

politics or religion, his life shone like a beacon light. His life was like silver lining behind the dark clouds, or rays of the sunbeams in times of sorrow or distress, to guide the erring or the sorrowing into safe harborage. In season or out of season, in the darkest as well as the brightest hours, as true as the needle to the pole, we could depend on Benjamin Moody to fill his place in life under all conditions. I loved him as a father; I trusted him as a counselor; I had faith in him as a man; I loved him as a Christian, admired him as a citizen. As a Christian he was sincere, honest and conscientious; he obeyed the Golden Rule, with faith, hope, and charity; he loved God with his whole heart, and his neighbor as himself."

In 1883, after raising his children & four of his grandchildren, he & wife sold their homeplace and moved in with their son, Benjamin. They later lived with Simpson Singletary, a son-in-law of Mrs. Moody. After Mr. Singletary's death in 1891, the Moodys moved in with Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin F. Blount. Mrs. Blount being a daughter of Mrs. Moody. Mr. Moody died on Oct. 13, 1896 and was buried in the Homeland Cemetery. In his obituary, Ben. F. Blount wrote of Mr. Moody: "He spent about one half his time after he broke up housekeeping in visiting among his relatives and friends where he spent the most useful part of his life in exercising a holy influence over the lives of others. And during the entire thirty years of intimate acquaintance with him, I have never known a man for whom I had a more profound respect. His mind was strong and vigorous up to the day of his death. His consciousness of right and wrong was the never failing guide to his footsteps. His judgment superior and his convictions deep and abiding, and his courage always equal to his convictions. As husband, father, neighbor, citizen, Christian, he studied his duties carefully and no influence or argument could swerve him from performing those duties. His patriotism was most unbounded, and the last act of his life was to drive six miles to his precinct and back and vote the full Democratic ticket, one week before his death."

Mr. Moody had received a pension from the government for his services during the Seminole Indian Wars and his wife also received one up to her death on May 24, 1898. She was also buried in the Homeland Cemetery.

REFERENCES: "Family Record of Lydia Moody" by George W. Hendry, 1900 - copy furnished by Mrs. F. K. Hendry, Fort Myers; "The Hendry Family" by Milton D. Wilson; Family Bibles of Benjamin Moody & Ben. F. Moody; Obit of Ben Moody, "Uncle Ben Moody Dead" written by Ben. F. Blount in Oct. 21, 1896 "Courier-Informant", Bartow, Fla.; "Pioneer Florida" in Tampa Tribune Dec. 2, 1956; 1850 & 1860 Hills. Co. census; Homeland Cemetery; Pension papers of Benjamin Moody & Mrs. Lydia Moody; military service papers of Ben Moody; Capt. Hooker's Company in Soldiers of Florida; Hills. & Polk Co. marriage records.

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PEARCE FAMILY BIBLE

Thomas C. Pearce, born May 8th, 1840 - died Nov. 27, 1885 at Bartow, Fla.
Elizabeth C. Weeks, born Mar. 29th, 1845 - died July 1st, 1873
Minnie M. C. Pearce, born July 15th, 1866 in Polk County, Fla.
Emory L. Pearce, born Nov. 29, 1869 - died Jan. 29, 1886 at Bartow, Fla.
Susan J. Richardson, born Mar. 29th, 1844 Marshall Co., Tenn.
Thomas C. Pearce & Elizabeth C. Weeks was married Feb. 9, 1862 in Polk Co.
Thomas C. Pearce & Susan J. Richardson was mar. Feb. 27, 1877 at Orlando.

Above Bible record was copied by Lillian R. Carpenter, Feb. 14, 1937 from an old family register written by & the property of Thomas Coke Pearce & then in the possession of his daughter, Mrs. Minnie P. Brown of Bartow, Fla. Printed in Philadelphia by A.J. Holman & Co. in 1876.