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History of Kingsley Plantation

During Florida's plantation period (1763-1865), Fort George Island was owned by many planters. The site name comes from one of those owners, Zephaniah Kingsley. The Kingsleys lived here from 1814 to 1837.

[Kingsley Family and Society](#)

[Slave Community](#)

[Crops of Kingsley Plantation](#)

[Sea Island Cotton](#)

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[Chronology of Fort George Island](#)

[Slave Trade Connections](#) - Project with Kingsley Plantation and the Shackles of Memory Association in Nantes, France

[Florida History Online \(Timucuan Preserve\)](#)

External (not Timucuan Preserve) Websites Related to Kingsley Plantation:

[Ethnohistorical Study of the Kingsley Plantation Community](#), by Antoinette Jackson with Allan F. Burns, UF Department of Anthropology, 2006

External (non-NPS) Websites Related to Kingsley Plantation:

[The Kingsley Plantation](#) (883 KB pdf) - Article from Florida History & the Arts magazine, used with permission of the Florida Department of State, Office of Cultural, Historical and Information Programs. For more information or to subscribe, call 1.800.847.7278 or [click here](#). (You are leaving the National Park Service website.)

[UNF, UF Students Dig Through Dirt for Clues to History](#) (You are leaving the NPS website.)

[Great Fort George Isle](#) - this website is part of "[Florida History Online](#)" and describes the British plantation era on Fort George Island. (You are leaving the NPS website.)

[Short video about Kingsley Plantation](#), hosted on the Visit Florida website. Includes and interview with a Park Ranger. (You are leaving the NPS website.)

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["The Atlantic Mind: Zephaniah Kingsley, Slavery, and the Politics of Race in the Atlantic World"](#) - Master's Thesis by Mark J. Fleszar, Georgia State University, 2009 (You are leaving the NPS website.)

Did You Know?



Fort Caroline National Memorial was the site of the first conflict between Europeans over land that is now part of the Continental United States. [More...](#)

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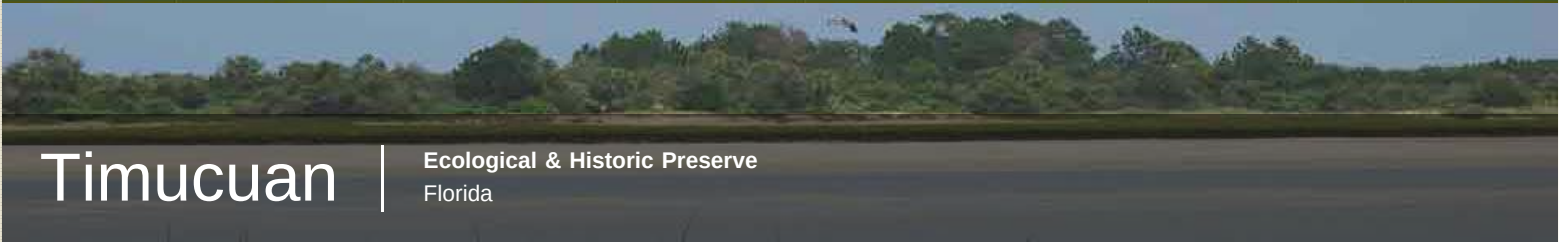
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Kingsley Family and Society

In 1814, Zephaniah Kingsley moved to Fort George Island and what is known today as the Kingsley Plantation. He brought a wife and three children (a fourth would be born at Fort George). His wife, Anna Madgigine Jai, was from Senegal, West Africa, and was purchased by Kingsley as a slave. She actively participated in plantation management, acquiring her own land and slaves when freed by Kingsley in 1811.

With an enslaved work force of about 60, the Fort George plantation produced Sea Island cotton, citrus, sugar cane, and corn. Kingsley continued to acquire property in north Florida and eventually possessed more than 32,000 acres, including four major plantation complexes and more than 200 slaves.

[Family and Society, Part 2](#) | [Anna Kingsley](#) | [Zephaniah Kingsley](#) | [Florida History Online](#)

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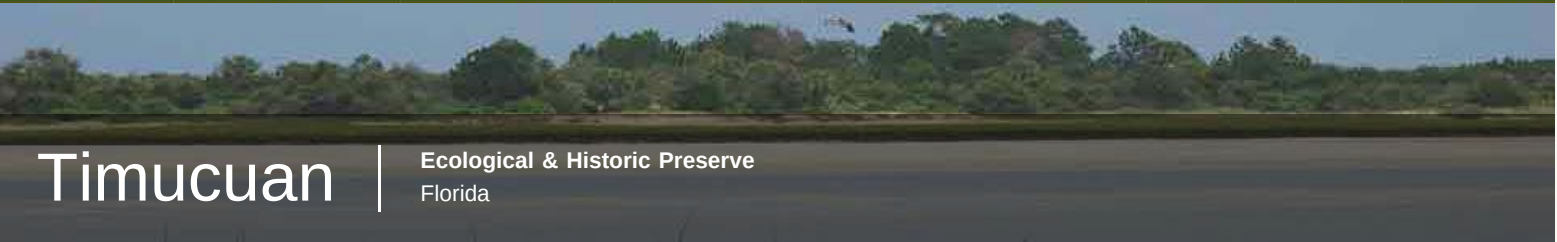
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Slave Community



Slave Cabin at Kingsley Plantation

A fifth of a mile from the plantation home of Zephaniah Kingsley are the remains of 23 tabby cabins. Arranged in a semicircle, there were 32 cabins originally, 16 on either side of the road. This area represents the slave community, homes of the men, women, and children who lived and worked on Kingsley Plantation more

than 150 years ago.



Labor
Slave labor on this plantation was organized according to the task system. [Read More »](#)



Culture
Enslaved people created a new culture with elements from their African heritage. [Read More »](#)



Family Life
Learn more about family life in slavery. [Read More »](#)

Did You Know?



Jacksonville, Florida was invaded by the Union Army four separate times during the Civil War and two battles of significance were fought within the boundary of Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. [More...](#)



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Crops of Kingsley Plantation

These crops are grown each year in the demonstration garden.



Sea Island cotton was the cash crop at Kingsley Plantation from the 1790s until the American Civil War (1860-1865). Valued for its long, silky fiber, the plant liked the sea island climate of Fort George Island and other sea islands from Florida to South Carolina. This cotton had to be worked entirely by hand to protect the long fibers.



Indigo was the original cash crop of Fort George Island, where Kingsley Plantation is located. The green leaves and stems produced a rich blue dye that was highly valued throughout the world. The banana-shaped pods are the seed pods, and the plant also produces small pink flowers. For more on indigo and slavery, visit this education website: [Slavery in America](#).



The plantation was self-sufficient, so all food needed for the planter's family and the slave community was grown here. Okra is one example of a crop with African roots that became a staple of southern cooking. Other provisional crops included beans, potatoes, peas, sugar cane, squash, gourds, and many more.

Return to [History of Kingsley Plantation](#).

Did You Know?



The planter's house at Kingsley Plantation, a unit of the Timucuan Preserve, is the oldest plantation house still standing in Florida. [More...](#)





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Sea Island Cotton

Sea Island cotton is a name for certain long-staple (long-fiber) cotton. Sea Island cotton (*Gossypium barbadense*) has strong silk-like fibers and smooth black seeds. Typical long staple cotton fibers are 1.5 to 2 inches long.

Sea Island cotton was the principle cash crop on Fort George Island from the early 1790s to 1865 (the end of American Civil War).

[Development](#)

[Processing](#)

[Economy](#)

[Decline](#)

[Sea Island Cotton Today](#)

[Further Reading](#)

These pages were written by park volunteers Beth Wargo and Leo Garrett and edited by park staff.

10/18/08

Did You Know?



The word "Caroline" - while feminine in gender - does not refer to a female of that name but rather a geographic area. The word "Caroline" comes from Old French which loosely translated means "the land belonging to Charles," in this case King Charles IX of France. [More...](#)

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Tabby

Many of the buildings at Kingsley Plantation are made of tabby. Tabby is a mix of lime, sand and water. The lime was obtained by cooking whole oyster shells in a kiln, then "slaking" the shells by adding water to them - in this process the shells break down. Watch the **Making Tabby: Slaking Demonstration** video to see this transformation.

[Click here for the video](#) (6 MB WMV). A smaller file size version (2 MB WMV) is available by [clicking here](#).



The whole shells and pieces were added into the tabby cement mixture to provide more volume. This tabby concrete was then poured into forms. When the cement hardened, the forms were removed and a thin layer of mortar was spread over the walls. Some of the buildings, including the barn, kitchen, and slave quarters, have tabby cement and tabby bricks. The bricks were made by the same process described above, however the whole shells were not added into the bricks. The tabby mixture was poured into brick moulds and left to harden.

Tabby, as a building material, appeared at the same time along the southeast coast of North America and on the west coast of Africa. These building supplies had been left on Fort George Island in large middens by the Timucua Indians and their ancestors. Many cultures are hidden in the walls of these buildings.

Help protect these historical buildings by not touching, leaning, or sitting on them.

For more information, read the [Tabby brochure](#) (pdf file).

Return to [History of Kingsley Plantation](#).

Did You Know?



Fort Matanzas in St. Augustine, Florida is named for the slaughter of French Huguenots from Fort Caroline in 1565. In Spanish, "matanzas" means slaughters.
[More...](#)

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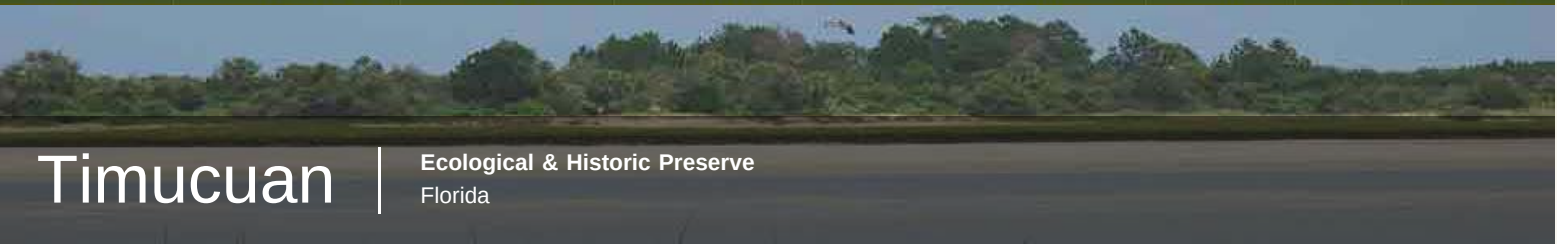
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Archaeology at Kingsley Plantation



Images from left to right: ginger beer bottle, ceramic and glass fragments, metal cross, bead.

Archaeological investigations at some of the Kingsley slave cabins produced artifacts that give us a glimpse into daily life at this slave community.

Hundreds of artifacts were recovered during the archaeological excavations in 1968 and 1981. Images from left to right: ginger beer bottle, ceramic and glass fragments, metal cross, bead. Gardening, hunting, fishing, and cooking occupied time after plantation work was finished. Clay pipes, handmade clay marbles, a harmonica, toothbrush, brass bell, and glass inkwell are other possessions found at the slave cabins – intriguing traces of the occupants' personal lives.

In 2006, the University of Florida began a three year project at the slave quarters. These field schools will reveal more about life at the slave community. [Click here](#) for information about current archaeological excavations.

In spite of their small, size, these artifacts have been the only clues to the daily activities of the inhabitants of the slave quarters at Kingsley Plantation You have a role in protecting our archaeological treasures. Do not pick up items found on the grounds. Report illegal activities to a park ranger. Remember - digging for artifacts or removing anything from the park is illegal and robs us all of our heritage.

Return to [History of Kingsley Plantation](#).

Did You Know?



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Recreation Era

The plantation era on Fort George Island came to an end with the conclusion of the Civil War. While a few more attempts at agriculture would occur, the primary use of the island shifted from agriculture to recreation.

[Rollins family](#)

[Hotels and Clubs](#)

[History of a House](#)



Did You Know?



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Chronology of Kingsley Plantation

Kingsley Plantation Timeline

- 1765-1771 Island owned by Richard Hazard who operated an indigo plantation with the use of slave labor.
- 1765 Zephaniah Kingsley born in Bristol, England.
- 1791-1804 John McQueen owns Ft. George Island and establishes it as a Sea Island cotton plantation.
- 1793 Anta Majigeen (Anna) born in Senegal, West Africa.
- 1798 Plantation house is built by McQueen's skilled slave craftsmen.
- 1803 Kingsley immigrates to Spanish Florida.
- 1806 Kingsley purchases and marries Anna at an auction in Havana, Cuba.
- 1804-1814 John Houston McIntosh owns Ft. George Island. He operates the Sea Island cotton plantation and becomes the leader of the Patriots' Rebellion.
- 1814 The Kingsleys move to Ft. George Island.
- 1814-1839 Ft. George Island is the primary residence for Kingsley. The plantation produced Sea Island cotton, sugarcane and other provisions.
- 1821 Florida is a United States territory.
- 1824 Youngest son of Anna and Zephaniah, John Maxwell, born free at the plantation.
- 1837 Anna Kingsley moves to Haiti and lives at the family's agricultural community called *Myorasgo de Koka*
- 1839-1853 Zephaniah Kingsley's nephew Kingsley Beattv Gibbs owns Ft. George Island.
- 1843 Zephaniah dies in New York at age 78.
- 1845 Florida becomes the 27th state in the union.
- 1846 Anna returns to Jacksonville from Haiti.
- 1854-1855 Charles Thompson owns Ft. George Island.
- 1869-1923 John Rollins and family owns Ft. George Island. End of plantation period.
- 1870 Anna Kingsley dies in Jacksonville at age 77.

Return to [History of Kingsley Plantation](#).

Did You Know?



Jacksonville, Florida was invaded by the Union Army four separate times during the Civil War and two battles of significance were fought within the boundary of Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. [More...](#)

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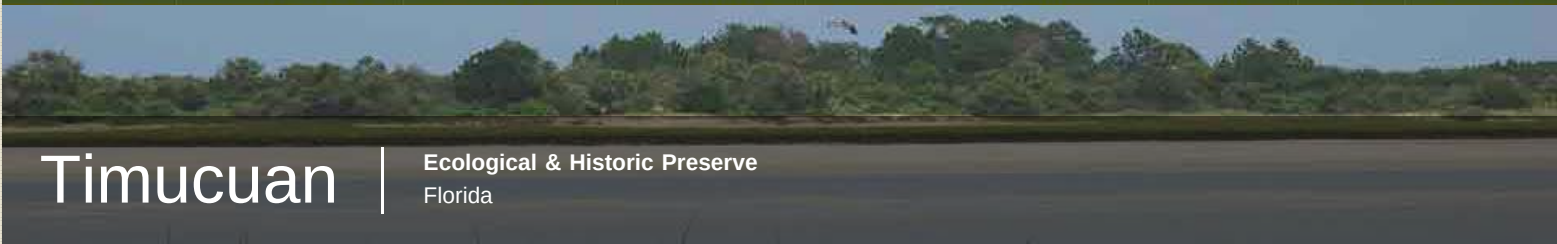
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Slave Trade Connections

The history and legacy of slavery in the United States, as well as the story of the Middle Passage and the triangular trade, are told at national parks and taught in schools. Yet not as much is taught about the origins of the slave trade.

In 2008, a representative from Les Anneaux de la Memoire (The Shackles of Memory Association) came from Nantes, France to Kingsley Plantation and gave a presentation about the slave trade. His presentation focused on the global slave trade economy and new technological advances that allowed nations to send explorers across the Atlantic Ocean. These contributed to the rise of slavery in the Americas. In 2010, another presentation was given about slave rebellion on board French slave ships.

Explore the links on the right and below to learn more about the slave trade.



This website and its materials were created by Carol S. Clark, National Park Service. Funding for the immersion experience in France, reference materials, and French courses was provided by a grant from the [National Park Foundation](#). The follow-up to the experience is the curriculum unit and two wayside exhibit panels produced in partnership with the [Shackles of Memory Association](#) in Nantes, France.

[National Park Service Office of International Affairs](#)



French Connections
American slavery is tied to Europe through the slave trade. [Read More »](#)



Curriculum
The Timucuan Preserve offers slave trade curriculum materials. [Read More »](#)



Curriculum Activities
Materials for educators to use to teach about the slave trade. [Read More »](#)



French Connections
Learn more about the beginning of the Atlantic slave trade. [Read More »](#)



Exhibits and Events
Events and exhibits provide ways to learn more about the Atlantic slave

trade. [Read More »](#)

Did You Know?



The flag that flies over Fort Caroline is a sixteenth century French flag with “fleur de lis” heraldic symbols in gold on a blue background. The “fleur de lis” is an unofficial symbol of France. [More...](#)

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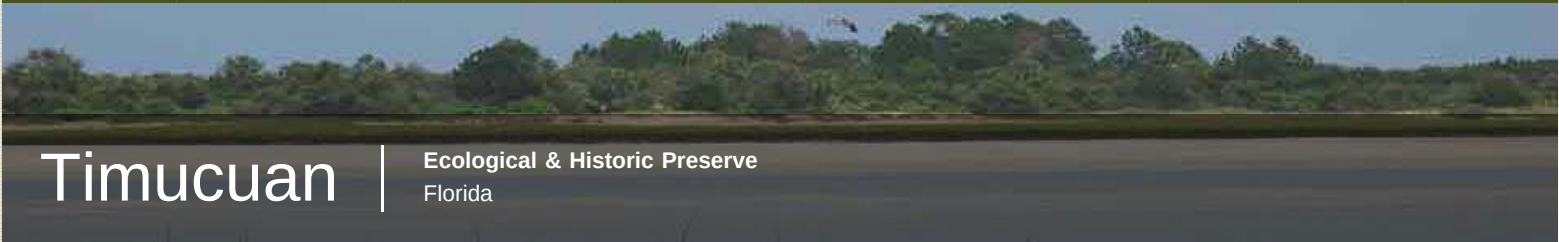


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Florida History Online

Florida History Online is a digital archive of textual and visual documents of Florida history produced by students and faculty at the University of North Florida. It is a resource for educators and scholars, offering free online access to transcribed Florida history documents. The National Park Service is hosting a portion of the digital archive on the Timucuan Preserve website. The documents hosted here related to Fort George Island or Zephaniah Kingsley.

To access Fort George Island or Zephaniah Kingsley documents, choose from the following links:

- [Zephaniah Kingsley Documents](#)
- [Rollins Family and Recreation Era](#)

This website will have additions as documents are prepared.

[Click here to visit Florida History Online](#), hosted by the University of North Florida.

Return to [History and Culture](#).

Updated April 4, 2009

Did You Know?



The word "Caroline" - while feminine in gender - does not refer to a female of that name but rather a geographic area. The word "Caroline" comes from Old French which loosely translated means "the land belonging to Charles," in this case King Charles IX of France. [More...](#)





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The Kingsley Plantation

HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA • LEU GARDENS • SPRING TRAINING AND SUPER BOWLS



THE KINGSLEY PLANTATION SLAVERY IN SPANISH FLORIDA

By Kiley Mallard

For 6,000 years, humans have made Fort George Island in present-day Jacksonville their home. Still visible today are giant mounds of oyster shells left by the Timucua Indians and their ancestors. The Kingsley Plantation

sits on the northern end of the island, overlooking the Fort George River. Built in 1798



KELLY LADUKE/NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

KITCHEN IN FOREGROUND, MAIN HOUSE IN BACK.

by the slaves of John McQueen, the house is the oldest planter's residence still standing in Florida. The semi-circle of 25 tabby cabins (originally 32)

just south of the house provides one of the most intact examples of slave life in the state.

On July 21, 1791, the Spanish government granted Fort George Island to John McQueen, who harvested the abundant island timber and sold it in St. Augustine. In 1804, when high tides destroyed his sawmill, McQueen sold Fort George Island to John Houston McIntosh.



FLORIDA STATE ARCHIVES



KELLY LADUKE/NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Kingsley Plantation is part of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve operated by the National Park Service.

The McIntosh family prospered, growing Sea Island cotton with the help of 160 to 170 slaves. In 1811-12, McIntosh participated in the Patriot Rebellion. The rebels planned to seize Florida from Spain for the United States, with the expectation of generous land grants in return. In 1812, they captured land between the St. Marys and St. Johns Rivers, but an attempt to capture St. Augustine turned into a stalemate. The U.S. withdrew support, the Seminole Indians (allied with Spain) attacked the Patriots, and the brief rebellion ended. McIntosh fled to Georgia, and rented Fort George Island to a man named Zephaniah Kingsley.

Born in England in 1765, Zephaniah Kingsley moved to Charleston, South Carolina in the 1770s. In 1790, Kingsley began sailing to Africa and the Caribbean, profiting from slavery. He came to Spanish East Florida in 1803, purchasing a 2,600-acre complex of plantations along the St. Johns River, near present day Orange Park. Kingsley soon brought his wife, Anna Madgigine Jai, and their three children to live in Florida.

Anna was born in Senegal, Africa and sold into slavery as a teenager. She was purchased by Kingsley in Havana, Cuba, and married him at age 13 in an African ceremony. On March

1, 1811, Kingsley freed Anna and their three children. By 1813, Anna owned five acres across the St. Johns River from Kingsley's plantation. She purchased goods, livestock—and slaves. During the Patriot Rebellion, she burned down her house and Kingsley's property, rather than have it occupied by Patriots. The Spanish government rewarded her loyalty with a land grant of 350 acres.

In 1814, the Kingsley family and 60 slaves moved to Fort George Island. Sea Island cotton was still the staple crop for the plantation, but the Kingsleys grew other crops to make the plantation self-sufficient. Kingsley purchased the island in 1817. Whenever he was away, Anna was responsible for the Fort George Island plantation.

In the 1820s, 32 tabby cabins were built in a semi-circle less than a quarter mile south of the plantation house. Tabby, a mix of lime (produced by burning the oyster shells from the Indian mounds on the island), sand, water and whole oyster shells, was also used in construction of the barn and kitchen.

Slaves on the Kingsley Plantation were managed according to the "task system," popular on the southeast coast where rice and Sea Island cotton were grown. (Inland



By 1813, Anna owned five acres across the St. Johns River from Kingsley's plantation. She purchased goods, livestock—and slaves.



MAIN PLANTATION HOUSE, CA. 1870S

Anna Madgigine



KINGSLEY PLANTATION/NPS COLLECTION

The first
Kingsley Heritage
Celebration was
a 1998 family
reunion, the
idea of Manuel
Lebron, a
descendant
of Anna and
Zephaniah
Kingsley.

states, which grew sugar and tobacco, more often used the “gang system.”) Under the task system, each slave was assigned a specific amount of work each day. When tasks were completed, their time was their own. Slaves had their own gardens, and grew crops to supplement their meager rations, or to be sold or traded for what they needed. Slave marriages were not recognized by law. Children belonged to the mother’s owner. Families were often separated, and infant mortality was high.

The Kingsley slave quarters were excavated in 1968, 1981 and 2006. At the site, archaeologists have found tools for gardening, hunting, fishing and cooking, as well as clay pipes, clay marbles, a harmonica, a toothbrush, a brass bell and a glass inkwell.

In 1821, the United States purchased Florida from Spain. The rights of both freed and enslaved blacks changed dramatically. Fear of slave rebellion contributed to laws restricting the rights of all blacks. Kingsley was against these laws, arguing that treating slaves humanely would ensure a peaceful continuation of the institution. In 1823, he was appointed to the Legislative Council of the Territory of Florida, where he hoped to persuade the territorial government to create more tolerant laws. He published, “A Treatise on the Patriarchal or Co-operative System of Society As It Exists in Some Governments...Under the Name of Slavery,” in 1828. Kingsley’s efforts were unsuccessful, and by the late 1820s there was little difference between free and enslaved blacks in Florida.



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Anna gave birth to the couple's youngest son in 1824 under these new restrictive laws. Fearing for his family's safety, Kingsley sent Anna and their two sons to Haiti in 1837. Called the "Isle of Liberty," Haiti was the first independent black republic in the New World. There the Kingleys established a plantation they called *Mayorazgo De Koka*. More than 50 of the Kingsley slaves came with them as indentured servants (slavery was against the law in Haiti.) The slaves were promised freedom and land in exchange for nine years of service.

When Zephaniah Kingsley died in 1843, his white relatives contested his will in an attempt to disinherit the black heirs, including Anna and their children. The will was upheld. Their younger son, John, took over the Haitian plantation, and Anna moved back to the States to live with her daughters in Jacksonville.

During the Civil War, Anna and her daughters supported the Union. Florida's secession forced them to move briefly to New York, then to Union-occupied Fernandina. Anna returned to the St. Johns River after the war, where she died in 1870.

There are no photos or portraits of Anna Madgigine Jai, no personal letters or diaries. Her life story has been pieced together through legal petitions, official correspondence, and probate and property records. Her signature exists because of these documents. Though she is believed to be buried in Jacksonville, her gravesite is unknown.

Today, Kingsley Plantation is part of the Timucuan



DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Ecological and Historic Preserve operated by the National Park Service. Admission is free. Visitors can explore the grounds, which include the slave quarters, barn, waterfront, plantation house, kitchen house and interpretive garden. A visitor contact station and bookstore are located in a 1920s structure adjacent to the plantation buildings. Currently, the plantation house is undergoing stabilization for damage caused by termite infestations, and is closed to the public.

Each February, Kingsley Plantation hosts Black History Month events. Each October, the Kingsley Heritage Celebration takes place. The first Kingsley Heritage Celebration was a 1998 family reunion, the idea of Manuel Lebron, a descendant of Anna and Zephaniah Kingsley. Ranger programs are offered daily at 2:00 p.m. and field trips are encouraged. Teachers can download curriculum from the park's Web site. 🏠



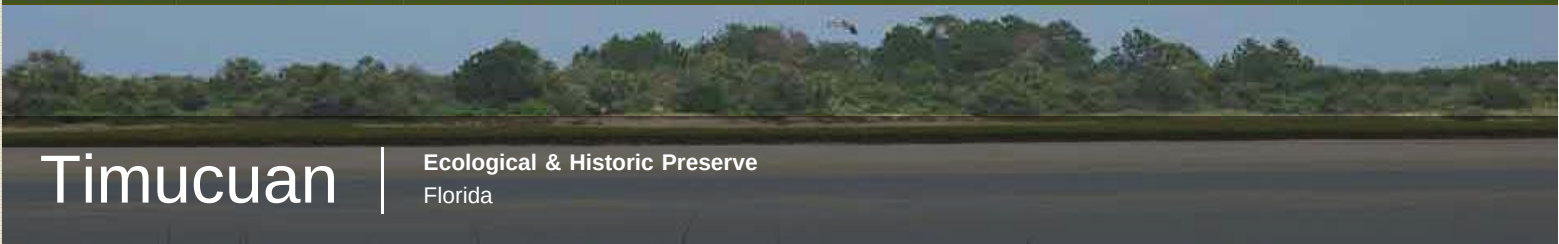
KELLY LADUKE/NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



To Learn More
Visit the Kingsley
Plantation at 11676
Palmetto Avenue
in Jacksonville, call
904.251.3537 or visit
www.nps.gov/timu.



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History & Culture

The history and culture of the Preserve stretches over 6,000 years. Hear the life stories of the native people who survived in Florida's environment prior to European contact. Learn of the clash of cultures that occurred as nations converged in the New World, from Europeans attempts at colonization to the struggles of enslaved African peoples. Experience more modern trends such as the growing tourism industry and present community efforts to sustain modern life while preserving our local environment and its history.

Choose a link on the right or jump to:

- Timucua Indians
- 16th-century European Settlement
- Plantation Era
- NEW! Civil War
- Recreational Development
- Florida History Online



Places
Discover places to explore and enjoy.
[Read More »](#)



People
Learn about the people who lived within the boundaries of what is now the Timucuan Preserve. [Read More »](#)



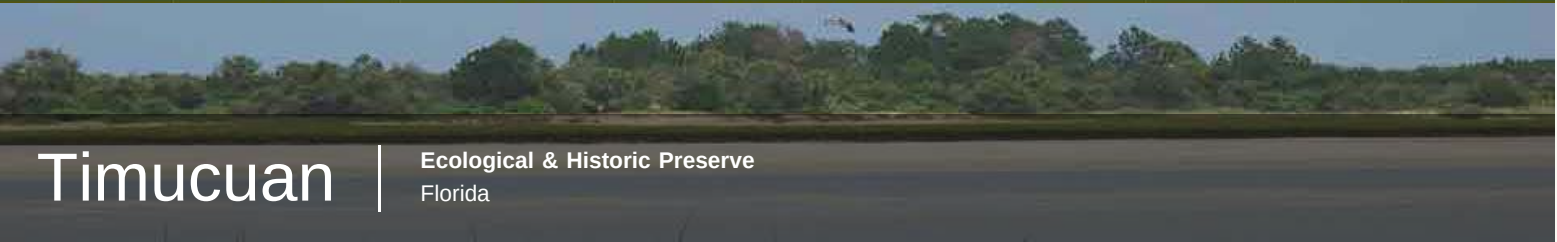
Stories
The diverse people and places in the Preserve are woven together through their stories. [Read More »](#)



Did You Know?



The word "Caroline" - while feminine in gender - does not refer to a female of that name but rather a geographic area. The word "Caroline" comes from Old French which loosely translated means "the land belonging to Charles," in this case King Charles IX of France. [More...](#)



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Within the boundaries of the Preserve are national, state, and city park areas as well other public and private landholdings.

National Park Areas

Fort Caroline National Memorial

Theodore Roosevelt Area

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Partnership Areas

Partnership Homepage

Ribault Club & Fort George Island Visitor Center (Florida Park Service & National Park Service)

Talbot Islands State Parks (Florida Park Service)

Huguenot Memorial Park (City of Jacksonville)

Machaba Balu (The Nature Conservancy)

Did You Know?



The Theodore Roosevelt Area, a unit of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, contains nine distinct ecosystems; more than any other park in Jacksonville, Florida. [More...](#)



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Kingsley Plantation

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, many people came to Florida. Some, like Zephaniah Kingsley, sought to make their fortunes by obtaining land and establishing plantations. Others were forced to come to Florida to work on those plantations, their labor providing wealth to the people who owned them. Some of the enslaved would later become free landowners, struggling to keep their footing in a dangerous time of shifting alliances and politics. All of these people played a part in the history of Kingsley Plantation.

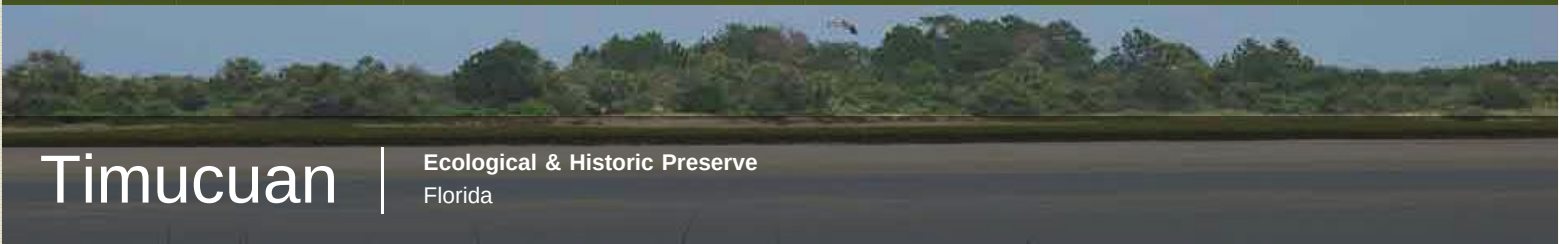
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People

Diverse cultures and perspectives are represented by the people that historically lived their lives within the present-day boundaries of the Preserve. Choose a person below to learn more about that era in Preserve history and where you can visit that focuses on his or her story.



Chief Athore
Florida State Archives

Native Americans

The Timucuan people and their ancestors lived in this area for 4,000 years prior to the arrival of Europeans. [More...](#)



Jean Ribault
Smith College

Explorers & Settlers

French explorer Jean Ribault sailed into the mouth of the St. Johns River in 1562. He landed and met the native people, the Timucua. [More...](#)



Easter
Florida State Archives

Slavery

Easter was born a slave. She is one of the hundreds of enslaved men, women, and children that lived at Kingsley Plantation. [More...](#)



Gertrude Rollins Wilson
NPS photograph

Recreation

Gertrude Rollins Wilson was the daughter of John Rollins, who came to Florida in 1869 and helped push the area into the recreation era. [More...](#)



Willie Browne
Florida Times-Union

Conservation

The foundations of Willie Browne's cabin stand as a testament to the gift he gave to future visitors. [More...](#)

Did You Know?



Fort Matanzas in St. Augustine, Florida is named for the slaughter of French Huguenots from Fort Caroline in 1565. In Spanish, "matanzas" means slaughters. [More...](#)

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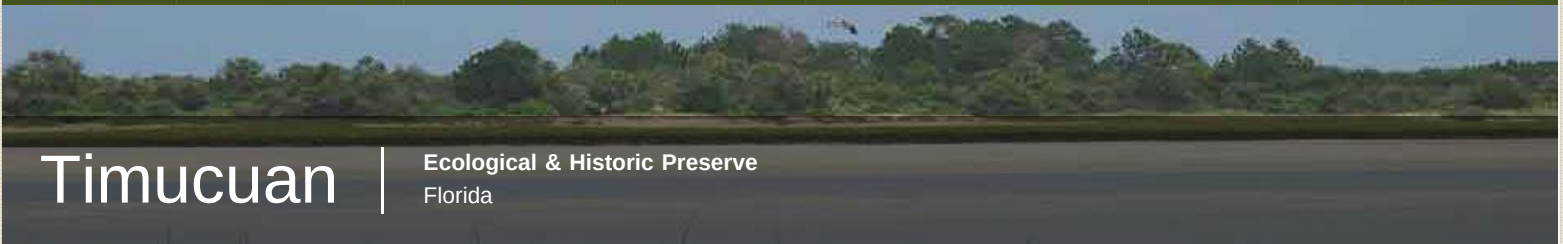
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Fort Caroline National Memorial

Fort Caroline memorializes the short-lived French presence in sixteenth century Florida. Here you will find stories of exploration, survival, religious disputes, territorial battles, and first contact between American Indians and Europeans.



Did You Know?

The word "Caroline" - while feminine in gender - does not refer to a female of that name but rather a geographic area. The word "Caroline" comes from Old French

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which loosely translated means "the land belonging to Charles," in this case King Charles IX of France. [More...](#)

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Theodore Roosevelt Area

The Theodore Roosevelt Area is a 600-acre natural treasure of hardwood forest, wetlands, and scrub vegetation. It is also rich in cultural history.

[Visiting the Theodore Roosevelt Area](#)

[Nature and History](#)

Did You Know?

The word "Caroline" - while feminine in gender - does not refer to a female of that name but rather a geographic area. The word "Caroline" comes from Old French

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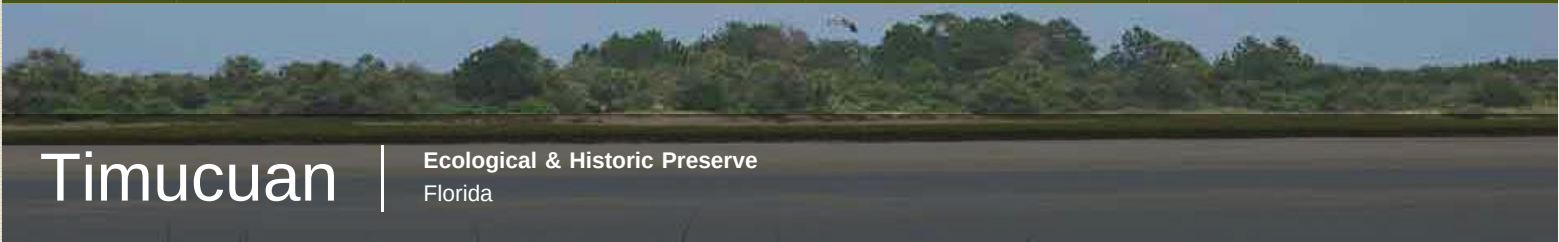
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Visiting Kingsley Plantation

Kingsley Plantation is open seven days a week, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Years Day. Admission is free.

You can explore the grounds at Kingsley Plantation, which include the slave quarters, barn, waterfront, plantation house, kitchen house, and interpretive garden. The visitor contact station/bookstore is located in a 1920s building adjacent to the plantation buildings.

Touring the Plantation House

The plantation house is closed during the week for structural work. Weekend tours are available on a limited basis at 11:00 a.m. and 3 p.m., please call ahead for reservations.

If you have any questions about this project, please call the park at (904) 251-3537 (alternate phone 904.251.3626) or choose a link below.

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Pets are allowed in outdoor areas, but must be on a six-foot leash.

Feel free to call the park at 904.251.3537.

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There is a formal partnership between the National Park Service, Florida Park Service, and City of Jacksonville called the Timucuan Trail State & National Parks.
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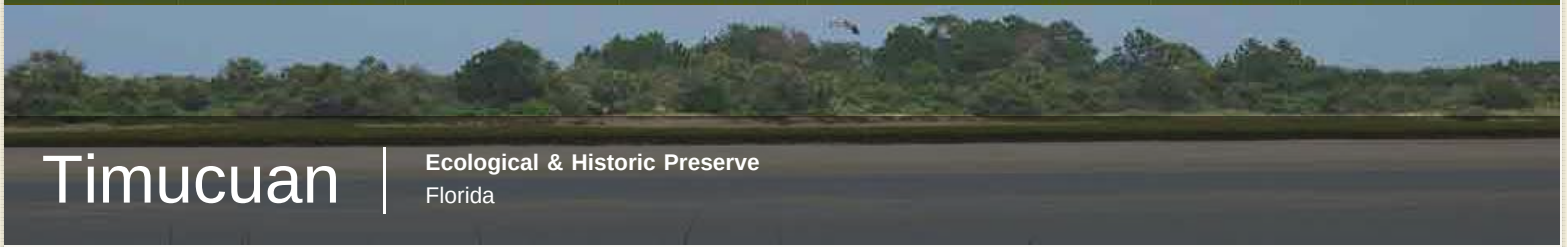
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Ribault Club

Ribault Club was built in 1928 and is a monument to the resort era on Fort George Island. It has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places and is listed as an Historic Landmark by the City of Jacksonville. The **Fort George Island Visitor Center** is run by the Florida Park Service and the National Park Service through the Timucuan Trail State and National Parks partnership.

[Visiting Ribault Club & Fort George Island Visitor Center](#)

[History of Ribault Club and Fort George Island](#)

Did You Know?

Fort Caroline National Memorial was the site of the first conflict between Europeans

http://www.nps.gov/timu/historyculture/ricl.htm[7/11/2013 4:24:22 PM]

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over land that is now part of the Continental United States. [More...](#)

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American Beach - Sand Dune

During the period of racial segregation, African Americans were barred from most of the beaches in Florida. American Beach was founded in 1935 to provide African Americans with beach access in a resort atmosphere. The sand dune is located at the heart of American Beach.

[Visiting American Beach](#)

[History of American Beach](#)

NEW! [Exhibits at American Beach](#)

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Fort Caroline National Memorial was the site of the first conflict between Europeans over land that is now part of the Continental United States. [More...](#)

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Cedar Point

Like much of old Florida, Cedar Point, which lies on the south tip of Black Hammock Island, has seen a great deal of change through the past two hundred years. Now preserved as a natural environment, the area was once subjected to agriculture during the plantation period of the 19th century, and management as a pine plantation during the 20th century. These human activities have left their mark on the land.

Consisting of approximately 400 acres, Cedar Point is located at the south end of Black Hammock Island. Visitors have the opportunity to experience both upland hammocks and salt marsh habitats.

Cedar Point hosts a wide range of north Florida ecosystems. A boat ramp provides access to some of the best fishing spots in the region. Birdwatchers come to Cedar Point to see over 200 species of birds, including the beautiful painted bunting.

There are now restrooms available at Cedar Point.

For directions, [click here](#).



Enjoy the beauty of the salt marsh at Cedar Point.
T. K. Reynolds

Did You Know?



Fort Caroline National Memorial was the site of the first conflict between Europeans over land that is now part of the Continental United States. [More...](#)

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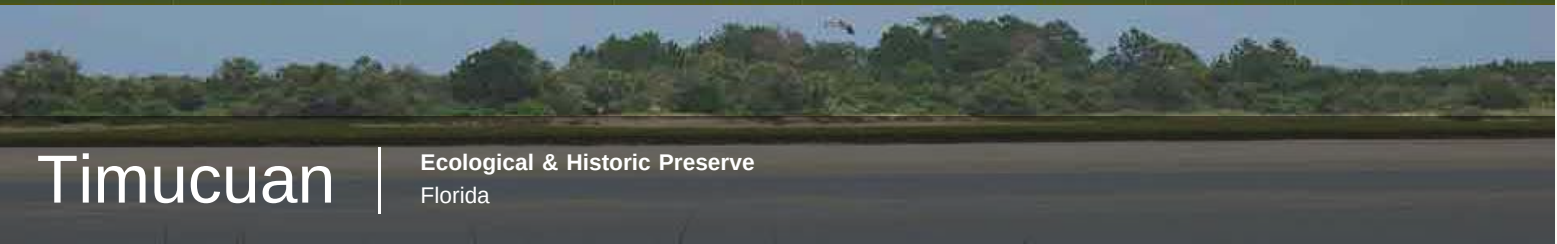
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The Timucua People

Living off the land and water, the Timucua and their culture had remained unchanged for more than a thousand years. Discover more about the lifeways of these people and how short-lived their culture was after European arrival.

France in North America

Learn the story of the short-lived French presence in sixteenth century Florida. It is a story of exploration, survival, religious disputes, territorial battles, and first contact between American Indians and Europeans.

Spanish Missions

One of the missions that existed within today's Preserve boundaries was San Juan del Puerto, on Fort George Island.

Freedom and Slavery in Plantation-Era Florida

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, many people came to Florida. Some, like Zephaniah Kingsley, sought to make their fortunes by obtaining land and establishing plantations. Others were forced to come to Florida to work on those plantations, their labor providing wealth to the people who owned them. Some of the enslaved would later become free landowners, struggling to keep their footing in a dangerous time of shifting alliances and politics.

Civil War

In 1861, Florida voted to secede from the United States and to join with other Southern states in the Confederacy. Although few actual battles were fought in Florida during the Civil War, the state nonetheless played an important role for both sides in the conflict.

The Gift - Willie Browne's Story

A lot of "Old Florida" has disappeared. William Henry Browne III lived on the land that is today known as the Theodore Roosevelt Area. Willie spent his whole life here, and the foundations of his cabin stand as a testament to the gift of solitude and beauty he gave to future visitors.

Ribault Club & Fort George Island Visitor Center

Ribault Club was built in 1928 and is a monument to the resort era on Fort George Island. The wealthy danced, dined, and relaxed at two country clubs. Servants and employees worked to keep up with the Club's patrons as they ate meals, played golf, or went yachting.

American Beach

Racial segregation barred African Americans from most beaches in Florida and throughout the south. Founded in 1935, American Beach provided Jacksonville area African Americans with shoreline beach and recreation facilities.

Did You Know?



The Theodore Roosevelt Area, a unit of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, contains nine distinct ecosystems; more than any other park in Jacksonville, Florida. [More...](#)

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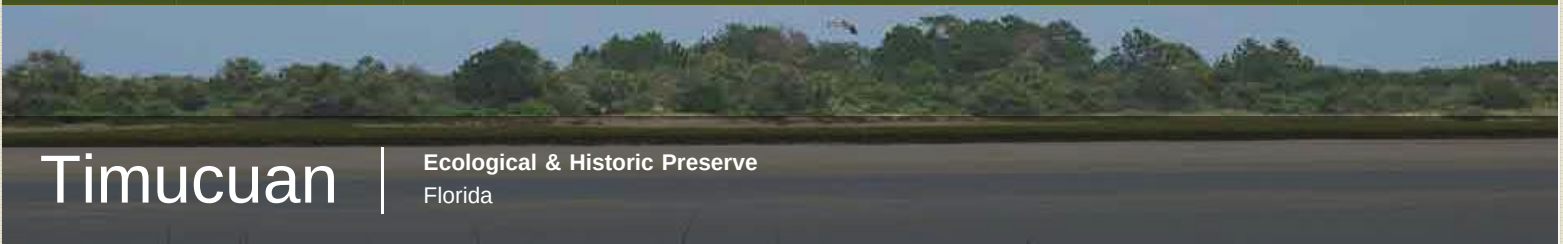
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Collections

The Timucuan Preserve hosts an impressive collection of over 242,000 Native American, European and historic American objects, from over a thousand years old, to just a few years old. Numerous Native American pottery sherds, lithics, tools, a dugout canoe and a unique owl totem carved by Native Americans about 1300 AD are included in the collection. The park owns pieces of European armor, weaponry and cannon tubes as well as books pertaining to early Florida and U.S. history, and navigation. Everyday goods from the nineteenth and twentieth century, such as tools, buttons and coins are also contained in the collection. The collection from Kingsley Plantation includes objects such as tools, vessel fragments and musket balls. In addition, the collection contains early ambrotypes and other photographic images of Rollins family members as well as additional photographs and stereographs relating to the plantation and nearby areas of Florida.

Learn more about conducting research in the [Museum Collection](#).



Selection from the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve's artifact collection.
Photo by Dr. Robert Thunen, University of North Florida Professor.



Museum Collection

26 Photos

The artifacts in the Timucuan Preserve's museum collection represent a microcosm... [more](#)

Did You Know?



The flag that flies over Fort Caroline is a sixteenth century French flag with “fleur de lis” heraldic symbols in gold on a blue background. The "fleur de lis" is an unofficial symbol of France. [More...](#)

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History of Fort Caroline

Did You Know?



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