



# The Foundation Report

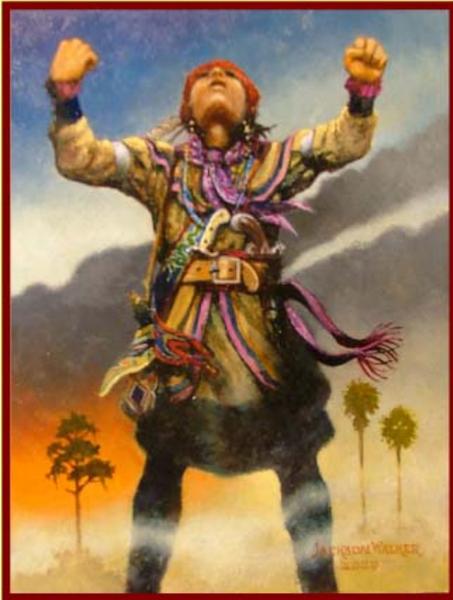
Seminole Wars Foundation, Inc.

Spring 2010

## New Foundation Publication

### This Torn Land

Poetry of the Second Seminole War



Compiled and Edited by John and Mary Lou Missall

The Seminole Wars Foundation is pleased to announce the publication of our latest book, *This Torn Land: Poetry of the Second Seminole War*, compiled and edited by John and Mary Lou Missall. While conducting research on other aspects of the war, the editors would occasionally come across poetry published in newspapers and other periodicals of the time. Further research was done into the authors or subjects of the poems, resulting in a handsome 268 page volume containing over 75 poems and numerous informative endnotes. Also included are two poems by present-day Seminole poet Moses Jumper, Jr. Featured on the dust jacket is an exciting new painting by Board member Jackson Walker, whose work graces nearly all the covers of Foundation books.

In this book, those who experienced the war or were touched by it reveal their deepest emotions in a variety of poetic forms. The book is divided into six sections covering different aspects of the war. There are sections on the reaction to the Dade "Massacre," patriotic response to the war, military humor, the martyred Osceola, loss of loved ones, and the Seminole spirit. The book is available from Foundation headquarters for \$29.95 plus S&H and tax where applicable. To order your copy, e-mail [info@seminolewars.us](mailto:info@seminolewars.us) or call 352-583-2711. Signed copies will also be available at the Member's meeting in April.

## Member's Meeting at Tampa Bay History Center

Please join us for our Spring Members' Meeting on Saturday, April 24, 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](mailto:fdlaumer@yahoo.com) before April 10, 2010.**

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

# Books, Books, Books

The Foundation has long offered for purchase select books relating to the Seminole Wars. We are always searching for obscure, hard-to-find, or out of print material. As you know, we have republished such works as Sprague's *Florida War* and have printed never-before-published diaries of officers who served in Florida during the Wars, such as those of Lt. Prince and Col. Foster. In addition, we have found small numbers of other works, such as Motte's *Journey Into Wilderness* and Giddings' *Exiles of Florida* and added them to our list.

Recently we have decided to expand our list, and presently offer twenty-seven titles, all important to an understanding of these tragic wars. As members of the Seminole Wars Foundation you are entitled to a 20% discount on all titles. Please add \$4.00 S/H for your first book, \$1.00 for each thereafter, plus 7% sales tax for Florida residents. We also accept credit cards. To order a book, e-mail [info@seminolewars.us](mailto:info@seminolewars.us) or call 352-583-2711.

If you have come across other Seminole War material that is not readily available, please let us know. We will consider it for future publication.

## Titles Now Available

Title	Author/Editor	Retail
Amidst a Storm of Bullets	Prince/Laumer	\$26.95
Black Seminoles, The	Porter/Amos & Senter	\$29.95
Dade's Last Command	Laumer	\$26.95
Early Days and Remembrances of Ocoala Nikkanochee	Welch/Laumer	TBD
Enduring Seminoles	West	\$24.95
Exiles of Florida	Giddings	\$26.95
Fear and Anxiety on the Florida Frontier	Knetsch	\$29.95
Florida's Seminole Wars	Knetsch	\$24.95
Florida War, The	Sprague	\$24.95
Fort King Road, The	Morris & Hough	\$19.95
Guns Across the Loxahatchee	Procyk	\$19.95
History of the Second Seminole War	Mahon	\$24.95
Journey Into Wilderness	Motte	\$24.95
Letters From the Frontier	McCall	\$24.95
Like Beads on a String	Weisman	\$29.95
Maligned General	Keiffer	\$29.95
Nobody's Hero (fiction)	Laumer	\$19.95
Osceola's Legacy	Wickman	\$24.95
Reminiscences of the Second Seminole War	Bemrose	\$19.95
Seminoles, The	McReynolds	\$24.95
Seminoles of Florida, The	Covington	\$24.95
Seminole Wars, The	Missall	\$29.95
Swamp Sailors in the Second Seminole War	Buker	\$19.95
This Land, These Men (DVD)	Dade Battlefield Society	\$19.95
This Miserable Pride of a Soldier	Foster/Missall	\$29.95
This Torn Land (poetry)	Missall	\$29.95
Unconquered People	Weisman	\$19.95

# Re-enactment Wrap-up

## Battle of Okeechobee



It was a cold and windy day at the site of the future Okeechobee Battlefield State Historic Park, but that didn't stop hundreds of people from attending this year's re-creation of the largest battle of the Second Seminole War. On Christmas Day, 1837, Col. Zachary Taylor led a force of over 850 men against approximately 350 Seminole warriors who had elected to make a stand along the north shore of the big lake. By the end of the day, over a hundred soldiers were either dead or wounded, including most of the officers of the Missouri Volunteers and the US 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry. The native defenders suffered relatively light casualties before making their planned withdrawal. Still, because the army held the disputed ground at the end of the day it was hailed by the press as a great victory

and Taylor was promoted to general, thereby beginning his path to the White House.

Visitors had the opportunity to observe a reenactment of the center of the battle, where elements of the Missouri Volunteers and the US 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry battled the defenders and eventually gained the hammock. Advisory Board member Willie Johns welcomed the audience and provided the Seminole perspective on the battle, while historical background and a running narration of the battle were given by Foundation VP John Missall. Cannon firing demonstrations were given before and after the battle, and visitors had the opportunity to view an alligator wrestling demonstration, purchase Seminole crafts, and visit period vendors.

## Big Cypress

This year's battle reenactment at the Big Cypress Seminole Reservation proved a mixed bag as far as the weather was concerned. Saturday began cloudy, with a threat of rain. The crowd was large, enjoying the native dancers, alligator wrestlers, various demonstrations, and the many vendors. At 2:00 pm hundreds of spectators gathered on the viewing mound, waiting for the battle to begin. The soldiers were lined up, ready to march onto the field, and the Seminole warriors were in position within the brush, ready to ambush their enemies. Then, with almost no warning, a fierce storm broke out. Everyone fled for what little shelter was available. The canopy over the Foundation table blew down. The strong wind and heavy rain lasted for the better part of an hour. No one remained dry.



Sunday was totally different. Not a cloud was in the sky and the sun began to dry things out. The Foundation booth was set up again, and a new set of visitors arrived. The battle went off without a hitch, with the native defenders driving off the invading soldiers and militia, often in (simulated) bloody hand-to-hand combat. Compared to Saturday, it was a perfect event.

# Seminole Wars Talks at the Florida Historical Society

The Seminole Wars Foundation will be hosting several speakers at this year's conference of the Florida Historical Society in St. Augustine. The conference will be held on May 27, 28, and 29 at the Casa Monica Hotel. Foundation members who will be delivering papers include Patsy West (*The Big Cypress and Everglades: A Mikasuki-Seminole Settlement History*), Gary Ellis (*The Archaeological Reality of Fort King: Two Very Different Forts with the Same Name*), John & Mary Lou Missall (*Reading Between the Lines: Examining the Poetry of the Second Seminole War*), Joe Knetsch (*The Harney Massacre: Who Hit Harney and the Hang 'em High Policy in Florida*), and Mike Denham (*The South Carolina Volunteers in the Second Seminole War: A Nullifier Debacle as Prelude to the Palmetto State's Gubernatorial Election of 1836*). Other speakers not affiliated with the Foundation will also be presenting talks on subjects related to the Seminole Wars. The papers will all be delivered on Friday, May 28, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and running until 2:45 p.m. Information on the FHS conference can be obtained by going to [www.myfloridahistory.org](http://www.myfloridahistory.org).

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



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