

Whidden fell dead; John Henry Hollingsworth was badly wounded.

"McCullough infuriated at the deaths of his comrades, dismounted and ran towards an Indian whom he spied secreted behind a pine tree. Pulling him out, he grappled with him, man to man. Daniel Carlton ran to his aid. Between them they beat the Indian to the ground and cut his throat with his own hunting knife. Oates and McCullough then dragged the wounded Hollingsworth back to our house."

Daniel Carlton rode to Fort Fraser to contact Captain F. M. Durrance (brother of Celia (Durrance) Tillis). He later returned with a company of 50 men and tracked down the Seminoles.

The Tillis family later moved back to their old homeplace south of Fort Meade. They were listed there in the 1860 Hillsborough County census with neighbors Thomas Sumerall, Stephen Hollingsworth, William McCullou, T. J. Curry, Margaret Brooker, William Allen, Robert Cascott, John Powell, and J. M. Pierce. They later lived in Bartow but eventually moved back to Fort Meade. Their home was burned during the Civil War. James D. Tillis states:

"Our old home place south of Fort Meade was burned by a band of deserters scattered all over the southern counties on way to Fort Myers, where they joined the Federal army. Some of them came back once or twice. On the first raid they came to our house and to Thomas Underhill's--took Thomas Underhill a prisoner and killed him. Came on to our place and my father was away. They took all his horses and wagons--loaded up with provisions, corn, fodder and meat--took the Negro men and all firearms and went back to Fort Myers. Some months after that they came up and had a sham battle on Bow Legs Creek on the east side of the river, and old man Jim Lanier was killed there. They then crossed the river and back to the west side and burned our home and all that we had."

Willoughby Tillis applied for a pension on Aug. 11, 1892. He gave his age as 84 years and his residence as Fort Meade, Florida. He stated that his Discharge Certificate from his Seminole Indian war service was burned during the War of the Rebellion when the U. S. Army burned his home. He said that the time of his enlistment in 1835 he was 27 years old, 5'8" tall with dark complexion, gray eyes and black hair. His occupation was farming and that he was born in Camden County, Georgia. His pension was approved and he received \$8 per month until his death on January 1, 1895. The following obituary appeared:

WILLOUGHBY TILLIS DEAD
ONE OF THE PIONEERS OF THIS PORTION OF FLORIDA

Willoughby Tillis, one of the oldest settlers of Florida died at his home near Fort Meade last Tuesday, and was on Wednesday buried at New Hope Church. He was eighty-six years old at the time of his death and had lived in Fla. about seventy years. He leaves a wife, his third, now eighty years of age, and a daughter, Mrs. J. C. Jordan, and four sons, Calhoun, Dallas, William and Marion.

Mr. Tillis was a member of the Methodist Church, & the funeral services were conducted by Rev. J. York, assisted by J. W. Boyd, W. H. Johnson, F. F. Beville and