



The Foundation Report

Seminole Wars Foundation, Inc.

Spring 2013

Join us for the Spring Members' Meeting

This year's Spring Members' Meeting will be held at Foundation Headquarters and feature Rodney Kite Powell, Saunders Foundation Curator of History at the Tampa Bay History Center, adjunct professor at the University of Tampa, and columnist for the *Tampa Tribune's* History and Heritage Page. Rodney's talk will be about the changing perceptions of Florida as viewed through historic maps.

The meeting will take place on Saturday, April 20th, starting at 10:30 a.m. and last until approximately 2:00 p.m. Doors will open at 10:00 for coffee and socializing. Foundation Headquarters are located north of Dade City, off highway US-301. Call our office for directions. Lunch will be provided.

In order that we may plan for adequate seating and sufficient food, please RSVP with the number who will be attending to Frank and Dale Laumer at 352-583-2711 or by e-mail at fdlaumer@yahoo.com by April 15th.

Reenactment Wrap-Up



It's been a busy season on the reenactment circuit. As usual, the Foundation had a table set up at most of the events, answering questions, selling our books, and promoting the goals of the Foundation. Events since the previous newsletter include the Big Cypress Shootout at the Seminole Reservation in the Everglades, Fort Cooper Days at Fort Cooper State Park in Inverness, and Fort Chokonikla Encampment at Payne's Creek Historic State Park in Bowling Green.



Scenes at Big Cypress Shootout courtesy Heather Nealey

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Book Review: Seminole and Creek War Chronology by Christopher D. Kimball



The Seminole Indians struggled to remain in their homelands for over forty years. During that period, there were three open conflicts, two contested treaties, and numerous small altercations and confrontations between these natives and the newcomers who were coming into Florida. For students of the Seminole Wars, it is often difficult to keep track of what happened when and where. We now have help.

Chris Kimball, an avid scholar of the wars for many years, an accomplished reenactor, and a park ranger at Collier-Seminole State Park, has compiled a simple yet thorough chronology of all the Seminole Wars, along with the Creek Indian wars that are closely associated with them. It's a project Chris has been working on and refining for years, and something students of the wars will find invaluable.

Chris begins the book with a short introduction to familiarize readers with who the Seminoles and Creeks were, why they were fighting, and the geography of the area where much of the fighting took place. Then, to show that this was not a sudden conflict, he looks at important events leading up to the wars, starting with the arrival of the Spaniards five-hundred years ago. He also takes time to explore Seminole origins and how they came to be in Florida.

The book is divided into chapters that cover discreet time periods, such as the First and Third Seminole Wars, the inter-war periods, and different phases of the Second Seminole War. The chronology is more than just a bare list of dates and places. Most entries are a few lines long and give enough detail for the reader to grasp the importance of the event. Although citations for each event are not provided, there is an extensive bibliography that lists most of the major primary and secondary works on the Seminole Wars, and many lesser known ones. Unfortunately, there is no index, but the text is not so dense as to make one completely necessary.

The book is available in both soft cover and as an e-book for Kindle. 108 pages, \$14.95 (paper), \$8.95 (e-book). Purchase from <https://www.createspace.com/4031106> and receive a 15% discount when you use the following promotion code: 3BSJY439.



Read Up! and Take Advantage of Your Membership

One of the main benefits of membership in the Seminole Wars Foundation is the 20% discount members receive when purchasing books from the Foundation Bookstore. Our stock includes nearly every major title about the Seminole Wars and the Seminole People.

Visit the Foundation website at www.seminolewar.us and click on the "Bookstore" tab. There you'll find a link to our complete inventory and a reading list of important Seminole War related titles. We're sure you'll find something you like!



Seminole Wars Exhibit at Floral City Museum



left to right: Amanda Alexander, Earl DeBary, Steve Creamer, Board Member Roger Landers, President Richard Tombrink, members Ken & Kate Hughes and Harry Pickering, Bettie DeBary

The Floral City Heritage Hall Museum sponsored a "Seminole Soiree" on Friday evening, March 22, 2013, to introduce a new exhibit "An Epic Struggle: Florida's Seminole Wars." The exhibit explores in depth the Second Seminole War and the role of nearby Fort Cooper in the Seminole's struggle to retain their territory within the Cove of the Withlacoochee. The exhibit includes fourteen story panels, accompanied with maps, text, prints and historic artifacts that bring the history to life. Among the artifacts is a Sem-

inole canoe that was recovered from the Withlacoochee River in the 1950's, found submerged just north of Kettle Island in the vicinity of Powell's Town, Osceola's Main Village during the Second Seminole War. Also on display are a bayonet recovered on the shore of Lake Consuela, a Seminole cooking pot, numerous artifacts from Fort Armstrong, and replicas of period clothing and uniforms. Guests at the event were treated to hand-strung bead necklaces in the tradition of the Seminole tribe, wine, hors d'oeuvres, and on sale in the gift shop were pumpkin seeds cultivated by the Seminole Tribe, totes, potholders, aprons, t-shirts, and throws embroidered with Cho-illy-hadjo, the name of the Seminole Indian Village that once stood on the north shore of Lake Consuela in the heart of present day Floral City.

The exhibit will run for nearly a year. The Floral City Heritage Hall Museum is open every Friday and Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM, and is located at 8394 East Orange Avenue, in Floral City, Florida. The web site is www.floralcityhc.org.

Article and photo courtesy Harry Pickering



The Art of Achieving Authenticity

For many reenactors and period demonstrators, the quest for authenticity in their uniforms and displays is never-ending. For Board member Jerry Morris, the 1830s army encampment he sets up at reenactments, schools, and other historic events needs to be as realistic as possible, even if it's not noticeable to the audience. The more authentic the display is, the more Jerry can feel a part of the period he is portraying.

Recently, while visiting "Cracker Country" at the Florida State Fair, Jerry saw someone using a rope making machine. Although manila cording is easily procured at most home improvement stores, Jerry thought having handmade ropes for his tent would be a nice addition to his display. After gaining permission to use the machine, Jerry asked friend Allen Mays (who demonstrates the machine at Cracker Country) and his brother Benny Morris to help him make some rope. After obtaining two spools of small manila cord, Jerry hooked the cord to the machine and began to turn the handle. As the gears turned, four small strands twisted into one large cord. After the cords were cut into appropriate lengths, loops were made by wrapping the folded ends with sinew and covering with varnish. Handmade ropes are a small detail, but for people like Jerry, the delight is in the details.

Article and photo courtesy Jerry and Linda Morris



Scenes at Reenactment of Siege of Fort Cooper



Above: Trading Post at Payne's Creek State Park

Right: Board Member Steve Rinck speaking to the audience



Editorial Information

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 info@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: 352-583-2711. Web: www.seminolewars.us

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