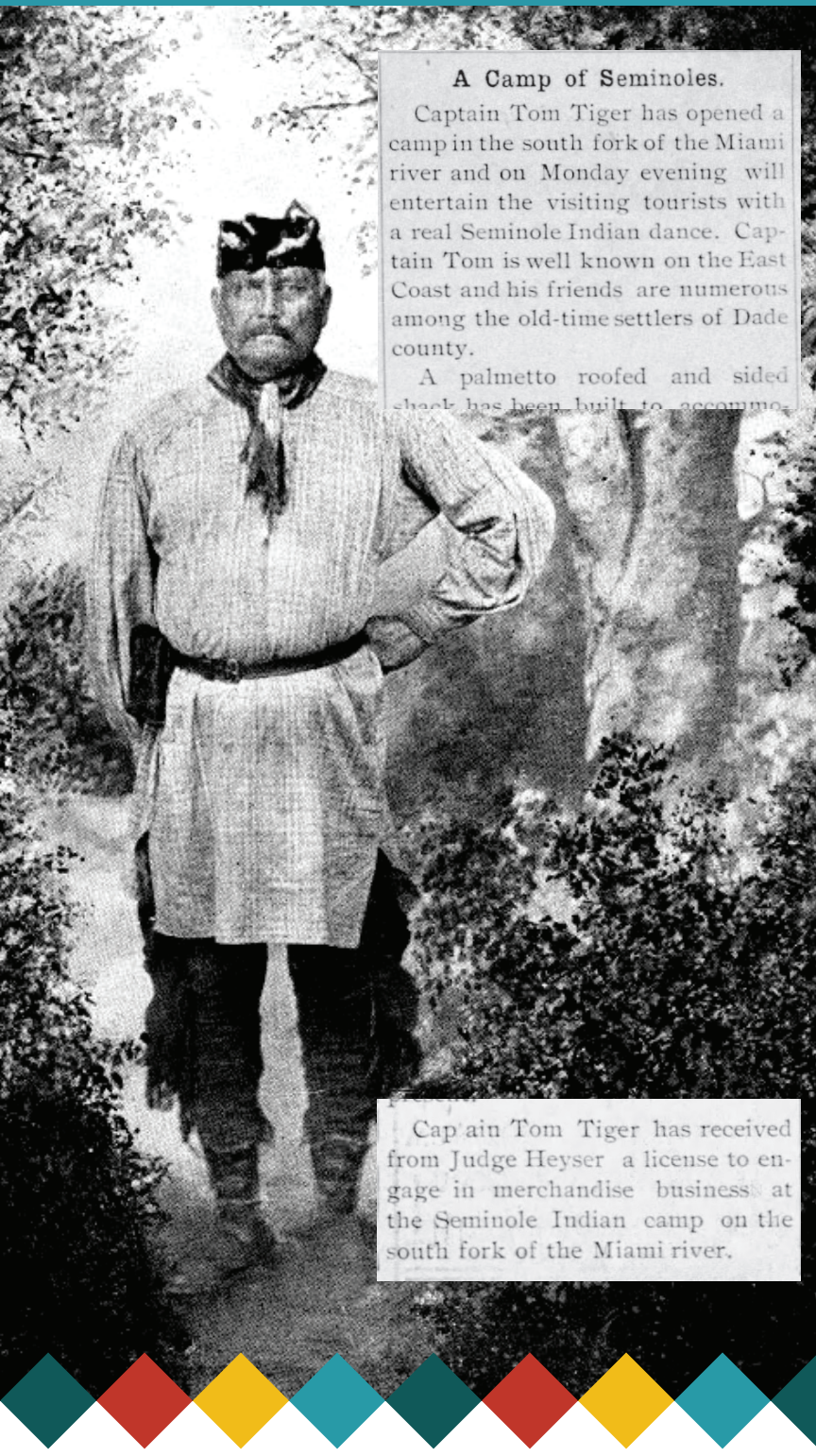


# TOM TIGER, THE TOURIST TRADE TRENDSETTER



**A Camp of Seminoles.**  
Captain Tom Tiger has opened a camp in the south fork of the Miami river and on Monday evening will entertain the visiting tourists with a real Seminole Indian dance. Captain Tom is well known on the East Coast and his friends are numerous among the old-time settlers of Dade county.  
A palmetto roofed and sided shack has been built to accommo-

Cap'tain Tom Tiger has received from Judge Heyser a license to engage in merchandise business at the Seminole Indian camp on the south fork of the Miami river.

In March of 1904 the first known Seminole Tourist camp opened just outside the growing community of Miami. Nearly three decades before the Florida Tourism Trade would become the driving force of the Sunshine State's economy, notices sent out in the Miami newspapers to invite one and all to come see traditional crafts, canoe crafting, and Seminole dance. The invitations came from Seminole leader Thlocklo Tustenuggee, but most visitors knew him better as "Captain" Tom Tiger.

Tom Tiger had seen incredible change in Florida over his life. He was a veteran of the Seminole War and had become a prominent leader among the Cow Creek band of the Seminole. He was also one of the first to begin open contact with the American settlers, helping the Tribe to secure regular trade without ever giving up their location. He would become a prominent figure in Florida, speaking for his people and Tribal concerns to the growing city councils and Florida government. When a settler stole his horse, he became the first Seminole to take a white man to court, and he greeted and smoked a cigar with American President Chester A. Arthur when he visited Okeechobee.

Tom Tiger's Tourist Camp was a giant step for the Tribe into the Florida economy. He applied for and received a merchant's license from the local judge to allow the Tribe to sell goods. The local newspaper, the *Miami Evening Record*, named a number of Tribal Members who helped to run the camp. Tom Tiger, along with Frank Jumper, John Osceola, Sam Huff, Jackson Charlie, Willie Jumper, Jim Truitt, Young Ingraham, Little Tiger, Clyde Tiger-Tail, and Cypress Tiger, along with many women whose names would not be shared outside the Tribe, kickstarted both the Seminole and Florida tourist trade.

**To see more Seminole History Stories, please visit the THPO website at [www.stofthpo.com](http://www.stofthpo.com)**

Above: Photo of "Captain" Tom Tiger, courtesy FloridaMemory.com  
Top Insert: *Miami Evening Record*, March 7, 1904  
Bottom Insert: *Miami Evening Record*, March 8 1904

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