

GEORGE WASHINGTON HENDRY 1838-1914

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George Washington Hendry was born December 3, 1838 in Thomas County, Georgia. He was the son of James Edward and Lydia (Carlton) Hendry and a stepson of Benjamin Moody. With his parents in 1851, he moved to a site on the Alafia River, twenty-two miles east of Tampa in Hillsborough County, Florida. His father died on January 3, 1852, and his mother married on November 5, 1854, Benjamin Moody of Homeland.

On January 3, 1856 he enrolled in Capt. William B. Hooker's Independent Company, Florida Mounted Volunteers and was mustered out of state service and into federal service of Hooker's Company (2nd service, Seminole War) on February 18, 1856 and was mustered out August 20, 1856. He held the rank of sergeant in the volunteer service. On August 20, 1856, he enlisted as a private in Capt. Leroy G. Lesley's Independent Company, Florida Mounted Volunteers and was mustered out February 22, 1857. He also served in Lesley's Company as a private from August 24, 1857 to Feb. 23, 1858 and March 11, 1858 to May 17, 1858. At the time of his first enlistment he later described himself as being: 5 feet 10 inches, with hazel eyes, black hair, light complexion, and by occupation a farmer.

He married on November 17, 1859 in Polk County, Florida, Frances S. Varn, born March 24, 1841, daughter of Frederick and Sarah (Heirs) Varn. They had four children:

1. Frederick F. "Tobe" Hendry, born July 14, 1861; died December 12, 1900; married Tacie M. Cook.
2. John Morton Hendry, born June 10, 1864; died in childhood.
3. Adelaide Victoria Hendry, born April 13, 1866; died February 21, 1894; married on December 17, 1884, Francis Marion Wilson.
4. Lavinia H. Hendry, born April 30, 1869; died July 23, 1953; married on June 24, 1888, Frank B. Harless.

George settled in Fort Meade where he farmed and raised stock. On June 15, 1854 he had in Hillsborough County registered the following mark and brand: swallowfork, upper & underbit in one, uppersquare in the other, brand 89. The 1862 Polk County Tax Roll listed George W. and Albert J. Hendry with 590 head of cattle (Albert was his brother).

During the Civil War, he enlisted on or about March 15, 1862 in Company E., 7th Florida, CSA. He also served as a lieutenant in Capt. Francis A. Hendry's Company to which he had transferred and served until the end of the war. Capt. Hendry reported of his brother's part in the attack on Fort Myers, which was held by the United States Army, in February 1865: