

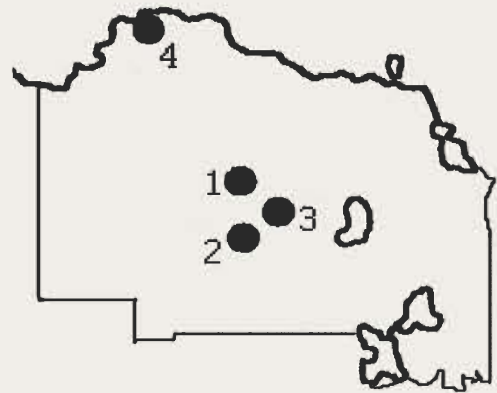
A Clash of Cultures

The Spanish found no riches in Florida. Indians and their labor became the source of wealth. The Spanish organized this labor through a mission system begun in 1573.

Spanish Struggle to Maintain Control

The Timucua were able to keep some of their customs and their own leaders for about fifty years. Then the Spanish tried to take power from the leaders. Angry Timucua rose in revolt. Spanish soldiers quickly stopped the rebellion and hanged the leaders. To maintain control, the Spanish moved all missions to the same road between St. Augustine and Pensacola. This road exists today and is now called the Old Bellamy Road. Part of it is still unpaved and looks as it did when the Timucua and Spanish traveled it.

Did you know?
There were more than 100 Spanish missions in Florida, many more than in California, whose restored missions are well known.

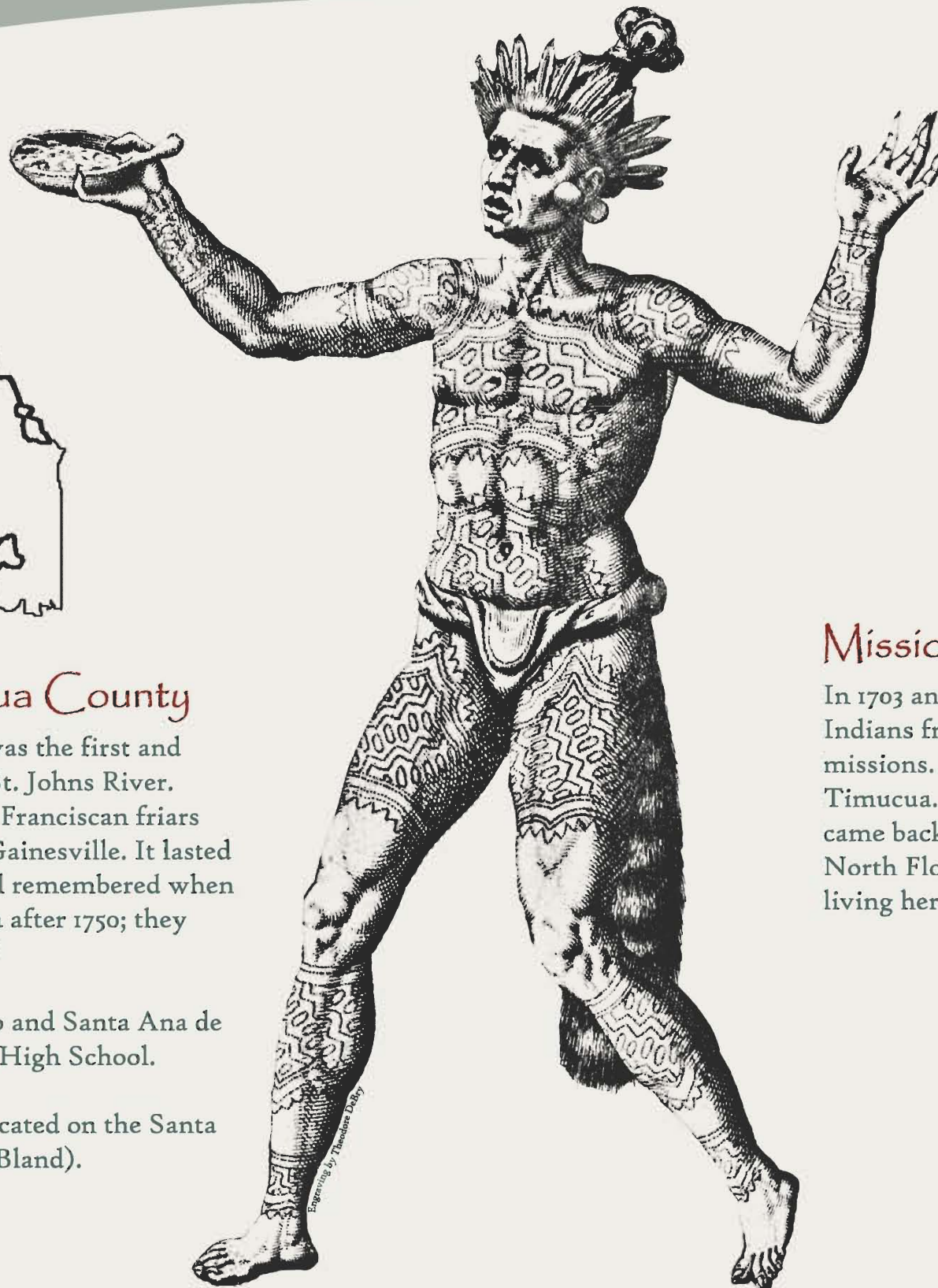


Missions in Alachua County

1. San Francisco de Potano was the first and largest mission west of the St. Johns River. It was started in 1606 by the Franciscan friars near Devil's Millhopper in Gainesville. It lasted nearly 100 years and was still remembered when Seminoles moved to the area after 1750; they pronounced it "San Felasco."

2. & 3. San Miguel de Potano and Santa Ana de Potano, both near Buchholz High School.

4. Santa Fe de Toloca was located on the Santa Fe River's south bank (near Bland).



Missions in Flames

In 1703 and 1704, English soldiers and Indians from South Carolina burned the missions. They killed or caught many Timucua. Those that escaped never came back. Nobody lived in our part of North Florida until Seminoles began living here around 1750.



A Tale of Extinction

Britain took control of Florida in 1763. The last native Floridians, by then less than 100, left with the Spanish. Juan Alonzo Cabale, the last Timucua on earth, was with them. Juan Alonzo died four years later and was buried outside Havana, Cuba. He was 58 years old.