

in Manatee County, Milton C. McEwen, son of Rev. William P. McEwen.

There is a possibility that Edward Whidden, born Jan. 13, 1842, died Jan. 19, 1910 who married Mrs. Mary Ann (Williams) Mathis on July 14, 1860 is also a son of Willoughby Whidden. An Edward Whidden was living with them in the 1860 census but he was not listed in the 1850 census. But Maxfield Whidden, Sr. did have an Edward listed in 1850 but not in 1860. The Edward in 1860 may have been the son of Maxfield Whidden, Sr. but was living with Willoughby.

Shortly after his marriage, Willoughby moved to Ware County settling in the southern part near the Florida line, in the 719th militia district. But he moved around during the 1830's. He was in Columbia County, Florida in 1833 when Maxwell was born and in Thomas County, Georgia in 1839 when John Wesley was born. They were listed in Ware County in the 1840 census along with Maxfield Whidden, Sr. and James Whidden.

Willoughby served several enlistments during the Indian Wars. He was a private in Capt. North's Mtd. Company of Columbia Rangers, 1st Regiment (Warren's) of Florida Militia. He enrolled on Jan. 21, 1837 at Fort Reed and was mustered in March 29, 1837. He served until June 5, 1837 when he was mustered out at Fort Gilliland. He enlisted on June 16, 1837 at Camp North in Capt. North's Company, 2nd Regiment East Florida Mounted Volunteers. He was mustered out on Dec. 18, 1837 at Fort Gilliland, Florida.

In March of 1843, Willoughby Whidden moved into Florida settling in Hillsborough County in south Florida. He received 160 acres under the Armed Occupation Act in May 1843. His property was described as follows: "A tract of unsurveyed land lying in the pine woods and adjoining Whitfield (Maxfield ??) Whittens settlement commencing at the N.W. stake set by said Whitten. Thence running 40 chains south, thence 40 chains west, thence 40 chains north, thence 40 chains east to the place of beginning". It was said to be near Warm Spring.

On October 13, 1846, Jesse Pennington, yeoman of Hillsborough County, Florida deeded to Willerby Whitten, natural guardian and father of James Whitten, minor, in consideration of the natural love and affection which (Jesse) hath to the said James Whitten and for \$500.00, for the use and benefit of said minor, 160 acres of land described as follows: West  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 23 in Range 21 Township 28 and the West  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 27 in Range 21 Township 28 and all houses, outhouses, buildings, barns & stable, ways, woods, water & watercourses on said land. Also one feather bed & furniture, 1 lot of crockery ware, 1200 pounds of sea island cotton in the seed, one bright bay horse & 30 bushels of corn. This property was located near present day Plant City.

In the 1850 Hillsborough County census, Willoughby Whidden was listed as living at Simmon's Hammock Settlement. On April 4, 1851, Willoughby & Eliza Whitton joined Salem Baptist Church at Ichepucksassa, Florida. On April 12, 1852, Willoby Whiddon registered the following mark & brand with the Hillsborough County Clerk: Crop & underbit in one ear, swallowfork in the other, brand "heart". On July 18, 1852 Maxwell Whidden & Henry Langford were baptized at Salem by Rev. J. M. Hayman.

Prior to 1856, Willoughby Whidden homesteaded in the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 10 in Range 24 Township 31 between Fort Meade and Fort Brooke. They later homesteaded near Fort Hartsuff in present day Hardee County. Willoughby was a member of a group of Manatee County citizens who was called for jury duty at Manatee on Nov. 2, 1858. He was listed in the 1860 Manatee census, living in the Fort Hartsuff area along with J. D. Green, Alford Sloane, Henry Langford, Maxfield Whiddon & others.