

from his own resources. A letter from Captain Hooker, dated Jan. 3, 1856, written to Governor James Broome, reports that Hooker had "temporarily assumed command of the whole line" of troops, including those under the command of Captain Lesley. Captain Hooker reported that the greatest difficulty appeared to be provisioning and finding forage for the animals. Continuing, he stated: "On my arrival, I found this country in a wretched state; the inhabitants appeared distracted. I knew no time must be lost, and recommended that all settlers living on the south side of Pease Creek, to cross over, and fortify themselves."

Following the attack by Seminoles on the Tillis homestead near Fort Meade, June 14, 1856, Captain Hooker wrote a detailed report which was subsequently published in the Tampa newspaper, the Florida Peninsular. In his report, Hooker stated that he feared an Indian attack due to the full moon and moved a detachment to Manatee, but finding the area quiet, he went to Horse Creek, where the Indians usually obtained a supply of potatoes. Two scouts were sent to Fort Green to obtain information and soon returned with a report of the Indian attack near Fort Meade. Upon learning of the battle, Captain Hooker's soldiers took up pursuit of the Indians. The official report concluded: "I firmly believe there is no record of warfare exhibiting higher instances of cool and deliberate bravery than displayed on these two memorable occasions by the volunteers of the frontier." Captain Hooker's company was mustered out of service at Fort Meade, August 20, 1856.

About 1858, Captain Hooker and his family moved to Tampa where he built a large and imposing residence. Located on the corner of Madison and West Streets, it was a three-story frame building. Since nails were scarce in those days, the timbers were cut to fit one piece into another, fastened by wooden dowels. Some of the supports were nearly a yard wide and supporting uprights were three by sixes. The house had a large attic with dormer windows which was used as a third floor. J. A. Butterfield, who was a guest of the Hookers before the Civil War, was an English songwriter, and wrote the nostalgic ballad, "When You and I Were Young, Maggie", during his stay in Tampa.

During Captain Hooker's residence in Tampa he often served as Mayor pro tem; one year he held that office was 1858. In 1861 Captain Hooker became a member of the Tampa chapter of Royal Arch Masons and held office in his local lodge and chapter at various times.

On November 24, 1860, the people of Hillsborough County met at Alafia to recommend that the state of Florida secede from the Union. Captain Hooker and his wife were among those who signed the petition urging secession. Although an ardent Confederate, Hooker still respected the founders of the American Republic. In 1862, he contributed \$2.00 to the Washington Monument Society in Washington, D.C.

The 1860 census shows Captain Hooker's personal estate valued at \$56,525 and his real estate at \$19,660. Much of the personal property was owned in conjunction with his son, William Jasper Hooker of Manatee County.

During the Civil War, Captain Hooker and his family lived for a time in Hernando County, where he owned property. About 1863, they moved back to Tampa where his wife Mary Amanda (Hair) Hooker died, October 10, 1863. On March 20, 1864, in Marion County, Florida, Captain Hooker married a widow, Nancy Josephine Cathcart.