



Dade Battlefield Society's

Fort Armstrong

Gazette

September 2011



SPECIAL REENACTMENT ISSUE

176TH Anniversary Reenactment of Dade's Battle - January 7 & 8, 2012

Please PRE - REGISTER!!!

In keeping with our efforts to shave expenses, the usual mailing of reenactment registration and guidelines for re-enactors is being made a part of our September newsletter. Whereas this information is very abbreviated, easy downloadable access to the complete versions of all forms can be accomplished at any time by visiting www.dadebattlefield.com. In fact, we encourage you to submit registration forms to us online! You may also fill out this page and mail it back to us at: Dade Battlefield Society, 7200 County Road 603, Bushnell, FL 33513.

With the slight change in scheduling, we find Dade's Battle to be in conflict with some other events (for 2012 only), thereby making it very important for all participants to **PRE-REGISTER by NOVEMBER 7**, if possible. By doing so, you will help us to determine several things, including planning for food and cartridge preparations, as well as defining how critical the need is for recruiting new Seminoles and soldiers. **THANK YOU!**

JANUARY 7 & 8, 2012 REENACTOR/BLANKET TRADER/DEMONSTRATOR APPLICATION

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Cell Phone

Email

Please list all participants in your party and check as many boxes as apply.

Name	Soldier	Seminole	Demonstrator	Blanket Trader

General Guidelines for Dade Battle Reenactors

SOLDIER AND SEMINOLE CAMPS—Tents and shelters should be period correct for the time and place. All non-1830s items must be kept out of sight of the public—this includes food packaging, coolers, drink containers, modern bedding, etc. Limited "modern" camping is available to event participants on a first come first serve space available basis.

SETUP AND PARKING--Those who wish may set up as early as Friday afternoon. Vehicles should be moved as soon as tent, goods and gear are unloaded. Those setting up on Saturday morning must arrive early enough to drop off gear, get their vehicles out of camp and any non-period items out of sight before 8:30 am. All vehicles must be kept in the designated parking area at night and during public hours. No vehicles will be permitted to park within site of the public.

ONSITE CHECK-IN--All participants are required to check-in at registration in the Lodge. We must have a volunteer form on file for all battle participants, demonstrators and volunteer support staff for participants to be covered by Worker's Comp for volunteers. If you have had an address change, a new volunteer form has to be completed. All persons under 18 years of age must have a guardian's signature on the application. This year, each battle participant is asked for a donation of \$10; paid-up DBS members already have done this.

Registration Hours: Friday: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm Saturday: 7:00 am to 12:30 pm

Re-enactors who participate in the battle only on Sunday must arrive before 12:30 pm so registration and appropriate safety checks can be made prior to the battle at 2:00 pm. If arriving on Sunday, register at the Society Booth where personnel will direct you to whom you should see for a safety check, powder issuance and commemorative souvenir.

AMENITIES--Food rations, powder rations, commemorative souvenir, firewood and hay.

Living History Safety Tips - Dale Beremand

This article is the second of a new series dealing with making activities associated with living history portrayals and battle reenactments safe for everyone.

Cutting Tools, Part 2: Sharpening

AX safety was covered in the last newsletter. The overall message conveyed was to say that the main consideration, for both users and spectators, is to keep all body parts out of the way of an ax head.

The discussion in this issue is about how to sharpen an ax. When they are new, axes have very blunt cutting edges. The first step in sharpening is to file the edge. When it is brought to near sharpness the edge can be smoothed and made truly sharp with a coarse stone, preferably a round one. One is to be certain to keep fingertips back from the edge of the stone to prevent cuts. Ax heads don't need a very fine edge. Indeed, since it is on a striking tool, the edge can be easily turned if it is too thin. Axes in use should be sharpened often.

To check the edge for sharpness, lightly drag the thumb across the edge in a very careful manner. The rougher it feels the sharper is the edge. Never run your finger along the length of the edge, since such action is a good way to get cut. Never sharpen any cutting tool on a bench grinder or other power instrument, since the tool can be easily ruined unless you really know what you are doing. I hope these suggestions are beneficial to the safe and effective use of axes.

World War II Commemoration Day



August 6th saw another successful marking of the time when nations came together to defend freedom across the globe. Dozens of re-enactors portraying combatants from the United States, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, and Samoa provided about 450 visitors with ideas of what life was like for those living during the 1940's. Swing music and wartime newsreels added to authentic

sights and sounds of the era, with plenty of military equipment to satisfy everyone. Nine actual WWII vets joined us in observing antique weapons fire and operation of military vehicles. In 2012, we will expand to a two-day event.

Seminole Wars Calendar

Fort Foster Garrison Weekend
3rd weekend of Sep., Oct., Nov.

Alligator Warrior Festival
O' Leno State Park --- Oct. 14 - 16

Old Florida Festival
Collier Co. Museum --- Nov. 5 & 6

Fort Christmas Militia Encampment
Nov. 19 & 20