

9. Ira Ivey Thompson, born May 28, 1878; married Mary Pavey.

Ephraim Washington Thompson was among a group of Manatee County citizens who were called for jury duty at Manatee on November 7th, 1859. He was listed in the 1860 Manatee County census, living in the Fort Hartsuff area along with his in-laws, Willoughby Whidden, James D. Green, Alford Sloane, Henry Langford, Maxfield Whidden & others.

On April 18, 1862, Ephraim enlisted at Camp Lee as a Private in Capt. Nathan Blount's Company, 7th Regiment of Florida Infantry. This company subsequently became Company E "South Florida Bulldogs", 7th Regiment, Florida Infantry. Ephraim's brother-in-law, John Wesley Whidden, later became Captain of this company. July 13, 1863 company rolls show Ephraim on detached service in Georgia since May 19th. A receipt roll for extra duty pay showed that he was in charge of government stock in Georgia from May 18th to September 30th, 1863. He was taken prisoner on July 27, 1864 near Atlanta. His name appeared on a roll of prisoners of war transferred from Nashville, Tennessee to Louisville, Kentucky on July 29, 1864. On July 31st, he was sent from Louisville Military Prison to Camp Chase, Ohio. He was transferred to City Point, Virginia on March 4, 1865 for exchange, along with 3,499 other Confederate prisoners of war.

After the Civil War, the Thompsons settled in the Hull-Fort Ogden area of Manatee County (present day DeSoto County). They were charter members of the Fort Ogden Baptist Church when it was organized in 1878. Ephraim W. Thompson was a delegate from his Church to the Manatee Missionary Baptist Association annual meetings in 1884, 1885, 1887, 1894 & 1895.

In 1880, Ephraim was residing in Precinct 9 (Fort Ogden) along with his neighbors, James Hingson, Oliver A. Waldron & Trinity Rainfro.

On July 14, 1894, Ephraim W. Thompson filed his will at the DeSoto County courthouse. He described his land holdings as: NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of NW $\frac{1}{4}$  and NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of NE $\frac{1}{4}$  in Section 5, Township 39, Range 24; SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 32, Township 38, Range 24; 17 acres in NE corner of NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 18, Township 39, Range 24. Other items mentioned were 100 cattle branded EW and 2 horses.

*Ephraim W. Thompson*

On July 19, 1902, Ephraim applied for a government pension based on his service during the Seminole Indian wars. His post office was Hull, Florida. His signature is from that application.

He received \$8.00 a month which was later increased to \$20 per month. On October 14, 1907, he applied to the State of Florida for a pension based on his Confederate service. He received \$120 per year.

Keziah (Whidden) Thompson died on June 10, 1912 at her home in Hull. Mr. Thompson died November 28, 1921. Both were buried in the Fort Ogden cemetery.

On November 13, 1976, the Fort Ogden Civic Club as part of their Bicentennial Projects, placed a military tombstone on the unmarked grave of one of Fort Ogden's pioneers, Ephraim Washington Thompson.

REFERENCES: Census: 1830 Gwinnett Co., Ga., 1840 & 1850 Paulding Co., Ga., 1860 & 1880 Manatee Co., Fl.; Ephraim W. Thompson family Bible owned by Mrs. Naomi (Morqus) Duke in 1975 & copied by Doris Nicholson; military service records - Indian Wars & Civil War; E. W. Thompson's pension applications - Indian Wars & Civil War; Manatee & DeSoto Co. marriage records; Manatee Circuit Crt minutes; DeSoto Co. Record of Wills #1; Manatee Missionary Bapt Assoc. minutes.