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Rewriting History: One Discovery at Time

Alexander Matos

Evolution is a one-hundred and fifty seven year old inconvertible fact that explains how living organisms developed and diversified from earlier forms during the history of the earth. However, what if there was a concealed species that was either lost, destroyed, or forgotten, that can possibly rewrite the history of evolution? Out of nearly every ancient civilization's culture, there has been various archeological evidence supporting the theory of the existence of human giants. These civilizations include, the ancient Greeks, Egyptians, South Sea Islanders, the Hindus, and the American Indians.

On May 4th, 1912, the New York Times newspaper released an article addressing the discovery of eighteen anonymous giant skeletons during the excavation of a mound at Lake Delavan, Wisconsin. According to the New York Times article, the heads of the skeletons were significantly larger than any previous race recorded to inhabit America. In addition to the physical differences, the teeth in front of the jawbone were all molars, the posterior of the heads sloped back, and the length of the nasal cavities surpassed their cheek bones. The archeologists reported the skeletons having six fingers, six toes, and a second row of teeth. In order to prevent water from building up on the skeleton's body, baked clay was placed on top of the skeleton; which absorbed runoff water from the earth's surface. As a result of the archeological analysis of the skeletons, archeologists claimed that the facial structures resembled similarities to a monkey's because their jaw bones were exceedingly long and pointed.

Despite the discovery of this unknown human-like species, there are still skeptics trying to disprove the possibility of human giants. If an educated guess were to be made, one of the explanations for people rejecting the theory, would be due to religious reasons. However, the topic of giants did not originate during the nineteenth century, the topic of giants retrogrades to biblical times. Within the Old Testament of the Bible, there is a quote that admits to the existence of human-like giants. Bible scripture Genesis 6:4 states, "there are giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old men of renown". Not only are giants mentioned in the bible, but also in other religious texts, such as, the Hebrew bible. Within the Hebrew bible, there are numerous references referring to "Nephilim", which translates to giants.

Another religious text that acknowledges the existence of giants, is the “book of Enoch”, which was one of the pseudepigraph texts that was written before Jesus Christ; it included names that translated to giants, such as, Anakim (race of giants, descendants of Nephilim), and Zophim (watchers, and or angels). According to www.sherry.com, the book Enoch consisted of several sections that explained the reason for giants roaming the earth. It reveals that God sent the “watchers” (known as fallen angels) to watch over humankind and to teach them the necessities to live. However, the angels began teaching mortals’ information that was beyond their time. As a result, humankind, with the help of angels (who were of gigantic size) were able to create life’s seven wonders, such as, the great “pyramids of Egypt”. The watchers quickly became lustful over mortal women, and impregnated them. Mortals viewed the watchers as “Gods”; which provided archeologist’s reason to speculate how the Egyptians constructed multiple 45 feet tall pyramids, over a twenty year period; when each pyramid was comprised of approximately 2.4 million stone bricks that individually weighed up to 2.5 tons. Furthermore, mortal women began having supernatural offspring’s in a corrupt world. The only person who was not tainted by the fallen angels, was Noah and animals. God wanted to start life over again, so he sent a flood to wipe out the human race. In addition, God saved Noah and his family by warning him to build an arch. Despite this being a mere theory, the idea that multiple religions (differing between time periods) contain various religious texts that acknowledge the existence of giants, provides paleontologists reason to formulate a well-supported speculation on the authenticity of the theory. Just like the skeletons discovered at the excavation of Lake Delavan, Wisconsin, the book of Enoch described giants as having the same physiological characteristics, such as, having “six fingers, 6 toes, and a second row of teeth.” However, the only difference is that the book of Enoch described the giants as being blood thirsty. The Christian bible not only admits to the existence of giants, but it also described them as being supernaturally tall. In the notorious story of David killing Goliath in the Christian Bible, the scripture mentioned that the height of Goliath was “six cubits and a span” (which is 9ft, 9inches).

A possibility for skeptic’s denying the existence of giants can be due to the constant reoccurring of forged photos on the internet. Ideally, it is highly difficult to accept the authenticity of a subject when it is continuously being proved to be inaccurate. In addition, there is a preconceived notion that everything that is not a government regulated website on the internet is unreliable. However, the question should not be “how reliable are nonregulated websites?” but rather “why is the archeological evidence on the existence of giants not discussed on government websites?” Another reason for skeptics attempting to disprove the existence of giants is because of the myth that bones expand under cold temperatures. Dr. Greg Little, a

psychologist, author, and experienced archeological explorer, paleontologists (that he has worked with) have already proved through various tests that buried frozen bones not only shatter under immense cold temperatures, but they significantly shrink in size. Furthermore, as both the quantity and quality of archeological evidence on the existence of ancient giants continues to be discovered throughout the years, skeptics will continue to doubt. Gigantism, according to medicalplus.org, is a pituitary disorder that is caused by an excess of growth hormones. Skeptics have used gigantism to attempt to disprove the theory of supernatural giants for years. However, there has been too many archeological discoveries of giants to rely on an abnormality because gigantism affects 3 out of 1 million people. In addition, according to www.sot.net, the percentage of modern humans to reach a height of 7 feet due to gigantism is 0.000007. As a result of this discovery, Dr. Greg Little made the inference that the probability of earlier humans having a height of seven feet due to gigantism is significantly unlikely.

The absence of archeological evidence regarding giants on government websites brings forth allegations of suppressed history. A few examples for suppressing the evidence of giants can include, government organizations strategically hiring people to circumvent the evidence by adding forged photos on the internet. As a result of placing altered material on the internet, it is inevitable that they are going to be disproved; therefore, there is going to be false stigma associated with the authenticity of the information being addressed. Due to the constant disproving of images on giants, I have reason to suggest that they were placed on the internet with the intent of being discovered. Other conspiracies include, the protection of the theory of evolution. If the government were to admit to the existence of giants to the media, then the theory of evolution would be significantly altered. As a result, text books, religious texts, profits, and ancient cave drawings would require reasonable explanations.

In 1870, Oil City Times Magazine released an article titled "The Cardiff Giant Outdone: Alleged Discovery of a Giant in the Oil Regions." According to the report, the skeleton's teeth were "in double rows, remarkably white, and of extraordinary size. In addition, in Ross County, Columbus Ohio, a 39 pound axe head was discovered; the normal size of a standard axe (with the handle) is roughly five pounds. According to the Oil City Times, "it is too heavy for a man to handle effectively and (when connected to a handle) in a variety of ways, remains non-functional." As a result of this discovery, the question arises, "what kind of living creatures possessed the physical capability of handling immense tools?"

Fast forward to 1883, when the Smithsonian Museum ordered an archeological team to excavate fifty mounds in South Charleston, West Virginia. As a result of their immense digging, the team reported discovering seven-foot-six inches tall skeletons buried with six copper

bracelets on each wrist and three massive plates of mica (silica minerals) placed on each shoulder blade. Both these discoveries contain physiological similarities to several human-like giants discovered worldwide; one of which is the physiological structure of the cranium compared to ancient giant skeletons discovered in South Africa and Egypt. The skulls of the giants were exceptionally large in size as well as having low foreheads that sloped back.

As the years progressed, numerous magazine companies continued to publish articles about human-like giants, such as, the 1897 New York Times article addressing a 9 foot skeleton in Maple Creek, Wisconsin. Similar to the burial site in 1883, the Wisconsin giants were buried with several copper relics. Both Skeptics and iconic history museums, such as the Natural History Museum and the Smithsonian Museum, can refuse to accept the theory of the existence of giants, but they are unable to suppress the immense correlation between the physical characteristics of giants between various ancient burial sites across the globe.

In contrast to newsletter companies publishing articles regarding human-like giants, there has been concealed evidence of giants. In 1976, anthropological and archaeological discoveries were made beneath Cornea Village, Romania; also nicknamed, "Gallery 13". The amateur archaeologist, whose name is unknown, reported finding a skeleton that was 10 meters (32.8 ft.) tall. Thirty-six years later, in 2012, archeologists returned to the grave site, and after further excavation discovered approximately 900 pounds of gold was buried under the skeleton. According to www.ancient-origins.net, due to the enormous weight of the gold, it would have taken over twenty years of heavily mining with advance machinery to accumulate that amount of gold; let alone transport it during ancient times. During the excavation, a paleolinguist noticed a 13.1 feet deep pit with a mysterious purple light shining from its depth. After multiple failed attempts to get company to join him in search for the source of the violet light, he went alone; unfortunately, the paleolinguist never returned. As a result, the Romanian Army was ordered to the excavation site to seal off the pit with cement. When the burial site was first discovered, the skeleton was sent to Moscow for further investigation. As for the gold, the state was provided 31% (19 pieces of gold). Before the soldiers and archeologists left the burial site, they all had to sign confidentiality contracts. The skeleton from Cornea Village, was never heard from again.

Gene Quinn, a patent attorney, and founder of the IPWatchdog.com, (a national American Legal Blog) the purpose of a non-disclosure agreement is to secure a written mutual agreement, promising to maintain material conveyed in secrecy. If archaeological evidence regarding the existence of ancient giants is universally rejected by numerous scientists and museums, then why would the Romanian government require their soldiers and archeologists to sign confidentiality agreements? In addition, why was the skeleton from Cornea Village never

heard from when it was sent to Moscow?” Questions such as these create conspiracies of suppressed history.

Ed Brown, independent author of the website, www.dcxpolitical.com, the Smithsonian Museum collected the largest amount of human-like giants ever recorded in history; located in Ohio, North America. Due to the Smithsonian Museum being responsible for excavating the majority of enormous skeletons during the 1800's, that I have reason to suggest that they either suppressed or destroyed numerous archaeological artifacts supporting the existence of ancient giants. Whenever people conclude similar assumptions, they are viewed as being insane. Insanity by definition, is repeating the same action and expecting different results. After a thorough research on the subject, the only results I continue to discover, are archaeological evidence regarding ancient skeletons of enormous proportions. When it comes to the suppression of history, it is essential to ask questions and be open minded when analyzing multiple artifacts because history is like a gigantic puzzle. The borders (known evidence) must be constructed, then the inside pieces (unknown evidence) are collectively compiled and connected until it's complete. Skeptics are not wrong for doubting the existence of ancient giants. Without their questions, archaeologists would not have a motivation to place themselves in dangerous situations to reveal undiscovered, lost, or suppressed history to the world.

In 1882, a Native American tribe, called the Paiutes, began an oral tradition about a cannibalistic human-like giant race that once roamed the indigenous parts of Nevada, New Mexico. The tradition described the unfriendly giants as having red hair, and gray eyes. Due to giant's vicious behavior, the Paiutes tribe became allies with neighboring tribes and collaborated a plan to kill the giants. After the majority of the giants were killed in the area, the tribes chased the remaining giants into Lovelock Cave, where they asphyxiated them with fire. According to www.ancient-origins.net, an early 20th century archaeological team excavated a cave in Nevada, known as Lovelock Cave, or “Si-Te-Cah, and discovered ten-thousand ancient supernatural artifacts retrograding from 400 BC – 100 AD. These artifacts include, immense weapons, tools, baskets, a stone carved calendar and childish decoys, such as ducks with feathers still intact to them.

In 2012, a second excavation was performed, where archeologist, L.L. Loud, discovered a 15inch sandal and an abnormally large hand print of black soot on a rock. According to www.dictionary.com, soot is “a black powdery or flaky substance consisting largely of amorphous carbon, produced by incomplete burning of an organic material.” Lovelock cave is comprised of limestone; which is created when calcium Carbonate undergoes immense heat (approximately 1500 degrees Fahrenheit) and as a result, it forms Calcium Oxide. Skeptics

claim the soot originated from multiple campfires being ignited in the cave. However, due to calcium carbonate requiring 1500 degree temperature to have a chemical combustion and create calcium oxide, it is impossible for an average camp fire to reach a temperature that high. The Paiutes legend states that the tribes tossed several flaming spears into the cave. The accumulation of the flaming spears is more likely to be responsible for the soot on the rock and ceiling. Furthermore, after a thorough analysis of the hand print, MK Davis, one of the paranormal investigators who brought the handprint's attention to the media with a photograph, revealed the accurate proportional difference between an average size hand (placed on top of the handprint in the photograph) to a supernatural giants' handprint. According to Davis, the print reveals that "there is more pressure on the thenar eminence of the palm and first three fingers". Davis furthers his explanation on www.thetruthwins.com, revealing the scientific evidence that the amount of pressure distribution in the hand comes from immense pushing, pulling, or lifting. Due to the extensive dimensions of the handprint, scientists estimated the giant to be 18 feet tall. As a result, both the hand print from the soot and the calcium oxide on the ceiling, closely relates to the Paiutes oral tradition.

Incidentally, as a result of technological advancement of radiocarbon dating, archeologists were able to discover various human remains in Lovelock cave, such as, a human femur (dating back to 1450 BC), human muscle tissue (dating back to 1420 BC), vegetable material (dating back to 2030 BC), and a basket calendar (dating back to 1218 BC). The vegetable material gave archaeologists the ability to date the original occupation of Lovelock Cave to 1500 BC. They speculated that giants were living amongst natives in Nevada, New Mexico region for nearly three-thousand years prior to the Lovelock cave incident. According to the Paiutes Tribe's legend, the Lovelock cave giants were the last remaining giants to roam the earth.

After thorough research, I was unable to find any of the archaeological evidence previously mentioned on the Smithsonian Natural Museum of Natural History web site. Due to the plethora of archaeological evidence on ancient giants missing from numerous government regulated websites, I have reason to believe that it has been suppressed. Winston Churchill once said "history is written by the victor." This quote means that winners get to write their version of history. When it comes to suppressing history on the existence of ancient giants, who is considered the winner? Unfortunately, due to the immense cover up's throughout the centuries, there is no answer to this question. The only solution is to bring attention to archaeological evidence and not the evidence presented by the "winners" who rewrote history. Philip Guedalla, an iconic British barrister, historian, experienced traveler, and writer, once said

“history repeats itself, historians’ repeat each other.” In other words, in order to avoid being fooled by suppressed history, ask questions and analyze evidence because in the end, you get the final say in what to believe in. However, just because new evidence arises, does not mean that it was suppressed. Due to history constantly changing as more discoveries are made, archaeologists have the right to make a mistake; that is the beauty of history because you never know what you are going to find. New discoveries are made every day.

An example would be the new discovery of ancient African ancestors’. According to David Derbyshire, an independent author of the www.dailymail.com, released an article disclosing the discovery of a new ancient skeleton in Georgia. The article titled “Ancient Skeletons discovered in Georgia threaten to overturn the Theory of Evolution.” Archaeologist and professor, David Lordkipanidze located a skull retrograding to 1.8 million in Georgia; thus suggesting that our ancient African ancestors’ left Africa earlier than archaeologists believed. The skulls’ brain capacity consisted of 600 cubic centimeters, as opposed to history’s original inclination that it was 1,000 cubic centimeters. In addition, due to the skull being discovered near various pastures that contain numerous livestock, archaeologists have reason to believe that the new species were hunter-gathers, as well as meat eaters. After the discovery, archeologists now believe that Georgia is the place where the first African natives migrated.

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Giant Native American Theory (Rebuttal)

Catherine Runyan

For as long as homo sapiens have existed we have sought to understand the complexities of our world through art, verse, text, and scientific research. According to human beings, our earth has been flat, round, the center of the universe, and a small blue globe spinning continuously until our sun envelopes us in its final swan song. The sun has been a god, the moon a goddess, the earth a giant turtle shell, the night sky brought to us on the wings of a raven. We seek to give meaning to our lives and purpose to the things we have yet to understand. Famous examples of this, such as the mastodon skulls being proof of cyclops and megalodon teeth the petrified tongues of dragons have often been used to explain that which we do not yet have a scientific explanation.

Alex Matos' paper, *"Rewriting History: One Discovery at a Time"* delves into the age old legends of giant humans living simultaneously among our more common ancestors. Matos contends that archaeological evidence supports the theory of human giants in almost every ancient civilization. I would be greatly interested to see scientific reference to such evidence. He references an article published by the New York Times in May of 1912 purporting the finding of several skeletons of unusual physiology from a burial site in Wisconsin. Details are, of course, extremely vague and suggest a race of hominids unlike any other species we have seen along the human evolution spectrum. Where are these skeletons today? Therein lies the mystery. My own research on this particular subject shows multiple articles from the 1800s discussing numerous skeletal finds in various Indian mounds. Many of them suggest the skeletons are "of great stature" - the metrics are all quite vague. Hundreds of burial mounds have been excavated with varying degrees scientific diligence over time. Where the notion of giants comes from is likely a heady mix of animal bones and disarticulated skeletal remains from a variety of burial mounds misinterpreted by an amateur treasure hunter. In a particularly interesting article, apparently some

giant skeletons were found in a Colorado Desert along with the remains of elephants and tigers. I love a good mystery as much as anyone else, but truly these types of articles carry about as much credence as a *National Inquirer* headline. Matos asks, “*why is the archeological evidence on the existence of giants not discussed on government websites?*” The answer is simply that there is zero evidence from any reputable source that even remotely supports the notion that there were giant humans living in any abundance on our planet. While I realize this is the exact dismissive tone that conspiracy theorists love to use as proof that those of us in the scientific community, with degrees from reputable institutions and years of our own personal research, are simply in agreement with one another in one continuous academic hive mind, it simply cannot be stressed enough that without facts, we have nothing.

Matos spends considerable time discussing the Lovelock Cave. A famous archaeological site in Nevada, Lovelock cave is a former rock shelter that was occupied around 2000 B.C. Guano mining severely disrupted the site, disturbing the human remains and artifacts. The claims surrounding this particular site involve “giant” cannibals with red hair. The notion of this likely stems from a book written by Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins in 1882 titled, “Life Among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims.” Hopkins was a Paiute Native American woman who wrote about her ancestors fighting with a cannibalistic tribe who they eventually bested and killed in a cave overlooking the Humbolt River. You can read this book in its entirety at <http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/winnemucca/piutes/piutes.html>. No mention of giants.

But the question does remain, ‘where are these skeletal remains today?’ Unfortunately many remains were removed unceremoniously, sold prolifically to collectors and lost to time. Bones do not last well in an aerobic environment, especially in the presence of moisture. Basically, organic matter disintegrates if it not specially preserved. Sadly, many of the early burial mounds were not excavated with too much thought to their future study and preservation and were subsequently lost. Today, any new Native American burials discovered are immediately reported

to the associated tribal leaders as per NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act). Since NAGPRA took effect in late 1990, many Native American remains have found their way out of side shows and museum displays and returned to their descendants.

Matos offers up several reasons as to why the scientific community is skeptical of the notion of giant humans. One being for religious reasons, to which he notes many mentions of giants in biblical texts. This is not a valid scientific explanation for giants. Giants and space aliens have long been used as a way to explain how massive stone monuments, pyramids, crop circles, and geoglyphs were created for surely there was no way human beings were capable of such feats without the modern tools we use today. I find this to be dismissive of the ingenuity of the human spirit. Another reason is forged photos on the internet. People have been manipulating photos since the very inception of photography so I do not find the idea that we have been duped too often to be a valid explanation either. Matos also suggests that the government has hired people to create these forgeries to “circumvent the evidence”. Once again, please show evidence of this. Speculation is not a valid rebuttal of facts.

Another point that Matos makes is that the absence of the discussion of giant humans on “government websites”, and by this I assume he is referring to the Smithsonian. This is simply because, as I mentioned before, there is no scientific evidence of giant human beings. Mysterious accounts of skeletal remains aside, we simply do not have any other artifacts that would suggest giant humans were living among or prior to modern sized homo sapiens. Human beings are, and always have been enormous producers of trash. Their stone tools, baskets, pottery, cave drawings, and midden piles do not show evidence of tools that would have been required by humans of 12 to 15 feet or more. That in and of itself is enough for me.

In today’s climate of prolific Fake News and sensationalized headlines it is the responsibility of every individual to verify the veracity of their resources before they present any information to unsuspecting, and often eager, consumers. While the idea of giants roaming the

earth has a certain romantic awe that makes for good campfire storytelling and surely entertained people on chilly nights long before streaming digital media, these kinds of tales need to be cataloged with Nessie and Bigfoot.

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Second Seminole Indian War History Primer

Shaylen Vitale (editor)

How The Seminoles Came To Be

Many of you may have learned about the Seminoles the same way that I have, and that is from the FSU mascot being a Seminole and being curious about it. We are going to talk about it in the way that most people do not, and that will be about how they actually came together and who they really are.

The Seminoles are not actually a tribe of only Indians who are known as "Seminoles", they are actually a big group of refugees. During the eighteenth century, Oconeas, Sawoklis, and many other groups from the Lower Creek towns that are in today's Georgia and Alabama moved into northern Florida. Even the name Seminole has a good meaning explaining what they are, which is from the word seminola, meaning "wild." It carried the meaning of going somewhere to live in an

untamed area.

In the 19th century after the American Revolution, there was a lot of tension between the Seminoles and the American government. A lot of the Seminoles were looking towards Britain for help, but also the American settlers complained that the Seminole people provided refuge for runaway slaves and the Americans noticed wealth and had interest in the location the Seminoles were established. Indians and the Government made an agreement called the Indian Removal Act, which was a document written that the Native Americans in Florida would relocate to the Mississippi River. Unfortunately, some of the Seminoles didn't reach an agreement to leave the land. As you can see, friction was set to rise in conditions like this. There was actually some truth in this claim, that the Seminole people would house and provide refuge for the runaway slaves. This was seen because there were some black Seminoles that were slaves and some that lived in their own communities. Many of the Seminoles in this time fought in the Creek war on the side of the Red Stick faction of the Creeks. While their help was much needed and useful, the Indians that fought this war were defeated by Andrew Jackson and many of the Red Stick faction joined the Seminole people after.

Below is a personal account told from the Seminoles' perspective:

It was around eight 'o clock on the morning of December 28th. The Seminole tribe was occupying a rather small area, bordered by a pond. It was surrounded by tall grass, trees and brush that made a natural camouflage to disguise in. For the majority of them, they had been there for months but over the previous weeks the tribe had expanded as free blacks and escaped slaves settled near and formed an alliance with them. On this morning, they woke and carried out the normal duties in which each were responsible for. This included chores such as hunting, fishing and cooking. As for the chief, he was in charge of being on lookout for enemies.

As he made his way to the hideout in which he normally watched from, he noticed

something move across the pond behind the tall brush. Immediately, he sent out a warning by rifle for their army to prepare to fight. They were to grab all of the bows and arrows and minimal supply of guns that they had. While retrieving to the grounds where the rest of the army would take cover, he heard the first fire from the enemy on the other side of the pond. This was an official signal to commence the attack. The opposing army of men were positioned to the left and the Seminoles were arranged in a scattered semicircle. They knew what they were therefor . The white men wanted their slaves back whom had escaped and were in desperate route to enslave every negro man that they found in their voyage. Within minutes of the initial shots, the enemy discharged a cannon in their direction. Wounding and even killing many of the men, this set them back around half an hour.

As the chief approached closer to get a better look at the damage they had done, he saw around twelve of their men gathering the wounded troops. Among their wounded, it looked as though their Lieutenant had been severely injured. Their men gathered and began building a triangular stronghold of logs and other natural barriers. Before they could achieve a height any higher than two feet , the army of Indians engaged them again. As some of their men were able to remain protected behind their barrier, many were forced to fight outside of it. They then received another forty-nine shots from their canon. This again set them behind in battle but they remained relentless. The men of the tribe whom were the main targets, the negroes, became apprehensive about approaching the enemy. They had been years in escaping, and could be enslaved in minutes. Although fear embodied all of them, it is also what drove them.

After battling back and forth, at around four o ' clock the enemies became more and more sparse. A group of Indian's were sent to gather the white men 's belongings that had been left including weapons, clothes, food and material for building. They secured what they had gathered and began to recover to the Chickee 's, or their homes. For the remaining days they stood on guard in case of a sudden retaliation, but they were nowhere to be seen. It is hard to say whom

won that battle because of how many lives were lost on each side. Although, as far as the purpose for which those men came, the Seminoles triumphed. Not one single man was captured and enslaved again.

Throughout the next years, they continued to encounter these battles, eventually making them migrate further south into Florida. This war resulted in the relocation of 160 more Seminoles to the Indian Territory. The tension started to decrease and about 200 Seminoles remained in Florida. These Seminoles rebuilt their communities and became part of the economy and cultural development of Florida.

Battle of Wahoo Swamp

Almost 200 years ago, the Florida Seminoles were fighting with the Americans about what land they can live on and use. The American bullies were pushing the Indians to move away from Florida, to land far away from their home past the Mississippi river. But, why were the Seminoles not able to just stay and live in the area they have lived on for a very long time?

The Seminoles had to sign a contract with the American people that said that the Seminoles agree to move from their current territory to land west of Mississippi river. After the contract was signed, the struggling Seminoles and free blacks that lived with them, known as Maroons, became angry and planned an attack on the Americans because they argued that they signed the contract only because they were forced to; which is not fair because no one should be forced to do something they do not want to do. My thought is that the Seminoles should have not signed regardless of the situation because it is not legal to sign any contract or agreement under pressure. So, a couple days later the Seminoles and the black allies prepared for a battle against the army that was coming to them all to their new land.

When the battle was soon to begin, a man named Louis Pacheco decided to become a spy for the Indians and tell them about the army's destination and location. Then, on Christmas day of 1835 the American army began to march to their destination about 61 miles away to the North through tall grass and swamp land that was full of insects and deadly animals, such as poisonous snakes. The army finally arrived at Wahoo Swamp on December 28¹ and were surprise attacked by the Seminoles and their Maroon

allies, who were hiding among the pine trees with their rifles waiting for the Americans to enter the kill zone. The Indians killed Major Dade and half of his troops on the first surprise attack and then backed away from the battle for an hour; which gave the Americans the chance to build a triangular log wall for protection.

Once they decided to fight again, the battle continued and this time the Indians came charging with horses to fight off the American bullies once and for all. After savagely fighting for what they wanted and believed in, the Indians ended up killing all the Americans they could. It is even said from a letter that an Indian towards the end of the battle, at Wahoo Swamp, raised his gun and killed the last soldier he saw standing. Sadly, the Seminoles were not able to celebrate their victory yet because the Second Seminole War was just beginning.

The Battle of Loxahatchee

The battle of Loxahatchee took place in the second Seminole War, which is commonly referred to as the Florida War. This conflict went from 1835 to 1842 between a wide range of Native Americans who are collectively known as the Seminoles and the United States. Similar to other battles such as the battle of Okeechobee, the Seminoles had a choice of battlefield and they used this to their full advantage to beat the Americans. They often used very steep hills and swamps to hide in to gain an element of surprise over their rivals. The Seminoles used this tactic very well in the battle of Loxacatchee as they placed themselves southeast on the river forcing Jesup's soldiers to head towards the swamp which was over half a mile wide and extremely difficult to cross. Once the soldiers had crossed the on going swamp, they quickly found themselves surrounded by gunfire from the Seminoles sometimes at a very close range.

Over time the Seminoles eventually faded away causing the battle of Loxacatchee to be over with them having caused more casualties than they had received. Once the fighting had died down in February 2 of the Seminole chiefs, Tuskegee and Hillock Hadjo approached the troop leader Jesup with the idea of stopping the fighting in return of being allowed to make residence in south of Lake Okeechobe. Surprisingly he seemed to be a fan of the idea but had to contact Washington before it could be cleared.

Thomas Sidney Jesup was the General of the troops in the Battle of Laxohatchee. He had a very

bad reputation with the Seminoles as he violated terms of a truce just so he could capture 2 of the Seminole leaders Osceola and Micanopy. He was also very well known for saying that the country of America would benefit greatly if they were to fully exterminate them.

The Treaty of Moultrie Creek

On September 21st 1823, approximately 425 of us Seminole Indians slowly made our way across Florida's jungle -like terrain towards the meeting spot with the white man. The so-called, American government, had asked to come together to discuss negotiations which involved relocating our entire population from our homeland. The meeting spot was at Moultrie Creek, in what the white man would call St. Augustine. We chose Chief Neamathla, a prominent Mikasuki chief, to be our representative.

Neamathla stood tall and proud, wearing typical Seminole chief attire. He had his signature red head wrap with a red and white shawl that covered the shoulders of his thick blue long sleeved shirt that complimented his dark complexion, which contrasted greatly with the complexion of the white men. The US government's new territorial governor, William F. Duval was there to greet Chief Neamathla, who stood outside the house. The tension and anticipation we felt waiting outside in Florida's burning sun was great. Duval was dressed in his typical long black coat with a white button down shirt and tie, and his white hair neatly combed to the side. Typical white man clothing. Duval and Chief Neamathla sat down and Duval urged Chief Neamathla to move us all onto a 4-million-acre reservation in the center of Florida.

With much back and forth from each side, it was determined that we would be moved into this landlocked reservation. Only because the American government was supposed to distribute farm animals such as cattle and pigs to us, pay us for travel and losses involved in

relocating to the reservation, and provide food rations for a year, until we could plant and harvest new crops. The government was also supposed to pay the tribe 5,000 dollars per year for twenty years and provide an interpreter, a school and a blacksmith for twenty years. In turn, we had to allow roads to be built across the reservation and had to apprehend and return over to the white man any runaway slaves or other fugitives.

The trip across the other side of the Apalachicola River away from the land we had known for centuries was long and hard for many fellow Seminoles since there were thousands of us, also including the sick and the elderly. Along with that each family had to bring all of our possessions, which made the trip long and hard to maneuver our wagons across Florida's tropical terrain. Upon making our arrival to our new home, many of our brave soldiers had a hard time. Upon making it to their new home, several Seminole militants had a hard time being confined to their new reservation, since they were used to the freedom of roaming and hunting on our homeland. Along with that, we were now on landlocked land, meaning that we could not have any access to the ocean. Many small fights broke out between nearby the white men and other Seminoles. The amount of tension between us all was incredible. On top of that, the government was not able to provide food for all of us and could not effectively secure the borders of the reservation.

Because the government couldn't provide the us with food, often times many of us would go outside of their reservation on horses or on foot, onto white settled land so that we could find food to feed our families. Every day we would become more upset and angry that the land that we had been promised as prosperous hunting grounds fell short. The land that they had been brought to was partly habitable, but other parts were marshy and inadequate for hunting and

living.

Worried that the we would revolt against the American government for their inability to keep up the end of their agreement, the government then asked if we would meet again to discuss a treaty that would later be called the Treaty of Payne's Landing. Each treaty however, restricted our rights more and more.

Winfield Scott

Winfield Scott was born in the late 1700s. Throughout his life he fought in many conflicts and saw dozens of battlegrounds. He was certainly a seasoned man when it came to war. Winfield had many victories in both, the War of 1812, and the Blackhawk War, but soon he would face a new opponent, one that was nearly impossible to fight.

It was in the early 19th century President Andrew Jackson's anti-Indian campaign started; the first target was the Cherokees, and Winfield so happened to be the man put in charge. Jackson was a powerful political figure that was nothing short of brutal and determined. Jackson tended to bully anyone around him and forced Scott to work tirelessly and consistently put in numerous hours to form plans to battle the Indians. This was all in in a selfish attempt to move them off their landsfor Jackson's relocation purposes. Winfield gathered many thousands of men. His offensives against the Cherokee were brutally effective; his group of men rounded the natives up and put them into nasty and gross camps. These camps were infectedwith all sorts of diseases, and the Cherokee were fed only rancid meat often crawling with maggots and infestation. Many poor Indian men, women and children passed away in these camps, but it wasn't entirely Winfield's fault. Winfield was forced by his bosses to do these horrible things. Later

when he was forced to remove the natives Winfield protested, but was bullied once again by his superiors. Andrew Jackson and his supporters were ruthless and ordered Winfield to do these heartless acts, or suffer the consequences.

After the situation with the Cherokee Indians was over, Winfield faced a new problem; he was ordered to attack the Seminole Indians. The Seminoles were a tribe right here in Florida and certainly wanted anything but violence. Negotiations with the Seminoles were attempted but failed due to Jackson's extremist demands. It basically came down to two options for the Seminoles, face invasion or be forced off like the Cherokees. Winfield once again had no choice when it came to combatting the Seminoles, and soon began preparing for the invasion. He rounded up his men and started drawing up plans. He pondered many ways to attack the Seminoles but finally rested on a three-pronged attack. He would have three groups of soldiers that would all attack at the same time from all around where he thought the Seminoles were.

When the day finally arrived for the brutal invasion, Winfield's men rushed into the Seminole lands. The target was Lake Tsala Apopka. They charged right into the swamp with its lush saw grass, deep water and vast greenery. The troops were fully equipped, and armed to the teeth. They were ready for war. Everything was going great; but there were two major issues. First, Mother Nature was savage. The soldiers had to be weary of the intense heat, ripping saw grass, and all too deadly wildlife. Any step could be next to a rattlesnake or a viscous gator. The second problem was they were gone. The Seminoles had seemed to vanish. They were smart, they hid in the swamps and forests of Florida and with their knowledge of the area they knew all the best hiding places. They used the water, saw grass and vegetation to disappear without a trace. Also, Winfield couldn't bring his massive army directly into the swamps because there were simply too many men to keep track of. In the end the attack was called off, the men didn't take this

well, all that preparation and no battle was extremely disappointing to most of them. Later that evening Winfield luckily was relieved from the assault on the Seminoles, and relocated to a new war zone.

Later on in life, Winfield tried to become president despite his military successes his political dream never came true. Instead other war heroes that Winfield fought next to, *like Zachary Taylor* stole the presidency from him. Perhaps it was due to the failure to invade the Seminoles, or maybe it was simply not meant to be. We will truly never know, but what we do know is that Winfield Scott tried to hinder the Indian Wars, but was bullied and pushed down by President Jackson. Winfield was merely in the wrong place at the wrong time, while Jackson was actually the true orchestrator of evil.

The Blast That Shook Florida

The year was 1815. America and Britain had just settled the War of 1812. Many natives, much like Mud-covered-Face, had fought for the British against the Americans. He was a war leader in within the Seminole Indians. The natives and many African Americans fought alongside the British because of Britain's promises to provide land, freedom, and protection for those who fought in the war. He and his warriors settled in a fort in the panhandle of Florida in the Spanish territory. Upon their arrival, they immediately noticed the number of African Americans. Many of these African Americans were runaway slaves either from America or from Spanish owners from generations before.

Many slaves that made it to Florida joined tribes, started families and even held leadership positions. Within the fort, the African Americans outnumbered the Natives. Since the fort was originally given to the Red Creek Indians, which included a nation of many different tribes, like the Seminoles, they abandoned it after their leaders were sent to England to ask for further protection. This left the fort for the slaves to take. When those leaders and

other natives came back, they found the fort was being run entirely by hundreds of African Americans. When British forces were leaving Florida to keep their promise, they left the fort with 2,500 stands of musketry, 500 carbines, 500 steel scabbard swords, four cases containing 200 pistols, 300 quarter casks of rifle powder, 162 barrels of cannon powder, and a large count of military stores. On the walls of the fort were mounted four long twenty-four pounder cannons, four long six-pounder cannons, a four-pound fieldpiece, and a five-and-a-half-inch howitzer.

Word traveled around southeast America that there was a fort that would accept runaways. Mud-covered-Face recruited warriors from the surrounding areas. Natives and slaves traveled long distances to make it to the "Negro Fort," which is what it came to be known as. More than 1,000 blacks were able to live in or around the fort, thereby establishing a community. Mud-covered-Face had a small tribe operating within the fort. They had no idea what was to come.

Across the border in America, word was received in Washington D.C. of the "Negro Fort." The truth was that the fort was a thriving peaceful community. The leaders in Washington had the mindset that the fort was evil; that the fort was a threat to the southern states of America and it needed to be destroyed. America did not own the land the fort was on, so they were not able to simply go to it and take back the slaves. They needed a reason to attack the fort. General Andrew Jackson ordered the destruction of the fort. He did this before even talking to the Spanish government in the territory. Two weeks after making the order, he finally reached out to the Spanish but it was useless at this point as General Gaines had already planned the operation. Lieutenant Colonel Duncan Clinch was a successful slave-owner who had a special interest in destroying the fort and was task with the operation. Clinch needed to bait the men at the fort to fire at the Americans to justify the attack. He had supplies and men sent to the border ready to fight.

Early morning on July 10th, an American supply vessel was spotted by one of Mud-

covered-Face's men. This alarmed the community because they knew a fight would happen. On July 17th, a small vessel was sent down the river and spotted a black man. They went to shore and were met by about forty blacks and Seminole warriors. The warriors shot and killed three men and captured another, however, one got away and was able to swim back to the larger convoy. At that moment, Clinch launched his attack. His plan was going as designed. He knew the members of the fort would take the bait and protect themselves. He went down the river with 116 armed men and met up with a group of 150 slave hunters who just so happened to be in the area.

Clinch knew that in order to destroy the fort he would need artillery on the gunboats. Mud-covered-Face and his men, along with many blacks, held off the surrounding white men for as long as they could. They fought from inside the fort, firing whenever the enemy was in range. On the 27th, the gunboats arrived. They were nothing like what modern gunboats look like now, they were small boats, canoes almost, with a cannon attached. Clinch fired a few warning shots that were met with return fire from the fort. Clinch launched a shot that hit the gunpowder storage, entirely exploding the fort. Hundreds of men, women, and children died. Very few survived. Mud-covered-Face was not one of them. His Indian chief and the black commander survived and were captured. The black commander was executed while the chief was scalped and killed. Those few who did survive fled south to find protection with other Seminole tribes. Only six men were captured and returned to slavery.

Clinch documented the destruction. He mentioned that his men's instinct upon the explosion was to help those wounded. They stopped their victory celebrations because of the awful sight of hundreds dying. He recounted that many dropped tears for their fellowman. The carnage was so brutal.

This wouldn't be the end of the horrors the US government caused to the Seminole community and it wouldn't be the end to the resistance. The natives sought revenge for their fallen loved ones.

Seminole War Narrative (recreated)

To whom it may concern,

When I first met Edmund P. Gaines, it was April of 1832 and I had just been assigned as his second in command in the Western Military Department. We had quite a few run-ins with Indians and traders alike in our time out there. However, things were fairly slow until we became part of the Florida militia in 1835 after the Dade Massacre, a terrible event in which 110 US soldiers were attacked and only 3 survived.

On the morning of New Year's Eve 1835, we were going to cross the Withlacoochie River, a small stream... or so we thought. Turns out the stream was actually a raging river, which caught us all off guard. A few men crossed in a leaky canoe, but that was proven insufficient because it took so long. Our commanders, Gen. Duncan Clinch and Gen. Richard Call, then decided that the regular soldiers who could swim would go first in crossing the river. A lowly 260 men had crossed by noon and shortly after that, things changed.

The Seminoles started a fire that ravaged the area around us and we all tried to cross the river as quickly as possible. The volunteers got ahead of us and kept the Indians back from the paid soldiers. They helped us reach victory that day.

The result of the battle lead to Gaines injuring his mouth, but soon he would heal and lead us to the scene of the Dade Massacre on February 20, 1836. There, we identified the bodies of our fellow countrymen who had lost their lives to the natives. After this excursion, he decided it was time to cross back over the Withlacoochie. As we approached the river, we were attacked by hundreds of Seminoles. First Lieutenant Izard was the first one to get shot. It was a nasty shot to the head and it happened right in front of me. I remember him falling to the ground and writhing in pain and shaking about. I called for a medic and soon Izard was taken away.

Eventually, our men got pushed back a bit and became surrounded on four sides by the Seminoles. We eventually fortified the area in which we were trapped, naming it Camp Izard after our first casualty. General Gaines requested that General Clinch send reinforcements, but we remained there for two weeks

and ran out of rations at one point. Sadly, this forced us to have to eat our horses and dogs. When that ran out, General Gaines sent me and a few others to represent ourselves in discussions to end the entrapment. The Seminoles told us they just wanted to be left alone and that if our pursuit of them stopped, then they'd stop retaliation. While our talks were happening, around 500 reinforcements showed up and pushed the Indians out, forcing them to abandon the sieged area and freeing us at last.

Looking back at my time in the Florida Militia, I realized that we should not have supported Indian removal. These people were natives after all. They had lived on the land much longer than we had and here we came, guns-a-blazing trying to push them out and kill them all. I understand our reasons in wanting to expand our territory, but there is no reason to ruthlessly kill people who find their land sacred.

Chief Billy Bowlegs

Along time ago there was an important Seminole chief who led during the third Seminole war, his name was Halpatter-Micco but he was better known as Billy Bowlegs. He

having bowed legs but from a twisted version of his family name,

Bolek or Bowleck. Bowlegs wasn't any normal Seminole Indian, liked to wear skirt like clothing and tons of feathers and

jewelry. He also owned around fifty slaves which wasn't like among the Seminoles as they believed you shouldn't own another person. The Seminoles had a chunk of their land taken from them and given to white settlers and when the president gave the Seminoles some temporary land the settlers still claimed it as their own. This angered Chief Billy Bowlegs and many other Seminoles and so they started to prepare for a

fight. Some outlaw Seminoles attacked and raided settlers who invaded Seminole land. The settlers grew angry and started to tell their government that they wanted the Indians gone, permanently! A little after that the Florida government signed a law making any Seminoles living in Florida illegal and prohibited anyone from trading with them this caused the Seminoles to slowly starve. Bowlegs, looking for more food



moved farther into the Everglades will continuing to come up with war tactics. The war finally began when First Lieutenant Hartsuff found Bowlegs village, cut down and took some bunches of bananas belonging to Bowlegs and his tribe. Bowlegs, believing that they did this on purpose, gathered thirty Seminoles and attacked. Many Seminole leaders died in the war and to stop from losing more of his people in this war he decided to have his people leave. Billy moved with his family to New Orleans and lived the rest of his life there.

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The Attack on Negro Fort

It all began over two hundred years ago in a different and more uncivilized North America; where there were no cars, electricity, cellphones, and where African and Native Americans were constantly attacked. However in the middle of this hatred a very small settlement grew as a place of hope for those that were bullied. Although for some this small wooden fort was a shelter from all the hatred that surrounded their lives to many it was a growing threat.

The year was 1816, and the settlement of Negro Fort was filling up with Indians and African Americans that had been lucky enough to escape slavery and persecution in the United States and reach Florida, that back then was under Spanish rule. The name of the fort represented its population as Negro means dark skin or African American. The community, that had been around for over four years now, was growing under the leadership of an African American male named Garcon and an unknown Indian Chief.

Escaped Slaves as well as many Indians where able to live freely and in peace here at Negro Fort. But it would not be long before hatred and destruction reached this peaceful settlement.

As the settlement grew, so did the fear of an armed Indian and African American community on the other side of the border. The Americans' worst nightmare was coming to life; people trembled from just thinking about a potential rebellion composed of armed escaped slaves and Indians. Adding to the Americans fear, it was also said that the settlers had been given the fort and weapons by a British general that had been trying to win them over. And although some saw Negro Fort as a place of peace for those that where being mistreated, the white public, and the politicians in Washington viewed this community as a place where supposed villains could hide.

Feeling threatened General Andrew Jackson gave the order to attack Negro Fort. However, the Americans could not just cross the boarder into Spanish lands. They had to somehow trick or provoke the people of Negro Fort into being the first to attack. If the people in Negro Fort attacked first the United States would have a valid reason to cross the border, if the Americans attacked first Spain could get angry that the U.S. military entered their land without a reason. In preparation for this the United States sent boats and Army troops near the settlement. As the troops where marching to Negro Fort, they met and joined forced with a group of Creek Indians that also wanted to get rid of the settlement.

The perfect time to attack came during the summer of 1816 when small boats armed with cannons that had been purposely sent to pass by the river in front of Negro Fort to try and trick the settlers into firing at them, received shots. The trap had worked perfectly, and the Americans now had a valid reason to attack the fort. So they quickly loaded their cannons and began blasting at the fort.

The ninth and last cannonball fired by the Americans hit the storage where the

settlers kept all the gunpowder. The explosion was so powerful that it completely erased the wooden fort. It is said that the blast was so mighty that people living over a hundred miles away heard and even felt the blast. However all of this destruction was unable to stop the Americans and the few Indians that had aided the Americans from searching the remains for anything valuable and even returning the few remaining escaped slaves to their slave owner. It is said that the Indians who supported the Americans even scalped the two leaders that had been able to survive the explosion.

Through the story of Negro Fort we are able to see the hatred that grew in America during the early nineteenth century; that even made them capable of entering another nation's territories and destroy a peaceful settlement. The destruction caused by the attack on Negro Fort would go much further and last much longer than the few seconds that it took to completely erase the peaceful settlement; as the Seminole Indian War was just beginning.

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Street Thief: A Genre Bending Flop Before its Time

Chelsea Probus

When the lights came up after *Street Thief*'s Tribeca premiere to reveal documentary subject and dead criminal Kaspar Karr as the film's director, audiences and film companies alike were left confused. Despite the film's microbudget of \$200,000, *Street Thief* was able to blur the lines between fact and fiction in a bastardized mock documentary that puzzled viewers and critics. But this mind-bending genre, simultaneously created and perfected by Bader, didn't grant him the laurels of the innovators that came before him. The film never gained a theatrical release, due in part to the challenges it presented for marketing and informed consumption.

The genre mock documentary calls to mind cult classic comedies like *The Office* or *This is Spinal Tap*. *Street Thief* is neither comedy nor classic and the label of mock documentary doesn't seem to fit on a film that so easily convinces audiences of its raw, yet entirely fictional authenticity. The film isn't completely false, but can't be quite honestly be labeled as "true."

Street Thief documents the life of Kaspar Karr, a professional Chicago burglar, played by director/producer Malik Bader. The film sets itself up as a documentary, featuring interviews not only with Karr but with law enforcement and victims. The documentarians, characters in this elaborate, fourth-wall breaking ruse, are invited to participate in one of Karr's schemes, and find themselves more involved than they had anticipated when they began their production. Even attempting to summarize the film creates problems. The documentarians are actors, as is Kaspar Karr. The crimes are staged, and so is the ambiguous ending. Despite all of this, the movie is rooted in truth. Tales from Chicago law enforcement, and the techniques of real burglars inspired the recreated events. The film contains just as much truth and it does lies. Its

authenticity comes in its representation of events and people, not necessarily in the events and people themselves.

Despite the film's innovative nature, its only major success came in its purchase by A&E. *Street Thief's* Tribeca success was short lived and the film hasn't made the waves that one would expect from such a groundbreaking piece of media. Perhaps the film's creativity is too advanced for the film market to process. It transcends label and makes the viewer question their reality, the reality of the film, and the reality of film in general. This same effect has come in smaller doses with films like *The Blair Witch Project*, but even that cult classic was discernable by audiences. The only label that remotely sticks to *Street Thief* is "fictional documentary" and even that doesn't quite cover it entirely.

The world in which *Street Thief* premiered was a far cry from the post-truth reality that we live in today. Fake news wasn't a reality for producers Malik and Stan Bader when they made their fictional documentary. The film almost foreshadows the world of television politicians and surreal reality that haunts our entertainment and news and blurs the boundary between the two. Had the film premiered at this past year's Tribeca festival it may have been better received. In 2005 the hole had not yet been carved for this genre, but *Street Thief* fits in easily with today's entertainment mindset and expectations. Perhaps the film was before its time, or perhaps it foreshadowed our world of fake news that we now compliantly accept.