



The Foundation Report

Seminole Wars Foundation, Inc.

Spring 2014

Spring Members' Meeting

Please join us for this year's Spring Members' Meeting to be held on Saturday, April 26, 2014. The meeting will commence at the Floral City Community Hall, 8394 E. Orange Ave., Floral City, FL 34436 at 10:00 am for coffee and donuts, and then move next door to the Floral City Museum at 10:30. For several months the museum has featured an excellent exhibit on the Seminole Wars with numerous artifacts and displays. Frank Peters, Museum Curator, will give us a tour of the exhibit and explain the displays and other high points of Floral City history.

At noon we will return to the Community Hall for lunch, provided by the Foundation. After lunch we will caravan to Fort Cooper State Park in nearby Inverness to view the first kiosk in the new Seminole Wars Heritage Trail (supported in part by the Foundation) and walk the beautiful site of the original Fort Cooper and learn of the siege of the fort in April 1836.

The meeting is free to Foundation members. Non-member guests are welcome at a cost of \$10 per person. To ensure the proper number of meals, **please RSVP to Frank & Dale Laumer by April 21** at 352-583-2711 or fdlaumer@yahoo.com. We hope to see you there!

Directions: From I-75 exit 314 (SR-48, Bushnell, Dade Battlefield exit), drive west 12 miles to Floral City. The Museum/Community Hall will be on your left just before you reach the junction with US-41. Also keep an eye out for the marker for the Battle of Wahoo Swamp and Desoto Trail about 5 miles west of I-75.

Directions to Fort Cooper from Floral City: Drive north on US-41 5.5 miles to Eden Dr., turn right, then right again onto Old Floral City Rd. The park entrance will be 1 mile on the right.



Thank You

The Foundation would like to thank the heirs of Dr. Crayton Pruitt, one of our founding members, for the recent generous donation to the Foundation. Dr. Pruitt initiated the founding of our organization in 1992 as a means to ensure the preservation of the site of Camp IZARD, located on a piece of property then in his possession. Through the work of the earliest Foundation members and Dr. Pruitt, the site was transferred to the Southwest Florida Water Management District, and is now part of the Halpater Tastanaki Preserve. Dr. Pruitt, through the Donner Foundation, was also instrumental in ensuring the Foundation's early financial stability through two generous grants, which have allowed the Foundation to publish a number of our books and conduct excavations at Fort Dade, among other worthy projects.



Re-enactment Roundup

Fort Foster Rendezvous



Photo courtesy Harry Pickering

Big Cypress Shootout



Battle of Okeechobee



Fort Cooper Days



Fort Chokonikla Encampment



Jerry Morris Receives Lifetime Achievement Award



Left to Right: Jerry Morris, Pres. Richard Tombrink, Linda Morris

At the Board of Directors Meeting on January 18th 2014, Board member, reenactor, author, and Seminole War demonstrator Jerry Morris received a much-deserved Lifetime Achievement Award. Jerry and his wife Linda can often be found in period clothing and tent, showing how the soldiers and their wives lived and ate during the Seminole Wars. The Inscription on the plaque reads:

In recognition of your dedicated and successful search for the location of the Fort King Road and thereby saving from oblivion this vital link between Ft. Brooke (Tampa) and Fort King (Ocala), traveled by soldiers and Seminoles alike during the Second Seminole War, and for your definitive work in combining maps and prose titled The Fort King Road: Then and Now, the best-selling book published by the Foundation.

In addition, we acknowledge your extensive research regarding all things relating to the type and preparation of food provided to the American Army during the period of the Seminole Wars, as well as your important work and commitment to the education of children and adults through your

classes, indoor and out, given from handmade replicas of tables, stools and benches, serving food prepared from the recipes of the time, and for your pamphlet regarding these matters, An Army Moves On Its Stomach.

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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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