UCF Veterans Legacy Program

Thomas Savin (1806-1835)

https://vlp.cah.ucf.edu/biographies/sanc/BPYR-0-TSAVIN-F.html

Thomas Savin was born in County Antrim, Ireland in 1806. Sometime before his 25th birthday, Thomas immigrated to the United States and he enlisted in the US Army in Albany, NY.

Sergeant Savin served with Company C of the 2nd Artillery Regiment during the Second Seminole War. Between 1835-1842 Native Americans of Florida and the US military fought bitterly. Following Congress' passage of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, the US Federal Government sought to move all Native Americans to "Indian Territory" in modern-day Oklahoma.

In December 1835, Sgt. Savin was part of an expedition of 108 men from Fort Brooke (present-day Tampa) north to Fort King (present-day Ocala), led by Brevet Major Dade. A group of 180 Seminole warriors attacked the expedition, killing all but 4 of the soldiers. Among the dead was Sgt. Savin, who was 29 years old.

Sgt. Savin is memorialized at St. Augustine National Cemetery, alongside 1,500 other casualties of the Second Seminole War. Maj. Dade and his men are commemorated by 3 ornamental pyramids constructed of coquina, a building material made out of local shells. These "Dade Pyramids" are among the oldest public monuments in the national cemetery system.

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