

# ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

When driving through the state of Florida, one is almost guaranteed to see cows grazing in a pasture on the side of the road. Florida's abundance of cattle is to be expected, given the significance of the cattle industry. Cattle have played a crucial role in Florida history since they were introduced by the Spanish in the 1500s (Scheidecker et al., 2023). For this month's artifact, we are highlighting this cattle prod (pictured below) that was recovered from the Red Barn site on the Brighton Reservation.



*The Red Barn, Carrie Dilley (2007)*

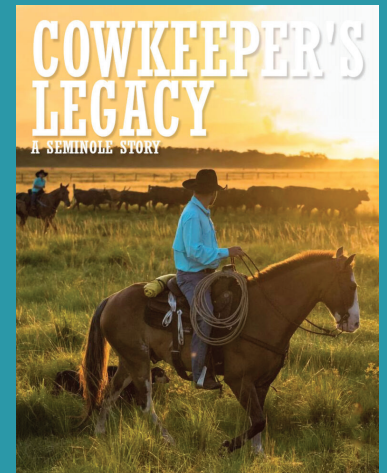


**THPO**

Cattle prods were one of the many tools used by cattle ranchers since the development of the Seminole cattle ranching industry, which formally began in the early 1900s. This cattle prod was found at the Red Barn, which was a key structure during the industry's development, as it functioned not only as a barn for housing animals, but also as a meeting place (Florida Seminole Tourism).

It was at the Red Barn that prominent figures such as John Josh, Charlie Micco, and Willie Gopher would gather; the first three Seminole trustees to lead the cattle program (Scheidecker et al., 2023). You can read their stories, as well as learn more about the Red Barn and the Seminole cattle ranching industry by checking out the latest Seminole Stories publication, "Cowkeeper's Legacy: A Seminole Story".

**"Cowkeeper's  
Legacy:  
A Seminole  
Story",  
THPO**



**To learn more about all the incredible artifacts within our collection, please visit the THPO website at [www.stofthpo.com](http://www.stofthpo.com).**

Works Cited

Butler, Deanna. "The Legacy of Red Barn and Seminole Cattle." Florida Seminole Tourism, 4 Aug. 2023, [floridaseminoletourism.com/red-barn-and-seminole-cattle/](http://floridaseminoletourism.com/red-barn-and-seminole-cattle/). Accessed 01 Feb. 2024.

Scheidecker, Dave, et al., editors. "Cowkeeper's Legacy: A Seminole Story". The Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Historic Preservation Office, 2023, [stofthpo.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Cowkeepers\\_Legacy\\_Web01223.pdf](http://stofthpo.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Cowkeepers_Legacy_Web01223.pdf).

