

Fall 2006

News and
Events



SEMINOLE WARS HISTORIC FOUNDATION, INC.

The Foundation Report

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Author's Day a Resounding Success

The Foundation held its second annual Author's Day event on August 19, 2006 at the Foundation headquarters, the home of Frank and Dale Laumer in Dade City. In attendance were forty-two members, guests, and speakers. The spacious library of the Laumer home was literally packed, with a member or two being forced to stand in the hallway.



Artist Jackson Walker speaks to a full house

Courtesy Dr. Samuel Smith

The first speakers of the day were James M. "Mike" Denham and Keith Huneycutt, both of Florida Southern University in Lakeland, editors of the book *Echoes From a Distant Frontier: The Brown Sisters' Correspondence from Antebellum Florida*. Mike and Keith told the audience how they came by this large collection of letters and read several passages from the book, giving detailed insights into the life of pioneer families in Second Seminole War era Florida.

The morning's second speaker was Board Member Patsy West. Patsy is the author of several books relating to Seminole Indian history, including *Enduring Seminoles*, *A Seminole Legend: The Life of Betty Mae Tiger Jumper*, and *The Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes of Southern Florida*. Patsy told us of her close family relationship with the Seminoles and how she gathered the Seminole Photographic Archive, containing tens of thousands of images dating back to 1852. She also read a very moving passage told by Betty Mae Jumper, telling of two sisters' harrowing escape from deportation during the Second Seminole War.



Courtesy Jonathan Dean

After an enjoyable lunch with time spent roaming the grounds of the Laumer estate, the attendees returned to the library to hear Dr. Brent Weisman tell of his life as an anthropologist/archeologist/historian, and of the serendipitous manner in which he became involved in the studies of Seminole culture and history. Brent is the author of numerous books, including *Unconquered People: Florida's Seminole and Miccosukee Indians*, and *Like Beads on a String: A Culture History of Florida's Seminole Indians*.

(Author's Day, Continued)



Mike Denham, Patsy West, and Keith Huneycutt

The day's final speaker was artist Jackson Walker, who has supplied the paintings for the covers of the Foundation publications *Amidst a Storm of Bullets* and *This Miserable Pride of a Soldier*. Jackson's entire collection of Florida historical paintings, known as *Legendary Florida*, has recently been acquired by the Deland Museum of Art. Jackson brought several framed prints of paintings from the collection, which were displayed throughout the Laumer's home. John and Mary Lou Missall also brought the original oil painting from the cover of *This Miserable Pride of a Soldier* for its first public viewing.

Florida Historical Society Meeting



Brent Weisman

The annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society was held in late May at the Naples Grande Resort and Club in Collier County. Some of the Seminole Wars Historic Foundation members in attendance were Jerry Casale, Joe Knetsch, Jean McNary, John & Mary Lou Missall, and Patsy West. Also dropping by for a visit was Foundation Board member Tina Osceola, director of the Seminole Tribe's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Congratulations go out to former Foundation President Brent Weisman who, along with co-editor Phyllis Kolianis, received the Rembert Patrick Award for Best Academic Book. The award was given for two related works, *The Lost Florida Manuscript of Frank Hamilton Cushing*, and *The Florida Journal of Frank Hamilton Cushing*. Although



Lee Marmon

more famous for his work among the Zuni peoples of the American southwest, Cushing also spent time in southwest Florida, and was one of the first anthropologists to study the ancient cultures of the area.

Foundation member and Naples resident Lee Marmon gave a presentation on his plans for an integrated history of South Florida that encompasses both the natural history of the region along with the effects of human habitation. His work will focus on all groups that have left their mark on the region, including the aboriginal tribes, the colonial empires, the Seminoles, and the various military units that took part in the Seminole wars.

Seminole Wars on the Web

Those of us who do research into the Seminole Wars know how invaluable the Internet can be. It can also be very entertaining, and, if we serendipitously find a very good website, can be happily distracting. Occasionally, as we come across such sites, we'll pass that information along to our membership through this column. If any of our readers have a favorite website they would like to tell others about, contact us at missall@comcast.net.



This issue's website is perhaps the longest running, most detailed site devoted entirely to the Seminole Wars. It is maintained by longtime Foundation member Chris Kimball, a dedicated Seminole re-enactor, historian, and Ranger at Collier-Seminole State Park near Naples. The site contains numerous articles concerning the wars, a county-by-county list of points of interest, and a list of over 250 Seminole war era fortifications. Visit Chris' site at <http://tfn.net/~cdk901/index.html>.

Upcoming Seminole Wars Events

November 17-19, 2006: American Indian Arts Celebration, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Big Cypress Indian Reservation.

December 30 & 31, 2006: Dade Battle Re-enactment, Dade Battlefield State Historic Park, Bushnell. The park is located just off I-75, about half an hour north of Tampa.

January 6 & 7, 2007: Native American Festival at the Casemates, Ormond Beach.

January 17-29, 2007: Alafia River Rendezvous, Homeland (just south of Bartow).

February 17 & 18, 2007: Fort Foster Battle Re-enactment, Hillsborough River State Park, US 301, north of Tampa.

February 17 & 18, 2007: Battle of Royal Palm Hammock, Collier-Seminole State Park, about ten miles south of Naples on US 41.

February 24 & 25, 2007: Kissimmee Slough Shootout, Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation, fourteen miles north of I-75, midway between Naples and Ft. Lauderdale.

March 17 & 18, 2007: Ft. Cooper Days, Ft. Cooper State Park, Inverness.

March 31 & April 1, 2007: Old Florida Festival, Collier Co. Historical Museum, Naples.

Research Update

The University of West Florida has embarked on a project in 2006 and 2007 to locate, document, and formulate plans for the protection of sites from the First Seminole War. This initiative is being sponsored by the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program. According to the head of the project, Prof. William S. Belko (History, UWF):

"The proposed project entails a preliminary identification, documentation, and inventory of historical, archeological, cultural, and natural sites directly related to the U. S. invasion of Spanish Florida in 1818. The project will identify Jackson's probable route through Florida, skirmish sites, forts and encampments, and Seminole villages. The Project team will identify probable locations of battlefield sites and related natural features. Employing GIS technology, the data will be incorporated into a final project report that will include baseline data, potential route and site areas, current land use, potential threats to sites, and a GIS outlining the historic, archeological, cultural, and natural sites pertaining to Jackson's 1818 invasion. This project will serve as the foundation for subsequent archeological surveys to locate sites, interpretative and educational outreach projects, public involvement plans, and preservation and maintenance plans."

Taken from the introduction to:

Jackson's 1818 Invasion of Spanish Florida (First Seminole War), American Battlefield Protection Program, National Park Service

by Dr. William S. Belko, Assistant Professor and Historic Preservation, History Department, University of West Florida

Speaker's Bureau

One of the prime objectives of the Foundation is the education of the general public concerning the events and importance of the Seminole Wars. One of the best ways to do this is through public speakers. Public libraries, historical societies, and civic organizations are often looking for interesting speakers. Although a number of our members have made themselves available for such speaking engagements, it has almost always been handled on an individual basis. Feeling that our purposes could be better served through some type of coordinated effort, the Board has decided to look into forming a Speaker's Bureau.

If you would be interested in giving such talks, please contact President Jim Cusick at jgcusick@ufl.edu so that we can add you to our list of potential speakers. This way, we can know the geographic area you cover and the topics you feel comfortable talking about.

In addition, if you are aware of any organizations that would like to hear one of our speakers, please let us know.

Recent Publications

The Foundation is proud to announce the release of the paperback edition of *Amidst a Storm of Bullets: The Diary of Lt. Henry Prince in Florida, 1836-1842*, edited by Frank Laumer. The original production run of hardback copies is nearly exhausted, and the Board felt a paperback edition would be well-received. The book has an exciting new cover, a full length rendition of Jackson Walker's painting "Battle at Camp Izard, Day Two, February 29, 1836." List Price for the paperback edition is \$19.95. Foundation members enjoy a 20% discount. A few of the hardback editions are still available for a list price of \$29.95.

Campbell, John. "The Seminoles, the 'Bloodhound War,' and Abolitionism, 1796-1865." *The Journal of Southern History* (72)2 (May 2006), pp. 259-302.

Hammond, James. Army Forts of S.W. Florida during the 2nd and 3rd Seminole Wars. Research Report, Division of Historical Resources, 2006. A Research Report and Accompanying CD. Copy on file, Seminole Wars Historic Foundation, Inc.

Knetsch, Joe. "St. Augustine and the Second Seminole War: A Time of Trouble and Need." *El Escribano, the St. Augustine Journal of History*, Vol. 42, 2005, pp. 47-62.

Lawson, Kenneth. Religion and the U.S. Army Chaplaincy in the Florida Seminole Wars, 1817-1858. Eastside Printing, Columbia, S.C., 2006. Copies available through the author, U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School, 10100 Lee Road, Ft. Jackson, S.C. 29207.

Morris, Jerry. Ft. King Road Markings. A detailed list of GPS coordinates marking the turns along the old Ft. King Military Road from Tampa to Ocala. This is an invaluable resource for anyone who would either like to hike the path or plot it out on a map. A copy is in possession of the Foundation at headquarters.

New Booklet

Enclosed with this quarter's mailing you will find a new Foundation publication: *A Short History of the Seminole Wars* by John and Mary Lou Missall. When our members give talks throughout the state we are often asked if there is some way to become familiar with the history of the Seminole Wars. In addition, many schools have asked for some basic information on the wars. We hope this new publication fills both those needs. If you or someone you know would like additional copies they can be obtained from our office for a cost of \$3.00 ea. A quantity discount price will be determined at the next Board of Director's meeting in December. The Foundation phone number is: 352-583-2974.

President's Message

Greetings, members, with the board's appreciation for your continued support of the Foundation. There are many interesting projects in the works for the upcoming year. The Foundation plans to return to archaeological investigation at the Fort Dade site. In addition, we hope to submit a short symposium program on the Seminole wars at the 2007 annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society, which will be held in Clearwater in May. We will update you on details in the next newsletter. In addition, the University of West Florida recently presented a session at the Gulf South History and Humanities Conference, where they discussed their project to document and help preserve sites associated with the First Seminole War. This is a terrific effort on the part of UWF, headed up by Prof. William S. Belko, in the Department of History. We plan to bring you periodic reports on his progress. The board will be meeting December 2 to plan out the Foundation's spring event.

James Cusick

The Foundation wishes to extend a hearty "Welcome Back!" to Advisory Board member Lt. Col. Gregory Moore of the Florida National Guard, who has recently returned from a one year tour of duty in Afghanistan. Greg had retired from the Guard, but re-enlisted for an opportunity to serve his nation in time of war. Such devotion to duty is the sign of a true American soldier.

Editorial Box

The Foundation report is published quarterly for members of the Seminole Wars Historic Foundation, Inc. Anyone wishing to submit articles should contact Managing Editors John and Mary Lou Missall at 11155 Rabun Gap Dr., N. Ft. Myers, FL 33917; 239-543-8831; missall@comcast.net.

The Seminole Wars Historic Foundation, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1992. Its mission is to work toward the preservation of sites important to Florida's three Seminole wars and to promote publishing and education about this time period. The main office of the Foundation is at 35247 Reynolds Ave., Dade City, FL 33523. Phone: 352-583-2974. FAX: 352-583-3486. Web address: <http://www.swhfoundation.org>.