

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 13th, 2022

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





WELCOME to the 15th annual ceremony commemorating the end of the Second Seminole War and those who perished in it. In 1842, as described on the following page, the remains of Brevet Major Francis L. Dade's command and other Soldiers, killed or had died of wounds, were

gathered from scattered gravesites in Florida and reinterred within three vaults in the small military cemetery next to the Army's St. Francis Barracks. Today's ceremony is a tribute to that historic and poignant "Honors to the Dead" parade and ceremony, 180 years ago.

Each year we highlight the service of an individual associated with the war. Past honorees included Army Soldiers, a Native American Seminole leader, and a Native American Creek U.S. Army Volunteer - Brevet Major David Moniac. Moniac graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1822 and, while leading a regiment of 700 Creek volunteers, was killed in the 1866 Battle of Wahoo Swamp. In 1842, his remains were removed from his battlefield grave for interment with Dade's men in the military cemetery at St. Augustine.

This year we recognize Colonel John T. Sprague (1810-1878) a career Soldier who served twice in Florida during the Florida War. Sprague's 1848 publication, The Origin, Progress, and Conclusion of the Florida War, was long considered the seminal work on the subject. (See page 6 of this program). In his retirement address to the Florida legislature, Sprague commented that, "This is a day, . . . upon which we may well remember with gratitude those who fought for our freedom and for the independence of our common country. No matter from whence they came, North, South, East, or West, they and their memory belongs to us." Let us remember those who came before us in defense of this land, both Soldiers and Seminoles.

We are also looking forward to this afternoon's exciting panel debate addressing the "Origin of the Seminole People." With sincere thanks to all who participated in today's event, including marchers, cannons, mounted Soldiers, and musicians, as well as the organizations and individuals who have made this event possible.

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.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

AUGUST 13TH, 2022

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

Flag Bearer Stephen Dennis

Infantry

Marcus Acosta Lee Bledsoe Brian Burback Jim Clark

Bill Gruber Mike Heitman Tom Jessee

Robert Mitchell Bryan Thaggard Dan Sampson

Mounted Officers

George Scott

Bud Thayer

Mule Drawn Caisson and Limber Team

Tom Fitzgerald

Ken Uhrig

People of the Town

Brenda Burback Paulette Boyette

Sandy Clark Leslie Thaggard

Musicians

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

Cannon salutes by the Peace River Artillery

Mark Akers, Cathy Akers, Tony Hodges

Doug Killian, Sue Killian, Gerald Walker

The hand-crafted **Seminole War era caisson with limber** and "elegant" mules are courtesy of **Tom Fitzgerald**. They are 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

12:00 to 14:30 LUNCH and PROGRAM
In St. Francis Barracks

Remarks by

Zach Peyton, West Point Society of North Florida, Pres.

Award of the commemorative coin to re-enactors

Steve Rinck, Seminole Wars Foundation, Pres.

Historians' Panel: *"The Origin of the Seminole People"*

Panelists: Daniel Tommie and Chris Kimball



The "Sprague" Commemorative Coin. Each year the organizers strike a commemorative coin dedicated to the living historians participating in the event. The coin's reverse stylizes a pyramid and the monument in the cemetery honoring Dade and his men. The face highlights an important aspect of Seminole War history. This year's coin (the 8th in the series) bears the portrait of Col. John T. Sprague, a career soldier and veteran of the war, who laid the basis for Seminole War historiography.



Daniel Tommie represents the bird clan as a citizen of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. He is a Certified Interpretive Guide and currently serves as the Traditional Interpretive Coordinator at the Tribe's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. Daniel honors the sacrifices made by his ancestors as he participates in Seminole War Reenactments throughout the state, and is driven by his passion to teach and to share the legacy of the Seminole People. He resides on the Big Cypress Reservation and enjoys taking nature photos and making memories with his wife and children.



Chris Kimball has been active in Seminole War research, interpretation and living history for over 40 years. The author of three books,* numerous articles, and many podcasts, he continues to educate the public through numerous talks and programs. Chris is embraced by the Seminole Tribe and helped create displays at its Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Reservation. He lives in Tallahassee and works in the Florida State Archives. *(bookshop.org/shop/seminolewar)

**COLONEL JOHN T. SPRAGUE,
FATHER OF SEMINOLE WAR HISTORIOGRAPHY.**

John Titcomb Sprague (1810–1878) was born in Massachusetts, commissioned a 2nd Lt in the Marine Corps in 1834, transferred to the Army in 1837 and retired in 1870. Thus his distinguished career embraced the 2nd Seminole, Mexican, and US Civil wars, as well as duties in the following “reconstruction” period. It was, however, Sprague’s service with Marine and Army regiments fighting the Seminoles, complemented by duty as aide-de-camp to Colonel William Jenkins Worth, Commander of the Army in Florida at the war’s close in 1842, that set the stage for his enduring achievement.



Not long after hostilities ceased, Sprague began his seminal work, ***The Origin, Progress, and Conclusion of the Florida War***. Published in 1848, the book is a masterful collection of official data and documents, leavened with Sprague’s insights, comments and interpretation; the start-point for those seeking to understand this conflict. In the words of Dr. Joe Knestch, Senior Historian (ret.) for the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection:

*The study of the Second Seminole War begins and ends with the writings of John T. Sprague. Every researcher must be familiar with this work in order to understand the trials, tensions, and triumphs experienced during this tragic era. Sprague’s unique vantage point, as Adjutant to his future father-in-law, Col. William J. Worth, gave him access to information that would not be available to researchers for nearly one hundred years. . . . It can be truly said that without **The Origin, Progress, and Conclusion of the Florida War**, any understanding of the Second Seminole War has no foundation, it is simply that essential.*

The Seminole Wars Historic Foundation has reproduced the original 1848 edition of, ***The Florida War***, together with supplementary material and an extensive introduction by distinguished historian Dr. John K. Mahon.

Available at: <http://seminolewars.org>.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Founding Partners

**West Point Society of North Florida
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Richard Tombrink, Jr.**

Loyal Troopers

Scott Anders Christopher Kimball Neil Richardson

Our special thanks to:

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

Vicky and Phil Topcik who presented the FLNG Museum at St. Francis Barracks with the framed Alabama Distinguished Service Medal awarded by Governor Kay Ivey posthumously to Maj. David Moniac, USMA, class of 1822. And for their generous contribution to help offset the cost of this event.

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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THAT "SACRED ABIDING PLACE" 180 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).

Research now indicates that about 200 remains lie under the Dade pyramids (believed to be the oldest such memorials in any U.S. national cemetery). On the National Register of Historic Places and truly a gem of historic tranquility, the scene is often overlooked by daily St. Augustine tourists. A comprehensive 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 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.