

serving as Clerk pro tem.

The Third Seminole War broke out in December 1855, and in January 1856, Stephen Hollingsworth wrote the following letter to Col. Monroe at Ft. Brooke:

Carnal Mon Rough cm.

Commanding officer of the united States Dear sir i had a promus of ginerall worth when i cum to this country if i did cum i should be pertected & has bein ever since by all commanders when cald on i am not acquainted with you but i give joseph Mezall leave to rite or see you on my acompt as he promised but it seems he failed i have always had Rigulars to gard me and wishes to have them as gards insted of volunteers there is two famoles of wiming and children here at my hause at this time and living 33 miles east of tampa there is 3 famoles cum by me up to iche pork sassea leaves 8 or 10 famoles N & South of me leaving me outside and if i could git a gard they would come back to be more convenient to ther plases there is a good griss mill just in fix to grind all our coarn ither or at my hause will be good and sute able place for a station to scout all down from the hed of hills Borough down peas creake please fail not to answer me quick as I am Keeping the famoles at ther plases by promising them that we will be per-tected or a gard at my hause or At Samuel Rogers mill Stephen Hollingsworth

Stephen Hollingsworth enlisted at a Private in Capt. Simeon L. Sparkman's Independent Company of Fla. Mounted Volunteers, Aug. 18, 1856, and served until Feb. 17, 1857, when he was discharged at Ft. Brooke. His discharge certificate shows Stephen as 5 feet 6 inches in height, with light complexion, brown eyes, and grey hair. His occupation is listed as farmer.

According to one account, Stephen Hollingsworth's home was burned down by Indians during the Third Seminole War. There is no record of this in the published accounts reported in the Tampa newspaper, the Florida Peninsular, but at any rate, we find that by 1858, Stephen & his family were residing in what is now Polk County. In that year, Simeon and Louisa Hollingsworth were attending school at Peas Creek, in the community that was soon to be known as Bartow.

Polk County was created in 1861 and Stephen was appointed Road Commissioner for District 1, in the southwestern section of the county. His area, Precinct 1, was known as "Stephen Hollingsworth's Precinct". Polk County tax lists show that in 1861 he owned 80 acres of land, located in Section 36, Township 32 S, Range 24 E, being taxed at \$3.67. In 1862 he paid taxes on 182 cattle. 1867 tax lists show him still paying taxes on 80 acres.

Perlina (Fulford) Hollingsworth died in Polk County, March 3, 1863, and was buried at Mount Olive Cemetery, near Bradley Junction. Stephen Hollingsworth died April 28, 1870, at the home of his son, Stephen T. Hollingsworth, near Lakeland. The body was taken to the cemetery at Socrum where he was buried.

Stephen died intestate so William R. Hollingsworth was appointed administrator. Letters of Administration were issued Feb. 24, 1871, and inventory and appraisement took place April 8, 1871.

REFERENCES: Special thanks to Mr. & Mrs. James H. Gardner, Lakeland, Fla. for a large amount of assistance & information; Info also provided by Mr. Rogers Hollingsworth, Arcadia, Fla.; Census: 1830 Sampson Co., NC, 1840