

...AND THE BLOOD SANK INTO THE EARTH

THE STORY OF THE THREE SEMINOLE WARS



By Edward Winn

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INTRODUCTION

Part I

The Seminole's struggle for a place to live in Florida begins with Florida's early history of its first people (12,000 years ago ending shortly after 1700) and then the coming of the Seminoles to Florida after most of our original Indians were gone. A careful selection of dates and places are offered so you can be better acquainted with some of Florida's unbelievable early history as it evolves in Part I. Part II details the beginning of the history of the Seminoles in their three wars. Some time is devoted to how the Seminoles fought to hold on to a part of Florida. In some detail the bloodshed that resulted from the Second and Third Seminole Wars sheds light on the horrible conflict for both the white soldiers and the Seminole warriors.

Part II

This is where the complicated questions of just who the Seminoles were is presented. Months of research show just a glimpse of their complex makeup.

Part III

The First Seminole War actually involved many other factions – many different people and Indians and politics – not to mention Andrew Jackson who, right or wrong, was responsible for the loss of many Indian lives.

Part IV

The Second Seminole War from 1835 to 1842 is discussed in some detail. To really understand this war you would have to read John Mahon's remarkable book "History of the Second Seminole War 1835 to 1942". It was a horrible, horrible war for all concerned.

Part V

The Third and final Seminole War was very costly to all involved and culminated in the death or deportation out of Florida for many Seminoles – warriors and their families. At the end of the War just a few Seminoles were left in the Everglades. It was just too expensive to pursue them any further, and so the War just ended. There was never a Treaty signed to end any of these three wars.

The final part of this book is comprised of a collection of maps, charts, dates, timelines all of which are very important in understanding the history of the Seminoles. First is Dr. Julian Granberry's very important three pages. The first page is the time period of the three different groups of Indian people who came into Florida beginning 10,000 years ago with the Paleo Indians, our first Indians, 7,500 years ago the Archaic Indians came into Florida. Last are the Seminoles who came into Florida beginning only in the 1700s. In addition see the seven pages printed by the Seminole Tribune. After the maps are copies of pictures of seven Seminoles of some importance. Also included is a picture of Lucy Pierce, my personal favorite. Following the pictures are seven pages showing just the first page of the five Seminole Treaties. (The treaties are shown in complete detail in my other short Seminole book).

PART I THE STRUGGLE

The three Seminole Wars are a little known part of Florida's history, and yet they are one of the most important series of events that colored Florida's early history. In my quest to understand the war with the Seminole Indians which lasted for some 7 years from 1835 to 1842, I attended a lecture given by John K. Mahon, a man of great understanding of the Seminole Indians. I asked John why the Seminoles and the white men could not get along, and his answer was that there was just too much difference in the two cultures for them to possibly live together in peace. He said the Seminoles simply could not understand or tolerate the white mans' claim to a piece of land – to fence it in and protect it with a gun to keep the Seminoles from using it nor could they understand why they worshiped a God who was killed on a cross put there by other men.

The Seminoles were a matriarchal society. The women had a direct say in all the tribal decisions especially in times of war. They also could not understand why the white men treated their wives almost as slaves who had no say in a family's decisions. They couldn't understand why the whites bought slaves and often mistreated them. The Seminoles coveted theirs, one of the reasons is that they understood agriculture which was such a valuable asset to them. The Seminoles got their negro slaves any way they could, some just came to them. They were treated well and were allowed to mix with the families of the Seminoles. Negroes hated their white owners, and so they became good fighters against the white men. It was this fight over the ownership of the slaves that was one of the main catalysts for the beginning of the Second Seminole War. The Civil War was therefore not the first war fought with and over slavery but the second.

In the years preceding the Second Seminole War, the Seminoles found that white men couldn't be trusted, as treaty after treaty with them were broken by the whites - five in all. To make matters worse the whites wanted to remove all the Seminoles from Florida to western states. This made the hatred by the Seminoles even deeper especially after the removal of the Seminole tribe to the Canadian valley which was the bitterest and most costly of all the Indian removals.

John Mahon, whose book written in 1965 which I have named earlier, revised it in 1985. The 1985 revision was prefaced with this most touching observation. It reads, "In the two decades since the original publication I have become increasingly convinced that had the Second Seminole War been fought by other than Indians, it would have been in the mainstream of American history as one of the great struggles of a people - less numerous and less powerful than their foes - to remain in their homeland". As history was written, however, this conflict, apart from the trust of so-called white progress, was neglected. One of the most moving statements of love of homeland ever made came from Tuckose Emantha, a Florida Indian leader. "Here our navel strings were cut, and the blood sunk into the earth and made the country dear to us". No white person of the 1820s could have stated love of country in that way or with equal power."

First the Asians who had crossed the frozen natural bridge that joined Europe and Asia to Alaska and the Americas, that bridge being some 1,000 miles long and 2,000 miles wide, worked their way south into North America and then further south into Central and South America after many years. They came to Florida in waves. The earliest was in the Paleo Period 12,000 years ago. The Paleo Indians came 10,000 years ago - the first of our people. Most of the Archaic Indians that the Spanish met had been in Florida for over 8,000 years. These magnificent people were completely destroyed, as mentioned, in a brief 200 years. Many Indians were taken as slave laborers and sent north to work. The Seminoles came to Florida in the 1700s - only 300 years ago. They were our third wave of different Indians.

Please carefully note the inserted pages compiled by Dr. Julian Granberry - the only anthropologist and linguist, and I might add a good friend, to study the Archaic Indian's languages. The page entitled

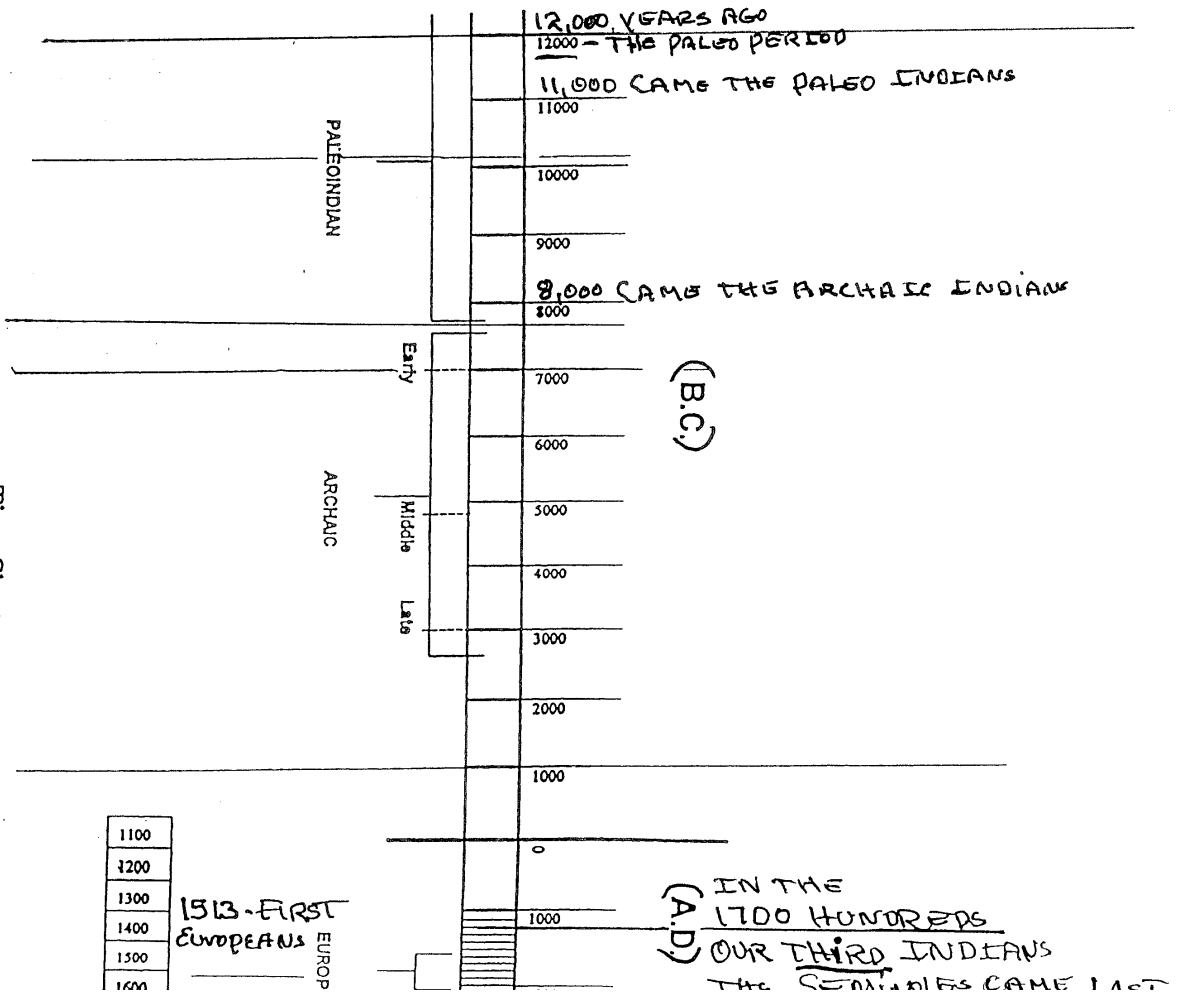
"Map of Florida's Languages and Peoples at the Time of European Intervention" (of Florida) shows the names of the principal Archaic Indians in Florida in 1513 - the time of Ponce de Leon's discovery of Florida. The actual position of the Archaic tribes are not shown, instead identified by the languages spoken. For instance, the Calusa language went far to the northeast side of the Florida. These languages existed at the time of the First European Invasion which began in 1513 and continued for nearly 200 years almost destroyed all the Archaic Indians. Some were killed in combat but most died by the spreading of European diseases, such as even the common cold or measles. These easily destroyed whole villages. Small numbers of survivors joined other villages for protection. Some even took refuge at the Spanish fort in St. Augustine. By 1704 the some Creek Indians received guns and black powder from the British plantation owners to deliver the Archaic Indians as slaves. Thus thousands of Archaic Indians were captured from the length of Florida and transported to the British plantations. The slave raids went as far south as the Keys. In a short period in 1704 as many as five thousand Archaic Indians were enslaved. Thus came to an end our first people. When the English took over Florida in 1763 most of the remaining Indians were evacuated with the Spanish. Most of whom perished in Cuba.

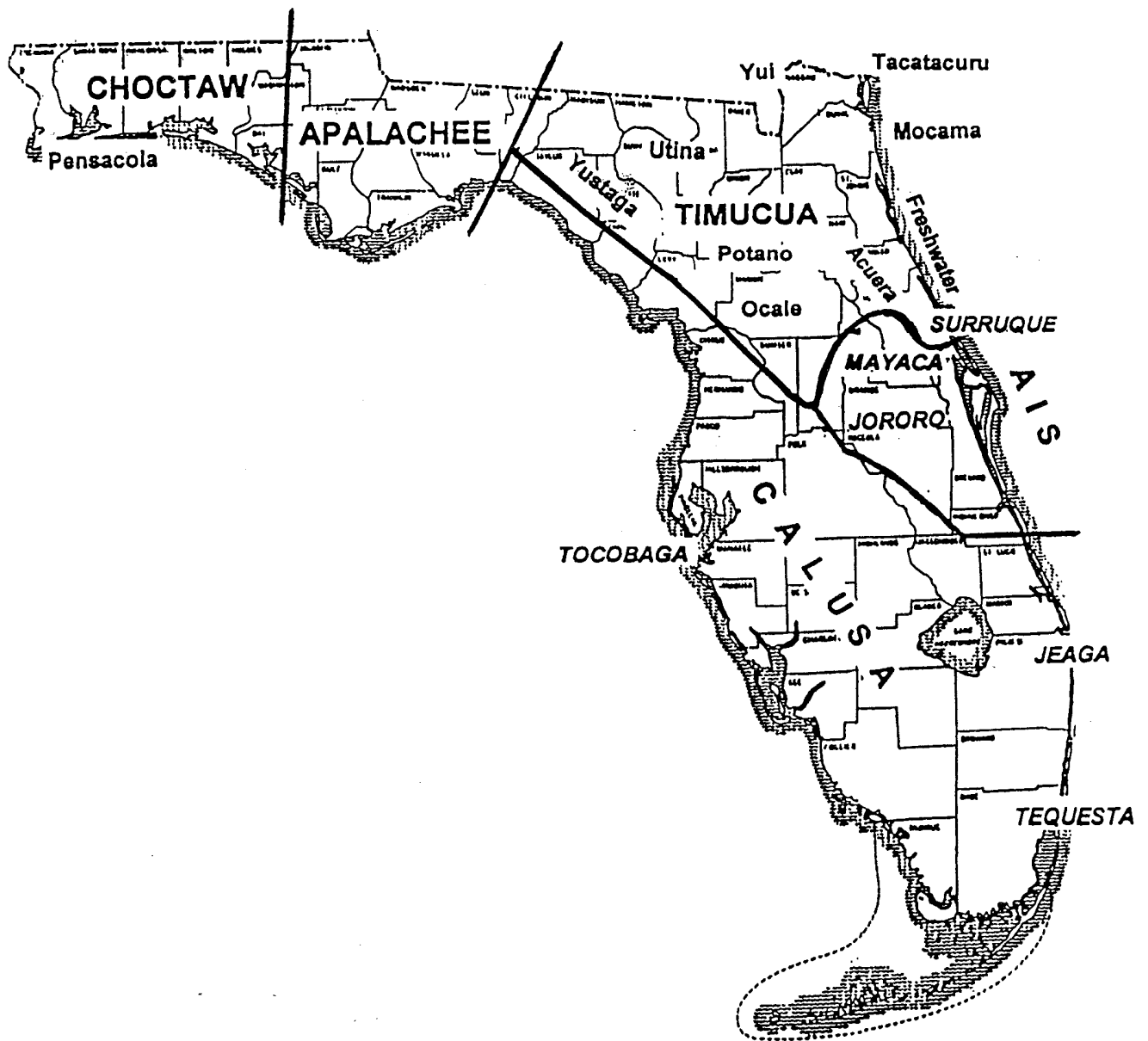
Now the stage was set for a whole new set of people. They came to Florida to avoid the turmoil with the whites in Georgia and Alabama, and they came to begin to fill a land that had a huge vacuum. Here they found new land full of game and full of wild Spanish Andalusia cattle and Andalusia cow ponies. Their rich find was to last about 100 years. Then the struggle began anew as whites and the Seminole struggled for cattle and land. The broad overlook of the struggles between the whites and Seminoles lasted most of the 1800s, including the three Seminole Wars.

We must look closely at the white citizens' army Regulars and volunteers who fought so gallantly against the Seminole Indians in Florida. The Seminoles began to enter Florida early in the 1700s taking advantage of the vacuum as mentioned after the Spanish withdrawal and the destruction of the Archaic Indians. The white settlers in fighting them had to fight Seminole warriors who were dark in color and were bothered less by insects than the white skins of the soldiers

(From Florida Prehistory, a talk given by Julian Greenberry to the Winter Park Historical Association)

1. Time Chart





Map of Florida Languages & Peoples at the
Time of European Intervention - **1513**

(From: *Florida Prehistory*, a talk given by Julian Granberry to the Winter Park Historical Association)

Early Trade Routes of
North and South American
Indians
by Dr. Julian Granberry

MUSKOGEAN



12. Muskogean Peoples and Languages in Florida

and settlers. Mosquitoes were so numerous in the wet areas of Florida they sometimes would darken the sky in their swarms. Mixed with the regular mosquitoes were the Anopheles mosquitoes which carried the deadly malaria fever. Present also were huge swarms of sandflies (no-see-ums) that appeared mostly at dusk. They could drive an uncovered person out of their mind. Florida was also covered with wild animals, cattle and horses, so fleas and ticks were a constant menace and a constant source of annoying pain to the whites. As if this were not enough, there were deerflies and horseflies which were everywhere. There were redbugs (chiggers) that buried themselves under the skin and often made sores. Redbugs were thick in Florida's mosses and pine needles, and with enough infestation could cause a fever.

Around the palmettos of Florida lived many large Diamondback Rattlesnakes. Some were 8 feet long. In and around the wet or swampy areas lived the poisonous Cottonmouth Moccassin, and like the rattlesnakes they were numerous over most of Florida. Florida in the 1700s was much wetter and held much more water than it does now with many large swamps some having mud bottoms, some three feet deep. Sawgrass cut the soldiers' skin, trousers and any of their clothes coming in contact with it. The heat in the summer was almost unbearable and together the heat and moisture of the summer season sickened and killed more soldiers than combat. These obstacles faced our soldiers most of whom came to Florida from other states. The inexperienced US Army Quartermaster furnished the soldiers with the wrong types of boots, shoes and uniforms. Some of these actually rotted away from the dampness while the soldiers still wore them.

These things are what faced the soldiers each day and night in the Florida campaign, and each man paid dearly for having entered the Florida frontier. To the Seminoles Florida was their home, and they were comfortable in their own environment of swamps, palmettos, snakes, insects and heat. It is no wonder that the war lasted seven years between the soldiers and the Seminoles what with the sickness and death of so many white men and only a few Seminoles. The Seminoles were on their home ground. They, like most of the North American Indians were accustomed from birth to be warriors, as one Indian tribe after another constantly made war with neighboring tribes. The Seminoles were very much more at home in their warfare strategies than their white counterparts could ever hope to be. The white men

won the wars because of their endless supply of soldiers and supplies, but they paid a high price for their victories.

The story commences long before recorded history. Twelve thousand years ago, when humans first set foot in Florida, the climate was drier and the sea level much lower. The shallow waters that now cover the continental shelf receded by 300 feet leaving a peninsula twice as wide as the one we are familiar with today. Living in Florida were creatures that have long since gone extinct, including mammoth, mastodon, sabertooth cats, giant ground sloths, camels, Asian horses, huge alligators, very large snakes, etc.

As millennia passed, the sea level rose and the climate moistened. The population of Florida slowly increased as sustainable, seasonal foods were discovered. As the art of cultivation was learned, nomadic camps became permanent villages. Complex societies developed, along with the political and spiritual systems that supported them. Cloth weaving, cord braiding, fish nets and pottery making provided the people with valuable new tools. Tribes that flourished became powerful nations, engaging in wars with their neighbors or conducting varied forms of trade in times of peace. Florida, now much warmer and with of mixture of wetlands and woodlands, was a good place to live.

To begin the history of the three Indian wars, it is important to go back in Florida's early history, back to the coming of our very first people – the Paleo Indians who were followed by constant ingress of Archaic Indians beginning after the Paleo Indians over 11,000 years ago. Waves of our Archaic Indians go back 8,000 years. By the beginning of 1700 these early people were almost all gone. One hundred thousand or more of our early Indians had died. They died mostly from the white Europeans' diseases or war. Some fled to Cuba some were taken as slaves and sent north to work on the British plantations. This left Florida the perfect refuge for the Seminoles to move to – a land void of people but filled with animals gone wild. Clearly the Seminoles were not our first people by 11,000 years. They were the last of the different tribes of Indians who moved to Florida. No one knows or will ever know how many Seminoles lived or died in Florida at the start of the Second Seminole War in 1835. (Please review Dr. Julian Granberry's four pages of dates and places that the first Indians lived as determined by the languages spoken. The next page shows the first coming into

Florida by the Seminoles beginning in 1700 with the Muskogee language spoken by the Seminoles along the eastern part of Florida and the Mikasuki spoken by the western part of the state).

In 1981 the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the Seminole tribe the right to gambling, so now at last the Seminoles could start to get their debt settled with the white man.

At the closing of this book are facts, maps, and references for the reader to go over and digest. These are important in helping the reader to understand the entire "big picture" of the Seminoles and the predecessors in Florida.

A SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES

For a matter of review, I have listed some important dates and events of Florida history:

1513

Ponce de Leon arrives on the shores of what he named "La Florida" - may have been Melbourne

1519-60

Spaniards explore and attempt to settle Florida

1564

French establish a colony near modern-day Jacksonville

1565

Spanish destroyed the French colony at Jacksonville and then established St. Augustine

1600

Priests and Colonists establish missions and settlements in West Florida

1687

Runaway slaves from British America find refuge in St. Augustine

1698

Spanish establish a second town in Florida at modern-day Pensacola

1702-04

British soldiers and their Indian allies raid and destroy the Spanish missions and attack St. Augustine

1719

French saw Spanish weakness and captured Pensacola

1738

The first free black town is established near St. Augustine

1763

Spain cedes Florida to England in exchange for Cuba

1767

English created two territories called East and West Florida

1783

England returns Florida to Spain at the end of the Revolutionary War

1784

Spain regained Pensacola

1818

Andrew Jackson attacked Florida Indians in western Florida for the First Seminole War

1821

Spain cedes Florida to the United States and Florida becomes a Territory with a new Territory government

1824

Tallahassee becomes a Territorial Capitol

1830

Florida Territory had a population of 34,730. Almost half of this number were slaves. Note: our population as of now, 1996, approaches nearly 17,000,000, with promise of more to come.

1835-42

Seven years of Second Seminole War is waged

1838-39

A Constitution of Statehood is drafted

1842

Armed Occupation Act

1845

Florida becomes the 27th State and William Mosely is elected Governor

1855-58

The Third Seminole War takes place

1861

On January 10, Florida left the Union

1860-65

Florida participates in the Civil War

1865

Federal troops took over Tallahassee on May 10

In the early 1700s, Britain, France, and Spain were all vying for control of the peninsula part of our State. The British Governor of South Carolina led a raid into Florida which netted 6,000 head of Spanish cattle and either killed or captured 7,000 native Indians. The Indians of Florida caught "Hell" no matter what power to be came into the State. Remember that when the Spanish period began in 1513 - actually they had two periods, the brief second period was from 1781 to 1821, - the main domination lasted 244 years as mentioned. The Spanish came to Florida for gold and riches. There was no gold, but there were nearly 200,000 native Indians some of whom they caught and sold as slaves - mostly to Cuba, some were sent back to Spain. The rest of the native Indians died from the white mans' diseases. Again just think - in 244 years Spain completely decimated the native Indian population. Remember that the Seminoles were not natives but were comprised of many different tribes which moved into Florida after the destruction of the aboriginal Indians, some of whom were here for over thousands of years. There was also another form of life in Florida of considerable importance. Remember that song "Oh, give me a home where the buffalo roam..."? Well, the American Bison crossed the Mississippi River a long, long time ago. In the late 1690s there were huge herds of Bison infiltrating the coastal plains. These huge animals lived east of the Mississippi for several centuries and pushed their way into Florida in search of pasture forage. They came mostly at the time when Spain had destroyed the native Americans in northwest Florida, and the animals were unmolested in the lands deserted by the Indians.

PART II

THESE ARE THE SEMINOLES

The Seminole Nation is a complicated group(s) of Indians who became involved with trying to live with the white Europeans and each other after the destruction of our first people, the Paleo and Archaic Indians. By the time the British took over Florida from the Spanish in 1763 most of the original Indians were either dead, in slavery, or evacuated. There were a very few survivors of our original population —only about 25,000 were left. As I said earlier, there was a huge lack of people. By 1710 northern Florida had become a sort of human vacuum.

Into this most inviting void, there moved from time to time through the years, groups of Indians from other territories north of the peninsula. Most of them were of the Muskogean family affiliated with the Creek Confederation. The Tamathli group for example moved about in southern Georgia and northern Florida, and in time became a part of the tribe known as the Mikasuki. (The language of the Seminoles in west Florida).

There was an Indian leader who was called "The Emperor" from the Lower Creeks who wanted to expel all the white men, and so the dissention between the Indian tribes began to build. "The Emperor" incited a war in 1715 between the Yamassee of South Carolina and the British. The Yamassee were easily defeated and driven away to the vicinity of St. Augustine and there sided with the Spanish. Because the Yamassee sided with the Spanish the British encouraged and aided the Creeks to war on what was left of the now defeated Yamassee. The Creeks began to impregnate the Yamassee women and thus perpetuate the Yamassee strain in the Creeks and through them into the Seminoles.

New settlements in Florida developed resulting from the War of 1739 (King George's war) causing Lower Creek allies to then settle in Florida. One of these bands was the Oconee Indians led by "Cow Keeper". By the year 1750 they became the nucleus of the principal tribe of the Alachua Band. These Indians settled in the Alachua district in 1739. So this mixture of tribes became engulfed between the pro-British and pro-Spanish factions. This also caused various tribes to move into west Florida. About this time there was a westward

movement of Indians in small bands of our aboriginals. Some were called Apalachicolas. They began moving into peninsular Florida, and mingled with the Seminole's amalgam. Also there were newcomers in west Florida called Chiahas. They became an important element in the formation of the Mikasuki group. (This included the Tamathlis). If the Mikasukis were not the dominant element among the Florida Indians by 1835, they were far and away the most militant. In 1767 a band of Upper Creeks settled northeast of Tampa Bay. All those Creeks who moved to Florida prior to 1767 spoke variations of the Hitchiti language which is the basis of the Mikasuki language.

Around 1778 a fresh wave of migrations carried additional Hitchiti or Mikasuki and Muskogee speaking bands into Florida. When 1818 rolled around a small band of Yuchis entered into west Florida. They eventually moved to what is now Volusia County. They found friendship with other bands, since they shared the Creek cultures and were members of the Creek Confederation. All of these varied people were seeking land away from the whites, and found Florida rich in animals and fruits and berries and the bounty of the waters in and around the peninsula. The last major movement of Indians into the state resulted from the Creek War in the Alabama territory lasting from 1813 to 1814. This Creek War started as part of a civil war between the Upper and Lower Creeks, and did much damage to the once powerful Creek Federation. This 1813 Creek War brought in Andrew Jackson leading the Tennessee Militia. In 1814 Andrew Jackson's men killed 800 of the Creek's fierce Red Stick warriors and virtually wiped out the fighting power and the most formidable of the Creek Federation. The Creek factions never again regained friendship with one another.

Thus began a new migration of mostly the Upper Creeks who hated the Lower Creeks. They sometimes joined together, but their hatred for one another lingered, so the migration of the Upper and Lower Creeks brought to Florida no less than 1,000 warriors and their families. Florida's Indian population was about 25,000 in 1650. This would later shrink to nearly nothing, but by 1710 rose to only about 5,000. In 1771, a British Indian agent referred to the Creek Red Stick Warriors as Seminoles because of their wild ways. The name Seminoles which was given to the Creek Red Stick warriors eventually was used by 1810 to refer to the Florida Indians. This name then referred also to the

Talahassees, Mikasukis including all the Indians speaking the Muskogee or Hitchiti-speaking Upper and Lower Creeks, Apalachicola, Apalachee, Chiahas, Eufaula, Tamathli, Oconee, Yuchi and the Alachua. All the Indians came together out of necessity, but each tribe still having its own Chieftain and customs.

Among the Creeks and the Seminoles a man was a member of his mother's clan, and so home to him was where the women of his clan lived. The chiefs were chosen from a hereditary strain which ran through the women. All the Seminoles lived under a strict matrilineal society. Women could have a say-so in times of war. The Seminoles lived under a strict rule of law adopted by the tribe, and administered severe penalties to anyone breaking their laws.

I can't leave the story of the Seminoles without making mention of their famous Green Corn Dance. This was the time for a young man, if earned, to drop his childhood name and be called by a more honorable one. This was the time for all men to become warriors and dance the Dance of Purification, and were ceremoniously scratched for purification. When women and girls joined the Dance it played a minor role in their courtship and marriage. Now that you have an overview of the Seminoles, we can proceed to the Seminole Wars.

It becomes clear that the people who would eventually make up the Seminole Nation had their origins among the tribes from what would become the southeast United States. All the Indian tribes decimated by the European introduced diseases and warfare the southeastern Indian societies had been in the state of flux for much of the 17th century. Old groups fell apart, new ones formed - names such as Alabamas, Apalachicolas, Chiahas, Hitchitis, Koasatis, Oconees, Yamassees, Yuchis. The names of these various tribes that traders paddled the creeks to meet and trade with eventually became called simply the "Creeks". The word simply does not fit.

After the leaders the warriors were the most honored members of the Seminole tribe. The males were taught almost from childhood how to use weapons and to aspire to be a warrior. The Seminole Indians, like most all North American Indians, were trained to be warlike as were their ancestors for thousands of years before them to make war against other Indian tribes and the white men.

they were driven to it. When the war ended, these painful and troubling thoughts were impossible to put aside.

It seems fitting that a few pictures of Seminoles in their native dress and a few of the chickees should be included at the end of Part II, These Are The Seminoles. On the first page are pictures of what is probably a family, and the one below is of a family poling their canoe in a place that is probably the Everglades. The picture of Lucy Pierce is included because of her exceptionally beautiful face. The next picture is of the roof of a chickee (from inside) and several other chickees. The last picture is of a group of Seminoles at Billy Bowleg's Indian Camp.



PHOTOGRAPHS FROM HIDDEN SEMINOLES (PAGE 1)





Lucy Pierce. The only reason Lucy Pierce's picture is shown is because of the deep lines in her face show her hard life but still beautiful smile.



4.4. Inside view of chickee roof thatching, Big Cypress Reservation.



The Pine Island Seminole village about 1897.

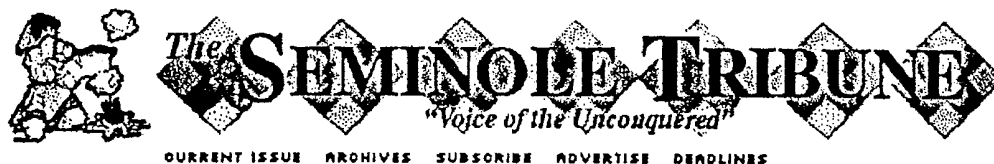
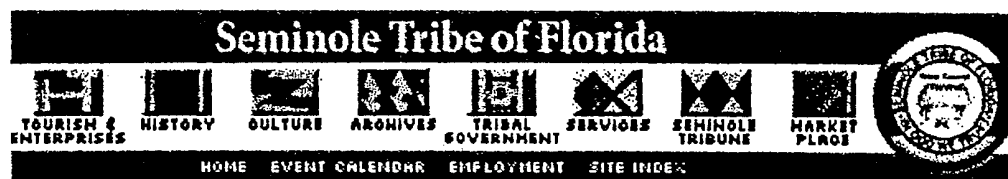


Florida Seminoles at Chestnut Billy's Indian Camp, Tamiami Trail, in the Everglades.

Western History Collections
University of Oklahoma Library

**INTRODUCTION OF THREE ARTICLES
BY THE SEMINOLE TRIBUNE**

I thought it important to include 3 articles printed by the Seminole Tribune for their 40th Anniversary for the years August 1957 to August 1997. The first is the "Seminole Time Line" showing dates from 1510 to 1997. The second article is entitled "Brief Summary of Seminole History" and the third article entitled "Indian Resistance and Removal".



40th Anniversary Tribune

Aug. 1957 - Aug. 1997

Seminole Timeline

1510 - First recorded European contact with Seminole ancestors, Spanish slave ship reaches South Florida peninsula.

1513 - Spaniards claim Eastern U.S., call it La Florida.

1539-43 - Hernando DeSoto explores Southeast - first white contact for many Tribes.

1565 - Spaniards establish St. Augustine - first permanent European city in North America.

1670 - English settle Charles Towne, begin coastal skirmishes with Spanish.

1690s - French settle Louisiana.

1704-1708 - English destroy Spanish Florida missions, kill or enslave thousands of Natives.

★ 1740 - Alachua, earliest recorded Seminole town, established in North Florida.

1763 - Spain cedes Florida to England.

1776 - Revolutionary War creates U.S.A.

circa 1804 - Osceola (William Powell) born near Tuskegee, Alabama.

1813-14 - Creek War in Alabama forces Native survivors to flee southward where they join Florida natives. Gen. Andrew Jackson rises to power.

Seminole Tribe of Florida: Seminole Tribune

1816 - First Seminole War begins after Jackson crosses into northern Florida.

✓ 1823 - Treaty of Moultrie Creek. Seminoles give up 28-million acres, retain 4 million.

✓ 1832 - Treaty of Payne's Landing ratified by Congress. Promised 5 million acres in southwest Florida to Seminoles.

Dec. 28, 1835 - Osceola leads Seminoles at Battle of Withlacoochee, slays U.S. Indian Agent. Maj. Francis Dade, 105 soldiers killed en route to Fort King (Ocala). Second Seminole War (1835-1842) begins.

1837 - Osceola captured under flag of truce, removed to South Carolina prison where he dies in January 1838.

1837 - Christmas Day. Battle of Okeechobee, 1,000 federal troops under Gen. Zachary Taylor, against fewer than 500 Seminoles, led by Alligator, Abiaka, Jumper and others. Twenty-six of 37 dead are U.S. soldiers, most of them Missouri Volunteers.

1838 - Trail of Tears forces 16,000 Cherokees from their eastern homeland to Oklahoma. At least 2,000 die along the way. About 3,000 Seminoles, including Wild Cat (Coacoochee) and Alligator are shipped to Oklahoma.

1855 - Billy Bowlegs leads attack on U.S. Army surveyors. Third Seminole War begins

1858 - Third Seminole War officially ends with capture of Bowlegs. A few hundred Seminoles, including Abiaka, remain in Big Cypress and other isolated parts of Florida. U.S. government abandons efforts to remove all Seminoles.

1890s - Seminoles and whites begin to trade peacefully on the borders of the Everglades.

1926 - Hurricane devastates Everglades wilderness, many Seminoles homeless.

1928 - Tamiami Trail opens, fueling the boom in South Florida tourism. Seminoles begin to sell crafts and wrestle alligators. Killer hurricane hits Lake Okeechobee region, whips up a tidal wave that drowns 4,000 in worst natural disaster before Hurricane Andrew.

1934 - Indian Reorganization Act, promotes Native self-

Seminole Tribe of Florida: Seminole Tribune

determination. Five Civilized Tribes, a book written by Grant Foreman, arbitrarily designates Seminoles, along with Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee and Creek, civilized.

1936 - Herd of half-starved cattle arrive in Brighton from Apache. Seminole cattle industry begins.

1939 - First formal education at Brighton Indian Day School, opened by teachers William and Edith Boehmer.

1946 - Creation of United States Indian Claims Commission.

1947 - Seminole Indians file petition with Claims Commission for a settlement to cover lost lands. FSU students choose "Seminoles" as official school mascot.

1953 - U.S. House Resolution proposes termination of Seminole Tribe.

1957 - Seminole Constitution ratified by vote of 241-5. Tribe gains federal status as the Seminole Tribe of Florida. First Tribal Council is elected; Billy Osceola, first elected chairman; First president Frank Billie resigns, succeeded by Bill Osceola. First annual budget: \$12,000.

1962 - Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida gain federal recognition.

1963 - First Seminole newspaper, "Smoke Signals" published. Renamed "Alligator Times" in 1973, "Seminole Tribune" in 1982.

1967 - Betty Mae Jumper, first woman elected to chair any tribe in North America.

1968 - Oath of Unity signed by Choctaw, Cherokee, Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes, leading to formation of United South and Eastern Tribes (USET).

1971 - Howard Tommie elected Chairman. Eight-year term sees advent of tax-free cigarette sales, which boost Tribal budget to \$4.5 million annually by 1976.

1979 - James E. Billie elected Tribal Chairman. Bingo becomes biggest source of Tribal income. Immokalee, Tampa reservations established.

1981 - U.S. Supreme Court affirms Tribe's right to high-

Tribe of Florida: Seminole Tribune

stakes bingo at Hollywood in Seminole Tribe of Florida vs. Butterworth. Tampa bingo hall opens.

1988 - National Indian Gaming Regulatory Act passed, limits placed on Class III games, including electronic video machines. Limited casinos set up at Hollywood, Immokalee and Tampa reservations.

1990 - The Seminole Tribune receives Robert F. Kennedy Journalism award from Ethel Kennedy.

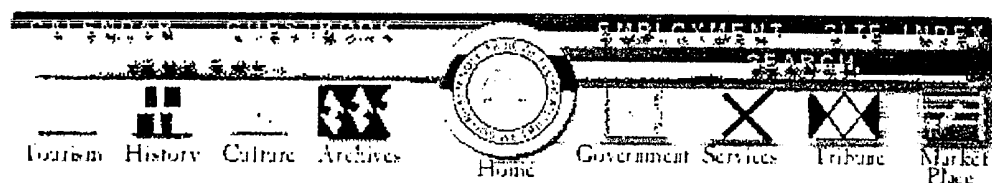
1992 - Seminoles in Florida and Oklahoma collect land claims against the U.S. for unconscionable acts during the Seminole Wars. With interest, Seminole Tribe of Florida nets almost \$10 million. Independent Seminoles refuse to settle; funds are held in trust.

1995 - Tribe moves headquarters to new four-story building in Hollywood.

1996 - Fort Pierce reservation established.

1996 - Cattleman Fred Smith, Tribal president longer than anyone, dies in Brighton. James Billie elected to record fifth term as Chairman, Tribal budget exceeds \$100 million..

1997- Sovereignty of Tribe challenged by National Indian Gaming Commission, U.S. Attorney. Seminoles assume full management of gaming activities on Hollywood reservation. Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum opens.



History

where we came from

Brief Summary of Seminole History

For thousands of years before the coming of Europeans to southeastern North America, perhaps as many as 400,000 of the ancestors of the Seminoles built towns and villages and complex civilizations across the vast area. After 1510, when the Spaniards began to explore and settle in their territory, disease killed many of these people, but they were never "destroyed" or "conquered" as so many of the white men's history books proclaim. The survivors amalgamated across the peninsula of Florida and continued their lives.

When the first English speakers entered the area of the Southeast that is now Florida, in 1763, they found many of these survivors from tribes such as the Euchee, Yamasee, Timugua, Tequesta, Abalachi, Coça, and hundreds of others, living as "free people" across the head of the Florida peninsula, on the Alachua savannah (the area now known as Alachua County). In Maskókî, the core language, *istî siminoli* meant that they were "free people" because they had never been dominated by the Spaniards or the English interlopers. In the Hitchiti dialect of Maskókî, today known as Mikisúkî, the same phrase was *yat'siminoli*. English speakers ignored their separate tribal affiliations and just called them all Seminolies, or Seminoles.

Further north, in the area now known as Georgia, English traders, who had begun to settle in 1690, found many other Maskókî tribes living along low-lying creeks, especially the Oconî and Ogichî tribes, and, once again ignoring the realities of the Natives' lives, they began to refer to these and, soon, all of the Maskókî peoples across the Southeast just as "Creeks."

With the end of the American Revolutionary War and the creation of the United States in 1784, white settlers moved steadily southward into the Spanish and former English colonies. It became more and more obvious that a clash between white immigrants and the Native inhabitants of the land would take place sooner or later. The new US began a concerted policy of taking or buying land from the Native tribes in the Northeast and the Atlantic seaboard states. By 1813, some of the Maskókî tribes in Alabama rose up against the white settlers and against

MORE HISTORY

- [A Brief Summary](#)
- [Timeline](#)
- [Introduction](#)
- [Indian Removal](#)
- [Osceola and Abiaka](#)
- [No Surrender!](#)
- [Survival In The Swamp](#)
- [The Council Oak](#)
- [Seminoles Today](#)
- [The Future](#)
- [Bibliography](#)
- [Genealogy and Anthropology](#)
- [Back to the History Page](#)

Seminole Tribe of Florida: History: Brief Summary of Seminole History

those other tribes that supported white settlement. This conflict, known as the Creek War of 1813-14, was disastrous to the cultural relatives of the Seminoles. General, later president, Andrew Jackson, brought US troops to crush the uprising and forced a treaty on the Creeks that took over 2,000,000 acres of land away from his foes and his allies alike. Several thousand Maskókî people, warriors and their wives and children, lost their homes and migrated southward into Spanish Florida where they and the Seminoles increased their resistance to continued white settlement.

Over the next few years, Jackson illegally entered Spanish Florida to burn Native villages and kill resistance leaders. After the first series of encounters, known as the First Seminole War (1814-18), many Native families moved further into the peninsula. By 1820, the year before Spanish Florida became a US Territory, there were at least 5,000 Seminoles, "Creeks," and Mikisúkî people living in Florida. But a series of treaties made in the 1820s and early 1830s failed to protect the rights of Florida's Native people and, by late 1835, war broke out again.

This one, the Second Seminole War (1835-42), would be the longest, most costly, and the last of the US's Wars of Indian Removal fought east of the Mississippi River. It would be the first "guerilla"-style war fought by US troops. Not until the US entered a tiny country in Southeast Asia called Vietnam, more than a century later, would US soldiers fight again under such profoundly difficult conditions. The Natives were aided in their resistance by runaway slaves, who received protection from their Seminole allies (and, in some cases, owners) in return for a portion of the agricultural staples that they grew. These so-called "Black Seminoles" were fierce fighters who were also determined to preserve their freedom.

After the US withdrew from the fighting, in 1842, an uneasy peace lasted for fourteen years. Then, in 1856, Billy Bowlegs and his followers were directly provoked by US soldiers, and they retaliated. The ensuing series of skirmishes is known as the Third Seminole War (1856-58). When the US again made a unilateral decision to withdraw — and, again, with no treaty or victory, the Seminole Wars ended. Over 3,000 Natives had been forcibly removed from Florida to the Western territories of Arkansas and Oklahoma. Possibly as few as 300 remained in Florida, and those had taken refuge inside the inhospitable swamps of the Everglades.

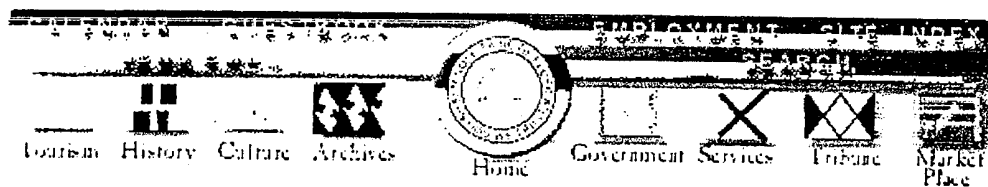
Their descendants remained isolated in the Everglades until the late 1800s, when white traders, Christian missionaries, and US government agents began to enter their territory once again. From the 1920s onward, as the development Boom exploded in South Florida, the Seminoles lost more and more of their hunting lands to tourists and settlers and were slowly forced into a wage economy. They became agricultural workers in the vegetable fields of South Florida, and tourist attractions, in their unique and colorful patchwork clothing, producing souvenirs and "wrestling" alligators for the tourists.

In 1934 the US Congress passed the Indian Reorganization Act, reversing earlier policies and encouraging tribes to form their own governments. By the 1950s,

Seminole Tribe of Florida: History: Brief Summary of Seminole History

Congress also set about cutting off aid to tribes across the country and, faced with a loss of support at a time when they were not yet ready to compete in a capitalist economy, the Florida Seminoles chose to adopt a Constitutional form of government that could interface with the non-Native world. On August 21, 1957 a majority of Seminoles voted to establish an administrative entity called the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Not all of the Seminole people in Florida chose to participate in this new organization, however. In 1962, after several years of negotiations, a group of Mikisúkî speakers with camps along the Tamiami Trail created the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.

Today, there are about 500 members of this Tribe. The Seminole Tribe of Florida has almost 3,000 members, living on five reservations across the peninsula at Hollywood (formerly Dania), Big Cypress, Brighton, Immokalee, and Tampa. The Tribe obtains significant annual gross revenues from such diverse economic sources as agriculture, citrus, aircraft production, gaming, tobacco sales, land leases, cattle, and aquaculture.



History

where we came from

Indian Resistance and Removal

In the early days of its existence, the fledgling United States government carried out a policy of displacement and extermination against the American Indians in the eastern US, systematically removing them from the path of "white" settlement. Until 1821, Florida remained under the control of the government of Spain but the US Territories of Georgia, Alabama, and Louisiana were its covetous next-door neighbors. It was clear that the US wanted the Spaniards out of Florida and was willing to consider any means, including warfare, to acquire the rich land.

As it turned out, Spain could no longer afford to support its vast colonial empire and from 1784 until 1821 (when Spain ceded Florida to the US), Florida became the setting for constant international intrigues as well as a target for greedy adventurers who wished to establish their own personal empires with Florida's vast resources.



When the Maskókî tribes in Alabama, whom English speakers erroneously called "Creeks," rose up against the white settlers in the Creek War of 1813-14, the brutal repression and disastrous treaty forced upon them by General Andrew Jackson sent thousands of the most determined warriors and their families migrating southward to take refuge in Spanish Florida. There, they joined the descendants of many other tribes whose members had lived all across the Florida forests for thousands of years. The Indians who constituted the nucleus of this Florida group thought of themselves as *yat'siminoli* or "free people," because for centuries their ancestors had resisted the attempts of the Spaniards to conquer and convert them, as well as the attempts of the English to take their lands and use them as military pawns. Soon, white Americans would begin to call all of the Indians in Florida by that name: "Seminoles."

But Spain could not afford enough soldiers to patrol the long frontiers of Florida. Its choice lands were openly coveted by white settlers who regularly moved across its borders. English war ships anchored off its Gulf coast and English

MORE HISTORY

- [A Brief Summary](#)
- [Timeline](#)
- [Introduction](#)
- [Indian Removal](#)
- [Osceola and Abiaka](#)
- [No Surrender!](#)
- [Survival In The Swamp](#)
- [The Council Oak](#)
- [Seminoles Today](#)
- [The Future](#)
- [Bibliography](#)
- [Genealogy and Anthropology](#)
- [Back to the History Page](#)

agents encouraged the Seminoles, Creeks, and Mikisúkî to resist US settlement openly. US officials, angry that the Spaniards could not oust the English or control the Indians, were particularly incensed by the protection and shelter the Seminoles offered to African slaves. These freedom seekers had been finding refuge in Spanish Florida for over a century, but the new US government was determined to stop this practice. In the late 1700s and early 1800s, conflicts, skirmishes, and ambushes erupted and racial hatred flared into violence more and more frequently on the new frontier.

When the military and political opportunist, General Andrew Jackson, brazenly marched across Florida's international boundaries to settle the "Indian problem," he created an international furor. Over a period of several tumultuous years, he burned Indian towns, captured Africans, and hanged one Maskókî medicine man, Francis, as well as two Englishmen whom he suspected of inciting the Indians. This series of events, which took place between 1814 and 1818, is known as the First Seminole War.

And the conflicts did not end there; they only escalated. Through the Treaty of Moultrie Creek (1823), the Treaty of Payne's Landing (1832), and numerous "talks" and meetings, US Indian Agents sought to convince the Florida Indians to sell their cattle and pigs to the US government, return runaway slaves to their "rightful owners," leave their ancient homelands in Florida, and move west of the Mississippi River to Arkansas Territory. In 1830, soon after Jackson the Indian fighter became Andrew Jackson, the president of the United States, he pushed through Congress an Indian Removal Act. With this Act, the determination of the government to move Indians out of the Southeast and open the land for white settlement became the official policy of the US, and the willingness of the government to spend monies in support of military enforcement of this policy increased.

The clash that inevitably resulted from this policy finally began in 1835, and the seven years that it lasted frame the last, the greatest, and arguably the most tragic years in the history of US-Indian relations east of the Mississippi River. Known to history as the Second Seminole War, the US government committed almost \$40,000,000 to the forced removal of slightly more than 3,000 Maskókî men, women, and children from Florida to Oklahoma. This was the only Indian war in US history in which not only the US army but also the US navy and marine corps participated. Together with the desultory Third Seminole War, a series of skirmishes that took place between 1856 and 1858, the United States spent much of the first half of the 19th century in trying, unsuccessfully, to dislodge about 5,000 Seminoles from Florida.

Unlike the "Trail of Tears" that took place in a single, dreadful moment, in 1838, in which several thousand Cherokee people were sent on a death march to the West, the removals of the Seminole people from Florida began earlier and lasted 20 years longer. Just like that other event, however, the toll in human suffering was profound and the stain on the honor of a great nation, the United States, can never be erased. The Seminole people - men, women, and children, were hunted with bloodhounds, rounded up like cattle, and forced onto ships that carried them to New Orleans and up the Mississippi. Together with several hundred of

Seminole Tribe of Florida: History: Indian Removal

the African ex-slaves who had fought with them, they were then sent overland to Fort Gibson (Arkansas), and on to strange and inhospitable new lands where they were attacked by other tribes, in a fierce competition for the scarce resources that they all needed to survive.

In addition to "Old Hickory," as Jackson had come to be known, an impressive list of US military figures eventually joined the fight to remove the Seminoles from Florida. Edmund P. Gaines, Zachary Taylor, Oliver O. Howard ("the Christian General"), Richard Keith Call, and Thomas S. Jesup, among many others, would nearly ruin their reputations trying to fight the Seminoles in a place that was cold and wet in winter, and hot and wet in summer; where only the Seminoles, alligators, snakes, and mosquitoes knew how to survive; and where dysentery and malaria were the primary rewards for Herculean efforts. One white soldier wrote home that, "If the Devil owned both Hell and Florida, he would rent out Florida and live in Hell!"

William S. Harney, who would later tell western tribes "The Great White Father has sent me here to punish you!" learned his vicious Indian-fighting tactics in Florida. Winfield Scott, the only commander of US troops in Florida to emerge with his reputation intact, went on to reorganize the entire US military establishment on the "open field" tactics that evolved from the Seminole Wars. Today, students at US military academies still study the hit-and-run tactics of the Seminoles. This was the first time in its history that US soldiers fought a "guerrilla" war, one in which the old "linear" tactics of the European military system were almost useless against warriors who moved in flexible formations, attacked and disappeared, and used the very terrain as a weapon against their enemies. The US would not fight another such war until its troops entered the tiny southeast Asian nation of Vietnam, more than a century later.

PART III
THE FIRST SEMINOLE WAR
1816-1818

Beginning in the 1730s the Spanish had given refuge to runaway slaves from the Carolinas, but it was not until late into 1774 that negroes appeared to have been living among the Florida Indians. After 1774 negroes began to arrive in large numbers - most were runaways from American plantations. Some lived together and others joined the Seminoles as slaves. The negroes were more than welcome to the Seminoles and were treated well. The negroes were full of hate for the white man, so they proved to be fierce warriors sometimes more so than the Seminoles themselves. The negroes soon knew both the white mans' language and the Seminole language. They became excellent intelligence agents. (They must have given the Seminole warriors advance information about Dade's advance and the time and place of Dade's troops that led to Dade's massacre.)

The question of the negroes embedded with the Seminoles became a festering sore for the whites. In 1796 the Treaty of Colerain got some Creek chiefs to agree to surrender all the runaway slaves including the Florida Branch. The agreement angered the Southern Creek Branch which helped make the Creeks willing to side with the Americans against their own southern kin. In 1812 the Spanish Governor Kindelan induced the Indians to attack the Georgians with some success. So the obvious results came about from September 27 to October 11, 1812. That caught the Georgia Militia 100 miles into Spanish territory. The Militia's Commander Newman had not expected the Seminole forces, and they barely escaped annihilation. The hatred between the Indians and the whites continued to boil. After Newman's bloody retreat a new fighting force of 250 Tennessee Volunteers and a full detachment of United States Regulars combined forces and plunged into northern Florida. In three weeks beginning February 7, 1813 they burned 386 Indian houses, destroyed 2,000 bushels of corn, and drove off the Seminole horses and cattle. This move resulted in the Seminoles in north central Florida having to face starvation, and the Seminole strength east of the Suwannee River was broken. The Seminoles association had hastened their ruin.

Andrew Jackson wrecked the fighting power of the Creeks, and by August 9, 1814 had exacted more than 20,000,000 acres of the Creek land. The Seminoles lost no territory, nor would they give the Creeks aid. During the American and British War of 1812 just a very few Mikasukis agreed to fight on the side of the British – December 23, 1814 to January 8, 1815. The British did build a fort on Prospect Bluff near the mouth of the Apalachicola River some 60 miles below the United States territory. They equipped it with cannons, small arms and a large store of ammunition. When the British left the area several months after the War ended the fort was left intact. It was soon occupied by a large number of Free Renegade Negroes, and by 1816 it was an effective black stronghold. Its new name was "The Negro Fort". Andrew Jackson needed the fort to be destroyed, so he could effectively ship supplies up the Apalachicola River. In the summer off 1816 Jackson sent a supply vessel with a naval escort to move up the river. When the negroes in the fort fired on the boats, they hit some men aboard. They then fired back causing a hot cannon ball to land in the middle of the large powder magazine (July 27, 1816) blowing the fort to pieces and inflicting heavy casualties. The ground force under Lt. Col. Clinch had directed a small force of Lower Creeks to loot what was left of the fort. They found 2,000 muskets, 50 carbines, 400 pistols, and 500 swords. Thus the Creeks gained much power in weapons beyond what they had had before. This turn of events was a direct blow to the Seminoles, as their enemy, the Creeks, grew stronger. The other great loss to the Seminoles was their loss of 300 of their negro allies.

The next great event was when General Gaines sent 250 soldiers to arrest the great Seminole leader Neamathla. Then a new gun fight erupted on November 21, 1817 – the first opening fusillade of the First Seminole War. The Indians struck back later attacking a party of 40 men under Lt. Scott. They wiped out all but 6 of them and then killed 7 wives of the soldiers. This sent shock waves through Washington, and General Jackson was given command in person and ordered to bring the Seminoles under control. Andrew Jackson received his orders on January 11, 1818. Two months later he arrived at Fort Scott with a force of 3,500 men of which 2,000 were Creek warriors. Jackson's force began destroying the Mikasuki towns one after another. By now the Seminoles had run short of firearms and had to use bows and arrows. One of Jackson's worst battles was when they engaged nearly 300 negroes who stayed behind to aid the retreating Seminoles. Andrew

Jackson's incursion wrecked the Seminole power west of the Suwannee River. Jackson's recent victories in April, 1818 directed his forces to move toward the Spanish to take Florida from Spain.

By May 28, 1818 Jackson had directed his forces toward St. Marks and Pensacola, and they were quickly taken. Shortly after, Spain agreed to transfer of the Territory of Florida to the United States. This in turn brought about the eventual fall of the Seminoles forcing them to migrate to new areas. The Red Sticks headed to an area around Tampa Bay while the Alachua Indians moved south about 120 miles into what is now Lake County. For a while the various bands of Seminoles were by no means unified, and other than thick military activity in western Florida the rest of the peninsula was relatively free of hostilities.

On February 22, 1821 the Spanish formally gave up Florida to the United States, and the Treaty was ratified. Meanwhile the situation of the Seminoles remained gloomy. Their conflicts with the Americans from 1811 to 1818 had wrecked their once abundant Indian society, but they did not consider the transfer of Florida to the United States government, because they considered it was theirs, and they had no part in the negotiations. The fear of Andrew Jackson coming again caused many of the Seminoles to plunge into the interior of Florida. The Seminoles now damaged and with uncertain future that was unbearable to them, sought a treaty with the United States. So after much discussion the first treaty, the Treaty of Moultrie Creek, between the Seminoles and the United States was signed on the north bank of Moultrie Creek about 5 miles south of St. Augustine in the year 1832. It was designed to fail as were all the other treaties, because of fear, hatred, white man's greed and their insistence to own the Indian territory. Sentiment among the whites was to just ship the Seminoles out of Florida to the west. Washington D.C. made some small effort to aid the starving Seminoles, but somehow the Treaty lasted until a complete breakdown came between Indians and whites. In May 9, 1832 both sides tried again to formulate a new treaty which was completed and became known as the Treaty With The Seminole, 1832 at Paynes Landing and Fort Gibson. The articles of the treaty were to go into effect only when the stipulation in the Preamble was satisfied: the Seminoles would be out of Florida within three years after the ratification of the treaty, one-third of them leaving every year. The Indians were, of course, to surrender all claims to their Florida land in

return for various considerations. Like the others, the treaty was bound to fail. The next treaty was with the Seminoles in 1833 signed near Paynes Prairie in Gainesville.

After the long seven years of war 1835-1842 another treaty was done in 1845, then the Final Treaty was signed in 1866. (Please see copy of the first page of each of the treaties, and carefully review the three pages of the 1845 treaty to see the names of the Indians who signed this treaty). So ended the First Seminole War. The conflict had begun in 1811 and lasted until 1818.

COPIES OF TREATIES

The last pages are copies of the face of each of the five treaties between the Indians and Washington, D.C.

These treaties are displayed in full in my other Seminole book which was done for just the treaties.

The cover pages of the treaties are as follows:

- 1. Treaty with the Florida Tribes of Indians 1823 known as the Treaty of Moultrie Creek.**
- 2. Treaty with the Seminoles 1832, proclamation April 12, 1834.**
- 3. Treaty with the Seminoles 1833, proclamation April 12, 1834.**
- 4. Treaty with the Seminole 1832 known as the Paynes Prairie Treaty, proclamation April 12, 1834.**
- 5. Treaty with the Creeks and Seminoles 1845, proclamation July 18, 1845 known as the Treaty of Washington, D.C.**

TREATY WITH THE FLORIDA TRIBES OF INDIANS, 1823.

MOULTREE
CREEK
TREATY
1

Sept. 18, 1823. | 7 Stat., 224. | Proclamation, Jan. 2, 1824.

Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties. Vol. II (Treaties). Compiled and edited by Charles J. Kappler. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904.
[Home](#) | [Disclaimer & Usage](#) | [Table of Contents](#) | [Index](#)

Vol. II, Pages 203-205 | [Page 204](#) | [Page 205](#)

Vol. II, Pages 205-207 | [Additional Article](#).

Vol. II, [Page Images](#) | [Page 203](#) | [Page 204](#) | [Page 205](#) | [Page 206](#) | [Page 207](#)

Margin Notes:

Said Indians to continue under the protection of United States.
Said Indians to be confined to the following metes and bounds.
United States to take the Florida Indians under their care, etc.
United States to guaranty peaceable possession of the district assigned them, on certain conditions.
Corn, meat, etc., to be allowed them for twelve months.
An agent, etc., to be appointed to reside among them.
Indians to prevent any fugitive slaves from taking shelter among them, etc.
A commissioner and surveyor to be appointed.
Grounds on which the objections of said tribes to certain lands are founded.
Said Indians request the grant in fee simple of certain lands to Colonel Humphreys and S. Richards.

Additional Article.

Additional article

ARTICLE I. THE undersigned chiefs and warriors, for themselves and their tribes, have appealed to the humanity; and thrown themselves on, and have promised to continue under, the protection of the United States, and of no other nation, power, or sovereign; and, in consideration of the promises and stipulations hereinafter made, do cede and relinquish all claim or title which they may have to the whole territory of Florida, with the exception of such district of country as shall herein be allotted to them.

ARTICLE II. The Florida tribes of Indians will hereafter be concentrated and confined to the following metes and boundaries: commencing five miles north of Okehumke, running in a direct line to a point five miles west of Setarky's settlement, on the waters of Amazura, (or Withlahuchie river,) leaving said settlement two miles south of the line; from thence, in a direct line, to the south end of the Big Hammock, to include Chickuchate; continuing, in the same direction, for five miles beyond the said Hammock--provided said point does not approach nearer than fifteen miles the sea coast of the Gulf of Mexico; if it does, the said line will terminate at that distance from the sea coast; thence, south, twelve miles; thence in a south 30° east direction, until the same shall strike within five miles of the main branch of Charlotte river; thence, in a due east direction, to within twenty miles of the Atlantic coast; thence, north, fifteen west, for fifty miles and from this last, to the beginning point.

ARTICLE III. The United States will take the Florida Indians under their care and patronage, and will afford them protection against all persons whatsoever; provided they conform to the laws of the United States, and refrain from making war, or giving any insult to any foreign nation, without having first obtained the permission and consent of the United States: And, in consideration of the appeal and cession made in the first

#

TREATY WITH THE SEMINOLE, 1832.

May 9, 1832. | 7 Stat., 368. | Proclamation, April 12, 1834.

Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties. Vol. II (Treaties). Compiled and edited by Charles J. Kappler. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904.
Home | Disclaimer & Usage | Table of Contents | Index

Vol. II, Pages 344-345 | Page 345

Vol. II, Page Images | Page 344 | Page 345

PAYNE'S PRARIE

Margin Notes:

Cession to the United States of lands in Florida, etc.
\$15,400 to be paid by United States.
Blankets, etc., to be supplied.
Blacksmith.
Annuity.
Cattle to be valued.
Demands for slaves to be settled.
Indians to remove within three years.

The Seminole Indians, regarding with just respect, the solicitude manifested by the President of the United States for the improvement of their condition, by recommending a removal to a country more suitable to their habits and wants than the one they at present occupy in the Territory of Florida, are willing that their confidential chiefs, Jumper, Fuck-a-lus-ti-had-jo, Charley Emartla, Coi-had-jo, Holati Emartla Ya-hadjo; Sam Jones, accompanied by their agent Major Phagan, and their faithful interpreter Abraham, should be sent at the expense of the United States as early as convenient to examine the country assigned to the Creeks west of the Mississippi river, and should they be satisfied with the character of that country, and of the favorable disposition of the Creeks to reunite with the Seminoles as one people; the articles of the compact and agreement, herein stipulated at Payne's landing on one Ocklewaha river, this ninth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, between James Gadsden, for and in behalf of the Government of the United States, and the undersigned chiefs and head-men for and in behalf of the Seminole Indians, shall be binding on the respective parties.

ARTICLE I. The Seminole Indians relinquish to the United States, all claim to the lands they at present occupy in the Territory of Florida, and agree to emigrate to the country assigned to the Creeks, west of the Mississippi river; it being understood that an additional extent of territory, proportioned to their numbers, will be added to the Creek country, and that the Seminoles will be received as a constituent part of the Creek nation and be re-admitted to all the privileges as members of the same.

ARTICLE II. For and in consideration of the relinquishment of claim in the first article of this agreement, and in full compensation for all the improvements, which may have been made on the lands thereby ceded; the United States stipulate to pay to the Seminole Indians, fifteen thousand, four hundred (15,400) dollars, to be divided among the chiefs and warriors of the several towns, in a ratio proportioned to their population, the respective proportions of each to be paid on their arrival in the country they consent to remove to; it being understood that their faithful interpreters Abraham and Cudjo shall receive two hundred dollars each of the above sum, in full remuneration for the improvements to be abandoned on the lands now cultivated by them.

ARTICLE III. The United States agree to distribute as they arrive at their new homes in the Creek Territory, west of the Mississippi river, a blanket and a homespun frock, to

TOP PAGE ONLY # 3
TREATY WITH THE SEMINOLE, 1833.

Mar. 28, 1833. | 7 Stat., 423. | Proclamation, Apr. 12, 1834.

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Home | Disclaimer & Usage | Table of Contents | Index

Vol. II, Pages 394-395 | Page 395

Vol. II, Page Images | Page 394 | Page 395

Margin Notes:

Preamble.

Treaty with the Creeks of Feb. 14, 1833.

Commissioners designate land for the Seminole.

Major Phagan to superintend removal of Indians.

WHEREAS, the Seminole Indians of Florida, entered into certain articles of agreement, with James Gadson, [Gadsden.] Commissioner on behalf of the United States, at Payne's landing, on the 9th day of May, 1832: the first article of which treaty or agreement provides, as follows: "The Seminoles Indians relinquish to the United States all claim to the land they at present occupy in the Territory of Florida, and agree to emigrate to the country assigned to the Creeks, west of the Mississippi river; it being understood that an additional extent of territory proportioned to their number will be added to the Creek country, and that the Seminoles will be received as a constituent part of the Creek nation, and be re-admitted to all the privileges as members of the same." And whereas, the said agreement also stipulates and provides, that a delegation of Seminoles should be sent at the expense of the United States to examine the country to be allotted them among the Creeks, and should this delegation be satisfied with the character of the country and of the favorable disposition of the Creeks to unite with them as one people, then the aforementioned treaty would be considered binding and obligatory upon the parties. And whereas a treaty was made between the United States and the Creek Indians west of the Mississippi, at Fort Gibson, on the 14th day of February 1883, by which a country was provided for the Seminoles in pursuance of the existing arrangements between the United States and that tribe. And whereas, the special delegation, appointed by the Seminoles on

[*395]

the 9th day of May 1832, have since examined the land designated for them by the undersigned Commissioners, on behalf of the United States, and have expressed themselves satisfied with the same, in and by their letter dated, March 1833, addressed to the undersigned Commissioners.

Now, therefore, the Commissioners aforesaid, by virtue of the power and authority vested in them by the treaty made with Creek Indians on the 14th day of February 1833, as above stated, hereby designate and assign to the Seminole tribe of Indians, for their separate future residence, forever, a tract of country lying between the Canadian river and the north fork thereof, and extending west to where a line running north and south between the main Canadian and north branch, will strike the forks of Little river, provided said west line does not extend more than twenty-five miles west from the mouth of said

TOP PAGE ONLY
TREATY WITH THE SEMINOLE, 1832.

4

May 9, 1832. | 7 Stat., 368. | Proclamation, April 12, 1834.

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Home | Disclaimer & Usage | Table of Contents | Index

Vol. II, Pages 344-345 | Page 345

Vol. II, Page Images | Page 344 | Page 345

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Blacksmith.
Annuity.
Cattle to be valued.
Demands for slaves to be settled.
Indians to remove within three years.

PAYNES PRARIE
THE PRESIDENT DECLARED
THE SEMINOLE RESERVATION
TO BE INDIAN TERRITORY
UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF
THE INDIAN INTERCOURSE
ACT OF JUNE 30-1834

The Seminole Indians, regarding with just respect, the solicitude manifested by the President of the United States for the improvement of their condition, by recommending a removal to a country more suitable to their habits and wants than the one they at present occupy in the Territory of Florida, are willing that their confidential chiefs, Jumper, Fuck-a-lus-ti-had-jo, Charley Emartla, Coi-had-jo, Holati Emartla Ya-hadjo; Sam Jones, accompanied by their agent Major Phagan, and their faithful interpreter Abraham, should be sent at the expense of the United States as early as convenient to examine the country assigned to the Creeks west of the Mississippi river, and should they be satisfied with the character of that country, and of the favorable disposition of the Creeks to reunite with the Seminoles as one people; the articles of the compact and agreement, herein stipulated at Payne's landing on one Ocklewaha river, this ninth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, between James Gadsden, for and in behalf of the Government of the United States, and the undersigned chiefs and head-men for and in behalf of the Seminole Indians, shall be binding on the respective parties.

ARTICLE I. The Seminole Indians relinquish to the United States, all claim to the lands they at present occupy in the Territory of Florida, and agree to emigrate to the country assigned to the Creeks, west of the Mississippi river; it being understood that an additional extent of territory, proportioned to their numbers, will be added to the Creek country, and that the Seminoles will be received as a constituent part of the Creek nation and be re-admitted to all the privileges as members of the same.

ARTICLE II. For and in consideration of the relinquishment of claim in the first article of this agreement, and in full compensation for all the improvements, which may have been made on the lands thereby ceded; the United States stipulate to pay to the Seminole Indians, fifteen thousand, four hundred (15,400) dollars, to be divided among the chiefs and warriors of the several towns, in a ratio proportioned to their population, the respective proportions of each to be paid on their arrival in the country they consent to remove to; it being understood that their faithful interpreters Abraham and Cudjo shall receive two hundred dollars each of the above sum, in full remuneration for the improvements to be abandoned on the lands now cultivated by them.

ARTICLE III. The United States agree to distribute as they arrive at their new homes in the Creek Territory, west of the Mississippi river, a blanket and a homespun frock, to

TOP PAGE + 2 PAGES OF CHIEFS
TREATY WITH THE CREEKS AND SEMINOLE, 1845. WHO SIGNED
THE TREATY

Jan. 4, 1845. | 9 Stat., 821. | Proclamation, July 18, 1845.

Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties. Vol. II (Treaties). Compiled and edited by Charles J. # 6
Kappler. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904.
Home | Disclaimer & Usage | Table of Contents | Index

Vol. II, Pages 550-552 | Page 551 | Page 552

Vol. II, Page Images | Page 550 | Page 551 | Page 552

TREATY of WASH DC
w/ CREEKS & SEMINO

Margin Notes:

Preamble.

The Seminoles to settle in any part of the Creek country. To be subject generally to the Creek council. No distinction between them except in pecuniary affairs.

Seminole who have not removed to Creek country to do so immediately.

Certain contested cases concerning the right of property to be subject to the decision of the President.

Additional annuity of \$3,000 for education allowed the Creeks for twenty years.

Education fund, annuities, etc., of the Creeks to be expended in their own country in support of certain schools.

Rations to be issued to such Seminoles as remove during removal, and the whole tribe to be subsisted for six months after emigration.

Those refusing to remove in six months after ratification of this treaty not to participate in its benefits.

The sum of \$15,400 provided for in the treaty of Payne's Landing, and the \$3,000 provided for in said treaty, when to be paid.

\$1,000 per annum for five years to be furnished in agricultural implements.

The northern and western boundary line of the Creeks to be marked.

Articles of a treaty made by William Armstrong, P. M. Butler, James Logan, and Thomas L. Judge, commissioners in behalf of the United States, of the first part; the Creek tribe of Indians, of the second; and the Seminole tribe of Indians, of the third part.

WHEREAS it was stipulated, in the fourth article of the Creek treaty of 1833, that the Seminoles should thenceforward be considered a constituent part of the Creek nation, and that a permanent and comfortable home should be secured for them on the lands set apart in said treaty as the country of the Creeks; and whereas many of the Seminoles have settled and are now living in the Creek country, while others, constituting a large portion of the tribe, have refused to make their homes in any part thereof, assigning as a reason that they are unwilling to submit to Creek laws and government, and that they are apprehensive of being deprived, by the Creek authorities, of their property; and whereas repeated complaints have been made to the United States government, that those of the Seminoles who refused to go into the Creek country have, without authority or right, settled upon lands secured to other tribes, and that they have committed numerous and extensive depredations upon the property of those upon whose lands they have intruded:

Now, therefore, in order to reconcile all difficulties respecting location and jurisdiction, to settle all disputed questions which have arisen, or may hereafter arise, in regard to rights of property, and especially to preserve the peace of the frontier, seriously endangered by the restless and warlike spirit of the intruding Seminoles, the parties to this treaty have agreed to the following stipulations:

TREATY WITH THE SEMINOLE, 1866.

top page only #5

Mar. 21, 1866. | 14 Stats., 755. | Ratified, July 19, 1866. | Proclamed, Aug. 16, 1866.

Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties. Vol. II (Treaties). Compiled and edited by Charles J. Kappler. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904.
Home | Disclaimer & Usage | Table of Contents | Index

Vol. II, Pages 910-915 | Page 911 | Page 912 | Page 913 | Page 914 | Page 915

Vol. II, Page Images | Page 910 | Page 911 | Page 912 | Page 913 | Page 914 | Page 915

Margin Notes:

Preamble.
Peace and friendship.
Military occupation and protection by the United States.
Amnesty.
Slavery not to exist among the Seminoles.
Rights of those of African descent.
Cession of lands to the United States.
Payments by the United States.
Grants to Seminoles.
Boundaries.
Payment therefor.
Balance due the Seminoles.
How to be paid.
Board of commissioners to determine losses sustained by loyal Seminoles.
Census of those loyal.
No compensation except to loyal Indians.
Awards of commissioners.
Pay.
What claims for losses included.
Right of way for railroads granted through the lands of the Seminoles.
Lands will be sold.
Proviso.
Agency buildings.
Seminoles agree to certain legislation.
Proviso.
General council.
Census.
First council, how composed.
Time and place of meeting.
Session not to exceed thirty days.
Special sessions.
Powers of general council.
Who to preside over council.
Secretary of council.
Pay.
Pay of members.
Courts.
This treaty to be a full settlement of all claims.
Divisions of annuities.
Treaty obligations reaffirmed.
Lands granted for missionary or educational purposes.
Not to be sold except, etc.

Cont #6
Forn

before the issues commence shall be excluded. And it is distinctly understood that all those Seminoles who refuse to remove to, and settle in, the Creek Country, within six months after this treaty is ratified, shall not participate in any of the benefits it provides: Except those now in Florida, who shall be allowed twelve months from the date of the ratification of this treaty for their removal.

ARTICLE 6.

The sum of fifteen thousand four hundred dollars, provided in the second article of the treaty of Payne's Landing, shall be paid in the manner therein pointed out, immediately after the emigration of those Seminoles who may remove to the Creek country is completed: also, as soon after such emigration as practicable, the annuity of three thousand dollars for fifteen years, provided in the fourth article of said treaty, and, in addition thereto, for the same period, two thousand dollars per annum in goods suited to their wants, to be equally divided among all the members of the tribe.

ARTICLE 7.

In full Satisfaction and discharge of all claims for property left or abandoned in Florida at the request of the officers of the United States, under promise of remuneration, one thousand dollars per annum, in agricultural implements, shall be furnished the Seminoles for five years.

ARTICLE 8.

To avoid all danger of encroachment, on the part of either Creeks or Seminoles, upon the territory of other nations, the northern and western boundary lines of the Creek country shall be plainly and distinctly marked.

[*552]

In witness whereof, the said Commissioners and the undersigned Chiefs and Head Men of the Creek and Seminole tribes, have hereunto set their hands, at the Creek Agency, this fourth day of January, 1845.

Wm. Armstrong,
Acting Superintendent Western Territory.

P. M. Butler,
Cherokee Agent.

James Logan,
Creek Agent.

Thomas L. Judge,
Seminole Sub-Agent.

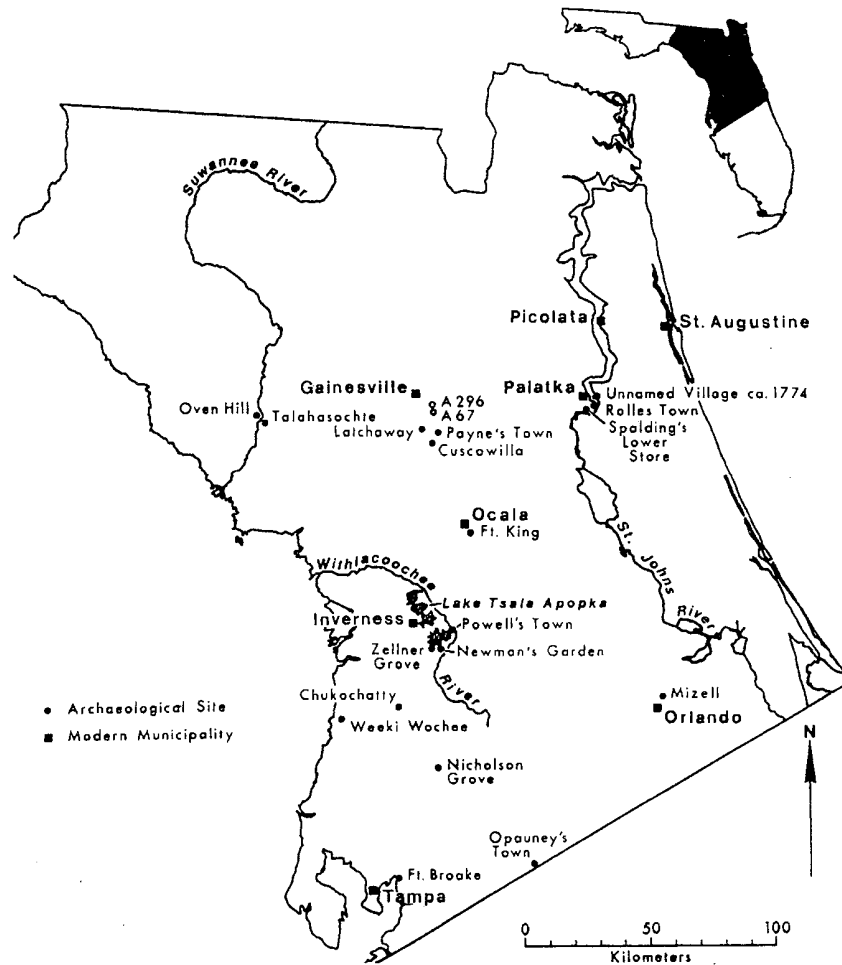
Creeks:
Roly McIntosh,
To-marh-le Micco,
Eu-faula Harjo,
O-poeth-le Yoholo,
Yargee,
Samuel Miller,
Cot-char Tustunnuggee,
*K. Lewis,
Tuskunar Harjo,

O-CHEE-SEE MICCO
TUS-TUN-GOO-CHEE

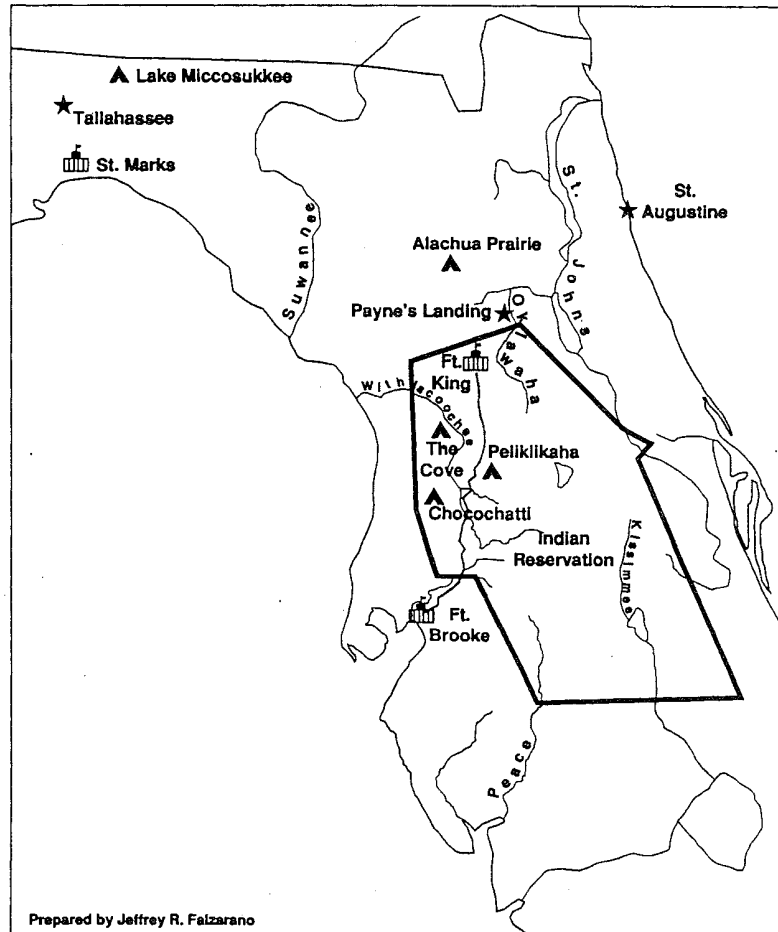
Tinthlanis Harjo,
To-cose Fixico,
*Samuel C. Brown,
Ho-tul-gar Harjo,
Oak-chun Harjo
Art-tis Fixico,
Joseph Carr,
Ar-ar-te Harjo,
Samuel Perryman,
O-switchchee Emarthlar,
Talloaf Harjo,
David Barnett,
Jim Boy,
*B. Marshall,
Tinthlanis Harjo,
Co-ah-coo-che Emarthlar,
Thlathlo Harjo,
E-cho Harjo,
Co-ah-thlocco,
Ke-sar-che Harjo,
No cose Harjo,
Yar-dick-ah Harjo,
Yo-ho-lo Chop-ko
Phil Grayson,
Chu-ille,
E-cho Emarthla,
Pol-lot-ke,
Kot-che Harjo,
To-cose Micco,
Henry Marshall,
Matthew Marshall,
Che-was-tiah Fixico,
Tom Carr.

Seminoles:

Miccanope,
Coah-coo-che, or Wild Cat,
Alligator,
Nocose Yoholo,
Halleck Tustunnuggee,
Emah-thloo-chee,
Octi-ar-chee,
Tus-se-kiah,
Pos-cof-far,
E-con-chat-te-micco,
Black Dirt,
Itch-hos-se Yo-ho-lo,
Kap-pe-chum-e-coo-che,
O-tul-ga Harjo,
Yo-ho-lo Harjo,
O-switchchee Emarthla,
Kub-bit-che,
An-lo-ne,
Yah-hah Fixico,
Fus-hat-chee, Micco,



By 1774 the Alachua savanna south of present-day Gainesville (today's Paynes Prairie) would become a heartland of the Seminole nations, a geographical center to which many later Seminoles – Payne, Micanopy, and Bowlegs among them – could trace their roots. Despite this importance, Cowkeeper's early towns of Lachua, on the rim of the vast Paynes Prairie, and Cuscowilla, on the trading path several miles distant, remain archaeologically undiscovered.



Treaty Lands – 1823. The white settlers could not live with the Seminoles Treaty of 1823. There was to be much more blood shed yet to come to move the Seminoles from this choice land.

PART IV THE SECOND SEMINOLE WAR 1835-1842

The beginning of the Second Seminole War came much before 1835, even back to the Moultrie Treaty of 1823. Promises of help to the Seminoles was not forthcoming, so....

As winter came in 1833 the Seminole situation was critical. They were now without even blankets, and a promise to vacinate up to 5,000 Seminoles was not carried out because of the cost to the government. Now having lost most of their livestock and crops, many were starving, some to death, and even then few white men seemed to appreciate or understand the strength of the Seminoles in Florida. Moreover the principals in Washington, D.C. had no clear understanding of the coming disaster.

On October 21, 1834 the U.S. Indian Agent convened the Chiefs to distribute to them (the Seminoles) the last U.S. Assistance (called Annuity). The Indians immediately began to buy more powder and ball than usual. The Seminoles then gathered in their own council – and so appears Osceola – a brilliant man half white, half Indian with a deep desire to kill as many white men as possible. He was to become a feared warrior leader, refusing to let the willing Seminoles leave Florida as the U.S. government insisted. He stood behind the powerful Chief Micanopy prompting him to be firm.

When the year 1835 arrived the Seminoles were ready to go to war with the whites to save their land – not to be removed or disposed of by the whites. By now many negroes who were slaves joined with the Seminoles eager to fight with them against their hated whites. Thus there was no way to avoid the bloody, costly seven years which were about to begin. A few Seminoles wished to leave Florida rather than fight the coming war with the United States. In October a well known Seminole Chief, Charley Emathla, attempted to leave the state. Osceola shot him dead the act of which stopped the Indian migration from Florida.



Osceola's picture is also shown on the cover page.

The presence of a new militia force in the vicinity of the Seminoles brought on an action that might be termed the first battle of the Second Seminole War. Col. John Warren detached his baggage train by way of Micanopy, and 80 of Osceola's men ambushed the train. Thirty mounted men galloped up to aid in the battle, only 12 men went willingly to fight. He had to retreat having 6 men killed and 8 wounded. This first battle occurred on December 18, 1835. The next heavy depredation by the Seminoles occurred around Christmas time a short time after the Col. Warren ambush. The Seminoles attacked sugar growing plantations just east of the St. Johns River and killed many people and destroyed all of the plantations in the area. Now begins in earnest this horrible war.

Women and children were being killed and scalped, property and livestock destroyed. Standing behind all this horror was Osceola full of vengeance and hate. By February of 1835 the hatred between the Seminoles and whites had reached a point of no return. Attack after attack by the Seminoles against the whites could no longer be ignored by Washington. General Clinch was appointed to direct the Regular and Volunteers and appraise the situation. The War Department added additional strength to Clinch with 10 Regular Companies. No one in Washington told the officers in the field just how hard or smart the Seminole warriors would be. Our officers in the early years of combat had no guerrilla training. Most had memorized the European method of combat where the soldiers march together in bright uniforms for head-on contact – Napoleon's methods that early on had been so successful in Europe took six years of being beaten by the Seminoles to realize the need for changes of tactics. If you fought them with the European method, you would be severely beaten.

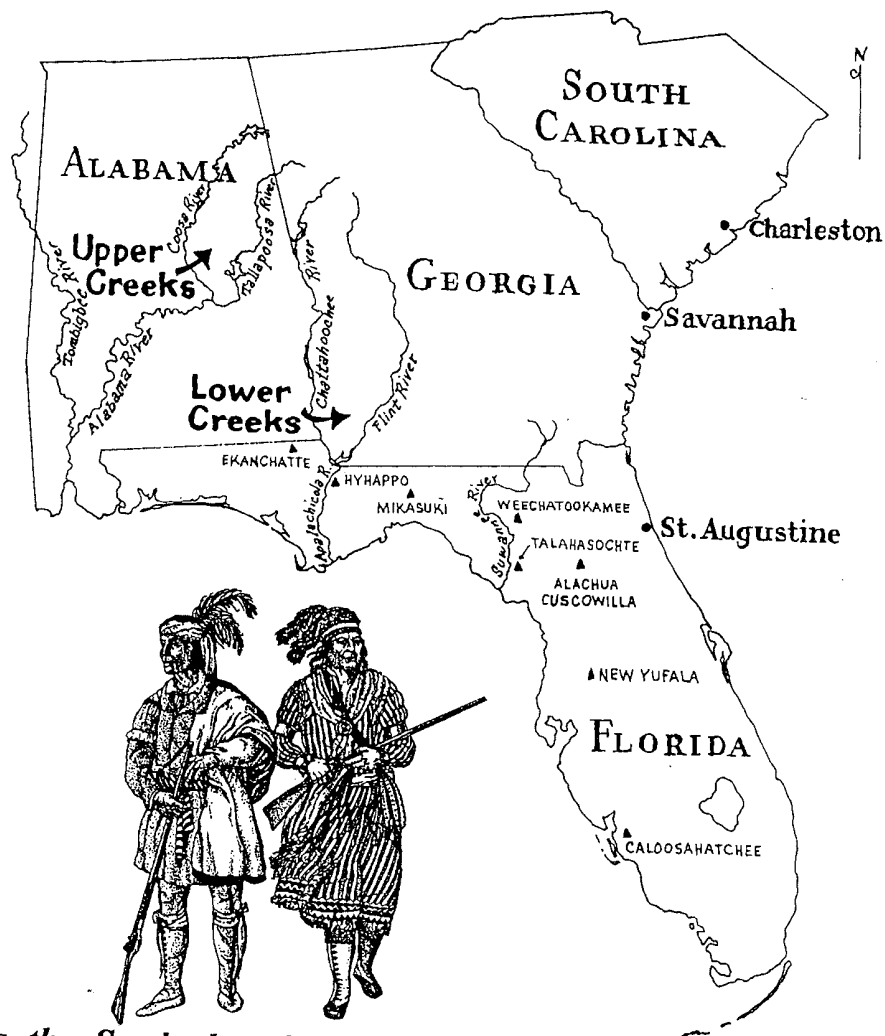
Washington's wish now was to have the Seminoles removed from Florida. As the Seminole leaders began to understand that they might lose their homeland, and war was the only answer, the Indian hostilities increased and grew bolder toward the military and civilians. The problem of not enough troops, not enough understanding of how to properly fight the Seminoles, weighed heavily. It went on and on. Osceola lusted for revenge to the point where he forced the Seminole leader, Charley Emathla, to keep the Indians fighting. No Seminole was to migrate from Florida but to stand up and fight to the death. Late in December, 1835 it happened that 2 Companies of soldiers started from

from Ft. Brooke going 100 miles to Ft. King. They were completely surprised by the carefully hidden Seminoles who poured in the shots. They had been ambushed. The Indian Agent Thompson who had been near the front of the soldiers took 14 balls and was scalped. Now the Seminole warriors under Osceola's leadership saw how easy it was to defeat the white soldiers, and their attacks grew more often and more deadly. Just about this time Major Dade with 8 officers and 100 enlisted men took the road from Ft. King. The Seminoles were aware of each step Dade's columns took. The soldiers were totally unsuspecting. Dressed in sky blue uniforms, they marched on. The hidden Seminoles performed a perfect ambush killing Dade and 98 of his soldiers. Only 2 men lived to recount the massacre. One hundred eighty Indians kept firing until no one moved. The encounter had been totally successful for the Seminoles. The massacre of Dade's column became the best known battle of the Second Seminole War, and the greatest in Seminole history.

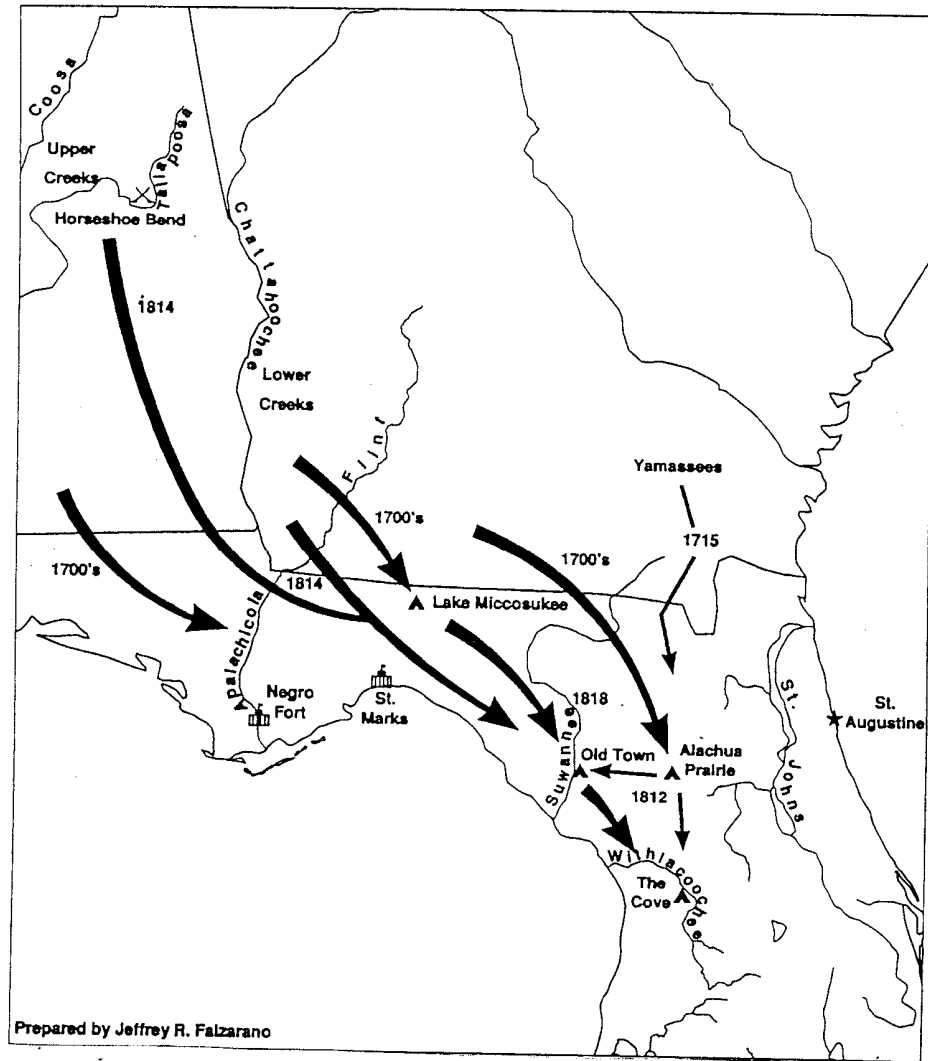
General Clinch headed for the Seminole encampment on the Withlacoochee River, but as they tried to cross, the Seminoles' withering fire turned them back with heavy losses. Later General Call tried to cross the river, and his men faced 250 warriors and 30 heavily armed negroes. A heavy battle ensued. Again the Army was stopped. It would be several years more before the U.S. forces learned to fight in the guerrilla style of warfare and to not meet the Seminoles in direct combat, but to spread their forces out to search and destroy small Indian settlements, remove the women and children, and destroy their crops. Why it took so long for Washington's generals to understand this strategy, we will never know. Now for the first time the Seminole Wars had become a very serious affair to Washington powers that be.

There was no need for the United States to declare war against the Indians. They just started fighting them, and no surrender was ever signed by the Seminoles. The fighting just came to an end.

At the start of 1836 the settled areas of Florida were in desperate danger. Plantations were being systematically destroyed – 16 in January of 1836 alone. St. Augustine was in equally grave danger on January 30, 1836 when 2 Volunteer Companies from Charleston arrived to help stabilize the situation. By February 1 of 1836 the Seminoles had forced the whites to abandon most of the country south of St. Augustine. Slowly Congress was beginning to be aware that the



This map shows the Seminole migration into Florida from Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina ending along the Withlacoochee. Here a number of bloody battles between the entrenched Seminoles and the attacking U.S. Army. During the Second Seminole War 1835-1842, the Seminoles drove back the U.S. Army with severe losses to the American soldiers in each battle. Most soldiers were lost trying to cross the Withlacoochee River from east to west.



The above map shows the Seminole migration from 1700 to 1820. It was the settling place along the Withlacoochee River that had become a large settlement of Seminole peoples and fierce warriors. In the Second Seminole War the U.S. soldiers were defeated in several battles along the Withlacoochee. The soldiers suffered severe losses while there were few losses for the Seminoles.

Seminole were a real threat, and so on January 17th they created a second Act allotting 5,000 troops more to defeat the Seminoles.

When the report of the disastrous battle on the Withlacoochee reached Washington, General Abraham Eustis was ordered to assemble all the troops he could spare and lead them to St. Augustine. Now both General Clinch and General Eustis were directly involved in the Seminole struggle. Friction between the two strong generals began almost immediately. Onto this scene comes Winfield Scott also a strong leader. However, he was neither trained for war nor a student of Indian warfare. He began to learn about a whole new world of warfare contrary to charging Brigades in uniforms with fixed bayonets facing a hidden enemy. Washington still had no way of understanding what swamp and forest fighting were. So many soldiers died of the sheer ignorance of the Seminole method of fighting – guerrilla style. Again with all the new “brass”, the Army tried to defeat the Seminoles at the Withlacoochee River. The government forces divided again and took so many loses that is painful to read about. This battle is much like the others. Flushed with victory after victory, the Seminoles on the night of April 20 rushed the pickets at Ft. Drane. On April 24 Clinch marched his men to the fort, and the Seminoles melted away into the forest. The confident Indians spread out and expanded their attacks. The Indians had another great advantage. They were familiar with the Florida wetlands and swamps, flies, mosquitos, and intense heat. The white men who came to fight them in their own land were totally unaccustomed to these conditions, and sickness and fever took many of the soldiers out in the field – too sick to ever leave their forts.

During the years 1835 and 1836, 23,530 citizen soldiers were mustered into the United States Service. By now it is estimated that as many as 13,000 whites had seen service in the Florida campaign. On January 10, 1837 the Withlacoochee area was still not entirely deserted by the Indians. An Army Colonel found and captured 52 negroes and had flushed out a small Seminole party led by Osceola himself. He vanished into the underbrush.

In the beginning of 1837 the battles at last began to favor the United States. The Army began to search and destroy small Indian camps with good success. It had taken 2 years for the Army to understand the only

way to destroy the Seminoles was to do so a little at a time – their crops, livestock, camps forcing them into the Everglades. On February 8 a detachment had a sharp fight with 5 or 600 of King Philip's warriors led by Philip himself and his son, Coacoochee (The Wildcat). In this battle Capt. Charles Mellon was killed at the head of Lake Monroe, so the Fort was named Lake Monroe Fort (later Fort Mellon). More battles ensued, but the Seminoles were being weakened by over several years of battles.

Moving ahead, June of 1837 marks the start of the first serious negotiations between the United States and the Seminoles. It was worded as follows, but bound to end as the others had:

1. Hostilities were to end once and for all.
2. The Seminoles agreed to migrate immediately to the west of the Mississippi and give Indians as hostages to insure their living up to the terms to withdraw south of the Hillsborough River until they were shipped west, present themselves at a concentration point no later than April 10, 1837, and in addition, the white men promised to assist the Seminoles, etc.

The agreement that had been agreed upon was to end soon. It did. It ended at the end of one month. How to treat the many negro slaves again became a serious fly in the ointment. A monumental occurrence came early in September of 1837 when an Attachment of 170 men came upon a Seminole village just 30 miles south of St. Augustine and took them by complete surprise. All were taken prisoner including all the hostiles save one. Also captured was the Seminole King – King Philip himself. Once he was captured, it gave the Army great leverage to have other important Seminoles surrender. The Army marched south to Okeechobee with 4,000 men in October of 1837.

Colonel Jesup could rely on Colonel Zachary Taylor. The command would be effective between the Peace River and the Kissimmee River, and a force of 1,400 men were used to build Ft. Gardner and Fort Bassinger. Both forts were close to Kissimmee. Three columns were assigned the task of penetrating the Everglades to the south. When the news of the great Everglades push was known, hundreds and hundreds of volunteers from other southern states sent men in arms to join in the fight. The Seminoles could see with great alarm the strengthening of the U. S. Army. Chief Miconopy decided he would talk to a visiting delegation of Cherokee Chiefs along with Jesup. Jesup then met with

Miconopy, Yaholoochee, Tuskegee, Nocose, Yaholo and 78 other Indians to discuss an agreement. Then they were all detained. They were just too valuable to the Seminoles to allow them to return.

In December of 1837 General Jesup (he had received a promotion) took control of the largest army every assembled in Florida during the Seminoles Wars with a total force of over 9,000 men. On December 19, 1837 Colonel Zachary Taylor got permission to move forward into the Everglades to pursue the fleeing Seminoles. Taylor's route took him southward down the Kissimmee River toward Lake Okeechobee. On the trip small groups of Indians tired of fighting came in to give themselves up. Jumper, a famous Indian leader, surrendered along with 63 of his followers. Other joined their numbers as the Army advanced south, but now the Army was about to get one of its greatest surprises of the Seminole War. The Seminoles had prepared a giant trap for the soldiers. Never before had a group of Seminoles prepared a battleground with greater care. They were hidden in a thick hammock about half a mile into the swamp near Lake Okeechobee which was not far to their rear. The sawgrass was about 5 feet high with mud and water under it about 3 feet deep. The Seminoles cut down the sawgrass to provide a corridor of fire at the unsuspecting hot and tired soldiers who were completely unaware of the carnage they would soon meet. The Seminoles even notched the trees in the hammock to steady their rifles to improve their aim. Somewhere between 380 and 480 of these Seminole warriors could hardly wait for the one-sided battle to start. Taylor in complete ignorance ordered his targeted soldiers into the Seminole trap. All the troops dismounted and advanced in the prepared corridor. At twelve-thirty PM on Christmas Day they were fired on. This was to be the last Christmas for many of the troops. Colonel Gentry was instantly mortally wounded. Five companies in the sixth corridor had lost all but one of their officers, and most noncoms had been hit also. Then Colonel Ramsey was fatally hit. After the devastating volleys, the Indians left, melting away into the Everglades. The Army lost 26 dead and 112 wounded. The Seminoles only lost between 11 and 14 by the time the fighting was over. Most of the losses occurred because officers underestimated the fighting ability and cunning of the Seminole warriors. After the battle of Okeechobee, General Jesup guessed that many more battles loomed to the north of Lake Okeechobee, so he moved men and animals along the St. Johns River from Ft. Mellon on Lake Monroe moving southward. General

Jesup led his Column of 70 wagons and 1,000 horses along the river. Their hardships on this trek were so severe, a story was later written about their hideous and costly trip. Most all their horses died. Fort Lane was the next fort built. It was on the east side of Lake Harney. The Column halted on Christmas Day of 1837, and built Fort Christmas. (That fort is now Florida's best restored fort.) The next fort to the south was built shortly after Fort Christmas. Early in the year 1838, a fort was built on Lake Winder and named Fort Taylor. Just of few yards south of Fort Taylor was the old Savage Trading Post which had been a trading post for both the whites and the Seminoles in earlier years. None of these forts were used for very long, as the troops continuously followed the Seminoles south toward the Everglades. The soldiers now continued their trek southward and east toward the east coast stopping at Jupiter River. Here the Army engaged the Seminole warriors who met them with fierce gunfire. The soldiers were forced to retreat back to their boats. The location and size of the Seminole warriors made General Jesup optimistic that the Army was slowly closing a ring around the Seminoles. General Jesup, noting the last two great battles they had fought in the Everglades and now the Jupiter River Battle, felt that the Army was making great strides toward destroying the Seminole strength.

The Seminoles' battles now came more frequent as the US Armys' numbers increased and they penetrated more area. Then on January 24, 1838, General Jesup came upon a group of Seminoles in a swamp. He prepared to fight a battle with several hundred warriors. It was a bitter battle with a number of Jesup's solders being killed or wounded: thus ended the Battle of Lockahatchee. The Seminoles' declining ability to do battle because of severe losses of their warriors and their lack of food and weapons were willing again to make an effort to find peace with the whites. The end of February, 1838 Tuskegee met with General Jesup at his camp. The agreement between General Jesup and the Seminoles was sent to Washington for approval. (It was at this time that a board of officers tested and fired Samuel Colt's new revolver. Colt's rifles were already in use).

On St. Patrick's Day 1838, Washington still did not understand the real Florida problems and solutions. This led to one of the saddest days in the terrible seven years of war when on St. Patrick's Day 1838, Secretary Poinset denied Jesup's request to allow the Seminoles to

remain in south Florida (where they are now). The unbelievable arrogance of the powers in Washington allowed this horrible war to go on for a long, bloody and costly four years. On March 21, 1838 Colonel David Twiggs of the Second Dragoons was ordered to disarm all the warriors and to take into custody every Indian in the adjacent camp. He brought in the largest bag of captives since the war began, 504 to 513 Indians, of whom 151 were warriors. Shortly after in south Florida General Zachary Taylor captured Holatoochee along with 40 of his warriors. Holatoochee reported that not more than 200 warriors were still at large. Many of the negroes who had joined the Seminole warriors surrendered to Jesup who promised to free them (a great loss to the Seminole fighting forces). General Jesup sent Holatoochee into the scrub to contact the fierce leader called Alligator. In a few days Alligator with 88 Indians and 28 negroes surrendered at Fort Bassinger in March of 1838.

At Tampa on April 29, 1838 General Jesup, who had asked the War Department to be released, came close to the end of his Army career, and on May 15, 1838 his reins were handed to Zachary Taylor. During the nearly 18 months of Jesup's command almost 3,000 Indians had been taken out of combat (100 killed and 2,900 captured). What an unbelievable 18 months that had been! It is said that the deepest sufferers of all were the Seminole children. Many, probably most, did not survive. The mothers often killed their infants to relieve their misery and to be free of the encumbrance of them. Some mothers even buried their children in the swamp feeding them only under the cover of darkness.

In May, 1838 Zachary Taylor, whose burden was to be carried for 2 years, was 54 years old and already nicknamed "Old Rough and Ready". In a short period Zachary Taylor found himself ruling over a new battleground. June was filled with small uprisings fired up by 400 to 500 Mikasukis, Tallahasseees, and a few Creeks. Again a sharp fight erupted on the old battleground on the Withlacoochee (so many battles fought there). The Seminoles then burned Fort Dade, and another fight on Kanapaha Prairie erupted. The Indian War was far from over. It had just moved to other areas. Month after month trouble spots sprung up. By October 1, 1838 the remaining Apalachees agreed to go west. Taylor arranged to ship captive Indians and black slaves beyond the Mississippi. Fifty-four Indians and negroes, among them King Philip,



King Philip. This famous king was captured in 1837 after being betrayed by a negro slave named John Philip on September 8, 1837. The U.S. Army made a surprise raid on the camp of King Philip and captured him. He was the most important capture since the War had begun, but his days were numbered. King Philip died aboard the Brig Homer while en route from Charleston to New Orleans.

died of the westward trip, but 1,221 reached the destination. Meanwhile Floridians continued to demand drastic action to stop the Indian depredation. More soldiers had to be deployed. Meanwhile there was a routine of Indian removals. Eighteen Seminoles were captured near Fort Mellon, the hot spots continued and scattered. General Macomb, the oldest of the Generals sent to Florida and who had founded the West Point Academy, came to Florida. He was smart and well experienced in various wars and different kinds of combat. General Macomb declined to interfere with the existing military operations confining himself to negotiations with the Indians. It was not until May 18 that General Macomb could lure enough Seminoles together to form a respectable Council. General Taylor and his staff told Macomb the conflict would end only by allowing the hostiles to remain in Florida. So on May 20, 1838 General Macomb issued a General Order in which the War was proclaimed at an end. "No so fast", cried the enraged citizens of Florida, so the outcome was a negotiated treaty with the Seminoles.

A proclamation declared Poinsett direct General Taylor to help the Seminoles get within the now prescribed boundaries and to see that they stayed there. The President declared their Reservation to be Indian Territory under the provisions of the Indian Intercourse Act of June 30, 1834. There were still 4 bands of hostile Indians roaming free in southwestern Florida alone. One band was led by Sam Jones, (Chitto Tustenuggee) and Holata Mico (Billy Bowlegs) as war chiefs. Another band was led by Hospetarke with Passacka as war chief, and a third band was led by Otalke Thlocco (The Prophet). The Spanish Indians were led by Chakaika.

The treaty again was doomed to fail with most everyone on both sides skeptical and with good reason. Hatred is hard to conquer, and both sides had plenty enough to go around. Small bands of renegades continued to kill whites and destroy their property. During the summer of 1839 there were no crises, but things were far from peaceful. One exception was when Dallam's store 20 miles from the mouth of the Caloosahatchee was attacked by 160 Indians. They made off with rich rewards – over \$1,500 in silver coins, nearly \$3,000 worth of trade goods and the new Colt rifles of many of the soldiers. Lt. Colonel William Harney was almost killed a short distance away. All this re-opened the War and gave it an added bitterness. Now people on both sides would lose their lives and property. More peaceful Seminoles paid the price by

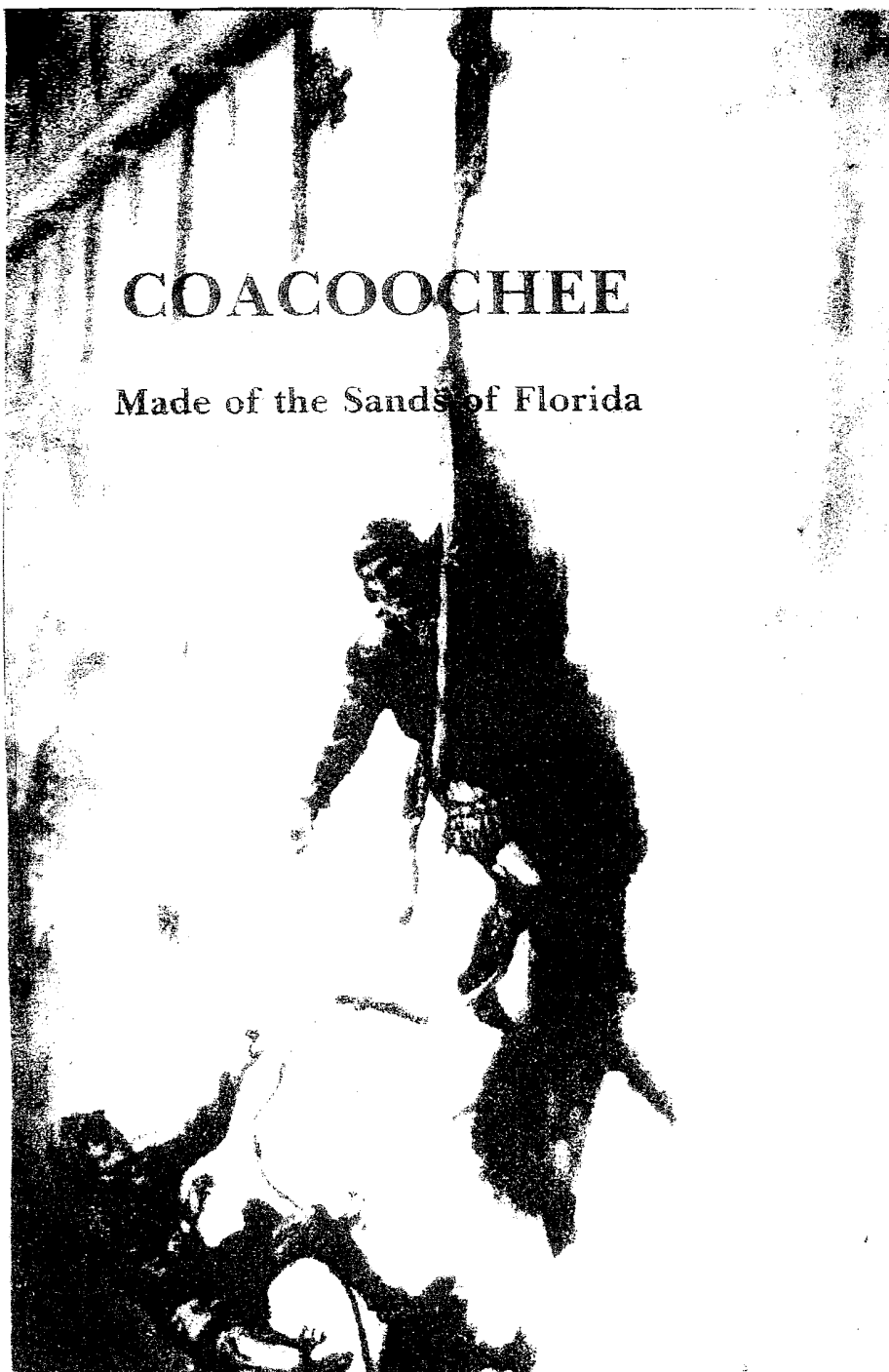
being captured and shipped away, and this all led Washington to an uproar.

In the summer of 1838 Congress enacted the Third Enlargement since its drastic cut in 1821. Washington now had no choice but to go to war again with the Seminoles. Considering the immediacy of war many aspects of life in Florida went on with surprising regularity. The population grew by 20,000 from 1830 to 1840. The total population of Florida in 1840 was 54,477. So by 1839 Florida was more closely tied to the rest of the Nation than ever before, and on May 5, 1840 Brevet Brigadier General Walker Keith Armistead assumed command. He had graduated from West Point in 1803. Now Coacoochee led nearly 100 warriors in an attack on a small detachment of soldiers in May, and followed closely by another attack against the whites. Information given to the Army led to the discovery of Coacoochee's hideaway at Wekiva where the war chief would commit even more atrocities. Armistead's men did what needed to be done. They had adopted guerrilla warfare. Armistead's lieutenants discovered and destroyed haunts that the Seminoles had been safe in for years even discovering cultivated fields near the Oklawaha, and by mid-summer they had destroyed 500 acres of the Indians' crops. Late in June Lt. Colonel Harney captured the mother of Coacoochee, and she took him to a hidden village where the Seminoles had been trading with sailing vessels. That was halted. Now the hostilities began to spread south all the way into the Keys, all the way to Indian Key about 75 miles from Key West. Here the Spanish Indians led by Chakaika (of the Harney massacre) paddled 17 canoes 30 miles from the mainland. They pillaged and burned the homes and buildings there at Indian Key. They killed kindly Dr. Perrine and 11 other people. The Seminole attackers took what they needs plus 2 barrels of black powder which is probably what they came for to begin with. With this raid into the Keys the Second Seminole War had now reached from one end of the state to the other.

It became obvious to the Generals and Washington that even more troops were needed in the widening of the Florida campaign. After this raid and others the war fanned out over the state again. General Armistead ceased all military operations and called for another round of talks with the Seminole leaders. The war was slowly coming to a close. Each time a truce was carved out the Seminole leaders came

COACOOCHEE

Made of the Sands of Florida



The above picture of Coacoochee is taken from the cover of the book "Coacoochee – Made In The Sands Of Florida". He was a fearful and brilliant Seminole fighter and a famous Seminole chief. He escaped from prison in 1837 after Osceola and he had surrendered under a flag of truce. Coacoochee starved himself until he was able to squeeze through the prison's window bars at Fort Marion, St. Augustine, Florida. Coacoochee was born in 1807 near Lake Tohopekiga. He died in 1857 of smallpox.

accompanied by a group of their warriors, and they were taken into custody and shipped west.

The Army's top "brass", like General Harney, now understood the only way to defeat the Seminoles was to attack the Seminole villages. Harney disguised his men to look like Indians, and before sunrise they surrounded Chief Chakaika's island and completely surprised him and all his band. Harney hanged some of the warriors on the spot along with the fierce fighter Chakaika. Raids on small Seminole villages increased with the new number of additional troops. With each incursion most all of the Seminoles were taken prisoner, and then taken out of Florida forever. Coacoochee, now a prisoner, helped encourage other Seminoles to surrender. Little by little the Seminole numbers were reduced. Everything they owned was destroyed. Their squaws and children were mostly gone as mentioned before.

On May 31, 1841 General Armistead was released. At this time the Navy began to use their steamers but under combat conditions. In a flotilla of dugouts, John McLaughlin led an expedition from December, 1840 to January 1841 across the entire peninsula from east to west. His was the first party of white men to ever cross the full width of the Everglades. The end of March 1841 saw all of the Citizen Army in Florida discharged. The Army then became all Army Regulars.

Some Indians continued their raids and depredations, and veteran hunters were sought to hunt them down. The renegade Seminoles were still at large. Coacoochee was paid well to continue to get the remaining Indians to move west. It was a tough sell. In a place called Long Swamp close to Fort King, Halleck, Tustenuggee, Tiger Tail, Nethlockemathla and Octiarche with 120 warriors agreed to put to death any messenger from the white side. On June 25, 1841 General Macomb died followed in death by General Winfield Scott.

Colonel Worth's decision to lure white settlers to again try to resettle Florida became a large success. This could help to drive the Seminoles out of fields. The Army would assist them. After many years a trickle of white people and their slaves began to establish themselves again in north Florida. Still the Indians at large went on committing the never ending depredations, moving from one place to another in the Florida peninsula. To the south a Major Belknap began his tour to contact the

foe. Again the Indians out-maneuvered the Army for the best of 3 months, but the Indians were slowly losing the constant battle. By the end of February, 1842 Worth believed the Big Cypress Swamp was cleaned of the hostiles. How wrong he was. Colonel Worth shipped, mostly by train, 230 Seminoles to the west, 68 of them were warriors. He decided it was best to just let the remaining Seminoles remain to plant crops and let them go to any post unharmed. The remaining marauders were hunted with bloodhounds and killed and captured a few warriors each week. On April 19, 1842 the great leader Halleck and 40 of his warriors were brought to bay. This action, the last one in Florida, was the end of Halleck's band.

May 10, 1842 was an historic day. This day the United States Secretary notified General Scott that the administration desired an end of hostilities as soon as possible. Now Washington could give a sigh of relief at the ending of the unbelievable spending in the 7 years of war with the Seminoles. The killing on both sides was to end, and there would be the return home of many of the countries' tired and often sick servicemen.

In August, 1842 a very special and mostly unknown Bill passed in Washington. Governor Richard Call of Florida had suggested (rightly so) that the only way to overcome the balance of the population in Florida was to establish colonies of settlers who would fight and also work their land. The Bill was aptly entitled "The Armed Occupation Bill" – 1842. The creation of this Act was twofold. It would attract white settlers back into Florida, because the seven years of war had seen a giant exodus of white people terrified of the Seminoles who had killed and destroyed so many of their families and everything that they had owned. The parts of the Act Number I through 4 were designed to have the new settlers help fight the Seminole renegades who roamed the state. This would help the Army reduce its numbers – the white settlers would make the work of the Army so much lighter. The Federal government will give away 3,000,000 acres in war-torn Florida.

The importance of the Armed Occupation Bill of 1842 is so important I have included it in full:

The Bill said, "Any head of a family could obtain 160 acres in Florida subject to the following stipulations: 1. His land must be south of a line running east and west about 3 miles north of Palatka and 10 miles south

of New Nansville, 2. He must reside on the land for 5 years, 3. He must build a house and clear 5 acres, 4. He must not settle within 2 miles of a military Post”.

However, this did not stop the marauding Seminoles. Murder and rape continued in middle Florida. General Worth resumed command on November 1, 1842. The Seminole leaders Tiger Tail and Octiarche could not make up their minds to surrender, so troops were sent out to bring them in – in other words, surrender. Tiger Tail had to be carried in on a litter. There were 250 Seminoles now who were shipped out. General Worth reported that only 42 Seminole warriors, 33 Mikasukis, 10 Creeks and 10 Talahasseees remained – a total of 95 with their families bringing that number to about 300. General Worth asserted that Bowlegs (Hotate-mathlochee), a nephew of Micanopy, was the acknowledged Chief; Ossinawa, Otulkethlocko and Halpatter Tustenuggee were to be sub-chiefs. These leaders had observed perfect good faith, and had planted and hunted diligently and had not harmed any white settlers. As always there were a few Seminoles who would not comply, but their numbers were small.

CONCLUSION

In spite of all the fanfare about the end of the hostilities, the Seminole War did not come to an abrupt end. It simply dragged out. The few Seminoles remaining in Florida withdrew into the Everglades. No one else wanted this land, and it would have cost too much to remove the Indians, so they stayed. There is no way to know how many Seminoles perished in the seven years of war, but 3,824 had been shipped westward by the end of 1843. A count of the Seminoles in 1844 showed only 3,136 remained in the Indian Territory. It is true the War had come to an end. The hatred between the whites and the Seminoles did not. There would be one more War, the third and last Seminole War.



William Augustus Bowles. A self-styled Chief of the Creeks and Seminoles.

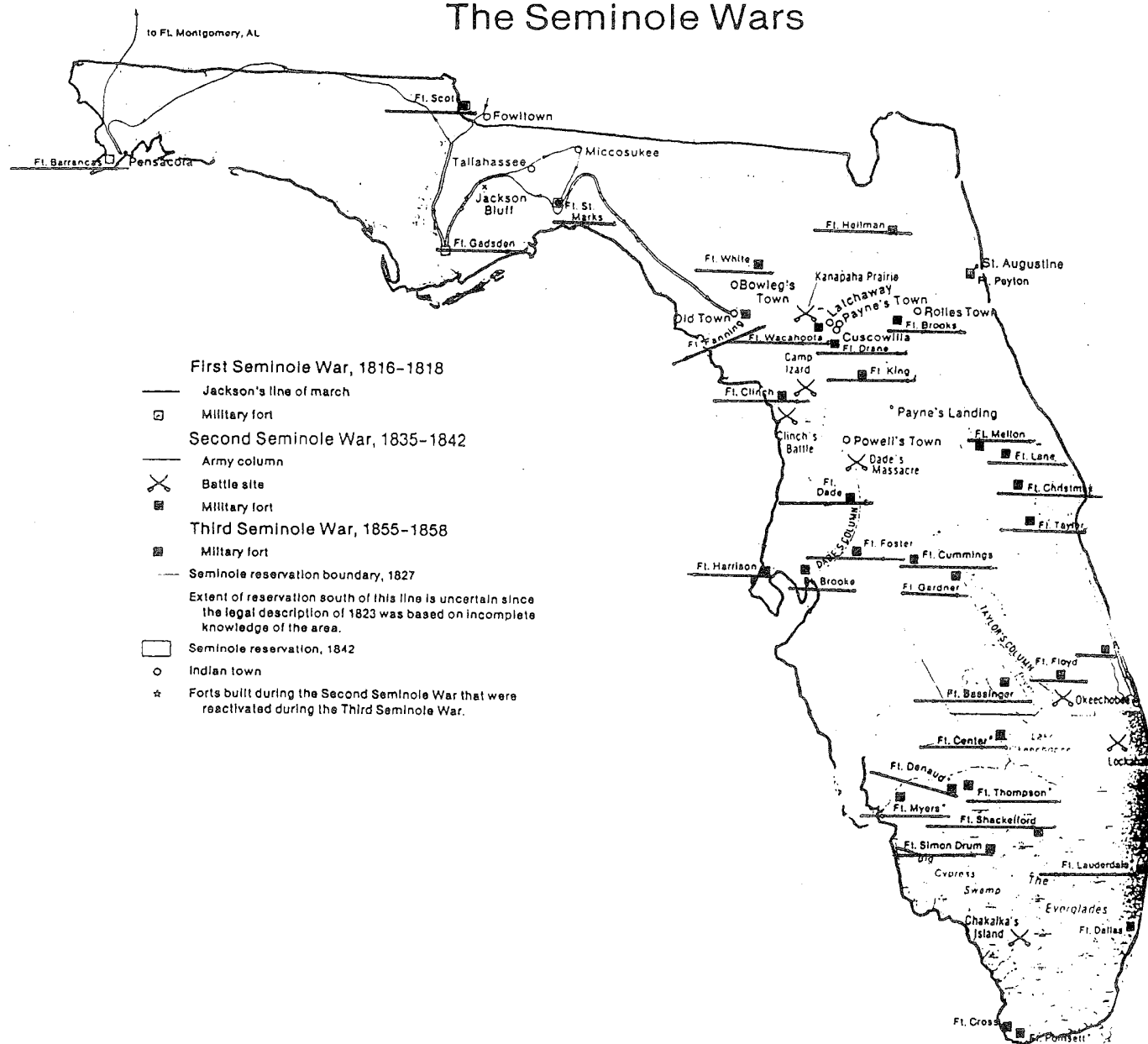


Micanopy. A powerful and able leader. The town of Micanopy is named for him.



"Gopher John" Cavallo, black Seminole leader.

The Seminole Wars



This map shows 30 forts built in the Seminole Wars. Most were just used for a very short time and then abandoned or used as storage area as the Seminoles were pushed southward.

Footnote

As you read of all the horrible deaths and destruction accounted for in the Three Seminole Wars remember, as sad as it seems, there was really no other way for what happened to have been much different – just like when one culture is large in number and capacity, the smaller culture must bear the losses and destruction of their people, their culture and their civilization.

Now the fire of war was full blown, and it was to last through the years 1936 to 1941 ending in 1942. No peace treaty was ever signed. The Seminoles just moved into the area of Everglades where the white man was loathe to go.

The Second Seminole War was important in military history, because our military developed and used the guerrilla or partisan warfare. The price of this 7 year war was in both deaths and casualties simply staggering. The Regular Army suffered 1,466 deaths of which only 328 were killed in action. Deaths in the Navy were only 69. In this horrible struggle disease was the greatest murderer. Less than one quarter of the losses were from battle. The death rate of our fighting people was 14%. Our citizen soldiers lost only 55, but many more died of disease and many returned home permanently injured. The cost of the Wars was possibly as high as \$40,000,000. The exact cost is impossible to know. As the War progressed and the slavery issue grew year by year more and more deadly, not strangely the The National Policy of Indian Removal met its fiercest opposition from the Seminoles.

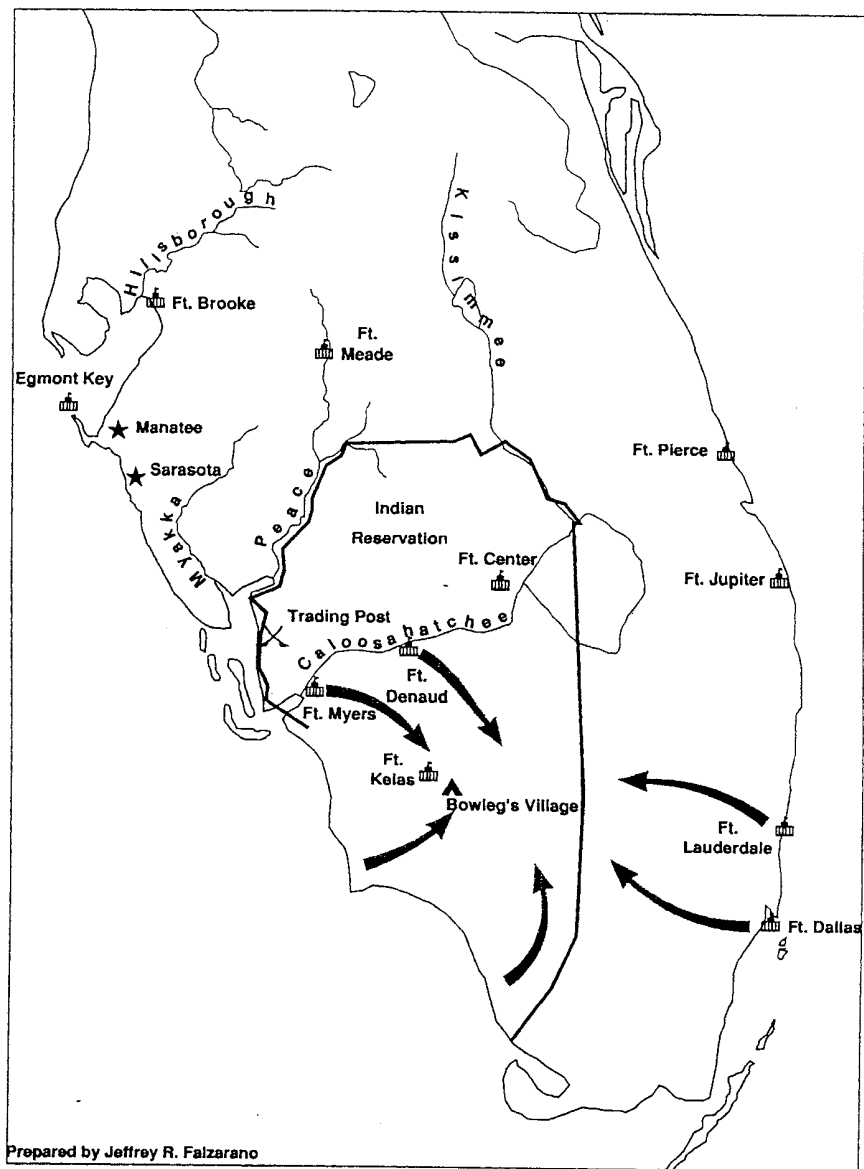
We come to the end of the Second Seminole War.

PART V
THE THIRD SEMINOLE WAR
1855-1858

That a Third Seminole War occurred should not come as a total surprise. Imagine the losses suffered by the whites and the Indians. The Indian Wars started in 1816 and now the year 1855 arrives, and war rears up its ugly head again – but for the last time. Remember the Seminoles fought over almost the entire state of Florida and had fled in the 1700s and 1800s to a land uncertain and unwanted by the white settlers. This was the Everglades. The war began anew in 1855 when the US Army sent a team of surveyors to survey a portion of lower Florida to the Everglades. This incursion of soldiers enraged Seminoles to an act of war, and again the US Army and the Seminoles found themselves in combat. It was Billy Bowlegs who led the attack on the Army surveyors.

I have enclosed a map that shows the Indian Reservation somewhat east of Sarasota and bordering the beautiful Peace River on the east side following the river to the Gulf. Their land also included the Caloosahatchee River near Fort Center to the Gulf. The southern boundary led in the Everglades about where the Ten Thousand Islands began. Such were the Seminoles' boundaries in 1855.

The start of The Third Seminole War was really in Washington. The whites pouring into Florida, some with political clout, caused an Act of Congress to be passed. It was entitled The Swamp and Overflowed Land Act. That gave to the states all Federal lands that were more than half covered with water than might be drained and be made useful. While no one spoke up to mention Florida, it was clear that this Act was meant to drain the Everglades and open up most of its area to land developers. (Florida's present agreement over Everglades restoration stems from this 1850 law.)



MAP 7. Third Seminole War, 1855-1858.

Billy Bowlegs was infuriated. He had to know that impending doom was at the Seminole door. Then came the usual powwows with Washington, and some seeded money went to the Seminoles as hush money - so to speak. Each year the situation grew worse. Old hatreds flared, and in December of 1855 a small detachment of US soldiers came across one of Billy Bowleg's villages and found it deserted. No one knows exactly what match actually started the fire, but about daylight, while the unsuspecting soldiers still slept, a war party of 30 Seminole warriors attacked the sleeping soldiers. The warriors killed 4 of them and wounded another 4 before melting away. Billy Bowlegs had had enough. He was ready to fight a war.

In the first part of 1856 the Seminoles seemed to strike at will all through the state. Fights erupted with a number of settlers and soldiers being killed. As the months went by the attacks grew more frequent and brutal, and many white people were killed. Some were scalped while still alive. This kind of hit-and-run tactic of the Seminoles lasted 2 ½ years. One exception occurred on April 7, 1856 when an Army patrol of 100 men was approaching Bowleg's town. The Seminole warriors gave open battle with the soldiers and held them at bay for 6 hours. U.S. casualties were 7 with 1 death.

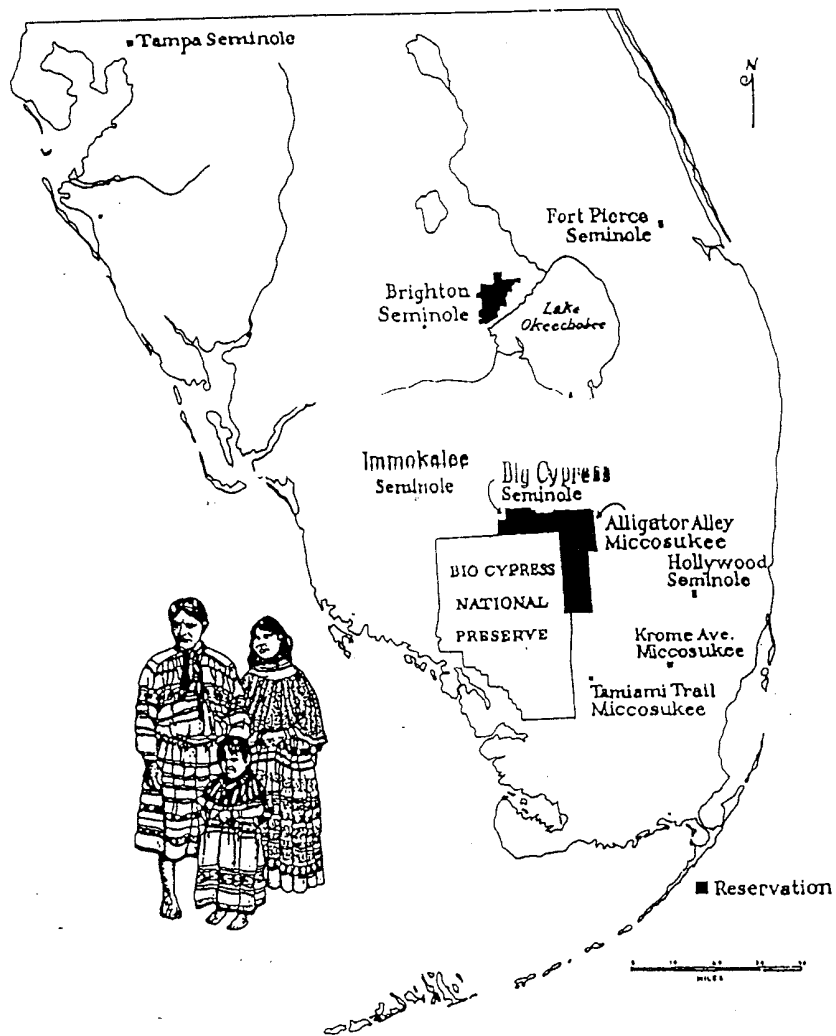
The skirmishes continued with the Battle of Tillis Farms which was the turning point of The Third Seminole War. The Seminoles suffered heavy losses especially the death of their war leader Ocen Tustenugee. This moved the fighting further south. The war continued through 1856 with many small engagements. The U.S. Army had now pushed the Seminoles far into the Everglades, and the Army knew the only way to defeat them was to chase them out of their Everglades hiding places. In 1857 U.S. soldiers ranged through the southern portion of the state keeping the Seminoles on the move. When they came across a Seminole camp, they destroyed it along with the food supplies. Small groups of Seminoles were captured and sent to Tampa Bay to be removed to the west. By now the U.S. government knew it was going to be very expensive and almost impossible to drive the Seminoles out of the Florida Everglades.

When August of 1857 came so did the heat, humidity, rains, mosquitoes, sand flies, and snakes. Meanwhile life for the Seminoles daily became more difficult. In November the camp of Billy Bowlegs was discovered.

His camp was destroyed along with 500 bushels of pumpkins, 100 bushels of rice, 50 bushels of corn, and all their utensils and tools. But the Seminoles fought on. Both sides were weary of war, and the government and the western Seminoles crafted yet another treaty.

A few Seminoles remained. They were widely scattered, maybe as few as 150. Seminoles who now reside in Florida are descendants of these brave and tenacious warriors and their wives.

So came to an end another bitter struggle between a few of our early people with the new hordes of different people. Again the multitudes flood over the few, and everything is then different. At last the three bloody Seminole Wars were gone, gone but not forgotten. In 1988 the Seminole National Indian Regulatory Act was passed. At long last the Seminoles have their change to get even with the whites through their rights to the gambling casinos!

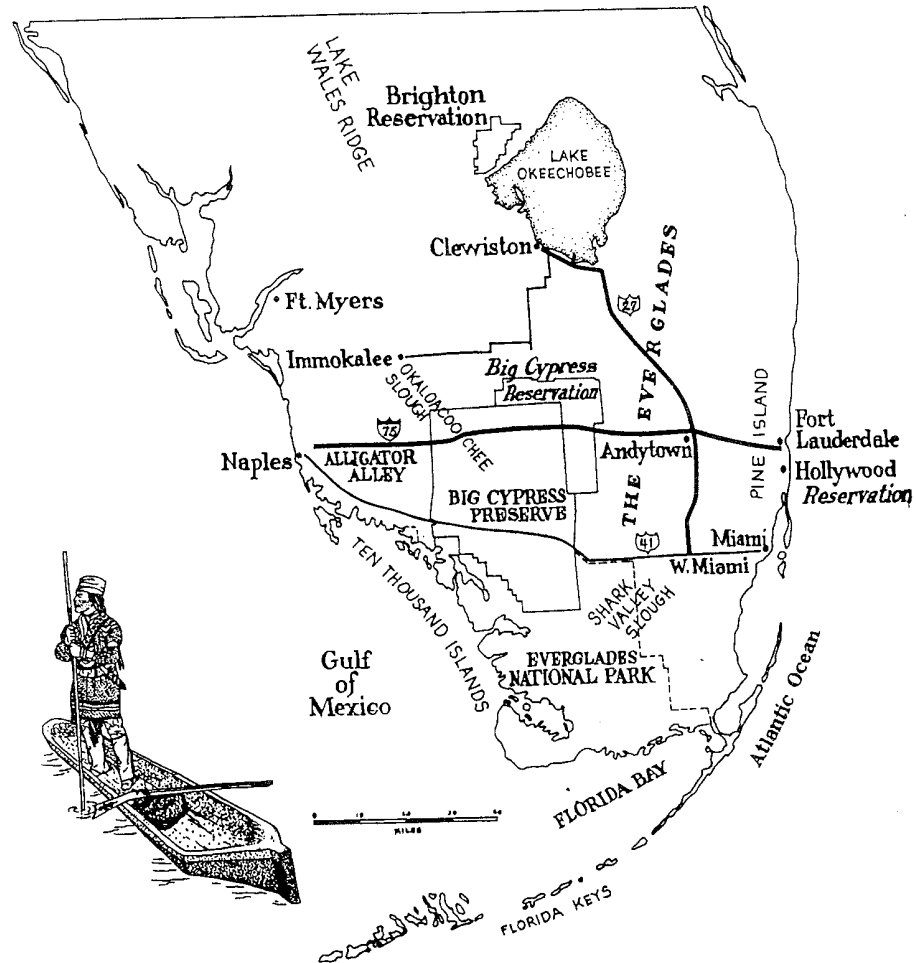


The Seminole and Moccosukee reservations at the present time in Florida.



Billy Bowlegs, who said in 1849, "Wild Cat is my great friend! Tell him not to come into our country until I send for him."

Library of Congress



This small map show the land of the Seminoles as it is now. They were pushed south from Alabama and Georgia and most of the peninsula of Florida into the area of the Everglades, a land much more suitable to live in for the Seminoles than for the white settlers. Look east of Immokalee to see the line above the top part of the Big Cypress Reservation. Alligator Alley passes through the Reservation.

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Copies of the front pages of five treaties affecting the Seminole Indians, courtesy of the State Library of Florida, Tallahassee. The five full treaties are found in the other Seminole Book magazine-type also.