

Owen Keen, George Langford, Henry Langford, Taft Langford, Albert Lastinger, Jim Murphy, Farnell Norris, Henry Norris, Judge Pooser, George Rodgers, Erwin Sapp, E. W. Thompson, Allen Walker, Billie J. Walker & Oliver Walker.

John Whidden on July 17, 1902 applied for a pension based on his service in the Seminole Indian War. He gave his address as Arcadia. Maxfield McClelland of Zolfo, James M. Manley of Fort Meade and Ephraim W. Thompson of Hull gave affidavits that they served with him. The pension was granted and when he died he was receiving \$8 per month.

In October 1907, he applied for a pension from his service as Capt. in Co. E, Seventh Florida. He gave his address as Arcadia. Supporting affidavits were given by William H. Johnson of Bartow, Wright Carlton of Nocatee and James H. Murphy of Lily, all soldiers of Company E. Capt. Whidden was approved for \$100 per year.

John Wesley Whidden died Dec. 13, 1910 in Arcadia. "The Tampa Tribune" eulogized:

"Capt. Whidden was known to more south Florida people, perhaps, than any other man in the state. He was universally loved and respected. Starting out as a boy over fifty years ago, he devoted the younger years of his life to strenuous pursuits in cattle raising. He retained this hardihood up to the time of his last illness, and was unusually vigorous, although over seventy years of age. His arduous labors and honest conduct of his business affairs were not without their reward for he accumulated a large estate and was one of the wealthiest men in this country at the time of his death. He was a man of unusually generous impulses, and many a poor widow can testify to the goodness of his heart and the liberality of his hand. Capt. Whidden was one of the first to respond to the call of his beloved Southland in the dark days of the sixties and won a captain's commission for his bravery. He was prominent in the affairs of the Democratic Party in south Florida and for several terms represented DeSoto County in the state hall of legislation with credit to himself and benefit to his constituency."

He was buried in Joshua Creek Cemetery.

Ellen Whidden on March 2, 1911 applied for a widow's pension from John's service in the Seminole Indian War. Wright Carlton, Andrew Green of Arcadia, John H. Treadwell, J. G. King and Harley Watson gave affidavits that they either were present at the marriage or were personally knowledgeable of it. The pension was approved and when she died Ellen was receiving \$30 per month.

Ellen in August 1917 applied for a Confederate pension as the widow of Capt. John Whidden. Wright Carlton and Andrew Green gave supporting affidavits. She was granted a \$180 per year pension.

Ellen (Hendry) Whidden died Dec. 4, 1929 in Arcadia. She was buried beside John in Joshua Creek Cemetery.

REFERENCES: The Lures of Manatee, Lillie B. McDuffee, 1933, page 102; Mrs. John Burton, Whidden family data; "Life of J. W. Whidden", Robert E. Whidden; "Willoughby Whidden", SFP #11; military & pension records of John W. Whidden, Seminole Indian War, Natl Archives; military & pension records of John W. Whidden, Confederate service, Natl Archives and Florida Archives; History of Polk County, M. F. Hetherington; Soldiers of Florida; "The Hendry Family", Milton D. Wilson; Joshua Creek