

The Foundation Report

Seminole Wars Foundation, Inc.

Summer & Fall 2008



Fall Member's Meeting

The Seminole Wars Foundation invites you to a special Member's Meeting to announce the release of two very important publications. The first is "Fear and Anxiety on the Florida Frontier," a collection of articles on the Second Seminole War by Board member Dr. Joe Knetsch. The other is Foundation President Frank Laumer's novel, "Nobody's Hero," about Ransom Clark, the survivor of Dade's Battle. The meeting will be held at the Dade Battlefield State Historic Site on November 22, 2008, at 10:30 am. Following the introduction of the books, lunch will be served, and after lunch, the authors will hold a book signing where you may purchase your own autographed copies. A table will also be set up for the purchase of other Foundation books and books written by other members. **Note to members: If you have books that you have authored and would like to sell them at this meeting, please feel free to bring them.** After the book sale, Frank will lead us on a guided tour of the battlefield, relating the dramatic events of that cold, deadly December day in 1835. The Battlefield is located in Bushnell, off exit #314 on I-75, about ½ hour north of Tampa. **Please RSVP to Frank Laumer at 352-583-2711**

Board of Directors

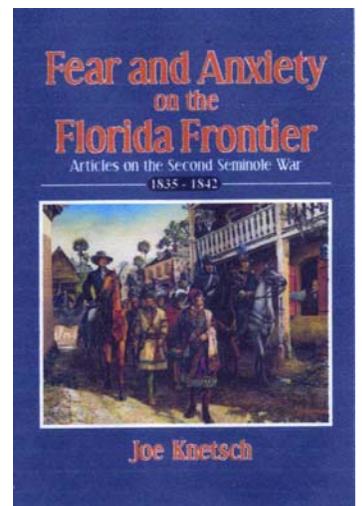
Frank Laumer (Pres)
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Fear and Anxiety on the Florida Frontier

One of the most exciting thing about Joe's book is that it is the first book published by the Foundation without the aid of an another publisher. All of our other books have been published by the University of Tampa Press. Although we were happy with the relationship with UT Press, the Board realized we had the expertise to do the layout and editing work ourselves, which allowed a significant savings in the cost of printing. Dustjacket design and the cover painting were by our own Jackson Walker.



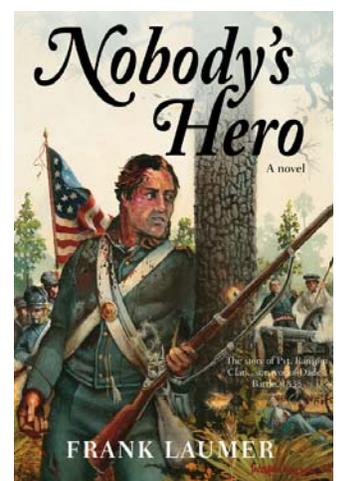
Fear and Anxiety is a collection of twenty-three articles on the Second Seminole War that have appeared in various historical journals over a number of years. The articles cover a wide range of topics, from the influence of the cattle industry on the war, to the affect of hurricanes on its conduct. The histories of a number of important forts are covered, along with tales of life in several Florida cities during the war. *Fear and Anxiety* looks at some of the most unusual and important aspects of the war in a detailed and readable manner. The extensive bibliography and endnotes are a wonderful reference source on their own. This is a book that all Seminole Wars scholars will want to have on their bookshelf.

For nearly two decades, "Dr. Joe" has been one of the leading authorities on Florida's three Seminole Wars. Over the years, his articles have been published in many of the state's leading historical publications, and in journals as varied as *The Journal of America's Military Past*, and *Florida Keys Sea Heritage Journal*. Finding these important works, or even knowing they exist, has often been difficult. The Foundation is happy to bring them to you in this one convenient source.

Nobody's Hero

We all know President Frank Laumer as the foremost authority on the Dade Battle. For over forty years Frank has studied the battle, gathering every detail imaginable. Now he has taken that knowledge and woven a compelling story around the tale of survivor Ransom Clark. The book is published by Pineapple Press of Sarasota, one of the leading presses on subjects relating to Florida. Once again, the excellent cover art is the work of Jackson Walker.

"*Nobody's Hero* is a true adventure of an American soldier who refused to die, in spite of terrible wounds that would have stopped a lesser man. Frank has used historical documents, including Clark's own brief account, and, as Laumer explains, "taken the bones of fact and put upon them the flesh of fiction." It is the story of great duplicity, not on the part of Seminole Indians, but of the politicians and officers who sent the men of Dade's command to their death. Dade's Battle was the pretext needed to begin what was to be the longest and most expensive Indian war in American history." (from the Pineapple Press website)



As if two books weren't enough . . .

For those of you receiving this newsletter via postal service, you've no doubt noticed the fourth issue of our Pamphlet Series, "Index of Seminole War Articles in the Florida Historical Quarterly," compiled by John & Mary Lou Missall. For those of us doing research, the Quarterly is an invaluable resource, especially since nearly all of the past one hundred years' issues are available on-line. We hope you find this index useful. For those who are receiving the newsletter via e-mail, your copy is in the mail.

We Have a Distributor!

Having a publishing house in one thing, selling books is another. We've long felt the need to find a better way to bring our books to the public's attention. To that end, the Board has entered into an agreement with Past Perfect Florida History, Inc. a book dealer and distributor that specializes in books dealing with Florida history. The owners, Rodney Dillon and Barbara Poleo, have already been hard at work. They have displayed our books and taken advance orders for *Fear and Anxiety* at the St. Augustine Book Fair, and have arranged for book signings by Joe Knetsch and John & Mary Lou Missall at the prestigious Miami International Book Fair. Part of the Foundation's mission is to disseminate information about the Seminole Wars, and getting our books out is one of the best ways to accomplish that mission.

Educational Outreach

Another way to spread the word about the Seminole Wars is through educational outreach.

This past June, John and Mary Lou Missall taught a two-day workshop on the Seminole Wars for the Lake Co. School System. Also appearing on the second day was Matthew Griffin, the nephew of Board member John Griffin. Both John and Matthew are re-enactors and living historians who portray Black Seminole Warriors from the time of the Second Seminole War.

On this past September 26th, the PBS affiliate in Ft. Myers aired an episode of their "Untold Stories" series entitled "The Unconquered Seminoles." Featured in the program were members Patsy West, Tina Osceola, and John Missall. If you missed the program or live outside the WGCU viewing area, you can watch the half-hour program on-line at: www.wgcu.org/untoldstories.



Matthew Griffin and Mary Lou Missall
at Lake County Schools

Foundation Assists with Dade Battle Re-enactment

Putting on the annual Dade Battle Re-enactment is a lot of work for the park staff and the volunteers of the Dade Battlefield Society. No matter how many volunteers they have, there never seems to be enough people to cover all the bases. This year, to help them out, the Foundation will be hosting the Memorial Service to honor those who fell, both soldier and Seminole, 173 years ago. The ceremony will be held on Sunday, December 28, 2008, the actual anniversary day of the battle. The Re-enactment will be held the following weekend.

The service will commence at 1:00 pm in front of the breastwork across from the visitor's center. Normal park entrance fees will be waived that day. The JNROTC Color Guard of South Sumter High School will present the colors. We would also like to have a fife and drum corps and Seminole and soldier re-enactors on hand. If you are available, contact Frank Laumer at 352-583-2711.

In addition to the Memorial Service, we will, as always, be manning the Foundation booth on the days of the re-enactment and we are looking for other ways to assist. See you there!

Historical Marker at Battle of Loxahatchee

After many years of hard work and effort, an historical marker is about to be placed at the site of the Battle of Loxahatchee in Palm Beach County. Spearheading the effort is long-time Foundation member Richard Procyk, author of *Guns Across the Loxahatchee*, the historical account of the two battles fought there in early 1838. We congratulate Richard and those who worked with him on their accomplishment.

Seminole leaders Tuskegee and Halleck Hadjo faced the soldiers and sailors under the command of Lt. Levin Powell in a running battle on the southwest fork of the Loxahatchee River on January 15, 1838. Powell's command was overmatched and saved by the rear guard action of Lt. Joseph Johnston who preserved the force from certain death at the hands of the victorious Seminoles. Nine days later, a second battle was fought near the same place by a group of about 300 Seminoles, who faced off against the main body of the army in Florida, about 1,600 men. After inflicting severe casualties on the army, the Seminoles fled south. This was the last major battle of the Second Seminole War.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 22, 2008: Member's Meeting and Roll-out of *Fear & Anxiety on the Florida Frontier* and *Nobody's Hero*. Dade Battlefield State Historic Site, Bushnell. Contact Headquarters for more information at 352-583-2711.

January 3 & 4, 2009: Dade Battle Re-enactment, Dade Battlefield, Bushnell. I-75, exit #314, about one-half hour north of Tampa. Contact the Park at 352-793-4781.

January 10 & 11, 2009: Fort Chokonikla Encampment, Paynes Creek Historic State Park, Bowling Green. The park is located east of US 17, about a half hour south of Lakeland. Contact the park at 863-375-4717.

January 31 & February 1, 2009: Battle of Okeechobee Re-enactment, Okeechobee Battlefield, Okeechobee. For more information go to the website of the Okeechobee Battlefield Friends, Inc.

February 14 & 15, 2009: Ft. Foster Rendezvous, Hillsborough River State Park, north of Tampa. For more information call 813-987-6771

February 28 & March 1, 2009: Big Cypress Shootout, Big Cypress Indian Reservation, south of Clewiston. Held on the Seminole Reservation, this is also a great opportunity to visit the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. Contact Billie Swamp Safari at 800-949-6101, ext. 12125.

March. 21 & 22, 2009: Ft. Cooper Days, Ft. Cooper State Park, Inverness. Contact the park at 352-726-0315.

New Board of Directors Members

At the August meeting of the Board of Directors, elections were held for a new slate of officers and other members to the Board of Directors. Most of the officers retained their positions, with the exception of Treasurer Henry Sheldon, who relinquished the position after more than a decade of outstanding service. Board member Dale Anne Laumer volunteered to take over the duties on a temporary basis until a replacement for this important position could be found. At the October Board meeting, the newly elected members were installed in their positions. The new members include the following people:



Dr. James "Mike" Denham is Professor of history of Florida Southern College and Director of the Center for Florida History. He is co-editor with Keith L. Huneycutt of *Echoes from a Distant Frontier: The Brown Sister's Correspondence from Antebellum Florida*, and author of several other books dealing with Seminole War era Florida, including *A Rogue's Paradise: Crime and Punishment in Antebellum Florida 1821-1861*; *Cracker Times and Pioneer Lives: The Florida Reminiscences of George Gillet Keen and Sarah Pamela Williams*, and *Florida Sheriffs: A History 1821-1945*.



Gary Ellis is Director of the Gulf Archaeological Research Institute at the Crystal River Archaeological State Park. Gary has been instrumental in the research and excavation into a number of important sites in the state, including the Seminole War sites of Camp Izard, Fort King, and Fort Dade. He has recently acquired significant grants for continued work at Fort King and Fort Dade. Many of our members will remember Gary from past Member's meetings where he showed us around the "digs" he has conducted.



Debbie Harper, a resident of Dade City, is the long-time friend, secretary, and bookkeeper of Frank and Dale Laumer. She has graciously agreed to take on the duties of Treasurer for the Foundation.



Harley Gilmore has a record of over 10,000 volunteer hours with the Hillsborough River State Park Preservation Society, which provides services for Fort Foster. He is president and co-founder of Historical Preservation, Inc, an organization that is in possession of the largest collection in the world of artifacts from the Seminole Wars era. Harley has a Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree from the University of Florida, with over 57 years of surveying experience. He is also Food Editor of the *Osprey Observer*.

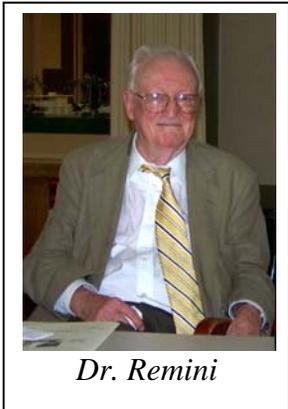


John Griffin is of Black/Seminole heritage and is active in Seminole War re-enactments with his nephew Matthew. He is a cattle rancher, sign maker, and Vice Mayor of the city of Groveland.

Renewals: Second Notice

Normally, we do not send out Second Notices for membership renewals. However, it has come to our attention that at least three (maybe more) of the newsletters we sent out last quarter did not reach their destination. If there is a Second Notice enclosed in your newsletter, we have not received your renewal. If you have just been procrastinating or are simply forgetful, consider this a friendly reminder. Thank you for staying with us!

Robert Remini Gives Talk at Florida Southern



Dr. Remini

One of the nation's foremost historians, Dr. Robert Remini, spoke at Florida Southern College in Lakeland on September 18th, hosted by Board member Mike Denham. Dr. Remini is the leading authority on Andrew Jackson, having written at least fourteen books dealing with Jackson or the Jacksonian era. He is also the current Historian of the

U.S. House of Representatives. His lecture was entitled "Andrew Jackson in Florida." For information on other events in the Lecture Series, contact Mike at 863-680-4312

S. Florida Seminole Wars Fort Map

Member James Hammond of Naples has completed an exhaustive study of the location of Seminole War forts in southwest Florida. This comprehensive document has been registered with the state and a copy, along with maps, is available for member's inspection at our headquarters.

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 Editor John Missall at 11155 Rabun Gap Dr., 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>.

President's Message

January 3rd and 4th, 2009, is the next reenactment of Dade's Battle. This is one of the most highly rated outdoor dramas in the country. Each year the Dade Battlefield Society has come closer to reaching its goal of having sufficient reenactors to equal the number of original participants in the battle. We urge you not only to attend the event, but to take part in it. The Society maintains a small number of extra hats, jackets, shirts, and boots for loan to anyone over the age of twelve in order for them to do a "walk-on" with Dade's command. In this role you simply become part of the marching column and when the battle erupts, you take a "hit" and fall to the ground. To lend authenticity, you would be required to be wearing blue jeans and brown or black shoes. The regular reenactors will be available to guide you and answer any questions you might have. Please call the battlefield (352-793-4781) to reserve any or all uniform pieces you might need. There is a limited supply, so don't delay. Join the ranks and have an exciting time recreating history.

The Society is also in need of Seminole reenactors, male or female. Unfortunately, they have no wardrobe of Seminole clothing. For anyone having such clothing or if you would like to make some for future events, we urge you to check in with the Seminole leaders (Paul "Swamp Owl" Morrison or Earl DeBary, for example) before the battle. They can give you advice and guidance on how to become a reenactor and help the Seminoles defend their land.

A reminder: Additional uniforms and Seminole clothing are some of the things your money goes for when you donate to the Dade Battlefield Society. Join your foundation in supporting this worthwhile organization.

For the convenience of the visitors to the reenactment, the park service has arranged for parking on state-owned grounds adjacent to the battlefield. You will no longer have to park a mile away and wait for the shuttle buses. Books, prints, T-shirts, and videos will once again be available. Battle reenactments bring the Seminole Wars to life. Check the calendar in this quarter's newsletter and see how many of this year's events you can attend. You'll enjoy the experience!

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