

BRUNSWICK CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Navy Capt. Ed Gantt (Ret.) returns to Round Table for another dramatic performance

The Brunswick Civil War Round Table is pleased to welcome back Capt. Ed Gantt, Civil War reenactor and living historian, to its second monthly meeting of the new season on Tuesday, October 6th at Hatch Auditorium on Caswell Beach. Capt. Gantt will present a captivating look at the Battle of Olustee, fought on February 20, 1864, the largest and bloodiest Civil War conflict fought on Florida soil.

The battle ended in a decisive victory for the Confederates. Florida was a critical source of livestock and preserved food for Confederate armies. Cutting off these routes was a major Union objective. But the Confederate victory secured Florida's interior for the remainder of the war, preventing Union occupation and preserving Confederate supply routes.



In hindsight, what made this smaller battle especially significant was that Olustee remained an example of Confederate resilience and determination after defeats the previous summer at Vicksburg and Gettysburg. It also had significance for the U.S. Colored Troops who fought for the Union army with courage and distinction, challenging racist notions about their fighting ability by displaying significant acts of heroism in a losing battle. As an aside, for the last 50 years, the Battle of Olustee reenactment has taken place in mid-February on the actual battlefield near Lake City, Florida.

Capt. Gantt brings a profound depth of military experience to his historical analysis. His 30-year active duty career spans service as an Army helicopter crew chief in South Vietnam, to commanding the Navy's Recruit Training Command at Great Lakes. Today, he is a dedicated public educator and an active member of the 54th Massachusetts Civil War reenactors, and president of the re-formed 23rd Infantry Regiment USCT in Spotsylvania, Va.

His presence at this upcoming October 6th meeting, based on his knowledge and dynamic presentation style, is certain to keep his audience both captivated and entertained. Everyone is invited. Registration begins at 6:15PM. The program starts at 7:00PM. Visitors are welcomed for only \$10, and that can be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues, which can include a spouse. For more information about the meeting, or if you wish to become a member now, please contact president John Butler at Brunswickcwr@gmail.com, or call him directly at (404) 229-9425. Or, visit their website at Brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com. for additional information, news, and updates.

