



Dade Battlefield Society's
*Fort Armstrong
 Gazette*
 Spring 2016



World War II Commemorative Weekend

The Camps and The Battles

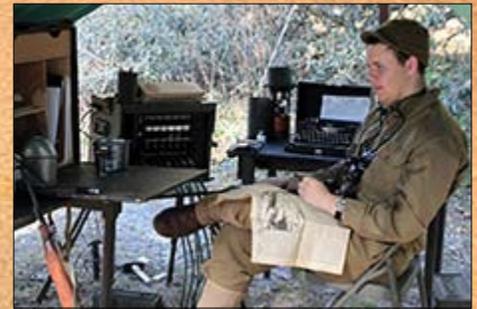
In March we continued a long-time tradition of celebrating the role that Dade Battlefield played during the Second World War, and especially the service performed and the sacrifices made by our military personnel in that conflict and ALL conflicts undertaken for the sake of our nation. Our link goes back directly to the period of 1942-1944, during a portion of which the then-Dade Memorial Park was temporarily transformed into the 622nd Signal Aircraft Warning Company. That fact permitted us to begin, in 1998, an annual World War II event for the public.

This year we had 843 visitors over two days, our largest number yet! Activities included American, British, New Zealand, German and Japanese military living history camps, weapons demonstrations, military vehicle demonstrations, and a daily battle between Axis and Allied personnel. The twenty-one WWII veterans in attendance were provided with special seating and recognition, and all of the reenactors did a wonderful job in portraying their impressions in a highly authentic manner. And even though on Sunday our visitors saw German forces that outnumbered their enemy, the Americans still managed to win the day.

All photos for this item
 by Don Dickey



Actual WWII Veterans



Communications Tent



Firing from Cover



British Armor



Taking Command

World War II Commemorative Weekend

The Kids and The Show

One of the main outcomes of history-related events for which we constantly strive is to educate the public about the significance of past times using methods that are both authentic and entertaining. A few days prior to WW2 Weekend, our youth group, The Dade Pioneers, met and were treated to learning about a few actual artifacts from the 1940s. Some of the most curious pieces they encountered were actual ration books that everyone on the home front had to use in order to purchase certain consumer items that were in short supply due to the war. The farther removed from those times that we become, the more important it is to remember that everyone, whether at home or overseas, pitched in to help win the fight.

On Saturday night we had a packed house for our most elaborate USO-style show yet! The whole theme was patterned after an Abbott and Costello radio program, with live music from South Sumter High School's jazz band, multiple comedy routines, appearances from "Judy Garland" and "The Andrews Sisters," and even some 72-year-old commercials. Glass-bottled sodas, coffee in ceramic mugs, snacks and donuts were served and, for the first time, the entire program was simulcast live over two area AM radio stations and a live Internet feed! We had a lot of fun and received much new notoriety while performing for both reenactors and actual World War II veterans in the lodge audience. We've already started planning for 2017 and need more comedic actors and talented singers – if interested, please let us know!



Clockwise from top:

- An Eclectic Dance Floor
- High School Jazz Band
- Enjoying the Act
- Wartime Dancers
- Clara with Ration Book
- OK from former Petty Officer Coverston

All photos for this item
by Hal Ballew

It Happened During The Seminole Wars

The Women Who Tried to Thwart Jackson

Third in an occasional series about lesser-known facts of the 1817-1858 period of history

The Indian Removal Act of 1830 would provide the legal authority for US troops to demand that the Seminoles abandon Florida and permanently migrate to Indian Territory, now a part of Oklahoma. Other southeastern tribes were affected, as well, and President Andrew Jackson's administration justified the plan as one that would protect both white settlers and Native Americans. But more than 60 women from Steubenville, Ohio signed a petition pleading with Congress to reconsider taking such action against "more than 50,000 of our fellow Christians," a point making reference to the fact that some of the tribes involved had taken up agriculture and Christianity in response to friendly white missionaries.



1830s Cherokee Eviction

These bold Ohioans found influential supporters that included former House Speaker and Secretary of State Henry Clay, lawmakers, and a host of other groups of women who flooded Washington with similar petitions. The teenaged Harriet Beecher (Stowe) was

moved to action in this human rights cause, too, perhaps leading her to later becoming the eloquent abolitionist who penned "Uncle Tom's Cabin." In the end, however, Congressional Democrats ridiculed the husbands of the petitioners for failing to keep their wives under control and the Indian Removal Act was passed and enforced. It is today notable, though, that this sincere effort to defend "a hapless people" marks the initial significant foray into national politics by American women.

Source (for text and image):
Onion, Rebecca (2013). *The Band of American Women Who Tried to Stop Andrew Jackson's Native American Removal Policy*. Accessed 9/17/15 from Slate.com



**Membership renewals for all Society members
are due as of
July 1, 2016.**

**Send a check for \$20.00 to
Dade Battlefield Society
7200 C.R. 603**

or use PayPal online at www.dadebattlefield.com

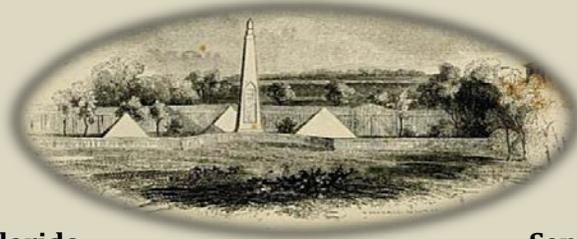
DADE BATTLEFIELD SOCIETY MEMBERS

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Annual General Membership Meeting will be held on
Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
at Major Dade's Lodge

Election of new board members will take place.
New business raised by any Society members is welcomed.





West Point Society of North Florida

Seminole Wars Foundation, Inc.

present:

The 9th Annual Seminole War Commemoration

Saint Augustine

Saturday, August 20th, 2016

****For registered guests.***

10:00 to Assemble in Officers Club, St. Francis Barracks, 82 Marine Street.
10:30 AM. Welcome, and historical context of the 1842 parade and ceremony.

For public at large.

10:30 to Re-enactor's parade, reflecting that of August, 1842, enters Marine Street in
11:00 AM. front of St. Francis Barracks.
Re-enactors and public proceed to the monument to Major Dade's Command and
the adjoining pyramids in the St. Augustine National Cemetery.
Commemoration ceremony in the cemetery.

****For registered guests.***

12:00 to Lunch and reception for re-enactors in the Officers Club, St. Francis Barracks.
2:30 PM. Presentation of the 2016 commemorative coin to re-enactors.
Program, featuring living-historian Andrew Foster, great grandson of Captain
Charles H. Coe. Capt. Coe authored the important book, *Red Patriots: The Story of
the Seminoles*, published in 1898, and now available via www.seminolewars.org.

****To register*** for the events in the Officers Club at St. Francis Barracks, fill out the form below and mail it to: W.P.S.N.F., c/o J.E. Naftzinger, 512 North Legacy Trail, St. Augustine, FL 32092. The registration fee is \$18 per person. Enclose a check for the appropriate amount payable to: Treasurer, W.P.S.N.F.

2016 REGISTRATION AND SUPPORT BRIGADE ENROLLMENT FORM

Please register me for the 9th annual Seminole War Commemoration events in the Officers Club, August 20, 2016.

Name _____ . Contact Information _____

I will bring _____ guests. Enclosed is check # _____ in amount of \$ _____ (\$ 18 X number in party.)

Support Brigade Appeal. The sponsoring organizations and living-historians depend on your donations to defray much of the costs of this event. You can help by joining the "Support Brigade." **Members of the Support Brigade will be identified in the program and receive the unique 2016 commemorative coin.**

Yes, I want to help! Enroll me in the 2016 commemoration "Support brigade:" At the Commander \$50 _____ level; At the Loyal Trooper \$25 _____ level. Please write a separate check for the corresponding amount, annotate "Support Brigade," and mail it to the address above.

Name as you wish it to appear in the program _____

N. B. Those enrolled as at the commander level are invited to include a logo/icon and or short salutation with their name. Please contact Joe Naftzinger at, jnatnc@aol.com or tel 904-940-0932 for further information.