

JACKSONVILLE AND THE ATLANTIC WORLD

The history of the foundation of Jacksonville perfectly illustrates a part of the history of the Atlantic World's construction.

In the 16th century, since America was a mostly unknown land to the western world, Europe went through a major confrontation that had great consequences over the colonization of the Americas. Protestantism, which revolutionized the catholic thought, succeeded in Northern Europe and England, but was fought in Southern Europe and France. Under these circumstances, the oppressed French Huguenots had to seek refuge in Northern Europe, England and the Americas as well. Among those French Huguenots was René Goulaine De Laudonnière, originally from the South of Nantes. In 1564, De Laudonnière, lieutenant of Jean Ribault, founded Fort Caroline on the banks of the St. Johns River; the river that runs through Jacksonville today.



René Goulaine de Laudonnière.

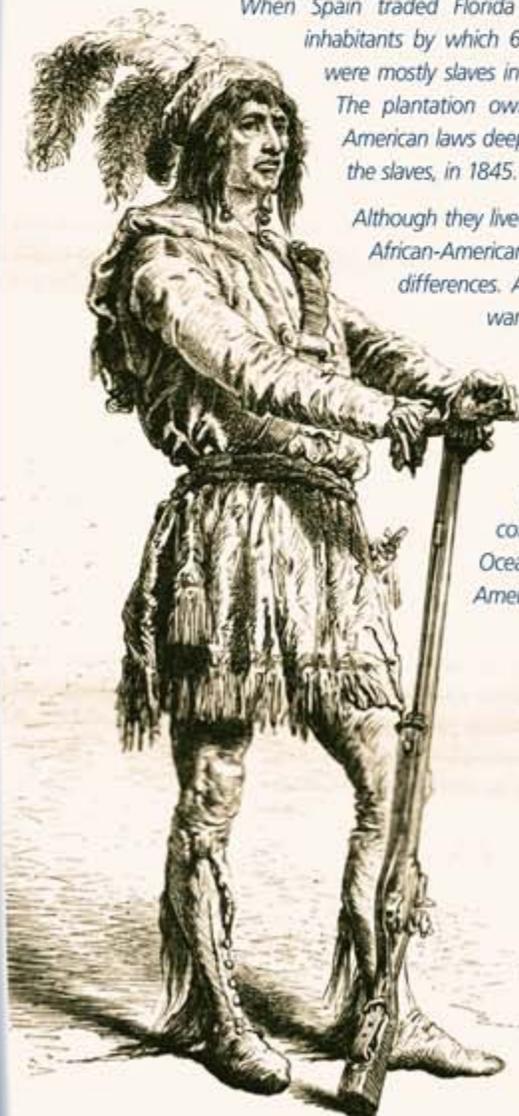
Initiated by the great nations of the time, Spain, England and France, the immigrants arriving from Europe settled around the region of Jacksonville. Also, the slaves from Africa were brought to that region, along with the Native Americans that were already inhabitants of the area.

During the Spanish period, Florida's peninsula served as a sanctuary for the run-away slaves that eventually mixed with the natives, and produced a community known as "runaway slaves". In 1815, more than 300 slaves organized a union for Africans and Indians aiming to oppose and fight the special rights given to European colonists.

When Spain traded Florida to Britain, there were 140,000 inhabitants by which 63,000 were African-American who were mostly slaves in cotton and sugar cane plantations. The plantation owners feared revolutions; therefore American laws deeply tightened the living conditions of the slaves, in 1845.

Although they lived in distinct villages, the Indians and African-Americans formed an ally beyond their racial differences. At the time of the second Seminole war (1835-1842), hundreds of slaves in Florida joined the Indian Combats.

Similar to other areas in the southeast of the United States, Jacksonville is inhabited by people that are originally from the three continents encircling the Atlantic Ocean : Europeans, Africans and Native Americans.



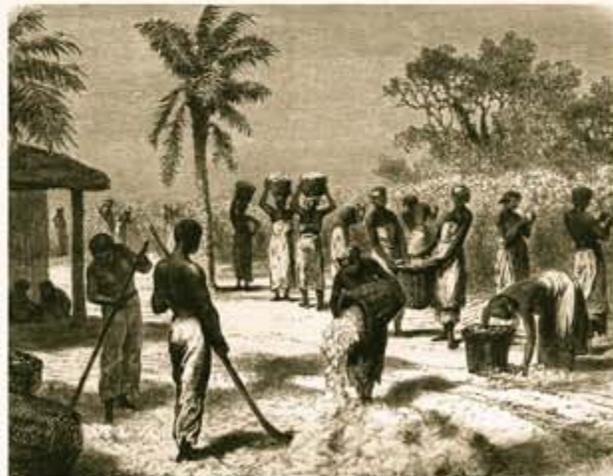
Osceola, the Seminole Native American chief.



View of Nantes in the 18th.



Slaves cabins in a Florida's plantation.



Cotton crops in Florida.



Episode of the second Seminole War.