

Possibilities for Renaming the County property formerly called Camp McConnell

Discussed by County Historical Commission on June 8, 2020 in a zoom meeting

Names suggested at this meeting:

Camp Emathla (meaning- Chief)

Camp King Payne

Camp Pilgrimage

Camp Osceola

Camp Tusawilla

Camp Wewa (meaning- water)

Camp Ahessi (meaning- friend)

Following information submitted by email the following day-

King Payne

He was a son of the Seminole high chief Cowkeeper and succeeded him as leading chief of the Seminoles. He led his people against the Spanish and Americans from Georgia and established a number of towns and villages, including Paynes Town in Paynes Prairie, both of which are named for him.

Emathla

The title given to native American tribes in the south indicating that person as chief or leader.

Potano

The Potano tribe lived in north-central Florida at the time of first European contact. Their territory included what is now Alachua County, the northern half of Marion County and the western part of Putnam County. The Potano were among the many tribes of the Timucua people, and spoke a dialect of the Timucua language. Just north of the Town of Evinston a Potano village existed of nearly 4,000 inhabitants, which was visited by Desoto.

Moses Elias Levy

Levy was a Jewish-Moroccan-American businessman and ardent social and religious reformer. He established a large agrarian refuge for Jews who were suffering under repression in Europe. Although the number of Jews fell far short of expectations, at least five Jewish families made their way to Levy's Pilgrimage Plantation--located in north central Florida--making this the first agrarian Jewish settlement in the United States. The camp is due east from the location of Levy's settlement.

Pilgrimage

The name chosen by Moses Elias Levy for the refuge and settlement for Jewish families located north of Micanopy and just west of Camp McConnell.

Cuscowilla

Cuscowilla was the capital village of the Chief of the Seminoles, Cowkeeper, which was located close to present day Micanopy.

Someone noted Commissioner Hutchinson has mentioned an idea based on a local place name. Another mentioned if a historical figure's name is included it should be someone from Alachua County.

ACHC member Melanie Barr thinks due to proximity to Micanopy that there should be outreach there, and she will include this renaming process info in the next e-newsletter of the Micanopy Historical Society. AHC member Nicole Nesberg emphasized the need for cultural sensitivity and she noted that although there is some similarity there are differences between the Seminole and Muskogee languages. Nicole volunteered to reach out to the Seminole Tribe of Florida for their input. She asked to receive a copy of the article Melanie will write for general information (staff will share).

Recommendation

ACHC will continue to consider possible names and make a recommendation to BoCC following the AHC meeting on July 13.