

ent never voted a secession ticket -- and believes that claimant never went to the election - affiant never saw him on the day of that election. But he has often heard the claimant say that he was not at any election precinct on that day - and as he knows claimant to be a man of truth and veracity - and good character and knew claimant to be the identical person who rendered the service alleged and knew him to be a union man at the commencement of the Rebel war and than a neighbor and that he is yet a neighbor and knows that claimant did not abet or aid or assist the enemies of the late war and knows that claimant in no manner engaged in or aid or abetted the late Rebellion against the authority of the United States.

Ransom Mobley, aged 63 years, resident of Calvinia in DeSoto Co., Florida gave the following affidavit on March 9, 1896:

I have known John M. Bates since 1856. He was a member of Captain Bill Kindricks Company of Mounted Vols. I have bathed with him on many times and know that he was a hearty sound man and that he got his leg hurt in the service while carrying a dispatch between Fort Clinch & Fort Drum in attempting to pass a cross-way at a place known as Blue --- from which hurt the leg had to be amputated. This occurred about the last days of March 1857. I have known him the said John M. Bates continuously from the date stated to the present time.

On March 16, 1896, O. A. Walker, aged 66 years & a resident of Sarasota, Manatee County gave the following affidavit:

That on or about May 1857 I became acquainted with John M. Bates then a member of above company. That he was then newly crippled by his horse falling through a bridge which accident cut his left leg badly. That I saw the wound myself when it was newly made. That I have been intimately acquainted with him continuously since 1861 and that he has been all that time and is now a cripple from said accident.

On July 17, 1902 John applied for pension benefits under the Acts of July 27, 1892 and June 27, 1902. He was aged 70 years and a resident of Arcadia, DeSoto County, Florida. He applied for additional pension monies on May 13, 1908 under the Act of Feb. 6, 1907. He was 76 years of age and a resident of Bunker, Florida. He stated that at the time of his enlistment he was 6 feet 1 inch tall with light complexion, blue eyes and light brown hair. On June 22, 1910 his pension was increased from \$8 per month to \$16 per month.

Mrs. Elizabeth (Jackson) Bates died October 16, 1914. John Maston Bates died May 2, 1918. Both were buried in Oak Hill Cemetery at Bunker, Florida.

REFERENCES: Harry Whidden, Tampa, Fl.; Census: 1840 Alachua Co.,