

Maxwell Whidden was living in the Fort Thompson Settlement near the Caloosahatchee River in 1870, along with Ephraim W. Thompson, Daniel Stewart, John Patrick and Jesse Lee. In the mid-1870's the Whiddens settled in the Joshua Creek area of Manatee County (present day DeSoto County). They were members of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church. Maxcy Whidden was a delegate from his Church to the Second Annual Session of the Manatee Association in November of 1877. He was a member of the committee on Sunday Schools. He was also a delegate in November of 1880 to the Fifth Annual Session when he was selected to serve on the Executive Committee.

Maxwell Whidden died April 27, 1887 at his home in Nocatee, Florida and was buried in the Joshua Creek Cemetery.

On August 6, 1890, Mrs. Judia A. Whidden applied for a widow's pension based on Maxwell's Civil War service. Wright Carlton and J. M. Carlton were witnesses to her mark.

E. W. Thompson, aged 60 years, a resident of Fort Ogden gave the following affidavit in support of Mrs. Whidden's pension claim: "I have known Judia A. Whidden for twenty-five years, and have every reason to know the contents of her property which consists of:

one horse	\$75.00
one 40 acre tract of land	\$200.00
one stock of cattle two hundred head	\$1,000.00

The income derived from this property to the best of my knowledge is \$135.00 a year and the cost of hunting cattle is \$50.00 (leaving) \$85.00."

On March 15, 1893, Judith (Hendry) Whidden married Henry Langford. Willoughby Whidden was appointed guardian of Lorena Whidden. Judith died on September 4, 1899 at Nocatee and was buried in the Joshua Creek Cemetery.

REFERENCES: Wilma Whidden Sisson, Titusville, Fl.; Mrs. Dixie Lewis, Cape Canaveral, Fl.; Willoughby & Adella Whidden family Bible; Judia A. Whidden's widow's pension application, National Archives; U. S. Army military records; "Willoughby Whidden" in SOUTH FLORIDA PIONEERS, Issue #11; Manatee Co., Fl. marriages and marks & brands; DeSoto Co., Fl. marriage records; Manatee Baptist Association annual minutes; Joshua Creek Cemetery.

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MANATEE COUNTY: EARLY MARKS AND BRANDS

The following record of Manatee County's earliest recorded marks and brands which were copied from an old ledger in the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office are continued from Issue #23/24:

J. BROOKER Sept. 7th, 1867	Crop two splits in one ear Swallow fork in other	B
John DAUGHTREY Sept. 7th, 1867	Crop and under bit in one ear Under square in the other	(no brand)
Jacob sene ? Sept. 7th, 1867	Crop and half crop in one ear Upper slope in the other, dewloped	IN
George W. GRAHAM Sept. 7th, 1867	Crop split and under bit in one ear Sharp in the other	XV