

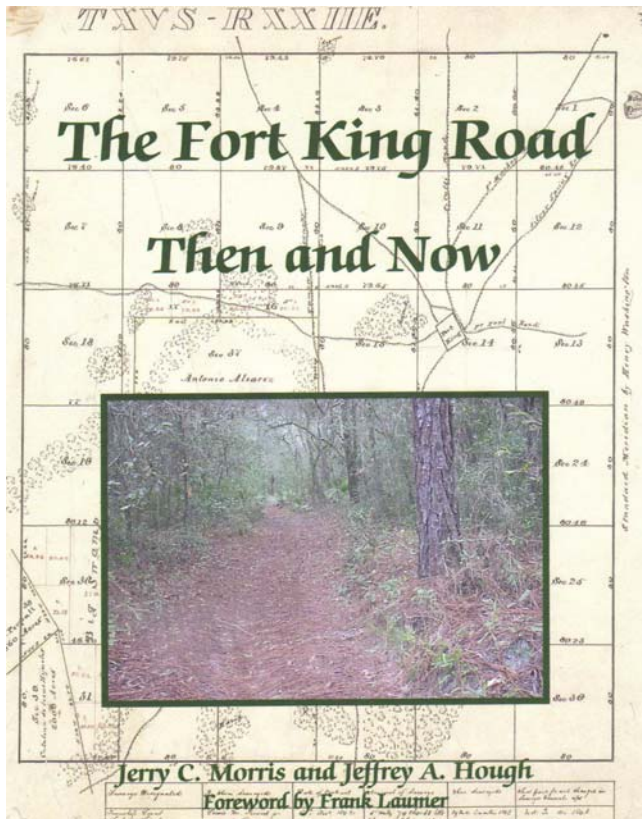


The Foundation Report

Seminole Wars Foundation, Inc.

Winter 2010

New Foundation Publication



The Fort King Road: Then and Now

Members Jerry Morris and Jeff Hough have compiled the most accurate map available showing the path of the old Fort King Road, extending from Tampa Bay to Ocala. Originally constructed in 1826, the dirt path went through the heart of Seminole country and saw considerable action during the early years of the war, most notably the Dade Battle.

Morris and Hough have painstakingly plotted the entire route, mile by mile, for the road's 100+ mile length. The path is drawn on original one-square-mile survey maps from the 1840s, while on the facing page is a corresponding aerial photo from the late 1930s. The aerial photos illustrate much of the path as it was before development, and there are a number of pictures where the path of the old road is still visible, over a century after first being used. GPS coordinates are given wherever the road crosses a section line or modern highway, and both the survey maps and aerial photos are overlaid with modern roads so that the reader can easily locate the old road in today's world. Also for ease of location, the book is divided by county, with an index map showing which page each individual map is on.

The Fort King Road: Then and Now is printed on sturdy 8.5" X 11" inch stock and is spiral bound so that it lies flat when viewed.

The 288 page softcover book is available from the Foundation for \$19.95 plus shipping. Don't forget that members receive a 20% discount on all Foundation books.

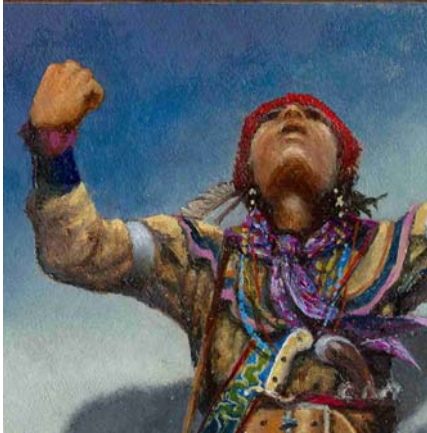
Spring Members' Meeting

Please join us for our Spring Members' Meeting on the 24th of April at the Tampa Bay History Center in downtown Tampa. Members will meet at 10:00 am in the Lobby of the museum and be given a guided tour of the facility by one of the museum staff. Upon the conclusion of the tour members will be treated to a box lunch from the famous Columbia Restaurant. Following the meal, members will be free to tour the museum at their leisure or perhaps visit another nearby attraction, such as the Florida Aquarium. The expense of admission and the meal will be covered by the Foundation.

Because meals have to be ordered ahead of time, members must RSVP to Frank & Dale Laumer at 352-583-2711 or at fdlaumer@yahoo.com before April 10, 2010.

Directions to the Tampa Bay History Center from I-75: Take Crosstown Expressway to Exit 8 (Downtown East). Turn right on Kennedy Blvd. Turn left on Morgan Street. Turn left on Channelside Drive. Turn right on Old Water Street. Parking will be on your immediate left.

Coming Soon!



Why is this man so frustrated? He's tired of waiting for two new Foundation publications. One of the Foundation's most important missions is the publication of books relating to the history of the Seminole Wars. Not only are we pleased to announce the arrival of *The Fort King Road*, we are also happy to relate that there are two other works scheduled to be printed this year.

Coming in late spring or early summer will be *This Torn Land*, a collection of poetry written during the Second Seminole War. John and Mary Lou Missall have scoured period publications, gathering poems that reflect the strong and varied emotions that Americans felt about the war. Anger, sorrow, defiance, and even humor will be found within the pages of this handsome hardbound edition, which features on its cover an exciting new painting by member Jackson Walker.

Also coming soon is the next installment in our pamphlet series. Frank Laumer and Debbie Harper have been hard at work putting together a glossary of Seminole words found in works of the Seminole War period. This is not a complete dictionary of the Seminole and Miccosukee tongues, but an easy-to-use reference for those who want to know what words the people who fought against and negotiated with the Seminoles were using.

Reenactments Begin

Dade's Battle

The extremely cold weather of New Year's weekend didn't cool the enthusiasm of the participants and spectators at this year's reenactment of the Dade Battle. The bleachers were filled to capacity with a shivering audience that warmed to the spectacle and enjoyed a stirring narration by Kent Low on Saturday and Frank Laumer on Sunday. Business was brisk at the Foundation Booth, with special interest in our new publication *The Fort King Road*.

Besides viewing the battle, attendees could roam through the Park Museum and visit the soldier and Seminole camps, where they could learn how the adversaries of the Second Seminole War lived. Before the battle on each day, Board member John Missall spoke to the audience gathered at the breastwork in front of the museum and gave them an idea of the Seminole side of the story, reading passages from the Foundation publication *In Their Own Words*.

Ft. Foster

The nineteenth century returned to Fort Foster at the Hillsborough River State Park on the weekend of December 12th. In an expansion of this season's events, the park held a living history weekend, which is in addition to the normal Rendezvous that will be held in February. Unlike the February event, there were no vendors, just living historians going about life as it might have happened during the Second Seminole War. A Seminole camp was set up across the river

from the fort and soldiers set up their tents outside the gates of the fort. Inside the enclosure were the civilians, demonstrating their period crafts. On Saturday and Sunday afternoons the Seminoles attacked the bridge and the soldiers defended it from within the safety of the fort. Unlike other events where the visitors are confined to a viewing area, in this instance they were allowed to move within the fort and watch the soldiers at work.

On Saturday night the fort was open to the public and a candlelight tour was held, with refreshments provided. Christmas carols were sung while cookies were munched on, washed down by cider and eggnog.

Ft. Chokonikla

The reenactment season started early this year on October 24th and 25th with the Third Annual Fort Chokonikla Encampment at Payne's Creek State Historic Park in Bowling Green. The event commemorates the 1849 slayings of trading post proprietor George Payne and his assistant Dempsey Whidden at the hand of outlaw Seminoles. These murders, and another attack a few days earlier by the same Indians at a store in Fort Pierce, caused what became known as "The Panic of 1849." Frightened settlers, fearing the Seminoles were once again taking to the warpath, fled the countryside and gathered at forts and larger towns. The Seminole Nation, under their leader Billy Bowlegs, wanted no part of war and actually apprehended the outlaws and turned them over to the authorities. It was a gesture that should have proved the natives' peaceful intentions. Instead, settlers and politicians raised their voices to call out for final removal of the Seminoles. By 1855 the Third Seminole War had begun.

Although no re-creation of the attack was staged at this year's event, visitors were treated to demonstrations of Seminole War era weapons and a tomahawk throwing competition, plus booths and tables (one manned by the Foundation) where the history of the event, the times, and Seminole War history were told.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Feb. 6 & 7, 2010: Annual Reenactment of the Battle of Okeechobee, the largest battle of the Second Seminole War. The battle takes place at the future site of the Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park in Okeechobee. Go to www.okeechobeebattlefield.com for more information.

Feb. 13 & 14, 2010: Ft. Foster Rendezvous. Period vendors and a fully reconstructed fort make the setting more real. The fort is located north of Tampa on US301 at the Hillsborough River State Park. Call 813-987-6771 for more information.

Feb. 27 & 28, 2010: Big Cypress Shootout at the Big Cypress Indian Reservation. Located at Billy Swamp Safari, north of I-75, midway between Naples and Ft. Lauderdale. This is also a good chance to visit the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, located nearby. Call 800-949-6101 for more information.

Mar. 20 & 21, 2010: Ft. Cooper Days, Ft. Cooper State Park, Inverness. Watch a thrilling battle reenactment in one of Florida's loveliest parks. Phone 352-726-0315 for more information.

April 3 & 4, 2010: Ft. Christmas Encampment. Period camps and demonstrations at a fully reconstructed Seminole War fort. The town of Christmas is located on SR50 between Orlando and the Kennedy Space Center. Call 407-568-4149 for more information.

Speaker's Outreach

On November 13, 2009, Board members John and Mary Lou Missall gave their talk *A Seminole Wars Tour of Florida* to the Caloosahatchee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Fort Myers. As part of the afternoon's activities, the DAR members held a raffle, the proceeds of which they generously donated to the Seminole Wars Foundation. The Board wishes to thank the DAR members for their thoughtfulness in support of our work. The objectives of both our organizations go hand-in-hand. If you look through a copy of our new book *The Fort King Road*, you'll note several mentions of Seminole War historical markers placed by the DAR.

John opened the talk by mentioning that while the DAR members are justly proud of the fact that they are descendants of those who fought the Revolution, he wondered how many in the audience were "Daughters of the Seminole Wars." At nearly every reenactment we attend, someone will come up to the Foundation table and proudly state that, "My Great-Great-Grandfather fought in the Seminole Wars." Just as the American Revolution was the formative conflict for the United States, the Seminole Wars were the formative event for the State of Florida. Next time you look at a Florida map, take note of the place names that have something to do with the wars. The soldiers who fought the war can be seen as the "Lewis and Clarks" of the peninsula, and they left their marks from Fort Clinch to Lake Worth.

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Editorial Box

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 newsletter@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: 352-583-2974. FAX: 352-583-3486. Web: www.seminolewars.us



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