

Settlement in 1850. Rabun later established his homestead near the southeast edge of Lake Hancock, where he was shown to be residing in 1856 when the Ives' military map of the peninsula of Florida was made.

In June 1852, Rabun applied for a bounty land warrent based on his previous military service. He received 160 acres in Hillsborough County. He signed his application as "Rabon Raulerson".

"Raburn" Raulerson served as a Private from Dec. 29, 1855 to Dec. 1857 under Capt. F. M. Durrance along with his brothers-in-law James L. Whidden, John Whidden, Bennett Whidden, Lott Whidden (who was killed June 1856 near Fort Meade) and relatives, John B. Raulerson, John Raulerson, Jackson Raulerson, William Wiggins & John Thomas.

Rabun's mother, Mrs. Ellen Raulerson, aged 75 years, was living with John B. Raulerson and family in 1860 census. She died June 26, 1866 and was buried in the Shiloh Cemetery near Plant City.

During the Civil War, John Raulerson, Rabun Raulerson and William H. Raulerson served in Capt. John T. Lesley's Company B, 1st Battalion Florida Special Cavalry, Confederate Army.

John R. Raulerson was killed by lightning in July of 1864. Caroline died May 19, 1874 from either eating too much honey or choking while eating honey. Both were buried on the Raulerson homestead near Lake Hancock.

About 1874, Noel Rabun Raulerson, Sr., moved to the Kissimmee River valley area, near Basinger where he bought land from Henry L. Parker. He was a pioneer cattleman in that area. He was listed as owning 2,515 cattle in 1862 and probably owned many more than that when he moved to the Basinger area. Noel Rabun Jr. & family settled in the Basinger area in 1876, buying land from the State for \$1.25 an acre and buying a log house from Streaty Parker. Others of the family followed & were all living in that area prior to 1880.

Rabun Raulerson moved back to Polk County prior to 1892, settling at Bartow, where he applied for and received a pension of \$8.00 a month based on his Indian war service.

The following newspaper article appeared on Jan. 11, 1899:

"Mr. Rabon Raulerson of Bartow vicinity, is in town visiting children around Bassinger. The old gentleman holds his own in vitality wonderfully well. He is now the age of 80 years, being one of the old landmarks of the pioneer settlers of South Florida. He was a soldier in the Indian, Osceola war of 1836 to 1842, and was severely wounded in one engagement with the Indians in the Indian campaign. He can tell many anecdotes about the campaign and Chief Osceola, whom he saw on several occasions. He is at present claiming a pension from Uncle Sam's crib, as a soldier of that war. He has the plural number of 100, or over, of children, grandchildren & great grandchildren, counting the living and dead."

Mrs. Tempie (Tempa) Whidden Raulerson died March 22, 1904. This appeared in a local newspaper: "Mrs. Raulerson, about 84 years of age, died at the home of her son (in-law) just north of the city, Monday afternoon, after an illness of several weeks. She died from old age, having finished her course and kept the faith to the end." Noel Rabun Raulerson died on June 16, 1910. Both were buried in the Raulerson family cemetery on their old homestead near Lake Hancock. The graves were later moved to the Gandy Cemetery near Connersville, east of Bartow, by members of the Whatley family.

REFERENCES:

Special thanks to Mr. Charles Rushing, Rt. 1, Box 752, Webster, Fla. 33597 and Mrs. Bobbie Wilson, 910 SW 3rd Ave., Okeechobee, Fl. 33472 both sent in biographies of Noel R. Raulerson & info from both was used; "Primitive Baptists Settled in East Hills. In 1844 ..", Tampa Tribune,