

OLUSTEE OBSERVER

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Editor's Corner

Greetings!

Well, I've returned intact from a really fabulous vacation this summer; survived political shenanigans with my job; planned, planned and planned some more for upcoming reenactments and living histories we'll be attending and/or hosting and I'm ready to roll out this, the first electronic version of *The Olustee Observer*!

We toured the Mall at Washington, D.C. including the Vietnam Wall, and the World War II and Korean Memorials, which I hadn't seen before and are so sobering and affecting. The Lincoln memorial, which I had seen before, was still somber and almost spiritual and there was an immense sense of respect and awe by tourists visiting, American and other nationalities alike.

I bought a book about Thomas Jefferson, written by his granddaughter in 1878, which included her memoirs and his letters throughout his life. I visited several historic homes, including the Chatham house in Fredericksburg, which had the distinction of being visited, not only by me, but by Presidents Washington and Lincoln. We also visited Harper's Ferry, Manassas, and Mount Vernon.

Last, but not least, was the reenactment and surroundings of Gettysburg. The event, while not the epitome of reenactments, was a fun event and it was great to see a large number of people we knew from Florida and elsewhere. The Gettysburg Memorial Park and the new Gettysburg Civil War Museum were spectacular and I recommend you visit both if you haven't had the opportunity yet.

The main thing I wanted to impart about my excellent vacation was the emphasis it unexpectedly had for me about politics. Normally this isn't a subject I get all worked up over. But, in visiting all these places so steeped in history, and reading the words of the fathers and heroes of this country, I became very impassioned about who will continue to lead this country. In their words I learned that we have always had strife and seemingly insurmountable problems, but here we are. John Adams stated (and I'm paraphrasing, forgive me) that the impressive painting, Declaration of Independence, done by John Trumbull and exhibited in the Capitol



Rotunda, was a sham because it was so orderly and beautiful. He said that the meeting of these political minds was anything but orderly and beautiful and he wasn't a bit impressed with the painting. Some things never change.

So, if you don't do anything else meaningful this year, do one thing – vote! It's one of the most important freedoms we have.

And yes, that's me below, with my husband Ken, and the next generation of reenactors, our grandson Erick. Now you have a face to the name.

Cris

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- The next Reenactment Committee and CSO Board meeting will be held on January 10, 2009 at 10:00 a.m and 1:00 p.m. respectively at Olustee Park. This is also a work day at the park. If the weather is not agreeable, the meetings will be moved to the Ranger Station offices.
- The annual District Volunteers picnic will be held on March 14, 2009 at Dudley Farms (just outside of Gainesville).

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

- DVD's of the Battle of Olustee are now available for \$20.00 . Please contact Mitzi Nelson at Margaret A. Nelson@dep.state/fl.us if you are interested in purchasing one (or two or three!)
- Photos of last year's Olustee Expo were included in a recent edition of the *Civil War News* – we just keep getting better and better!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO CSO'S AND PARKS WHO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER

Please send me your email addresses as soon as possible. Our objective is to get as many copies of the news-letter sent out electronically as possible. It not only helps our budget, it gets the info to you faster.

“October. This is one of the peculiarly dangerous months to speculate in stocks. The others are July, January, September, April, November, May, March, June, December, August, and February.”

- The **Olustee Expo** had another very successful year with 492 visitors and over \$800 in revenue generated by attendees!

ODDS & ENDS

- Please! Use your Volunteer Log Book. It's the only way to show those long hours you put in service.
- Also, **did you know** that if you fill in your booklet of volunteer hours and reach 500 hours, the park service in Tallahassee will give you a free family park pass for 1 year!
- **Membership dues** need paid? Send to Olustee CSO. Membership, P.O. Box 382, Glen St. Mary, FL 32040
- **Change of address?** Notify Cris Giddens at Chifos@aol.com or send notification with your next dues payment.
- If you are interested in what's happening for the ladies at the 2009 Battle of Olustee, check out *145th Anniversary, Battle of Olustee, Ladies Activities* at www.battleofolustee.org

Welcome New Members!

Lori Collett ~ Jacksonville, FL

Stephen Romeo – Keystone Heights, FL

A Heartfelt Thank You to Volunteers!

Susan Kett of U.S. forestry set up a tent with archeologist Micah Mones, who demonstrated arrow head making and exhibited Civil War artifacts recovered from the Olustee Battlefield.

Frank Ofeldt and volunteers from Fort Clinch State Park and Bob Farrar with Carnes Battery fired Cannons for Park Visitors.

Exhibitors Ben Willingham and Randy Kerlin from Jacksonville's Museum of Southern History and Eric Hague had swords, pistols, rifles and other military sundry for viewing.

Reenactment Cavalry held a skirmish at the wood line, commanded by George Scott 2nd Florida and Larry Rowe 10th Tenn.

The "North Florida Civilian Society" showed their skills at knitting, cooking, and drying beef, and Susan Rooks even showed how lead bullets could be made while waiting for water to boil.

Representing "Golden Tea Cup Society" from Jacksonville was Diane Gleason, with Jean Dominguez demonstrating Spinning.

Thomas Sorenson and son Ivan set up a Civil War Telegraph display.

Johnny and Wilahmenia Lauramore had the Sutlery “Southern Family Impressions”.

Frank and Mary Sweet provided music and stories under the pines.

Mike and Linda Poindexter sold Kettle Corn.

Donation Collectors were Freeman and Nell Dowling, Carol Rowe, Estelle Walker, Glenda Owen

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold O’Steen had a booth for “Children of Confederacy”.

Tom Fasulo did first person impression of Infantry Soldier and equipment.

Chaplain Clifford Pierce of the 54th Massachusetts and Kathleen Wall, who authored “Southern Ghost,” were the featured speakers.

The MacClenny Women’s Club

Web Site Report

by Thomas Fasulo, Webmaster

It is 14 months (August 07 - September 08) since we moved our Web site from the server in my lab, which died a sudden death, to a commercial Internet Service Provider (ISP). The cost is only about \$8 per month.

Not only did we obtain our own site name (**battleofolustee.org**) but we had access to some other services, especially Web statistics. These statistics let us know that our site is well visited, and worth the effort and money spent on it.

In early September, the ISP moved us to another server. This will not affect how people find us, but it does affect how our Web site statistics are reported. The new server uses a different statistical package. My experience at the University of Florida is that different statistical software packages do not count numbers in the same way.

What I wish to do in this newsletter is give you the statistics for the 12 months from September 07 through August 08. During this time period we had 177,442 Page Views, 105,882 Total Visits, and 37,480 Unique Visitors.

Let me point out that the numbers would have been higher but for the server crash in my lab. First of all, we had to import the site to the ISP, and then convert many file names as the new server used UNIX. This required me to convert all file names to lower case. While creating the site over many years, I was pretty sloppy in how I and my students named the files. Second, because our site when down, it took many months for people to find us again and for me to locate Web pages that linked to our old server and tell them our new address.

So what do the above numbers mean?

A Page View is the total hits to pages which are defined as documents or forms by the Reporting Server. Supporting graphics on pages are not counted. This basically means, if someone looked at a page on our site, it was only counted once, no matter how many images are on that page.

Total Visits is a count of the visits to our site. Each time someone visited they were counted once for that visit, no matter how long they visited.

Unique Visitors is how many users visited our site. Visitors may be counted more than once if they visited at different times.

Obviously, January and February were our busiest months for Web traffic, After all, the battle is reenacted in February. However, I can tell you that the numbers for August 08 are two to three times the numbers for August 07. This means people are finding us again and visiting on a regular basis.

The new statistical package which starting counting on 6 September has a number of advantages over the old package. We can not only see where people are coming from (other sites, search engines, countries, etc.) but we can tell what they came to look at. In the future I will issue shorter, periodic reports on this data. But right now I can tell you that in September 08, we had visitors from at least 48 countries, with the U.S. and Canada providing the most visitors.