

LIFE AND TIMES OF  
JUDGE DENNIS MARION CASON

Researched, compiled and contributed by Mrs. Ruby Cason Iliff,  
N-3003 Nelson, Spokane, Wa. 99207.

Continued from Issue #39/40:

The years 1867, 1868, 1869, Dennis M. and George CASON are on the tax rolls of Madison. There is one A. M. CASON listed also, this is probably Abraham Marshall CASON, an adopted son of John CASON of Leon County, Florida.

It must have been soon after the death of his father that Dennis M. CASON migrated to south Florida. From the "History of the Methodist Church of Wauchula, Florida", we find the following: 'About two miles southwest of Wauchula, Florida, was a government fort, the name was Hartsuff and became the first name of this area. This was in 1856. Then in 1874, a pioneer named Eli ENGLISH moved into the area, and opened a general store, and the place was called English. He found only six families living there --- Wm. WHITTEN, Albert CARLTON, Lewis CARLTON, D. M. CASON, Wm. A. McEWEN and the Rev. W. P. McEWEN.'

The war torn years were over for the most part for D. M. CASON. In his life, he had been an early volunteer soldier to assist the settlers in the Seminole Indian War, and had served the full four years of the Civil War, having lost his father and two brothers in the soul searing conflict.

We learn further concerning D. M. CASON by reading the 1880 Soundex Index for Florida (Microcopy T-743). He and his wife Mytelda or Matilda, are living in a place called Bassinger, in Manatee County, Florida, with their five children, Thomas, Margaret, Benjamin P., Annie J., and Ruby P. My father, George Tompkies CASON should be in this census reading. Because he was not identified as a member of the family, it necessitated further research. The entire family is found in the 1885 state census of Florida. Children were as follows:

1. Thomas Bradford (Capt. Richard BRADFORD was the first casualty in Civil War from Madison)
2. Angus (whom we know to be Benjamin Plato)
3. Annis (whom we know to be Annie Jane)
4. Ruby P. (Ruby Pauline)
5. George T. (George Tompkies, my father)
6. Theodosia (Theodosia Vandillia, named for the wife of Aaron BURR)

This would be the last census reading taken of this family. Grandma Mytelda Rosewell LEE CASON departed this life, 1st December 1885, Wauchula, Florida, leaving a home of small children without a mother. Daddy (George Tompkies) was just 6 years old and aunt Theodosia Vandillia was just one year old.

For the love and affection and respect Dennis Marion had for Martha Elizabeth BURNETTE BROWN, they were married 1st April 1886, DeSoto County, Florida. She was the daughter of Payton BURNETT and former wife of a Mr. BROWN, by whom she had two sons, Roscoe and Walter BROWN. They grew up in the loving home as children from two families.