



Story of the Seminoles

During this time Spanish settlements were struggling to replace workers for their farms and plantations as the Indians that did that work were now gone. To replace them, however, the Spanish colonist began to welcome Indians and runaway black slaves from the north of the border into Florida. Native Americans from Georgia, Alabama, and the Carolinas moved into the deserted areas of Tallahassee and later Alachua. These tribe's people were: the Creeks, Ocones, Yamasees, Yuchis, and runaway blacks known later as Maroons. There were soon known as "istisemole," – wild men or runaways; and in time the name became "Seminole." This group consisting of various tribes and Maroons became the Seminole nation in 1775.



The Seminoles are considered a member of the Five Civilized Tribes which includes the [Creek](#), [Cherokee](#), [Chickasaw](#), and [Choctaw](#). They are called civilized because they began to wear European dress, covert to Christianity and had prosperous farms. To some degree their interesting style of dress may have some of its roots originating with the Scottish trappers and traders that were sent into the wilds of American forests by the British government before the American Revolution.

Scottish trappers sending furs back to England also married Indian girls and the ideas of kilts and tam-O'-shanters (Scottish cap or braided bonnet, with pompom, tassel, or feather in the center, may have started with them. Seminole dress with turbans and feathers, hunting shirt or jacket and leggings are often part of their costume that look similar to the Scottish wear. [Chief Osceola](#), who led the Seminoles against the U.S. Army in Florida, apparently had Scotch blood as his mother's grandfather, James McQueen, was a Scotsman. Also his mothers uncle was Peter McQueen one of the Indian leaders against removal to the west. Osceola's dress took on a Scottish flare with his turban and three ostrich plumes, his knee length shirt with sash, red leggings and moccasins.

