

Crawford PARRISH, Jr.
Henry PETERSON 200 acres
Martha PLATT-Joshua A. PLATT agent

To Continue

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JOHN WRIGHT HENDRY 1836-1907

Researched, compiled and contributed by Spessard Stone, Rt. 1, Box 255-A,
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John Wright Hendry, oldest son of Robert and Zilla Ann (Moody) Hendry, was born September 23, 1836 in Lowndes County, Georgia. He was the grandson of John and Catherine (McFail) Hendry. In 1849 the Hendry family moved to Hamilton County, Florida and settled within a few miles of Jasper. In 1856 John went with an uncle to south Florida and reached as far south as the Alafia River in Hillsborough County. He remained in the area four or five months and in looking it over saw many advantages that did not exist in north Florida so that he determined to make it his future home.

John returned to Hamilton County where he married on November 12, 1857 Sarah Payne. She was born November 16, 1835 daughter of Joseph and Henrietta (Smith) Payne. They had one child:

1. Amanda Lugenia Hendry, born September 19, 1858; died September 24, 1941; married 1st, James Archibald Strickland on August 22, 1875 in Manatee County, Florida; married 2nd, Edward Floyd Bostick on December 8, 1881 in Manatee County, Fl.

Having spent a year in Hamilton County, they decided in the fall of 1859 to return to the area John had earlier chosen and settled on a few acres of improved government land at Chicora on the South Prong of the Alafia River, in present day Polk County. The territory of south Florida was little more than a vast, dreary solitude stretching out in every direction inhabited chiefly by wild beasts and reptiles. Panthers, bears, wolves, and alligators were abundant everywhere. The prevailing weather during the summer season was of that murky, nasty type so disagreeable in tropical countries. As the people pushed southward, they followed the course of the streams such as Peace River, Manatee River, and their largest tributaries, thus causing the population to consist of a number of widely separated settlements. In 1860 the John Wright Hendry family was living in Hillsborough County and some of their neighbors were J. W. Riggs, William Hall, Mary Burnett, Seth Howard, J. T. & Adaline Wilson, Jacob Raulerson, Sarah Mercer, John Cason and Eli English.

These distant settlements made it difficult to maintain any system of public worship. The Methodists had contented themselves with establishing an annual camping ground near Fort Meade, and the Baptists had planted a little Church at a place on the South Prong called Hurrah. In the meantime John's parents had moved to Fort Green, and belonging to the Methodist Church, they were in the habit of attending the yearly camp meetings at Fort Meade. While attending one of these meetings, John became serious and ultimately professed conversion and joined the Methodist organization at that place. Soon after his return home, he began to feel impressed with the duty of preaching the Gospel. Having only a meager education, he felt unqualified to be a