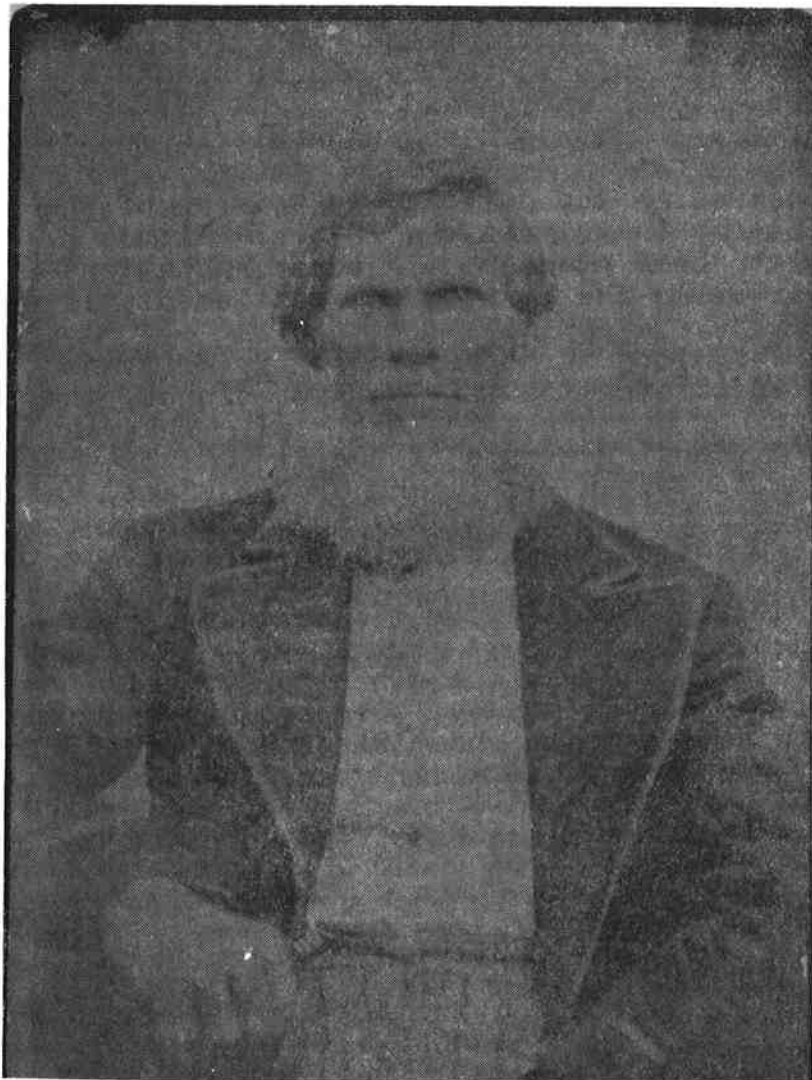


moving south to Manatee County, settling on Horse Creek in an area near present day Lily (Hardee County), Florida. The June 12th, 1860 census shows Thomas H. Albritton & family living in Manatee County along with his neighbors John M. & Elizabeth Jackson Bates, John & Alice Blackshear Platt, Joshua & Martha Platt, Louis B. & Nancy Platt, and Oliver & Ann Sylvester Waldron. Manatee County deed books shows that Thomas H. Albritton purchased land from the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund for the State of Florida at least three times. On Feb. 13, 1861, he bought 40 & 4/100 acres for \$.75 an acre, located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12 in T36S, R23E; on Dec. 2, 1862, 40 & 3/100 acres for \$.75 an acre in SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 1 in T36S, R23E; and on Dec. 31, 1862, 40 & 4/100 acres in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12 in T36S & R23E. All of this land was located in the southwestern corner of present day Hardee County.



THOMAS H. ALBRITTON

Descendants state that Thomas H. Albritton and his two oldest sons, George W. and James Arthur, served in the Confederate army during the Civil War but no service records could be found for Thomas H. Albritton. But since many of the Florida Confederate military records are lost or contain only partial rosters, it is possible for Thomas to have been a member of one of the organizations. George Albritton (Albritton) joined Co. B of the 9th Florida Infantry of the Confederate forces on May 23, 1863 at Tampa, Fla., at the age of 18. Family tradition states that Thomas H. Albritton & his sons were serving in the Fort Myers area where Thomas was in charge of the horses and stables of the Confederate soldiers in that section of the state. It is believed that young George Albritton was kidnapped by several Union soldiers and carried to the prison on Dry Tortugas where he was kept till the end of the war. Confederate records for the 9th Fla. Infantry for the months of March & April 1864 show George Albritton absent from

roll call since he was on detached duty driving beef cattle for Capt. McKay, perhaps in the Fort Myers area. Military records of the 2nd United States Florida Cavalry show that George W. Albritton joined their organization on April 6, 1864 and he is shown as a refugee from the Confederacy. He is also listed as being killed at Cedar Keys on Nov. 24, 1864. These records do not dispute the family tradition but actually