

small potatoes and chuffas in the fall. Vegetables were grown in the garden both winter and summer. Sweet potatoes planted early in the summer were ready to be dug in the late fall. A heaping plate of baked sweet potatoes was a treat to all.

Families who were not industrious did not have the sweet potatoes or much else to eat. One small boy from such a family went home with Roy from school one afternoon. At supper each time the potatoes were passed he greedily helped himself. When they started to bed Roy asked him if he had plenty of supper. He replied, "All I lack being full is one more little 'tater." Roy took him to the kitchen for the potato.

Sugar cane was ground for the juice which was boiled down into syrup. Sometimes boilings were cooked past the syrup stage to what was called the sugaring stage. It was dipped up and cooled in tubs, where it became thick and sugary, then poured into barrels which had been bored full of very small holes, so the sugar would stay inside, and the residue called molasses could drip out. It was usually fed to the hogs as it had a peculiar flavor. Of course the sugar was very coarse, damp and dark, but it made a better sweetner for some things than syrup.

Flour, white sugar, salt, soda and coffee were the staples which had to be bought at the small towns of Zolfo and Fort Meade, fourteen miles away. Until the railroad came through, those staples were not always available, for they had to be brought from Ft. Ogden or Tampa, by mule team or ox cart.

To Continue

TOBIAS MCCLENITHAN 1842-1888

Tobias "Bias" McClenithan was born in Irwin County, Georgia on December 24, 1842, oldest son of William and Charlotte (Boykin) McClenithan. He was named after his maternal grandfather, Tobias Boykin of South Carolina and later Georgia. His father was from Vermont but had fought during the Seminole Indian Wars in Florida and Georgia, where he met and married Charlotte Boykin on March 2, 1842.

The McClenithans remained in Irwin County, Georgia until about 1858 when they moved to south Florida settling in the Fort Meade area in Hillsborough County which would later become part of Polk County. "Byass" was living with his parents in 1860.

On December 8, 1863 at Key West, Tobias McClenithan enlisted as a private in Second Lieutenant Orson G. Chapman's Company A, 2nd Florida Regiment of United States Cavalry. He was described as being 5' 6" tall, with blue eyes, dark hair and dark complexion. His father and brothers Norman and William, Jr. were also members of this regiment. Tobias served in this unit until July 3, 1865.

In the late 1860's the McClenithans moved to the Fort Ogden area of Manatee County (present day DeSoto County).

On July 27, 1871, Tobias McClenithan married Zilphia Patrick. She was born c1852 in Orange County, daughter of John Patrick. She died in 1878 at Fort Ogden.

Tobias McClenithan married 2nd, Henrietta Sauls on August 19, 1880 at Fort Ogden. The marriage was performed by Rev. E. J. Hull. Henrietta Sauls was born February 7, 1856. Their children:

1. Margaret "Maggie" Amanda McClenithan, born October 15, 1881; died November 6, 1915; married on December 31, 1899 William P. Downing, son of Henry Jackson and Nancy J. (Hendry) Downing.