

JOHN LANE MCCLELLAND 1847-1922

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John Lane McClelland was born in Hillsborough County, Florida on 3 December 1847 to John and Winnie McClelland. His birthdate is shown on his headstone as 3 December 1848, however, in other cited records it is shown as 3 December 1847. His parents had moved down from north Florida about 1846 settling in that part of Hillsborough County which became Polk County in 1861.

In Polk County, Florida, John was married to Elizabeth Hunter on 25 December 1870 by J. M. Hayman, Minister of the Gospel. Elizabeth was born in Florida on 4 January 1847, the daughter of John A. and Mary Hunter. The McClellands have five children, all sons:

1. Steven Washington McClelland, born 7 Feb. 1874; died 20 July 1950; married Effie McInnis, 25 December 1892.
2. James Lawrence McClelland, born 3 December 1876; died 12 July 1952; married Rose Rodgers, 21 March 1901.
3. John Henry McClelland, born 20 January 1878; died 10 September 1939; married 1st, Sallie Forbes, 25 March 1900; married 2nd, Donna Odum, 16 May 1906.
4. Gabriel Jackson McClelland, born 27 July 1881; died 26 Feb. 1936; married Birda Murrell, 30 June 1907.
5. Dennis McClelland, born 19 August 1882; died 15 November 1950; married Eva Hollingsworth.

The John L. McClellands raised a foster daughter, Mittie, whose parents are unknown at this time. She was born 1 March 1891, married Hardy English in Polk County on 31 March 1911 and died 18 July 1962.

John's first wife, Elizabeth, died 4 March 1906 of gastric carcinoma and is buried in Gapway Cemetery, southeast of Lakeland, Fla. After her death he was married to Mary D. Loper, 17 April 1909 in Hillsborough County by C. L. Jackson, J. P. After her death, he married Mrs. Martha Futch of Wauchula, Florida on 13 October 1919 by Kelsey Blanton, C. J. in Polk County. There were no children from the last two marriages.

At the young age of fifteen years John Lane McClelland enlisted as a private at Tampa, Florida in Captain John T. Lesley's Company, Munnerlyn's Battalion (also known as First Battalion, Florida Cavalry) in the Confederate Army. In the book, Soldiers of Florida this remark appears opposite his name, "Discharged under age; reenlisted Captain Hendry's Company". He was honorably discharged 9 May 1865 at the close of the war at Tampa, Florida. The Archives of Florida do not have official records of his service. However, he did give sworn evidence of service to qualify under Florida's Confederate Soldiers Pension Act of 1909, as he applied for a pension, 30 October 1909 and was awarded a pension of one hundred dollars per year.

Under provisions of Federal Homestead Act of 24 April 1820 he applied for about 1884 and was granted, 15 July 1889, a tract of land, south of Lakeland, containing one hundred twenty-three acres. He resided on this homestead where he raised livestock, crops and citrus until his death.