



The Foundation Report

Seminole Wars Foundation, Inc.

Summer 2013

Spring Members' Meeting

Our latest members' meeting was held at the Foundation headquarters in Dade City on April 20, 2013. After a brief time of coffee and socializing, Board President Richard Tombrink welcomed approximately 35 guests and introduced our first speaker, Rodney Kite-Powell, the Curator of History at the Tampa Bay History Center, adjunct professor at the University of Tampa, and columnist for the *TampaTribunes's* History and Heritage Page. His talk and Power Point presentation was about changing perceptions of Florida as viewed through historic maps. His discussion and presentation of maps from the earliest of Florida to the very recent provided a great overview of Florida history. Rodney is preparing a new and expanded exhibition of Florida maps, *Charting the Land of Flowers: 500 Years of Florida Maps*, which will open in the History Center's Wayne Thomas Gallery in September 2013 and run through February 2014. More information can be found at their web site: <http://www.tampabayhistorycenter.org/index.html>. There is also a book planned to accompany the exhibit. If his talk was any indication, the exhibit should be excellent.

After lunch we heard from our second speaker, Dr. Todd Larue, a Dade City Family Practitioner, who compared treatment and medication of injuries and illness as practiced by John Bemrose during the Second Seminole War with modern treatment and medication. Private Bemrose, a hospital steward, was the author of *Reminiscences of the Second Seminole War*, published in 1966 by the University of Florida Press and then republished by the Seminole Wars Foundation in 2001. His talk provided a great overview of medical conditions and therapeutics during this conflict.

Article and photos by Dr. Sam Smith



Rodney Kite-Powell



Dr. Todd Larue

We're on Facebook

Thanks to Treasurer Debbie Harper, the Seminole Wars Foundation is now on Facebook. Check out our page, tell your friends, and give us a "Like."

Special Summer Members' Meeting

Our next Seminole Wars Foundation members' meeting will take place at the George A. Smathers Library at the University of Florida in Gainesville on Saturday, July 20, 2013. This special event is being graciously hosted by past Board President and current Advisory Board member James G. Cusick, the Chair and Curator for the P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History Special & Area Studies Collections. The meeting will start at the library at 10 am. Plans are to tour the special collections area at the library and also to see some of the rare materials related to the Seminole Wars. Jim will educate us about the holdings and the availability of these items and information for research. A brief video presentation about Black Seminoles submitted by student Stephanie Hamilton for our newly inaugurated "Student Research Award" will be viewed, and she will be recognized. Lunch will be provided. After our time at the library, the membership is invited to continue their time in Gainesville with a visit to the Florida Museum of Natural History to view their exhibits about Florida's Native American peoples (<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/>).

Attendance of the meeting is free for Seminole Wars Foundation members. For non-members there is a \$10 per person charge to cover the cost of lunch. Free parking at the University is limited, but there are fee-based parking lots opposite the library off University Ave. Admission to the Natural History Museum is free. Cameras are permitted in the library but backpacks, purses, and other bulky items are not allowed. Please **RSVP to fdlaumer@yahoo.com** or call **352-583-2711 no later than July 10, 2013** if you plan to attend the meeting.



Directions:

From the North: Exit I-75 onto SR-26 (University Ave.), travel east approximately 4.75 miles.

From the South: Exit I-75 onto SR-25 (Archer Rd.), travel east approximately 4 miles (will become SW 13th St.).

The library is located near the junctions of University Ave. and SW 13th St. After finding a parking space, enter the campus and locate building marked "B" on the map.

St. Augustine Memorial Event

Foundation members are cordially invited to attend this year's commemoration of the conclusion of the Second Seminole War to be held at the St. Francis Barracks and National Cemetery in St. Augustine on August 24, 2013, sponsored by the West Point Society of North Florida, with the Seminole Wars Foundation, and the Military Commemoration Committee of the St. Augustine 450th Anniversary Commission. Many of you will remember this event from last year, when it was a Foundation Members' Meeting. Although not an official meeting this year, Foundation members are helping to organize and sponsor the event and our entire membership is invited. If you missed it last year or would like to attend once again, this is your chance.

The event has been growing and this year will feature a "bookfair" with works about the Seminole Wars. Other events in the ceremony include period reenactors, weapons firings, a march to the cemetery, laying of the wreath, luncheon, and guest speaker. This year's speaker will be the Florida National Guard Historian and our former Foundation President Greg Moore, Lt. Col. (Ret) NGFL. Greg will discuss his recent book, *Sacred Ground: The Military Cemetery at St. Augustine*.

St. Francis Barracks is located at 82 Marine Street, directly on the waterfront just south of the Bridge of Lions. Cost for the luncheon and program in the Officers Club at the Barracks is \$20. If you are interested in attending, contact Joe Naftzinger at 904-940-0932, or jnatnc@aol.com.

Friend or Enemy?

We all share a common humanity that often transcends the antagonistic situations life sometimes places us in. While it is frequently mentioned how civil wars can tear families and friendships apart, we also know that the bitterest of enemies can become the closest of friends when the shooting stops. Those of us who study the Seminole Wars are also aware that some of the people who were most sympathetic to the Seminole cause were the very men who had been sent to Florida to hunt them down. Many soldiers came to realize their enemy was simply doing one of the things that comes so naturally to all humans: defending their homes. Capt. John Rogers Vinton was in New Orleans while on his way to assist in the removal of the Cherokee when he came across an old acquaintance from the Florida war:

Day before yesterday upwards of 250 Seminole Indians left these barracks for their new home beyond Arkansas. Among them, as they passed out through the gate, I discovered old Turtenev, my friend of Fort Mellon,—the tall warrior & runner of Coa Haijo. He greeted me with unusual emotion not unlikened to tenderness. A shake of the hand would not do, but seeing him motioning to embrace me, I opened my arms to him and we hugged each other like brothers. And yet, thought I, of more balls than one from this Indian's rifle did I hear whizzing by my head at the battle of Lake Monroe. But we forget all those things when hostilities are over. And now at our last parting I commended him to heaven with a secret prayer for his future welfare. I pointed my finger to the sky above us, in token of my meaning and waved him an affectionate farewell. Whether he understood me or not I shall never perhaps find out. After their party was gone my thoughts flowed out in the following verses:

The Seminole's Farewell to Florida

We go! It is our doom,—here all our ties we sever
Our doom we know.
Tis past,—the die is cast,—these cheerful scenes we quit forever
Ye glades, ye forest shades, O how can we be parted.
How leave these sun bright skies & fields? O how but broken hearted.

Farewell! O never tell, how the warrior's eyes were weeping
When he turned & sadly mourned o'er the grave where his sires were sleeping
Remember not, O glen & grot! How the chieftain's look had altered,
O never let the paleface know how the Redman's footstep faltered.

Go on! We must be gone,—for we know the fate compelling
Tis done! The setting sun marks our only place of dwelling.
Tell us not, of any spot, where our feet may soon be rested.
Where have we ever yet abode by white man unmolested?

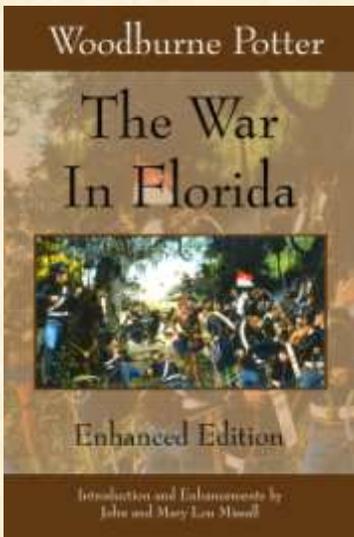
We fought as well we ought—Honest pens will write our story.
Our brow, tho' saddened now, may one day wear the wreath of glory.
Then come;—We'll find a home, where the spirit's fire is lighted
For here our Sun is sunk for aye and all our life is blighted.



Sketch by John Rogers Vinton

From the forthcoming biography of Major John Rogers Vinton by John & Mary Lou Missall

New Foundation Publication



The War in Florida, Woodburne Potter's classic account of the Second Seminole War, with enhancements by John and Mary Lou Missall.

Softcover, 235 pages, \$15.95. Also available for Kindle from Amazon.com

For those who wish to study first-hand accounts of the Second Seminole War, one of the most valuable resources is Woodburne Potter's *The War in Florida*. Although Potter was only in Florida for a few months, he was present at a time when much of the action took place and was able to speak with many of the participants. Potter was also a keen observer and interested in more than battles. His views on the causes of the war show us a man who was unwilling to accept the party line and not above placing blame where he felt it best belonged. His descriptions of major Seminole leaders such as Osceola are also invaluable.

Long available only in facsimile editions, this new edition features enhancements by John and Mary Lou Missall, including an Introduction, Endnotes, and an Index, along with cover art by Jackson Walker. Readers will now be able to look up the many names Potter mentions, and Endnotes provide additional historical data and biographical information on many of the participants.

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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., 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

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