

OLUSTEE OBSERVER

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Editor's Corner

Is everyone still in survival mode? I don't believe I've seen a longer, colder winter season since I moved to Florida from Denver, Colorado over 20 years ago. Obviously, the blood does thin because I'm absolutely freezing to death, along with my grass, bushes and tropical plants. Since we had such hot temperatures last summer, I wonder if we're in for a decade of extreme temperatures? I surely hope not.

One of the results of staying indoors and doing a lot of thinking had ended up with me ruminating about why there are so many differences in regions of the U.S. in attitude toward that little thing called the "Civil" War by some and the "Late Unpleasantness" by others. My ruminations were brought about by a reenactment I attended in October called "Bummers" which recreated the occasion of General Sherman's march to the sea from Atlanta to Savannah in which he proposed to "make Georgia howl." General Sherman made good on his promise, and the South has never forgotten. In particular, women of the South have never forgotten because it was they and their children that bore the brunt of it. Other areas of the country don't seem to be as aware of those regional injustices as the South and probably for good reason – they didn't experience it.

In the reenactment of this occasion our log cabin was literally torn to pieces by angry, exhausted and hungry hordes of men; first by our own fellowmen, Confederates, then by the Militia and finally by the worst of them, the Yankees. Even the chimney succumbed to their wrath, as well as our chickens, stores of food, dishes, personal items and emotions. I had a small taste of what these people must have experienced and can well understand why the South has never forgotten – books, such as *When Sherman Came: Southern Women and the Great March*, give detailed accounts from diaries and letters written by these women and though personal physical harm was rare, everything they depended on to survive was taken or destroyed.

In my opinion, materials such as these should be as much a part of the modern school curriculum as classic literature. It wasn't just men and soldiers that suffered, and women didn't just suffer their absence. It had a lasting impact on our country and should be remembered by all.

I've taken excerpts from the above book for your reading pleasure. See page 3.

Cris

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- The Battle of Olustee will take place on February 12 – 14, 2010.

Articles Of Interest

- Please visit the Battle of Olustee website at <http://battleofolustee.org/> for up to date applications, forms, regulations and schedules for the 2008 Olustee.
- DVD's of the Battle of Olustee are now available for \$20.00 .
- Research materials are available for public use in the Forestry Park Offices.
- Official Reports related to the Battle of Olustee to our Web site have been added. <http://battleofolustee.org/cso.htm>
- Tom Fasulo received a copy of the DVD that has the three half hour episodes on the Florida State Parks. See the site at: http://channel2.typepad.com/florida_parks/

They sell copies of the DVD for \$22 plus \$4 shipping. The telephone number on the DVD is 305-949-8321.

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!

Attached is a copy of the form and instructions for your convenience.

- **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.

Report from Tom Fasulo

New books Purchased for the Library

Gideon Welles: Lincoln's Navy Department - by Richard S. West, Jr. 1943
1st Edition

Antietam: The Battle that Changed the Course of the Civil War - by James McPherson

Poems and Songs of the Civil War - by Lois Hill

John Brown's Body - by Stephen Benet

Raising the Hunley - by Brian Hicks and Schuyler Kropf

Excerpts from the book, *When Sherman Came: Southern Women and the Great March* by Katharine M. Jones.

Dolly Sumner Lunt Burge
Covington, GA

"I hastened back to my frightened servants and told them they had better hide and then went back to the gate to claim protection and a guard. But like Demons they rushed in! My yards are full. To my smoke house, my Dairy, Pantry, Kitchen and Cellar, like famished wolves they came breaking locks and whatever is in their way. The thousand pounds of meat in my smokehouse is gone in a twinkling, my flour, my meat, my lard, butter, eggs, pickle of various kinds, both in vinegar and brine, wine, jars and jugs are all gone. My eighteen fat turkeys, my hens, chickens and fowls, my young pigs, are shot down in my yard and hunted as if they were the rebels themselves. Utterly powerless I dare to appeal to the guard. "I cannot help you, Madam; it is the orders."

Cornelia E. Screven
Dorchester, GA

. . . while I followed the thief up stairs. He unlocked the wardrobe, and, drawing his sword from the scabbard, proceeded to pick out all wearing apparel upon its point. They were dashed upon the floor, trampled upon and badly cut. My bonnet and crape veil were so badly crushed and cut that I never wore them again. He extracted many articles of clothing, which he distributed among the Negroes; a valuable telescope, ten fine blankets, leaving us only five, which he did not find, and a carpet, which was cut up for horse blankets. He searched the bedding and even divested the pillows of their cases. He next went to the bureau, but, catching a glimpse of his hideous face in the mirror, he seemed to forget everything else, and, taking up the hair brush, proceeded to arrange his fiery red bristles, which stood off like "quills upon the fretful porcupine."

I shall never forget that picture, as he stood before the bureau. He wore a fine silk hat, stolen of course, a ragged coat made of three different patterns of carpeting, pants with the knees out and shoes with the toes out completed the picture which so fascinated him in the mirror. Some one called him down stairs, which broke the spell that bound him, and the other rooms escaped being searched.

Esther Alden
Florence, NC

They delight in making terrible threats and then gloat over our misery. Yesterday a captain was here who pretended to be all kindness and sympathy. He was comparatively polite and did not enter the house. Perhaps he knew it was not worth while after the foragers. He asked for something to eat, and we gave him what we had, on the piazza. When he began to talk he proved almost worse than any of the others; said he has vowed never to take a Rebel prisoner, and that he would delight in cutting one down and often did it! My disgust was intense, but I tried very hard to keep cool. He asked: "Do you know what you are fighting for?" I answered "Existence." He said: "We won't let you have it." With a fearful grin he went on, "In four months we'll have the Confederacy on its knees." I answered, "You must kill every man, woman and child first." He said, "We'll do it , too. We'll starve you out!"

**Web Site Report
By Tom Fasulo**

Web Log Analysis Monthly Report – Battle of Olustee – November 2009

Pages

Page Views 13,126

Visits

Visits 5,267
Average Visit Length 00:03:02

Visitors

Unique Visitors 4,243

Top 10 Countries Visitors are from

USA, Great Britain, Germany, Canada, Switzerland, Ireland, Australia, Sweden, France, Italy. Total countries = 63

Top 10 Pages Viewed

main menu
54th_mass_inf.html
reenactment.html
battle.html
/pics/john_proctor.htm
confederate_order.html
fl_map.html
events.html
/uniforms/uniforms.html
schedule.html

Top 10 Search Keyphrases

battle of olustee
54th massachusetts infantry
54th massachusetts
cone brothers
olustee
Olustee battlefield
battle of olustee florida
olustee reenactment
the battle of olustee
olustee battle

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