

2nd Regiment of Florida Volunteers commanded by Col. F. L. Dancy. He was described as 5' 10", with light complexion, very light eyes and age 14. He was discharged on November 28, 1840 and served another enlistment in the same company from November 29, 1840 to March 6, 1841.

During 1849, John served in Capt. William B. Hooker's Company of Florida Militia commanded by Col. Robert Brown. He also was a private in Capt. Harrington's Independent Company of Florida Mounted Volunteers. He enlisted July 23, 1857 at Lake City and was discharged at Fort Brooke on January 22, 1858.

In Columbia County on March 10, 1850 John Keen applied for bounty land based on his military service. He received 80 acres of land. On March 19, 1855 he applied for additional bounty land and received another 80 acres.

John Keen was a private in Company B of the 5th Florida Infantry of the Confederate Army. He enlisted March 10, 1862 at Lake City. He was listed as absent sick on the October 31, 1863 company rolls. His name does not appear on the rolls after June 30, 1864.

On December 27, 1864, John Keen enrolled at Cedar Keys in Company G of the 2nd Regiment of the Florida Cavalry of the United States Army. He was later transferred to Company D and was mustered out with the company at Tallahassee on November 29, 1865.

John lived in Alachua County for several years following the Civil War and eventually settled in south Florida in Polk County prior to 1873. The Keens moved to Fort Ogden in Manatee (present day DeSoto) County in the latter 1870's. John was there in April of 1880 when he applied for more bounty land. They were listed there in the 1880 census along with Isaac Johns, Mrs. Mary Keen, Mrs. Mary Lanier, Youmans families, George Tippins, Ziba King and McClenithan families.

The Keens moved to Arcadia in the late 1880's. John was living there Jan. 17, 1889 when he applied for a pension. He died there on June 11, 1889 according to his widow's pension (tombstone shows July 11, 1889). He was buried at Joshua Creek Cemetery.

Mrs. Candy Keen stayed with various of her children at Arcadia, Fort Ogden and Wauchula. She was in Arcadia on July 22, 1890 when she made application for a widow's pension based on her husband's military service. She received eight dollars a month pension. In the 1900 census she was living at Wauchula with her son, John B. Keen's family. Candy died November 1906 and was buried at Joshua Creek Cemetery. Her grave is not marked.

REFERENCES: John Keen's bounty land & pension applications; Candy Keen's widow's pension application; Joshua Creek & Evergreen cemeteries; marriages of Polk, Manatee & DeSoto counties; census-1850, 1860 Columbia Co., 1880, 1885 Manatee Co., 1900 DeSoto; military records; Doyle & Joyce Keen, Venice, Fl.; Ruth Keen, Ft. Myers, Fl.; Lenora Mulford, Punta Gorda.

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POLK COUNTY: EARLY MARRIAGES

In 1948 the Bartow Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution compiled an index to the first three volumes of the marriage records of Polk County. The following listing of marriages from Marriage License Book "A" came from that index which is at the Polk County Historical Library at Bartow, Florida. Continued from Issue #21/22: