

BENJAMIN GUY 1816-1893

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Benjamin Guy was born in Georgia, September 22, 1816. On Nov. 17, 1836, on the Altamaha River in Georgia, he was married to Mary "Polly" Underhill, daughter of Joseph and Nancy (Hilliard) Underhill. She was born in Bulloch County, Georgia, April 10, 1816. Benjamin and Mary "Polly" (Underhill) Guy had the following children:

1. William Guy, born ca. 1837.
2. Nancy Guy, born ca. 1840; died young.
3. Julia Ann Guy, born Jan. 17, 1842; died Aug. 22, 1832; married Aaron Elijah Godwin, Dec. 9, 1865.
4. Joseph R. Guy, born Jan. 7, 1845; died Feb. 4, 1915; married Lula Hicks, Dec. 1, 1887.

During the months of November and December, 1839, Benjamin Guy served in the company commanded by Capt. James A. Sweat, Georgia volunteers in the Second Seminole War.

During the 1840's, Benjamin Guy and family moved to south Florida and settled in Hillsborough County. On the 1850 census for Hillsborough County they are shown residing near the families of William and James Whidden.

Prior to the beginning of the Third Seminole War in 1855, Benjamin Guy had established his homestead at Thirty Mile Run, near present day Keysville where he engaged in raising hogs.

On February 18, 1852, he applied for bounty land under the act of September 28, 1850 for his service in the Second Seminole War. He received 40 acres under warrant No. 61,868. On April 2, 1855, he applied for additional bounty land under the act of March 3, 1855 and received 120 acres under warrant No. 25,466.

During the Third Seminole War, Benjamin and his eldest son, William, served in the volunteer militia company commanded by Capt. William B. Hooker which remained in service from January until August, 1856.

In 1858, after the cessation of hostilities, Benjamin Guy moved to "Morgan Hole" at Kissimmee Island. He had heard about the excellent stock range in the Kissimmee Island section but did not care for the area and in 1859 he established a homestead near the south end of Crooked Lake, about 12 miles east of Fort Meade. The following story appeared in the Fort Meade Leader on Jan. 20, 1916:

About four miles almost due east of Fort Meade, near the east side of the deadening known formerly as Fairview Highlands, lies a natural sink, almost a perfect hemisphere in contour . . .

Since (Benjamin Guy lived) quite a ways from the settlements, he escaped most of the requisitions for cattle during the Civil War, and so he became prosperous.

"Uncle Ben's" farm was poor and he had to buy most of his horse feed. That was before the days of the railroad and the nearest supply of grain was in Tampa, then in connection with the outside world only by boat. Tampa at