

in the Okefenokee Division of the Army. He volunteered at Ft. Gilmore on July 12, 1838 and was discharged at Ft. Gilmore on Jan. 12, 1839. Dempsey D. Crews, Sr. was also a member of this company.

In 1840, Maxfield Whidden was living in Ware County, Georgia along with Dempsey D. Crews, Alexander Crews, Willoughby Whidden, James Whidden and other relatives.

Maxfield moved back into Florida in March of 1843, along with his brother Willoughby, settling in south Florida in the Hillsborough County area. In May of 1843, he applied for 160 acres of unappropriated public land under the Armed Occupation Act. This act was to provide for the armed occupation and settlement of the unsettled part of the Peninsula of East Florida. His property was described as follows: A tract of unsurveyed land lying in a hammock about 6 miles south of Robert Williams settlement and about 5 miles east of the bridge at the Little Withlacoochee commencing at a stake in the pine woods running 40 chains south thence 40 chains east thence 40 chains north thence 40 chains west to the place of beginning. His brother, Willoughby Whidden, received 160 acres adjacent to Maxfield's settlement, at the same time.

In the 1850 Hillsborough County census, Maxfield Whidden was living in the Thonotosassa-Itchepuckesassa area along with Peter Platt, David J. W. Boney, Rabun Raulerson, Jacob Summerlin, Charles Scott and Joseph Howell.

Maxfield and Sophia Whidden were members of Salem Baptist Church at Itchepuckesassa. Several meetings of the Church were held at their home. They were baptized by Elder Newton on March 19, 1851. D. J. W. Boney and Willoughby Whidden were also members of this Church.

On February 4, 1851, Maxfield applied for bounty land based on his service in Capt. William B. North's companies. He received a warrant for 160 acres.

On April 12, 1852, Maxfield registered the following mark and brand at the Hillsborough County courthouse: swallowfork and underbit in one ear, swallowfork in the other, brand ⊕ .

Maxfield Whidden was a member of Capt. William B. Hooker's company during the Third Seminole War. He was mustered in on January 3, 1856. Also serving in this company were Maxfield Whidden, Jr., Edward Whidden, Jesse Whidden, David Brannon, Willoughby Whidden and other relatives.

Prior to 1856, the Whiddens settled in the Fort Hartsuff area in Manatee (present day Hardee) County. Maxfield's grandson, Eley P. Brannon was born there in 1856. Maxfield & family were enumerated in that area in the 1860 Manatee County census along with Willoughby Whidden, Henry Langford, Lewis Jenkins, Dempsey D. Crews & others.

In the early 1860's, Maxfield and Sophia Whidden moved to the military post at Fort Myers which had come under the protection of the U. S. Army in the latter years of the Civil War. Their son, Edward and sons-in-law, David J. W. Boney and Jesse Whidden, were members of the Second Florida Cavalry of the U. S. Army which was stationed there. Maxfield Whidden died at Fort Myers on January 5, 1865, and was buried there in the cemetery adjoining the military post. The graves were later moved to Pensacola, Florida in 1888.

Sophia Whidden lived with her daughter in the Popash-Zolfo Springs area. On Sept. 13, 1890, she applied for a widow's pension which she received until her death on Sept. 28, 1894. She was buried in the New Hope Cemetery in DeSoto (present day Hardee) County.

REFERENCES: Maxfield Whidden bounty land application; Sophia P. Whidden's pension application; Hills. Co. marriages & marks and brands; Jesse Whidden & Edward Whidden pension applications; Census - 1830 Alachua Co., Fl., 1840 Ware Co., Ga., 1850 Hills. Co., Fl., 1860 Manatee Co., Fl.;