



Dade Battlefield Society's *Fort Armstrong Gazette* SPRING 2013



Annual General Membership Meeting is June 11. Please plan to attend. See page 4 for complete details.

JOINT FORCES STAFF COLLEGE COMES TO DADE BATTLEFIELD

by Steve Rinck



Shortly after January's reenactment, the park and Dade Battlefield Society were honored to

host 21 visitors from the National Defense University's Joint Forces Staff College based in Norfolk, Virginia. Dr. Kenneth Pisel, Associate Dean, led a group made up of one Defense Department representative and 19 officers representing all five branches of the military services on a staff ride from MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa.

Dade's Battle of 1835 has become a part of the college curriculum, since the Second Seminole War involved contingents from the Army, Navy and Marines, and as such offers lessons to today's armed forces on how different branches, with different types of command structures, can operate cohesively toward a single goal.

Society members Steve Creamer and Steve Rinck once again reprised their impressions of a Seminole and soldier of the period, providing a flavor of what their respective lives

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What's New at Dade Battlefield State Park?

Second in a series about the multitude of workshops, craft sessions, wildlife explorations and other types of interactive experiences that are being offered throughout the year.

Florida's Incredible Edibles by Kristin Wood

Eating your way through your yard sounds incredible, but it has been done for centuries and continues to happen in Florida. The Seminoles and U.S. soldiers both took advantage of the bounty of the land to supplement their diet and also to create medicinal cures. Yards today still have lots of edible plants in them that are easy to prepare, from tread softly roots and beauty berry berries to pignut hickory nuts,

longleaf pine seeds, and white oak acorns. More nutritious than the grocery store and definitely cheaper, wild edibles are the way to go once you learn to recognize them and learn how to harvest them. Dade Battlefield offers Incredible Edible programs year-round, including collecting, harvesting, cooking and tasting of botanicals found right on the property.



Florida's mild weather allows for wild edibles to be collected in some form all during the year. Some samples from our seasonal menus include wild green salad in spring, wild plum jelly and passionflower fruit punch in summer, Spanish needle and pine nut pesto, along with Indian lemonade from winged sumac in fall, and elderberry flowers and berries making yummy pancakes and fritters even in the dead of winter.

Check our website, www.Floridastateparks.org/dadebattlefield, to get the dates of Incredible Edibles as well as all of the other programs that are conducted at the park.

TREE CLIMBING. Kristin Wood collecting persimmons for the Incredible Edibles program.

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were like and their takes on what was happening in Florida relative to the Indian Removal Act of 1830. A park ranger gave the background of the battle, including the strategies that led to its inevitable outcome. The visiting officers, half of whom were attached to the United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM), were very responsive to us, and recognized definite parallels between events of 177 years ago and today.

Joseph Lorentzson by Steve Rinck



DEDICATED REENACTOR Joseph Lorentzson has participated in every commemoration of Dade's Battle.

Having been present, from the very beginning, at every annual commemoration of Dade's Battle gives soldier reenactor Joseph Lorentzson a unique perspective on how things have developed over the years. A self-described history bug since his youth, Joseph can trace his ancestors back to participants in both the War Between The States and even the Revolutionary War. His interest in the Second Seminole War can be traced back to being inspired back in 1980 by the late Dr. Ray Giron, one of the original organizers of our reenactment and a battlefield leader until his recent passing.

NEW GRANT IS OPENING DOORS by Steve Rinck

Dade Battlefield Society has recently received a \$30,100 grant from The Longbrake Family Trust in support of youth education. The funds are being used to acquire and construct items relating to both the Seminole

Wars and World War II connections that are documented as being a part of Dade Battlefield.

The Webster Flea Market and other local outlets have become sources of period clothing and equipment for us. Some examples are a washboard, flat iron, sleeping bag, and opaque projector, as well as military jackets, walkie talkies, dresses, hats, and a full-size army kitchen tent. Park volunteers and community service workers have been tearing down an 1896 house in town and salvaging the lumber to later construct a schoolhouse, heritage garden shed, outhouse, and more. Another circa 1905 building will be transported intact to the park to be transformed into a Florida cracker house. Additionally, the construction of a Seminole chickee will take place. All of these buildings will be placed on skids so that their locations may be changed as needed by the specific programs for which they are being used. Definitely plenty of new (and old!) doors being opened!



JOYCE RINEHART by the WWII Kitchen Tent.

A career high school teacher from Orange Park, Joseph has participated in the simple encampments of the earlier days and continues to do so in the full-scale battles that are being produced today. He has noticed some decline in the numbers of both Seminoles and soldiers on the field, and believes the advancing age of many of them to be the main reason. "It's so important to attract younger people," he says, "so that we can continue to help the public to understand the significance of what happened here."

And Joseph Lorentzson practices what her preaches, too. His 14-year-old son, Blake, now dons a uniform and takes the field of battle himself, patiently waiting until he reaches the age at which he can carry a musket next to his proud dad. We are so glad to have both of these dedicated reenactors helping us to continue the effort to remember those under the commands of Dade, Micanopy, and Jumper.

USO Show a Highlight of World War II Weekend

by Steve Rinck

On the evening of March 2nd, a brand new feature was added to the schedule of this year's World War II events, one that became the surprise hit of the entire weekend. By means of a way to show our appreciation to the reenactors who come from far and wide to support us, the Society produced our version of a wartime reception and show in the style of the United Services Organizations (USO) right inside Dade's Lodge.

Just as with our encampment and battle impressions, we tried very hard to maintain the authenticity of the look, feel, and lingo of the times. The lodge was filled with period flags, posters and displays, and our entertainers and hostesses wore 1940's attire. The South Sumter High School Jazz Band performed



PERFORMERS AND AUDIENCE at the USO show on March 2 pose for a photo.

big band music for a good portion of the 2-hour show, with their break times being filled in by lady singers, a "Dragnet" skit, and a localized rendition of Abbott and Costello's famous "Who's On First?" routine. Our good friend Ted Johnson emceed the performances, using actual NBC microphones from the era.

The military reenactors in attendance were treated to home-made baked goods and a variety of sodas in glass bottles, once again in

keeping with the overall feel of the times we portrayed. One of them wrote back to us, saying, "It was (a) good, relaxing and entertaining evening and I'm glad your team made the effort to put it together. It was definitely a good cap to the day. I spoke with (others) and they were just as upbeat as I am, and had a very positive experience, as well. No doubt this event will continue to grow, and I am already looking forward to attending it next year." We are, too!

Living History Musings

This article is the third in a series dealing with items and activities of interest for reenactors and others sharing a love of American history.

The Blank Debate

by Dale Beremand

I have been reenacting since 1986, and in that time I have burned some pounds of powder as a Yank, a Reb, an 1835 federal artilleryman, a Spanish-American War infantryman, and even a conquistador. During most of that time I made my own blanks. For Civil War rifle muskets I usually used 70 grains of 3Fg black powder. The service charge

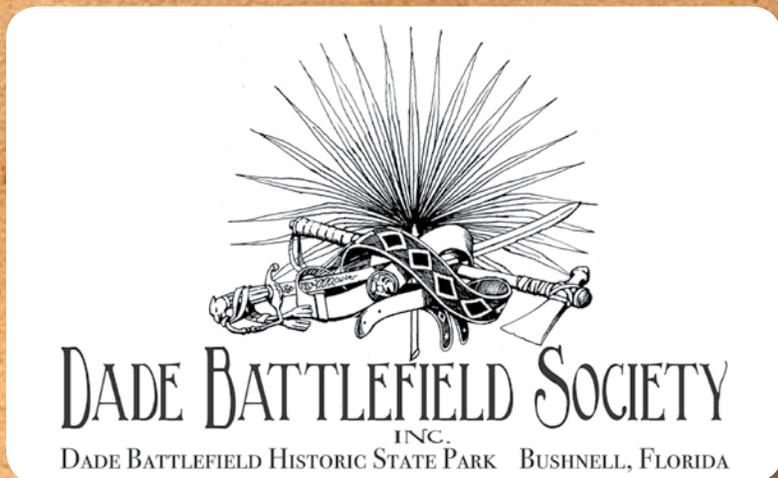
for these was 60-65 grains of 2Fg powder with a Minie ball. I felt the larger than standard charge and the use of 3Fg powder made a more authentic bang, since no bullet was used. For the Seminole War, I used 110 grains of 3Fg in a Japanese-made Charleville, but more recently it has been a Pedersoli M1816 musket. The standard charge using a ball was up to 120 grains of 2Fg. The smaller charge of 3Fg gave a good report and the finer powder took a spark better in the flintlock.

In recent years the State, because of safety concerns, decided that

only 2Fg powder was safe to use in replica muzzle-loading guns. Their rationale, as I understand it, is that some manufacturers were consulted as to what constituted a safe powder charge in their guns. It seems the companies' response of 2Fg was actually in reference to what they recommended for live ammunition, not just a powder charge without using a projectile.

Perhaps with State and reenactor cooperation we could make some tests to decide what types of blank charges would be safe to use without unduly fouling black powder weapons.

A New Logo for DBS



Since the establishment of the Dade Battlefield Society, our corporate logo had been a rendition of an engraving showing the skeletal remains of Dade's command. We feel that our new logo more closely defines what we represent now in the 21st Century. Created by famed Second Seminole War artist Jackson Walker, it shows an officer's sword and enlisted man's baldric (belt supporting a bayonet scabbard) intertwined with a Seminole belt and tomahawk, all displayed against a background of a palmetto frond. This collection of symbols expresses the significance of the struggles of both military and native people in pre-1860 Florida, and indicates our desire to tell the whole story of those times.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Annual General Membership Meeting of the Dade Battlefield Society will be held in Major Dade's Lodge at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2013. At this meeting we will review our accomplishments for 2012/13 and vote on goals for 2013/14. We will also nominate and vote on candidates for election to the board of directors and all four DBS officers for the next fiscal year. New business from the floor is welcome.

Remember:
Your participation strengthens our Society!

A Road Back in Time... coming in October

**Evenings of
Oct. 11 and 12, 2013
(6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.)**

A lantern-lit tour of the homes and camps of settlers, Seminoles and soldiers. Hear their stories, sample their foods, and speak with them about life's hardships on the Florida Frontier of the 1830s. A walk down the actual Fort King Road that is fascinating, fun, and just a little bit spooky!

\$3.00/person; age 6 and under free.

**Dade Battlefield Historic
State Park
7200 CR 603
Bushnell, Florida 33513
(352) 793-4781**



A SEMINOLE INDIAN ENCAMPMENT as it might have looked in the 1830s. Every effort is made to ensure the Road Back in Time event provides an authentic experience in accordance with our goal of furthering knowledge of this important era in American history.

Visit the Park website, www.Floridastateparks.org/dadebattlefield, if you haven't already done so, to learn more about the park, its facilities, and events.