

✓  
JAMES ISHAM LEWIS 1820-1895

Researched, compiled and contributed by Mrs. Doris Moody Lewis, 22 Hatchineha Road, Haines City, Florida 33844.

According to Isham Lewis' "Application for Pension" papers based on the Seminole Indian War 1835-41, he was born in Bullock County, Georgia in 1820. He was a bit over six feet tall with sandy hair, fair skin and blue eyes. His occupation was listed as carpenter and farmer. Isham moved to Florida around 1858 and settled on the border of Polk and Manatee Counties near Bowling Green.

Isham was in Florida earlier with Captain Tracy and his "Georgia Mounted Militia". He suffered a life long injury when he was tossed from his horse.

In 1843 Isham married Matilda Gibson, daughter of John and Clarissa (White) Gibson of Bullock County, Georgia. John was a professor or teacher. Isham and Matilda had one son, James Lewis, born in 1844. Matilda died soon after and James was raised by John & Clarissa Gibson. He was with them in 1850 & 1860 in the census records of Bullock County. No further record of James Lewis.

In 1847 Isham married Lucretia Virginia Kirkland, daughter of Joshua and Harriet (Lee) Kirkland, in Bullock County, Georgia. They had eight children. The oldest Ann Kirkland, was born in 1844, a step-daughter of Isham.

Isham was in Bullock County in the 1850 census but soon moved to Ware County where he made application for Bounty Land and was rejected for lack of records. He left Ware on his way to Florida in 1858, with their four older children. They lived until 1890 in the vicinity between Ft. Meade and Bowling Green where the children all grew up and were married. Besides James Lewis, born 1844 in Bullock County, there were:

1. Ann Kirkland (Starling) Lewis, born 1844; married in 1866 to William "Bill" Willingham, son of William H. & Anne Willingham of Ft. Meade, Florida. She later married Richard Smith of Kissimmee.
2. Madison Winfield Lewis (called "Bud"), born 1849 in Bullock County, Georgia, came to Florida in 1858 with his father at age 9 years. He married Sarah Mizell in 1869 and had one son, William Judy. Sarah died in 1901 and Bud married Julia Ann Arnold, daughter of John B. & Caroline (Williams) Arnold. Bud & Julia had six children that lived to adults. They lived on Tigar Lake, on Kissimmee Island homestead. Bud was in the cattle business and marked his cattle with (M1) and (15) which had been Sarah's brand. He died in 1921 at Blue Jordan on Kissimmee Island.
3. Sarah Lewis, born 1853 in Bullock County, Georgia; married in Manatee County, Florida John Collier, Jr. and lived at Crewsville. She and John had three children: William Henry, Sarah Esther and Caroline. Sarah died in 1898.
4. Wealthan Lewis, born 1857 in Ware County, Georgia; married John Monts de Oca, Jr., son of John and Mary Monts de Oca of Tampa, Fl. They were married in 1870 and had fourteen children. Some time in the 1880's they moved to a homestead on Kissimmee Island at Clay Hammock and raised their family until after 1900 when they bought a place at Midland, Florida.