



The Seminole Battles of the Loxahatchee River.

General Jesup's second campaign culminated in the two Battles of the Loxahatchee, January 15 and 24, 1838. In the first, Lieutenant Levin M. Powell (U.S. Navy), with a mixed contingent of sailors and soldiers, paddled up the southwest fork of the Loxahatchee River, where they disembarked and marched inland. In what became known as Powell's Battle, they stumbled upon and engaged a large force of Seminole, the same warriors who had fought Zachary Taylor three weeks earlier at Okeechobee.

The Seminole were experienced guerrilla fighters and soon the casualties mounted for Powell's sailors (many of whom were new recruits), who broke ranks and ran. When Powell was wounded and ordered a withdrawal, Lieutenant Joseph E. Johnston and his army regulars conducted a rear guard action. This allowed most of the men to get back to the boats, but not

before several were slain, including the surgeon.

Learning of Powell's defeat, Jesup ordered his army of 1,600 men forward in hopes of engaging the same Seminole force. At noon on January 24 some of Jesup's troops were met by Seminole scouts, who fired on the lead file of Dragoons. The Dragoons gave chase, and along with a large group of Tennessee Volunteers, entered a cypress swamp half a mile wide. The army pushed across the swamp into a dense hammock and up to the Loxahatchee River. Using the shallow river ford to cross, the Indians quickly regrouped and waited for the troops to follow.

The volunteers followed them to the ford and took cover, but faced with heavy fire, would not attempt a crossing. Jesup, enraged that the volunteers were holding back, ordered them to follow his lead, but

the volunteer commander, Major William Lauderdale, refused to comply, and Jesup found himself alone at the river's edge. Dangerously exposed, he received a wound to the face just below the left eye and was forced to fall back.

The battle ended when Colonel William S. Harney, with fifteen men, succeeded in crossing the river and took position on the Seminole flank. Under pressure, the Indians fell back and disappeared into the swamp, a tactic they often employed. Jesup reported that seven of his men were killed in the engagement and 31 wounded.
—Article by Richard Procyk

Palm Beach County -- Jupiter

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and Museum

500 Captain Armours Way
561.747.8380
jupiterlighthouse.org

Although devoted primarily to the lighthouse, the museum features a small exhibit on the Seminole Wars.

Loxahatchee Battlefield Park

9060 Indiantown Road
561.741.1359
loxahatcheebattlefield.com

Site of two important battles of the Second Seminole War the site is now a county park with numerous hiking and biking trails. Events pertaining to the wars are held often. Markers for the battles are at the park entrance.

Military Trail Marker

At the intersection of Military Trail and Indiantown Road (SR706), under the clock tower.

Marks the northern terminus of a 63-mile road from Fort Jupiter to Fort Dallas (Miami) cut through the wilderness in 1838 by Major William Lauderdale and the Tennessee Volunteers.

St. Lucie County—Fort Pierce

Fort Capron Monument

Stone monument at water's edge, N. Indian River Drive and Chamberlain Boulevard Site of a Third Seminole War fort that replaced Fort Pierce from the Second Seminole War. Forts were often moved short distances because of disease or to obtain better water.

We were marching through water from six inches to three feet deep, forty-eight days No more than two hundred men of the eight hundred could be mustered for duty, fevers, diarrheas, and swollen feet and ankles ... having laid up in the hospital three-fourths of the command."
—Captain George McCall

Old Fort Pierce Park

975 S. Indian River Drive
Site of the original Fort Pierce, the small park has a stone monument and the remains of a pre-contact Indian mound.

St. Lucie County Regional History Center

414 Seaway Drive
772.462.1795
stlucieco.gov

Exhibits on local history, with an excellent exhibit on Fort Pierce, the Seminole wars, and Seminole culture.

Collier County --- Everglades City

Museum of the Everglades

105 W. Broadway
239.695.0008
evergladesmuseum.org

The museum has a small exhibit on the Seminole Wars and a film about the 10,000 Islands, describing their importance in the wars. On nearby Chokoloskee Island is the Smallwood Store Museum, a post-war trading post.