



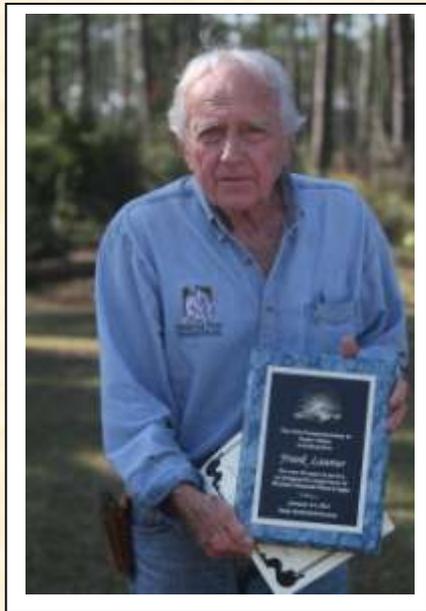
# The Foundation Report

## Seminole Wars Foundation, Inc.

### Winter 2014

## Dade Battle Reenactment

### Keeping History Alive Through the Generations



Dade Battle historian and Foundation founding member Frank Laumer received an award for his work of over 50 years in bringing knowledge of the Seminole Wars to a wider audience. The award was presented at this year's reenactment by the Dade Battlefield Society.

Photos courtesy Elizabeth Neily



Matthew Griffin is a descendant of Black Seminoles and has been reenacting since high school. A recent university graduate, he now works in the agricultural industry.



## Tour the Ruins



The Ormond Beach Historical Society is hosting a tour of a group of sugar plantations in N.E. Florida that were destroyed by the Seminoles at the beginning of the Second Seminole War. The activities will begin at 10:00 AM, Sunday, Feb. 9, with a guided tour of Bulow Plantation Ruins State Park. At 11:30 AM re-enactors will tell the stories of James Ormond and Thomas Henry Dummett at James Ormond Park, site of the Ormond Tomb. Guests are invited to bring a lunch and enjoy Tomoka State Park on the site of the Oswald Plantation. Guided walking tours within the park begin and 1:00 and 2:00 PM. Cost is \$12 (\$10 for OBHS members) for adults, \$5 for children 8-12. **Reservations are required.** Tickets may be purchased at the MacDonald House, 38 E. Granada Blvd., Ormond Beach, or by calling 386-677-7005.

# “Memory of Osceola”

Memories here, almost like gunshot,  
Darken the sea-wind.  
The palm tops are swaying  
Against each other as if from within  
Their swing that “black drink”  
You drank gnashed their limbs.

Captured under a flag of truce, you  
Still hang as smoke through the air  
Above your headless body,  
Creating in us a dream that glares,  
A reflection of error.

Your musket, long-dissolved in dust,  
Once filled the air with shots  
Where slaves worked the sugarcane.  
Now the roads in front of us  
Bear new names  
Marking the ground you lost.



“Osceola” by John Rogers Vinton

Poem by Foundation member James Wm. Chichetto, who has been published over three hundred times in a number of magazines and anthologies, including the *Manhattan Review*, *America*, the *Colorado Review*, *Anthology of Magazine Verse*, and *Yearbook of Poetry*, among others. He is the recipient of both NEH and NEA grants. Currently, he is a professor of Communications at Stonehill College.



## Calendar of Events

**February 1 & 2, 2014:** *New Dates!* Big Cypress Shootout, Billie Swamp Safari, Big Cypress Indian Reservation, [www.bcsshootout.com/](http://www.bcsshootout.com/)

**February 8 & 9, 2014:** Fort Foster Rendezvous, Hillsborough River State Park, Tampa, [www.floridastateparks.org/hillsboroughriver/](http://www.floridastateparks.org/hillsboroughriver/)

**February 22 & 23, 2014:** *New Dates!* Battle of Okeechobee Reenactment, Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park, Okeechobee, [www.okeechobeebattlefield.com/](http://www.okeechobeebattlefield.com/)

**March 15 & 16, 2014:** Fort Cooper Days, Fort Cooper State Park, Inverness, [www.floridastateparks.org/fortcooper/](http://www.floridastateparks.org/fortcooper/)

**March 22 & 23, 2014:** (*tentative*) Fort Chokonikla Encampment, Payne's Creek Historic State Park, Bowling Green, [www.floridastateparks.org/paynescreek/](http://www.floridastateparks.org/paynescreek/)

# Seminole Talk at Sumter State College



*Left to right: Willie Johns, Harry Pickering, Dave Noble, Thelma Noble, Tom Brady, John Griffin*

On November 15, 2013, The Florida Humanities Council sponsored a lecture on Seminole culture at Lake Sumter State College. The program consisted of two speakers offering different viewpoints of the Seminole experience.

The first lecture was by Mr. Willie Johns of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Mr. Johns is the current Outreach Program Director of the Seminole Tribe's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation. He will soon be leaving that position to become a Tribal Court Judge. He grew up and still lives in the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation, and he graduated from the University of Miami. He is a Cow Creek Seminole from the Pony and Wild Cat Clans.

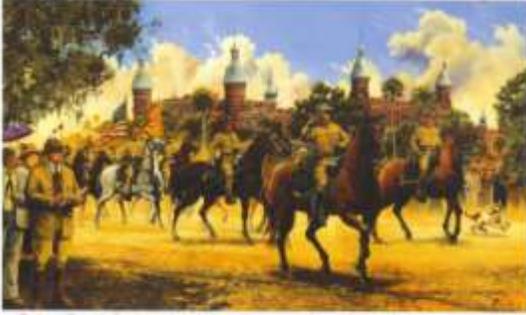
His lecture revolved around the history, language, and culture of the Seminole Tribe. His oral presentation was done in a way which clarified the topics from the standpoint of a Seminole, and it was easy for the audience to understand, although the culture is very complicated. He explained the migration of his people to Florida, where they came from, who they descended from, and their language. He then explained the matrilineal family structure through the mother's line, the role of the mother, the father, aunts and uncles, and the structure of the Clans. He explained their beliefs, rituals, and ceremonies, relating some very personal stories which were fascinating. He put it in such simple terms that clarified a lot, and the audience came away with a better perspective. He also spent a lot of time answering questions.

The second presenter was Mr. John Griffin, a descendant of black Seminoles. His ancestor was a runaway slave from the Southeastern U. S. who escaped and joined the Seminole Indians in Florida. He was born in Groveland and lives in Brooksville. He is involved in an effort to preserve and mark the site of a former black Seminole community which was near present day Bushnell, known as Peliklikaha, or Abraham's Old Town. Abraham was a black Seminole leader and an interpreter and advisor for Chief Micanopy. The village dates back to circa 1813. During the Army's 1836 campaign in late March, during the Second Seminole War, the villagers abandoned Peliklikaha when a large column of troops led by General Abraham Eustis approached. The troops took the village's livestock, and then burned and completely destroyed the town. Mr. Griffin gave a great lecture about the runaway slaves who joined the Seminoles, and their contributions to the Indian Nation.

Article and Photo by Harry Pickering

# Now Available

## RECOVERING MOMENTS IN TIME



The Florida History Paintings of Jackson Walker

Many of us are familiar with the art of Foundation member Jackson Walker; his works adorn the covers of most of the Foundation's publications. Known for his meticulous research and attention to detail, Jackson specializes in Florida history, and many of his paintings deal with aspects of the Seminole Wars. Unfortunately, with the exception of large-size prints, most of his works have been unavailable to a wide audience. Now, a new book by the Florida Historical Society Press brings many of Jackson's works to print in a convenient, beautiful publication.

*Recovering Moments In Time* displays twenty-five of Jackson's paintings in brilliant color, each enlarged to a full-page print, with accompanying text on the facing page explaining the history behind the image. Also included are personal comments by the artist and a short biography.

*Recovering Moments In Time* is available from the Foundation Bookstore for \$29.95. Remember, members receive a 20% discount on this and all other titles we carry. To order, call 352-583-2711 or visit our website [www.seminolewars.us/bookstore.html](http://www.seminolewars.us/bookstore.html).

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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](mailto: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](http://www.seminolewars.us)

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