

When Alderman Carlton, father of Daniel, received permit no. 414 on May 10, 1843 at Newansville, Florida for lots 9-10-15&16, Section 31, Township 10, Range 23 under provisions of the Armed Occupation Act of 1842, he stated that he had become a resident of Florida in January 1843. It would appear, however, that Daniel moved to Florida in late 1843 or 1844 as censuses show that Daniel's oldest sons, Reuben and Wright, were born in Georgia and it is known that Albert, his third son, was born in Marion County, Florida. After first living in Marion County, the family moved to Hillsborough County where they were enumerated in the Alafia Settlement as neighbors of Alderman Carlton in the 1850 Hillsborough County Census.

During the Third Seminole War, Daniel W. Carlton served as a private from December 29, 1855 to August 1856 in Capt. Francis M. Durrance's Company, Florida Mounted Volunteers. In the Willoughby Tillis battle on June 14, 1856, his father, Alderman Carlton, was killed while Daniel was wounded.

Capt. William B. Hooker on June 19, 1856 at Fort Meade reported on nine days' operations, including details of the actions at the Tillis homestead:

Then we proceeded back to Horse Creek, that being known as a place where the Indians resorted to obtain a supply of potatoes. Reaching this place, we made a thorough examination and finding no prints or marks of the foe, and it being late in the day of the 15th, we camped and sent two men to Fort Green to learn if there were any accounts of the Indians. The men returned about 12 o'clock that night bringing the thrilling news of the attack at the Tillis place on the morning of the 14th. The report said Mr. Tillis, his son, and Thomas Underwood fired on the Indians from inside the house, wounding five, two or three mortally. One of them, shot by a musket, fell on the ground, but he got off.

The injury to us done there was a Negro woman wounded in the head, all the horses about the place killed, and a mule wounded. The Indians, backing off a little and encircling the house, kept firing steadily. But they appeared to become suddenly alarmed and ran briskly across the field, making for a hammock. Those penned in the house reasoned help was coming, and they were right. Seven mounted men were seen approaching from Fort Meade.

As soon as the rescue party reached the house, they asked where the Indians had gone. Being told the savages had fled across the field, the small party dashed off in pursuit, four on one side of the field, and three on the other. They soon caught up with the enemy, and the conflict commenced, terminating in the death of Lieutenant Carlton and Lott Whidden, both of Captain Durrance's Company, who with Daniel Carlton of the same company whose horse was shot down and he wounded in the arm, John C. Oats of Captain Lesley's Company, and three of my company were engaged against 40 or 50 savages.

Lt. Carlton, after securing William Parker, was shot down. He gave his gun to Oats, saying, "I'm done. Take my gun and kill one." Oats said, "Give me Parker, and I will try to carry him away." Oats then picked up Parker