



SINCE 1977

Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

41 YEARS OF PROMOTING FLORIDA'S RICH HERITAGE
CGCAS IS A CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

| OCTOBER 2019 |

Thursday, October 17th, 7pm

Adventures in Downtown Tampa Archaeology- The Lost Fort Brooke Cemetery and 100-Year-Old Love Letters to the Steamer Gopher

Eric Prendergast, MA RPA, Senior Staff Archaeologist, Cardno



Almost everywhere you dig in southern downtown Tampa, near the water front, there are some remains from the infamous military installation that gave rise to the town of Tampa in the early 1800s. It has long been known that Fort Brooke had two cemeteries, but only one of them was ever found and excavated in the 1980s. Recent excavations across downtown Tampa have focused on the hunt for the second lost cemetery, among many other components of the fort. While testing the model designed to locate the cemetery, a sealed jar was discovered, crammed full of letters written in 1916. The letters were mailed to someone aboard C. B. Moore's steamer *Gopher*, while the ship completed its 1916 expedition on the Mississippi River. What were they doing buried in a parking lot in Tampa?

Eric is a transplant from the northeast who has only lived in Tampa since 2012, when he came to graduate school at USF. Since then he has worked in CRM and has recently served as Principal Investigator for major excavations in Downtown Tampa and for the Zion Cemetery Project, Robles Park Village.

The monthly CGCAS Archaeology Lecture series is sponsored by the Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education (AWIARE) and held at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center in St Petersburg. All talks are free and open to the public. Registration is not required, but to RSVP please go to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CGCASflorida or to the Weedon Island Eventbrite page: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/weedon-island-preserve-cultural-and-natural-history-center-1250121017>

Mark Your Calendar for our Upcoming Speaker!



Thursday, November 21st, 7pm

Title TBA

Jessi Halligan, PhD

Associate Professor, Florida State University

Dr. Jessi Halligan is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology, with specializations in geoarchaeology and underwater archaeology. She is anthropologically-trained archaeologist with a focus upon the initial peopling of the Americas through her active research program in submerged Paleoindian sites in Florida. Her dissertation discussed the geoarchaeological context of submerged Paleoindian sites in the Aucilla River of Florida, focusing upon landscape reconstruction over the past 15,000 years and human usage of the area during this time. Dr. Halligan has been actively involved in new investigations at the Page-Ladson site along with several collaborators and conducted extensive underwater and terrestrial survey and site evaluations of the surrounding area, with field schools involving both underwater and terrestrial components.



CGCAS Student Member Spotlight: Shana Boyer

By: Jaime Rogers

Shana Boyer, an MA student at the University of South Florida, is this month's student spotlight. Shana has been a CGCAS member for about a year and a half and is currently working at Gamble Plantation in Ellenton, Florida. Her thesis research examines the ceramic and macrobotanical remains left behind in a privy feature by people living on the Florida frontier in the mid-1800s to early 1900s. By incorporating methods like floatation, she is able to recover carbonized seed and plant remains, which provide insights into food options and the general health of the people living at Gamble.

Additionally, she studies the stylistic motifs of the ceramics. The designs help better define the timeline of the occupation at the plantation, based on their range of popularity. She adds that the designs also express stories of affluence at Gamble. The plantation itself is impressive and is the only remaining antebellum plantation that sports columns typical of Greek revival architecture in all of Florida. Shana shares that her favorite find to date is a small ceramic cream or sugar container from a child's play tea set because it really drives home the fact that people came to Florida at a time when it was a pretty harsh place to live in, put down roots, and started families. She first became interested in Gamble Plantation while attending a field school there with Dr. Diane Wallman of USF. Shana became enamored with the history of the site and how the past was being presented to the public in the present.



General Announcements

- CGCAS Shirts will be on sale at our monthly lecture and meeting at the Weedon Island Preserve so be sure to snag one for yourself before they are all gone.
- Mark Your Calendar! CGCAS Holiday Party, Saturday December 11. Board meeting at 11am and Party starts at Noon. Bring a dish to share and a wrapped present for the White Elephant Gift Exchange.
- Upcoming CGCAS Fieldtrip: We are starting to plan our next fieldtrip to the Lake Wales area to see Bok Tower and some other local sites. Stay tuned for more information in upcoming newsletters.
- CGCAS Board meetings are always the second Thursday of the month, the week before our lecture, at 6:30pm at the Paneral Bread at 2285 Ulmerton Road. All members are welcome to attend our Board meetings

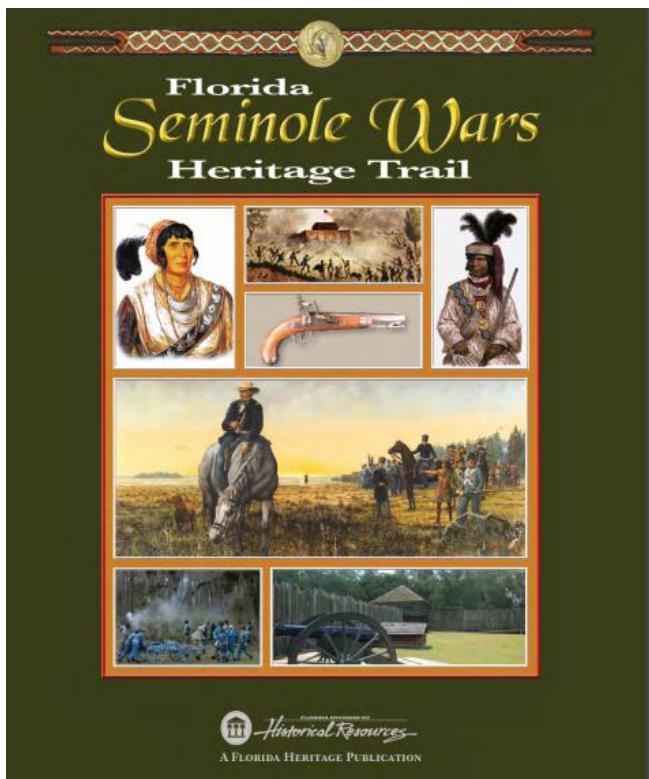
Seminole Wars Heritage Trail

By: *Seminole Wars Foundation*

No matter where you travel in Florida, the legacy of the Seminole Indian Wars is never far away. Stay in one of the state's major cities, and you're probably in a community that sprang up around a military installation from the Seminole Wars. Pass through Osceola County or Dade City, and you are in a place named in honor of one of the wars' many tragic heroes. When you drive along a modern highway such as US 301 from Tampa to Ocala or Military Trail in Palm Beach and Broward Counties, you're retracing a path originally made by soldiers invading what was then a very inhospitable land.

These wars were significant events, not just for Florida, but for the nation as a whole. For historians, there were three Seminole Wars, 1817-1818, 1835-1842, and 1855-1858. For the Seminole people, it was a continual 40-year struggle to remain in their ancestral homeland. Consider these statistics from just the Second Seminole War: it was the longest of all the Indian Wars, lasting almost seven years and forcibly removing over 3,000 Seminole from Florida. It cost roughly \$30 million, at

a time when the annual federal budget was only about \$25 million. During one campaign, half the entire US Army was engaged in the war, aided by thousands of volunteers from as far away as Missouri. The army's top four generals all served in Florida, and all left with their reputations diminished. It was the only Indian war where the US Navy played a significant role, and the only Indian War where slavery was a major cause of the fighting. Americans from all over the nation followed and debated these wars, just as 21st Century Americans discuss the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Seminole Wars are a tale of heroic struggle and human endurance that lies just beneath the surface of modern-day Florida's exotic playgrounds and bustling cities and continues to exist in the heritage of today's Seminole people.



The 56-page Florida Seminole Wars Heritage Trail guidebook includes a background essay on the history of the Seminole Wars in Florida, a timeline of events, sidebars on related Florida topics, issues and individuals of the period, and a selected bibliography. It also includes information on battlefields, cemeteries, museum exhibits, monuments, historical markers, and other sites in Florida with direct links to the Seminole Wars. The Florida Seminole Wars Heritage Trail publication was produced by the Seminole Wars Foundation, Inc., with historic preservation grant support provided by the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources, assisted by the (Continued on page 7)

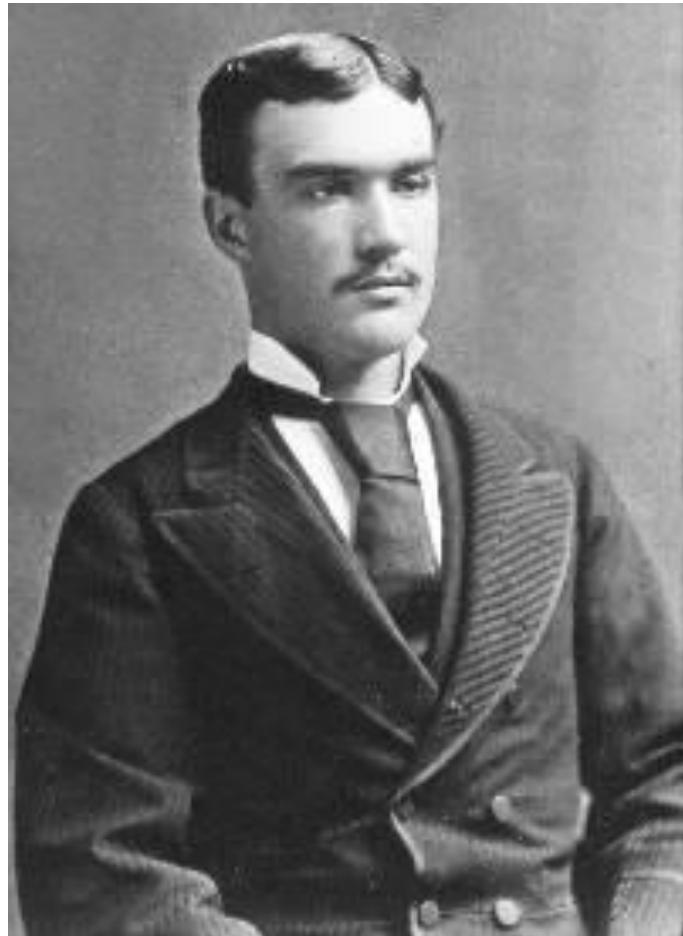
An Aptly Named Steamboat: Clarence B. Moore's Gopher

From an Article by: Charles E. Pearson, Thomas C. C. Birchett, and Richard A. Weinstein [Southeastern Archaeology, Vol. 19, No. 1 \(Summer 2000\), pp. 82-87](#)

Clarence Bloomfield Moore is one of the most important historical figures in American archaeology. Over a span of more than 30 years he traveled the southeastern United States excavating prehistoric mounds. For most of this period, he used the small sternwheel steamboat named *Gopher* to carry himself his crews, and his equipment. Much has been written about Moore's work and his significance to southeastern archaeology, but little is known about the *Gopher*, which played such an important role in his endeavors. Relying on a variety of sources, the history of the *Gopher* is followed from its construction in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1895 to its loss in Tampa Bay in the late 1920s or early 1930s. The evidence reveals that Moore had the *Gopher* built specifically to accommodate his travels on the waterways of the Southeast in search of mounds.

Moore had the boat built to his specifications in Jacksonville, Florida late in the summer of 1895. The name Gopher, which he chose, was particularly apt in light of Moore's intention to use the steamboat to travel across the Southeast digging Indian mounds. The rather amusing name tends to dispel the commonly held image of Moore as a stodgy and humorless character. In fact, it seems likely that the boat was names for the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus Polypheus*), that prodigious digger into the sand mounds of east Florida where Moore had been working.

Moore's standard practice was to start his field seasons in late fall and continue through spring, then return to Philadelphia with his finds. Over the summer he would study, photograph, and draw the recovered artifacts, and prepare a report for publication. Thus, in late October 1895, the *Gopher* was readied in time for the upcoming field season. Moore had finished his work along the St. Johns River and with his new steamer he proceeded northward to continue his explorations in a new area, the Georgia coast. C. B. Moore used the *Gopher* in his southeastern expeditions for the next quarter century. His daily activities are chronicled in his logs and field notes, now archived at the Huntington Free Library, Bronx, New York, as well as in various publications, particularly those of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. George W. Rossignol and J. S. Raybon seem to have been the principal captains of the *Gopher* over the entire time Moore owned the steamer (1895-1926). However, other captains served on the vessel for short periods. In addition to a captain, the *Gopher* carried a crew of four to six persons (United States Department of Commerce and Labor 1903, 1924), who operated the steamer and cared for Moore and other passengers. During the field season, an additional ten or more men on board served as Moore's digging crew.



LEFT: Photo of C. B. Moore as a young man.



ABOVE: . The Gopher on the Tombigbee River at Columbus, Mississippi, in 1901((photograph courtesy of Vernon James Knight, from the collections of the Lowndes-Columbus Public Library, Columbus, Mississippi).

At the end of each field season, Moore either left the Gopher where he had been working or sent it on ahead to his next destination under the care of one of the short-term captains. Some years he laid up the *Gopher* during the off season on the Hillsborough River just outside of Tampa, Florida (Tampa Tribune, October 9, 1955), specifically at Sulphur Springs., a popular resort that catered to a wealthy clientele around the turn of the twentieth century.

Having taken the *Gopher* on almost every river of consequence in the southern United States, Moore was still using the little steamer in 1918 when he finished the last of his major field projects, on the Apalachicola and Flint rivers and along the northwest coast of Florida. He still had the Gopher with him as late as 1920 when he undertook some additional work along the Florida west coast. But that minor project marked the end of Clarence Moore's field investigations, and also ended his need for the *Gopher* as a vessel of exploration. Nevertheless, he kept the steamer for several additional years until he sold it in 1926 to Tampa businessman Charles Smith. Whatever happened to *Gopher*, it remains the most important steamboat in southeastern prehistory.

TO HUNT FOR SKULLS

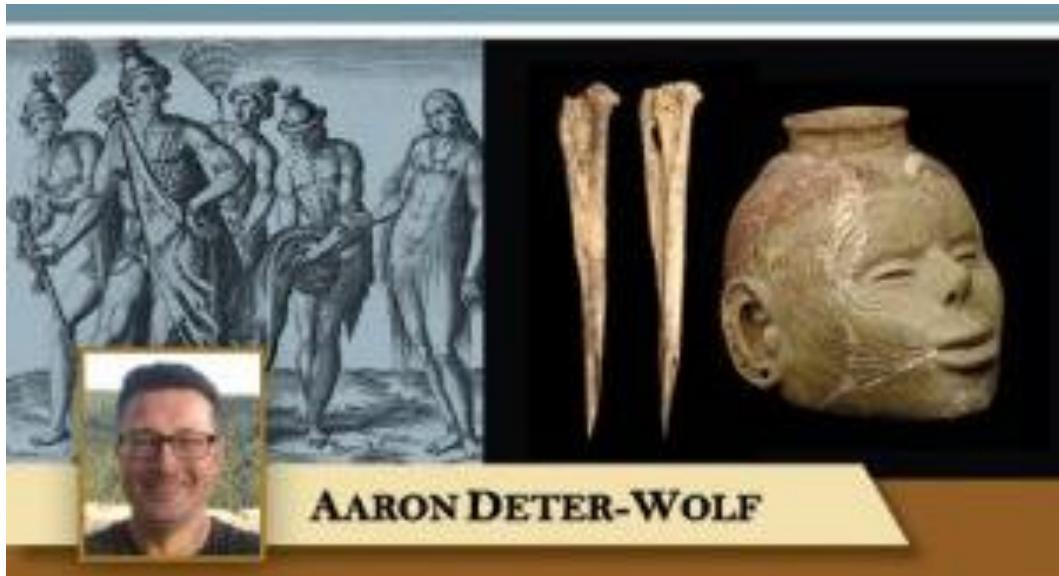
And Other Relics of the Mound Builders.

SUCH IS THE GOPHER'S MISSION

Archaeologist Moore's New Steamer Launched.

GLIDED TO THE WATER BEAUTIFULLY

The Boat Was Built by the Morris-Stevens Engineering Company and Reflects Credit Upon That Firm.



Archaeology Talk Underground Ink: Tattoo Archaeology

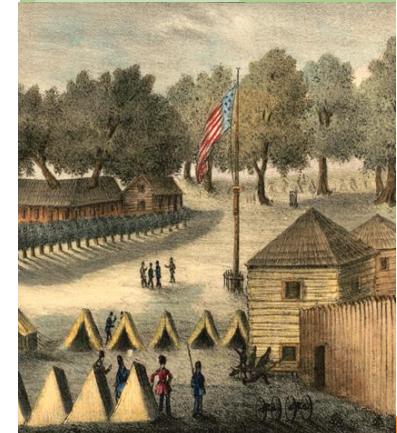
WHEN: Saturday, October 19th

6:30 to 8:00pm

WHERE: Historic Andrews Chapel
1899 San Mateo Dr, Dunedin

Dig into the exciting discoveries of early tattoo culture with Aaron Deter-Wolf, author and Prehistoric Archaeologist, Tennessee Division of Archaeology. Despite the growing popularity of tattoos, with nearly half of Americans under age 30 now sporting at least one, contemporary tattoo culture is only a minor aspect of a global tradition that spans at least 5,000 years. Until recently, tattooing was largely overlooked by archaeologists and historians. Archaeologist Aaron Deter-Wolf talks about the archaeological study of tattooing in North America and beyond. Aaron is co-editor of the volumes Drawing with Great Needles: Ancient Tattoo Traditions of North America and Ancient Ink: The Archaeology of Tattooing, and in 2016 appeared in a NOVA documentary discussing the world's oldest tattoos on the mummy known as Ötzi. His research focuses on the material culture of ancient tattooing, and earlier this year he was part of the team that identified a 2,000-year-old cactus spine tattoo tool from Utah. \$10/Museum Members; \$15/non-members. Buy your tickets online at DunedinMuseum.org or at The Station Shoppe.

UPCOMING EVENTS!



**Downtown Tampa Walking Tour:
Archaeology of Fort Brooke**

Friday, Oct 18, Noon - 1

Poe Plaza, N Franklin and Jackson Sts, Tampa

Today the southern portion of downtown Tampa is undergoing major re-development, but not many people know this area set the stage for the development of Tampa as we know it.

Join Do the Local Motion and guest tour guide, Rebecca O'Sullivan M.A. RPA Public Archaeology Coordinator, FPAN West Central, University of South Florida Department of Anthropology, for a tour of Fort Brooke, Tampa's original "downtown development" established in 1824, through the archaeological discoveries made in the area.

\$5 suggested donation

Seminole Wars Heritage Trail (cont. from pg 3)

Florida Historical Commission. For more information about the Seminole Wars Foundation, visit seminolewars.org or to download a free copy of this guide go to: <https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/preservation/heritage-trails/seminole-wars-heritage-trail/>

Here are a few places related to the Seminole Wars you can visit around the Tampa Bay area:

Fort Cooper State Park

3100 S Old Floral City Road
Inverness, Citrus County

In April 1836 General Winfield Scott ordered a force of approximately 300 Georgia Volunteers to erect a fort on this site. The fort was held under siege for over two weeks before being relieved. The park features a kiosk detailing the history of the local Indians, the fort, and the Seminole War.

Floridastateparks.org/park/Fort-Cooper



Battle Reenactment at Fort Cooper State Park, Inverness.

Oaklawn Cemetery

E. Harrison & N. Morgan Streets, Tampa

Just west of the Sexton House within the cemetery you will find a marker to soldiers from Fort Brooke. Remains from the Fort Brooke Cemetery were discovered in the 1980s in downtown during construction of what is now the Fort Brooke parking garage, then reinterred in this cemetery.



Egmont Key State Park

Accessible by boat and regular ferry service from Fort DeSoto Park in Pinellas County.

The island was used as the final detention center and prisoner camp for Seminole who were awaiting transport to the West during the Third Seminole War. A small cemetery contains the remains of those who died while awaiting transport.

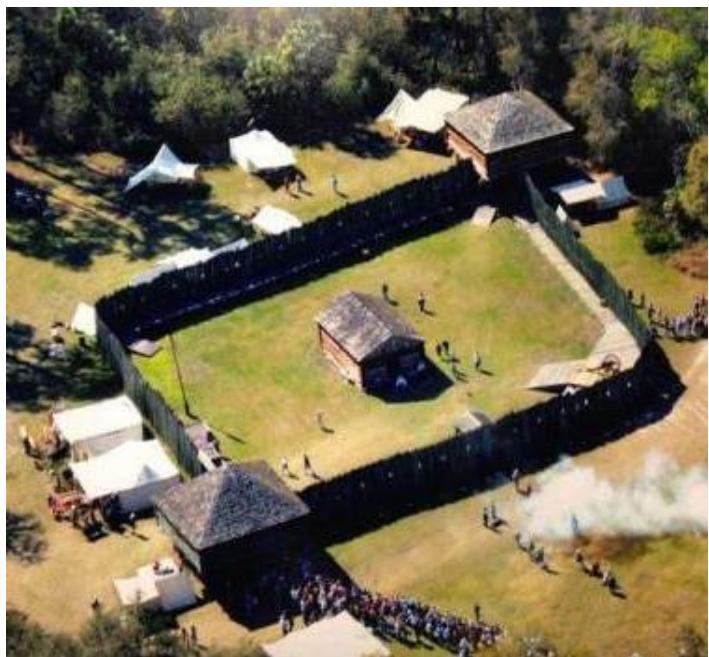
Floridastateparks.org/park/Egmont-Key

Fort Foster at Hillsborough River State Park

15402 US 301 North, Thonotosassa

A fully reconstructed fort from the Second Seminole War. Tours with guides are held on Saturdays at 10:00am and 4:00pm, and Sundays at 11:00am. Not open to the public at other times, except for special events. There is also a display of artifacts from the fort in the park's interpretive center.

Floridastateparks.org/park/Hillsborough-River



Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society Board

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The Society

The Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society (CGCAS) is an association of amateur and professional archaeologists and concerned citizens dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Florida's great cultural heritage. CGCAS is a chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) and is a state chartered non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

Membership

Membership is open to anyone with a sincere interest in the cultural past of Florida and who is dedicated to the understanding and preservation of that heritage. Amateurs, professionals and concerned citizens are welcomed as members. Membership is yearly and all dues are payable in January. Contact Kassie Kemp at kkemp@mail.usf.edu for more information.

Dues

Individual	\$25.00
Student	\$12.00
Family	\$30.00

Contact Us

You can find us online at the links below:

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