

JOHN W. TANNER 1838-1913

Researched, compiled and contributed by Clifton A. McClelland,
1112 James St., Whiteville, NC 28472.

John W. Tanner was born to Simon B. and Winnie (Vickers) Tanner, June 19, 1838 in Pike County, Alabama. His father died May 17, 1843, and later that year he and his mother moved to Florida. In his affidavit for his Confederate pension, he stated that they came to Suwannee County.

On April 20, 1845 his mother, Winnie (Vickers) Tanner married John L. McClelland at Blount's Ferry on Suwannee River in Columbia County, Florida. John was born in 1820 in Tattnall County, Georgia to Silas and Penelope (Anderson) McClelland.

The John L. McClellands resided in north Florida about one year and then moved to Hichepucksassa Settlement, Hillsborough County, Florida about 1846.

In the 1850 census they are listed as living in Hillsborough County with neighbors Silas McClelland, Mose McClelland, John Thomas, William Wiggins and Isham Crews. John Tanner grew up in Hillsborough County.

On February 18, 1856 at the age of seventeen years he was mustered into Captain Simon Sparkman's Independent Company, Fla. Mounted Volunteers, Third Seminole Indian War. His records show he was mustered in at Brown's Store, Hichepucksassa. During this enlistment he was on detached service at Fort Deynaud (Hendry Co.), Fort Simon Drum (Okeechobee County), Florida and was stationed at Camp Gibson. His horse was valued at \$145. He reenlisted Feb. 17, 1857 in the same company. His next enlistment at Fort Meade, Florida was in Captain Edward T. Kendrick's Independent Company, Florida Mounted Volunteers. At the time of his enlistment he was five feet, five inches in height, with blue eyes, brown hair, and light complexion. During his last service he was stationed at 16 Mile Camp Northeast, Tampa, Fort Gardner (on Lake Kissimmee), Fort Kissimmee (Highlands County), and Big Cypress.

After leaving the service John W. Tanner married fourteen year old Sarah Jane Downing. Reverend J. M. Hayman performed the marriage in Hillsborough County on October 13, 1859. She was born August 19, 1845 in Georgia, but her parents are not known. John W. and Sarah Jane (Downing) Tanner had four children:

1. Mary Missouri Tanner, born 1865; married _____ Blue.
2. Frances Dora Tanner, born 1870; married 1st _____ Westmoreland; married 2nd _____ Richardson.
3. John Washington Tanner, born 1873; married 1st Sylvia Crely; married 2nd Minnie J. Weeks, September 14, 1903, Hillsborough County, Fl.
4. Sarah V. "Nettie" Tanner, born 1878; married _____ Hillard.

They are living in Hichepucksassa Settlement as listed in 1860 census and living nearby are his mother and stepfather,