

SOME HISTORY OF THE TYSON FAMILY IN NARCOOSSEE

The Tysons that came to settle in Florida left Effingham County Georgia farmland where Joel T. Tyson, his wife, Dolly and three of his 11 children were born. They moved before 1819 to Nassau County, north of Jacksonville.

Note: Florida was claimed by England until 1822 when it became a US Territory.

John Tyson was born in Nassau County in 1826 (seventh child of Joel T. and Dolly Tyson). He married Mariah Buford and they had 11 children. He died at the only battle of the Civil War fought in Florida at Olustee (east of Lake City) 1864. Mariah, as did so many widows of this era, raised all 11 children. This family started in Nassau County but moved to Lake and Osceola Counties.

John's second born, William Joel born in 1849, married Elizabeth "Pindy" Peterson and their first child of 10 was born in Osceola County 1873. This generation of Tysons married into several local families. For instance, William Joel's sister, Eliza, married the steam-boat captain, William Jackson Brack, who lived on West Tohopekaliga and later became the first mayor of Orlando. Nell Tyson, daughter of William Joel, married Arthur Roland Thompkins and raised two boys in Narcoossee. Many of this generation are buried in Osceola County cemeteries, such as Rose Hill in Kissimmee and Arthur Fell in Narcoossee.

Funny story: Some of the Tyson boys called Arthur Roland Thompkins, "High Sheriff of Narcoossee". I am sure that this is because "Mr. Roland", as he was known was trying to correct some action of those "Tyson Hoodlums".

So many Tysons lived in the Ashton area that it was originally known as Tyson's Corner.

Nell Tyson was the Post Mistress at Ashton when A. Roland Thompkins met her.

Just as the Tysons had been farmers and cattle ranchers in Georgia, they continued this life-style when they came to Florida and their descendants are still involved with cattle, groves and farming today.

Presented by Jan Thompkins at August 2015 Chapter meeting. ©2015 Narcoossee Area Chapter Osceola County Historical Society, Inc.