

Mrs Allison W. Tourgee

Mayville. N. J.

June 22nd 1891-

My Dear Sir

Pardon this intrusion, but, as your article, in my last week's Enter-Ocean, is almost an answer, to that which I wish to learn - I write in the hope that you will assist me, and with money - but in obtaining information from the War Dept.

My home is here, and my husband died, at Detroit Mich in Nov, 1889. I had the remains brought on here, and, interred in an old burial ground, which had been used by the resident whites, (slave owners and their slaves - or colored) people. Some time during the war the "Majolica" Hotel was used by

² The armed forces, of both sides -
but the Union forces - occupied
it last, and it was used as an
Hospital, then later on for an
Asylum, for colored people and
children. I came here in 1881 -
and have heard always that
Soldiers who died while there
were buried in the old cemetery
just back of the Hotel property.
A new cemetery was laid out
in an entirely different direction
and that is where the White
people inter their dead.
The other being abandoned by
them, and is called the
"Nigger" - cemetery. As late
as 1882 two white children
were buried there, and belong-
ing to two of the old time best
families in this place.
Several marble headstones are
proof of well known, white

persons. Two young men from
 Chicago - one died of consumption
 some twenty years ago, and
 a brother came here later,
 was killed by a rail-road
 accident, and lies now by
 his brother, the spot enclosed
 by a neat iron railing, and
 white marble stones at their
 heads. I pray you dear Sir -
 have patience with me, as I
 wish to explain fully, why I
 need your aid

Now there has been a great
 deal said because I laid
 my husband to rest where
 he now lies, and to me, I
 had good - and sufficient
 reasons. In the first place -
 my husband was in the Navy -
 from 1861 - to 1865 - then went
 in the U. S. R. Marine Service
 as a 3^d Lieut - and was in that

service at the time of his death.
 He was then a 2nd Lieut. on
 Board the U. S. S. Fessenden -
 at Detroit, Mich. During the war
 the vessel he was in came up
 the St Johns, River as far as
 "Magnolia", and, since we made
 our home here, one had often
 spoken of Magnolia Cemetery.
 So you can see why the place
 had a special interest for me.
 A few days before Decoration
 Day - the thought occurred to
 me to get the colored people
 interested in decorating their
 graves that day - as I was
 going to do so, for my plot.
 A few turned out, as they
 call it, but it was tedious
 work for the women, and
 children. So the next thought
 with me was to get them
 to organize an Association

for the care of the Cemetery.
 and, on the 3rd day of June,
 I succeeded in getting eighteen
 women together, held a meeting
 in the Colored Masonic Hall
 organized an Association, elected
 a set of Officers - and asked them
 to appoint me, as one of the
 Executive Committee. They
 wished me to be President -
 but, I thought it best not,
 as there might be some, who
 would object to a white woman
 controlling, or rather being at the
 head of the work.

We have decided, that the
~~work~~, management, ^{work} and plans
 are to be carried out wholly
 and solely by women.
 Membership Fee, are ten cents
 monthly - men and women
 paying alike, and all are
members, only

The men are not allowed to attend the meetings, until the last one of the year, which will be the first Friday in May 1892. We have now enrolled forty men, and thirty seven women. They are delighted, that the work has been inaugurated, and they wonder now why it has not been done long ago.

Now then the work has been begun, and I want to find out, what Regiments, or parts of Regiments, or companies were at any time stationed at Magnolia: Clay Co. Fla. I have learned this much that a company called the 35th or 36th U. S. Colored Troops were there in 1866 - But whether white or colored - it is all the same to me - so I shall do all that

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lies in my power to keep that patriotic spirit alive, in memory of my dear husband.

So my dear Sir, if you can spare the time, I beg of you to get the desired information for me. One corner of the cemetery grounds are as flat as a lawn. I am told that Soldier lies there. My husband lies diagonally across in the other part of the grounds.

A silver dollar was handed me by a Veteran, a member of the G. A. R., because he heard Mrs. Delp was one. That dollar shall be a beginning for a mark, or Tablet of some kind, for those neglected Soldiers, if I live to see five years more.

A thousand times, I beg your patience, and forgiveness for so long a letter, but you could never understand the situation, otherwise

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I am not a young person, have
my grandchildren - to think for
and wish to foster, and cultivate
a love of our Country and Flag
in them while they are young
Our large Flag - is always run
up on the house, on Feb 22nd
July 4th and, Decoration Day.

Believe me very respectfully
yours

Kate DeLaf
Green Cove Spring
Fla. 60 -
Fla.

P.S. Be careful, if you should
mention this matter, not to say
where ~~this~~^{it} comes from.

This to be read after Page 8.

Another explanation is in order.

Some time since, a movement was started to obtain contributions amongst the residents, to purchase a Hearse, as there had never been anything of the kind in the place. The Committee were appointed to solicit - I was put on one, and after I had collected fifteen dollars towards it, to my surprise & shame the colored people would not be allowed to subscribe, nor have the use of the Hearse on any condition, and to our shame be it said our Northern Republicans, were the most perverse as to it. I immediately resigned, giving my reasons therefor, saying that my dead lies in Magnolia and that all who knew me, knew on what platform I stood. So dear, Sir, the purchase of a ~~hearse~~ "hearse" by the colored for the use of both white and colored, is another object, our Decoration Day work and Association has in view in the future