

BOOK REVIEW

The Seminoles. By Edwin C. McReynolds, (University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1957. Pp. xv, 397. Ills. Maps. Bibliography. Index. \$5.75.)

This account of the Seminoles, by Edwin C. McReynolds, is the result of the author's special interest in American Indians and his feeling that no history had been written which did justice to this one of the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma. The mere mention of the name "Seminole" in history for more than a century has meant the great war with this tribe in Florida, of which General Thomas Sidney Jesup, United States Army commander in this war, in 1837, is quoted as saying, "We have, at no former period in our history, had to contend with so formidable an enemy. No Seminole proves false to his country, nor has a single instance occurred of a first rate warrior having surrendered." Though a majority of the tribe under the leadership of Chief Micanopy, Jumper and others consented to settlement in the Indian Territory before the close of the war in 1842, many remained in the swamps of Florida where their descendants live to this day. The Seminole is the only Indian tribe that never officially made peace and surrendered their last domain east of the Mississippi to the United States.

Dr. McReynolds reveals many new, interesting details on the history of the Seminole people in this book through his extended research in the original records of the Indian Archives in the Oklahoma Historical Society and in rare government documents as well as in the records found in Florida and elsewhere in this country. The Bibliography in this volume lists much material that has remained practically unknown until revealed by Dr. McReynolds in his writing here.

The Seminoles gives the story of the tribe and its customs on the Creek frontier, its early relations with the English, Spanish and United States governments, on through the period of the great war and the final removal to the Indian Territory. Such historical tribesmen as Osceola, Coacoochee (Wild Cat), Micanopy, John Jumper, Billy Bowlegs (Bolek), John Bemo, John Chupco and John Brown are found here as a vital part of the story. This smallest of the Five Civilized Tribes is reviewed briefly as a separate Indian nation in the final chapters until this remarkable people became citizens of the State of Oklahoma, their last tribal domain in this region constituting Seminole County which perpetuates their name.

On a subject long over due in the field of Indian history, *The Seminoles* is Volume forty-seven in the Civilization of the American Indian series published by the University of Oklahoma Press at Norman, the format and jacket beautifully distinguished with Seminole design.

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