

WELCOME TO THE PINE ISLAND RIDGE

The Pine Island Ridge is a historical site. Not only was it part of the original Everglades system, but it was also a place of refuge for the Seminoles during the Second and Third Seminole Wars. In the 1860s, it became the largest Seminole Camp in Florida.

As you walk around the ridge, imagine yourself back in the 1800s. The Everglades surrounded you on all sides of the ridge. There was an abundance of wildlife back then – alligators, egrets, herons, ibises, sparrows, wood storks, snakes, frogs, and the Florida panther.

Be sure to check out all 8 of our educational boards placed along the sidewalk.

HISTORICAL RIDGES OF THE EVERGLADES

The Pine Island Ridge is the highest point in Broward County at 29 feet above sea level. The Pine Island ridge was created from 1000 years of Everglades water. A long strip of old ridge and trough area of the historic Everglades. It now contains 1022 acres of natural and historical forest. The ridge in the Everglades was created about 1000 years ago.

These historical ridges were higher than the water level and the Seminoles used them from the 1700s to the 1800s for hunting, growing crops, and shelter. These ridges were also used as a place of refuge during the Second and Third Seminole Wars. The Pine Island Ridge became the largest Seminole camp.

The Everglades is known by the Seminoles as Pa-Yoo-Oke ("Grassy Water")

PINE ISLAND RIDGE & THE SEMINOLES

1770s: Indigenous groups from Georgia and Alabama migrate to the Everglades. Florida is purchased by the U.S. Seminoles migrate to the U.S. South Florida peninsula.

1817: First Seminole War. Battle of Okechobee 1817. Hooah also Sam, John, and Pine Island Ridge.

1823: Battle at the Seminole War. Battle at the Seminole War 1823. The Pine Island Ridge becomes the center of the Seminole culture.

1855 to 1858: Third Seminole War. Seminoles leave the Pine Island Ridge and move to the Ocala National Forest area of the Everglades and land development.

early 1900s: Seminoles are removed and relocated to the Seminole Reservation, Florida.

PINE ISLAND RIDGE AND THE SEMINOLE WARS

The Second Seminole War - 1835 to 1842

An early 19th-century Seminole war was fought between the Seminole and the United States Army. The Seminole and the United States Army fought the Second Seminole War from 1835 to 1842. The Seminole and the United States Army fought the Second Seminole War from 1835 to 1842. The Seminole and the United States Army fought the Second Seminole War from 1835 to 1842.

The Seminole Wars

The Seminole Wars were a series of three wars between the Seminole and the United States Army. The Seminole Wars were fought in Florida from 1817 to 1858. The Seminole Wars were fought in Florida from 1817 to 1858. The Seminole Wars were fought in Florida from 1817 to 1858.

The Third Seminole War - 1855 to 1858

In 1855, pressure again was put on the Seminoles to relocate to the Seminole Reservation in Oklahoma. They refused and the Third Seminole War began. Thousands of Army soldiers patrolled the Everglades searching for Seminoles, and many Seminoles were killed. Great destruction happened on the Everglades.

In 1858, Seminole Chief Billy Bowles was forced to relocate to the Seminole Reservation in Oklahoma. He was a leader of the Seminoles who fought the Third Seminole War. He was a leader of the Seminoles who fought the Third Seminole War. He was a leader of the Seminoles who fought the Third Seminole War.

ABIAKA, AKA SAM JONES

A Leader of the Resistance

Sam Jones, also known as Abiaka, was a leader of the Seminole resistance during the Second Seminole War. He was a leader of the Seminoles who fought the Second Seminole War. He was a leader of the Seminoles who fought the Second Seminole War.

In 1837, Sam Jones became the Chief of the Seminole. He was a leader of the Seminoles who fought the Second Seminole War. He was a leader of the Seminoles who fought the Second Seminole War.

Sam Jones relocated to Pine Island Ridge at the end of the Second Seminole War. He was a leader of the Seminoles who fought the Second Seminole War. He was a leader of the Seminoles who fought the Second Seminole War.

MAJOR WILLIAM LAUDERDALE & FORT LAUDERDALE

Major William Lauderdale

Major William Lauderdale was a Lieutenant in the Tennessee Volunteers under Andrew Jackson in 1818. He was a leader of the Seminoles who fought the Second Seminole War. He was a leader of the Seminoles who fought the Second Seminole War.

The military posts at Fort Lauderdale

During the Second Seminole War, Major William Lauderdale established military posts at Fort Lauderdale. He was a leader of the Seminoles who fought the Second Seminole War. He was a leader of the Seminoles who fought the Second Seminole War.

SEMINOLE CULTURE

Seminole Food

Seminole food includes cassava, sweet potatoes, and other crops. They also hunted for wild game. Seminole food includes cassava, sweet potatoes, and other crops. They also hunted for wild game.

Seminole Clothing

Seminole clothing includes tunics, leggings, and moccasins. They also wore traditional jewelry. Seminole clothing includes tunics, leggings, and moccasins. They also wore traditional jewelry.

PLANTS ON THE PINE ISLAND RIDGE

LOOK UP CLOSE

Plants you can find on the Pine Island Ridge include Live oak, Live oak - Quercus virginica. Other plants you can find on the Ridge include various species of trees and shrubs.

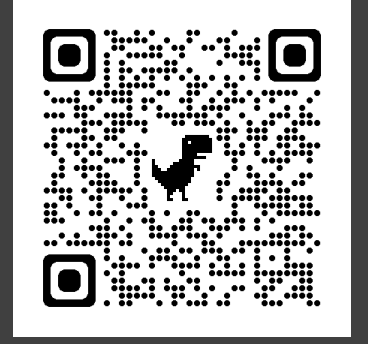
WILDLIFE ON THE PINE ISLAND RIDGE

See if you can spot any of these animals while walking the Pine Island Ridge

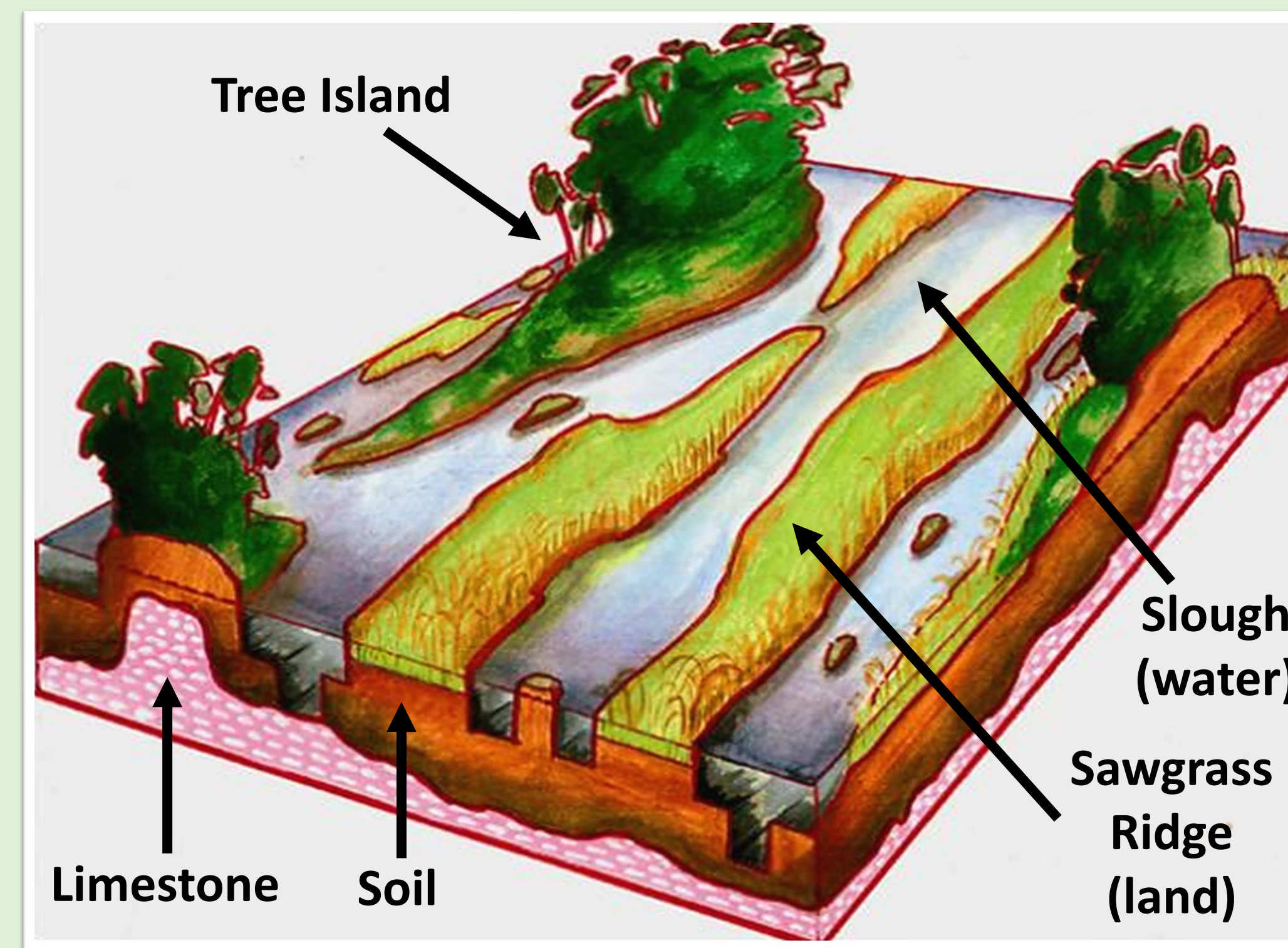
Wildlife on the Pine Island Ridge includes various species of birds, mammals, and reptiles. See if you can spot any of these animals while walking the Pine Island Ridge.



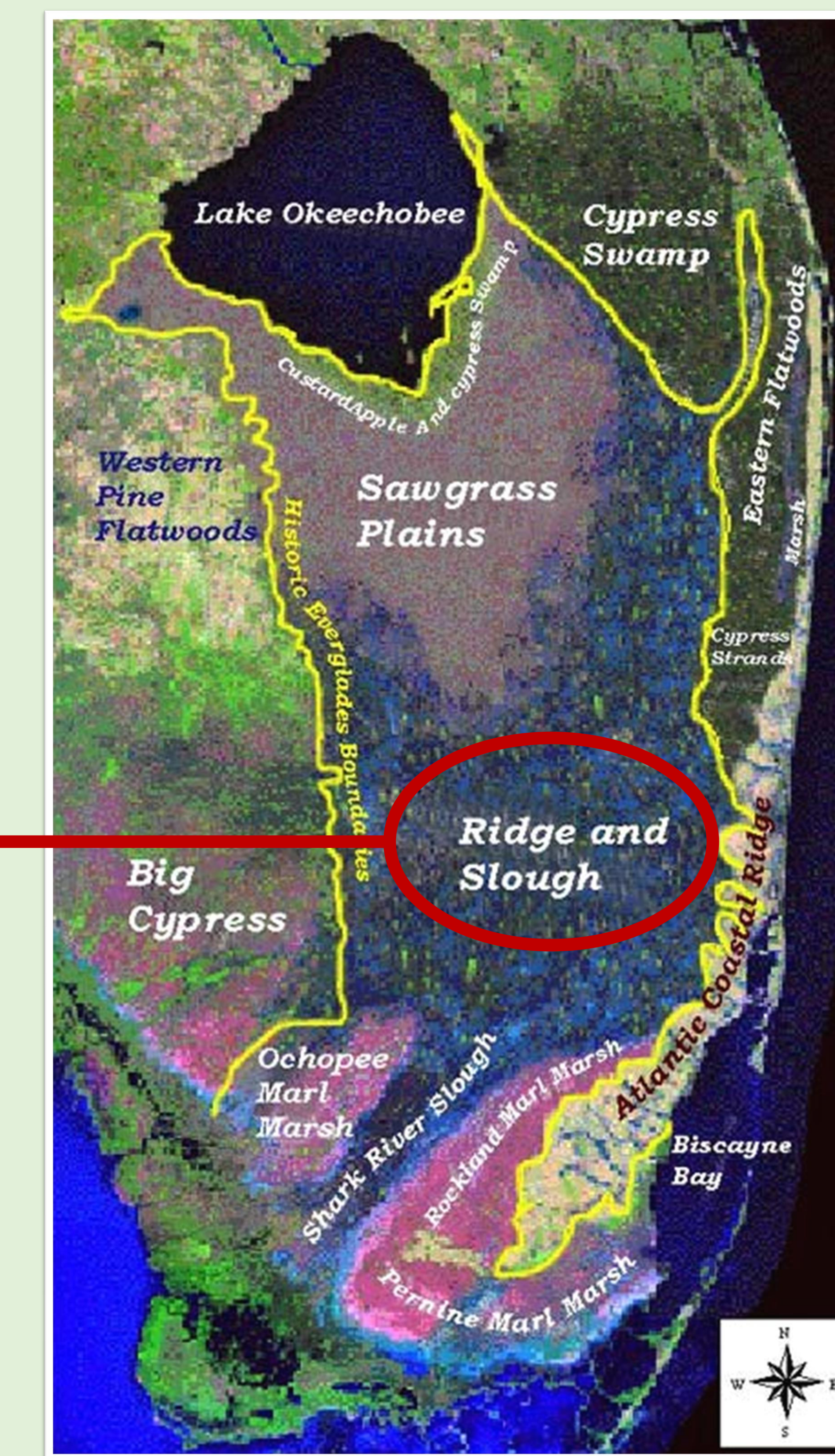
For more information on our parks, go to: <https://www.broward.org/Parks> or scan here:



HISTORICAL RIDGES OF THE EVERGLADES



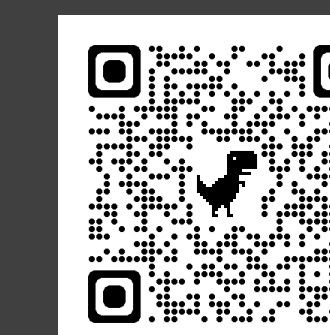
Historical Everglades Watershed



Pine Island Ridge is the highest point in Broward County at 29 feet above sea level. The Pine Island Ridge once stretched from I-595 down to Orange Avenue. It was once part of the old **Ridge and Slough** area of the historic Everglades. It now contains 102.2 acres of upland hardwood forest. The ridges in the Everglades watershed were revealed when ocean waters receded off the land.

These historical island ridges were higher than the water level and the Seminoles used them from the 1820s to the early 1900s for housing, growing crops, and ceremonies. These ridges even provided refuge for the Seminoles during the Second and Third Seminole Wars. After the Third Seminole War, Pine Island Ridge became the largest Seminole camp.

**The Everglades is known by the Seminoles as Pa-Hay-Okee
("Grassy Water")**



PINE ISLAND RIDGE & THE SEMINOLES

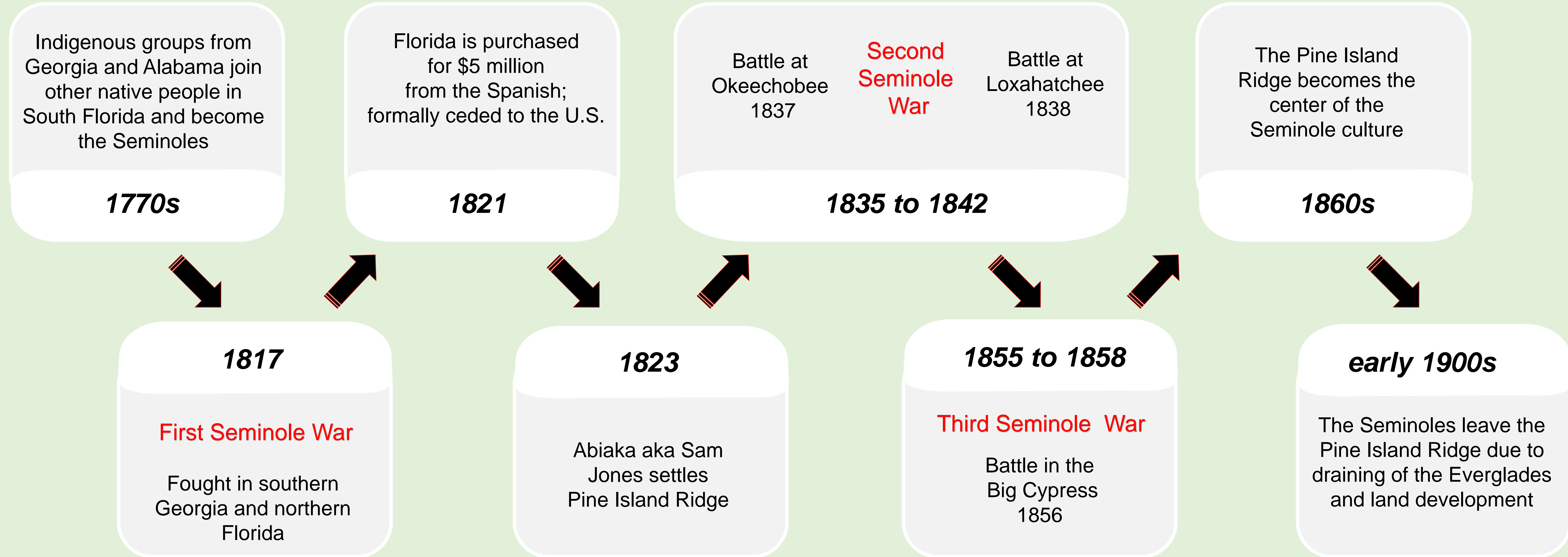


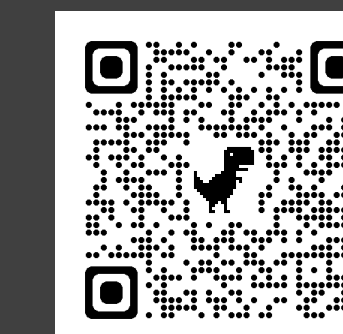
Photo: Florida Memory



Photo: Florida Memory



Photo: Florida Memory



PINE ISLAND RIDGE AND THE SEMINOLE WARS

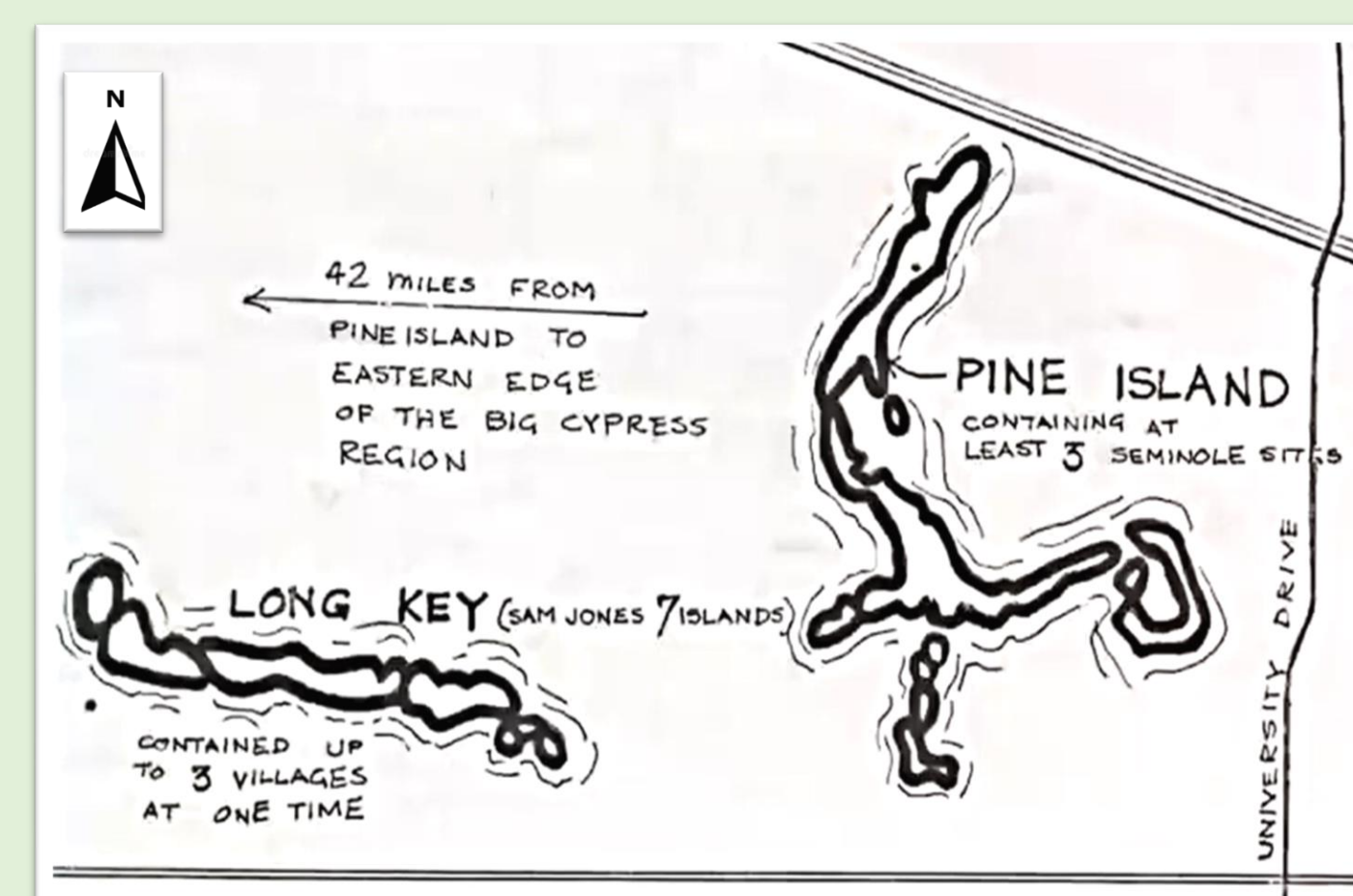
The Second Seminole War - 1835 to 1842

As many Indigenous tribes were being deported to the west because of the Indian Removal Act, Seminole and Mikasuki resisted deportation to Oklahoma.

On December 28, 1835, the Seminoles, under the leadership of Sam Jones aka "Abiaka" began the Second Seminole War to fight for their freedom. The Battle of Okeechobee in 1837 and two battles at Loxahatchee River in 1838 included thousands of Army troops against hundreds of Seminole warriors.

The Seminoles then moved down to the Everglades and set up residence on the island ridges, one of them being Pine Island Ridge. Here, they would continue fighting with U.S. troops until the summer of 1842.

Sadly, over 3,000 Seminoles were sent to live at the Oklahoma Seminole Reservation. However, there were around 500 Seminoles who remained and continued to live at the Pine Island Ridge.



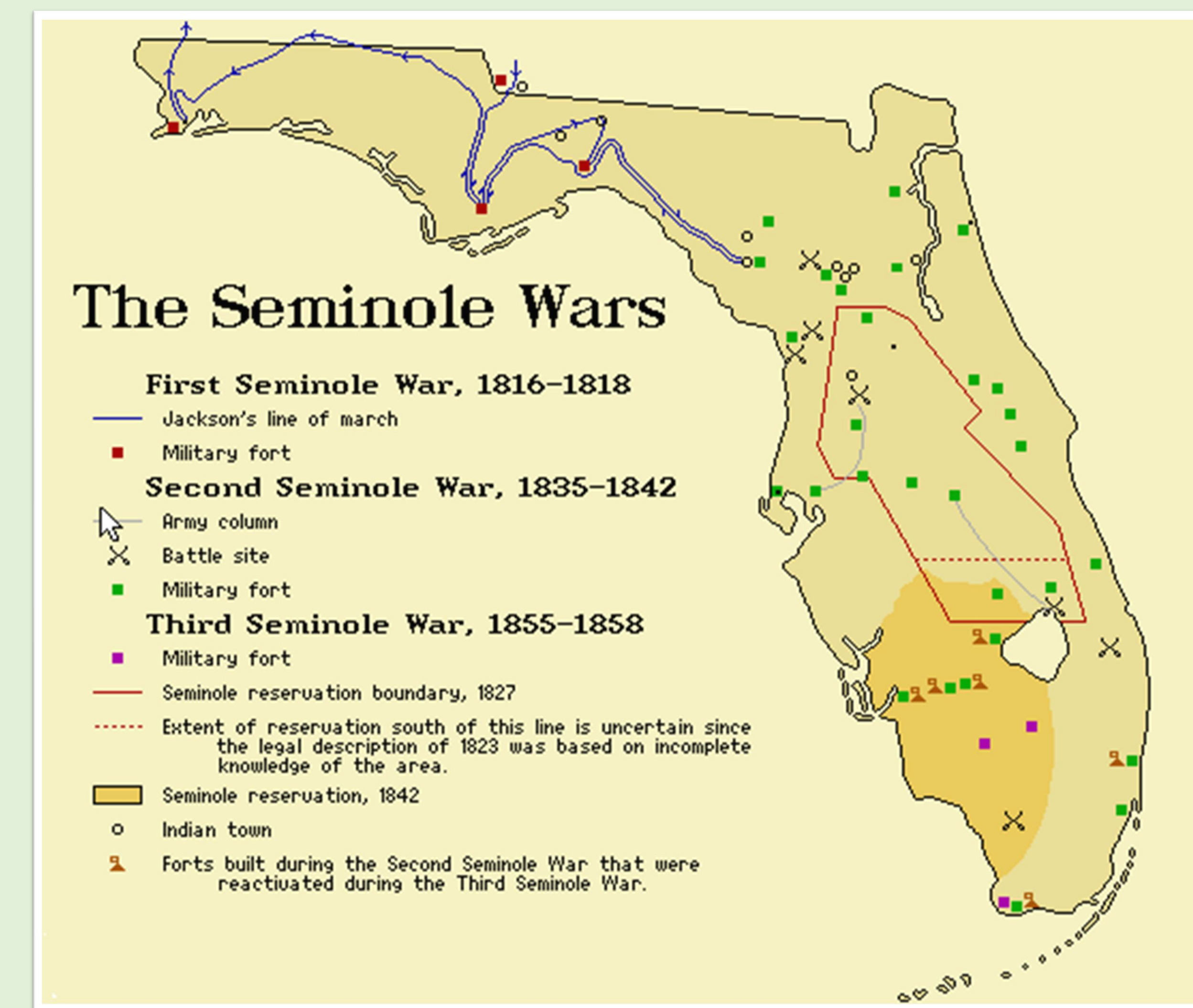
Source: Hollywood Historical Society



Photo: Ah-Tah-Tih-Ki Museum

Model 1816 Springfield Musket

the most used gun by both the Seminoles & Mikasuki and U.S. troops and the during the wars



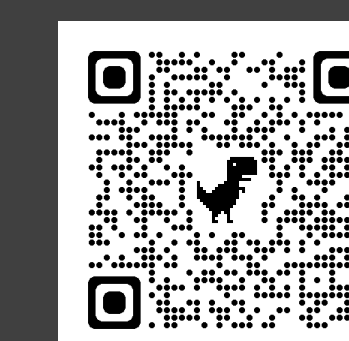
Source: Tampa Bay History Center

The Third Seminole War - 1855 to 1858

In 1855, pressure again was put on the Seminoles to relocate to the Seminole reservation in Oklahoma. They refused and the Third Seminole War began.

Thousands of Army soldiers patrolled the Everglades searching for Seminole hideouts, one being located on Pine Island Ridge. Small skirmishes happened, but no large battles ensued.

In 1858, Seminole Chief Billy Bowlegs was forced to relocate to the Seminole Reservation in Oklahoma. However, a small number of the Seminoles refused to give up their land and remained on the ridge. In the end, no more than 100 remained at Pine Island Ridge, where they remained until the draining of the Everglades in the early 1900s.



ABIAKA, AKA SAM JONES

A Leader of the Resistance

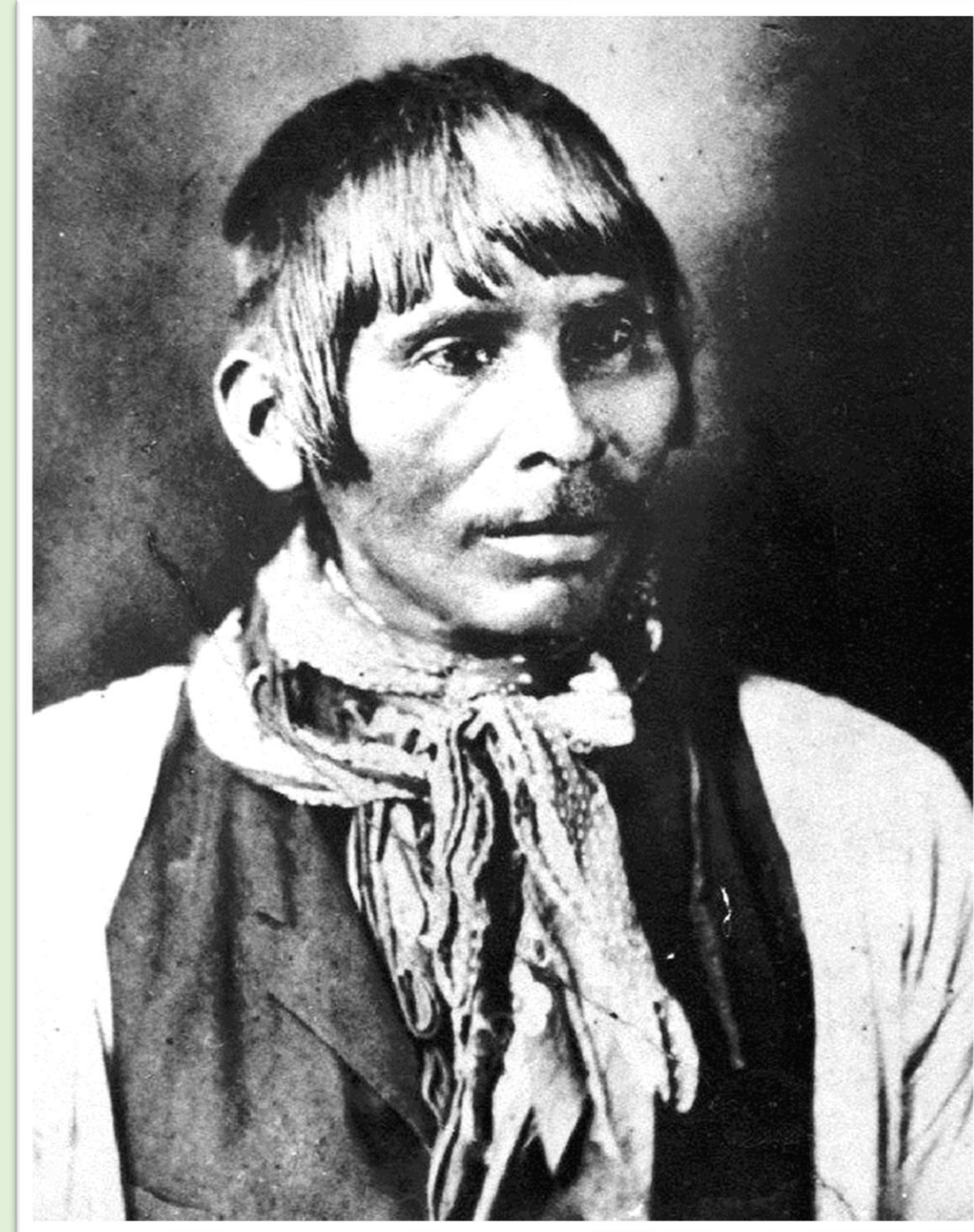


Photo: University of South Florida

Sam Jones aka “Abiaka” medicine man and member of the Panther Clan of the Mikasuki, became the leader for eight clans of Native American tribes that he led down to South Florida. The “Sam Jones” nickname was given to Abiaka by U.S. soldiers, who in the beginning thought he was just a fish peddler. Later they came to fear him when they found out he was a war chief and medicine man who had been spying on them. During that time, Sam Jones discovered and settled Pine Island Ridge and the nearby islands.

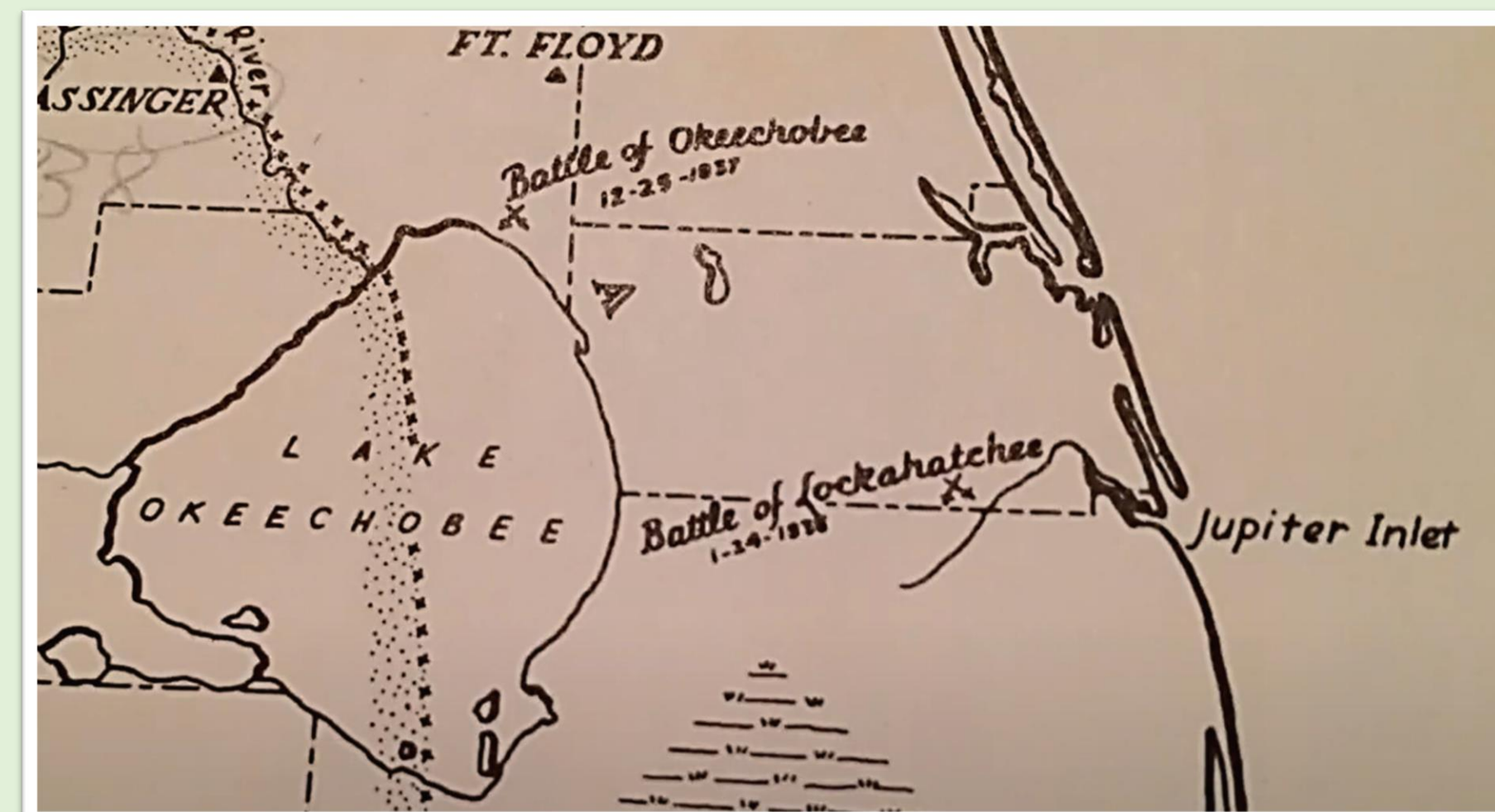
In 1837, Sam Jones became the Great War Chief – the leader of all Florida tribes. Sam Jones strategized and lead the Seminoles and Mikasuki at the Battles of Okeechobee (1837) and Loxahatchee (1838) during the Second Seminole War. Sam Jones was always able to escape capture from the soldiers as he headed in his canoe down the Okaloacoochee Slough to Big Cypress Swamp and over to Pine Island Ridge, the largest and northernmost of the “Seven Islands of Sam Jones.”

Sam Jones relocated to Pine Island Ridge at the end of the Second Seminole War with his remaining tribe members – those who resisted relocation to the reservation in Oklahoma. Unfortunately, Sam Jones and his tribe were forced to abandon the Pine Island Ridge when U.S. troops attacked the ridge in 1838. Sam Jones then he went back to the Big Cypress swamp with 200 of his men. He planted his crops in what they called his “Devil’s Garden,” practiced his medicine, and canoed in the waters until his death in 1869. He was still unconquered.



Photo: Florida Memory

Seminole Village in the Everglades



Partial Florida Map showing locations of Battle of Okeechobee and Battle of Loxahatchee

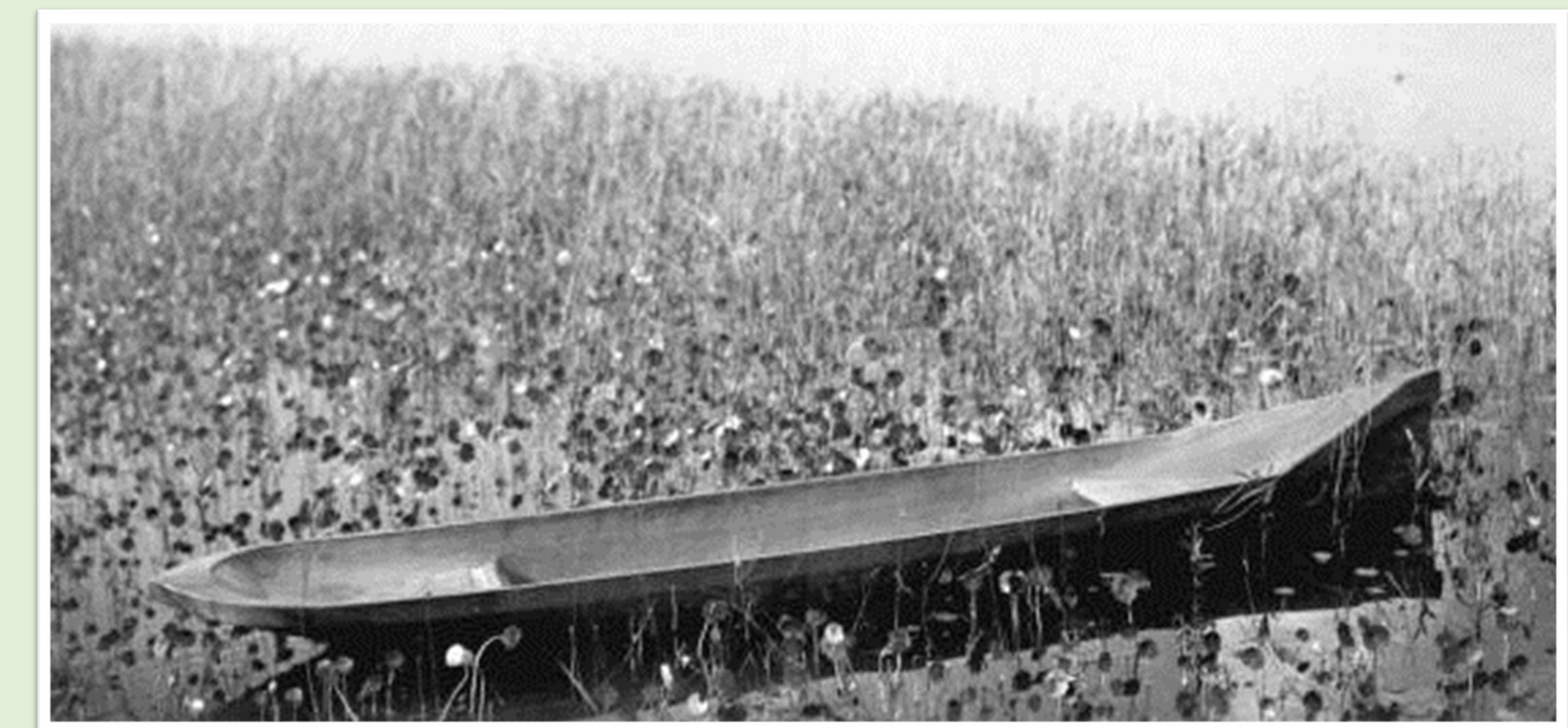
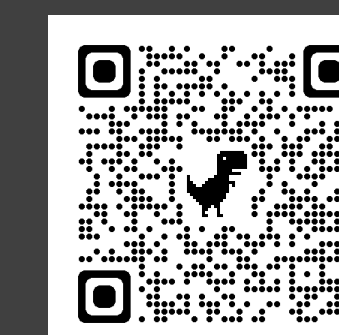


Photo: Florida Memory

Seminole Dugout Canoe in the Everglades



MAJOR WILLIAM LAUDERDALE & FORT LAUDERDALE

Major William Lauderdale

William Lauderdale first served in the military as a Lieutenant in the Tennessee Volunteers under Andrew Jackson in 1812.

Years later, in his 50s, Major William Lauderdale lead a troop of Army men, known as the Tennessee Volunteers, from Tennessee to Florida in 1837 at the request of President Andrew Jackson. Major Lauderdale and his men arrived in Florida in 1838 during the Second Seminole War. Their first order was to search for Sam Jones, aka Abiaka, the war leader of the Seminoles and Mikasuki, who had recently escaped with his men from the Battle of Loxahatchee in Jupiter, Florida.

Lauderdale and his men marched 63 miles along an overgrown ridge, appearing on early maps as "Military Trail," (where the road got its name from), down to the New River in South Florida. Once there, Lauderdale was ordered to go to Pine Island to capture Sam Jones and his men. Lauderdale, along with over 500 troops, dragged their boats through 15 miles of the Everglades. When they got to Pine Island, they found that Sam Jones and many of Seminoles had already escaped.

Thinking that Sam Jones and his men were gone, Lauderdale and his men left for their return trip to Tennessee. Lauderdale never did not make it home. He died in the Army barracks in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

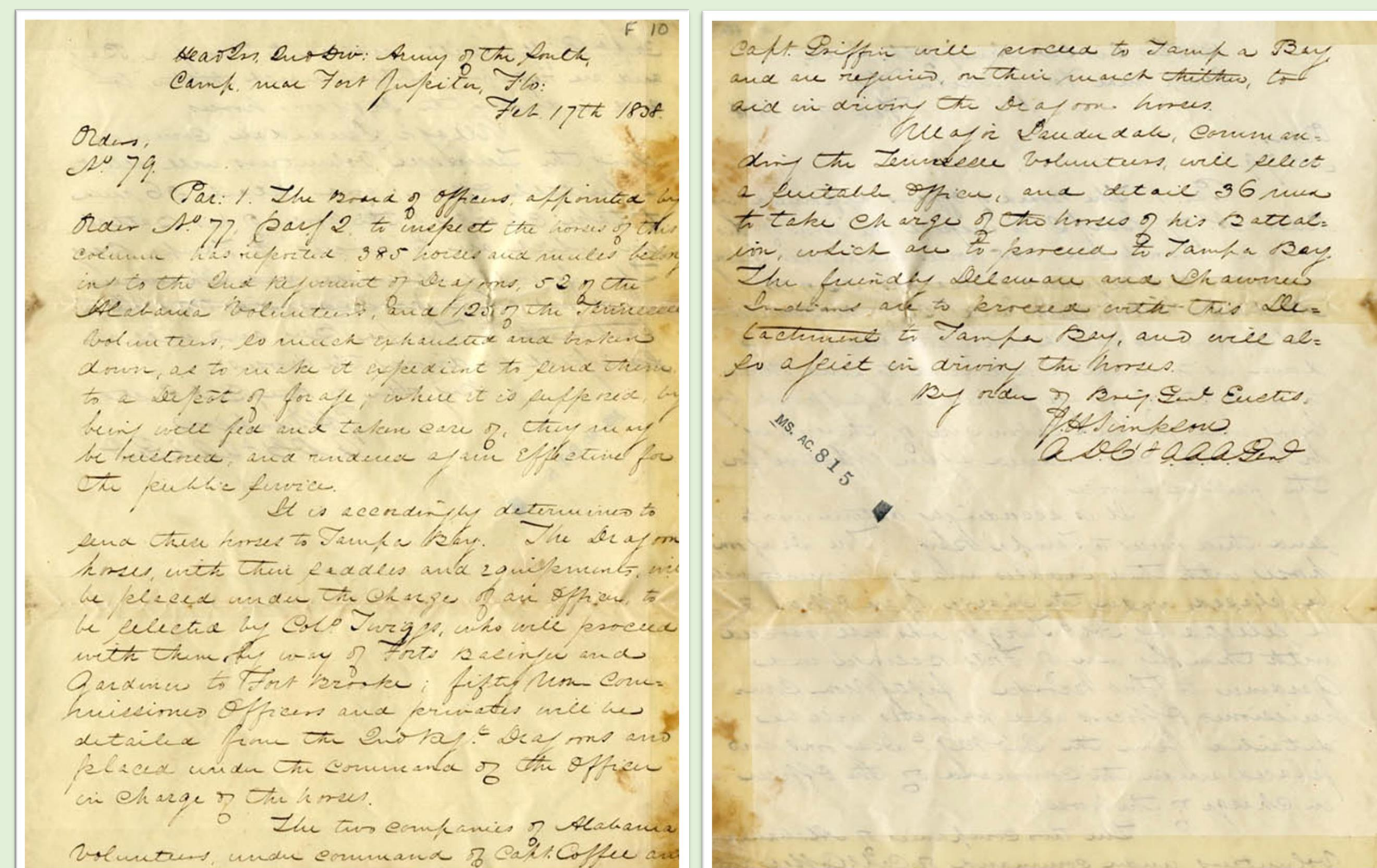
The military posts at Fort Lauderdale

During the short time Major Lauderdale spent in Florida, he established an Army post on the New River in March 1838. The Seminoles returned in 1839 and burnt it down.

A second fort was built that same year, a mile closer to the ocean. This fort was also temporary.

A third Army fort was then built and occupied in September 1839. This fort was built between a strip of land near the ocean and the New River Sound. The New River area was named Fort Lauderdale, after Major Lauderdale.

Today, there are no remaining structures left of these military posts.



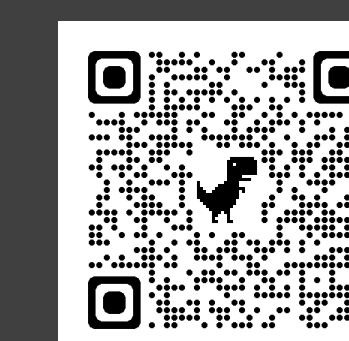
Source: Tennessee State Library & Archives

Army Order No. 79
sent the Tennessee
Volunteers down to
Florida during the
Second Seminole War



Photo: Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

**Pistol, U.S. Model
Waters 1836**



SEMINOLE CULTURE

Seminole Food

Meals were prepared together under a single chickee using logs and an iron grill.

Corn was pounded using a mortar and pestle. Then it was sifted through a woven sieve basket. The "grits" were then boiled to make *Sofkee*, a sour porridge that was a primary food. Wild sago and coontie were grated into flour to be used for cooking.

Other foods grown included sweet potatoes, squash, pumpkin, sugar cane, and fruits.

Mortar and Pestle



Photo: Collections of the Anthropology Division of the Florida Museum of Natural History, FLMNH Cat. E-932

Sieve Basket



Photo: Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Finger-woven sash and Bandolier Bag



Photo: Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Seminole Clothing

The staple garment for Seminole men were cloth tunics, leggings, belts, and bandanas around their necks. Seminole men also wore sashes and/or finger-woven beaded fobs to signify their leadership and importance in the tribe.

Seminole females wore long sleeved blouses and long length skirts. Bunches of beads were worn around their necks and in some instances, the total weight of those could reach 12 pounds.

Woven Baskets



Photo: Collections of the Anthropology Division of the Florida Museum of Natural History, FLMNH Cat. No. 92917 (top), 92907 (bottom left), and 92903 (bottom right)

Coontie Grater



Photo: Collections of the Anthropology Division of the Florida Museum of Natural History, FLMNH Cat. 93512

Finger-woven Beaded Fobs

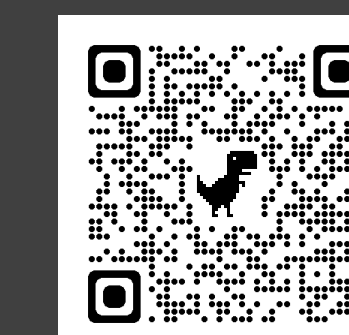


Photo: Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum



Seminole family in the early 1900s

Photo: Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum



PLANTS ON THE PINE ISLAND RIDGE

LOOK UP CLOSE

Plants you can find living on Live Oak trees



Photo: D. Valentin/WNU

Live oak – *Quercus virginia*

The Live Oak Hammocks found in **Pine Island Ridge** provide shelter for a variety of wildlife species. Acorns, leaves, twigs, and shoots provide food for wildlife throughout the year. Some of these trees are over 200 years old (called *old growth trees*).



Spanish moss
Tillandsia usneoides

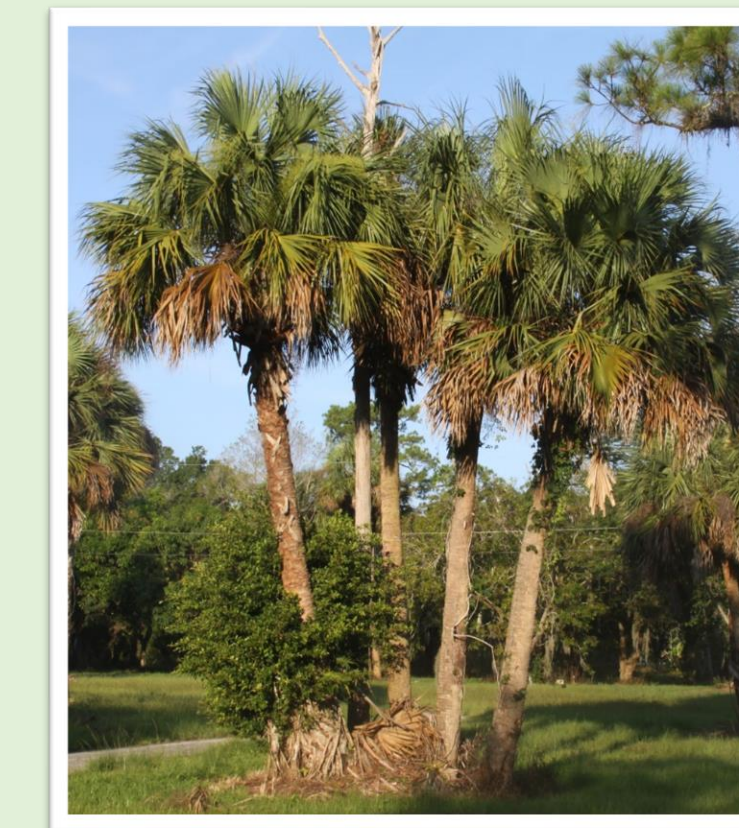


Resurrection fern
Pleopeltis polypodioides

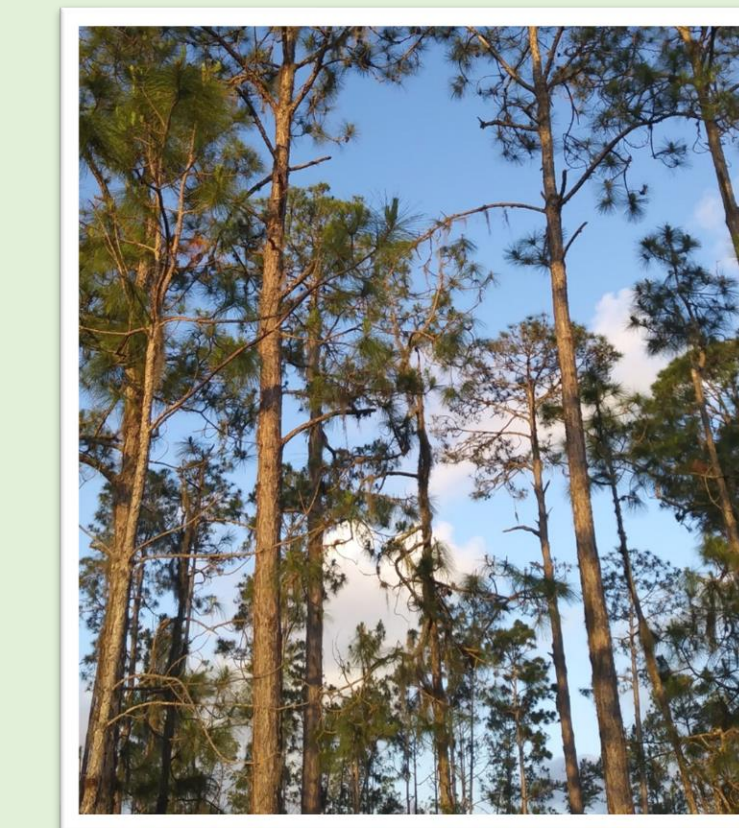


Cardinal air plant
Tillandsia fasciculata

Other plants you can find on the Ridge



Cabbage palm
Sabal palmetto



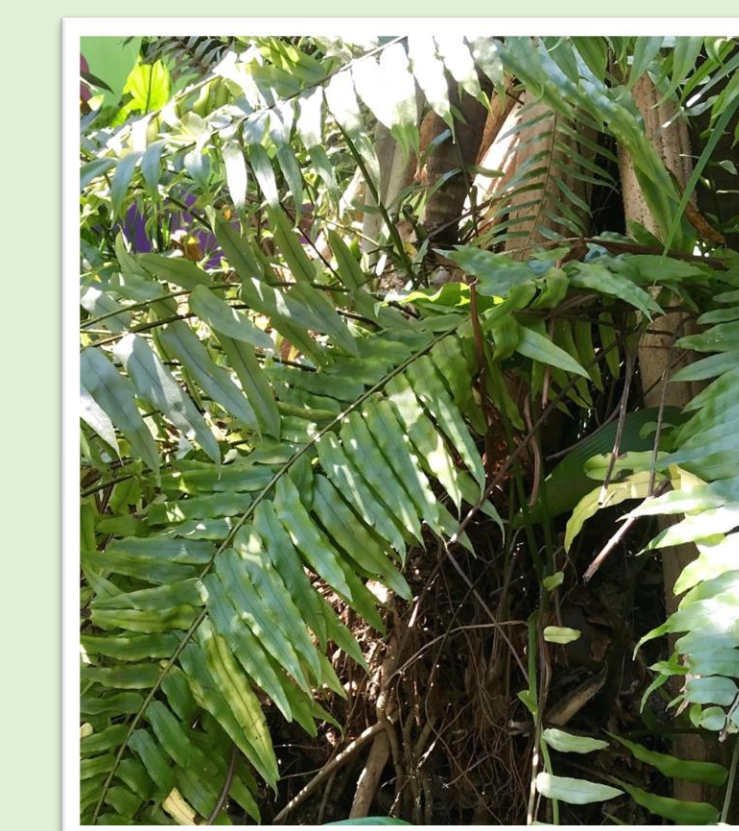
Slash pine
Pinus elliotii



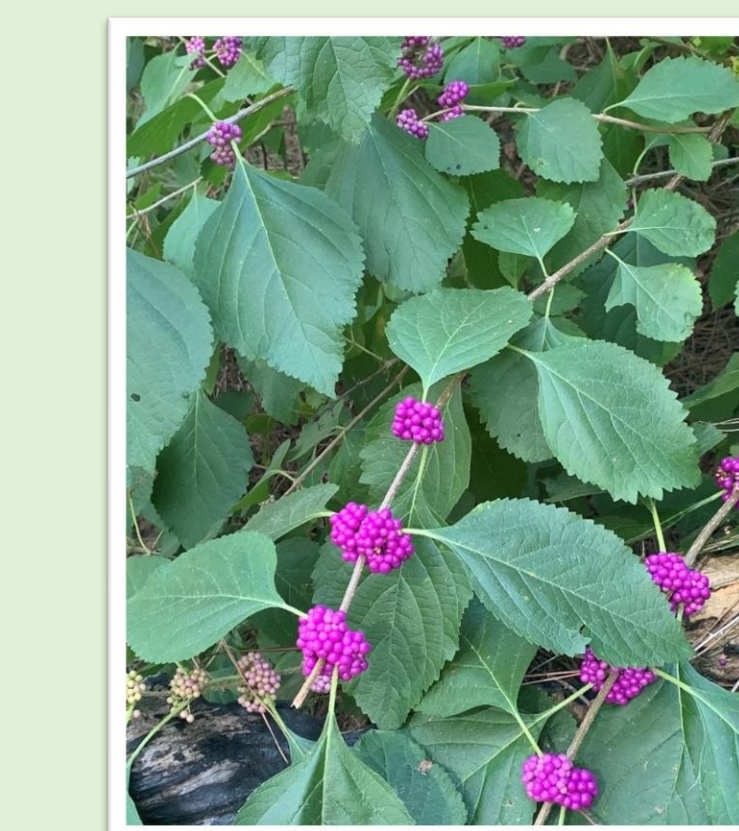
Saw palmetto
Serenoa repens



Wild coffee
Psychotria nervosa

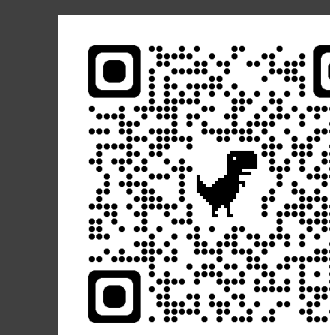


Giant sword fern
Nephrolepis biserrata



Beautyberry
Callicarpa Americana

Photos: iNaturalist Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial license CC0



WILDLIFE ON THE PINE ISLAND RIDGE

See if you can spot any of these animals while walking the Pine Island Ridge

Palm warbler
Setophaga palmarum



Virginia opossum
Didelphis virginiana



Zebra longwing
Heliconius charithonia



Eastern gray squirrel
Sciurus carolinensis



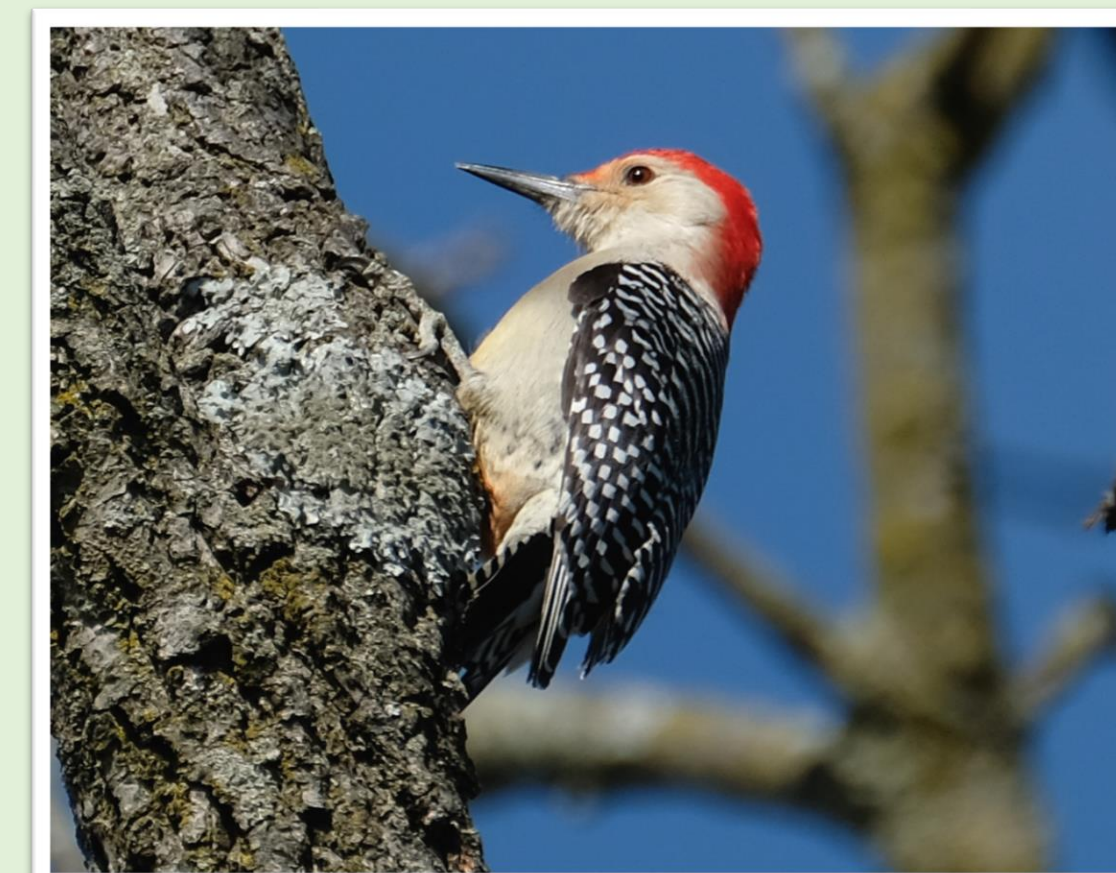
Red-tailed hawk
Buteo jamaicensis



Southern toad
Anaxyrus terrestris



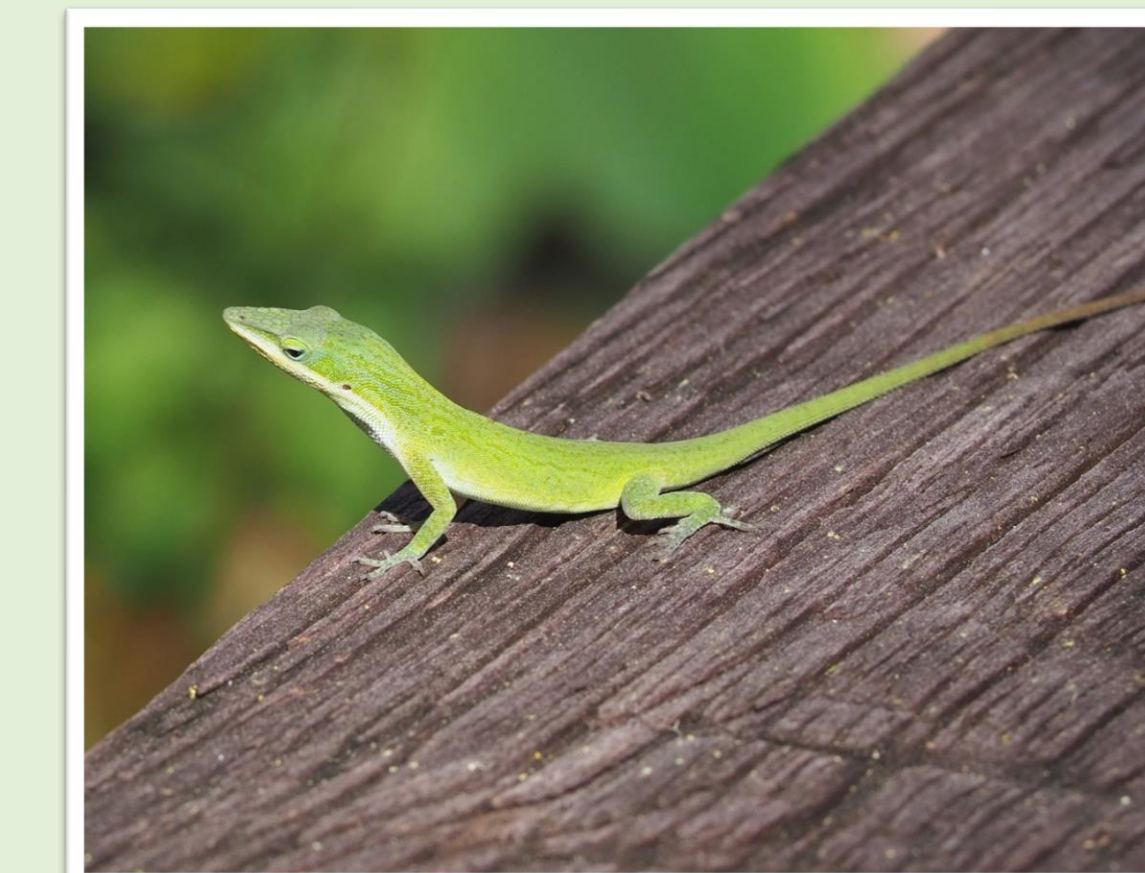
Red-bellied woodpecker
Melanerpes carolinus



Marsh rabbit
Sylvilagus palustris



Green anole
Anolis carolinensis



Northern raccoon
Procyon lotor



Burrowing owl
Athene cunicularia



Gopher tortoise
Gopherus polyphemus



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