

Silas and Penelope McClelland on July 9, 1819 were residing in Capt. Jesse Durrence's district in Tattnall County where they claimed a right to two draws in a land lottery (remarks after entry, "wife and no child"). A warrent was issued October 2, 1820 to them for a tract of land (33 acres) which was surveyed October 4, 1820 on the waters of the Ohouppee River.

About 1821 the family removed to Telfair County, Georgia (Moses Andrew was born in that county in 1821) and thence to Irwin County, Ga., prior to 1830, as 1830 census shows them living in Irwin. A few months after Dorminy's Meeting House (later named Bushy Creek Primitive Baptist Church and the second oldest Church in Irwin County) was constituted, December 17, 1831, they joined by letters. Silas joined on June 15, 1832 and Penelope on July 14, 1832. Both were dismissed by letters on Feb. 17, 1833. Then the family removed to Thomas County, Georgia, where Penelope's parents were living, and thence to Hamilton County, Florida about 1836 and where they were listed in 1840 census.

Again they transferred their Church membership by letter, joining Feb. 22, 1840, Prospect Primitive Baptist Church shortly after it was constituted on Sept. 27, 1839 at Jasper in the Territory of Florida. According to an abstract of the Church records, Dec. 25, 1841 "Silas McClenan (McClelland) made application for letters of dismissal -- in consequence of a false oath which McLenon (McClelland) made before a committee while in the service of the United States respecting a horse which he said died. Case laid over." The record of Jan. 22, 1842 reads: "Silas McLenon (McClelland) failed to attend and give any satisfaction and made it appear to the Church that he was guilty of making a false oath and was excommunicated." There is no record of dismissal of Penelope. According to tradition a group of pioneers followed the frontier as the Indians were driven farther south. In line with this tradition Silas McClelland and family and a group of other pioneers moved about 1846 to Ichipucksassa settlement in Hillsborough County, Florida. He and family were listed as living in this area in the 1850 and 1860 censuses. After moving to this settlement a group of pioneers established Salem Baptist Church on October 15, 1850 and shortly thereafter, on December 18, 1850, the Church record show: "...Penelopy (Penelope) McClelland who was received in ful fellowship with us who was formerly a baptist...". The records kept in an old ledger book are in poor condition and it could not be found where Silas joined this Church; however, in the back of the book the Church Clerk kept his personal records as "List of Horse Swaps", and recorded that he made several swaps with Si and Silas McClelland.

When Polk County was created from Brevard and Hillsborough Counties on March 2, 1861, Silas McClelland was cut out of Hillsborough in a community called Medulla, south of present day Lakeland. The first Polk County officials were elected on April 13, 1861 and Silas McClelland was the successful candidate for Coronor over two opponents, J. D. Smith and James Whidden.

Silas McClelland had a long and varied career of military service. First he was mustered in as a private on Jan. 10, 1814 in Capt. John P. Blackmon's Company, Tenth Battalion (Tattnall County), Second Brigade (General Samuel Byne) First Division, Georgia Militia, War of 1812. His unit was stationed at Fort James, Milligan's Bluff on Altamaha River two miles north of mouth of Brard's Creek for protection of the frontier against Indian attack. He was mustered out March 10, 1814.

Later in the Second Seminole Indian War he enlisted as a private at Columbia County, June 22, 1836, in Capt. William B. North's Company, First Regiment (Warren's) Florida Mounted Militia. The name of the unit