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Hobe Sound Beach Shop's Tortle Times

Our History is a Treasure: Chapter Twenty-Seven By Jan Otten

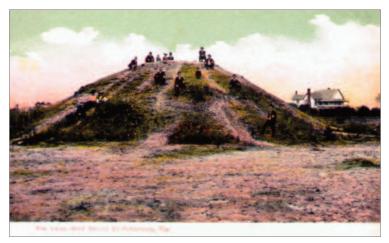
We are all familiar with the Florida State University football team, the Seminoles. And most probably we all know that the name comes from present day Native Americans who live in Florida and have ancestors who lived on this Peninsula since about 14,000 years ago. But their story as an "Unconquered People" is

fascinating and very complex. In today's world, in order to get a clearer view of these Native American peoples and their ancestors, historians must unite Indigenous sources with historical and archeological methods.

The name, SEMINOLE, was a name given to the native tribes by the Spanish. It began with the Spanish word, CIMARRÓNES, meaning "Runaways" or "Wild Ones." The free African peoples and escaped slaves who came to Florida for refuge were called MAROONS. An adaptation of the Spanish name of Cimarrónes. Muskogean people of the Creek Nation who migrated to northern Florida adopted the Cimarrónes name whose dialect made it SIMALO-NI. When the Americans adopted the name for the natives of Florida, they pronounced it SEMINOLE as we know it today. At first the Florida tribes did not embrace the name. They were from many different clans, many different settlements but were all members of the broader Muskogeanspeaking culture and during the Seminole War it became more



A Seminole Indian village in the Everglades, Florida. 1900 (circa). State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory.



The Indian Shell Mound - Saint Petersburg, Florida. 1900 (circa). State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory.

common and was a connection that united people from unrelated backgrounds who all had a common cause, faced a common enemy and so they adopted it as a matter of pride. From the beginning there were many tribes, speaking many languages, all, over time, settling into various regions of the peninsula. They adapted to the land hunting, gathering, crop growing, and fishing. For the most part they built their communities on mounds. These mounds were first layered with oyster shells that they harvested locally and built up the mounds from the shell base with sand and earth. These provided elevated locations above the waterline on which to build their structures for governing, living, cooking, and crafting. Conflicts between tribes naturally arose from time to time, but for the most part they settled in their regions and traded with one another. The present-day Seminole people refer to this time as the "Ancestral Period." But around the year 1500 AD much began to change for these people - the Spanish, and eventually the English, began arriving and making every effort to invade and settle on the land and remove the native people with a focus towards claiming their lands, destroying their cultures, and converting them to Christianity. The indigenous people, as best they could, held on to their traditions and ethnicities through oral histories passed

along through the generations. But sadly, between 1500 AD and 1700 AD approximately 90% of the native population were killed across all of the American continents due to conflict, slavery, and by diseases brought over from Europe like smallpox, measles, yellow fever, and malaria. However, the ramifications of all of this were dire for the survivors. For the most part they grouped together and, in some cases, fought each other, and through it all, much of the ancient knowledge and cultures were lost and irrevocably changed as they tried to adapt to new ways and establish new communities.

St. Augustine and Pensacola were under the control of the Spanish as they claimed Florida for their empire, but Seminole towns like Tallahassee and Miccosukee grew and prospered. Native leaders began to exchange food and goods with the Spanish and English settlers for tools and weapons. Ponce de Leon and his followers had brought cattle with them and though their expedition failed the Native people learned how to raise them, and soon became the main suppliers of beef to the settlers.

At the start of the 19th century the Seminoles and the growing Maroon communities established towns, farms, and pastureland in northern and central Florida. They also established a working relationship with colonizing Spanish and English and became the primary suppliers to them of beef and trade goods. However, the success of these endeavors on the lands was noted by the farmers and plantation owners of the southern United States. Due to its good ranch and farmland, as well as a wealth of other natural resources the expanding nation wanted to lay claim to Florida.

Spain had declared anyone who entered Florida was free. Because of this, the first Underground Railroad ran to Florida... a frightening aspect for the southern plantation owners in the colonies north of the Florida border. This was not a good



reason for war; however, they turned their sights to the sporadic border fights taking place between Settlers and Natives and claimed that war was necessary to calm down the "wild and uncivilized savages," the Seminole people.

In 1812, the first American invasion began when a collection of southern militias with implied support from Washington invaded Florida. The Americans called it "the Patriot War of East Florida", but for Florida Natives it was the beginning of "the Seminole War" that defined the next half-century. American militias attacked Spanish holdings and then set their sights on the renowned cattle town of Alachua. The Seminole fought them off, but the attack took the lives of many, including King Payne. His brother Bowlek, who the Americans called Bowlegs, became the new leader of the Alachua band. According to Seminole Tribe of Florida website, www.semtribe.com, "In 1817, American forces returned under the command of Andrew Jackson. Jackson's army targeted and destroyed Seminole towns and seized Seminole farms and pastureland before taking Pensacola and marching on Bowleg's Town, home of Bowlek, and the neighboring Nero's Town, the largest Maroon settlement in Florida. After Spain ceded Florida to the United States, the Seminole leaders met with American

Elected as president in 1828, Jackson called for the Indian Removal Act, which passed two years later. The act ordered the

Seminoles to give up their farms and ranches in the north, and

move to a reservation south of Ocala, land they knew to be far

representatives. The Treaty of Moultrie Creek instructed

less desirable.



Osceola taken prisoner near Saint Augustine. 1837. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory.

forced removal of all Native people east of the Mississippi River to "Indian Territory," what would one day become Oklahoma. With one signature, the United States broke every treaty with Native people."

Thus began "The Trail of Tears." The Native Peoples from the southern territories were forced to march from the land of their ancestors to distant reservations across the Mississippi River. Thousands died along the way, but the Florida contingent put up a defiant resistance and refused to leave.

The US Government tried to remove the Seminoles by force and for seven years, they continued to fight in what would prove to be the longest and most expensive of all of America's "Indian Wars." The Seminoles had an inherent knowledge of the land and resisted the American forces. In the continuing

war the Seminole forces outlasted the classically trained soldiers. Both sides, however had many losses.

The war dragged on and took its toll. General Thomas Jesup cast aside the rules of war, forever tarnishing his and the Army's reputation as he captured Wildcat (Coacoochee), and Osceola (Asi-Yahola) under a flag of truce. Wildcat led an escape from St Augustine, but Osceola who was too ill to follow, and far from Florida, died in US custody shortly after. By 1842, the forced removal campaign resulted in the death and abduction of more than 3000 Tribal members. Less than a thousand remained in the state, and with the war's rising cost and unpopularity with the American people, the Army declared victory and left.

The Seminole remaining in Florida, wary of the continuing American aggression, tried over the next decade to recover. Both sides held grudges from the violence of the war. Holatta Micco, known to Americans as Billy Bowlegs, worked with American allies to try to find a peace that would allow the Natives and the Americans to coexist. Despite these efforts the government continued to push for full removal. And now, due to steady pressure open violence flared once again developing into the third war. Soldiers and the militias with them destroyed Seminole camps and farms.

The US Army targeted the Seminole home camps and captured noncombatants who were mostly women, children, and elders. Concentration camps were set up for those taken and held hostage. The warriors were warned that their families would be sent west and if they wanted to be with their families, they had best surrender. It was an effective tactic and Billy Bowlegs and



Catlin, George, Artist. Osceola of Florida / drawn on stone by Geo. Catlin, from his original portrait., 1838. New York:. Photograph.

many of his followers agreed to removal and were taken to Oklahoma. The war ended in three years. There were less than a thousand Seminole present at the start, and Army leaders, finally learned the lessons of the second war, and a half century of fighting that took a heavy toll on the Tribe.

Interestingly, though there were many losses, the American goal to remove the Seminole peoples from Florida was never realized. Several bands remained. The Tribe would then follow Abiaka (whom the Americans called Sam Jones). At around 100 years of age, he had fought the long war from the beginning to the end. He led them into the deep harsh wetlands of the Everglades. An environment in which they were well equipped to not only endure but to thrive. The declaration by the United States that the war was over did not mean much to the Native People, who had heard such statements before. The Seminole remained on guard and cautious, making their homes and camps in places hidden from the expanding American settlements. They remained an "Unconquered People!" Some select Americans earned the trust of the Seminoles and so they continued to trade. The Seminoles maintained their wariness throughout the next few decades, with only a few interacting with Floridians to buy and sell goods, and to learn the news from the outside world. During this time the Tribe began to divide. The majority who were primarily the descendants of the Miccosukee, Calusa, Apalachee, and other Florida people remained in the south, in the Everglades and Big Cypress Swamps. These families spoke Miccosukee and were led by Abiaka (Sam Jones). The Red-Stick Creek and their families, who had come into Florida after the Creek Civil War, spoke the Muscogee language, and preferred the more central lands east of Lake Okeechobee.

Americans continued to expand further in Florida. Trade between the Seminoles and the Americans became more regular, with Florida commodities such as alligator hides, deer skins, and bird plumage growing popular in the northern United States. Trading posts were established with friends of the Tribe. One trading post established by the Seminole east of Lake Okeechobee grew to become the community of Indiantown. While the hunting trade had brought wealth into the tribe, it also attracted more settlers looking to compete. Soon American hunters not only outnumbered the Seminole, but the toll on the animals from over-hunting brought them to the brink of extinction.



Photographed near Smallwood's store, old Indian trading post, in Chokoloskee. Note man in center is holding an alligator skull and the others are holding rifles.

Group portrait of Seminole Indians at the head of Turner River. 1900 (circa). State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory.



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APOLLO SCHOOL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES ITS 2023 WINTER SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday, February 15, 2024 – Linda Wishney and Mitchell Clark An Introduction to Birding in Martin County

Linda Wishney has been a member of Audubon of Martin County since 2010. She served as the Education Coordinator for eight years and for six years, she served as Coordinator of the Eagle Watch program and remains a dedicated Eagle Watch volunteer.

Mitchell Clark also is an Audubon of Martin County member and an Eagle Watch volunteer. After retiring in 2019, he has focused on his passion for photography, especially on the birds of Florida.

Thursday, March 21, 2024 – Greg Braun Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Initiative

Greg Braun is an ecologist with over 20 years' experience specializing in avian, coastal ecology and habitat restoration projects. He works with a variety of threatened and endangered animals and plants. The goal of the Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Initiative is to mitigate environmental damage and improve the area's hydrology by raising the water table on acquired properties to address regional flooding in Hobe Sound.

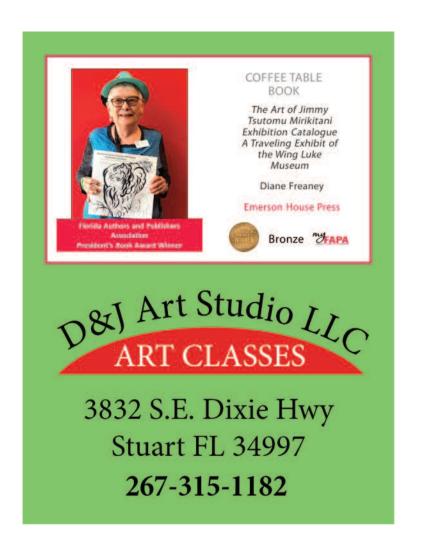
Thursday, April 18, 2024 – Israel Mireles An Introduction to Our Earliest Residents, the Ais Tribe

A volunteer with the Southeast Florida Archaeological Society (SEFAS), Israel Mireles has worked with the Palm Beach County archaeologist and at the current Brickell Miami archaeological site. His in-depth studies of the building technology of tribal canoes has led to his current experimental project aimed at recreating a series of dugout canoes at South Fork High School.

Speeches begin at 7:00 pm at the Historic Apollo School, 9141 S.E. Apollo Street, Hobe Sound.

Tickets are \$15 at the door. Please reserve your seat in advance at apolloschoolfoundation@aol.com. Alternatively, on or after January 3, 2024, tickets may be purchased on Eventbrite for \$17.85 through our website, www.apolloschool.org.

Please Note: All speakers are subject to change or cancellation.



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Expanding land plans in Florida also called for draining the wetlands. For the Tribe this meant not only losing the canoe routes they relied on for transportation, but further isolation as canals and roads cut through their lands. During the Florida land boom developers bought wide swaths of land from the state, much of which was home to Seminole camps. Tribal members began to take what jobs could be found in the new economy, often working as farmhands or laborers.

New sources of income were needed. Their way of life was being threatened and so Tribal leaders began to work with the Friends of the Seminole to find a solution. The process started with a petition to the federal government for land to be brought into trust for the Tribe and by 1938 three reservations had been established, covering over 80,000 acres, near Dania, Okeechobee, and Big Cypress. Today, the Seminole Tribe of Florida has approximately 3,300 members living on six reservations across the state: Hollywood (formerly Dania), Big Cypress, Brighton, Fort Pierce, Immokalee, and Tampa. The Seminoles who now live in Oklahoma and Florida comprise three federally recognized tribes: the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, as well as independent groups.



Seminole dolls. From the private collection of H. Allen Holmes.



Seminole sable palm fiber dolls. From the private collection of H. Allen Holmes.



Seminole sewing baskets and pin cushion. From the private collection of H. Allen Holmes.



Seminole pine needle basket. From the private collection of H. Allen Holmes.

The Seminole are a proud people, especially proud of the fact that they never ceded their territory to the Spanish or the US. They are also proud of the fact that they became the first Native American tribe to acquire a global enterprise when they bought the Hardrock chain of Hotels and Casinos.

When you are planning a day to do something close to home, something different, something exciting, something that will be a great learning experience and be very memorable, take a ride to visit the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation located in southeastern Hendry County and northwestern Broward County. It is on the Atlantic Coastal Plain and lies south of Lake Okeechobee and just north of Alligator Alley. Governed by the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Council, it is the largest of the five Seminole reservations in the state. Facilities on the reservation include the tribal museum and a major entertainment and rodeo complex. The entertainment complex is surrounded by 350 acres for outdoor events, in addition to a recently renovated rodeo arena with seating for 3,000 people. Stables have stalls for 86 horses. The tribe owns two tourist attractions there: Billie Swamp Safari and Big Cypress National Preserve.

Some trivia of interest:

- 1. The land area is 81.972 sq mi, including the 12th-largest cattle operation in the country. It is located adjacent to the north side of the largest section of the Miccosukee Indian Reservation in western Broward County.
- 2. Seminoles are all members of a clan, and there are eight today: Panther, Bear, Deer, Wind, Bigtown/Toad, Bird, Snake, and Otter. Other clans have gone extinct, including the Alligator clan. Children inherit their clan through their mothers and husbands traditionally go to live in the camp of their new wife's clan.
- 3. Seminole warriors such as Wildcat (Coacoochee), Sam Jones (Abiaka), and Alligator (Halpatter) became famous, with the most famous Osceola (Asi-Yahola) being known throughout the world.
- 4. One Cow Creek leader, Thlocko Tustenugee (Captain Tom Tiger), began to visit the American towns regularly, becoming a popular figure. When one settler stole Tom Tiger's horse, he became the first Native person in Florida to take an American to court. While he lost the case, the support he got spread into the organization known as the Friends of the Seminole. Tom Tiger would later open the first Seminole tourist camp near Miami, boosting a new enterprise for the Tribe.
- 5. The Seminole Tribe of Florida is known for its successful gaming and hospitality enterprises, which have contributed to its economic prosperity. The tribe operates several gaming facilities and other businesses, generating significant revenue. Reportedly each member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, even children, receives a monthly dividend check of \$7,000, or \$84,000 annually, as his or her share of money made mostly from casinos. They own and operate six casinos in
- 6. Federally recognized Indian tribal governments aren't subject to federal income tax but they must pay employment tax on wages paid to employees.
- 7. Statement from the FSU website: "Florida State University honors its unique and collaborative friendship with the Seminole Tribe of Florida. This university is not only located on the ancestral and traditional homelands of the Seminole Tribe, but we are also entrusted by the Tribe with the rare honor and responsibility of calling ourselves the 'Seminoles.' Among much else, this forms our solidarity with the Seminole Tribe, unconquered Peoples, whose power inspires all activities at the university." - RICHARD MCCULLOUGH, PRESIDENT
- 8. From TCPalm.com with relation to Seminoles in Martin County:
 - A. Indian Grove, a later Stuart residential neighborhood, covered in orange groves in the 1910s and 1920s was where the Seminoles were permitted to camp when they traveled from Indiantown to Stuart for trading purposes.
 - B. Seminole Shores located at the southern point of Hutchinson Island is now known as Sailfish Point.
 - C. The town of Indiantown in western Martin County was originally established as a trading post for the local Seminole families.
 - D. A hotel built in the 1920s in Indiantown was named the Seminole Inn and is still in operation today.
 - E. Large collection of paintings of Seminoles in their natural environment were done in the 1960s by local artist James Hutchinson.
 - F. The Stuart Heritage Museum on Flagler Ave. has one of the largest collections of authentic Seminole Indian clothing, palmetto dolls, bead work, household items, and memorabilia in the state of Florida.
 - G. Stuart has streets named Seminole and Osceola (a Seminole warrior during the Second Seminole War) in the heart of the downtown region.
 - H. John Ashley from Gomez in Palm Beach Co. (later Martin County) began his outlaw career when he killed DeSota Tiger on Dec. 29, 1911 in the Everglades.
 - I. In western Martin County is a hammock and trail named Tom Tiger (Cow Creek Seminole name was Tuestenguee) used in the 1890s by Tom Tiger, a chief, his family and warriors to reach Lake Okeechobee.



For more detailed information about the Seminole Tribes of Florida visit their website: semtribe.com

> Seminole Tribe of Florida Headquarters Address: 6300 Stirling Road Hollywood, Florida 33024 Phone: (954) 966-6300 or (800) 683-7800

Directions: Take I-95 to Stirling Road. Pass State Road 7 (441).

Located just West of the turnpike overpass on the South side of Stirling Road.



Chapter Twenty-seven Hint: All Answers Can be Found in the Chapter Twenty-seven article.

Across

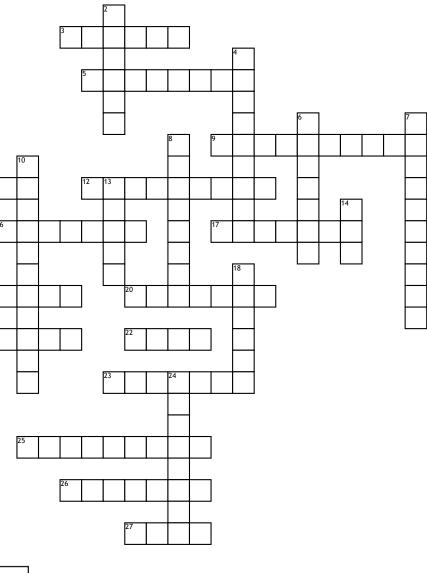
- 3. Indian name of Sam Jones?
- 5. Dot com name for Seminole website?
- 9. One Trading Post east of Lake Okeechobee became what community known today?
- 11. Around 1500AD Pensacola was under the control of what country?
- 12. Florida is called what geographically?
- 16. Alachua leader Bowlek was known by Americans as?
- 17. Best known throughout the world Seminole warrier?
- 19. What kind of Railroad was first to enter Florida?
- 20. Today's major income for the Seminoles is from their hotels and ?
- 21. How many federally recognized tribes are there?
- 22. Seminoles became the primary suppliers to the colonies of what ?
- 23. Free African people and escaped slaves in Florida were known as ?
- 25. What did the Seminoles call the period in history prior to the arrival of the Spanish?
- 26. What U.S. President broke every treaty with the native Americans?
- 27. The Native people held on to their traditions through what kind of history?

Down

- 1. Florida is called what geographically?
- Across the Americas approximately what percentage of native peoples were killed between 1500 & 1700AD?
- 4. Who had control of Tallahassee and Miccosukee?
- 6. At first the Americans called the Seminole Wars what named wars?
- 7. Native peoples inhabiting an area are referred to as?
- 8. Spanish word Cimarrones means "wild ones" or ?
- 10. To this day the Seminoles proudly remain?
- 13. Currently there are how many Seminole clans?
- 14. Abbreviation for what university is closely associated with the Seminoles?
- 15. Spain declared that anyone who entered Florida was?
- 18. Oyster shells are the base for ?
- 24. Where did the "Trail of Tears" lead those forced west?









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Hobe Sound Has a Secret

Tucked away in a small strip mall on U.S.1. is a small but precious gem. Not so much a restaurant as it is a venue. A place for small romantic dinners or lavish, and extensive, wine tastings or a customized dinner party for a few friends.

The cuisine is definitely Italian. True Italian as in lovingly imported from the Mediterranean.

CASA del VINO is home to one of the most extensive fine wine selections you could imagine and a selection of gourmet delicacies and specialties beyond compare. BUT what makes this little gem so special is the KITCHEN.

There is no "set menu" but a Chef and Hostess ready, willing and more than able to plan a memorable event just for you. From amazing charcuterie boards, beautifully presented, tasty fresh caprese platters to genuine imported pasta in freshly prepared sauces your evening or afternoon event can be exactly as you desire.

At a recent party your reviewer enjoyed beautifully presented selections of charcutier meats and cheeses, followed by the very best caprese platter ever experienced. Luscious slices of red ripe tomato topped with buffalo mozzarella and fresh basil. The cheese was slightly sweet and firm but creamy. Piping hot focaccia straight from the oven accompanied the salad and was graciously served by Silvia, proprietress.

Silvia's knowledge of fine wine and finer foods is one of the great assets of this venue. Her partner in all this wonder is her charming and talented husband Franco. Franco is an experienced sommelier and chef. It is from his kitchen that the fragrance of an Italian cucina fill the air with anticipation.

If your reviewer seems overwhelmed by the experience of CASA del VINO it is simply because the total experience is overwhelming. The good news is they are right here in Hobe Sound at 11330 SE Federal Highway and there is an exciting expansion in the works!

The venue is small so be sure to call 772-675-2228 in advance for reservations and plans. I am sure you will be glad you chose this gem on the Treasure Coast!

Bon Appetit;

Anonymous Restaurant Reviewer



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