

SOLDIERS OF FLORIDA

An excellent book was prepared by the State of Florida in 1903 to preserve the rolls & names of men from the state who had served in past wars. Soldiers of Florida in the Seminole Indian, Civil and Spanish-American Wars was prepared and published under the supervision of the Board of State Institutions, as authorized by Chapter 2203 Laws of Florida, approved May 14, 1903. This book is now out of print & is usually only available to a person on loan from one of the state libraries. Therefore, this is the first in a series listing the men in the Companies which were organized in the south Florida area & printed in the above mentioned publication:

Indian War of 1854-55

During the years 1853 and a part of 1854 the Indians had been comparatively quiet, so quiet in fact that no apprehension was felt by either the military or citizens. Lt. Hartseff, under orders from Col. Harvey Brown, left Ft. Myers on the 9th of Dec., 1855, to examine the country southeast of Lake Okeechobee and near the Big Cypress. He had visited Forts Simon Drum and Shackelford, both of which he found burned but saw no signs of hostilities; meeting in fact, only one indian and a boy driving hogs from Fort Drum. He went one day's march toward Billystown and, camping on a pine island covered with saw palmetto and about three miles from Billystown, employed two days (18-19) examining the country; visiting Billystown and several villages, but seeing no Indians and not the slightest evidence that any during the summer had been there. All the paths even were overgrown. He ordered his party to prepare for an early start for Fort Myers Thursday, Dec. 20, 1855. The Lieutenant and his escort, two noncommissioned officers, eight mounted privates and two footmen with two sixmule teams, were almost ready to take up the line of march at daybreak, when they were attacked by a body of Indians, estimated from 25 to 40, distanced only from fifteen to twenty yards and concealed behind the trees. The result of this fight was 4 killed, 4 wounded and 3 escaped; Lt. Hartseff was himself desperately wounded and did not reach Fort Simon Drum, a distance of only one day's march, until Sunday afternoon. Shortly after this the Indians attacked the residence of Doctor Braden on Manatee River. Immediately upon receipt of information of the attack on Lt. Hartseff, Governor Broome ordered Capt. William B. Hooker to the front, and in quick succession followed the companies of F. M. Durrance, W. H. Kendrick, Abner D. Johnson, Leroy C. Lesley, A. J. T. Wright, Asa Stewart, Robert Youngblood, Enoch Daniel, W. B. Hardee, Alexander Bell, Thomas Hewett, Edward T. Kendrick, John Addison, John Parker, John McNeill, S. L. Sparkman, R. B. Sullivan, Hansfords D. Dyches, Aaron Jernigan, James O. Devall.

William B. Hooker's Co., Seminole War of 1856

All of the men were mustered into service on Jan. 3, 1856. This company was mustered out of the State service and into the service of the United States Feb. 21, 1856, at Fort Meade, Florida.

Capt. William B. Hooker
1st Lt. John Parker
2nd Lt. Joseph M. Pearce