

REFERENCE

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS AND
EXTRACTS ON FLORIDA

James Mooney - Collector

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CALOOSAS, ETC. IN SEMINOLE WAR.

South of Pease Creek and Lake Okechobee, near the extreme southern point of the peninsula, was a band of Spanish Indians, under an intelligent chief, called Chekika, speaking a language peculiarly their own, a mixture of Indian and Spanish. They numbered about one hundred warriors. They took no part in the war until 1839 and '40, when, finding themselves attacked and pursued, they took arms and resisted. This band of ^{Indians} was entirely unknown. In all the treaties that had been made and councils held by agents of the government, they had had no participation. Numbers had visited the Island of Cuba, and looked more to the Spaniards as their friends, than they did to the Americans. Hospetarke, whose wife was a Spanish woman, lived in this quarter. A few men of his tribe here joined him. Large numbers were added of those who were pursued by troops further north.

Sprague, Fla. War, 99-100, 1848.

The Spanish Indians inhabiting the southern part of the peninsula of Florida, finding themselves encroached upon by others from the north, driven down by the whites, became active participants. They plundered and murdered unfortunate seamen, wrecked upon the coast, and attacked the various settlements on the islands on the western coast, with whom they had lived in amity for years, engaged in fishing. Indian Key, a small island,