

“Honors To the Dead”

**Remembering the
1842 Parade and Ceremony in St. Augustine
that Closed the Second Seminole War and
Honored Those Who Perished in It.**

Saturday, August 12th, 2023.

**The National Cemetery,
St. Augustine, Florida.**





WELCOME to the annual ceremony that commemorates the end of the 2nd Seminole War and remembers all who perished in it. In 1842, the garden at St. Francis Barracks was chosen as the venue to symbolically close the war by ceremonially reinterring there the collected remains of those killed in action throughout Florida. (Facing page.) The pyramids covering the 3 burial vaults and the obelisk honoring the fallen were erected soon thereafter. They still anchor the space that is now the National Cemetery and on the National Register of Historical Places.

Given its historical significance, LTC Gregory Moore, USA, my predecessor as the Florida National Guard's Command Historian, determined 16 years ago that the poignant ceremony honoring the sacrifices of those killed in that war should be remembered and kept in the public's consciousness. Many interred under the pyramids were young graduates of the military academy at West Point, and the local alumni society joined in planning the short observance. That event quickly attracted the interest and support of the Seminole Wars Foundation and both organizations are recognized as its founding partners. The event has increased in scope and participation over the years. As Greg's successor, I am pleased to continue helping spotlight this important aspect of Florida's military and social history.

Each year, an individual or event associated with the war is highlighted. This year it is the Treaty of Moultrie Creek, signed just outside the city 200 years ago in 1823. (p. 6.) The treaty did not hold, however, and became a milestone on the road to war. We are indebted to Jackson Walker for developing the face of this year's coin, stylized to depict the failed effort to find peace, and look forward to Sarah Miller's talk highlighting the archaeology of the Moultrie Creek site, as well as numerous others from that era in the vicinity of St. Augustine.

My sincere thanks to all who participated in today's event, including the marchers, cannoneers, mounted Soldiers, and musicians, as well as the organizations and individuals who have made this event possible. Let us remember those who came before us in defense of this land, both Soldiers and Seminoles.

Alison Simpson, Command Historian, Florida National Guard

THE 1842 PARADE AND CEREMONY



The Second Seminole War began with the disastrous ambush of Maj. Francis L. Dade and his command on 28 December, 1835. The last hours of the battle are depicted here in Jackson Walker's painting, "Do Your Best." When Gen. Gaines' column arrived on the scene six

weeks later, the remains of Dade's men lay exactly where they had fallen. They were buried on the spot. (Contemporary sketch below.)



In contrast to its dramatic beginning, the war ended without a climactic battle or treaty. In his July, 1842, order, Col. W. J. Worth, the fourth Commandant of Cadets and commander of troops in Florida, announced simply that, "hostilities within this territory have ceased." He ordered that a "ceremony of interment" be held in St. Augustine on August 15th that year for those who fell in Major Dade's command and selected others. The remains were to be "gathered and transferred to the town where suitable vaults are constructed for final reception."

The *St. Augustine News* vividly reported the event with the headline, "Honors to the Dead." The parade was "melancholy," the ceremony "poignant." Details from every regiment in Florida, honor guards, and four music contingents escorted seven wagons bearing the remains through the city. Clergy, civic officials, and the general public followed the marchers to the cemetery, where Catholic and Episcopal church leaders concluded the ceremony with a prayer.

This is the event remembered today.

SCHEDULE

10:00 LIVING HISTORIANS MUSTER

In the St. Francis Barracks

10:45 MARCH TO THE NATIONAL CEMETERY

Commander of Troops:

Command Sergeant Major David Lanham, FLNG (Ret.)

Infantry

**Brian Burback, Brian Butler, Jim Clark, Hewitt Dupont,
Bill Gruber, Mike Heitman, Tom Jessee, Jeff Jore,
Hal Merritt, Dan Sampson**

Mounted Officers

George Scott, Leroy Sykes

Mule Drawn Caisson and Limber Team

Tom Fitzgerald, Ken Uhrig

People of the Town

**Amber Atteberry, Brenda Burback,
Sandy Clark, Leslie Thaggard**

Musicians

Dennis McCarthy-piper, John Poe-bugler, Steve Cohn-drummer

Cannon salutes by the Peace River Artillery

**Mark Akers, Toney Hodges, Doug Killian, Sue Killian,
Howard Walker**

The hand-crafted **Seminole War era caisson with limber and "elegant" mules** are courtesy of **Tom Fitzgerald**, and available for military funerals in Florida. See: Heyamule.com.

11:15 CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE at the PYRAMIDS

Remarks by;

Alison Simpson, Command Historian, FLNG

Laying the Commemorative Wreath;

Zach Peyton, USMA '04, Pres. WPSNF and Ms. Nicole Claar

Cadet Prayer, led by;

Honorable Howard O. McGillin, COL USA (ret.), USMA '81

Musket Volley, Cannon Salute, Taps, Adjournment

LUNCH and PROGRAM in St. Francis Barracks, 12:00-14:30

Remarks by;

Zach Peyton, West Point Society of North Florida.

Tom Fitzgerald, "Heyamule.com."

Dr. Roger Smith, St. Augustine Historical Society.

Award of the commemorative coin to re-enactors.

Steve Rinck, Seminole Wars Foundation.

Sarah Miller: "Local Seminole War era sites."



Each year a **commemorative coin** is struck and awarded with gratitude to the living historians and others who participate in our effort. The face of this year's coin was stylized by the artist Jackson Walker to reflect the Treaty of Moultrie Creek; the tomahawk reflecting the Seminole and Miccosukee Indians, the pistol U.S.

Government forces, and the white feather suggesting the pursuit of peace. Signed 200 years ago, it did not stand the test of time, and the feather changed to war drums in 1835.



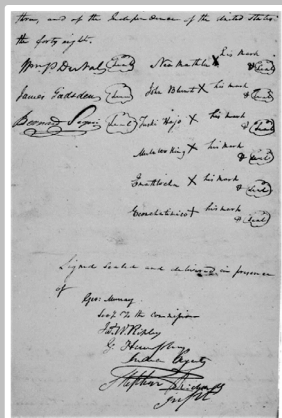
Sarah Miller is the Director for the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) hosted by Flagler College in St. Augustine, FL. She received her Master's degree in Anthropology from East Carolina University in 2001 and upon graduation worked for the Kentucky Heritage Council. At FPAN, she created the Cemetery Resource Protection Training (CRPT)

Program and the Heritage Monitoring Scout (HMS Florida) Program. Both engage the public and help protect the state's buried past.



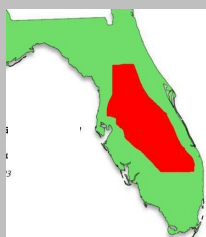
Dianne Thompson Jacoby entertained us at Friday evening's welcome social. She is an historical dramatist living in St. Augustine, while writing, researching and performing one person shows throughout the country. Ms. Jacoby reenacts living history spanning 1513 to 1915, and is certified in black powder, fire pistol, musket and cannon! Her

repertoire includes PBS documentaries, educational films and live theater. She graduated from Stetson University and taught Art at Flagler College for ten years as an adjunct professor, and now coordinates Stetson's Roads Scholar program while lecturing and performing in it.



The Treaty of Moultrie Creek, signed Sept. 18, 1823, two hundred years ago, just two years after Florida's acquisition by the United States, was a major milestone on the path to war between the new republic and the territory's resident Seminole and Miccosukee Indians. Three United States commissioners met in council for two weeks on the banks of Moultrie Creek, just south of St. Augustine, with about 425 members of the "Tribes of Florida Indians" scattered

throughout Florida. The location chosen was accessible for transportation of food and supplies, and people from the town came to visit the Indian encampment and watch the proceedings. Gad Humphreys was present as Indian Agent. Chief Neamathla was head spokesman for the Indians. No minutes or notes were recorded. 32 chiefs signed the treaty, and the U.S. Senate ratified it on Dec. 23, 1823.



Among its stipulations, natives were given a reservation in central Florida from Ft. King (today's Ocala) south to Charlotte Harbor. They were to: relinquish all claim to land in Florida; not to trade with any foreign power; not to live 20 miles from the coast; to return fugitive or absconded slaves. In return, the US Government was to provide food rations, a blacksmith, interpreter, school, and annuity payments for 20 years.

Shortly thereafter, Gov. Duval said he hoped the Indians in Florida soon could be persuaded to join their brethren out west. After the Treaty of Payne's Landing (1832), the Moultrie Creek Treaty was considered void. Congress stopped authorizing funds for the stipulated annuities and the Florida Indian Agent after 1834. Indeed, relations had deteriorated steadily for 12 years, until on 28 Dec., 1835, the ambush of Dade's column and murder of Indian Agent Wiley Thompson at Ft. King sparked the long, costly 2nd Seminole War.

Courtesy of Christopher Kimball



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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CDR Cynthia & LTC Fred Stellar, Richard Tombrink, Jr.**

Loyal Troopers

**Ron & Nancy Birchall, John H. Davis, Dr. Robert S. Davis
Dr. Sam Smith & Laurie Smith,
Sons of the American Revolution**

Our special thanks to:

The St. Augustine Officer's Club for the reception they hosted Friday evening;

Boy Scout Troop 243 volunteers for their work in setting up the facilities and tableaux for the event.

Commemorative wreath from **Flowers by Shirley**, 824-8163.

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Program editor, Joe Naftzinger

THAT "SACRED ABIDING PLACE" -- 180 YEARS ON



The final resting place for the Seminole War's "honored dead," at the time the "garden of Saint Francis Barracks," is now a National Cemetery (1881) and on the National Register of Historic Places. Current research indicates that

about 200 remains lie under the Dade pyramids (believed to be the oldest such memorials in any U. S. national cemetery). Though truly a gem of historic tranquility, the scene is often overlooked by daily St. Augustine tourists. A comprehensive work on its history and graves is LTC Gregory A. Moore's, *Sacred Ground: The Military Cemetery at St. Augustine*; Florida National Guard Foundation, 2013.

THE CADET PRAYER

O God, our Father, Thou searcher of human hearts, help us to draw near to Thee in sincerity and truth. May our religion be filled with gladness and may our worship of Thee be natural.

Strengthen and increase our admiration for honest dealing and clean thinking, and suffer not our hatred of hypocrisy and pretense ever to diminish.

Encourage us in our endeavor to live above the common level of life. Make us choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong, and never to be content with a half-truth when the whole can be won.

Endow us with courage that is born of loyalty to all that is noble and worthy, that scorns to compromise with vice and injustice, and knows no fear when truth and right are in jeopardy.

Guard us against flippancy and irreverence in the sacred things of life. Grant us new ties of friendship and new opportunities of service.

Kindle our hearts in fellowship with those of a cheerful countenance, soften our hearts with sympathy for those who sorrow and suffer.

Help us to maintain the honor of the Corps, untarnished and unsullied, and to show forth in our lives the ideals of West Point in doing our duty to Thee and to our Country.

All of which we ask in the name of the Great Friend and Master of all.
Amen.