

ELEY PERRY WHIDDEN 1829-1908

Researched and compiled by Richard M. Livingston, P. O. Box 3749, North Fort Myers, Fl. 33918-3749.

Eley Perry Whidden was born July 10, 1829 in Alachua County, Florida (present day Columbia County) son of Maxfield and Sophia P. (Crews) Whidden. His parents settled in Hillsborough County, Florida in 1843.

Eley married Louvenia (Lavinia) Platt on February 4, 1847 in Hillsborough County. Rigdon Brown, justice of the peace performed the ceremony. She was born October 13, 1827 daughter of Peter Platt. Their children:

1. Piety Whidden, born 1847; died before 1860.
2. Laura Whidden, born 1849; married in Manatee County on August 10, 1870 William N. "Billy" Hair son of William Calvin and Sarah Jane (Parker) Hair.
3. Cuthbert Whidden, born 1852; married in Manatee on February 27, 1867 Mathew Sellers.
4. Minerva Whidden, born March 15, 1854; died February 20, 1940; married in Manatee County on March 15, 1872 Charles Crews.
5. F. Marion Whidden, born February 1, 1856; died January 16, 1927; married in Manatee County on July 24, 1882 Sarah Jane Williams daughter of William A. and Sarah A. (Bennett) Williams.
6. America Whidden, born 1858; married in Manatee County on July 10, 1877 William Williams.
7. Jane E. Whidden, born June 6, 1863; died October 20, 1930; married on May 12, 1881 in Manatee County Wiley Bryant Collier son of John Collier.
8. Sophie Saphire Whidden, born January 5, 1865 (stone shows 1862); died July 29, 1932; married on December 29, 1877 in Manatee County Dougall Carmichael Bethea son of Rev. Hugh and Celiann (Still) Bethea.
9. Edward Whidden, born October 1, 1869; died April 30, 1930; married Mary Ellen F. Coker on February 20, 1890.
10. Van Dillon Whidden, born December 21, 1871; died April 18, 1951; married August 28, 1895 Mary Ann Collier, daughter of William Green and Mary Ann (Wiggins) Collier.

In the 1850 Hillsborough County census Ely and Vina Whitton were listed in the Itehpesassa Settlement with their two children Peity, age 3 and Laura, age 1 year. Some of their neighbors included Jacob Summerlin, Ribon Rolinson, D. J. Boney and Peter Platt.