

WILLIAM McCLENITHAN 1817-1892

William McClenithan was born in Bennington, Vermont in 1817 according to the age given on his tombstone but other sources indicate that he may have been born as late as 1824. His father was born in Connecticut and his mother was born in Vermont.

In November of 1837, William enlisted at Schenectady, New York for a five year term as a private in Company A commanded by Lt. Lovett in the 2nd Regiment of Infantry commanded by Col. Harney. His description at the time of enlistment was given as 5'10", 145 lbs. with light hair and blue eyes.

William McClenithan's company was ordered to Florida to fight the Seminole Indians. He was stationed at Fort Russell in Alachua County. His pension papers tell what happened: "The Indians killed an express rider and his company was ordered out to hunt them. They found them in a hammock near Black Creek and attacked. In the battle he was wounded and was treated in the hospital. There was no real hospital only large canvas tents. The bullet could not be extracted. It had entered the inside of his thigh and lodged in his privates. The bullet finally came out but the wound often rises and runs and always when he urinates the urine flows from the wound." William was discharged because of disability at Fort Russell in November of 1841.

William McClenithan married Charlotte Boykin in Irwin County, Ga. on March 2, 1842. She was born in 1820 in South Carolina, oldest daughter of Tobias and Mary Boykin. Their children:

1. Tobias McClenithan, born Dec. 24, 1842, married 1st, Zilphia Patrick, daughter of John Patrick, on July 27, 1871 in Manatee Co.; married 2nd, Henrietta Sauls on Aug. 19, 1880 in Manatee County.
2. William McClenithan, Jr., born Oct. 1, 1847 according to pension papers (tombstone says 1848); married 1st, Georgia Harlan in Manatee County on August 29, 1869; 2nd, Laura Eugenia (Brewer) Britt in Arcadia on Jan. 20, 1904. She was the daughter of J. E. and Laura (Parnell) Brewer of Alabama and was first married to W. F. Britt.
3. Norman McClenithan, born 1848
4. Marantha McClenithan, born 1849 married Stark Davis
5. Stephen McClenithan, born 1853, married 1st, Georgiann A. Johnson daughter of Elias E. & Elizabeth (Keen) Johnson; 2nd, Elizabeth Chestnut on May 20, 1889 in Lee County; 3rd, Laura Jenkins in 1895 in DeSoto County.
6. Harriet McClenithan, born 1855 married John Bright
7. Ellen McClenithan, born 1857
8. Annie McClenithan, born 1859, married George W. Roan in Manatee County on August 28, 1877.

William McClenithan and family were living in Irwin County, Ga. in 1850. About 1858, they moved to south Florida settling in the Fort Meade area in Hillsborough County which would later become part of Polk County. Some of his neighbors in 1860 were W. J. Miley, S. M. Chandler, James A. Stephens and Jeremiah Underhill.