



SEMINOLE WARS

FOUNDATION, INC.

Founded 1992

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www.seminolewars.us

May 19, 2023

Mr. Ron Mosby, President
Fort King Heritage Foundation
1505 SE 43rd Avenue
Ocala, FL 34471

Dear Mr. Mosby,

The Seminole Wars Foundation has always shared a special relationship with Fort King. As far back as 1996 it was actively engaged in the process of preserving the Fort King property, and its members were among the concerned citizens who attended a 2001 public hearing conducted by the U.S. National Park Service. We were there in 2004 to welcome the newest National Historic Landmark; we were there in 2017 for the groundbreaking of the reconstructed fort, and have come back many times up to just last week for the dedication of the blacksmith shop for which we had given assistance for it to come to fruition.

More than three years ago, as a Fort King Heritage Association trustee, I offered the complete collection of books, research papers, primary-sources documents, an original Halls rifle and much more to FKHA and the Fort King site to help them off to a good start when ready to move into their much-anticipated new visitor center. All of us thought that we had more years to prepare for that move, but recent events have compelled the SWF to speed up the potential transfer of all our materials, if so approved.

I have been asked to respond to a series of important questions as follows.

- Date that all materials have to be removed from the present location:
The total of our collection must be removed by July 31, 2023. If possible, we would like to begin some transfers during June.
- Approximate square footage area needed.
Bookcases, if lined up on a wall, need 34 linear feet; footprint=188 sq. ft.
Map case footprint = 12 sq. ft.
Filing cabinets on a wall require 7.5 linear feet; footprint = 28 sq. ft.
- Does all the collection need to be in a climate controlled area?
Ideally, yes. Some files, however, may be able to come through relatively unscathed in an untreated atmosphere if their cabinets remain closed.

The Seminole Wars Foundation, Inc., a not for profit corporation, is dedicated to public education about the Seminole Wars, the preservation of historic sites, and the publication of material relevant to the Wars.

- Anything that may be of high dollar value?
Mostly, no. There are a few rare treatises and other items valued up to approximately \$500, including an original Halls rifle.
- Has any of the collection been categorized or inventoried?
Yes. Our entire library has been categorized in the Dewey system.
- Are there any special storage needs for the materials? For example, acid free storage folders for photos?
Some books are in poor condition, and we have acquired special container boxes in which to house them.
- Does the entire collection belong to the SWF? Is anything on loan to SWF?
SWF is the sole owner of all items indicated for transport to Fort King.
- What other information can you provide us?
We have some antique yet serviceable wooden furniture that may be covered and stored in the garage. There is an adult male mannequin in 2nd Seminole War uniform. We also have a few Seminole-related ephemera items such as comic books, toys, tourist souvenirs and posters.

I hope that this information provides you with a comprehensive picture of what we have to offer to Fort King, and all of our foundation board members are grateful for any help you can provide in our time of need.

Respectfully,

Steven F. Rinck
Steven F. Rinck, President

