

Seminole War period Towns and Camps

Tallahassee

Tallahassee (Also called Anhaica) was home to thousands of Muskogee speaking people. American forces burned Tallahassee to the ground at the start of the war. Later American settlers would build their own city, while keeping the Native name.

Miccosukee

Like Tallahassee, Miccosukee was a large town, with thousands of people living there. It was targeted early by Americans, who plundered and raised the town.

Suwanee River

This river was home to both Seminole people and free Black communities. The Black communities were largely made of escaped slaves from American plantations, but many in the early 1800s were born free in Florida. The two communities traded and worked together, and many Americans referred to them as Black Seminoles.

Big City Island

Long a home to the Tequesta people, Big City Island was a refuge for Seminole people during the War until Fort Lauderdale was established.

Sam Jones Camp (Treetops)

Abiaka (Sam Jones) established this camp during the war to be far from the Front Lines of battle

Billy Bowlegs Village

Billy Bowlegs and his family made their homes here during the height of the War.

Billy Bowlegs Camp 3rd

The home camp of Billy Bowlegs when he led the Seminole near the end of the War. It was sacked by U.S. Army scouts, and the retaliation led to a new declaration of war by the United States.

Sam Jones Town (BC)

Abiaka (Sam Jones) chose this area to evade American patrols. He and his followers remained hidden through the end of the War. It would become the site of the Big Cypress reservation.

Bluefields

The followers of Chipco, also known as the Cow Creek Seminole, moved to this region northwest of Lake Okeechobee. They would later found the Brighton reservation.

Chipco's Village

After the War, Chipco established a camp in this area to trade with Americans to rebuild relations.

Alachua

The Alachua Prairie was home to many Seminole camps and their herds of cattle. Ahaya (Cowkeeper) famously guarded the herds from Spanish poachers.

Seminole War Period Battles

Battle of Okeechobee

American forces led by General Zachary Taylor followed Seminole warriors into a prepared ambush. While outnumbered almost 3 to 1, the Seminole inflicted 10 times the casualties on the Americans as they took before breaking off.

Loxahatchee Battlefield (Powell's Battle, Jessup's Battle)

General Jesup commanded a force of 1,500 men in an attack on a Seminole encampment. Roughly 300 Seminole had prepared the area for battle, and held the military forces off (wounding General Jesup with a shot that took his glasses from his face) and allowed the Seminole to escape capture.

Dade Battlefield

In preparation for war, Major Francis Dade led two companies of the U.S. Army from Fort Brooke to Fort King. Alerted to the threat, Seminole forces attacked during the march. Only two American soldiers survived.

Battle of Micanopy

Osceola and Jumper led an attack on the U.S. outpost at Micanopy to draw out troops, and withdrew after an hour of fighting. This was regarded as the first U.S. Victory of the "Second Seminole War"

Battle of Wahoo Swamp

U.S. Army forces attacked and burned multiple Seminole towns, inflicting the highest number of Seminole losses in the War.

Battle of the Withlacoochee

In retaliation for the death of Wiley Thompson, the Army moved on Seminole positions along the Withlacoochee River. The army was split while crossing the river, and Seminole forces attacked at this point, leading to a prolonged battle before the Army withdrew.

Hartsuff's Skirmish

A group of soldiers led by Lieutenant George Hartsuff were attacked by Billy Bowlegs and his followers after having previously destroying Bowlegs camp and gardens. Hartsuff and two soldiers survived. This led to the United States declaring a third war against the Seminole.

Seminole War Period Forts

Osceola Capture Site

Osceola and Coacoochee (Wild Cat) met with General Jesup's men under a flag of truce to discuss the release of Coacoochee's father Emathla, a prisoner of war. On Jesup's orders and against the American rules of war, the U.S. Army encircled and captured the delegation.

Egmont Key

For the last two years of the war, Egmont Key was turned into a prison camp to hold captured Seminole before their forced removal to Oklahoma. The captives were taken from Seminole villages, and were mostly women, children, and elders.

Prospect Bluff

At the end of the War of 1812, the British army offered this fort to the free black allies of the Seminole. The reputation of the "Negro Fort" threatened southern slaveowners. The U.S. Navy attacked in what some consider the start of the Invasion of Florida. The fort was destroyed, the few survivors enslaved, and the military built Prospect Bluff on its location.

Fort King

Fort King was the command center of the War in the 1830s, and General Jesup's headquarters.

Fort Shackleford

Fort Shackleford was the deepest fort built by the United States into the Florida interior. It was abandoned by the army and burned down by the Seminole.

Fort Jupiter

As the Seminole moved towards the eastern coast, the Army established this fort to monitor them.

Fort Lauderdale

Built by the US Army to pressure Big City Island and other southern Seminole camps

Fort Brooke

Most ships transporting troops and supplies landed at Fort Brooke, and the city of Tampa grew around it. It was here that most Seminole prisoners were held before being sent by boat to New Orleans.

Fort Myers

Fort Myers replaced Fort Brooks as the main port for the military in the 1850s. It was here that ship *Grey Cloud* left with the final Seminole forced from Florida in the War.

St. Marks

Saint Marks was a refueling station for ships going between Tampa and New Orleans. It was here that Polly Parker led a successful escape from the final Seminole removal voyage.

