

# Artifact of the Month

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

February 2018



Sometimes even archaeologists misplace things. When taking care of object and sites long term, it is critical to keep accurate and detailed record keeping. Paper work isn't always fun, but it is important! If proper records are not kept, information (and even artifacts) can be lost. The THPO recently acquired a collection from the mid- 1980s excavation of Powell's Town, minus some artifacts and information. Powell's Town was the village of Osceola, a very visible figure in Seminole history who was famed for his vehement resistance to the U.S. Army. This kettle, although a part of the collection when it was excavated, has gotten lost in the shuffle of time.

This three legged cast-iron kettle dates from 1750-1780. There is a "sprue" mark on the bottom of the kettle itself, where the hot iron would have been poured through a sand mold. This type of casting tells us it was most likely made by a skilled blacksmith, and the kettle would have rested over a fire when being used. Have you seen this kettle?

