

We appreciate the 1900 Soundex Index for Florida for enumerating a new family for Dennis Marion CASON and wife, Martha. They have three children: Vera Frances, Philip York and Lorenzo Dow. We were told by our dear aunties, Theodocia and Vera, of the loving care and tenderness that evidenced itself in the home of their father and mother, of the love for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the great respect he had for the Sacrament. Dennis Maron CASON had been a loyal patriot and soldier, as a father and leader, he was a devoted family man of two families of his own, and loved his step-sons as his own.

We were reminded of a keen sense of humor displayed by granddaddy when he was told by Martha that she had found a new nest of eggs in the wagon, that day, where upon D. M. said, "Oh yes, I laid them there this morning."

My own precious father (George Tompkies) always reminded me of his wonderful daddy, and related that they had been pals, experiencing many beautiful events in their lives. Always, at the end of the day would be story telling. I knew daddy was a great narrator, oft times I thought the stories were somewhat fictitious and that the romantic legend of history was not possible. But surely, as my research has continued, I've learned to respect and love those precious moments, with my daddy, recalling the happy memorable days in south Florida as a young man and what he had been told about his family was indeed true.

One story especially comes to my mind as I continued to learn about my CASON family, that of daddy saying Grandpa had a relation who owned many slaves and also was a great politician, which of course became only too true. I learned of this fine plantation family in the beautiful book "Indian Springs". The story of a pioneer church in Leon County, Florida by Dr. James C. BRYANT who had labored tirelessly by extracting the information from the "Georgia Christian Index" & compiling the story of Leon County's pioneer baptist church. It necessitated reading 140 years of Georgia newspapers, in small, faint print and 100 years of Florida papers. From this dedicated book I learned that the relation my daddy talked about was indeed, a plantation owner and operated a slave market on his plantation (Little Egypt) and was also a prominent Democrat.

How very important it is that we listen to our grandparents and learn what we can of our great heritage, and appreciate the blessings we now enjoy, as a result of their efforts.

Grandparents are great repositories of valuable jewels. I'm sure my grandfather had many such prizes tucked away in his heart, but it was not my privilege to know or see him, but through his son, George Tompkies CASON, my precious father, those realities did not escape me and I have held on to them tightly. Other valued conversations with daddy will find their place in the homely little history, but none the less true.

The education of Dennis Marion CASON must have been limited. We know he was a fine farmer and he was also a carpenter. From the pictures we have, we learn he was helping to develop the growth and expansion of south Florida, by having built the old DeSoto Hotel.

Granddaddy CASON knew the value of educating the young people and he built the first school house and served as superintendent.