

Honor To The Dead

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



**Saturday, August 15th, 2020
St. Augustine National Cemetery
St. Augustine, Florida**





Welcome to our annual remembrance of the 1842 parade and ceremony on these grounds that closed the Second Seminole War. The event is organized under the auspices of the Florida National Guard Command Historian and supported by the Seminole

Wars Foundation and the West Point Society of North Florida. The year 2020 will not be soon forgotten. The COVID-19 pandemic knows no social boundaries and discriminates against us all. Despite this, we pause to continue a tradition begun 13 years ago; one that does not glorify war, but commemorates the sacrifice of Soldiers and of Seminoles caught in the turmoil of America's coming of age and the resulting clash of cultures.

This year we honor Major David Moniac, a Creek Indian and early Native American graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point (1822). Of Native and European ancestry, Moniac's story resonates with today's social struggles. Killed fighting Seminoles in 1836, he could have faced the same fate as his Creek cousins, removal to Indian Territory in the west. His unwritten future gives us pause to reflect upon other stories of sacrifice shared by his brethren.

In this program Professor Amy Giroux presents a brief narrative, "The Legacies of David Moniac." Dr. Giroux, Associate Director of the University of Central Florida's Center for Humanities and Digital Research, has carefully researched the veterans buried in the St. Augustine National Cemetery for the past three years. Last year, she rediscovered the "minute record book," 'lost' in the National Archives since 1907, and noted on the cemetery's memorial obelisk as having the complete register of burials under the pyramids.

This year, the number of living-historians in the honor guard saluting Dade's Soldiers, Moniac, and others fallen in the War is necessarily reduced. Social distancing is mandated. Despite these unprecedented measures, the heart of event continues. Research and commemoration endure as the legacies of Frank Laumer and Greg Moore shine down upon us. We remember. We will never forget.

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, 4th Commandant of Cadets and commander of troops in Florida, simply announced that, "hostilities within this territory have ceased." He ordered that a "ceremony of interment" be held in St. Augustine on August 15th 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, "Honor 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 public followed the marchers to the cemetery, where Catholic and Episcopal church leaders concluded the ceremony with a prayer. These are the events we are remembering today.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS and PARTICIPANTS

10:45 -- FORMATION IN THE NATIONAL CEMETERY

104 Marine Street, St. Augustine

Commander of Troops:

Command Sergeant Major David Lanham,
Florida National Guard

Wreath Bearers:

James Clark, Bryan Thaggard

Flag Bearer

Steven Rinck

Hewitt Dupont, Tom Jessee, Daniel Sampson

Musicians

Arthur Tenney, piper John Poe, bugler
Robert Arthur, drummer

MARCH TO THE PYRAMIDS

10:55 -- CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE

Remarks

Alison Simpson, Command Historian,
Florida National Guard

Laying of the Commemorative Wreath

Mr. Alphaeus Richburg, Dir., Jacksonville Nat. Cemetery
Honorable Howard O. McGillin, COL, USA (ret), USMA '81

Cadet Prayer led by

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

Musket Volley, Cannon Salute, Taps, Adjournment

Periodic cannon salutes by the Peace River Artillery

Doug Killian, Mark Akers, Toney Hodges

Commemorative wreath: **Flowers by Shirley**. 904-824-8163

Program editor: **Joe Naftzinger**

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THE COMMEMORATIVE COIN SERIES



In 2014, LTC Greg Moore, then FLNG Command Historian, designed a challenge coin as a token of appreciation to the living historians and others who participate in the parade and ceremony. The reverse stylized a pyramid over the remains of Dade's men, and the monument honoring them. The face depicted Steve Abolt, a long-time living-historian. Each year since we have featured a different personality of the era as shown below.



#2. 2015. Captain Gardiner, 1st Commandant of Cadets at West Point in the last moments of Dade's ambush; "Do your best."



#3. 2016. Three wreath bearers at the ceremony. Our tribute to the living-historians who are at the heart of the event.



#4. 2017. Colonel W. J. Worth, 4th Commandant of Cadets, who ordered the 1842 parade and ceremony that closed the war.



#5. 2018. Osceola, renowned Seminole Chief who died in captivity.



#6. 2019. Our tribute to LTC Greg Moore who inspired the event. *and*



7. For 2021. US Army Major David Moniac, long considered the first native American West Point graduate (1822). He was KIA in the Wahoo Swamp.



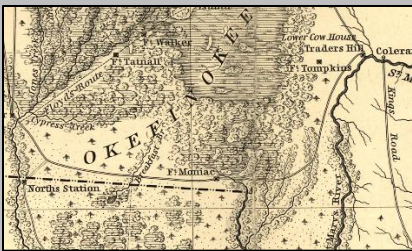
N.B. Our thanks to Ted Pappas who designed the coin faces, and to Jackson Walker for permission to base the 2015 and 2021 faces on scenes from his paintings.

THE LEGACIES OF DAVID MONIAC BY AMY LARNER GIROUX

The story of David Moniac (1802–1836) is known to many. His West Point education, acceptance and resignation of his commission, his service as a Major of the Creek volunteers during the Second Seminole War, and his death in the Wahoo Swamp, has been told and retold. Therefore, this short tribute will focus on a few of his legacies.

Geographical

In 1838, Capt. Thompson Morris of the 2nd Infantry, classmate and friend of Moniac's, received orders from Major Dearborn to construct a post for protection of settlements near the Florida border with Georgia. Morris and his company arrived in the area on 24 July 1838 and began construction. In a letter to the Adjutant General, Morris said, "Since my arrival I have erected a Block house, and nearly completed a store house – I call the post Fort Moniac after the late Major David Moniac, a Creek & an officer of the Regt of Creek Volunteers, who fell in the action with the Seminoles at the Wahoo Swamp in the [fall] of 1836. He was a friend and classmate of mine at West Point & as a small tribute of respect to his memory, I call the Fort by his name."



"The Fort is about three miles from a point called Elliott's mound, that being the extreme point he made while surveying the line between Georgia & Florida (then in possession of Spain), 28 miles from Fort Gilmer

and the same distance from Traders Hill, the head of navigation of the St. Mary's – and about three miles from the Great O-ke-fe-no-kee Swamp in which the Indians are concealed." Fort Moniac was garrisoned by Florida Volunteers after the 2nd Infantry left at the end of 1839, and in 1840 it was burned by the Seminoles. After being rebuilt, it was abandoned after the close of the war in 1842. A small town across the St. Mary's in Southern Georgia still bears the name of Moniac as does the Maj. David Moniac U.S. Army Reserve Center in Montgomery, Alabama.

"Legacies" con't, -- Genealogical

When David was killed in 1836 during the Battle of Wahoo Swamp, his daughter was 7 years old and his son was just 3. His widow applied for a pension under the July 4th, 1836 law titled "An Act to provide for the payment of volunteers & militia corps in the service of the United States." Mary successfully obtained a \$25 per month pension from 21 November, 1836, the day of David's death, to 23 January, 1838 when she married her second husband Col. Thomas Saunders. The children, Margaret and David A., received the pension until the fifth anniversary of their father's death. Margaret Jane married A. J. McDonald on May 8th, 1851 in Baldwin County, Alabama.

Mary D. Starke, who was
the widow of David
Moniac dec'd. Major
in the Regiment of Ala-
bama Vols - \$25 per
month, Commencing
21 November 1836 and
ending 23^d January 1838,
when she married Tho^s
Saunders -
And to Margaret J.
McDonald formerly
Moniac - and A. J.
McDonald, guardian
of Alex^d. Moniac,
Cong 24th January 1838
and ending 21 November
1841. —
1st Section Act July 4, 1836
Mobile, Ala
Jewett & Robinson
Mobile,
Ala.

Margaret and A. J. had at least six children. David Alexander married Ann C. Starke on 22 April 1858. At the time of the 1860 census, the couple was living with David's mother, Mary D. Starke (she was widowed thrice), and David had \$5,000 in real estate and \$20,800 in personal property. By 1870, the household is reversed with Mary and her husband living in David's household. David died in 1882 and had no known children.

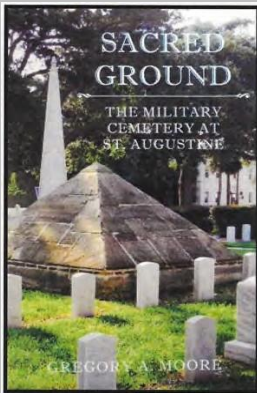
SUPPORT BRIGADE COMMANDERS

The organizers wish to thank the following for their generosity in helping off-set the costs of this event.

Jerry Casale
Harry Metz
Joe Naftzinger

Steven Rinck
Richard Tombrink

THAT "SACRED ABIDING PLACE" -- 178 YEARS ON



The "garden of Saint Francis Barracks" the final resting place for the Seminole War's "honored dead," is now a National Cemetery (1881). Its stature as an honored resting place for fallen soldiers long predates the creation of the national system itself. As Alison Simpson, the Florida National Guard Historian, observes, "the Dade pyramids. . . are believed to be the oldest memorial in any U.S. national cemetery:' A true gem of historic tranquility, the scene is often overlooked by the daily St. Augustine tourist. Perhaps the definitive work

on its history and grave sites is LTC, ret. Gregory A. Moore's, *Sacred Ground: The Military Cemetery At St. Augustine*; Florida National Guard Association, 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 pretence 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.