

Olustee Observer - January 2002
P.O. Box 382
Glen St. Mary, Florida 32040



Battle of Olustee Reenactment
February 15-16-17, 2002
Olustee Historical Exposition
September 21, 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.

The Rattle of Musketry

Just in case your attention has been elsewhere, the twenty-sixth annual reenactment of the **138th Anniversary of the Battle of Olustee** will take place at the Olustee State Historic Site on **February 15-16-17, 2002**. CSO volunteers are needed to perform many functions before, during and after the event. Please contact John Thrush at thrush@coj.net if you can help out.

President's Report

On January 12th, we held our last reenactment committee meeting prior to the annual reenactment. Everything seems to be falling into place for another exiting and well run event. As always we are looking for volunteers to assist in all kinds of things. If you can help, please show up and contact me. This is our big event for the year and it will not hurt our members to get out and help.

On the same date we held our board of directors meeting. Besides the same old stuff we were presented with a check for \$1,000 by **Dean and Anita Lauramore** to go towards the funding of the new museum. Thanks for the start! We were also notified that **Valinda Subic**, our park manager, was in the Lake City hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with her. We voted to purchase some reference books for the park, which started a committee on assembling a reference library. If you have any books that might fit the bill please donate them. We are going to use the books as needed, i.e., if we get duplicates we will sell or trade them to further expand our library. Any donation will be appreciated.

We will let everyone know our meeting date for the **annual meeting** in April. However, on April 6th, there will be a Civil War work day at the park. There will be both education

and work. It is in conjunction with a nationwide observance. So please show up and have some fun. See every one at the reenactment. I also want to thank all of my support staff for helping me get things done again this year. I could not do my job without them. Thanks! - John Thrush

Web Site Report.

Our Web site made the **Civil War News**. Dave Smith, who reviews Web sites for that monthly newspaper, did an article on "Christmas in the Civil War." One of the stories he quoted from was "A Florida Lad's F o u r C h r i s t m a s e s " at <http://battleofolustee.org/related/cw-xmas.htm>.

Martha Nelson, Information Specialist for the state parks at White Springs and Olustee, started in that position last year. So she didn't know that all the **rules, regulations and applications** for the reenactment were also suppose to be on the Web site. Even I had forgotten to ask for them due to my health problems this past year. It was only while we were discussing something else during December that the subject came up. However, Martha quickly e-mailed me all the information and they went right up on the site. All of the reenactor applications are now in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, which saves me a lot of time. Thanks, Martha!

We have also added a new photograph of **Brigadier General Joseph Finegan**, the Confederate commander at Olustee, as well as one of **Pvt. William S. Askew**, 1st Georgia Regulars. I also have other photos that I will be posting over the next few months.

On the Federal side, we added a new photograph of General Truman Seymour, the Federal Commander, more information on **Cpl. James Henry Gooding**, 54th

Massachusetts and updated the fascinating story of **Major Archibald Bogle**, 35th USCI. Once thought to have been killed at Olustee, Major Bogle actually spent time at Andersonville Prison where he underwent many misadventures due to the fact that he commanded colored troops. We only learned this when one of his ancestors, **James Bogle** of South Carolina, contacted me with pension paperwork submitted by his widow. Now James has provided documentation showing that after the war, Archibald Bogle continued in the U.S. Army and was eventually court martialed while serving with the 24th Infantry in Texas for shooting at a regimental assistant surgeon who was actually sitting down at the time, eating a meal with his family. For complete details, see the Web site.

Don't forget to check out the listing of 2002 Florida Civil War events in the Web site, available from the main menu under **Florida Civil War Events**.

CSO secretary **Mitzi Nelson** reports that we now have an e-mail for providing information on the Historic Site and the events that are held there. The address is **olusteecso@yahoo.com** and is also available as a "mailto:" on the Web site. Please remember, that we all have plenty to do and send e-mail only if you can't find the answer on the Web site.

Increased Attendance?

If you notice a few more spectators at the reenactment this year, it will be Martha Nelson's fault. She placed a free notice about the event in **Going Places**, the monthly magazine of the national AAA travel club's southern branch. This magazine goes out to 2.1 million members in the southeastern United States.

Member News

On January 12-13, long time CSO member **Jeff Grzelak** organized a reenactor's march to recreate General Birney's 1864 Raid on Starke's Plantation and destruction of the gristmill at what is now DeLeon Springs State Park. The march was part of an annual living history held there. The march even included Confederate Cavalry skirmishing with the Federal troops. Men from at least five different Federal units participated. Jeff is a member of the 17th Connecticut Volunteers and that regiment helped burn the mill in 1864. Fortunately, the gristmill was rebuilt and is now a great place to eat do-it-yourself pancakes or other breakfast foods - and a wonderful perk for participating in this event.

Brian Terrell, who joined the CSO just last year, is making significant progress on the production of his video (currently titled February Sundown - March To Olustee). Brian is a video and film producer/director with the Jacksonville Fox and UPN TV affiliates, and became interested in making the video after discovering that an ancestor was killed in that battle. However, Brian's video concentrates on the people involved in the battle, rather than the battle itself. He has been all across Florida shooting film at historic sites, reenactments and living histories, and hopes to complete the project this year. He plans for the video include for-sale copies, donating the video to the Olustee Museum for viewing there, as well as segments for viewing on the Web site.

Reenactment Events

As last year, the Federal 1st battalion, under the command of Bob Lyons, will be on the march Saturday and arrive on the field in time for the afternoon's battle. While on the march

they will be harassed by Confederate skirmishers. Meanwhile, the other two Federal battalions, under the command of Bill Danforth and Matt Murdzak, will be present at the site to perform demonstrations and camp life for the spectators.

Martha Nelson and **Eric Hague** wish to announce a new addition to the reenactment this year, in cooperation with **Mary Fears**, a retired school teacher and member of the Central Florida Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society. Ms. Fears and her group will present **Storytelling: African American Women during the Civil War and the importance of slave quilts**. This event is offered on all three days. Check the schedule on the Web.

Once again, reenactors and living historians will be busy on Friday offering presentations to school students. **Students are admitted free on Friday** and teachers need to contact the park for scheduling information. If you can help out, **contact John Thrush or Martha Nelson**. Unfortunately, the number of students will be down this year as state budget recalls have resulted in limiting the funds schools can use for travel to this type of event. On the positive side, this could be the perfect year for home schoolers and private schools to take advantage of the free admission and presentations as the presenters will have more time to discuss aspects of the war. Please pass the word in your community. Teachers or parents planning to attend with students should contact Mitzi Nelson or Martha Nelson at olustecso@yahoo.com.

Museum News

Gene Ingram reports that on Saturday, January 12, at a CSO board meeting held at the Olustee Battlefield, a discussion was held

regarding the proposed Olustee Museum. Another Museum Workshop was held on February 2, when the Hughes/Bowman Design Group reported on their development of the interpretive plan. A final draft will then be written and distributed in booklet form at the final workshop (date to be announced later). The Design Group will attend the reenactment of the battle of Olustee in February to observe and take photos for inclusion in the final plan. It was learned a meeting was held November 9, 2001, at the Olustee Ranger Station discussing the proposed museum. Those attending were, **Brian Polk**, Florida Park Service, Bureau of Natural and Cultural Resources, **Susan Kett**, U. S. Forest Service, **Valinda Subic**, Florida Park Service, Park Manager and **John Thrush**, Olustee Battlefield CSO President. They resolved the State would own the building pending lease requirements. The site is tentatively located on USFS property, west of the current Interpretive Center. The Florida Park Service Bureau of Design and Recreation Services will serve as Project Manager For Planning and Construction. The CSO will fund the project through grants, private fund-raising, PIP program, etc. Estimated project cost is a minimum of one million dollars. [Oh my God! Don't forget to pay your dues!] Staffing will be worked out between the Florida Park Service and the US Forest Service, however the facility should be designed to be self guiding. An entry fee could be collected also a parking fee. Subsequent information on the project should be solicited from the Florida Park Service Bureau.

Museum Donations

Thank you **Anita and Dean Lauramore** for donating one thousand dollars toward the building of the Olustee Battlefield Museum. CSO Treasurer Paul Duran has set up a special account classification for donations.

We encourage others to help fund this project, which when completed will be a place of enjoyment and study for reenactors, living historians, students and the general public. **Donations may be mailed to:** Olustee Battlefield CSO, P.O. Box 382, Glen St. Mary, Florida 32040. - Gene Ingram

Monument Repairs

John E. Maseman, a conservator of historic structures, traveled to Olustee last Fall to inspect the Confederate monument to determine the level of deterioration caused by time and weather. Iron deposits in the granite, separation of concrete and surface flecking



were examined carefully to assess the stability of the monument, originally built in 1912. The inspection was conducted under the auspices of the Florida Park Service and the Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation to develop appropriate conservation measures to protect the monument from further deterioration. - Martha Nelson

Flight to Freedom

Bowdoin College recently created **Flight to Freedom**, an online game about the slave experience before the Civil War. Users take on the roles of historical figures and go through a series of events. While going from city to city, they must deal with such details

as their character's health, money, and proximity to family members. Undergraduates at the college provided research and content for the historical simulation, while IT professionals teamed up with professors to create the programs. The site does contain a warning however: "We hope you find this website educational. We warn you: it may not always be pleasant. We have taken from the pages of history -- from the words of those who actually escaped servitude to write their own stories -- in an effort to give voice to those who have remained for too long without a voice." The Flight to Freedom site is at <http://academic.bowdoin.edu/flighttofreedom/intro.shtml>



That Took Gall!

Valinda Subic, park manager for White Springs and the Olustee State Historic Site parks was recently in the hospital to have her gallbladder removed. Although the CSO sent

flowers and a card, Valinda would probably have preferred that we had sent someone in her stead. All joking aside, Mitzi Nelson reports that Valinda was in the hospital for two weeks and was sick with a viral infection in her liver that also spread to her pancreas. Fortunately, Valinda is now recovering at home and I recently received e-mail from her when she was able to go to the office for a few hours. - Tom Fasulo

Next Issue

Please send your Olustee and other Civil War news and activities by CSO members to me at fasulo@ufl.edu. The next issue is scheduled for late April. I want to thank Jeff Grzelak, Gene Ingram, Martha Nelson, Mitzi Nelson, Brian Terrell and John Thrush for contributing to this issue.

I apologize for the newsletter not coming out on time so members could attend some of the meetings listed above or have advance notice of events, but I once again had problems obtaining the mailing labels. At print time (February 9th) I still don't have them, but I decided to have the newsletter printed today hoping I receive the labels in the mail this afternoon and can then mail the newsletter tomorrow.

It is a brand new year, so don't forget to renew your membership. But why go through the trouble of renewing every year? Become a life member for only \$100. As an incentive, those who become life members receive a free Battle of Olustee video.



CSO President John Thrush helps John Maseman by pointing out the location of the Olustee Confederate Monument.

One last word (since we still have space): We have an award winning Web site. Out of hundreds of thousands of Civil War sites on the Web, we are included as "...one of only 95 sites selected as 'the cream of the crop...'" in the book **The Civil War on the Web: A Guide to the Very Best Sites**, written by faculty from the University of Virginia's Center for Digital History. A great deal of the credit for this award goes to all those people who sent me letters and photographs of their ancestors. Most of these people are not in the CSO and they share their valuable resources without compensation. Yet I still see notices about the CSO and our events listed without any mention of our Web site. Please remember to mention the site in any notices you generate as CSO members or as individuals.

Remember, finding the site is as easy as typing the word "**Olustee**" into any Internet search engine.