

blazed pine with the letters L. P. marked on it, running thence due west 160 rods, thence due north 160 rods, thence due east 160 rods, thence due south 160 rods, to the point of beginning, embracing one quarter section of pine land, said land lying about 15 miles from Ft. Brooke in an easterly direction.

Given under my hand at Tampa, E. F., this seventeenth day of February 1843.

Levi Pearce

Other land records provided by the Florida DNR-Bureau of State Lands show that Levi's land was in section 4, township 30 south, range 21 east, just southwest of Durant. The 1850 Hillsborough County census shows Levi Pearce and family living in the Alafia settlement along with these other families: Alderman Carlton, Daniel W. Carlton, Jeremiah M. Hayman and John Pearce.

Mary Jane (Hooker) Pearce died on May 20, 1855 and was buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery.

By 1860, Levi and his children had settled near Fort Meade in present day Polk County. Some of his neighbors were Mrs. Mary B. Lanier, G. L. Key, Solomon Godwin, William Carney, John McAlly, John & Delila Green, W. R. Hollingsworth and J. L. Skipper. On June 13, 1863, Levi along with John McAuley appraised the inventory of the estate of John Green. On June 29, 1867, Levi Pearce was one of the many buyers at the sale of the property of his son-in-law, William Carney.

Levi Pearce married Louisa (Hollingsworth) Rogers at Pine Level in Manatee County on March 18, 1866. She was the daughter of Stephen and Perlina (Fulford) Hollingsworth and the widow of William Rogers who was killed in the Civil War on December 4, 1864. His name appears in some records as "Rodgers". Levi and Louisa Pearce had two children:

11. Martha J. Pearce, born September 13, 1868; died November 21, 1894; married David Sampson Williams, son of Thomas D. and Matilda (Herndon) Williams.
12. Charles Wesley Pearce, born April 25, 1873; married Annie Bonard, daughter of C. H. and Lula (Coker) Bonard.

Levi Pearce was a Methodist minister and married many couples in pioneer south Florida. Levi died on March 25, 1874 and was buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery. His stone reads:

"Rev. Levi Pearce 1806-1874
Methodist Circuit Rider
Old Hillsborough County"

On June 10, 1899, Louisa applied for a widow's pension based on Levi's military service. She was a resident of Arcadia, DeSoto County at that time. On Jan. 2, 1900, J. S. Hollingsworth, age 52, resident of Brownville, DeSoto County and J. N. Hollingsworth, age 50, post office Arcadia provided supporting information for her claim. On Jan. 22, 1900, John B. Bledsoe, age 39, and William E. Bledsoe, age 37, both residents of Sydney, Hillsborough County provided additional information. Louisa received a pension of \$8 per month until her death on June 9, 1907. She was buried in Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church Cemetery at Owens, DeSoto County, Florida.