

that country north and northwest and up to Big Creek, was a vast wilderness where bears, wolves, deer and turkeys abounded at that time (1845-1851) and on this long stretch of uninhabited country is where my father's herds of cattle, hogs and sheep grazed and ranged until he sold out and came to Florida in the year 1851."

Mrs. Lydia Oregon (Hendry) Blount in a 1931 newspaper article described the journey & settlement in south Florida: "James E. Hendry was a south Georgia cattle owner of the days before the War Between the States. As that country turned more to the development of large plantations with slave labor his range became restricted and he sought a new location. After surveying the unsettled regions of south Florida, he selected a site on the Alafia River east of Tampa. He had plenty of room there, for the nearest cross-roads community was 25 miles away. So the herd of cattle he had brought with him were turned on the range and he went back to Georgia for his family.

"Three weeks were required for the return journey of over 300 miles with his wife and children. They rode in a covered wagon of the type that later became famous on the overland trails to the West. Oregon Hendry was but a girl of four then, and remembers little of the trip



Lydia (Carlton) Hendry Moody is seated at left with five of her daughters. Seated at center is Cornelia (Hendry) Wilder; seated at right is Martha Ann (Hendry) Singletary; standing, left to right is Adeline (Hendry) Wilson, Mary Jane (Hendry) Blount and Lydia Oregon (Hendry) Blount. (Photo from PEACE RIVER PIONEERS courtesy of its author, Mrs. Louise K. Frisbie of P. O. Box 120, Bartow, Fla. 33830).