

Kissimmee, Fla., March 10, 1916.

Mrs. M. L. Legat,  
97 1/2 Plant Ave.,  
Tampa, Fla.

My dear Mary Lee:

I received your letter yesterday and feel so glad that you did not have my letter of last week read before the Reciprocity Meeting. Of course you understand, and I understand, conditions, and anything that I tell you or write you, you may rely upon as being absolutely correct, as I never want to be called down unless I am able to prove my assertions.

Like your own dear self, I do not come of plebeian ancestry, and I do not want to forget refinement or culture in any of my work; but it does hurt to have false statements made before my friends who have been my supporters and encouraged me for so many years. This, I understand, is being done all over the state by our F. F. W. C. President.

I desire the friendship of every Club woman of Florida, but they are almost powerless to help as matters now stand. Yet the gentlemen who came down from Washington and Philadelphia assure me that the Departments at Washington are fighting my battles, and are awakening to the situation; but ask that I continue to keep the subject before the people of Florida. Of course, the Club women is the best medium for this.

I have in my possession, furnished me by the Government, a copy of a land bill for the Seminoles which was passed and signed by the Governor in 1899, during Mr. Jennings' early reign. In this bill there is a "loker." At the head of the bill is written in pencil "not located." The reason is the land had been, before the bill came up, transferred to some company, and of course it could not be given twice. This land lies rather close to Royal Palm Hammock, and if this little story were written up, although I fear no Florida paper would take it, you well know it would throw a bomb into the camp of the enemy.

As I said, I want to do nothing that will hurt the cause for which I have labored at the expense of my health -- I say nothing of my pocket-book -- for twenty years. Neither do I want to lose a single friend in the Federation of Women's Clubs. The enemy, so few in number and yet so powerful, must fear something being uncovered; but to attack me when I am not present to speak for myself is cowardly.

To show you how correct newspaper fakers get Florida history, I will just say that I had a number of newspaper clippings with photographs sent me regarding this Semole Sun Dance at West Palm Beach. One of them has Tony B.A. Tommie standing in a bean patch with an old squaw and little



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Mrs. M.L.L.

pickaninny, and underneath is written, "Tony B. M. Tommie, newly elected chieftain of the Seminoles, with his squaw and pickaninny." The picture was of another Indian, and not Tony Tommie.

I am simply giving you this information so that quietly among your friends and mine you can often offer a word in defense.

Thanking you for all your past kindnesses, and appreciating your independence, I am,

Sincerely yours,

MMW-RP