

## ARTICLE IV.

It shall be the aim of the society to influence public opinion in every legitimate way; to secure the enactment of legislation favorable to its policy and to aid the Government in its efforts on behalf of the Seminoles.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, we will hear Sergt. Brown. Sergeant, please give the stenographer your name and address.

**STATEMENT OF MR. GEORGE M. BROWN, ORDNANCE SERGEANT, UNITED STATES ARMY, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA., CARETAKER OF FORT MARION.**

Mr. BROWN. I am George M. Brown, ordnance sergeant, United States Army, St. Augustine, Fla., caretaker of Fort Marion.

The CHAIRMAN. How long have you been in the service here, Sergt. Brown?

Mr. BROWN. The 27th of next month will make me 56 years.

The CHAIRMAN. At this one post?

Mr. BROWN. No; I have been all over the world, pretty near.

The CHAIRMAN. How long have you been assigned here?

Mr. BROWN. I was assigned to duty here—I came here on the 4th of August, 1885.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you been here ever since?

Mr. BROWN. No; on the 15th of July I was ordered to the Philippines, 1903.

The CHAIRMAN. Then where did you go?

Mr. BROWN. Then I was assigned to duty at Zamboanga, Mindanao. Then I was ordered home for retirement. I came back here, and I was off duty from February 22—the date I arrived home—to February 26, 1908, and I was placed on duty in charge of Fort Marion, the same duty I had been performing before I went to the Philippines.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you been here ever since 1908?

Mr. BROWN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SEARS. Sergeant, will you describe to the committee the capture of Osceola, and where he was confined here, in your own language, and briefly; when he was captured, where he was confined here, and how he was captured?

Mr. BROWN. If you will go up to the fort, I can show you the places, and it will be much more satisfactory to you, I think, or I have a book that has got the official report of it. I got the authority to make a copy of this report. I had charge of the national cemetery for a number of years here, and the archives that belong to the post here; and this book is the official copy that was deposited there that gives the complete description.

Mr. SEARS. When was Osceola captured, if you know?

Mr. BROWN. About 1841, I think.

Mr. SEARS. How was he captured?

Mr. BROWN. He was captured out 9 miles from here at Pelican Swamp.

Mr. SEARS. Was he captured in a battle or how was he captured?

Mr. BROWN. The report states that he made a proposition to come in and have a parley with Gen. Jessup, and that Gen. Jessup sent out a detachment of dragoons and had him practically surrounded when he came in.

Mr. SEARS. He came in, then, for the purpose of a parley?

Mr. BROWN. That is what he claimed.

Mr. SEARS. Where was he confined here?

Mr. BROWN. In Fort Marion.

Mr. SEARS. How long did he stay there?

Mr. BROWN. I can not tell you exactly until I could turn to the book. I have the exact date.

Mr. SEARS. You could give to our chairman a copy of that book, could you?

Mr. BROWN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SEARS. Did he die here?

Mr. BROWN. No; he died—he was sent to Fort Moultrie and died there. He was buried just outside the entrance there, and there is a monument erected over his grave.

The CHAIRMAN. Who erected the monument?

Mr. BROWN. Some patriotic ladies from Boston.

Mr. SEARS. Did he try to escape here?

Mr. BROWN. No. There was Cocowgee and Hajos. Cocowgee was a war chief; Hajos was a medicine man. They made their escape, but they were recaptured about four years after and made a treaty, brought in the band, and took them to Indian Territory. Osceola was confined in the same room, but didn't make an escape. He was sent to Fort Moultrie and died there.

Mr. SEARS. Why didn't he escape?

Mr. BROWN. I can not tell you. That is more than any history gives any definite notes of.

Mr. SEARS. So far as you know, there was no reason why he shouldn't have escaped at the same time the other two did?

Mr. BROWN. Not a bit. You can see in the room where he was confined; they claim there was three holes cut in the wall where they used to climb up and look out. There was a window over a door—a small one—and they would sit on that ledge there to get the sunlight.

Mr. HASTINGS. When did Osceola die? What was the date of it, do you remember?

Mr. BROWN. No.

Mr. HASTINGS. About how long was he in prison? You don't have any idea, do you?

Mr. BROWN. I think less than a year, probably. I was two years keeping boomers out of Oklahoma, and I went through all the reservations there once every month, and those Seminoles in Oklahoma were in a great deal better condition than these are down here. They had nice ranches out there.

Mr. SEARS. Mr. Ingraham, will you make a brief statement to the committee about the Seminoles?

**STATEMENT OF MR. JAMES A. INGRAHAM, VICE PRESIDENT,  
FLORIDA EAST COAST RAILWAY.**

Mr. INGRAHAM. I have been very much interested in the Indians and knew a good many of them.

The legislature, I think of 1905, appointed a commission, of which I was chairman; Capt. Henry, of Fort Myers, was a member; a third gentleman from Miami was a member—his name I can not now recollect—to select a tract of land from the State lands to be used as a