

The Foundation Report

Seminole Wars Historic Foundation, Inc.

Summer 2007



Upcoming Member's Meeting

Throughout the summer, Gary Ellis and the team from Gulf Archeological Research Institute have been toiling at the Fort Dade site, unearthing artifacts, structure outlines, and history at one of the most significant Second Seminole War fortifications. The general membership of the Foundation is invited to a Member's Meeting to be held on November 10, 2007, at the Foundation's headquarters in Dade City. The meeting will commence at 10:00 am, when Gary will present a summation of his findings, answer questions, and display artifacts from the dig. We will then caravan the short distance to the site, where Gary will give us a tour, showing us the actual progress, and point out areas of interest. Upon completion of the tour, we will return to headquarters, where lunch will be served. The remainder of the afternoon will be spent in socializing, discussion, and enjoying the beautiful grounds surrounding our headquarters. If you have a canoe or kayak and would like to paddle along the lovely Withlacoochee River the short distance from headquarters to the Fort Dade site or just spend the afternoon upon the water, feel free to bring your boat.

**Please RSVP to President Frank Laumer at 352-583-2711
or call this number if you need directions.**

Board of Directors

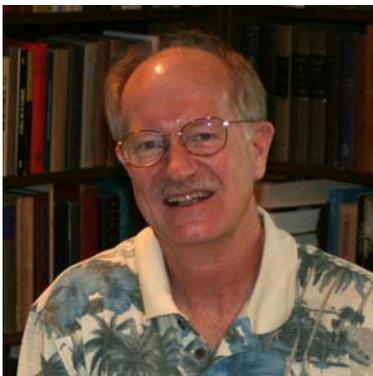
Frank Laumer (Pres)
John Missall (V.P.)
Henry Sheldon (Tres.)
Samuel Smith (Sec.)

Bill Dayton
William H. Edwards, Jr.
Ray Giron
Willie Johns
Joe Knetsch
Dale Anne Laumer
Mary Lou Missall
Gregory Moore
Tina Osceola
Richard Tombrink
Jackson Walker
Patsy West

New Members of the Board of Directors

At the July Board meeting, four new Directors were approved. Attending that meeting were two of those new members, Richard Tombrink and William Dayton. The other new members will be profiled in later issues, as their pictures become available.

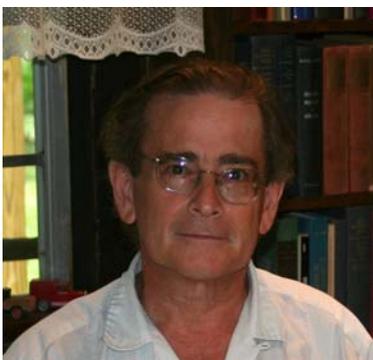
Judge Richard Tombrink



History has been my favorite subject throughout my life. As an eighth grader I volunteered to work on an archeology project, and it turned out to be a dig at the Dade Massacre site with Frank Laumer. That event solidified my interest in Seminole Wars history. Born in Brooksville, FL, I was raised in Dade City. Fellow board member Bill Dayton was my next door neighbor. I attended undergraduate school at Florida State University and law school at the University of Florida. In between I spent two years in the United States Army as a military court reporter. My practice of law was in Brooksville, five years with a local firm and then six years with my own firm. I have been a circuit judge for nineteen years in the Fifth Judicial Circuit, with Brooksville in Hernando County as my primary location. I look forward to assisting the foundation in any way that I can

with the time that I have available for this very worthwhile endeavor.

Bill Dayton



Bill Dayton is a native of Dade City, member of a family that has practiced law in the community since the 1890s. After graduating from St. Leo Prep School in 1962 he attended the College of Liberal Arts at Mercer University and graduated in 1967. Following a year in the army as Command Historian at Qui Nhon in Viet Nam, he returned to Mercer and obtained his law degree in 1972 and was admitted to the Bar the following year.

Bill has always had a love and fascination with history and archeology. He was encouraged in his interests by his father and remembers the elder Dayton reciting an account of Dade's Battle when he was eight or nine. Bill is past president of the Pasco County Historical Society, an institution founded by himself, Frank Laumer, and former USF professor Charles Arnady. He has

written short histories of Pasco County and the town of San Antonio and is currently working on translating the accounts of a Frenchman who traveled to Florida in the 1880s.

Calendar of Upcoming Re-enactments

November 17 & 18, 2007: Military encampment and living history, Fort Christmas. Located in Christmas, Florida, West of Cape Canaveral on S.R. 50. For those unfamiliar with Fort Christmas, this is a fully reconstructed Seminole War fort, much like Fort Foster in Hillsborough County. Phone 407-568-4149 for more details.

December 1, 2007: British Nightwatch, St. Augustine. Not a Seminole War event, but it is one of the area's most festive and well attended re-enactments. The Redcoats are always assisted in their revelries by a number of "Native Allies", along with pirates and other colorful sorts. For further information go to britishnightwatch.org.

December 29 & 30, 2007: Dade Battle Re-enactment, Dade Battlefield Historic State Park, Bushnell, FL. Located off I-75 between Ocala and Tampa. The premier Seminole Wars gathering. Not to be missed. Phone 352-793-4781 for more information.

January 12 & 13, 2008: Fort Chokonikla Living History Encampment, Paynes Creek Historic State Park, Bowling Green, FL. A new event. A good turnout this year will help ensure the event's success and encourage the park to make it an annual event. Phone 863-375-4714 for more information.

February 2 & 3, 2008: Fort Foster Rendezvous, Ft. Foster at Hillsborough River State Park, north of Tampa on U.S. 301. Always a good turnout, with a large number of period vendors. Phone 813-987-6771 for more information.

February ??, 2008: **(Rumored)** Battle of Okeechobee re-enactment. No further details at this time. Now that portions of the battle site have been acquired by the state, perhaps a re-creation of the war's largest battle will become an annual event.

February 22-24, 2008: Big Cypress Shootout, at Billie Swamp Safari, Big Cypress Indian Reservation, located north of I-75 between Naples and Ft. Lauderdale. An excellent opportunity to visit the reservation and tour the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. Phone 800-949-6101 for more information.

March 1 & 2, 2008: Old Florida Festival, Collier County Museum, Naples FL. Besides a small Seminole War battle re-enactment, there are living history presenters from all periods of Florida history, from the Calusa Indians to the Second World War. Phone 239-774-8476 for more information.

March 15 & 16, 2008: Fort Cooper Days, Fort Cooper State Park, Inverness, FL. A well-staged battle in a beautiful setting. Phone 352-726-0315 for more information.

April 5 & 6, 2008: (tentative) Military encampment and living history, Fort Christmas. Located in Christmas, Florida, West of Cape Canaveral on S.R. 50. Phone 407-568-4149 for more details.

If any of our members are aware of other upcoming events, or errors in this list, please let us know at missall@comcast.net.

John Missall, editor

New Foundation Publication

As you will no doubt have noticed, the Foundation is pleased to include a new publication along with this quarter's newsletter. Lt. Linnard's "MEMOIR TO ACCOMPANY MAP OF MILITARY OPERATIONS IN FLORIDA" gives a wonderful overview of the territory under dispute at the time of General Jesup's campaign. We hope you enjoy it.

The Board of Directors

President's Message

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The underlying theme of the Seminole Wars Historic Foundation is to discover and disseminate information and understanding of the Seminole Wars. My goal as President is to add the imperative of membership participation in all our activities. Our organization resembles too closely a game in which the only players on the field are Board members while all other members are watching from the sidelines. Each member has as much to offer as those on the Board. None of us were born for this task but all interested people are qualified.

I invite you again, I urge you again, to join in the work and satisfaction of discovering the past of our state, our nation. If you would like to take part you have only to call (352/583-2711) - we'll take you from there. Young or old, man or woman, we have opportunities for you. There is much to be done and we want your help, no previous experience necessary. Give us a few minutes and we'll show you a way to add satisfaction to the rest of your life.

The near-fifty years of the Seminole Wars were a time of terrible turmoil for Seminoles, slaves and soldiers, for men and women and children of three races. They were not cardboard cut-outs or lead soldiers but people of benevolence and bigotry, wisdom and ignorance, victories and defeats. Let us be remembered by remembering them.

Frank Laumer