


MAXWELL WHIDDEN 1833-1887

Maxwell Whidden was born April 18, 1833 in Columbia County, Fla., eldest son of Willoughby and Eliza (Pennington) Whidden. In the 1850 census he was listed as "Maxfield" but all later records show it as "Maxwell".

Maxwell's parents were listed in Ware County, Georgia in the 1840 census and they settled in south Florida in March of 1843 in Hillsborough County. In 1850 they were residing in the Simmon's Hammock Settlement. On July 18, 1852, Maxwell Whidden was baptized by Rev. J. M. Hayman at Salem Baptist Church at Ichepucksassa, Florida.

About 1857 the Whiddens and other relatives homesteaded near Ft. Hartsuff in present day Hardee County but then was a part of Manatee County.

On April 3, 1860 in Manatee County, Maxwell Whidden married Mary Emiline Williams. They had no children.

Maxwell was a member of the petit jury which was assembled at Manatee, Florida on April 16, 1860. On April 15, 1861, he registered his mark and brand with the Manatee County Clerk: swallow fork in one ear, crop in the other, branded .

During the Civil War, Maxwell was a member of Company B, 2nd Regiment of Florida Cavalry of the United States Army. He enrolled April 20, 1864. He entered as a private and later became a sergeant. He was mustered out with the company on November 29, 1865. It was during his enlistment that his wife died. Apparently she had moved to Cedar Keys, Florida where the Second Regiment was stationed to be near her husband. Mr. O. H. Dishong, age 41 of Owens, Florida gave the following affidavit on August 22, 1891: "Sometime during the years 1864 or 1865, my father, Dr. Lewis Dishong, was called as a physician at Sea Horse Key, Levy County, Florida to attend Mrs. Macey Whidden. He remained with her day and night until she died which was but a few days."

Maxwell returned to Manatee County after the war and remarried. He married Miss Florida Judith "Judia" A. Hendry on April 19, 1866 at Fort Green. The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. M. Hayman. Judia was born June 16, 1848 in Marion County, Florida the daughter of John and Clarissa Hendry. Their children:

1. Willoughby Whidden, born September 25, 1867; died April 30, 1931; married at Fort Ogden on April 16, 1885, Adella Novenia Morgan, daughter of Tolbert S. and Martha Jane (Lowther) Morgan.
2. Archibald Whidden, born January 12, 1870; died October 31, 1953; married 1st, Elizabeth Mizell, daughter of Jesse B. and Frances Micheal (Albritton) Mizell; married 2nd, Lillian Clarissa Terry on February 8, 1910.
3. Amanda E. Whidden, born November 5, 1872; married W. B. Pittman, November 23, 1890 in DeSoto County, Florida.
4. Thomas Whidden, born c1874; died young?.
5. Theodora A. Whidden, born August 27, 1875; married Thomas A. Bass in 1892 in DeSoto County, Florida.
6. Lorena Whidden, born March 17, 1880; married James Jones.