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## Monument Salutes Volunteers in Indian War, circa 1960s

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# Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



## MONUMENT SALUTES VOLUNTEERS IN INDIAN WAR

By HAMPTON DUNN

FORT MEADE --- They call this community on U.S. 17 and U.S. 98 in Polk County "the Seminole's Last Battlefront." For it was here that the Indians and the white man engaged in their last blood-letting.

The furious feud began in Florida in November 1817 with the First Seminole War. Later, beginning in December 1835, the Second Seminole War was fought. And lastly came the Third Seminole War fought roughly in 1855 and 1858

It was during the Second Seminole War that a U.S. military post was established here on the banks of the Peace River and named Fort Meade, honoring Lieut. George Gordon Meade, later a Civil War hero at Gettysburg. A distinguished officer stationed here in 1851 was none other than Stonewall Jackson.

In 1964, more than a century after the event it memorializes, a marble shaft was erected in Wildwood Park here and was dedicated to the memory of a group of U.S. soldiers led by Lieut. Alderman Carlton who were killed and wounded-fighting a larger band of Indians in June 1856.

The scrap became known as the Willoughby Tillis Battle. Carlton and his comrades dashed on horseback to the Tillis home, not far from the present U.S. 17, to save the family from being massacred. Carlton and four others were killed. U.S. Army regulars wiped out the Seminole raiders two days later near Bowling Green.

Participating in the dedication of the monument was Kyle E. Carlton, who served as Florida's Governor (1929-33), a descendant of Lieutenant Carlton. He read off a list of pioneer families, including the Whiddens, Parkers, Carltons, Howells, Prines, Hollingsworths, Skippers, Bookers, Tillises, Oates, McCulloughs, Durrances, Underhills, Laniers, Hendrys, Boggesses and Mizells.

