



Dade Battlefield Society, Inc.

## **GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR DADE BATTLE REENACTORS – January 2010**

**The Dade Battlefield Society** is embarking upon a multi-year program to improve the authenticity of our annual event and significantly increase the number of quality participants, period sutlers and attending public.

The time period for this event is December 1835. Your dress, manners, camp and behavior must reflect this time period without exception during the public hours of the event. Eyewear must be 19th century- no modern eyeglasses. No modern jewelry or watches. No cigarettes are permitted during public hours- period pipes or hand rolled cigars only.

**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. *Fires need to be kept to a minimum and fire bricks used in the modern camping and sutler are to prevent scarring of the grounds within the park's day use area. Park staff will place initial fire wood at each camp area – If any further fire wood is needed, a designee from the (modern, seminole, soldier camps) will handle the loading and distribution of firewood from the firewood pile located at the back park gate.*

**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 with-in site of the public. *Due to safety concerns, we request no vehicular traffic over the concrete bridge located on the historic battlefield. Park Entrance Gate – Open until 8:00 am Saturday then closed to vehicular traffic until 5:00 pm and will open until 8:00 am on Sunday then closed to vehicular traffic until 5:00 pm. All arrivals after 8:00 am Saturday and Sunday need to use the back park gate on CR 650, which is located off of US 301. Reenactment weekend participants must have the parking permit issued at registration for entry into back park gate. Reenactment participants who commute or arrive after Friday evening (Saturday and Sunday arrivals) must be dressed in period attire for entry at the back park gate. Those arriving on Saturday and Sunday must register upon arrival.*

**REGISTRATION** – *In efforts to be able to plan for the number of participants, we request you pre-register for the event by December 12<sup>th</sup>. This gives us a chance to coordinate with the caterer on meals to be provided, as well as have an approximate number of battle participants for the preparation of rolled cartridges. All participants are required to check-in at registration which will be held in the Lodge for Reenactors and Blanket Traders. Sutlers, Food Vendors and Period Demonstrators need to check-in with the Sutler/Vendor Coordinator in the Sutler Area. 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 volunteer application.*

**Registration Hours:** Hours have been extended in hopes to provide better service to event participants:

Friday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 12:00 am

Saturday 7:00 am to 12:30 pm

Participants with Horses need to have their current Coggins Test to be show to the park manager or designee upon request

Reenactors who participate in the battle only on Sunday must arrive before 12:00 pm so registration and appropriate Safety Checks can be made prior to the battle at 2:00 pm – Arrivals on Sunday, register at the Society Booth(Society Personnel will direct you who to see for a Safety Check, powder issuance and medallion)

**FIREARM SAFETY--It is mandatory for all soldiers to have flash guards on their pans** (since they fire in close order). Flash guards will be available in the military camp for those needing them. All arms must be loaded with PRE-ROLLED CARTRIDGES ONLY. **Loading from flasks is not permitted at any time. No excessive charges will be allowed.** All battle participants are required to attend the **mandatory** safety meeting held on Saturday at 10:00 am. Weapons as well as cartridge boxes, and pouches will be inspected before the battle each day. Pre-rolled cartridges will be issued at the time of inspection.

**AMENITIES--Food rations, powder rations, commemorative medallions, firewood and hay will be provided for those participating in the reenactment. Battle participants & historic demonstrators may purchase \$20.00 meal tickets for immediate family members.**

We would like as many as possible to share the entire weekend from Friday afternoon until 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. We will disseminate as much information and orientation materials as possible before the public arrives on Saturday morning, so that everyone can be familiar with the park, the event, and the weekend schedule. **The orientation meeting for battle participants is mandatory and all are expected to attend.**

**USE OF PARK FACILITIES** - We request that you refrain from using facilities, when the closed for cleaning sign is across the day restroom entrance and signs are posted on lodge restroom doors. If the facilities start to back up or you experience problems, please notify park personnel so these problems can be addressed and fixed. Day Use Restrooms will be opened from 6:00 pm to 7:00 am each day of the event. Lodge will remain opened for the use of restroom facilities and for a gathering place for participants to socialize and work on period clothing – **Quiet time is midnight to 6:00 am.**

**Pets** – Are allowed, if well behaved, on a 6 foot leash and must be tended to at all times. Owners will be responsible for picking up after their animals.

**Lodging** - For those needing other accommodations for the weekend

**In Bushnell – located on State Road 48**

Microtel Inn and Suites – 352-568-2111

Rodeway Inn – 352-793-5010

Blueberry Hill RV Park – 352-793-4112

Red Barn – 352-793-6065

The Oaks Campground – 352-793-7117

## Near Bushnell

*Cypress House Bed & Breakfast – 352-568-0909*

*Our Fathers Haven Bed & Breakfast – 352-793-7920*

Temperatures will vary from 30's to 50's at night and 50's to 70's during the day. Rain is always a possibility. Come prepared for all eventualities and for an enjoyable 1830s holiday weekend.

**Please review the enclosed Florida Park Service Safety Procedures - No black powder weapons of any kind will be carried by anyone less than 14 years of age – No one under 14 years of age is allowed to participate in a battle reenactment**

### **DRESS AND EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES FOR SEMINOLE WARRIORS**

The purpose of this document is to convey guidelines on what forms of dress and equipment will be acceptable for Seminole warriors to be within view of the public during the Dade battle. The overall goal is to have reenactors wearing correct “typical” clothing in their impression, not known incorrect or “could have had” items. At this point, no one can give a definitive treatise on authentic Seminole clothing of the Dade Battle. We do, however, know what is *believed* to be typical Seminole clothing of the period based upon extant examples and written documentation of the period as compiled and interpreted by a number of serious scholars on behalf of the Dade Battlefield Society.

There is some leniency herein to permit reenactors to wear items of a “not quite correct but acceptable appearance” as they work towards a more authentic wardrobe. For that reason, each listed type of item has three subcategories-- the goal for authentic reenactor portrayals, acceptable alternatives that can be used while working towards the goal and unacceptable items.

Those participants who have unacceptable items will still be permitted to participate in the battle but will be required to remain at the rear of the battlefield out of clear sight of the public at all times. Participants are also asked to refrain from interacting with the public outside of the battle if they are wearing unacceptable dress items.

**HEADCOVERINGS-** GOAL: 1830s Seminole style turban or, for the daring, dark hair which is cut in a southeastern native style (short to medium length, bangs, no side braids; preferably trimmed or worn so that the ears show and there is jaw length hair in front of the ears). Natural dark or white ostrich feathers and a silver turban band may be used. ACCEPTABLE: Other documented Creek headdress styles. UNACCEPTABLE: Visible modern haircut or light colored hair, cheap Halloween wigs, late 1800s/modern Seminole turban, extra-long feathers placed in an upright position which make it harder for the warrior to enter the battlefield unnoticed and stay hidden before the battle, and Plains or Woodlands style headdresses.

**FACIAL HAIR-** GOAL: Clean-shaven. ACCEPTABLE: Many Seminoles did have a thin mustache so this is OK. UNACCEPTABLE- Beard, mutton chop sideburns, “walrus” or “man chu” mustache.

**UPPER BODY CLOTHING-** GOAL: 1830s style Plain Shirt or trade shirt- loose pullover shirts made of vintage solid, calico, striped or paisley cotton prints plus, if desired, an 1830s pattern Seminole Long Shirt. ACCEPTABLE: Long hunter style wrap-around hunting shirt/ coat, 1830s civilian vest or coat, bare chest (if tanned- no lily white skin please). UNACCEPTABLE- fringed leather garment of a Plains or mountain man appearance, Colonial or Civil War style clothing.

**LOWER BODY CLOTHING-** GOAL: Tapered truncated point or triangular breechcloth, wool front-seam Seminole leggings with taped edging or natural “braintanned” leather leggings with side seam flaps. ACCEPTABLE: Bare legs. UNACCEPTABLE- fringed Plains style leggings, leather mountain man trousers, dark colored leather.

**FOOTWEAR-** GOAL: Seminole “swamp mocs” or bare feet. ACCEPTABLE: Woodlands center-seam mocs in natural colored leather with the flaps turned up, tied around the ankles and covered by Seminole style leggings. UNACCEPTABLE- Plains mocs, Apache boots, modern footwear.

**ACCOUTREMENTS AND OTHER-** GOAL AND ACCEPTABLE: For formal occasions, Seminoles of the period regularly wore some of the following- silver pendant earrings, silver armbands and wrist bands, 1 to 4 silver crescent gorgets, silk or cotton neck scarves in period prints, finger woven sashes and leg ties- in diamond or chevron patterns and especially with interwoven white beads, decorated Seminole bandoleer bags or “primitive” hunting bags and powder horns. Beadwork on bags, breechcloths or leggings should be of a documented Seminole or Creek style. Documentation also exists for trade rings (no stones), decorative brooches and nose rings. Smokers should use trade pipes. UNACCEPTABLE: Plains beadwork, cigarettes, mountain man “fur” pouches, modern jewelry, watches.

**FIREARMS-** GOAL: Flintlock long rifles or muskets are correct for the period. ACCEPTABLE: Carbine-length flintlocks, percussion long rifles. UNACCEPTABLE- Any post 1830s pattern such as modern hunting style black powder rifles, Civil War muskets and pistol-carbines, double barrel shotguns.

**OTHER ARMS-** GOAL: If desired, Eastern style tomahawks and period knives in Southeastern style sheaths were used. UNACCEPTABLE- Tomahawks or knives decorated in a Plains style, Bowie knives.

## **DRESS AND EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES FOR SOLDIERS**

**UNIFORMS--**The regular soldiers should be equipped with: M1825 or M1833 forage caps. The M1833 cap is preferred. Wearing no hat is acceptable. The M1839 cap is **not acceptable**. Uniforms should include gray or sky blue greatcoats (greatcoats need to be in evidence regardless of the weather), shell jackets (artillery yellow trim is preferred), sky blue trousers and fatigue jackets (**no summer whites**) and military brogans. Officers will wear the 1832 dark blue coat or the 1835 dark blue frock coat with shoulder straps with dark blue center & gold trim for artillery (shoulder strap centers did not vary in color to designated branch of service until later).

**ACCOUTREMENTS--**White buff cross belts, black leather cartridge boxes and bayonet scabbards are the needed accoutrements.

**WEAPONS--**Flintlock military muskets or rifles. Since some 50 soldiers were killed or wounded in the first volley and due to weather conditions during the battle, those interested reenactors having only appropriate trouser, shirts, greatcoats, and military shoes can participate by hiding their muskets beneath their greatcoats.