

ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

February 2025

Many times, when the THPO's Collections receives an artifact, there is a degree of randomness to it. A significant number of our artifacts have little context to them, so it is always refreshing to have artifacts that give us a little more to work with. The Powell's Town site artifacts were donated to the THPO in 2018. Powell's Town was Osceola's (see Figure 3) wartime camp during the Second Seminole War, and the excavation of it originally took place in the 1980s. We also received all of the original documentation of the site. This led to some challenges. It could sometimes be a grueling process to translate the original notes correctly. See if you can read them in Figure 2.

Some of the artifacts themselves left questions as well. This re-fitted pottery comes from the site (Figure 2). On first inspection, these pottery fragments look to be brushed, meaning that their surface was brushed with grass, pine straw, or some other semi-stiff bristle (peachstatearchaeologicalsociety.org). There are a few different types of brushed pottery. Chattahoochee brushed would be the expected type, as it is directly associated with Seminole sites. However, this pottery type was reportedly used in the 1700s, whereas the Second Seminole War took place between 1835–42(floridamuseum.ufl.edu).

What explains this? Could it be that these are artifacts from a different time that were just below the camp? Is it possible that it is a different pottery type that just gives the illusion of being brushed from wear and tear? It is hard to say for certain, but questions like these offer the Collections section the chance to learn.

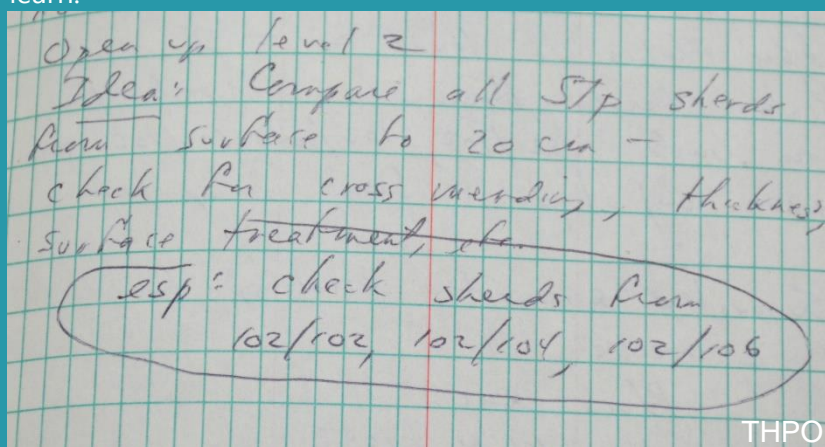


Figure 1



Figure 2

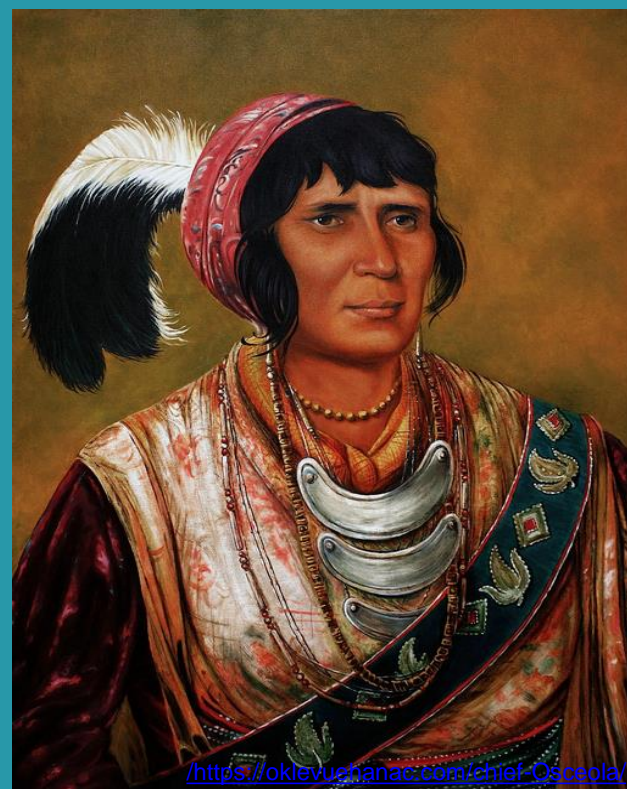


Figure 3

¹ *Brushed*. Peach State Archaeological Society. (n.d.). <https://peachstatearchaeologicalsociety.org/artifact-identification/pottery/alabama-pottery/brushed/>
Chattahoochee brushed. floridamuseum.ufl.edu. (2019, June 6). <https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/ceramiclab/pottery-types-gallery/chattahoochee/>

