

take his horse with a high horn on the saddle, and he'd take his clothes off and get naked, and tie his clothes up on the horn of his saddle and swim across with his horse, and then dry off with moss, & put on his clothes, and then he'd go out in the woods and preach.

They had no churches, and they preached under the trees. He converted a lot of Indians.

My father (Thomas N. Carlton) said that he was so poor because the people were not able to pay him anything, and he had a black frock coat. He came home, and his wife said, "Mr. McEwen, you're going to have to stop preaching and get a job because we cannot raise these children on what you make."

He said, "Patch my coat."

"This coat has a big hole in it, and I can't patch it anymore."

"Patch my coat, woman! Woe unto me if I don't preach the Gospel!"

So, she patched his coat, and he preached the Gospel until he died here in Arcadia.

REFERENCES: Gladys Carlton Clavel tape recording of Dec. 1974; Richard Livingston, "Wade Hampton Whidden", South Florida Pioneers #39/40; pension application of William A. McEwen, Fla. Archives; W. D. Payne, John W. Hendry a Pioneer Baptist Preacher of South Florida, 1907; Tommy Underwood, A Brief History of the First Baptist Church, Wauchula, Florida, 1976; Manatee County marriage records; Manatee County marks & brands; 1880 Manatee County census; Joshua Creek Cemetery; Wauchula Cemetery.

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