

11. Unnamed infant ✓

In 1852 Francis A. Hendry moved from Alafia to Fort Meade and put his small herd of cattle east of the Peace River, and in so doing, became among the first to move cattle east of the river. On April 19, 1852 he registered his mark and brand: crop and split in one ear, upper square in the other, brand A.

In 1853 he made his first visit to Fort Myers, which three years before in February 1850 had been established on the old breastworks of Fort Harvie, which was originally built November 4, 1841, but later abandoned on March 21, 1842. In 1908 he recalled, "I first saw Fort Myers in 1853, when its personnel was composed of such men as General Hancock, Colonel Harvie Brown, Lieutenant Hartsuff, Lieutenant Benson, Captain Fowler, for whom Fowler Street is named. I was wined and dined in Fort Myers as a welcome guest with these noble men. Still the memory is fresh and vivid." Fort Myers, obviously had captivated young Hendry.

In 1854 he as a guide to Lt. Benson made his second visit to Fort Myers. Again in 1908 Hendry's recollection, "The object of this trip was to ascertain if it was practicable to open an overland, through route from Fort Meade to Fort Myers. The party consisted of Lt. Benson, mounted, three pack mules, and six footmen, detailed for the trip from the garrison of Fort Meade, and myself on horseback as a guide, for which I received one dollar per day in gold. Fort Myers in that day was a veritable oasis in the desert. Fort Myers of today may well be proud of her creditable standing as a pretty, well kept little city, but it will be hard to excel herself when she was dressed up in her military garb."

On February 18, 1856 he enlisted as a private in Capt. William B. Hooker's Indpt. Co., Fla. Mtd. Vols. and was mustered in February 21, 1856 at Fort Meade. "During the month of June, the company was employed on scout duty and a small detachment took an active part in the action of the 14 & 16 on Pease Creek & in pursuit of the Indians," so recorded the War Department. He was mustered out with the company as a private on August 20, 1856 at Fort Meade. At the time of enlistment he was described as being 23 years old (He was actually 22), 6 feet 1 inch, with gray eyes, dark hair, dark complexion, and by occupation a farmer and stockraiser.

On August 22, 1856 he enlisted as a private in Capt. Leroy G. Lesley's Indpt. Co., Fla. Mtd. Vols. and was mustered in at Fort Meade. War Department rolls recorded as follows: "Sept. 1856, Alafia, Fla., employed in scouting. Jan. 1857, this command has been scouting on the western border of the Gulf coast." He was mustered out with his company as a private on February 19, 1857. In an affidavit filed March 5, 1903 Francis gave as his tour of service February 18, 1856 to May 1858, having served in Hooker's Co. and two terms in Capt. Lesley's Co. National Archives had no record of his second enlistment. Soldiers of Florida lists him as 2nd Lieutenant in Capt. Lesley's Co. W. M. Hendry and Jehu J. Blount on January 17, 1903 both gave affidavits that Francis served from 1856-1858 in the Seminole Indian War.

A Seminole, when later an old man, recalled: "The other warriors said I was too young to go on the warpath and left me here to provide meat for the family, but towards the end of the war the Indians learned the white army had abandoned Fort Thompson because the Caloosahatchee had overflowed it as it was built of dead pine posts (light-wood) with one end buried in the ground and knowing this fat pine would