

DAVID J. W. BONEY 1815-1889

David J. W. Boney was born on January 14th, 1815 in Duplin County, North Carolina. His father was born in North Carolina and his mother was born in Virginia. On Jan. 18, 1841, at Ft. McComb, Florida, David enlisted as a private in the company commanded by Capt. Hicks in the Regiment of Mounted Men commanded by Col. Dancy. He was taken sick soon after he was mustered into service. In the battle of Sanfaldas Hammock, David fell over a log and injured his lungs. This injury was to cause him trouble the rest of his life. When his company was sent to Dead Man's Bay, David J. W. Boney was left at Ft. McComb without any protection or supplies except as he could get from the citizens. As soon as he was able to ride, David traveled to Newnansville to see if any of the doctors could help him. Meanwhile, his company returned to Ft. McComb and were discharged. When David returned to Ft. McComb and applied for his pay, he found out that he had been reported as a deserter, and lost his pay.

In the mid-1840's, David J. W. Boney moved into south Florida settling in Hillsborough County. On Oct. 8, 1846, he married Lydia A. Whidden. She was born in Columbia County, Florida on Sept. 27, 1831, daughter of Maxfield & Sophia (Crews) Whidden. Most records give her name as "Lydia A." but Salem Baptist Church minutes give her name as "Elizabeth", as does the 1850 Hills. Co. census. Children:

1. Sophia M. Boney, born July 4, 1847, married Nathan Lowe
2. Cornelius M. Boney, born 1849, married Martha Jane McClelland, daughter of Moses Andrew & Sarah (Platt) McClelland.

David J. W. Boney and family were living in Hillsborough County in 1850 in the Thonotosassa Settlement. Some of their neighbors were Frederic Varn, Peter Platt, John Skipper, Rabon Raulerson and Eli Whitton.

In December of 1850, D. J. W. Boney and his wife "Elizabeth" Boney joined the Salem Baptist Church at Ichepucksassa near present day Plant City. On Oct. 24, 1855, David applied for bounty land based on his service in Capt. Hicks' company. William Hall, aged 38 years, who was a Second Lieutenant in Capt. Hicks' company testified that David J. W. Boney was mustered into the company.

On August 27, 1855, David Boney was mustered into Capt. F. M. Durrance's Company in the Third Seminole Indian War. While in this service, he was treated for his bleeding lungs and chronic diarrhea at Ft. Simon Drum, Ft. "Fraisher", Newnansville & Black Creek, Fla. He was mustered out in December of 1857. He also served in Capt. Leroy G. Lesley's company during this war.

About 1858, David J. W. Boney settled in the Fort Hartsuff-Popash area of Manatee County. On April 18, 1859, he was among a group of Manatee citizens who reported for jury duty. In 1860, he was selected as County Commissioner for Manatee County. Some of his neighbors in 1860 were Moses McClendin, D. D. Crews, David Sumneral, William A. Williams and Ely Whiddon.

David Boney enrolled Apr. 20, 1864 at Fort Myers under Capt. James D. Green in Company B, 2nd Florida Cavalry, U. S. Army. He was promoted to 1st Corpl. on May 28, 1864. He was home on sick furlough in 1865 when the war ended.

On October 20, 1869, David was a delegate from New Hope Baptist Church to the 3rd Annual session of the South Florida Baptist Association held at Shiloh Church, Hillsborough County. This was the year that New Hope Baptist Church joined the association. Mr. Boney also