

LIFE AND TIMES OF
JUDGE DENNIS MARION CASON

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The 1870 census of Madison County, Florida enumerates Denis CASON as living "Outside Town of Madison", (Post Office designation "Mosley Hall") but in 1830, the first U. S. census taken to include Florida, the old census taker would on many days of travel see twice as many deer as people, for when the final tabulation was made, Madison County had a total population of 525 people and not a post office.

A post office was established on April 19, 1830. Abraham BELLAMY was appointed postmaster. This office was located at Hickstown, a locality about seven miles west of Madison (this location was later known as the Champaign Section)---. Here mail was received and dispatched once every two weeks.

By 1835 the population had doubled. Settlers came when some protection against the Indians could be anticipated, yet communication was practically non-existent.

Between 1835-1842 the Seminole Indian War did not hinder the immigrants from the Carolinas and north Georgia from moving to Florida. Early in 1838, the Legislative Council decided a new county seat would be in the best interest of progress. The commissioners that were elected selected the new site which we now know as the town of Madison. A post office for the new county seat was not established until April 6, 1839. On this day Thomas ANDERSON became postmaster. Just where the few inhabitants received their mail is uncertain.

San Pedro was operating some ten miles south. Overstreets about seven miles north, near S. R. #53 (Quitman Highway). Perhaps these two offices served the inhabitants of Madison until the post office became operational. At first, letters addressed to inhabitants in what is now Madison gave "Newtown", then later, that designation was dropped and "Madison Court House" was adopted and finally the suffix was left off leaving just Madison. (Records of P. O. Dept., Washington, D. C.)

Community settlements throughout the county began about the time the town of Madison was formed (1838). Fort Hamilton, Stillipica, and Stockton became Mosley Hall (so Silas CASON and his son Denis CASON lived in one of the three settlements). (Madison County Prior to the War Between the States, Carlton Smith)

Judge Dennis L. Marion CASON was born 6 June 1837, Madison County, Florida, the son of Silas CASON and Abigail (LANGFORD) CASON.

Silas CASON was serving in the Indian Wars of Florida and Georgia, and stationed in Fort Fanning, present day Levy County. Silas CASON's war record discloses the interesting fact that he, Silas, was on a leave of absence at the time of the birth of his son, Dennis Marion CASON. Silas CASON and wife Abigail (LANGFORD) CASON were living in Lowndes County, Georgia in 1830. They had one little boy, William L. CASON, who, as a young man died in the Civil War. More will be written on his life later.

Silas CASON had a fortunate draw of land in Georgia, 23 District, 3rd and 4th Section of Cherokee County, Georgia.