



“Am I a negro, a slave? I am an Indian. The white man shall not make me black. I will make the white man red with blood, and then blacken him in the sun and rain, where the wolf shall smell his bones and the vulture live upon his flesh.”

Harper's Weekly. June 12, 1858

"The only treaty I will ever execute will be this!"

With that, Osceola allegedly plunged his knife into the negotiating table -- according to some, into the treaty itself:

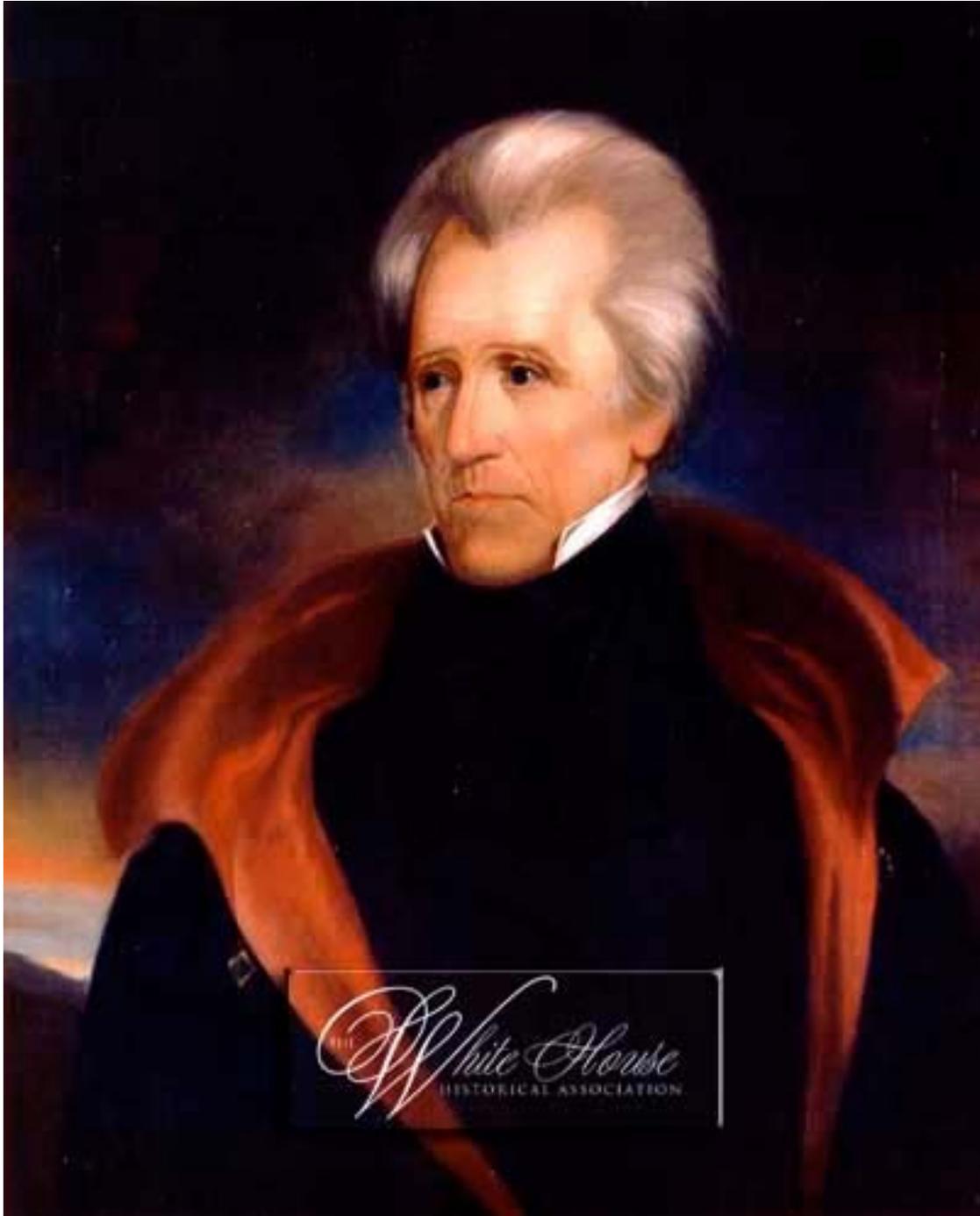
"There remains nothing worth words. If the hail rattles, let the flowers be crushed - the stately oak of the forest will lift its head to the sky and the storm, towering and unscathed." -- *Osceola at the Fort King negotiations*\*Osceola allegedly knifing the treaty of Payne's Landing, from the drawing in Andrew T. Welch's 1841 sketchbook of Seminole history, *A Narrative of the Early Days and Remembrances of Osceola Ninkanoche*. *Florida Photographic Collection*.

<http://www.johnhorse.com/trail/02/a/10.1.htm>



O Osceola, leader of the Seminoles

CREDIT: Catlin, George. "Osceola of Florida." 1838. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.



Andrew Jackson

[http://www.whitehousehistory.org/04/subs\\_pph/PresidentDetail.aspx?ID=7&imageID=4](http://www.whitehousehistory.org/04/subs_pph/PresidentDetail.aspx?ID=7&imageID=4)

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/Indian.html>

access to primary document – Indian Removal Act pp. 114 and 115.

And access to Andrew Jackson's message to Congress

North American Review – Senate/ House speech Oct 1830



The proud Seminole chief in this 1852 daguerreotype is Billy Bowlegs, who took charge of two hundred surviving warriors after the 1838 surrender of the Seminole leader Osceola. After a year of bitter guerrilla warfare in the Florida swamps, Bowlegs sued for peace. He made a deal with a corrupt Indian agent, departing Florida with fifty slaves and "a hundred thousand dollars in hard cash."

[www.forttours.com/pages/seminolewars.asp](http://www.forttours.com/pages/seminolewars.asp)

See Harper's Weekly Images for text on Billy Bowlegs.

# Massacre of the Whites by the Indians and Blacks in Florida.



The above is intended to represent the horrid Massacre of the Whites in Florida, in December 1835, and January, February, March and April 1836, when near Four Hundred (including women and children) fell victims to the barbarity of the Negroes and Indians.

001\_002\_2\_43

Woodcut. Library of Congress.

[www.csulb.edu/~aisstudy/nae/1830-1850.html](http://www.csulb.edu/~aisstudy/nae/1830-1850.html) for description

Use for Jane Murray Sheldon

**Jane Murray Sheldon, one of the refugees from the destruction St. John's River plantations, describing how she learned of slave participation in the war:**

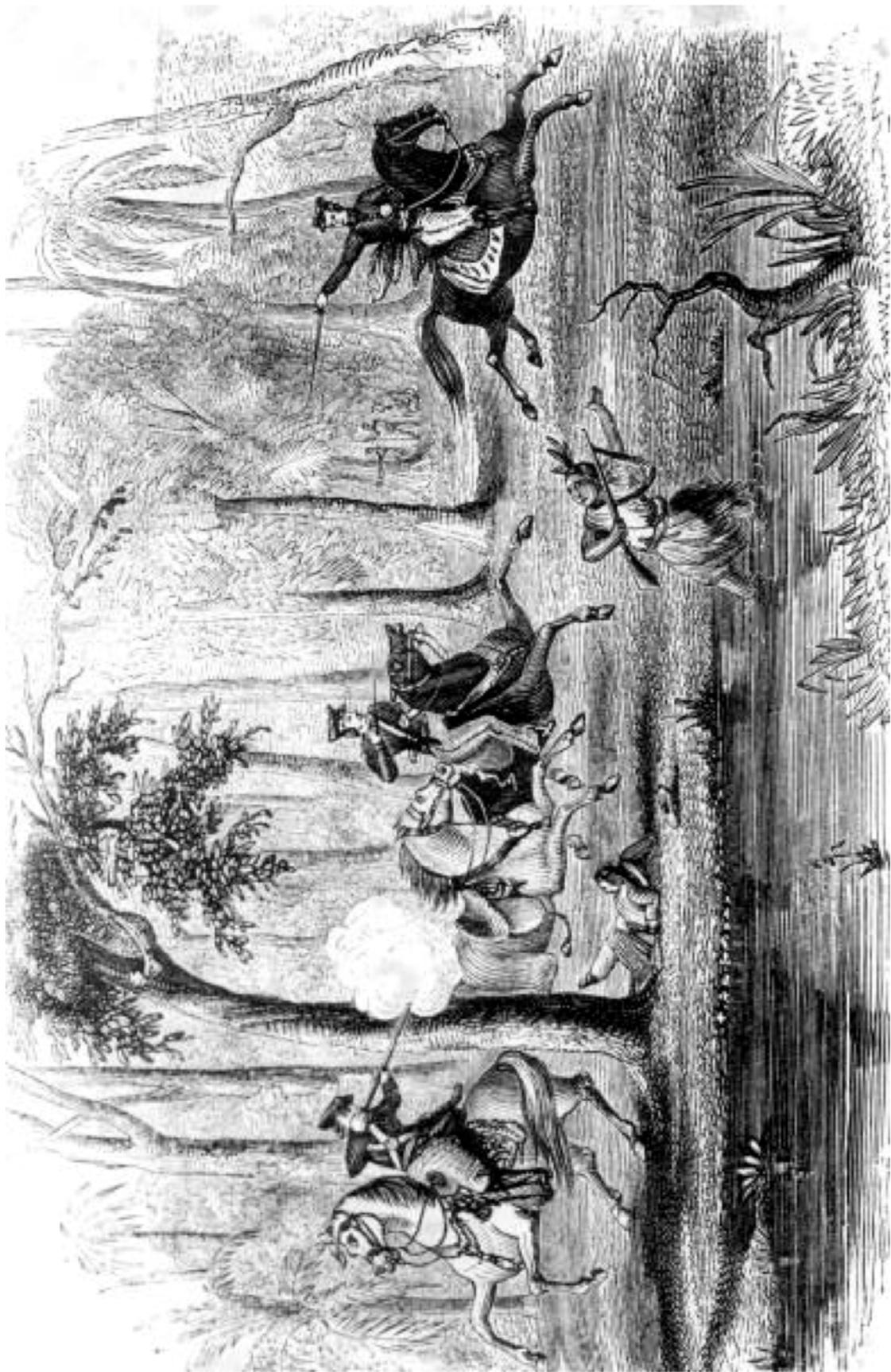
"We remained in St. Augustine two years, during which time I saw many Indian prisoners, who were brought in to be sent West. There were a good many negroes captured with them, and it came to light that the negroes were in sympathy and had aided them in the first outbreak. I saw a number of the Cruger and Depeyste [sic] slaves and from them learned that they had secreted the Indians near there until the main body came up. But they were glad enough to get away from the Indians as they treated them cruelly." [6\*]

Dictated by Sheldon in 1890 recalling events from Christmastime 1835 to 1837

[6] Sheldon, Jane Murray. "Attacks Near New Smyrna, 1835-1856." Florida Historical Quarterly 8.4: 191-192.

The comment is a useful antidote to the slaveholders' claims that their bondsmen were captured by the Seminole allies. Sheldon uses the trope ("negroes captured") but clearly states that the plantation slaves were "in sympathy" with the Seminole allies and conspired with them in the outbreak of the war, and she cites this as commonplace knowledge at the time—the word on the street, not the official story. On the slaves claiming to have been mistreated by the Seminoles, see end note 17.

<http://www.johnhorse.com/toolkit/quotations.htm#6a>



<http://www.floridaconservation.org/Fishing/timeline/historicimages/seminole-war.bmp>

Use as visual for Amos Beebe Eaton



**FPS1287**

**Park ranger Bob Rahberg dressed as a Second Seminole War soldier at Hillborough River State Park : Hillsborough County, Florida**

[ibistro.dos.state.fl.us/uhtbin/cgiirsi/x/x/0..](http://ibistro.dos.state.fl.us/uhtbin/cgiirsi/x/x/0..)

Use as visual for Amos Beebe Eaton

**17 Nov. '37** One mistake committed in the preparations and arrangements for the present campaign is leaving the incipient contracts, hiring of Steam Boats, transports & to young and comparatively inexperienced officers, and the not sending those of more experience into the country to conduct the affairs of the War Dept. until just at the opening of the campaign, when it is too late to doct. the evils consequent upon this course. The very best QM's in the whole Army should have been on the ground to lay the ground work of all the arrangements of that all important Department. As an instance of showing the evils of the short-sightedness of the plans. Look at the hiring of transports (S. Boats in the Gulf of Mexico) & the most enormous cost of stores obtained and brought to Tampa Bay by this mode of transporting. This Steam Boat Charmain has been employed by the Dept. about 2 month at \$150 per diem. about the only service she has rendered during that time, is, she has made one trip to the Sawannee R. and brought to Tampa Bay 35 [B ] making the cost of [B ] per pound about \$6.00! Alas for the Treasury! Too much, altogether too much, has been left for one officer (& he very young & inexperienced) to perform at Tampa Bay. Thus it is, that millions on millions of money has been expended to gain this most barren, sandy, swampy & good for nothing peninsula. The Seminole can never be put in a country so much secluded from the white man as here. He can never be put in a country so utterly unprofitable to the agriculturalist & were it not for the name of succumbing to the Seminole, far better were it, even now to withold further appropriations & leave the deceived Indian where God placed him, & where true policy would wish him to remain.

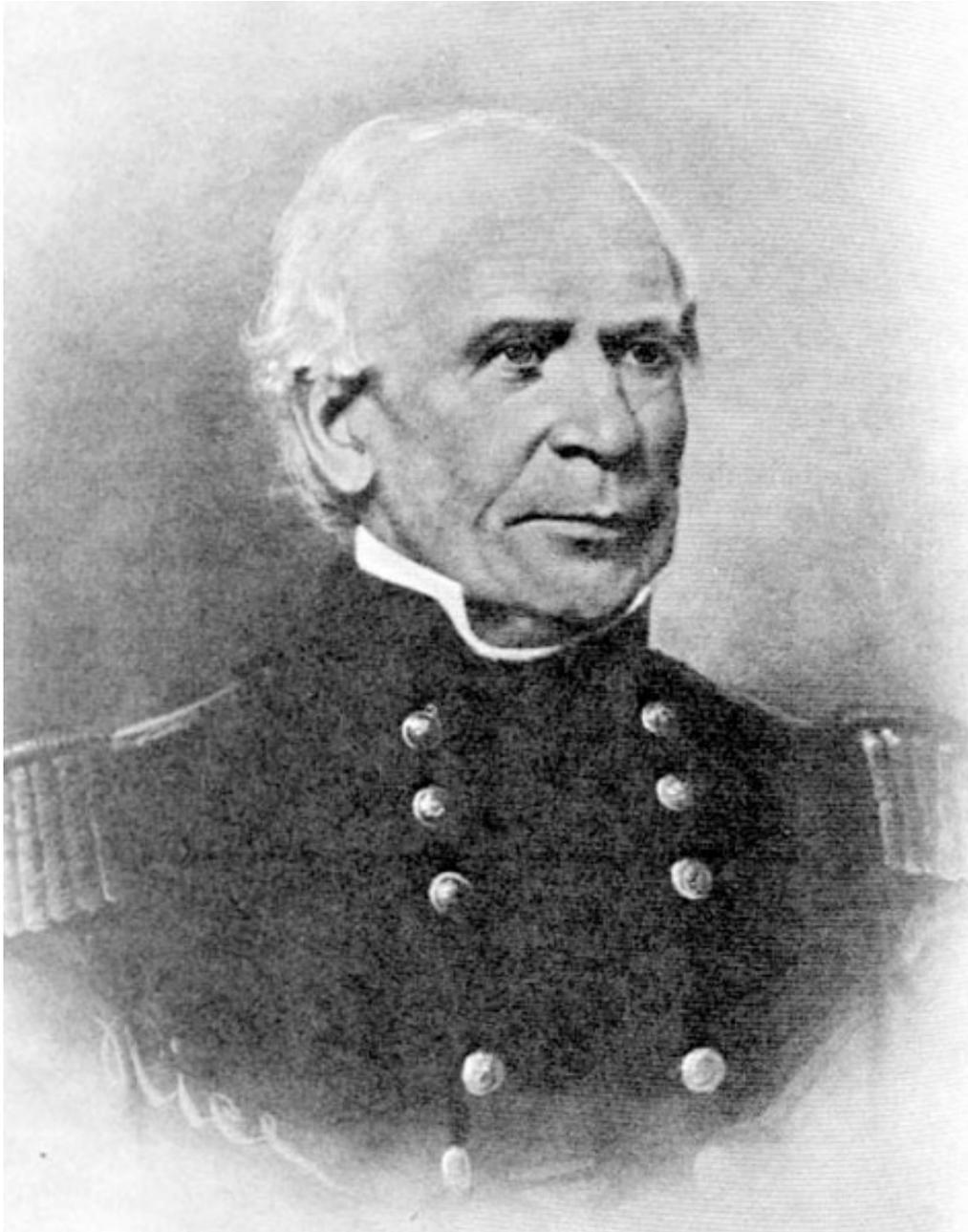
<http://scholar.library.miami.edu/Eaton/journal.html>

Amos Beebe Eaton: A Soldier's Journal of the Second Seminole Indian War



[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/map\\_item.pl](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/map_item.pl)

1839 map of Seat of War - interactive map at this site -  
[www.augustine.com/history/z-map.php](http://www.augustine.com/history/z-map.php)



General Thomas Sydney Jesup, U.S. Army portrait. Date and artist unknown.  
Florida Photographic Collection. [www.johnhorse.com/trail/02/c/02zz.htm](http://www.johnhorse.com/trail/02/c/02zz.htm)

(This quote came from the site [http://www.slaveryinamerica.org/history/hs\\_es\\_seminole.htm](http://www.slaveryinamerica.org/history/hs_es_seminole.htm))

U.S. Major General Thomas Sidney Jesup recognized the role the Black Seminole played. He declared in 1836, "Throughout my operations, I found the Negroes the most active and determined warriors; and during my conference with the Indian chiefs, I ascertained that they exercised an almost controlling influence over them. This, you may be assured, is a Negro and not an Indian war; and if it be not speedily put down, the South will feel the effects of it before next season."

**General Thomas Sydney Jesup, writing Secretary of War Joel Poinsett, indicating his view on the need for a policy reconsideration allowing some Seminoles to remain in Florida and driving a wedge between the interests of the Seminole Indians and the Seminole Negro (maroon) allies:**

June 16, 1837

"The two races, the negro and the Indian, are rapidly approximating; they are identified in interests and feelings; and I have ascertained that, at the battle of Wahoo, a negro, the property of a Florida planter, was one of the most distinguished of the leaders; and I have learned that the depredations committed on the plantations east of the St. John's were perpetrated by the plantation Negroes, headed by an Indian negro, John Caesar, since killed, and aided by some six or seven vagabond Indians, who had no character among their people as warriors.

"Should the Indians remain in this Territory, the negroes among them will form a rallying point for runaway negroes from the adjacent states; and should they remove, the fastnesses of the country would be immediately occupied by negroes." [14\*]

14] United States Congress. American State Papers: Military Affairs. 7: 876.

By itself, this letter is perhaps the strongest documentary piece of evidence that the slave rebellion that took place in conjunction with the joint Indian-maroon war in Florida constituted the strongest military threat the country ever experienced from organized slave resistance (apart from the macro rebellion of southern slaves that took part during the U.S. Civil War). In the letter, Jesup was conveying his personal assessment of the racial dynamics of the Florida conflict, opinions that history corroborated. Jesup revealed his clear understanding that plantation rebels conspired with the Indians and Black Seminole maroons, that they rose to ranks of prominence, and that their alliance with the maroons constituted the core of fighters in some strategic theaters. He further ventures a realistic (and informed) opinion that a triple-headed hydra of maroons-Indians-and plantation slaves would, if it remained unchecked, spread large-scale rebellion to the plantations of the South.

<http://www.johnhorse.com/toolkit/quotations.htm#14>



BEN BRUNO, NEGRO SLAVE AND FAVORITE.

Ben Bruno, the interpreter, adviser, confidant, and special favorite of King Billy, is a fine, intelligent looking negro. Unlike his master, he shows a decided predilection for civilized life, and an early visit to a ready-made clothing establishment speedily transformed him into a very creditable imitation of a "white man's nigger." He has more brains than Billy and all his tribe, and exercises almost unbounded influence over his master. The negro slaves are, in fact, the masters of their red owners, who seem fully conscious of their own mental inferiority. If a Seminole wishes to convey a high idea of his own cunning, he will say, "Ah, you no cheat me. I got real nigger wit." The negroes were the master spirits, as well as the immediate occasion, of the Florida war. They openly refused to follow their masters if they removed to Arkansas; and it was not till they capitulated that the Seminoles thought of emigrating. The friendship of a man who has a hundred thousand dollars in cash, and two marriageable daughters, is worth cultivating. I would advise any one who wishes to get into the good graces of Billy Bowlegs to pay special attention to Ben Bruno.

**Harper's Weekly. June 12, 1858**

<http://fcit.usf.edu/Florida/docs/b/bowlegs.htm>