



The Foundation Report

Seminole Wars Foundation, Inc.

Fall 2012

St. Augustine Member's Event

On August 15, 1842, seven mule-drawn wagons carrying officers and soldiers killed in Florida during the 2nd Seminole Indian War, including those killed in the Dade Battle, proceeded to the cemetery next to the St. Francis Barracks in St. Augustine. Their remains were reinterred in vaults under three coquina pyramids. Every year the West Point Society of North Florida holds their annual meeting on the first weekend after August 15th to commemorate this event and those who fell in battle. This year marked the 160th anniversary of the event and the Seminole Wars Foundation was honored to be included in the meeting with about 20 members in attendance as part of our fall member's meeting.

The day was hot and muggy but the rains held off for presentations by Jerry Morris on the food carried by the soldiers. Steve Abolt and several re-enactors were present. As a special treat Steve Rinck had arranged for a reproduction of a six-pounder cannon to be brought from the museum at the Dade Battlefield and be fired by a crew in period dress. We were led by a color guard to the newly refurbished National Cemetery and a brief ceremony at the pyramids. Our own Frank Laumer provided comments about the events of 1842 and assisted in the placing of a wreath at the pyramids.

After the ceremony we retired to the Officer's Club at St Francis Barracks for a box lunch and lunchtime presentation by Robert Thrower. In an effort to honor not only the military participants of the battle but also the Native Americans who perished in the Florida Indian Wars, Mr. Thrower, a member of the Poarch Creek Band of the Creek Indians in Alabama, gave a talk titled "Between Two Worlds", discussing the gray lines between Native Americans who fought on both sides of the conflict. Joe Naftzinger and Greg Moore, both West Point graduates and members of the Seminole Wars Foundation Board, were instrumental in organizing the event.

Article and Photos by Dr. Samuel Smith



Photos (l. to r.): Frank Laumer and Joe Naftzinger assist the Color Guard in placing the wreath. Jerry Morris explains how Seminole War soldiers were fed and prepared their food. Firing of the six-pounder brought from the Dade Battlefield.

Foundation Announces Student Research Award

One of the missions of the Seminole Wars Foundation is the collection and dissemination of scholarship related to these long and desperate conflicts. To help achieve these goals, the Foundation is pleased to announce the institution of a Student Research Award. The award will be open to students of all ages and will consist of a monetary prize and possible publication by the Foundation. Submitted works must be a minimum of 3,000 words and contain original research. The amount awarded will be determined by the quality of the work, its originality, and its importance to Seminole Wars scholarship. For full details, go to www.seminolewars.us/projects.html.

Calendar of Events

December 8, 2012: Candlelight Christmas at Ft. Foster, Hillsborough River State Park, Tampa, www.floridastateparks.org/hillsboroughriver/

January 5 & 6, 2013: Dade's Battle Reenactment, Dade Battlefield Historic State Park, Bushnell, www.dadebattlefield.com/

NEW EVENT! January 19, 2013: Battle of Loxahatchee, Loxahatchee Battlefield Park, Jupiter, www.loxahatcheebattlefield.com/

February 2 & 3, 2013: Battle of Okeechobee Reenactment, Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park, Okeechobee, www.okeechobeebattlefield.com/

February 9 & 10, 2013: Fort Foster Rendezvous, Hillsborough River State Park, Tampa, www.floridastateparks.org/hillsboroughriver/

March 2 & 3, 2013: Big Cypress Shootout, Billie Swamp Safari, Big Cypress Indian Reservation, www.bcsshootout.com/

March 16 & 17, 2013: Fort Cooper Days, Fort Cooper State Park, Inverness, www.floridastateparks.org/fortcooper/

March 23 & 24, 2013: Fort Chokonikla Encampment, Payne's Creek Historic State Park, Bowling Green, www.floridastateparks.org/paynescreek/

The Other Commemoration of Dade's Battle

We all know about the Dade Battle Reenactment held on the first weekend of January. What many are not aware of is another commemoration held at the Dade Battlefield on December 28 every year, the exact date of the battle. Compared to the reenactment, it's a small, somber affair, but an important one none the less. Several years ago, when Jerry Morris was President of the Dade Battlefield Society, reenactor Steve Abolt asked if any remembrance had been held on the day of the battle. Jerry had to admit that there wasn't, but the following year he dressed in his uniform, and with his grandson by his side, placed a wreath at the breastwork and fired a salute with his musket. Because the remains of the soldiers had been re-interred at the National Cemetery in St. Augustine, Jerry later took the same wreath and placed it in front of the pyramids there.

Since that humble beginning, the event has grown. Jerry invited other reenactors to participate, and later included the Sumter County High School Junior Navy ROTC Color Guard. He also invites a guest speaker each year. This year the speaker will be Jeff Hough, co-author with Jerry of the Foundation book *The Fort King Road*. Jeff is a Gulf Wars veteran and will give a modern soldier's perspective on what the doomed men of Dade's command must have been feeling. If you are in the area please stop by the Battlefield on December 28 at 1:00 PM, and if you have questions or would like to participate in some way, contact Jerry at camp1go@aol.com.

New Event in Palm Beach County

On Saturday, January 19, 2013 the Loxahatchee Battlefield Preservationists, Florida Black Historical Research Project, Historical Society of Palm Beach County, and Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation will host the 175th Anniversary of the Loxahatchee River Battles with 18th Annual Seminole Commemoration. The event is a one day program from 10am to 4pm. The location of the event is 9060 Indiantown Rd. Jupiter, FL 33457.

The event will open with a Seminole and Black Seminole Commemoration, followed by the 175th Battle Remembrance. Reenactors, JROTC Cadets, and other military assets will be piped onto the battlefield by the Palm Beach County Fire and Rescue Pipe and Drums for a military remembrance of the fallen US Sailors, Soldiers, and Tennessee Volunteers who died in the service of their country here on the Loxahatchee River. The ceremony will be followed by a lecture from Richard Procyk.

Appeal for Donations

Your Foundation has three major goals: The preservation of sites associated with the Seminole Wars, public education, and research. Accomplishing these tasks takes money. The Foundation has spent thousands of dollars on site excavation and preservation at places like Camp IZard, Fort Dade, Fort King, and at Micanopy. We have also committed matching funds for a grant proposal for work at the Withlacoochee Battle site. Our numerous books and other publications have added considerably to the body of knowledge on the Seminole Wars, and several titles are due for publication within the next year or two. In order to foster continued research, the Foundation has recently established the Student Research Award.

In order to continue this important work, the Foundation needs to keep raising funds. While we are continually on the lookout for large grants or donations, we also depend upon many smaller contributions. If you are able to help out, in any amount, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution. Every little bit helps and allows us to continue our efforts to ensure that the Seminole Wars are not forgotten.

Thank You
The Board of Directors

Financial Statement

The Foundation's fiscal year ended June 30, 2012. Membership at the end of the year totaled 115 members. Given below is an abbreviated financial statement.

Total Assets: \$35,780.94 (\$25,472.23 Money Market, \$10,237.37 Checking, \$71.24 Furniture and Equipment)
Revenue: \$7,371.92 (\$710.00 Donations, \$3355.00 Membership, \$3186.92 Sales, \$120 Special Income)
Expenses \$8,535.22 (\$707.91 Bank Charges, \$1869.24 Merchandise Purchase, \$10 Licenses and Permits, \$232.40 PC & Internet Expenses, \$1500.31 Conferences and Meetings, \$447.28 Miscellaneous Expenses, \$89.04 Office Supplies, \$365.01 Postage, \$2,282.47 Printing, \$600.00 Professional Services, \$431.56 Taxes)

For the first time in many years, the Foundation suffered a loss in its annual operations (\$1163.30). This was not unexpected, as considerable funds were spent to stock the Foundation Bookstore and on the printing of our publications, both of which are investments that will eventually be recovered in sales.

Board of Directors

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Editorial Information

The *Foundation Report* is published quarterly for members of the Seminole Wars Foundation, Inc. Anyone wishing to submit articles should contact Managing Editor John Missall at 11155 Rabun Gap Dr., N. Ft. Myers, FL 33917; 239-543-8831; or info@seminolewars.us
The Seminole Wars 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: 352-583-2711. Web: www.seminolewars.us

Check Out Our New Website!



After many years with the same format, the Foundation website has a new look. We've adopted a lighter, brighter style and added a few new features. Although some of the pages are still "works in progress" we think you'll like what you see. If you have any comments or suggestions for the site, please let us know. If you have any friends interested in the Seminole Wars, please point them to the site. You can view the new site at www.seminolewars.us.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Celebrates 15th Anniversary

The Foundation congratulates the Seminole Tribe's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on their 15th Anniversary. Located on the scenic Big Cypress Reservation, the museum is a leader in tribal museums, the first such facility to earn accreditation from the American Association of Museums, and is a member of the Smithsonian Institution's Affiliations Program. Home to more than 20,000 archival items and artifacts, the museum is truly the gem of the Everglades. If you've never visited Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki, plan a trip this winter. You'll enjoy the experience. Visit their website at www.ahthithiki.com.



Board members Harley Gilmore, Mary Lou and John Missall at the Anniversary event.

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