

Fort King Heritage Association, Inc.

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### Board Officers

- David Lafey - President
- Bill McCall - Vice President
- Karl Goedert - Treasurer
- Sandy Clardy - Secretary

### Contact Information

Fort King  
3925 East Fort King Street  
Ocala, FL 34470

352-368-5535

### Highlight Web Sites:

- [Fort King Website](#)
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### Ocala's Historic Birthplace



## Fort King

Fort King: ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE EAST LOT PROPERTY – ANOTHER WINDOW INTO THE PAST!

By: Willet Boyer Archeologist

As everyone who's a part of the Fort King Heritage Association knows, a new parcel — the East Lot (formerly the round house) — was added to the Fort King National Historic Landmark property this year. Prior to the landowner selling the property to the City of Ocala, I was called on to do an archaeological study of the property, and was permitted to complete the research after the transfer. I'm very excited to report that the work between 2014-2015 revealed a whole new archaeological site with multiple *components* — artifact assemblages that date to a specific time period or culture — including a very important one dating to the time of Fort King!

My crew, including students, other volunteers, and I began by *shovel testing* the property on a grid in early 2014 – that is, digging small, square vertical holes at regular intervals and screening the soil for artifacts. These tests revealed a cluster of artifacts that dated to the early 1800s on the North end of the property. However, they also showed that, long before the time of Fort King, the Timucuan Indians and their ancestors also had used the site; shovel tests along the

North and west sides of the land uncovered Timucuan and older pottery, chert flakes, and stone tools, some of them dating from *thousands* of years into the past.

Beginning in summer 2014, and continuing through this year, my crew and I began a series of *excavation units* — larger, square blocks which allow archaeologists to see *features* — anything like a floor foundation, fire-pit, or other evidence that people once lived at a site. On the northern side of the property, we uncovered a rectangular structure, about 20 feet by 40 feet, which was built on posts and apparently had a porch or shelter on the northern side. This building was associated with thousands of Fort King-era artifacts such as pearlware, kaolin clay pipe-stems, bottle glass, wine seals, forged and square-cut nails, and other artifacts. The building seems to be a commercial structure, such as a store or trading outpost.

Along the waterways and scattered elsewhere, we found older Native American ceramics such as limestone-tempered plain, Alachua Cob-Marked, and St. Johns Check-Stamped ceramics, as well as post stains in several areas that appeared to represent parts of structures. This occupation is associated with the ancestors of the Timucuan Indians, dating to between 500-1,200 years ago. And on the northern end of the property, we discovered an area where *flintknapping* — the making of stone tools by chipping them out — was taking place. The artifacts associated with this area included tools dating to the *Middle Archaic Period* – between 4,500 and 7,500 years ago — and several *Paleoindian* tools and blades. The Paleoindian's were the ancestors to all later Native

American cultures — they lived between 14,000 and 10,000 years ago — and were here when mammoths, mastodons and sabretooths roamed the area!

Doing the archaeology at the East Lot was a privilege and was VERY exciting — finding all of these many different components just shows that the history of Fort King goes back a long, long way!

## Fort. King Event

### Upcoming Fort Events

Jan 9th - Flora Hike at Fort King

Jan 23rd - Edibles Hike at Fort King

Jan 25th - Florida Native Plant Society, hosted in Bellview, FL. Presenting for the group, Fort King's History and Flora

Feb 2nd - Florida Seminole History Festival-Educational Purposes, hosted at Fort Christmas

Feb 20th & 21st - Knap in, hosted at Silver River. Educational and promotional for Fort King. We will host a booth at this event free of charge.

Listed below are the volunteers that helped at the Ocali days event staffing our booth for Fort King. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year for FKHA attendance.

Representing FKHA were:

Jim Phillips  
Rollin Lain



A.T. Thomas  
Robert Turner  
David Laffey  
Karl Goedert  
Ron Mosby

Representing City parks were:

Bill Rodriguez  
Keifer Calkins

## Spotlight on BATTLE AT CAMP IZARD

### Jackson Walker prints at the Fort King Heritage Center

*The army of General Edmund P. Gaines under siege near the Withlacoochee River, Second Seminole War, 1836*



The hostilities of December 1835 initiated open warfare between the Seminole Indians and the American Military. By the beginning of 1836, this army, with the addition of volunteers and militias, began to strategize how to engage the warriors. In January 1836, Brevet Major General Edmund P. Gaines and his army of US Regulars arrived at Ft. Brooke on Tampa Bay. He was joined there by a large contingent of Florida Volunteers numbering nearly a thousand men. With a “six pound” cannon, the expedition headed north to Ft. King. It was Gaines’s men that came upon the corpses of Dade and his ill fated command. After completing the trip to Ft. King, his return trip to Ft. Brooke used a route that took them to the Withlacoochee River. On February 26, a single shot struck Lieutenant James F. Izard in the face. Gaines’ men held off the Indians for five days while waiting for reinforcements from Fort Drane. Five men died and forty-six were wounded including General Gaines. Upon arrival General Clinch drove the Indians back to the woods beyond the Withlacoochee River. The men were soon able to return to Ft. Drane. General Clinch assumed command of the defense now named Camp Izard. The event was known there after as Izard’s Battle in tribute to the Dragoon Lieutenant who was buried somewhere near the battlefield.

For more information about Jackson Walker and his paintings visit:  
<http://www.jacksonwalkerstudio.com>

## Ranger Kiefer's Korner

On January 9<sup>th</sup> and January 23<sup>rd</sup> Ranger Keifer will be leading walking hikes exploring the natural resources at Fort King. The first hike on the 9<sup>th</sup> will focus on native and invasive plant life in the park. The talk will hopefully give our visitors an idea of what should and should not be in a native Florida landscape, and help to identify nonnative plants that might be hiding in their own yards. The next hike on the 23<sup>rd</sup> will focus on foraging and wild edible plant life. This is always a fun time and visitors will learn a little about what you can and cannot eat in the wild, as well as a deeper understanding of what people ate historically. Designed to inspire the visitor to all the wild foods around them, after this talk the road will be set to start discovering the edible weeds and plants in their own back yard.

Both hikes are on a Saturday at 10:00am, and are free to anyone. Hopefully we will also have some special guest county rangers to add too these fun educational outings.

<http://www.eattheweeds.com/smilax-a-brier-and-that%E2%80%99s-no-bull/>



<http://essiacfacts.com/health-benefits-of-the-sheep-sorrel-herb/>



### Who's Who?

**Board of Directors**

David Laffey - President  
 Bill McCall - Vice President  
 Karl Goedert - Treasurer  
 Sandy Clardy - Secretary  
 Robin Corsiglia  
 Terry Crawford  
 Craig Curry  
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 Gloria Seddon (DAR)

**FKHK Trustees**

Brent Malever - City of Ocala  
 David Moore - Marion County  
 Tim Jones- Marion County School Board  
 Tribal Representative - Seminole Tribe of Florida  
 Morrey Deen - Trustee  
 Pam Stafford - Trustee

**Park Hours**

Park and walking trails open from 7AM to 7 PM daily.  
 Visitors Center Hours  
 Friday and Saturday  
 12:00 to 5:00 PM

## Who was William King?

Ocala's Fort King was named after William King, a military leader and Governor of West Florida. He was of English descent and born in Delaware sometime in the late eighteenth century. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant of the 5th Infantry Regiment of the United States Army in May 1808. He was promoted to 1st lieutenant in 1810 and served from March 1811 until July 1812 as Regimental Adjutant (Officer in Charge of the administrative unit). In July 1812, King was promoted to captain in the 15th Infantry Regiment and served on the Niagara frontier during the War of 1812. He commanded a detachment of 150 men at the Battle of Frenchman's Creek on November 28, 1812. In 1813, King rose quickly promoted to Captain in March and then to Colonel in July of that year. He also served as the Adjutant General of the Right Wing of the 9th Military District. He was appointed Colonel of the new 3rd Regiment of Rifles in February of 1814 and transferred to the new 4th Infantry Regiment in March 1815. In this capacity, he served under Andrew

Jackson during the First Seminole War. He was with Jackson during his controversial 1818 invasion of the Spanish colony of West Florida and the occupation of Pensacola. The operation resulted in the surrender of the Spanish. Jackson interpreted the terms of surrender as giving the United States control over the entirety of West Florida and appointed William King Military Governor on May 26, 1818. As military governor, King was charged with upholding Spanish law in the colony, overseeing Spanish property, and caring for soldiers wounded in Jackson's campaign. After Jackson's departure from Florida on May 29, he also oversaw the dispersal of the Tennessee and Kentucky militia. However, Jackson's invasion of Florida threatened to derail the United States efforts to permanently acquire Spanish Florida. To advance that goal, President James Monroe's administration wanted West Florida restored to Spanish control. King served in his post until February 1819 when he was relieved by Edmund P. Gaines on orders from

Secretary of War John C. Calhoun. He was succeeded by José María Callava, West Florida's final Spanish governor.

King was discharged from the Army in June 1821, and died January 1, 1826 in Mobile Alabama.

Fort King was constructed in 1827 and was named in honor of Colonel William King.

**Help us learn more about William King.**

Information about William King is scarce and we'd like to enlist your help in learning more. If you claim descent from William King or know how to research the biography of early United States figures, please Contact Fort King at 352-368-5517. We'd love your help in learning more about Fort King's namesake!

## Who We Are

Fort King Heritage Association:

The Fort King Heritage Association, Inc. is a Florida not-for-profit corporation formed to protect, preserve and develop the history of Fort King. The association serves as a citizen support group to cultivate and sustain a public private partnership with private donors and our local, state, and federal governments. The association answers to, and is authorized by, the Marion County Commission and Ocala City Council.

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