



PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

Rebecca Fell
Curator of Exhibits
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
863-902-1113 x 12251

Carrie Dilley
Visitor Services and Development Manager
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
863-902-1113 x12211

Struggle for Survival, 1817 – 1858
The War Years and How the Seminoles Became Unconquered

On December 14th, 2015, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum opened its newest exhibition, *Struggle for Survival, 1817 – 1858*. Often called the Seminole Wars or Florida Wars, the years of 1817 – 1858 are recounted by many Seminoles as one long war of resistance. The Seminoles wanted to live on their chosen lands and not move west under the Indian Removal Act of 1830. This exhibition will explore the tactics the Seminoles used to fight the U.S. government and the tools they needed to survive in the hidden Everglades hammocks. Oral histories of the stories and traditions passed on from the war years provide the Seminole voice to a history largely written by U.S troops.

Although the U.S. government had some success in removing Seminoles to Indian Territory out west, many remained in their Florida home. At the end of the war years, no treaties were signed. Those surviving in Florida viewed this as a victory. More importantly, all Seminoles, including those forced to Oklahoma, went on to thrive by retaining their culture and dignity. The Seminoles represent an important voice for Tribal sovereignty throughout Indian Country today.

This exhibit explores the struggles faced during the war years to help exemplify the strength of the Seminole people today. This exhibition will also feature the Buckskin Declaration, which was presented to President Eisenhower in 1954. This document is a declaration of sovereignty and the right of the Seminoles to live their lives as they see culturally fit.

Please join us for an exhibition reception on January 16th, 2016 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

About the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is owned and operated by the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Situated in the Everglades on a 66-acre cypress dome on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation, the Museum offers more than 5,000 square feet of gallery space. Exhibits feature rare artifacts and lifelike dioramas that depict Seminole life at the turn of the century. In 2009, the Museum became the first tribally governed museum to be accredited by the American Association of Museums. Open seven days a week from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., the museum is located 18 miles north of Interstate 75 at Exit 49. For more information, visit www.ahtahtiki.com or call 877-902-1113.