SEMINOLE WARS FOUNDATION

SPECIAL REPORT

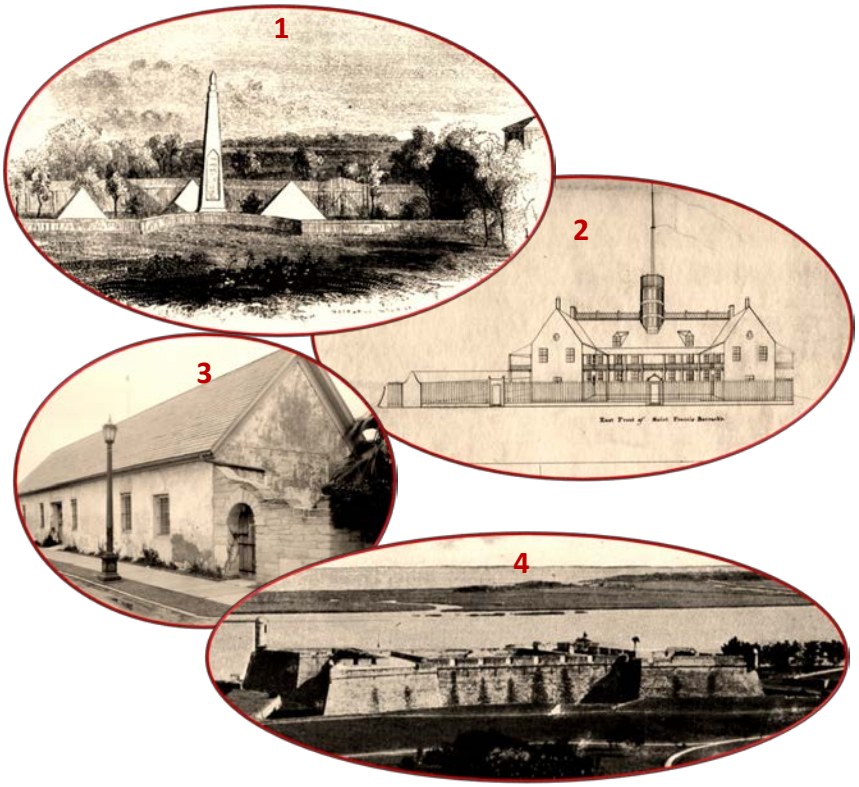
Produced by the
Seminole Wars Foundation, Inc.

April, 2018

WHY ST. AUGUSTINE?

The nation's oldest city was a most appropriate venue for the inaugural *Convocation of Seminole War Historians*. In 1835, as the war started, it was the vital eastern gateway to the remote battlefields of what became the long, costly Second Seminole War. And, in 1842, it was the site of the moving, melancholy parade and somber ceremony (in the then gardens of St. Francis Barracks) that signaled the dénouement of that war. That sacred ground became the final resting place of Major Francis Dade and his men, slain in the war's opening battle. Some of the significant venues connected with that war are depicted below. Three of them, the St. Francis Barracks, the adjoining National Cemetery and the Ximenez-Fatio House (see p. 11) were sites for this Convocation.

(1) St. Augustine National Cemetery. (2) St. Francis Barracks.
(3) "King's Bakery" Barracks. (4) Castillo de San Marco - then Ft. Marion.



CONVOCATION OF SEMINOLE WAR HISTORIANS:

St. Augustine, Florida
August 11-13, 2017

A Special Report published by the Seminole Wars Foundation, Inc.

Editor:
Joseph E. Naftzinger, PhD

Copyeditor and Technical Support:
Rosa Sophia (www.rosasophia.com)

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Seminole Wars Historic Foundation, Inc.
35247 Reynolds St.
Dade City, FL 33523
(www.semoinolewars.org)

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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Organized by the Seminole Wars Foundation, Inc., in conjunction with the West Point Society of North Florida, the first Convocation of Seminole War Historians was held August 11-13, 2017, in six venues throughout St. Augustine. This Report is a record of its proceedings and participants.

As the Foundation president emphasizes in his foreword, the Convocation drew a diverse group of 124 attendees from 34 Florida counties. The numerous participants in the Saturday morning parade and following commemoration ceremony at the National Cemetery are identified on pages 4 and 5. Biographies of those who presented lectures or participated in one of the four breakout sessions Saturday afternoon begin on page 20. Sunday's presentation of the first *Frank Laumer Legacy Award*, established by the Seminole Wars Foundation for excellence in Seminole Wars research, was the Convocation capstone (page 16).

The success of the Convocation was underscored by the decision of three organizations with active programs supporting Seminole War history to continue the series into the future every two years, as detailed on pages 18 to 19. The event was made possible by a grant from the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council, and from the contributions of eight organizations promoting the history of the Seminole Wars (listed on page 25). **The organizers thank all of them for their generosity.**

Jorge L. Rivera, owner of First Coast TV (www.firstcoast.tv), recorded the complete event, from which the photographs in this report are extracted. A five-minute video overview of the Convocation is available at: *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7frYTnvBdm0./*

FOREWORD

Although historians speak of three Seminole wars, the Seminole people think of the years 1817 to 1858 as the time of a single conflict. While the general public's knowledge of this key period in our nation's history is limited, there is persistent scholarship and strong, but localized, interest in it. This fragmentation of interest and effort inspired us to organize the first Convocation of Seminole War Historians as an event open to all. The Convocation in St. Augustine was the exciting inaugural of this concept—gathering people of varying backgrounds throughout Florida and beyond who share the common goal of increasing knowledge in, and enthusiasm for, the lessons of the Seminole Wars.

The event incorporated an annual commemoration, organized by the West Point Society of North Florida—a simple, yet poignant, remembrance of the 1842 re-interment ceremony that closed the Second Seminole War. We designed a Convocation that expanded the commemoration's scope and duration into a multi-day event, to attract all interested in the history of the Seminole Wars, a history so important for both Florida and the nation as a whole.

Many attendees did not consider themselves historians, yet their presence and participation showed that they were! Regardless of education, vocation, books read or sites visited, anyone caring enough to attend was by definition a Seminole Wars historian. There was no mistaking the successful, exciting outcome.

Just think of it. A unique stage was set for those representing a host of occupations and backgrounds to convene, interact, and mutually benefit to pursue common historical interests. Attendees included a teacher, firefighter, pediatrician, author, electrician, archaeologist, professor, attorney, editor, land developer, retired army colonel, retailer, tribal court justice, singer, public relations professional, and architect. Collectively they made the Convocation an exciting success, advanced public interest in this critical period, and laid the basis for future gatherings—the primary goals of its organizers.

STEVEN RINCK, President, Seminole Wars Foundation

CONVOCATION SCHEDULE

Friday Evening, August 11
St. Augustine Officers Club

Registration opens. Informal social. Florida National Guard Museum open, curator on site for tours

Saturday Morning, August 12
St. Augustine Officers Club

Official welcome – orientation

"New Research on the Dade Pyramids,"
Address by Alison Simpson, Fl. National Guard Historian

Parade to the National Cemetery and Following Ceremony
Organized by the West Point Society of North Florida

Saturday Afternoon, August 12
Trinity Hall at Trinity Episcopal Parish

MC: Steven Rinck, President Seminole Wars Foundation

Lunch and Coin Presentation

Remarks by George Godfrey, President West Point Society

"Enduring Seminoles: Hard Times to Hard Rock,"
Presentation by acclaimed author Patsy West

Four Breakout Sessions (pp. 9 – 12)

Saturday Evening, August 12
Ringhaver Theater. Flagler College

"St. Augustine is Healthy and Delightful:
Capt. John Rogers Vinton in the Second Seminole War,"
Address by authors John and Mary Lou Missall

Sunday Morning and Afternoon, August 13
Marc W. Lance National Guard Armory

Buffet breakfast, breakout session reports and discussion

Remarks by Magen Wilson
Executive Director, St. Augustine Historical Society

Presentation honoring Frank Laumer and his work promoting interest in the Florida Seminole Wars

Concluding remarks, future prospects – Steven Rinck

COMMEMORATION PARADE and CEREMONY
Saturday Morning

An anchor of the Convocation was the commemoration of the August 15th, 1842 parade through St. Augustine and the subsequent ceremony that marked the end of the Second Seminole War and honored those who perished in it. Organized by the West Point Society for 10 years, the commemoration honors all who suffered and sacrificed—soldier, civilian, and Seminole alike—in that long, difficult struggle.

ST. FRANCIS BARRACKS, 82 MARINE ST.

Cannon salute – Bugler sounds assembly
Cannon salute – Bugler sounds adjutant's call
Marchers exit barracks courtyard
Spectators follow parade into National Cemetery

ST. AUGUSTINE NATIONAL CEMETERY

Welcome and Remarks
George Godfrey, USMA '90,
President, West Point Society of North Florida

West Point Society Wreath Laying
"Ned" Woolfolk, COL. USA Ret. USMA '81,
"Al" Richburg, Director, Jacksonville and
St. Augustine National Cemeteries

Cadet Prayer, led by the
Honorable Howard O. McGillin, COL. USA, Ret. USMA '81

Musket, Cannon Salutes, Taps. Adjournment, 11:30

THE PARTICIPANTS

Marching Soldiers

Tom Allen, Eric Ardjewski, Lee Bledsoe, James Clark, William Gruber, Mike Heitman, Tom Jessee, Jerry Keith, Luci Keith, Joseph Lorentzson, Paul Remis, Kevin Slaughter, Dowling Watford

Mounted Officers

Leroy Sykes, Bud Thayer

Cannon Crew (Peace River Artillery)

Dallas Allen, Toney Hodges, Doug Killian, Gerald Walker, Howard Walker

Townspeople and Seminoles

Jane "Sunshine" Boettner**,** Jim "Sawgrass" Boettner, Harvard Burney, Laney Burney, Michele Camp-Noto, Rick Caravona, Sandy Clark, Steve Creamer, Bettie Debary, Earl Debary, Jeremy Debary, Doc Gipson, John Henderson, Margret Henderson, Jamie Jones-Newman, Paul Morrison, Joe Noto, Jr., Angie Powell, Farris Powell, Shannon Slaughter, Stephen Tee

Caisson and "Elegant" Mules

Owned and driven by Tom and Denise Fitzgerald

Piper and Bugler/Drummer

Arthur Tenney and Evan Brown

Officer in White: Lt. Col. Harry Metz, USAF (ret.)

ACTIVITIES IN TRINITY HALL
Saturday Afternoon

After the ceremony in the National Cemetery, over 160 attendees assembled in Trinity hall for lunch and presentation of the traditional re-enactor coins (see below) with Steven Rinck, Seminole Wars Foundation President as MC. Remarks from George Godfrey, West Point Society President, were followed by the afternoon's featured speaker, Patsy West (following pages). Four breakout sessions (pp. 9 – 12) closed the afternoon. Throughout, attendees browsed informative displays from over a dozen Florida organizations that focus on Seminole Wars history.

THE 2017 RE-ENACTOR CHALLENGE COIN

This coin is awarded annually to the living historians who participate in the remembrance of the 1842 parade and ceremony. The face of each coin depicts the pyramids and Dade Monument in the St. Augustine National Cemetery. The 2017 coin remembers the Seminole Chief Osceola, captured under a flag of truce just outside St. Augustine in September, 1837 and brought to then Fort Marion. In December, he was transferred to Charleston's Fort Moultrie where he died shortly thereafter.

"The Enduring Seminoles: From Hard Times to Hard Rock"

Key Note Address by Patsy West

Patsy West's presentation combined information from two of her published works: *The Enduring Seminoles* (University Press of Florida, 1998, Revised Ed., 2007) and an article for the Florida Humanities Council, *Forum Magazine* (Spring, 2007, pp. 10-16).

"I have been in the field for 45 years with the descendants of my pioneer great-grandfather's Mikasuki friends. My work has concentrated on the historical and anthropological interpretation of the unique Mikasuki—from documentation in 1540 to today. In recent years, I have applied ethnohistorical interpretation of the traditional culture using primary source material from the war period, and identified traditions that were retained post-war and even well into the 20th century by this majority of Florida Indians, those of Mikasuki heritage who call themselves *i:laponath:li.*

"The fiercely sovereign Mikasuki represented the major fighting force during the first two 'Seminole Wars.' They fought the United States policy of Indian Removal in a virtually religious war striving to remain on the Land in Florida. The Mikasuki were never 'pushed down' into the Florida Everglades. They had enjoyed a

fairly continuous settlement pattern on high islands in the 'inland sea' *before, during, and after* the Seminole Wars, which included their ceremonial complexes. Their great leader, strategist, medicine man and cultural hero, Sam Jones, saved the gene pool of the Mikasuki clans through the Third Seminole War. Today, people of Mikasuki heritage represent a full 70% of all Florida Indian citizens of The Seminole Tribe of Florida, The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, and the Independent Seminoles."

Her talk then noted the post-war Mikasuki Everglades domain, their traditional island settlements and social life, chickee and canoe building, hunting and preparing food, and hunting for trade.

"The new economy in the first half of the 20th century was the commercial 'Seminole Indian Village' tourist attraction: the cultural tourism city crafts market featuring Seminole dolls, machine-sewn patchwork clothing, and the crowd-pleasing 'alligator wrestling.' All were a cultural and economic boon that allowed the Mikasuki population the freedom to retain their tribal integrity, traditions, and sovereignty.

"The federal programs of the 1950s and 1960s included the tribal formation of today's two federally recognized tribes. Later the new economies of Smoke Shops, Bingo and Gaming, followed by the Seminoles' purchase of the London-based Hard Rock International assured the tribes today of an economic prosperity their forefathers had never dreamed possible."

BREAKOUT SESSION I

Archaeology and Resurrection of Ft. King

David Laffey. chair, with Gary Ellis

Gary Ellis's paper, "Archaeology and the Seminole War Era," reviewed extensive efforts taken to prepare and clear the original fort footprint before reconstruction began. David described the Fort King Heritage Association (FKHA) fundraising process that raised in excess of $700,000 in 12 months.

In his presentation, "Fort King: the 1846 to 2017 Journey," David reported that the fort's reconstruction was completed in November of 2017, and a check presented to the City Of Ocala by the FKHA on February 8, 2018—paying in full the balance of the $642,000 reconstruction cost. Just over $100,000 were in the coffers of FKHA as they began the second phase developing the historic site into a living history park.

In January, 2018 James Fiske, President of Friends of Tomoka Basin State Parks, with three of his members, visited the project. James had attended the Breakout Session and wanted more ideas on the success of FKHA, as their intention is to rebuild Fort Fulton. David and Gary were honored to share documents, demonstrating how important the Convocation was in bringing together like-minded individuals to help each other in developing a network of Seminole War historic sites throughout Florida.

Sketch of Fort King by Lt. John T. Sprague, circa 1837
Florida Photographic Collection

BREAKOUT SESSION II
Seminole Heritage and History

Chris Kimball, chair

Much of the Seminole Wars was told by the Americans who left the written record. But what do we have from the Seminole side? How did it change their culture, and what are we learning that tells their story? Chris addressed these issues in a multi-media presentation and an exhibit of Seminole cultural items including paintings, clothes, and similar artifacts, a number on loan from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation. Contact Chris at *flatterritory@yahoo.com* for more information relative to this unique collection.

BREAKOUT SESSION III
Living Historian Workshop

Steven Rinck, chair

The Ximenez-Fatio House, a boarding house during the Second Seminole War, provided an inspirational setting for discussing the nature of first/second/third-person impressions that maintain authenticity. Steve Rinck, living historian and President of the Seminole Wars Foundation, led workshop discussions of approximately 20 participants. Some major points:

– While living historians can reenact, not all reenactors are living historians. Reenacting is a pastime in which participants change appearance to portray a past time and place. Living historians verbally interpret that past to help others better understand it.

– Living history can be successful in both first and third person. In first, you know nothing beyond your time period and situation; in third, you openly acknowledge that you are a contemporary of your audience. Second person allows you to involve the audience in conversation as if they also are living in the times you portray.

– Which is best? It depends on the situation and your own proclivities and comfort zone. Each has benefits and problems, but being a good second person living historian is difficult and requires continual study and practice.

– Many reenactors, as their physical portrayals become routine, turn to living history as a way of learning more about the era they represent. They become increasingly concerned with historical authenticity.

– Achieving complete historical authenticity is difficult, perhaps impossible. We cannot know *everything* about a past we did not live. But we can provide a veneer of authenticity, researching and emulating the look, talk and manners of the person we portray. In what *condition* should our clothing be? Would we have bathed recently? Should we show deference or exhibit a condescending attitude? A back story will help others understand where you have been, and how you became the person you portray.

BREAKOUT SESSION IV
Current Research And Recent Literature

Dr. James M. Denham, chair, with
Dr. James C. Cusick and **Dr. Michelle Sivilich**

Approximately 50 people attended the session on "Current Research and Recent Literature." Dr. Denham introduced the presenters and then presented his own paper entitled "Exploring the Legacy: Recent Works About the Seminole Wars." Denham provided a topical annotated summary of works on the Seminole Wars since 2000. Among the subheadings of this work were First Seminole War; Second Seminole War; Third Seminole War; Soldiers Accounts; African-American Contributions; Women and the Wars; and finally, the numerous controversial historical interpretations of the wars that have emerged since 2000.

Dr. Cusick's, presentation entitled "Exploring the Legacy: Online Sources and Cartography" surveyed recent online sources and cartography on the Seminoles Wars. He demonstrated the numerous online sources available to those researching the Seminole Wars, and noted those at the University of Florida's P. K. Yonge Library and other locations. Both presenters provided the audience with handouts, and used computer projection to illustrate the many Internet resources identified.

Dr. Michelle Sivilich's paper "Connecting the Past to the Future: New Directions for Seminole War Archaeology" featured numerous examples of archaeological excavations she has conducted over the last several years. Prominent among these is her work on the Fort King foundation excavation done before the recent construction of the fort's facsimile. She explained that the excavation of the site will be continued for some years.

Lively discussions followed each of the three presentations, with many questions and conversations continuing after the session.

SATURDAY EVENING PRESENTATION

The Army Is My Calling: The Life and Writings of Major John Rogers Vinton, 1801-1847

Address by John and Mary Lou Missall

Using pictures and quotations, the Missalls debuted their latest book about the personal life and military career of Major Vinton, which spanned a period of 30 years. He was the first West Point graduate from Rhode Island (1817), and at 12, one of the youngest to study at the Academy. Of particular interest to Seminole War historians are the artwork and records from his long service in Florida during the Second Seminole War. An accomplished artist, Vinton left numerous sketches of wartime scenery in Florida and portraits of Osceola, along with several journals and letter books.

After the outbreak of the Second Seminole War, Vinton was promoted to Captain and replaced Capt. Upton Fraser, who had been slain in the Dade Battle. Arriving in Florida, February 1837, he soon found himself in the thick of the fighting at the Battle of Lake Monroe. The death of his wife in 1838 changed his outlook on life dramatically, but not his career. Leaving the children with family members or in boarding schools, Vinton returned to Florida for the rest of the war, taking comfort in the solitude of his remote postings at Forts Dallas, Lauderdale, and New Smyrna.

The end of the war found him at comfortable postings in North Carolina and Georgia, where he was able to spend time with his children. That ended with the outbreak of War with Mexico in 1846. Assigned to Winfield Scott's army during the siege of Veracruz in March 1847, Vinton gave his life for his country, killed by a Mexican cannonball while directing artillery fire. More about Vinton and an overview of the Missalls' other books including the best seller, *The Seminole Wars: America's Longest Indian Conflict*, is at their website, www.missall.net.

SUNDAY MORNING
At the Mark W. Lance Armory

The climax of the Convocation began Sunday at 9:00 AM at the Florida National Guard's Mark Lance Armory with a generous brunch buffet, providing time for attendees to mingle and exchange news, views, and ideas.

With Steven Rinck as MC, reports by the four breakout committee chairmen were the first order of business. Each report was followed by wide-ranging discussion. Then Ms. Magen Wilson, Executive Director of the St. Augustine Historical Society, gave a presentation about the Society, its work in St. Augustine and focus on Seminole War history. She invited all to join the society, its website being *www*.saintaugus*tinehistoricalsociety.org*.

Views of the St. Augustine Historical Society research facility, showing the Kirby-Smith/Darnes statue in the courtyard at left.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON
At the Mark W. Lance Armory

The interpersonal dynamics in the armory hall were evident, as friends, acquaintances, and fellow Seminole War historians of all stripes met and socialized, leading to impromptu remarks. Perhaps the most notable were those by Moses Osceola, Chief Judge of the Seminole Tribal Court. Moses gave voice to the view of many that the gathering was both enlightening and stimulating. Also of note was the poignant reunion of Greg Moore with Frank and Dale Laumer. Greg, a West Pointer, long-time Seminole Wars Foundation board member, and the former Florida National Guard Command Historian, has a special relationship with the Laumers, but they had not seen each other for some time.

Presentation of the first Frank Laumer Legacy Award, established for the occasion by the Seminole Wars Foundation and reported on the following pages, was the highlight of the day. After the presentation, Steven Rinck summed up the success of the Convocation, and introduced the representatives of the three organizations that will host the Convocations through 2023. His remarks, with dates and locations of these future Convocations, can be found on pages 18 and 19.

THE FRANK LAUMER LEGACY AWARD

Many of us at the Marc Lance Armory Sunday morning would not have been there were it not for the determined labors of Frank Laumer. For over half a century, his research and writing about Florida's Indian Wars expanded our collective knowledge of the period and heightened public awareness of this significant time in American history. Frank's passionate and persistent pursuit to know and understand more—even while he was operating several businesses and raising two generations of children—was an inspiration to us and motivated all in attendance to gather together as a Convocation of Seminole War Historians.

Frank might never have been engaged with the Florida wars had his curiosity not been piqued by a chance 1962 visit to what is now Dade Battlefield Historic State Park, barely 15 miles north of his home. He found it incredulous that only scant information was available about the battle which started the longest Indian war in American history, and determined to write a book about that important event. Tenaciously pursuing information from any source, he studied diaries, hiked old military trails, and even exhumed and examined a survivor's bones to confirm contemporary reports about the conflict. Along the way he, with

several others, founded the Seminole Wars Historic Foundation, Inc. Its goal: heighten public awareness of Florida's difficult formative years, before it became the nation's playground.

Laumer's perseverance paid off. Scholars and researchers now widely acknowledge him as the leading authority on Dade's Battle, and Private Ransom Clark—its most noted survivor—of Laumer's native New York state. The success he has achieved in meeting and overcoming challenges over the course of his 90 years has been aided by the unwavering support of his wife Dale Ann, and by his inherent attributes of:

CURIOSITY, INSPIRATION, TENACITY, PERSEVERANCE,

the same attributes that comprise the

FRANK LAUMER LEGACY AWARD,

of which he was the first recipient on August 13, 2017.

CONVOCATION SUMMARY: FUTURE PROSPECTS

It was a little like Christmas. Two years of arduous planning and preparation and suddenly it's over. You're still so energized, but now what do you do? Begin planning the *second* Convocation of Seminole War Historians, of course!

Although unique in many ways, Saint Augustine is only one of many Florida sites connected to the Seminole wars. For years, members of the Seminole Wars Foundation have worked closely in serving the common interests among our sister organizations, and we are proud to report that three of them have accepted the challenge to host future biennial convocations over the next six years. They are: the Okeechobee Battlefield friends, the Loxahatchee Battlefield Preservationists, and the Ft. King Heritage Association.

2019 (April 26-28) at Lake Okeechobee

The Battle of Lake Okeechobee was the largest engagement of the Seminole Wars. On Christmas day 1837, Colonel Zachary Taylor led 800 regulars and Missouri Volunteers to the lake's shore to engage about the same number of Seminoles and their Black allies. After several days of combat, the Seminoles retreated into the lake. The Seminoles had suffered about 26 casualties, but the dead and wounded from Taylor's command numbered over 220. Saved from development by the State of Florida in 2006, Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park holds a battle reenactment each February. One of the highlights of the 2019 Convocation will be tours and activities at the nearby Brighton Seminole Reservation.

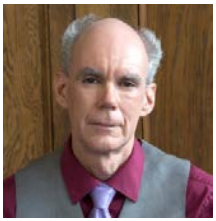
2021 at Loxahatchee

A short drive west of Jupiter is Loxahatchee River Battlefield Park, site of two battles in January, 1838. Navy Lieutenant Levin Powell led 75 soldiers and sailors against about 55 Seminoles. Nine days later, Major General Thomas Jesup commanded a force of 1,500 against perhaps 250 Seminoles. Together, these battles marked an end to large organized resistance among the native people during the remaining four and a half years of the Second Seminole War. Annual reenactments of these battles began in 2017, and the good turnout of visitors encouraged Palm Beach County commissioners to advocate for improvements to the park's infrastructure. A large nearby population base will be able to support a variety of venues and programs when Jupiter hosts its Convocation. *Painting by Jackson Walker depicts a part of the battle.*

2023 at Ft. King

The Fort King National Landmark in Ocala marks the site where the young war chief Osceola murdered Wiley Thompson, the U.S. Indian Agent on Dec. 28th, 1835, and on the same day Seminoles destroyed Dade's command 35 miles to the south. These acts marked the beginning of the Second Seminole War. Fort King, at the terminus of the military road beginning at Tampa Bay, became the Army's territorial headquarters during the war, only to be dismantled for its lumber in 1846. One hundred twenty-one years later, after a robust fundraising campaign, an impressive replica of the fort was constructed on the same site as the original. In 2023, the interior of the reconstructed fort, an interpretive center, and numerous trails and kiosks will be there to welcome the event's participants.

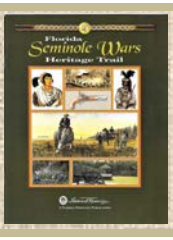
APPENDIX I
Biographies of the Speakers



JAMES C. CUSICK (Ph. D., U. Florida, 1993) is professor and curator of the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History at the University of Florida and writes primarily about life in Florida during the late colonial period. Besides his work at the university, he has served as a board member for the Florida Historical Society and the St. Augustine Historical Society, and as a judge for the State of Florida Book Awards. He is the author of *The Other War of 1812: The Patriot War and the American Invasion of Spanish East Florida* (2006), and co-editor with Sherry Johnson, of *The Voyages of Ponce de León: Scholarly Perspectives* (2012), and *Andrew Jackson in Florida* (2016). Yonge Library at: www.uflib.ufl.edu/spec/pkyonge/index.html

JAMES M. DENHAM (Ph.D., Florida State University, 1988), is a history professor and Director of the Lawton M. Chiles Center for Florida History at Florida Southern College. He has published widely on aspects of the Seminole Wars. Three of his six books deal with the Seminole Wars: *Cracker Times and Pioneer Lives (2000)*; *Echoes from a Distant Frontier;* and *Florida Founder, William P. DuVal, Frontier Bon Vivant* (2015). He has a chapter in Belco, ed. *America's Hundred Years War: U. S. Expansion to the Gulf Coast and the Fate of the Seminole, 1763-1858* (2011), and articles and reviews on the conflict in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, *The Journal of Southern History*, and *The American Historical Review*.

Be sure you have the ***Florida Seminole Wars Heritage Trail Guide.*** *Produced by the Seminole Wars Foundation for the Florida Division of Historical Resources in 2015 and available free at 800.847.7278, or www.flherigate.com.*



GARY ELLIS has over 42 years of professional life in archaeology with an undergraduate degree in anthropology from Southern Illinois University (1975) and a Master of Arts from the University of South Florida (1977). He developed the Indiana Historic Preservation and Archaeology Division, serving as its first State Archaeologist (1977-1991), assisted the Department of Anthropology at Indiana University-Purdue University as a faculty member teaching, and served as the archaeologist for the Indiana State Museum. Over the past 10 years, he has contributed to the archaeological study of the Seminole Wars (1817-1854), working with the National Park Service-American Battlefield Protection Program and the State of Florida investigating more than seven period forts and six major battlefields. Gary founded the Gulf Archaeology Research Institute (1995), now in its 23rd year of service. Connecting the Past to Our Future drives the institute and services cultural and natural resource research, protection and management across Florida.

GEORGE GODFREY, a 1990 graduate of West Point and president of the West Point Society of North Florida is TEAM of Care President. He was President and CEO of Crestcom International, LLC, a leading international franchisor of management training programs. He joined Crestcom as its COO in 2008, accepting his current position in March of 2009. At that time, he also became President, CEO and Director of its parent, Crestcom Holdings, LLC. He previously served as Senior Vice President of Sales for Phoenix American, an insurance provider in Miami. Before joining that firm, George spent 11 years with General Electric Consumer Finance/Insurance as a Regional Sales Manager and Senior Vice President. He received an MBA from Columbus State University (GA) in 1994.

"It is hereby announced that hostilities with the Indians within this territory have ceased."
Colonel William J. Worth, 4th Commandant of Cadets
Order No. 28, Cedar Keys, 24 August, 1842

CHRIS KIMBALL, now living in Tallahassee, grew up in Winter Park Florida, the son of an anthropologist and aeronautical engineer. He became interested in Seminole culture through his mother and developed a love of the outdoors as an Eagle Scout. After college and a tour in the Army, he became immersed in Seminole War research, writing numerous articles and is now a noted living-history interpreter of the 2nd Seminole War. His books, *Seminole & Creek War Chronology*, and its sequel, *Seminole & Creek War events – Revised*, contain a complete listing of all battles and skirmishes of the three Seminole Wars. Chris has made museum displays and reproduces items of period Seminole dress, with some featured at the Convocation. He is currently working on a book of unpublished accounts and battles of the Seminole War.

DAVID LAFFEY was born in Ocala, Florida, 1948. He received his Bachelor of Science in Journalism from the U. of Florida in 1971, founded Laffey & Associates Advertising & Public Relations in 1976, and retired in 2014. Taking pride in his hometown, David served on the Board of Directors of the Marion County Boys' Club, as Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Ocala Salvation Army, Public Relations Committee Chairman B.P.O.E. #286, Public Relations Committee Chairman Council #5960 Knights Of Columbus, and with the Marion County St. Jude's Crippled Children's Foundation. David was the Founder & Charter President of the Greater Ocala Advertising Federation AAF 4th District. In 2012, he joined the Fort King Heritage Association, helping to preserve and develop the Fort King National Historic Landmark site. Elected to the Board of Directors, then Treasurer, Vice President, and President, he developed the Buy A Log, Build A Fort fundraising Campaign to resurrect Ft. King, meeting its goal of $680,000 in 12 months.

JOHN AND MARY LOU MISSALL, are award-winning historians and authors focusing on the Seminole Indian Wars. Publications include: *The Seminole Wars: America's Longest Indian Conflict,* (Univ. Press of Florida); *This Torn Land: Poetry of the Second Seminole War*" (Seminole Wars Foundation); and *This Miserable Pride of a Soldier: The Letters and Journals of Col. William S. Foster in the Second Seminole War,* (Seminole Wars Foundation and Univ. of Tampa Press). Two fictional books—*Elizabeth's War,* a novel of the First Seminole War, and *Hollow Victory,* a novel of the Second Seminole War, (Florida Historical Society Press)—have won the prestigious Patrick D. Smith Award for Florida Fiction from the Society. Recent works in progress include a history of the Third Seminole War (with Dr. Joe Knetsch), and a book on the life of Major John Rogers Vinton, debuted at the Convocation.

STEVEN RINCK has been the president of the Seminole Wars Historic Foundation since 2015. An avid lifetime student of history, the retired teacher and principal is past president of the Dade Battlefield Society and serves as coordinator of the annual Dade's Battle Reenactment. He enjoys performing first-person historical impressions for school, military and civic groups as figures from the Second Seminole and Civil Wars, as well as from both sides of World War II. Steve has been interviewed several times by local television outlets and is a contributing author to the newest literary projects being undertaken by the Foundation.

ALISON SIMPSON, the Florida National Guard Historian, interprets the cultural dimension of historical buildings belonging to the Guard, and researches, archives and interprets Florida's militia heritage. A graduate of the Univ. of Mary Washington's Historic Preservation program, she has worked extensively in the museum field.

MICHELLE SIVILICH (Ph. D., University of South Florida, 2014), is Executive Director and field archeologist of the Gulf Archeology Research Institute (GARI) at Chrystal River. She is an expert on archaeology of the Seminole Wars, with over 15 years of experience in a variety of archaeological settings ranging from 17th century Maryland's first Capital of St. Mary's City, to Revolutionary War sites throughout the Northeast United States, to Thomas Jefferson's home of Monticello. Dr. Sivilich is lead archeologist at the Fort King site in Ocala, Florida, where GARI has worked since 1994, and has been integral in locating, interpreting, and obtaining National Landmark status for the site.

PATSY WEST, Director of the Seminole/ Miccosukee Archive, Ethnohistorian is a fifth generation South Floridian. Her family has been close to the Mikasuki-speaking population in South Florida since 1887. Patsy has been formally documenting tribal history for the past forty-five years from the full-service Seminole/Miccosukee Archive, which she established in Fort Lauderdale in 1972. Books she has authored include *The Enduring Seminoles: From Alligator Wrestling to Casino Gambling*; *A Seminole Legend: The Life of Betty Mae Tiger Jumper*; and two photo books from the Archive's image collection that dates back to 1852. Her sixth book will introduce significant tribal traditions, noted in the literature of the period, that were maintained well into the 20th century.

MAGEN WILSON She is currently pursuing an M.A. in American History with a concentration in Public History at the University of North Florida. She received her B.A. in History with minors in Anthropology and African-American Studies from the University of North Florida.

APPENDIX II

HONOR ROLL OF CONTRIBUTORS

The organizers are indebted to the many organizations and individuals who supported the Convocation with time, talent, and treasure. Those listed below helped fund the effort.

We thank them all for their support.

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Forward March
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St. Augustine Historical Society

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We are also grateful to the following who underwrote the production of the 2017 re-enactor coin.

Steven Rinck
Richard Tombrink
Okeechobee Battlefield Friends
George and Peggy Linardos

CONVOCATION IMAGES

Friday Evening Social and Registration

St. Augustine Officers Club, St. Francis Barracks

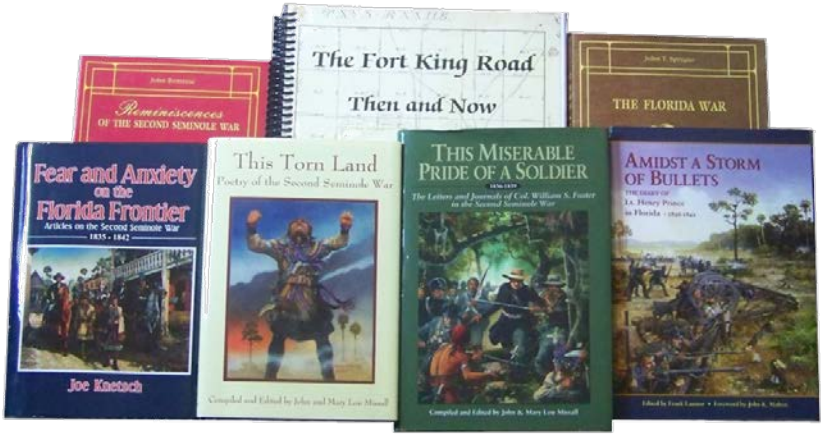
Saturday Morning
Official Welcome – Mustering for the Parade

St. Augustine Officers Club, St. Francis Barracks

CONVOCATION IMAGES

People and Places

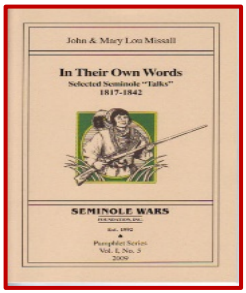
Publications from the Seminole Wars Foundation



The Foundation is a leading publisher of material relating to the Seminole Wars, both out-of-print works and newly researched material. Our bookstore also carries a wide variety of works from other publishers of interest to Seminole War scholars. Formerly out-of-print works include *The Florida War* by John Sprague; John Bemrose's *Reminiscences*, and *The War in Florida* by Woodburne Potter.

New works from the Foundation are: Joe Knetsch's *Fear and Anxiety on the Florida Frontier, This Miserable Pride of a Soldier* by John and Mary Lou Missall, and Lt. Henry Prince's diary, *Amidst a Storm of Bullets*. Specialty publications include *The Fort King Road* (detailed maps) by Jerry Morris and Jeff Hough, *This Torn Land* (period poetry), John and Mary Lou Missall edts., and for children, *Efa, the Seminole Dog* by Jerry Morris.

The Foundation also publishes a Pamphlet Series of short works on varying Seminole War subjects, including an overview of the wars, the Seminoles' view, army food, and Seminole vocabulary.



Visit our bookstore at www.seminolewars.org