

Summer 2006

News and  
Events



SEMINOLE WARS HISTORIC FOUNDATION, INC.

# The Foundation Report

## Even the Smallest Battles Leave Their Mark

On May 17, 1856, during the Third Seminole War, a small wagon train escorted by several members of the Florida Militia was attacked by a handful of Seminole warriors while on the trail between Ft. Brooke (Tampa) and Ft. Fraser (Lakeland). Killed early in the action were Pvt. Levi Starling and his 11 yr. old son James. As the soldiers took cover and returned fire, the Indians pressed their advantage, killing yet another soldier. A slave named Jim was dispatched to call for aid, and another soldier, wounded in the thigh, also fled. This left but one soldier, Tom Hatfield, to face six to ten warriors. Between shots, Hatfield managed to free one of the mules from its harness, which he then rode to safety. Soldiers who later arrived on the scene found a trail of blood, indicating that one of the warriors had been seriously wounded.

In commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fight, Foundation member Archie Marshall, Park Ranger at the Veteran's Memorial Park and Museum in Tampa, organized a recreation of the event. On May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of this year, soldier and Seminole re-enactors fought once again, reminding us of the sacrifices suffered on both sides of the struggle to live out their lives in the homeland of their choice. In attendance on both days were descendants of Levi Starling, those dreamed-of progeny that the Florida soldier had died defending.

Although the crowds were small when compared to well-known annual events such as Dade's Battle, they were very enthusiastic. Indeed, sales of Foundation books (excluding the newly-released Foster book, which has been selling very well) were better at this event than at any other we have attended in the past two years. In addition to the Foundation table set up by Board members John and Mary Lou Missall, members Harley Gilmore and Ralph Van Blarcom were on hand to exhibit numerous artifacts recovered from several Seminole War sites.



## Join us for Author's Day, August 19, 2006

Plan on attending our second Author's Day on Saturday, August 19, 2006, at 10:00 am at the Foundation headquarters on the banks of the lovely Withlacoochee River in Dade City. Last year's event was both well attended and well received. For this year's event we have gathered an exiting list of speakers:

Former Foundation President and University of South Florida professor Brent Weisman will be taking questions about Seminole history from his two books *Unconquered People: Florida's Seminole and Miccosukee Indians* and *Like Beads on a String*.

Board member Patsy West will enlighten us with tales of Seminole culture gleaned from her several books, including *The Enduring Seminoles: From Alligator Wrestling to Ecotourism*.

Mike Denham from the Center for Florida History at Florida Southern College and co-editor Keith Huneycutt, also of Florida Southern, will give us a look at the feminine side of the Second Seminole War with excerpts from their book *Echoes From a Distant Frontier: The Brown Sisters' Correspondence from Antebellum Florida*.

Although not technically an author, artist Jackson Walker will explain the work that goes into his highly detailed paintings of Florida history, including those that grace the covers of Foundation publications *Amidst a Storm of Bullets* and *This Miserable Pride of a Soldier*.

### Board of Directors

James Cusick (Pres.)  
Frank Laumer (V.P.)  
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William H. Edwards, Jr.  
Joe Knetsch  
Dale Anne Laumer  
John Missall  
Mary Lou Missall  
Tina Osceola  
Jackson Walker  
Patsy West

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## Foundation welcomes new members to the Board of Directors

The Foundation welcomes to its board of directors two long-time supporters from its membership, Joe Knetsch and Jackson Walker. Their terms of office will commence on July 1, 2006 and run through June 30, 2009. The directors also regretfully note what we hope is a temporary departure of Brent Weisman and Greg Moore from the board. As most members know, Greg is currently serving overseas and Brent is immersed in new duties as a dean at the University of South Florida. They will be serving this next year with our Advisory Board, and we hope they will be able to stand again for election as directors in 2007.



*Dr. Joe Knetsch is an enthusiastic supporter of the Foundation and one of Florida's leading historians. He is a Senior Analyst at the Fla. Dept. of Environmental Protection.*



*Jackson Walker is a long-time member of the Foundation and a noted artist. Examples of his work can be seen online at:*

<http://www.delandmuseum.com/legendaryflorida/index.html>

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## 2006-2007 Membership Renewals Are Due

Enclosed in this quarter's mailing is your membership renewal form. Please consider a generous donation to one of our special funds when sending in your renewal. It is through such donations that we are able to continue our works of preservation and publication. We thank you for your continued support.

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### Author's Day . . . continued from page 1

The schedule of the day's events will be as follows:

- 10:00 to 11:00: Time to mingle and get acquainted.  
Coffee and Danish provided.
- 11:00 to 11:45: Mike Denham and Keith Huneycutt.
- 11:45 to 12:30: Brent Weisman.
- 12:30 to 1:30: Lunch provided.
- 1:30 to 2:15: Patsy West.
- 2:15 to 3:00: Jackson Walker
- 3:00 to 3:30: Book signings and informal discussion.

Please RSVP to Jim Cusick at 352-392-9075 or  
[jgcusick@ufl.edu](mailto:jgcusick@ufl.edu)

For directions, call Frank or Dale Laumer at  
352-583-2711.

### **Mark your calendar and don't miss it!!**

#### **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](mailto: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**

I'm pleased to say that this newsletter has worked out well for the Foundation over the past few years. It was started by Greg Moore, and then run by me, and now by John and Mary Lou Missall. From the informal feedback we get, many members appreciate its news and photos. But the editors also like to hear news! So if you know of events or issues related to the Seminole wars, if you have photos you'd like to submit, or want to write an article, please contact the editors (or one of the officers) and let them know.

I hope that you enjoy Alcione Amos's excellent study of Luis Pacheco that is being mailed out with this issue. Alcione provides us with another great example of how much hidden history there is from the first half of the nineteenth century in Florida. Frank Laumer worked diligently with Alcione to inaugurate the Foundation's new pamphlet series of short works, and I'm sure it will be immediately popular.

Please remember, too, that we have another Author's Day coming up on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. Last year's event was a great success, so if you missed it, take advantage of the August event, and come talk with Brent Weisman, Mike Denham, Keith Huneycutt, Patsy West, and Jackson Walker—groundbreaking writers and artists in our field. And as always, the Foundation runs on the support of its members so don't neglect the membership renewal in this package, and help promote membership to others who might be interested.

--James Cusick