

SHADRACH HANCOCK 1831-1902

Shadrach Hancock was born August 18, 1831 in Lowndes County, Ga., son of Durham Hancock. He grew up in Lowndes and Thomas counties and moved to south Florida in the mid 1850's. On Feb. 18, 1856 at Hichepucksassa, Florida Shadrach was mustered in as a Private in Capt. Simeon L. Sparkman's Independent Company of Florida Mounted Volunteers. At the time of his enlistment, his description was given as: 5'8" with blue eyes and fair complexion. This company was based at Camp Gibson near Fort Meade. They were employed in scouting and in opening & repairing roads, moving and securing families and in pursuit of Indians on Pease Creek. Shadrach was mustered out Aug. 18, 1856 at "Hitchepucksassa".

On February 25, 1857 at Cork in Hillsborough County, Shadrach married Sarah Jane Knight. Service was performed by Jacob Summerlin. Sarah Jane was born May 1, 1842, daughter of Rev. Jesse & Rebecca Carolina (Varn) Knight. Their children:

1. James Samuel Hancock, born Sept. 22, 1858; died July 21, 1942; married 1st, in 1886, Dora Jency Alderman, daughter of Mitchell Alderman; married 2nd, Sept. 13, 1903, Rebecca Walker.
2. William Frederick Hancock, born Dec. 14, 1860; died Jan. 15, 1924; married Ada Elena Tatum on Jan. 26, 1899.
3. Georgiann Hancock, born March 26, 1862; died 1864.
4. Martha Jane Hancock, born Feb. 29, 1864; married John Quincy Alderman on Sept. 16, 1886 in Manatee County.
5. Jesse Jonathan Hancock, born Dec. 18, 1868; died 1871.
6. Ellen Ophelia Hancock, born Feb. 25, 1871; died Dec. 19, 1950; married on Mar. 6, 1889, Marion Postell Carlton, son of Rev. John Wright Carlton and Mrs. Susan Lee (Cason) Murphy Carlton.
7. Mary Frances Hancock, born Oct. 31, 1872; died 1949; married Mitchell Sherrod Roberts, on July 10, 1898.
8. Henry Lawrence Hancock, born Dec. 22, 1875; married Viola E. Mizell on April 1, 1900.
9. Callie Angie Hancock, born Oct. 15, 1879; died July 21, 1906; married Henry B. Boyd, son of Jordan & Nancy (Peacock) Boyd.

In 1859 Shadrach Hancock moved into Manatee County living at various times in the Pine Level area and the Old Miakka area. On Nov. 7, 1859 he was among the individuals who were called to appear as jurors for the Circuit Court at Manatee. During the Civil War, Shadrach was a member of Capt. Lesley's Company of Florida Home Guards.

Shadrach was a Methodist minister and performed many of the marriages recorded in the old marriage records of Hillsborough, Manatee & DeSoto counties. He was nick-named "White Shade" because of his light hair and fair complexion. This was to distinguish him from his Baptist counterpart, Shadrach Hancock, born March 15, 1826 who was nick-named "Black Shade" because of his black hair, moustache and beard.

After Pine Level became the county seat, the citizens of western Manatee County made the long wearisome journey to record or settle