

Reprinted from FLORIDA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY:

Vol. xxxiii. Nos. 3 & 4. Jan.-Apr., 1955

pp. 240-246

THE SITE OF OSCEOLA'S VILLAGE IN MARION
COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Archeology is generally thought of as being concerned with prehistoric man, but the application of archeological techniques to sites of the historic period often yields valuable data. As recently as 1948, no archeological site had been found that could be attributed to Seminole Indian occupation; the Seminole Period in Florida was known from historical sources alone.¹ This situation was soon remedied. Goggin² investigated the site of Spaulding's Lower Store on the St. Johns River, recovering a large quantity of colonial artifacts, Seminole pottery, and trinkets intended for the Indian trade. Goggin *et al.*³ described a historic Indian burial, doubtless Seminole, from the Zetrouer site near Gainesville. A number of Seminole or Lower Creek sites had previously been discovered by Bullen⁴ in the Chattahoochee Valley. Seminole material was recovered by Griffin⁵ from old Fort Gadsden. A promising Seminole site, found by Julian Granberry at Winter Park,⁶ has been under investigation by John M. Goggin, who has also recovered artifacts of the Seminole Period from the vicinity of Middleburg, Clay County.⁷ In 1953 Neill⁸ located a Seminole site near Silver Springs, Florida.

1. Goggin, J. M., "Florida Archeology - 1950." *The Florida Anthropologist*, nos. 1-2, p. 17. Gainesville. 1950.
2. Goggin, J. M., "A Florida Indian Trading Post, circa 1765-1784." *Southern Indian Studies*, vol. 1, no. 2, 35-38. Chapel Hill. 1949.
3. Goggin, J. M., M. E. Godwin, E. Hester, D. Prange, and R. Spangenburg, "An Historic Indian Burial, Alachua County, Florida." *The Florida Anthropologist*, nos. 1-2, 10-25. Gainesville. 1949.
4. Bullen, R. P., "An Archeological Survey of the Chattahoochee River Valley in Florida." *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences*, vol. 40, no. 4, 101-125. Washington. 1950.
5. Griffin, J. W., "An Archeologist at Fort Gadsden." *Florida Historical Quarterly*, vol. 28, no. 3, 254-261. St. Augustine. 1950.
6. Mentioned briefly by Sleight, F. W., "Seminole Site." *Florida Anthropological Society Newsletter*, no. 19, p. 1. (Place varies) 1952.
7. Footnote in Goggin, J. M., "Space and Time Perspective in Northern St. Johns Archeology, Florida." *Yale University Publications in Anthropology*, no. 47, p. 62. New Haven. 1952.
8. Neill, W. T., "A Seminole Site in Marion County, Florida." In press.

During times of hard rain the pond may rise and overflow even its older basin. Overflow was probably much greater before damming of the stream, and it is not surprising that all traces of habitation, modern or otherwise, are to be found well up on the high ground above the pond. The surrounding country is hilly; it was once covered with a live-oak hammock, as evidenced by a few remaining copses. However, nearly all of the area has been cleared, and is periodically harrowed and plowed. It is now covered in summer with pasture grasses and corn fields. When the site was first examined in 1953, the area had been cleared to the very ground, facilitating the search for evidence of Seminole occupation. Superficial stratigraphy had been destroyed by repeated plowing, however.

Studies have scarcely begun at the site of Osceola's village; preliminary remarks are warranted only because they are especially pertinent to the present symposium. Evidently the site and its environs were inhabited by Indians long before the coming of the Seminole, for flint chips and projectile points have often been turned up by the plow. Artifacts probably attributable to the Seminole have been found more or less aligned on the high ground east of the pond, between the old silos and the present-day Edwards home. Evidence of a later, non-Seminole occupation was found near the southeastern end of the old pond basin. In one area, Seminole artifacts may have been commingled with those of the later occupation.

The Seminole portion of the site to date has yielded but 23 items: one faceted head of blue glass; four fragments of clay pipe stems and a broken pipe bowl, (*see fig.*) A; a broken, rudely made "elbow" pipe of glazed clay, E; one sherd of aboriginal pottery with a brushed surface, B; two plain aboriginal sherds; two pieces of dark green bottle glass; one bit of pale bluish-green glass which may have been used as a scraper, C; four scraps of blue featheredge china; two fragments of blue transfer-printed ware (one shown in D); three pieces of plain