



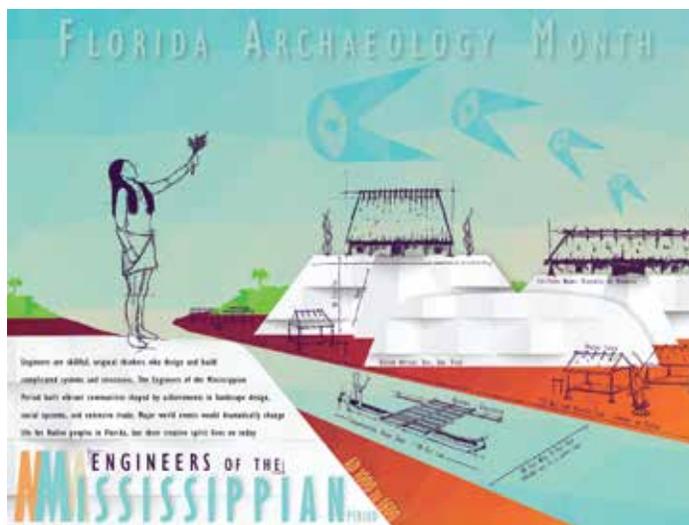
Florida Archaeology Month - Engineers of the Mississippian

By: Becky O'Sullivan. FPAN West Central Regional Center

Every year in March, Florida celebrates its diverse heritage and buried (or submerged) past through Archaeology Month. Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) chapters, archaeologists, heritage professionals, museums, historical societies, and interested members of the public come together to promote and celebrate archaeological sites and knowledge about the past through events, workshops, lectures, and public archaeology days. Another highlight of this month is the new poster that is developed every year to highlight a unique theme within Florida archaeology. Building on the timeline poster series established over the last few years, this year we are highlighting the Mississippian Period in Florida.

Chronologically, Florida's first people, the Paleoindians, were explorers who blazed new trails and settled a new land. The people who came after them (known as the Archaic People) were innovators who faced changes with technological advancements. The people of the Woodland Period were artisans who we can celebrate for their craft and creativity. Lastly, the people of the Mississippian Period were engineers who shaped every aspect of their world to fit their view of how life should be.

Engineers are skillful, original thinkers who design and build complicated systems and structures. The Engineers of the Mississippian Period built vibrant communities shaped by



2017 Florida Archaeology Month Poster. *Engineers of the Mississippian*

achievements in landscape design, social systems, and extensive trade. Major world events would dramatically change life for Native peoples in Florida, but their creative spirit lives on today.

This year's poster highlights different aspects of engineering during the Mississippian Period, whether it was the engineering of mounds and waterways at Calusa sites in southwest Florida, social networks and extensive trade evidenced in exotic materials found in sites like Mill Cove near Jacksonville, or even religious and social systems reflected in iconography like the "Falcon Warrior". To learn more about Mississippian Period sites in your area you can visit the "Explore" page at www.fpan.us/crc or check out the Florida Archaeology Month website starting in March at www.FLarchmonth.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FEB 17-19: *Silver River Knap-In.* Silver Springs State Park, Ocala
9am - 4pm.

MARCH 8: *Crystal River: Culture and History talk*
Belvedere Branch Library, Villages
12:45pm - 2:45pm

MARCH 10: *Moon Over the Mounds.* Crystal River Archaeological State Park
8pm - 10pm.

MARCH 26: *Archaeology Works: Historic Ceramics.* Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, FL
2pm - 4pm.

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History Bike Gainesville VI

By: Nigel Rudolph

Cycling Through Gainesville's Women's History, the sixth installment of History Bike Gainesville, focused on the history of women and the women's movement in Gainesville. Though the subject is broad, we sought to highlight specific figures and sites that speak to the role of women within this small southern town during the 19th and 20th centuries. We also highlighted the rise of the women's equality movement and the role of feminist activism throughout the history of Gainesville and at the University of Florida. Although the ride was timely and appropriate because it followed the recent, historic presidential inauguration, and the momentous outpouring of activism with the Women's March on Washington, my hopes were to keep the ride less political but consciously recognizing the gravity of the moment.

In a letter written to *The Florida Alligator* (The Independent Florida Alligator, University of Florida student newspaper) in 1915, female summer school student, Kathryn Slater, wrote: "Mr. Principal, where are your High School teachers from? Why so few Florida girls? Do not the women of Florida have equal ability? Is it because we are not as clever or brainy or as good disciplinarians as our sisters from other states that they should have the best places? No, it is because we have not had the educational advantages they have had." This might have been one of the first documented examples of the push towards women's equality on the University's Campus and in Gainesville. Though UF officially became

co-ed in 1947, women were present on campus as staff and students from its earliest inception in the 19th century.

However, beginning in the early years of the 20th century, when the university moved from Lake

City to Gainesville, women were no longer admitted as students. Later, this changed to admittance during summer school even though most universities across the country had already moved to co-educational admittance.

The second stop on the bike tour was at the historic Tench Building (1887) in downtown Gainesville. In 1974, this was the location of the town's first feminist bookstore, *The Womanstore*. It was at this stop we began discussion of Gainesville's rise as one of the most important hubs in the national women's equality movement. Beginning in 1963, local feminist activists began pushing back against the campus patriarchy and local racial segregation by forming Gainesville Woman for Equal Rights (GWER). In 1968, these same activists wrote a treatise on women's rights - *Towards a Female*

Liberation Movement, which became known nationwide as "*The Florida Paper*". It was this publication that moved the actions of local women's rights activists into the forefront of national activism.

Our final stop on the tour was at Kathryn Chicone Ustler Hall on the university campus. Ustler Hall, built in 1919 and historically the women's gymnasium, is now home to classrooms and offices for the Women's Studies Program. At this stop, we opened discussion on the broader subject of the relevance of the 2017 Women's March on Washington as a historical event. Through personal accounts of those who participated, we examined how the march is another extremely important step in the succession of the women's right's movement.



History Bike Gainesville VI - Matheson House, Gainesville.

Advocacy Day

By: Jeff Moates, Director FPAN Central and West Central



Florida State Capitol Building, Tallahassee

Each year as programs for Florida's Archaeology Month (March) start to move from concept and planning to preparation and execution, staff of the Florida Public Archaeology Network also work to polish elevator speeches about the need for cultural resource protections and increased awareness of archaeology in Florida. We are keenly aware that as March approaches, so too does Florida's legislative season.

This year is no different than years past. We, along with a coalition of archaeology enthusiasts and organizations, keep a close eye on actions by Florida elected officials that may bring challenges to long-standing cultural resource protection and preservation rules and

law. Our job is to help provide information to the public, especially our elected officials, about the reasons these measures are in place and the benefits they bring every Florida citizen and visitor to our great state.

On March 7th we'll be in Tallahassee in the rotunda of the Florida State Capitol for Advocacy Day and the kick-off to Florida Archaeology Month. Advocacy Day is a great way to let our message of preservation and protection be heard as representatives and their staff hustle about in the business of the day.

Archaeology advocacy doesn't stop there, however. We look forward to every opportunity we get to talk with you on Florida archaeology and how it impacts our lives today.



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Big Bend Science Symposium

By: Nigel Rudolph

FPAN Central had an information and artifact display table set up at the recent Big Bend Science Symposium in Cedar Key. Though the symposium is focused on Nature Coast ecosystems and the natural

sciences, the rich archaeology of the region was also recognized.

Dr. Ken Sassaman, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Florida, provided an update on his recent work south of the Shell Mound site in Cedar Key. During the past field-season, Dr. Sassaman and students have been investigating relic, Native American constructed, fish traps along the shoreline of an island south of the Shell Mound site. Sassaman believes the traps were built by aboriginal inhabitants between AD 400 – 600 to catch and process mullet to transfer back to Shell Mound. According to Sassaman, this period of time coincided with

“intensive occupation and terraforming at Shell Mound.”



Richards Island - Fish Traps.



Digging Up Dishes!

Recipes from the Past

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' Recipes from Cross Creek Cookery

Orange Ice Box Cake

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, famous Florida author of *Cross Creek* and the *Yearling*, also published a cookbook of her favorite "Florida Cracker" recipes!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup orange juice
- Grated rind of 1 orange
- 3 eggs
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 Tbs butter
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 Tbs cornstarch
- **2 sponge cake layers**

PREPARATION

Blend the sugar and cornstarch, add well-beaten egg yolks, butter, orange juice and grated rind, and cook in double boiler until thick. Cool. Beat together the egg whites and the cream and add to the cooled custard. Split the sponge cake layers and spread the mixture between layers and over the cake. Let stand in ice box overnight or at least six hours.

What's In A Name?

By: Brittany Vojnovic, Outreach Assistant,

Josiah Walls was born into slavery in 1842 near Winchester, Virginia. During the American Civil War, the Confederate Army forced Josiah to enlist. Upon being captured by the Union Army in 1862 however, Josiah volunteered and joined the US Colored Troops in 1863 and rose to the rank of Corporal. He was discharged in Florida and settled in Alachua County.

Walls, Republican, was elected to the Florida Senate from the 13th district in the sessions of 1869, 1870, 1877, and 1879. He was also elected as the sole representative from Florida to the 42nd United States Congress in 1871, but was unseated. This occurred twice more when he was elected and unseated by Democrats who held the majority. In office, Walls introduced bills to establish a national education fund and aid pensioners and Seminole War Veterans as well as advocating for civil rights. He is the only person in Alachua County history to serve as the mayor of Gainesville, an Alachua County commissioner, an Alachua County School Board member, a state senator, and a U.S. congressman.

Leaving politics, Walls operated a successful farm in Alachua County until the disastrous freeze of 1894-95, which destroyed his crops. He also purchased a Newspaper called *The New Era*. He took a teaching position as Farm Director of Florida A&M University, a historically black college in Tallahassee. After nearly a decade there, he died on May 15, 1905.

Due to a Democratic Party-dominated state legislature that passed a new constitution with provisions disenfranchising most blacks, African Americans were closed out of the political system until after passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In 2011, Congressman Allen West was elected as the next black Republican from Florida. This would mark the first Black Republican elected to office since Walls.

The building that houses the offices of the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections and the Alachua County Property Appraiser is known as the Josiah T. Walls Building after a dedication ceremony



Josiah T. Walls Building Dedication, Gainesville.

held in October 2016. "This is a beautiful day," said Alachua County Commission Chairman Robert Hutchinson, adding that it was extra special because the county was recognizing the contributions of "the greatest political official" in the history of Alachua County. "It is only fitting that our elections office is named in his honor." [Article adapted from: Tinker, Cleveland. "County renames building in honor of Josiah T. Walls." *Gainesville Sun*, October 17, 2016. and Florida Division of Historical Resources. "Florida Black Heritage Trail." Page #9.](#)



Josiah T. Walls. *Portrait of a Congressman - 1876*

