

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910812122103321
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Titolo	Confederate Florida : the road to Olustee / / William H. Nulty
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Tuscaloosa, Alabama : , : The University of Alabama Press, , 1994 ©1990
ISBN	0-8173-8832-X 0-585-32036-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (289 p.)
Disciplina	973.7/3
Soggetti	Olustee, Battle of, Olustee, Fla., 1864 Florida History Civil War, 1861-1865 Campaigns United States History Civil War, 1861-1865 Campaigns
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Illustrations; Preface; 1. The Jilted Bride: Florida's Early Years in the Confederacy; 2. Blockade and Raid: The Middle Civil War Years in Florida; 3. Renewed Interest in Florida; 4. Surprise and Success: The Landing and Exploitation; 5. The Battle of Olustee; 6. Lost Opportunities: The Retreat and Pursuit; 7. Heroes, Goats, and Survivors; 8. A Final Look; Notes; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	At the end of 1863 the Federal forces in the Department of the South were tied up in siege operations against Charleston and Savannah, operations that showed little progress or promise. The commander of the Department, Major General Quincy A. Gillmore, led an expedition into Florida to recruit blacks, cut off commissary supplies headed for other parts of the Confederacy, and disrupt the railroad system within Florida. Expedition forces landed at Jacksonville on February 7, 1864. The engagement at Olustee, not far from Gainesville, took place on February 20, 1