

Olustee Observer - July 2001
P.O. Box 382
Glen St. Mary, Florida 32040



Olustee Historical Exposition -
September 22-23 2001
Battle of Olustee Reenactment -
February 15-16-17, 2002

<http://battleofolustee.org/>

Olustee Battlefield Citizens Support Organization Membership Application

I wish to become a member of the Olustee Battlefield Citizens Support Organization,
and to support its efforts in maintaining a part of Florida's, and our nation's, history.

Check one: new member renewing member

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE: work _____ home _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

Please select your membership category:

Individual \$10 Family \$15 Patron \$30 Organizational \$50
 Individual Life \$100 Corporate Friend \$500 Corporate Sponsor \$1000

Make checks payable to: "Olustee Battlefield CSO," and mail to:
Olustee Battlefield CSO, P.O. Box 382, Glen St. Mary, Florida 32040

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE
DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION
DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

Staples

"What we have here is a problem in communication." - from Cool Hand Luke. When I took the last issue of the **Olustee Observer** to Kinko's for reproduction, I told them to staple each issue, showing where I wanted it stapled. When I returned I found they had **stapled it as a booklet**. It was late Saturday afternoon and I had several choices: yell at the person behind the counter, wait until Monday and come back and yell at the manager and ask for it to be redone, unstaple the 130 copies myself and then mail it, or let each of you unstaple your own copy. Since I wanted to put the issue in the mail and I still had to stamp and label each copy, I decided to let you do some work too. Sorry about that. Hopefully, this issue is done correctly. As for the 130 copies -- we don't have that many members. Only about half go to members, and the rest go to the other Florida park CSOs.

Museum Progress

The **Museum Planning Committee** held a workshop June 23, 2001 at the Olustee Ranger Station. Curt Bowman and Eleanor Hughes (Hughes/Bowman Design Group Inc. hired by the CSO to perform the interpretive planning work for the proposed museum) led a dozen attendees through the exercise of reviewing the work already done by U. S. Architect Bill Spears and discussed what must be done as we begin the interpretive planning process. Two major activities scheduled to be resolved by 2002 are: the approved location of the museum building or buildings and the approved charter to staff the complex after it is built. They also discussed the concept of a "Dynamic Master Plan," which provides for a cluster of smaller buildings of period architecture. This lends itself to a phasing process reducing the amount of funding required to get started. The next workshop is

scheduled for **August 25, 2001**, at the Ranger Station. - Gene Ingram, Planning Committee Chairman.

How I Was Captured

William Trimmer served in Adell's Artillery Battery (CSA). He was captured by the Independent Massachusetts Mounted Infantry as it pushed ahead of the Federal infantry on the road to Olustee. William Trimmer and his memories of the Federal advance into north central Florida are related in **his reminisces** now available on the Battle of Olustee Web site.. Trimmer relates some very nice episodes of camp life (including a dance with local girls) and his duties before he was ordered to join Finnegan's army.

Cover Photo

That good looking young soldier on this issue's cover is **Dennis Dixon** of the 32nd Georgia. See that unit's page on the Battle of Olustee site for details on Dixon's life.

Stars and Stripes

Who hasn't heard of the **Stars and Stripes**? This military newspaper has been around for a long time - in fact, as far back as the Civil War. The recent issue of the University of Missouri alumni magazine has a letter from one member stating that the first **Stars and Strips** was first published in Bloomfield, Missouri, in 1861. It seems that when Union forces occupied Bloomfield, the troops found that the local newspaper office had been abandoned. The troops took over the presses and put out a newspaper they called the **Stars and Stripes**. A library and museum in Bloomfield memorializes the newspaper and even has one of the only three known copies of the first issue.

Florida Parks Lead The USA

Last year saw our CSO selected as the best in the Florida Park system, while the Florida Park system was selected as the **best in the USA**. Someone must have been watching.

On June 4, 2001, at a press conference held at the Everglades National Park, President Bush announced his intent to nominate **Fran P. Mainella**, Director of the Florida Division of Recreation and Parks since 1989, to be the 16th Director of the National Park Service. Her confirmation hearing was held on June 27, and the Senate unanimously confirmed her in mid-July. Fran brought national recognition and many innovations to the Florida Park Service, while preserving the traditions that have given that organization a special esprit de corps. She is the first woman to ever hold the position of Director of the National Park Service. After successfully managing Florida's 155 state parks, she will be in charge of 384 national parks, which attract over 287 million visitors per year. - Park Service News Release

From John Thrush

On behalf of all our members, John Thrush, CSO president, wishes to extend sincere condolences to **Susan Ketts**, whose father recently passed away, and to **Wilhamena Larramore**, on the loss of her mother. Both are members of our Board of directors and Susan is also the federal representative to the CSO from the Osceola National Forest.

John wishes to remind everyone that the next **board meeting** will be 10:00 Sunday morning at the Olustee Exposition. Please be there as there were not enough board members at the last scheduled meeting to allow the board to transact business. Plus, there will be a **reenactment committee meeting** on that

Saturday evening, after the evening meal.

Area Code

The area code for the Stephen Foster Cultural Center and the Olustee Battlefield Historic Site, as well as for many other former 904 numbers, has changed to **386**. The 904 is now limited to Duval County (Jacksonville) and other extreme NW Florida areas.

Publicity Hound

Please give a warm welcome to **Martha Nelson**, who now handles publicity for the CSO and the Olustee Historic Battlefield Site. Martha is a member of the Florida Park Service at the Stephen Foster Cultural Center and is the new Information Specialist. Martha has already generated some news releases (see one below) and you should look for a mention of the Exposition in an upcoming AAA magazine. She is also working to bring several more authentic artisans to the Exposition.

Exposition News Release

The Olustee Civil War Exposition is a weekend of authentic military drills and historic talks with reenactors, period artisans and sutlers scheduled for **September 22-23, 2001** at the Olustee Battlefield Historic Site.

This year's Expo featured reenactors talking about the events that preceded the battle and the provisions of both Union and Confederate soldiers. **Bob McClendon** will talk about the three week Olustee campaign. **Gene Ingram** will discuss Sanderson's Station as a strategic point before the engagement of troops. **Thomas Fasulo** will demonstrate the dress and gear of the Federal soldier. While **Brian Kepner** will talk about how tents and supplies were changed by the demands of battle and troop mobility.

Demonstrations of authentic weapons and fighting tactics used in the Civil War include cavalry and infantry drills and artillery firing. A **ladies tea** and exhibits of **relic collections** are also scheduled for the Exposition.

The Battle of Olustee was fought in February 1864 when Union troops marched west from Jacksonville seeking to deprive the Confederacy of food and other supplies from Central Florida. Olustee was the largest Civil War battle fought in Florida. It ended with a Confederate victory, 2,807 casualties, and the containment of Union troops to the Jacksonville area until the war ended nearly 14 months later.

No pets are allowed at the Olustee Civil War Expo. A donation of \$3 per vehicle is requested. All proceeds benefit the Olustee Battlefield Citizens Support Organization and the Olustee Battlefield Historic Site. The Olustee Civil War Exposition is sponsored by the CSO, the Florida Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

For additional **press information contact**: Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park, P.O. Drawer G, White Springs, FL 32096. (386) 397-2722, Fax (386) 397-4262 - e-mail: Martha.J.Nelson@dep.state.fl.us

Student - Teacher Package

Rippavilla Plantation, in Columbia, Tennessee, is that state's Civil War counterpart to Florida's Gamble House. While Rippavilla has numerous connections with the Civil War, it is most famous as General Hood's headquarters before the Battle of Nashville. It was while his Army of Tennessee was here that General Schofield's Union Army of the Ohio was able to slip past the Confederates along the Columbia-Nashville Pike, defeat the Confederate at the Battle of Franklin and rejoin General Thomas'

Union Army of the Tennessee for the Battle of Nashville. It was the Battle of Nashville that finally destroyed Confederate military strength in the western theater. One of the volunteers at Rippavilla asked permission to use some of the material from our Battle of Olustee WWW site in a large teacher/student activity package they were assembling. I gave such permission and 10 pages of the 65-page package is devoted to our material.

Printable Handouts

Battle of Olustee and Olustee Exposition "posters" are included in this issue. Both can be copied and distributed or posted by members. The Exposition poster was prepared by **Martha Nelson**, and you can contact her for more copies, if you wish. The Battle Poster is also available from the Battle of Olustee WWW site, under the Reenactment section.

Web Site Stats

As of 4 August, the Battle of Olustee WWW site had 133,199 "hits" for the main page. For 2001, this averages out to **119 hits a day**. This does not reflect users viewing other pages as hundreds of other Web sites link directly to other pages within our Web site.

Newsletter News

My thanks to the following for contributing to this issue: Gene Ingram, Martha Nelson, John Thrush, the Florida Park Service, the University of Missouri Alumni magazine, and that guy who works Saturdays at Kinko's. The next issue will be prepared in late October. Please send newsletter items to Thomas Fasulo at **fasulo@ufl.edu** .