

2nd Regiment, Dancy's Florida Mounted Militia. He was mustered-in at Lancaster, East Florida on November 29, 1840 and mustered-out on March 6, 1841. He rejoined the same company on March 6, 1841 at Lancaster and was mustered-out on April 10, 1841 at Little River, East Florida.

— James was living in Jacksonville, Florida in 1843 where his son, Perry Owen Keen, was born. They later moved back to Alligator (now Lake City) in Columbia County where they were listed in the 1850 Census. Assilla Keen died in 1856. It is not known where she is buried. In 1859, James Keen and the children moved to south Florida settling several miles south of Bartow in Hillsborough County (later Polk County). It was hard enough in the pre-Civil War period for a couple to raise a family, but a man having the burden to be mother & father to a large family was extra difficult. So, on February 2, 1860, James married Mrs. Elizabeth Whidden Whittamore, widow of William Whidden and widow of Aaron Whittamore (see sketch on William Whidden in this issue). She was born in Bryan County, Georgia on February 15, 1820. When Polk County was created in 1861, they were cut off in the new county.

James had been a member of the Salem Primitive Baptist Church near Lake City and when he came to south Florida, he transferred his membership to Mount Enon Primitive Baptist Church near Plant City. Mrs. Elizabeth Keen was also a member of Mount Enon. In July of 1871, James & others from Mount Enon organized the Bethlehem Church near Brewster. He was one of the earliest pastors of that Church.

James M. Keen died on September 29, 1885 and was buried at Mount Olive Cemetery in Polk County. He had been a member of the Masons, belonging to Hillsborough Lodge #25. He had been made a Master Mason in October 1862.

James' middle name was probably "Mitchell" since two of his grandsons carried that name: James Mitchell "Acrefoot" Johnson, son of Elizabeth Keen Johnson, and James Mitchell Keen, son of Henry Harrison Keen.

#### REFERENCES:

CENSUS: 1830 Tattnall Co., Ga.; 1840, 1850 Columbia Co., Fla.; 1850 Holmes Co., Fla.; 1860 Hillsborough Co., Fla.; 1880 Polk Co., Fla.

CEMETERIES: Fort Ogden; Joshua Creek (Arcadia); Campground (Pine Level); Bethlehem; Mt. Olive;

RECORDS: "Masonic Notes", page 4, by Lillian Carpenter at Bartow Historic Library; "Brief Sketch of Life of Perry Owen Keene" by H. E. Carlton; Pension papers of Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson; Marriage records of Polk, Hillsborough & Manatee Counties; Pension papers of Mrs. Elizabeth Keen; Columbia Co., Fla. Estates, page 29, Jan. 19, 1877; Mrs. Elizabeth Keen; CSA pension of Joseph L. Keen & his widow's application; Hillsborough Co. Probate File Docket #275; David R. Wood; military service papers of James M. Keen from National Archives; minutes of Mt. Enon Church at Bartow Library.

INDIVIDUALS: Mrs. Nellie Keen Touchton of Plant City; Mrs. Lenora Keen Mulford of Punta Gorda; Mr. Jimmy Hunt of Bartow; Mrs. Thelma Dennis of West Palm Beach; Mrs. Stevie Powell of Bartow Library;