

UCF's Veterans Legacy Program



VA



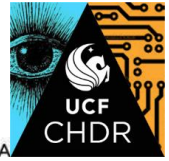
**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**
National Cemetery
Administration



UCF

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

**Department
of History**



Second Seminole Wars Primary Source Packet

Veterans Legacy Program 2023

*Please note that news articles published online often exist behind paywalls and require a subscription to access digitally. We have provided links, but have not reproduced them here. Similarly, many families have created remembrance pages. Again, we have provided links, when applicable, but have not reproduced any images without express written permission from the family.

The Florida Indians--Wild Cat.

From the Albany Argus.

Extract of a letter from an officer of the 8th Regiment to a friend in this city:

NEW ORLEANS, April 21.

"I am here on my way to Arkansas, with 200 wretched Seminole Indians. They are the remnants of a Spartan race. The men are noble, hardy-looking fellows, whom you cannot but respect, though they have murdered the innocent and unoffending. But the women and children excite your pity and commiseration. On our tedious voyage hither they laid about the deck, perfectly resigned, and apparently indifferent to their fate, careless of life and fearless of death.

"I was at Fort Cummings when the noted chief Conocochee, or *Wild Cat*, came in for a 'talk.'— This man is remarkable for the many incidents in his life, and for his bold and daring spirit. He was once a prisoner, but made his escape through a hole in the walls of a prison, so surprisingly small, that an ordinary man's head would not enter it, and after he was through jumped 25 feet to the ground. This fellow has committed more murders, and scalped more women and children, than any other Indian in Florida—and this man we were to take, and did take by the hand in friendship. He came into our camp, bringing with him seven 'trusty squires,' who, in looks, dress and manners, might well be painted to illustrate and personate the old one himself; a little effusion of brimstone, a blue flame, and a few tails, would have made the picture complete.— *Wild Cat's* manners, upon coming in the presence of so many officers, and surrounded as he was by so large a body of soldiers, was somewhat confused, but soon recovered himself, and spoke with ease, and not ungracefully. He is about thirty years of age, five feet eight inches high, well proportioned, with a calm, settled, manly face, and a dark, fierce eye, beaming with intelligence.— The colonel talked to him openly and frankly; he returned it, and promised to cease fighting and emigrate. His little daughter, a child of five years old, who had been taken prisoner, and separated from its parents some five or six months, was then given up to him, and, for the first time in an Indian, I saw the evidence of feeling and affection."

— THE SAN OF BOSTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Richmond Palladium May 29, 1841

“The Florida Indians - Wild Cat.” Richmond Palladium, May 29, 1841, page 1. Library of Congress, Chronicling America. Database. Accessed May 9, 2023.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86058217/1841-05-29/ed-1/seq-1/#date1=1834&index=2&rows=20&words=Indians+Seminole&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=Indiana&date2=1846&proxtext=Seminole+Indians&y=0&x=0&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>.

Transcription of the Letter along with a Close Reading activity is available on the UCF VLP website in VLP Curricular Materials.

<https://vlp.cah.ucf.edu/instructionalmaterials/UCF-VLP-4thGrade-CloseReadSeminoleWar.pdf>

Seminole Tribe of Florida on Traditional Clothing

Blackard, David M. and Patsy West. "Culture: Who We Are - Seminole Clothing." *Seminole Tribe of Florida*. Accessed May 9, 2023. <https://www.semtribe.com/stof/culture/seminole-clothing>.

Describes the history of Seminole clothing, the development of their traditional methods of textile creation, with a subsection relating specifically to the creation of the patchwork designs and their place in Seminole history. There is a section on the use of sewing machines and the changes that mechanized sewing had on the intricacy of Seminole clothing.

Seminole Patchwork

Green, Jen. "South Florida Archaeology & Ethnography: Patchwork." Florida Museum. *University of Florida*. Accessed May 9, 2023.

<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/sflarch/collections/seminole-dolls/patchwork/>.

This collection focuses on the changes in Seminole and Miccosukee patchwork and traditional textiles over time. This site features a visualization that showcases the different patchwork patterns used by Indigenous peoples and details the construction process. This is a great resource for understanding the meanings behind patterns, as pictured below.

Florida Seminole Tourism on Seminole Patchwork

Butler, Deanna. Seminole Patchwork. Florida Seminole Tourism. August 26, 2022. Accessed May 9, 2023. <https://floridaseminoletourism.com/seminole-patchwork/>.

This site dives into the rich history of Seminole patchwork and gives a brief description of the creation of the textiles and its history. At the bottom of the post is a section on appropriation vs. appreciation of Seminole textiles, making connections between the Seminole patchwork that Indigenous artists produce and the history behind it vs. the fashion industry's exploitation of this traditional art.

The following sources are entries from the diary of Lt. Henry Prince. Collected between 1836-1837 most of the diary has been digitized and is available to view in the University of Florida Digital Collection.

Prince's Diary gives insight into the day-to-day experiences of individual soldiers throughout Florida. In addition to his description of life during the Second Seminole War, Prince also drew images of the forts, movements, and the nature he was experiencing for the first time.

11th. Waited for Lt Darcy - saw a burning

12th. Waked at 5:00 to be informed that a dog had been heard to bark not far off. We were on the *qui vive*. Directly a pack of wolves shot past a picket fence with a noise compared to which the Eastport Band's was music! Started on march towards Micanopi. Halted at 12 then being 4 waggons in rear. 1/45 they came up.

13th. 20' to 8 in full march - 3 waggons broke down - a new axletree was made for one - in spite of which at 7 1/4 we had gained 17 miles. We prepared for an attack passing through the scrub.

14th False alarm in the evening - sentinel fired - I saw a hog - lost Pvt. Wither's pencil.

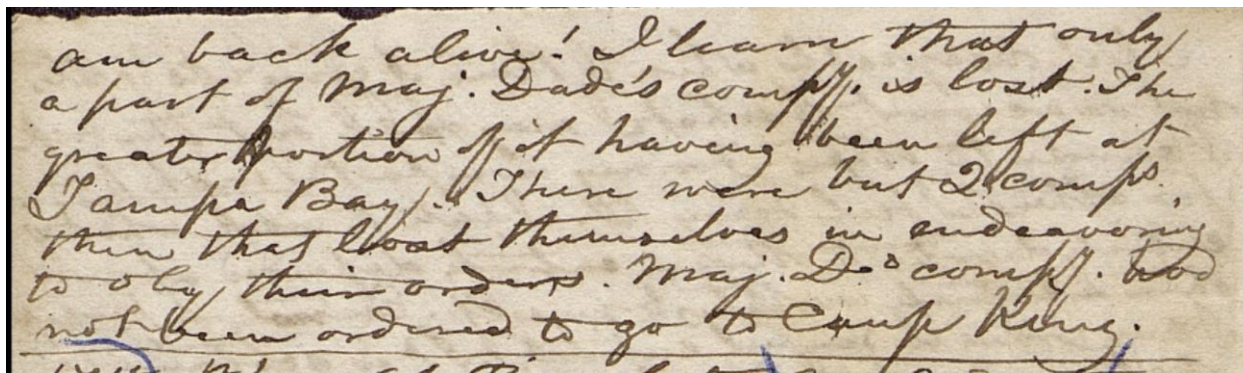
Henry Prince. "January 11th -14th, 1836." Pioneer Days in Florida. University of Florida Digital Collection. <https://original-ufdc.uflib.ufl.edu/AA00017215/00001?search=henry+=prince> Accessed April 25, 2023.

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A photograph of a handwritten note on aged, yellowed paper. The text is written in a cursive script and reads: "am back alive! I learn that only a part of Maj. Dade's comp^y. is lost. The greater portion of it having been left at Tampa Bay. There were but 2 comp^s. then that lost themselves in endeavouring to obey their orders. Maj. D's comp^y. had not been ordered to go to Camp King." The paper shows signs of age with some staining and a horizontal crease near the bottom.

Henry Prince. "February - 19th, 1836." Pioneer Days in Florida. *University of Florida Digital Collection*. <https://original-ufdc.uflib.ufl.edu/AA00017215/00001?search=henry+=prince> Accessed April 25, 2023.

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19th Two companies cleared a trail which avoids the hammock west of the Fort.



Henry Prince. "February - 19th, 1836." Pioneer Days in Florida. University of Florida Digital Collection. <https://original-ufdc.uflib.ufl.edu/AA00017215/00001/5j>.

19th - Two companies cleared a trail which avoids the hammock west of the Fort. The fort is a pleasant place but the officers are discontented on account of its dangers. General Thomas & Smith were killed between Rogers house and the fort. Rogers 400 yards beyond his house, he ran in the wrong direction otherwise he would have saved himself as did others. About 60 chosen tall Indians laid in the scrub for two days. Cudgo says the Indians "drew T's Spirit." He was not in the habit of going to R's house about the time but heedlessly took a stroll that way on the day. T and S were not robbed but they had leisure to rob Rog.

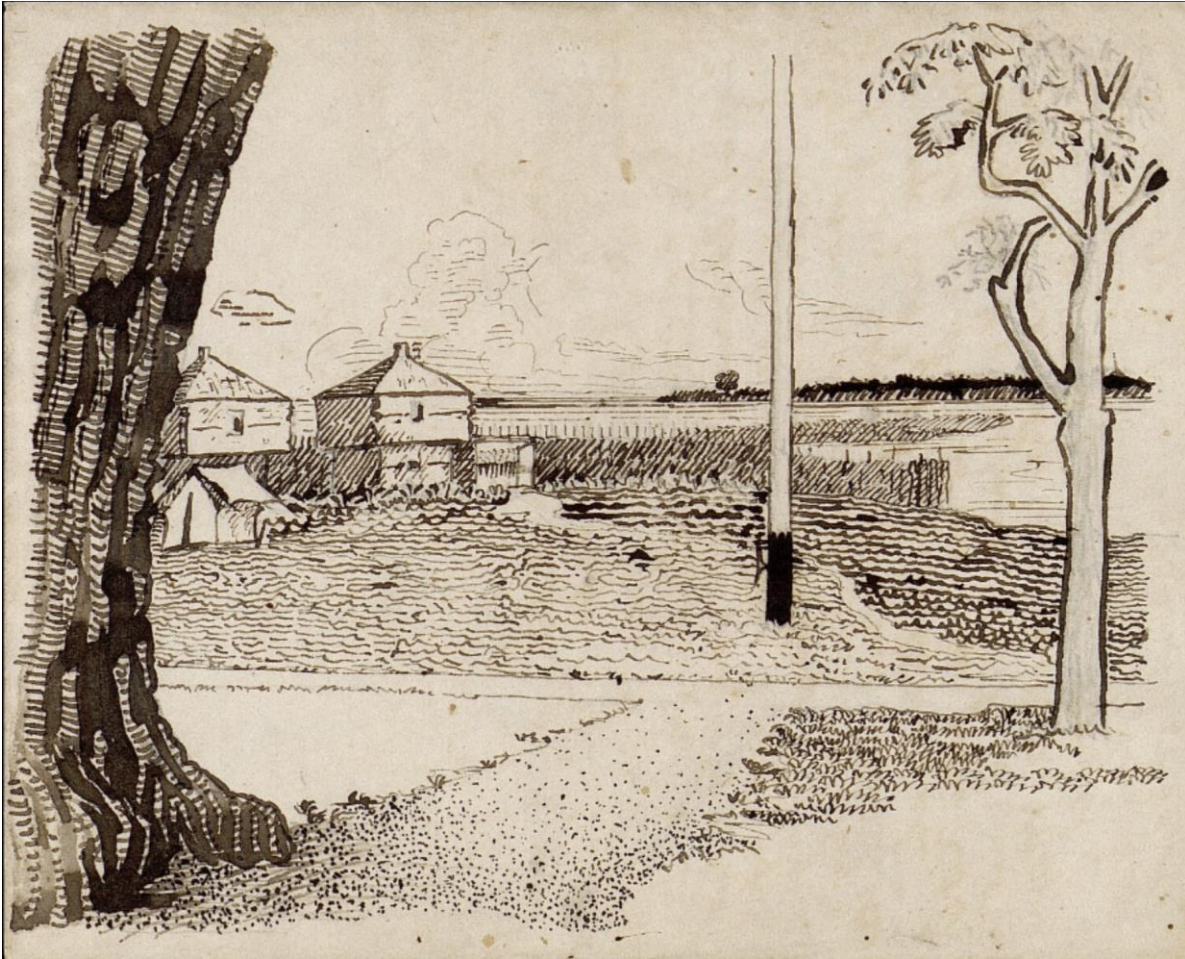
July 4. Very quiet - salute morning
noon & night. We sat a little longer
than usual at table and the following
toast was sent in from Mess No 2
"The day we celebrate & the cause

we are engaged in - May they never
meet again!" - Marched off p.
Motto from Key West in sight below
at sunset.

5th Two letters from Aboard - ac =
= accompanied by a box of cigars. Dr
Reynolds obtained a furlough for 60
days - he embarked this afternoon
in the Brig Z for Martha's
Vineyard. I wrote by him to Brother
Houghton - (10#) - paid mess bill 25#
Sanders' 20#

6th Motto sailed for Indian Key
via Key West.

July 6th



Henry Prince. "July 4-6th, 1836." *Pioneer Days in Florida*. *University of Florida Digital Collection*.
<https://original-ufdc.uflib.ufl.edu/AA00017215/00001/5j>.

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5th. Two letters from Alvord - accompanied by a box of cigars. Dr. Reynolds obtained a furlough for 60 days - he embarked this afternoon in the Brig Z- for Martha's Vineyard. I wrote by him to Brother Houghton - \$10- paid mess bill 25\$, Sanders 20\$.

6th. Motto sailed for Indian Key via Key West.

[Illustration of Fort Brooke, Tampa Bay]



Henry Prince. "March 9-10th, 1837." Pioneer Days in Florida. *University of Florida Digital Collection*. <https://original-ufdc.uflib.ufl.edu/AA00017215/00001/47x>