

FRANCIS BURDETTE HAGAN 1827-1914

Francis Burdette Hagan was born September 11, 1827 at Black Creek, Duval County, Florida, son of Malachi & Elizabeth (Sheppard) Hagan and grandson of John & Mary (Townsend) Hagan of North Carolina.

On May 16, 1839 at the age of 12, F. B. Hagan enlisted at Black Creek as a musician in Capt. John G. Blicht's Independent Company of Florida Volunteers. His father also served in this company. In a letter to his daughter dated Nov. 14, 1839, Malachi Hagan tells of their enlistment:

"Last summer, myself & little Frank and his pony joined a company. Were stationed about 15 miles west of Newnansville. I suppose as sickly a post as any in Florida. I and Frank stopped there about the first day of June. This post is #13 on the Sataffee about 10 miles of Fort White."

Mr. Hagan also told of the Indian troubles they were having:

"They have been murdering our frontier settlers, volunteers, mail carriers, regular soldiers, & wagoneers killing teams and plundering the wagons at times. . . . . There have been more murders committed this summer and fall than have been in the last two campaigns." (See Issue #4 of SOUTH FLORIDA PIONEERS for more info from Malachi Hagan letter).

At the time of his enlistment, F. B. Hagan was described as having light complexion, dark hair and grey or hazel eyes. He was discharged at Fort Harlee on Nov. 9, 1839, but never received a certificate of discharge.

About 1842, the family moved to Micanopy, Florida & about 1845 moved on to Marion County, where F. B., his mother, brothers James and Ethelburt, & sisters Eliza, Margaret and Virginia were listed in the Second Dist. in the 1850 census. In Oct. of 1850, Francis applied for bounty land based on his previous military service &

received 80 acres. About 1851, the family moved to Hernando County settling near Fort Dade. Francis served as tax assessor & collector of Hernando County in the latter 1850's.

On November 4, 1852, Francis Burdette Hagan married Miss Elizabeth Jane Platt, daughter of John and Alice (Blackshear) Platt. She was born in Lowndes County, Georgia on October 7, 1833.

\* Photograph courtesy of Mrs. Dillie Hagan Underwood, 722 W. Whidden St., Arcadia, Fla. Mrs. Underwood is a granddaughter of F. B. Hagan.