. Lincoln and others the impression of a larger loyal element than actually existed. A contemporary reported that the loyal element in the state was never over five to ten per cent. Even the sixty thousand or more Negro slaves and free Negroes proved loyal to the extent that very few



of them enlisted in the Federal regiments when the opportunity was presented.

Confederate leadership from Florida was particularly conspicuous. General Kirby-Smith from St. Augustine, twice decorated for bravery in the Mexican War, came into prominence early in the War. He was in command of the re-enforcements for the Confederates at First Manassas, or Bull Run, which brought a great victory for the Confederacy there. This, and his later invasion of Kentucky, won the admiration of President Jefferson Davis and Gen. Robert E. Lee resulting in Gen. Kirby-Smith being placed in command of the Confederate forces of the Trans-Mississippi Department comprising Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas.

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FLORIDA IN THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

*FOOTNOTES

The Confederate Army consisted of 4,600 men and 12 guns.
The units were as follows:

Brig. Gen. Joseph Finegan, Commanding.

First Brigade (Infantry), Brigadier General A. H. Colquitt;
6th Georgia, Colonel John T. Lofton
19th Georgia, Colonel James H. Neal
23rd Georgia, Lt. Colonel James H. Huggins
27th Georgia, Colonel Charles T. Zachry
28th Georgia, Colonel Tully Graybill
6th Florida Battalion, Lt. Colonel John M. Martin
Chatham (Georgia) Artillery (4 guns), attached, Capt. John F. Wheaton

Second Brigade (Infantry), Colonel George F. Harrison, 32nd Georgia;
32nd Georgia Volunteers, Major W. T. Holland
1st Georgia Regulars, Captain H. A. Cannon
64th Georgia Regulars, Colonel John W. Evans
1st Florida Battalion, Lieut. Colonel Charles F. Hopkins
Bonaud's Battalion (Ga.), Major A. Bonaud
Guerard's (Ga.) Battery (4 guns), attached, Capt. John M. Guerard

Cavalry Brigade, Colonel Caraway Smith, 2nd Florida Cavalry;
4th Georgia Cavalry, Colonel Duncan L. Clinch (250)
2nd Florida Cavalry, Lt. Col. A. H. McCormich (202)
5th Florida Cavalry Battalion, Major G. W. Scott (140) approx.

Reserve: Florida Light Artillery (4 guns), Captain R. H. Gamble
Colonel R. B. Thomas was assigned as Chief of Artillery.

The Union Army numbered 5,500 men and 16 guns:

Brig. Gen. Truman Seymour, Commanding.

Col. J. R. Hawley's Infantry Brigade:

47th New York
48th New York
115th New York

Col. J. R. Hawley's Infantry Brigade:

7th Connecticut
7th New Hampshire
8th U. S. Colored

Col. James Montgomery's Infantry Brigade:

1st North Carolina Colored
54th Massachusetts Colored

Col. G. V. Henry's Mounted Brigade:

40th Massachusetts Mounted Infantry
Independent Massachusetts Cavalry
Battery B, 1st U. S. Artillery

Captain John Hamilton's Artillery:

Battery E, 3rd U. S. Artillery which included Sec. C, 3rd Rhode Island,
and Battery M, 1st U. S. Artillery.



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HOME OFFICE: JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

BATTLE OF OLUSTEE CENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE

February 22, 1964

Jacksonville, Florida

PROGRAM OF EVENTS:

FEBRUARY 20th

- 3:00 P.M. Memorial Services for General Joseph Finegan, CSA at Old City Cemetery, Jacksonville, Sponsored by Kirby-Smith Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans and ten Jacksonville Chapters, United Daughters of Confederacy. Mrs. Y. W. Kirkland, Olustee Chapter, UDC, in Charge.

FEBRUARY 22nd

- 10:30 A.M. Parade forms on streets near Civic Auditorium.
- 11:00 A.M. Parade marches through business district of Jacksonville.
Bands, Skirmishers, Centennial Units, and other Troops, Decorated Cars, Floats, Patriotic Groups, SCV, UDC, WRC, SUV, etc. will be in line of march.
- 12:30 P.M. Barbecue for NSSA and Confederate Centennial Troops at Gator Bowl.
- 3:30 P.M. Welcome by Hon. Haydon Burns, Mayor, City of Jacksonville, at Gator Bowl.
Special Exhibitions by NSSA and Confederate Centennial Units.
- 4:00 P.M. Dramatization of Battle of Olustee, Nathan Mallison, Director, Hal Harris, Narrator.
- 5:30 to 8:00 P.M.—Free for North South Fraternization.
- 9:00 P.M. Costume Ball, George Washington Hotel.

FEBRUARY 23rd

- 3:00 P.M. Memorial Service for Gen. Alfred Holt Colquitt, CSA, at His Monument, Olustee State Park. Sponsored by Alfred Holt Colquitt Chapter, United Daughters of Confederacy of Atlanta, Ga., Mrs. Slade H. Exley, President.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SOLDIERS OF FLORIDA

This shaft is by a comrade raised
In testimony of his love
Recalling deeds immortal
Heroism unsurpassed.

With ranks unbroken, ragged,
starved and decimated, the
Southern soldier, for duty's sake,
Undaunted stood to the front
of the battle
until no light remained
to illumine the field of carnage
save the luster of his chivalry
and courage.

"Nor shall your glory be forgot
while fame her record keeps,
Or honor points the hallowed spot
where valor proudly sleeps."

These words appear on the Confederate monument,
located in Hemming Park in downtown Jacksonville,
erected by Charles Hemming in 1898. This park was for-

merly part of the Hemming Plantation and was donated
to the city by the Hemming family. At the age of only 17,
Charles Hemming entered Confederate service with a
company of Florida cavalry under the command of his
uncle, the gallant Capt. Benjamin Edward duPont. He
volunteered for the hazardous duty of scout. Just prior to
the Battle of Olustee, he donned a Union uniform, pene-
trated the camps of the invading Union army, ascertained
its approximate strength in infantry, cavalry and artillery,
escaped safely and reported this valuable intelligence to
Gen. Finnegan. He fought in the Battle of Olustee with
Capt. duPont's Florida cavalry.

In these beautiful and touching lines, Charles Hem-
ming speaks of a love for comrades-in-arms, tempered in
the fire of battle, and his unbounded admiration for their
bravery, self-sacrifice and devotion to duty in the face of
hardship, privation and overwhelming odds.

These qualities were typical of the Confederate soldier
regardless of his State. Truly, their's was a "heroism un-
surpassed" which won the respect and admiration of the
world. May we, today, highly resolve that their deeds
shall never be forgot, that the proud heritage bequeathed
to us by our ancestors shall be passed on to our children.
As a nation united, we need the same courage and de-
termination today if we are to survive as a free people.

(History of Charles Hemming furnished by his cousin, Mrs. Alfred Montague
Aichel, formerly Evelyn duPont Hopkins, of Jacksonville.)



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Units Participating in the Parade and Dramatization of the Battle and Their Commanding Officers

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Col. W. Clifton Elder, C.O.
Burlington, N. C.

12th Georgia Light Infantry
Col. R. M. Verner, C.O.
Marietta, Georgia

Confederate High Command
Gen. Donald A. Ramsay, GIC
General Headquarters
Nashville, Tenn.

Confederate High Command
Department of South Carolina
Headquarters Staff
Col. E. L. Gehry, M.D., C.O.
Orangeburg, S.C.

4th Tennessee Calvary
Richard L. Cornwell, C.O.
Nashville, Tenn.

Starrs Battery
13th North Carolina Artillery Bn.
Sgt. Maj. Wayne Wellons, C.O.
Fayetteville, North Carolina

1st Maryland Artillery
Sgt. Maj. George E. Bryant, C.O.
Mayo, Maryland

Phillips Legion
Maj. Gen. Herbert C. McCollum, C.O.
Marietta, Ga.

41st Georgia Regiment
Co. B., Kennesaw Volunteers
Sgt. Robert E. Lee Gray, C.O.
Atlanta, Georgia

Palmetto Volunteers
Capt. R. V. Graham, Jr., C.O.
Orangeburg, South Carolina

1st Georgia Volunteer Infantry
Col. R. M. Verner, C.O.
Marietta, Ga.

Ogelthorpe Light Infantry
Maj. Lindsey P. Henderson, Jr., C.O.
Savannah, Georgia

13th Confederate Infantry
Sgt. John M. Hardy, C.O.
Silver Springs, Maryland

35th Virginia Calvary
Lt. Col. Henry C. Horn, C.O.
Kensington, Maryland

1st Battalion, 1st Tennessee Infantry
Maj. Charles W. Caldwell, C.O.
Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Co. E., 33rd Virginia Volunteer Infantry
Capt. D. Coiner Rosen, C.O.
New Market, Virginia

Irish Light Regulars
Sgt. Philip Shannon Harper, C.O.
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Orleans Artillery
Capt. Edward J. Byrne, Jr., C.O.
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Capitol Guards, Co. A., 6th Arkansas
Capt. R. V. Wilson, Jr., C.O.
Little Rock, Ark.

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Adj. Herbert Hochradel, C.O.
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19th Ohio Regiment
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Gordon Ramrods
Gordon Military College
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11th Pennsylvania Infantry, Co. D.
Sgt. Edwin O. Ranck, C.O.
So. Williamsport, Pa.

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Maj. Steve Bunker, C.O.
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Whittington, David Sundby, Wilton Ramsey, Coleman Raines.

We also gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Ed Phillips and
the 400th Military Police, P.O.W. Camp and the assistance of the Jack-
sonville Junior Chamber of Commerce, Calvin Roche, President.

We are indebted to the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad for handling all
arrangements for the Confederate railroad gun, and to Major Lindsey
P. Henderson, Jr. of Savannah, Georgia for furnishing the Parrott gun
used for that purpose.



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EDITOR'S CORNER

I've traveled around the country, even overseas and some of the best people I've met are in the living history community, the Lake City festival folks, and the Florida Park Service as well. From civilian reenactors to the men and women of the Florida Department of the Gulf, Hardy's Brigade, those amazing USCT reenactors from parts near, far, and wide, many of the Northern Union reenacting groups that make their way here, and others throughout the Southland – *there's a lot of smart, dedicated, hard-working people for you!*

This year's Ray Giron award-winners exemplify these types of individuals. In the many years I spent as a photographer at the reenactment event, I received great treatment from the CSO and the FPS. (I remember Mitzi Nelson supplying many thrilling golf cart rides, shuttling me and my camera gear around.) Let's join and congratulate the winners again and hope they keep on keep'in on with many more years of quality volunteer work.



Above: Mr. Lincoln is taking a moment to bend this young fellow's ear. What could he be discussing? Perhaps he's pointing out the importance of reconciliation for a future United States of America, not to mention its importance to the entire world someday - - or perhaps he's just posing for a good picture.