

times at Fort White, Fort Fanning, Micanopy, Volusia, Fort Mellon, Fort Lancaster, Kissisemey & Fort Gilliland. He served in Capt. Burney's Co. of Fla. Mounted Militia from Feb. 25 to Nov. 24, 1840. He joined Capt. Stewart's Company of 2nd Regt. of Fla. Militia at Lancaster, East Fla. on Mar. 6, 1841 and was mustered out at Alligator (Lake City) on Apr. 9, 1841.

About 1843, he moved his family to Hillsborough County settling on land near Fort Brook, Tampa Bay, which he received under the Armed Occupation Act of 1842. He later settled near the mouth of the Alafia River. His wife died on September 26, 1845.

Benjamin Moody married Mrs. Mary E. Knight on March 21, 1849. She died on May 17, 1850, leaving no children.

Rev. E. C. Wilson is quoted in an early Florida Christian Advocate: "In the year 1850 the first Methodist (or any other Church of which anyone has any knowledge) was built on the south side of the Alafia River. This was a log cabin built by Benjamin Moody, who was one of the earliest settlers of south Florida. There were about three other families, and while some of them were not of the Methodist faith they cooperated with him."

During the Indian troubles of 1849 & 1850, Mr. Moody and many others with their families went into a fort near Simmons Hammock. After serving again in several volunteer militia, Benjamin separated from his family, leaving his children among his relatives, and engaged in driving and butchering beef at Fort Myers for the United States troops, until the latter part of 1851 when the Indians again ceased their hostilities. He then gathered his six children together again and returned to the old homestead near the Alafia River. His description as given while in the service was 5' 11", grey eyes, light hair and occupation was farmer and stock raiser.

On November 5, 1854, Benjamin Moody married Mrs. Lydia Carlton Hendry, widow of James Edward Hendry. Lydia was born on April 4, 1812 in Sampson County, North Carolina, daughter of John Carlton & Nancy Ann Alderman. She had previously married in 1829 to Mr. Hendry, son of William Hendry & Nancy McFail. He had died on Jan. 3, 1852 at the home of his brother, Robert McFail Hendry, in Thomas County, Georgia. Mr. and Mrs. Moody had one child:

8. Benjamin Franklin Moody, born July 8, 1856; died April 17, 1939; married, 1st, Nencie Eugenia Wilson on Aug. 29, 1876 in Polk Co.; married, 2nd, Harriet E. Waters on Dec. 22, 1895 in Polk Co.

Benjamin Moody served as a County Commissioner of Hillsborough County in 1856 and had been a member of the first Board of County Commissioners in 1846. In 1855, the Indians again broke out and he and wife went into quarters at Fort Meade, being the third time that he had been compelled to flee for refuge from the savage tribes of Florida, and in 1856 he enlisted under Capt. William B. Hooker, along with his sons James and William, in defense of their homes. While living in Fort Meade, his youngest son was born. After the close of the conflict, Mr. Moody returned to his farm and pursued his old avocation until 1869 when he removed to a place about seven miles south of Bartow.

In 1900, George W. Hendry, a step son of Benjamin Moody, had the following to say about Mr. Moody in his "Family Records of Lydia Moody nee Hendry, nee Carlton, of Polk County": "He was one of the oldest pioneer settlers in south Florida, and fought against Osceola, Coacoochee and other famous Seminole warriors, from 1835 to 1842. By example and precept, by word and deed, the points of his most exemplary life were in evidence wherever he was known. In society, in business,