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***Swamp Sailors: Riverine Warfare in the Everglades, 1835-1842* by
George E. Buker**

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U.S. Soldiers in the Everglades.

BOOK REVIEWS

Swamp Sailors: Riverine Warfare in the Everglades, 1835-1842. By George E. Buker. Gainesville, 1975. University Presses of Florida. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 152. Cloth.

Mr. Buker's subject is the development of "riverine warfare" by the U.S. Navy during the Second Seminole War (1835-1842). Traditionally, U.S. naval forces had been used for coastal defense or blockade and secondly as raiders of enemy ships, a sort of hit-and-run operation on the high seas. The early days of the Seminole War being land encounters, the navy acted almost exclusively as a supply carrier along the coast, serving ports like Jacksonville, Key West, and Fort Brooke. The material of war was brought more safely and quickly than that which was entrusted to overland wagon trains. The latter was often subject to Indian attacks. Inevitably the capability of the United States in producing the necessities of war pushed the Seminoles south, mile by mile. The land was lower, swampy, cut more and more frequently by rivers, and of course, finally, the Everglades. Previously, troops that forded the occasional rivers could dry out on the highlands, but in southern Florida what passed for highlands were often wetlands. Soldiers would sicken, supplies would become water-logged and rot. Quite literally, the struggle by the white invaders to kill or remove the native people bogged down.

The Navy, which had progressed slowly in its thinking from carrying supplies up and down the coasts to sending lighter craft along the bigger rivers to harass the enemy, finally began to adopt

amphibious tactics. What began as a fleet of one in 1835 expanded to more than one hundred (including canoes) by 1842. Navy and Marine personnel were no longer content to lob a few rounds from the comparative safety of barge or cutter but traveled by dugout through river and swamp, searching out the enemy and then switching whenever appropriate to land tactics, marching in some cases for days away from their transport to bring the Seminole to bay. The Everglades, last redoubt of the desperate Indian, was no longer refuge against the white man. The end came soon.

Swamp Sailors is well researched and adequately written. Naval involvement in the Seminole War has certainly called for a thorough examination, and Mr. Buker has provided it.

Frank Laumer

The Life and Travels of John Bartram: From Lake Ontario to the River St. John. By Edmund Berkeley and Dorothy Smith Berkeley. Gainesville, Florida, 1982. University Presses of Florida. Maps. Illustrations. Notes. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Cloth. Pp. xxi, 376.

Edmund Berkeley and Dorothy Smith Berkeley, co-authors of numerous books and articles concerning colonial science and scientists, have produced an excellent account of the life of John Bartram "His Majesty's Botanist for North America." Most students of Florida history have heard of the son, William, who wrote a classic account of plant, animal and Indian life in Georgia, South Carolina and Florida, but few know that John visited Florida in 1766, saw an Indian treaty conference and wrote an account of his experiences.

The story begins in Pennsylvania where Bartram, born in an English Quaker settlement on the frontier, after receiving a Quaker education was able to acquire a farm, a family and a desire to learn about farming practices and adapt those that were most suitable for proper land conservation. Next step on the ladder came when Bartram began writing to Peter Collinson in England and collecting plants and seeds for him for cultivation in the gardens of English nobility. In 1735-36 Bartram sent to England 3,000 black walnuts, 1 3/4 pecks of dogwood berries, 3,200 swamp Spanish acorns and two pecks of red cedar berries. For this accumulation, Bartram was paid £18. Although Collinson had encouraged Bartram to become a collector of plants and seeds, it was James Logan of Philadelphia who loaned books to Bartram so that he could acquire a knowledge of Latin for plant identification and learn about the scope of research current at the time.

By 1739, Bartram became an experimental botanist and had acquired a reputation that was wide-spread in Europe. He discovered that campion plants which bore pale red flowers were hybrids of the red and white flowering plants. Lord Petre placed orders with Bartram for seeds of American trees which were planted in wholesale lots in English nursery beds. The Duke of Argyll who possessed large Scottish estates, English gardens, nursery and greenhouses began placing much larger orders to Bartram than Petre had done.

The excursions of Bartram, often accompanied by son William, in search of specimens were extensive. In 1743, he visited the headquarters of the Iroquois Indians at Onondago, New York,