

April 3, 1929

Mr. Stephen Cochran Singleton,
317 NW Thirty-ninth Street,
Miami, Florida.

Dear Mr. Singleton:

I received the wire and letter from President Coe on my arrival at Daytona Beach, which I heartily thank you for, but the Seminole Indians were not mentioned in the resolution, hence I could not submit the resolution. I tried to have incorporated almost a verbatim of your statement regarding the rights of the Seminoles in their old homes, and that they should not be exploited, but there seemed to be an objection to Seminoles being mentioned at all, thinking that this might interfere with the ultimate success of the park project, so I quietly dropped it all, and those representing the 17,000 Federated women in Florida had their own resolution passed, ignoring the Seminoles, which I unfortunately did not hear as I left the city.

It simply means, Mr. Singleton, that I will proceed as I have done in years past to depend upon the heart and voice of the American people, and if the park must be promoted ignoring the Seminole Indians, which I think is the one thing that would secure such a park (the humanity of it) as I will not cease to work for the park, but with a paramount idea that the Seminoles will always be allowed within its boundaries.

I will say this to you, confidentially however, that I was asked four different times to not mention the Seminoles by soliciting aid in the park. Each time I assured them that this was impossible after the many years I have worked for the Seminoles, a few of these women thought the Seminoles could come and go, and act as guides. Thinking this would not be sufficient for them Mr. Allison and I urged an abiding place where they will not be driven as they have been, and a place that they will know is their own. I assured those to whom I talked that we would be very glad to see the 109,000 acre Seminole reservation included in the national park, as it would then have better protection.

Your truly wonderful article in the Hand-Clasp about me, I thank you very much for, and when I found the Seminoles were to be ignored in the resolution both Daytona papers gave me with this thought about the Indians etc. more space than the entire federation got, and if I am fortunate enough to get to New York City this summer my Editor friends and Reporters will not fail to keep the Seminoles largely before the public, So in refusing to keep resolutions as I had written them out, they kindled a fire which may grow bigger and bigger until the Seminoles will be recognized as the greatest part of this National Park.

As you know I have the Pen Woman's League back of me, the DAR Organization, the Press Association, all counting more than the Federated Clubs. I will appreciate very much to be kept in touch with what they are trying to do for this park, as it was my idea twenty years ago to let the Everglades alone in their natural beauty, as well as the wild life, which includes the Seminoles.

Yours very sincerely,

HW/a

