

1998

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Recommended Citation

Stone, Spessard (1998) "Carlton: A Goodly Heritage," *Sunland Tribune*: Vol. 24 , Article 10.
Available at: <https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/sunlandtribune/vol24/iss1/10>

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CARLTON: A Goodly Heritage

Spessard Stone

The Carlton's, in diverse fields from the cattle ranges to the governor's chair, have exerted a prominent Influence in Florida for over 150 years. Herewith follows a summary of the family from early origins to several prominent Tampa citizens.

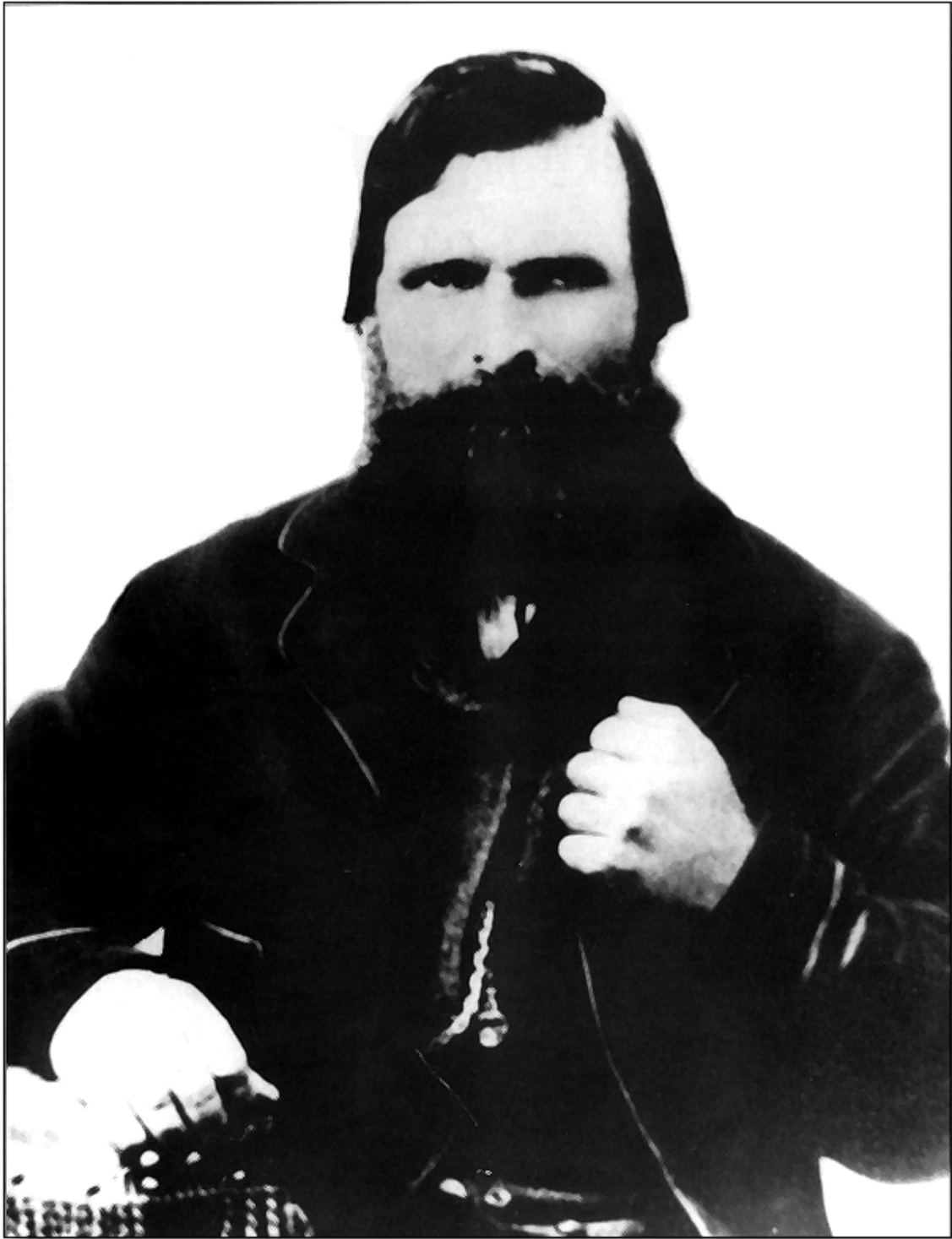
When Alderman Carlton settled in Florida in January 1843,¹ Florida was a frontier territory. He and his contemporaries would be astonished at how Florida has evolved in the interval into a modern state with its accompanying infrastructure, technology, and tourism. Probably only on the cattle ranches would they readily be at home. Alderman Carlton was the scion of a colonial family. Thomas Carleton, his grandfather, was born May 10, 1747 in Chester County, Pennsylvania. He and his wife, Martha (1751-1797), moved to North Carolina prior to the Revolutionary War, in which, while living in Duplin County, he rendered service as a private. Thomas died October 3, 1795 in Duplin County. In his will, Thomas made mention of prior modest bequests to his daughters, Rachel, Anna, Elizabeth and Lydia, and son, John, with his "dearly beloved wife, Martha, all the rest of any property both lands and stocks of all kinds and negroes her lifetime," except after her death, his sons, Stephen and Thomas, to inherit separate lands.²

John Carlton, the third of seven children of Thomas and Martha, was born April

20, 1775 in Duplin County, North Carolina. John, as others of the family, changed the spelling of his surname to Carlton. In Duplin County on November 17, 1797, John married Nancy Ann Alderman, born November 17, 1775 in Duplin County, daughter of David Alderman, a Revolutionary War soldier, and Jemima (Hall) Alderman. John and Nancy Ann lived in Duplin County until about 1800 when they moved to Sampson County, North Carolina. In the early 1820s, the family migrated to Bulloch County, Georgia and then, about 1825, to Thomas County, Georgia. They lived on the Ochlockonee River, where John owned and operated a sawmill and gristmill and farmed. In 1852 John sold his property and relocated to Madison County, Florida. There Nancy Ann Carlton died June 4, 1867 and John Carlton died February 26, 1868. Sales from Carlton's estate, which included: 120 acres of land and 40 head of stock cattle, realized a modest \$1,011.30.³

George W. Hendry remembered his grandfather for his spiritual, not material, walk in life:

"John Carlton resembled greatly old Abraham. I never read of old Abraham, but in my mind's eye I behold my grandfather. He had his family worship mornings and evenings as regularly as the days came and went. I can recall vividly the verbiage of many of his prayers, and can sing many of the songs that I learned when but eight years old at my grandfather's



Alderman Carlton, descendent of a colonial family which first settled in Pennsylvania, moved in 1843 to land in the territory of Florida he received for his service in Georgia during the Second Seminole War. The area was probably located in Alachua County. He moved near Ft. Meade in late 1854 or early 1855.

Photograph courtesy of Canter Brown.

hearthstone as though it was but yesterday ... The whole family, from grand father down, were exemplary, Christians, their piety proverbial..."⁴

John and Nancy Ann Carlton had nine children: (1) Rev. Thomas (1799-1841), of which a branch settled in Plant City; (2) Mary "Polly" (1801-90, Mrs. John Chastain of Thomasville, Georgia); (3) Alderman (1803-56); (4) Stephen (1805-86, who eventually settled in Polk County); (5) William (1807-75, of Fort Green); (6) Elizabeth (1808-62, Mrs. John Simmons of Taylor County); (7) Lydia (1812-98, who married James Edward Hendry and Benjamin Moody of Riverview and Homeland); (8) Rev. John Wright (1818-94, of Polk County); (9) Martha Ann (1820-1900, Mrs. Robert M. Hendry of Taylor County).⁵

Alderman Carlton, son of John and Nancy Ann, was born January 4, 1803 in Sampson County, North Carolina. In Duplin County, North Carolina on September 27, 1822, he married his first cousin, Martha Maria Alderman, born March 3, 1806, Duplin County, North Carolina, daughter of Daniel and Mary Wilson Alderman. About 1825, Alderman and family moved to Thomas County, Georgia. During the Second Seminole War, Alderman was a member of the companies commanded by Capt. Tucker and Capt. Browning, which were raised in August and September 1836. He participated in the Battle of Brushy Creek in Lowndes County, Georgia.⁶

Alderman, under provisions of the Armed Occupation Act of 1842, received on May 10, 1843 at Newnansville, Fla. Permit #414 for land, which was probably in Alachua County. Alderman later removed to the Alafia

Settlement in Hillsborough County where he was a planter. During the Indian trouble in 1849, he served as fourth sergeant in Capt. John Parker's Company, organized July 1849. In 1851 city commissioners of Tampa deeded to L. G. Lesley, Dr F. Branch, W. B. Hooker, Alderman Carlton and C. A. Ramsey, trustees for the First Methodist Church of Tampa, Lot 3 of Block 14 of the survey of 1847. On July 3, 1852, he registered the following mark & brand: undersquare and underbit in one ear and undersquare in the other brand "C."⁷ Alderman in late 1854 or early 1855 moved his family near the Campground branch on the Fort Meade and Fort Frazier road. During the Third Seminole War on December 29, 1855, he was mustered into service as second lieutenant in Capt. Francis M. Durrance's Company. In the spring of 1856 he was commander of the garrison at Fort Meade and led six men to the defense of the Indian-besieged Willoughby Tillis family. In so doing, he was slain, as were two of his men, William Parker and Lott Whidden, while his son, Daniel W. Carlton, John C. Oats and John Henry Hollingsworth, were wounded.⁸

Rev. J. M. Hayman was the administrator of the estate of Alderman Carlton. A partial inventory included in part: 32-year-old Negro woman named Charity, 4-year-old Negro boy named Joe, several houses at Fort Meade, corn mill, crop of corn in the field, 140 head of cattle, 30 head of hogs, 5 head of sheep, 2 yoke of oxen, 1 gray mare, 1 colt, 1 single horse buggy, saddle and bridle, large wagon, lots of books. In October 1856 this notice by Rev. J. M. Hayman was published: "Will be sold to the highest bidder before courthouse in Tampa on 15th of November next, one negro woman, age about 35 years, good



George W. Hendry, son of John Edward and Lydia Carlton Hendry, grandson of John Carlton, and great-grandson of Alderman and Martha Carlton.

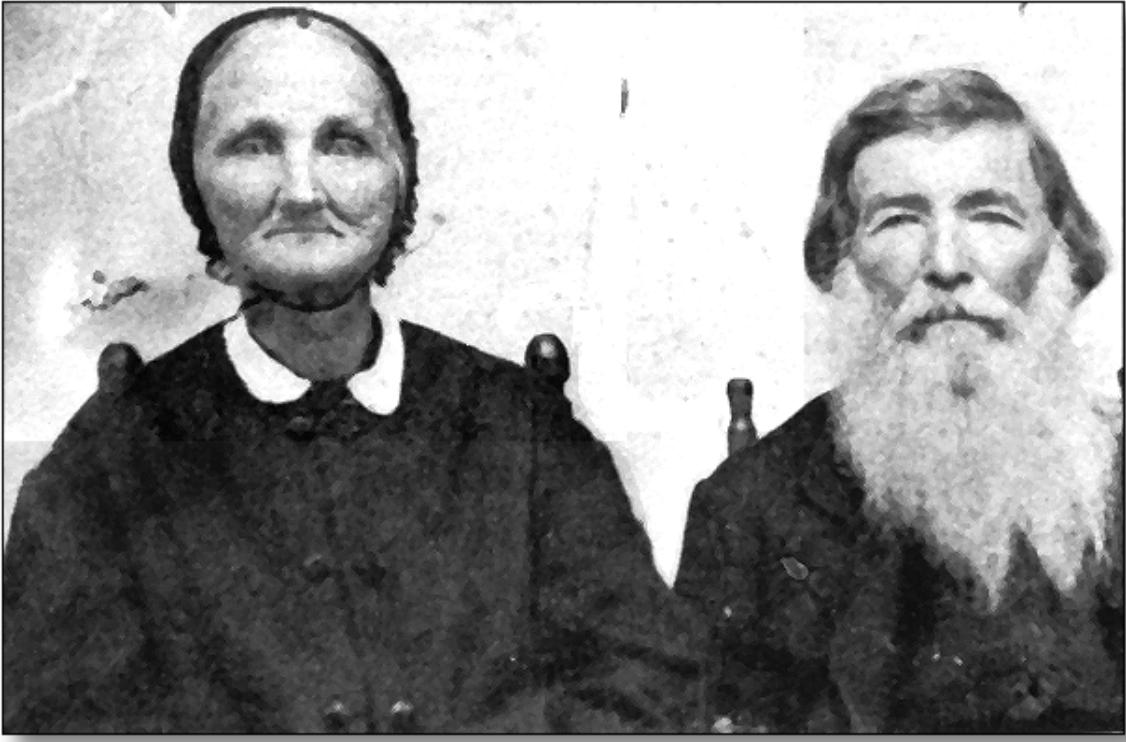
Photographs courtesy of Canter Brown.

house or field hand also with her, a boy about 5 years old-very smart healthy child-will be sold together, as boy is her child. Estate of Alderman Carlton for benefit of heirs." In July 1859, Hayman gave notice that he was to sell lands belonging to the estate which included 161.5 acres in the Alafia area and 160 acres near Fort Meade.⁹

After Alderman's death, Martha M. Carlton lived in Tampa with her daughter and son-in-law, Martha Jane and J. M. Hayman. On September 1, 1857, she registered her mark and brand: crop & half crop in one ear, undersquare & underbit in other-brand "Z." In the fall of 1858 yellow fever broke out in Tampa, and Martha Carlton died from it on December 13, 1858.¹⁰

Alderman and Martha Carlton had 14 children: (1) Daniel Williamson (1823-91); (2) Mary Ann (1825-93, Mrs. Timothy Alderman of Ga.); (3) William Thomas (1827-91 of Alachua Co.); (4) Martha Jane (1829-95, Mrs. J. M. Hayman of Bartow); (5) Elizabeth (1831-31); (6) Manerva (1833-42); (7) Isaac (1835-97 of Hillsborough Co.) (8) Priscilla (1837-1919, Mrs. Eli English of Wauchula); (9) Susannah (1839-78; who married G. H. Johnson and Rev. Robert N. Pylant of Bartow); (10) Missouri (1841-43); (11) Sarah (1844-87, who married Stephen P. Hooker and William C. Hayman of Owens); (12) Georgia Ann (1846-? Mrs. Robert A. Carson of Immokalee); (13) Thomas C. (1850-50); (14) Nancy (1851-51).¹¹

Daniel Wilson Carlton, eldest child of Alderman and Martha, was born July 2, 1823, Wilmington, North Carolina. At Thomasville, Georgia on February 18, 1840, he married Sallie Ann Murphy, born October 15, 1823 in North Carolina. Probably in late 1843 or 1844, Daniel moved to Alachua County, then to Hillsborough County, and by 1855 to near Campground branch, Fort Meade. During the Third Seminole War, Daniel served as a private from December 29, 1855 to August 1856 in Capt. Francis M. Durrance's Company, Florida Mounted Volunteers. In the Willoughby Tillis Battle of June 14, 1856, his father, Alderman Carlton, was killed and Daniel, although wounded, killed an Indian. Daniel, on September 5, 1856, enlisted as a private in Capt. Leroy G. Lesley's Independent Company, Florida Mounted Volunteers and was discharged February 19, 1857 at Fort Brooke. At the time of his service, he was 5 feet 8 inches, with grey eyes, light hair, light complexion and farmer by occupation.¹²



Lydia Carlton, daughter of John and Nancy Ann Carlton, married first James Edward Hendry, and, later Benjamin Moody.

Photograph courtesy of Canter Brown.

In the late 1850s, the family resettled at Troublesome Creek, between present - day Wauchula and Ona, in Manatee (now Hardee) County, Florida. With the outbreak of the Civil War, Daniel "drove his, in the Rebel Army, with shouts of exultation." By 1864 the atmosphere had changed dramatically in the Peace River Valley. Daniel, whose ardor for the Confederacy had abated, was joined by many of his neighbors. Former Tampan Capt. Henry Crane of Company B, Second Florida Cavalry, United States Army, in June 1864 reported of him, "The Rebs have we hear, carried him off in Irons northward. One of his sons at home on furlough, seeing his father treated thus, came to us & I have the pleasure to-day of seeing him bear arms directly under our glorious old "Banner."

After the Civil War, Daniel joined the Republican Party.¹³

Daniel and Sallie in the 1870s resettled at Nocatee in Manatee (now DeSoto) County. A cattleman, Daniel at this time had 2,000 head of cattle. Daniel Wilson Carlton died on April 2, 1891 at Nocatee. Sallie died April 15, 1905. They were of the Baptist faith and had been members of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church.¹⁴

They had 12 children: (1) Reuben (1842-1917 of Fort Pierce); (2) Wright (1843-1929 of Nocatee); (3) Albert (1845-1925); (4) Martha Jane (1847-1933, Mrs. James E. Whidden of Arcadia); (5) Alderman (1849-1940, of DeSoto Co.); (6) Lewis (1851-1925, of Wauchula); (7) James (1853-1940 of

Highlands Co.); (8) Jeremiah (1854-1918, of Nocatee); (9) William Lacy (1859-1920, of DeSoto Co.); (10) Charles Wilson (c1862-1955, of Tampa and Fort Myers); (11) Stephen Isaac (1863-c1918, of DeSoto Co.); (12) Elam B. (1864- 1908, of Fort Ogden and Wauchula).¹⁵

Albert Carlton, son of Daniel and Sallie, was born May 9, 1845, probably in Marion County. Albert, during the Civil War, enlisted at Fort Myers as a private on June 15, 1864 in Company B, Second Florida Cavalry, U. S. Army. War Department rolls described him as 5 feet 10 inches, with fair complexion, grey eyes, light hair, and a farmer by occupation. He was mustered out with his company on November 29, 1865 at Tallahassee. In Manatee County on October 11, 1868, Albert married Martha Winfield McEwen, born February 10, 1851, Washington County, Georgia, daughter of the Rev. William Penn McEwen, a Methodist minister, and his wife, Rutha (Sheppard) McEwen.¹⁶

Albert first earned his living as a farmer, cowhunter, and orange grower, but in 1902, he added a hardware store in Wauchula. In the normal course of business, credit terms and occasional loans were extended, and in 1904 he opened a bank, in which two of his sons, Charles and Carl, would be associated. Carlton National Bank, until its demise in the Great Depression, was the area's leading financial institution.¹⁷

Albert Carlton died in Tampa, Florida on September 1, 1925 at the home of his son, Dr. Leland Carlton. Martha W. Carlton died on August 6, 1944 at Wauchula. They were members of the First Baptist Church of Wauchula.¹⁸

Albert and Martha were the parents of ten children: (1) Ella Louise (1869-1958, Mrs. William A. Southerland of Wauchula); (2) Charles Jesse (1871-1963 of Wauchula); (3) Thomas Newton (1872-1948, of Wauchula); (4) Ab. W. (1875-1925, of Wauchula); (5) Alton Hudson Carlton (1877-1967, of Wauchula); (6) Carl Simeon (1880-1932, of Wauchula); (7) Gettis Stephen (1882-1971, of Wauchula); (8) Doyle Elam (1885-1972, of Tampa); (9) Dr. Leland Francis (1888-1950, of Tampa); (10) Leffie Mahon (1897-1983, of Wauchula).¹⁹

While many of the clan have contributed to the well-being of Tampa and the state, Tampa has most notably been affected by the families of Governor Doyle E. Carlton, Dr. Leland F. Carlton and Dr. Leffie M. Carlton.

Doyle Elam Carlton was born July 6, 1885, west of present-day Wauchula. He received undergraduate degrees from Stetson University and Chicago University, and his law degree from Columbia University in New York. Admitted to the Florida Bar in 1912, Doyle was an attorney with a prominent law firm in Tampa for most of his career. From 1926-28, he was City Attorney of Tampa. In 1947 he was special attorney for Florida in the settlement which brought to the state ownership of the Ringling Museums at Sarasota.²⁰

Mr. Carlton had a distinguished political career. He served 1917-19 as the State Senator from the 11th District, Hillsborough and Pinellas counties. In 1928 he was elected governor of Florida. Governor Carlton's term of office, January 8, 1929 to January 3, 1933, was dominated by problems caused by the



Early Hardee County settlers Daniel Wilson Carlton, 1823-1891, and his wife Sallie Ann Murphy Carlton, 1823-1905.

Photograph courtesy of Canter Brown.

Great Depression. Leland Hawes, historical writer for *The Tampa Tribune*, commented that Governor Carlton came out of his four-year term with a reputation for integrity in the face of great pressure. In 1936 however, he was defeated in a bid for U. S. Senator. He, thereafter, devoted his attention to his law practice, business interests, and civic and church activities, being a member of the First Baptist Church of Tampa.²¹

On July 30, 1912, Doyle married Nell Ray, who was born in Meridian, Mississippi on January 27, 1891, and died February 18, 1982 at Tampa. Governor and Mrs. Carlton had three children: (1) Martha (Mrs. David E. Ward); (2) Mary (1920-1985, Mrs. William Jones Ott, of Tallahassee); (3) Doyle Elam, Jr.²²

Martha Carlton was born October 16, 1914 at Tampa. A 1935 graduate of Florida State College for Women, she married on June 3, 1937 David Elmer Ward, son of David Thomas and Mary E. (Johnson) Ward. He was born September 26, 1909, near Fort Myers, Florida, and died February 16, 1995 at Tampa. An attorney, David served as County Judge of Lee County and State Senator of the 24th District. After service as a lieutenant commander in the U. S. Navy in World War II, he moved to Tampa where he practiced law and was involved in numerous business enterprises, church, civic and charitable activities. Martha is an active member of the First Baptist Church and has served on the boards of the Salvation Army, the YWCA, the Hillsborough County Bar Auxiliary and the Chiselers, Inc., a

support group for the restoration of H. B. Plant's Tampa Bay Hotel.²³

David and Martha Ward had three children: (1) David Elmer Jr., an attorney in Tampa; (2) Mary Nell of Tampa; (3) Robert Carlton, an attorney in Clearwater.²⁴

Doyle Elam Carlton, Jr. was born in Tampa on July 4, 1922. He attended the University of Florida and, during World War II, served in the U. S. Army Air Corps, being discharged as a sergeant. Although he lives at Wauchula, Doyle has maintained an active presence in Tampa. Agriculture is his main occupational interest, and he and his immediate family have extensive citrus and cattle holdings. In 1991 he was inducted into the Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame. Doyle has been involved in various other enterprises, notably as the chairman of Hav-a-Tampa Corporation, president and chairman of the board of Eli Securities, and chairman of the Florida State Fair Authority. Active politically, he was elected in 1952 and served eight years as State Senator from the 27th District and was returned to the Senate in 1964. Perhaps his finest political hour was his unsuccessful bid for governor in 1960 when he spoke out in favor of integration. He is a member of the First Baptist Church of Wauchula, of which he is a deacon.²⁵

At Tampa on November 27, 1943, Doyle married Mildred Woodbery, daughter of Daniel Hoyt and Elizabeth (Johnstone) Woodbery. They have three children: (1) Susan (Mrs. Donald Emerson "Duck" Smith, of Wauchula); (2) Doyle Elam III, of Wauchula; (3) Jane (Mrs. David Durando, of Wauchula).²⁶

Leland Francis Carlton, son of Albert and Martha, was born January 23, 1888, in Wauchula, Florida. Leland received his M. D. from Rush Medical College in Chicago and, after a one-year internship, moved in 1915 to Tampa where except for service as a lieutenant in the U. S. Army Medical Corps during World War I, he practiced for the remainder of his life. He was active in civic affairs and served on the staff of the Tampa Children's Home. Dr. Carlton died June 5, 1950. At Tampa on November 23, 1921, Dr. Carlton married Margaret Brown, and they had two daughters: (1) Margie (Mrs. Victor R. Gullatt, of Wauchula) and (2) Betty (Mrs. Herbert W. Kay, Jr. of Wauchula).²⁷ Leffie Mahon Carlton, son of Albert and Martha, was born February 9, 1897 at Wauchula. He attended Stetson University where he received in 1917 a degree in business administration. He was a cattle rancher and citrus grower. Leffie died on March 8, 1983. He had married Odell Imogene Ratliff (1897-1980), and they had two children, Leffie Mahon, Jr. and Dorothy Odell (Mrs. Robert Campbell, of Wauchula).²⁸

Leffie Mahon Carlton, Jr., was born July 28, 1918 at Wauchula. He received his M. D. from Duke Medical College in May 1943 and completed his surgical internship at the University of Chicago. Entering military service in 1945, Dr. Carlton served in the Medical Corps and became chief of chest surgery at one of five chest wound treatment centers for returning soldiers. Discharged, he practiced surgery for 43 years in Tampa until he retired on July 1, 1990. On November 6, 1943, he had married Ellen (Lynn) Remensnyder. Dr. and Mrs. Carlton reside at 3711 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa, and have three sons: (1) Leffie

Mahon III, a physician practicing urology and urological surgery in Tampa; (2) Charles Dennis, a real estate broker with cattle and citrus interests; (3) Leland Francis, a citrus grower.²⁹

ENDNOTES

This article is adapted from the author's *Lineage of John Carlton* (Revised 6th Edition, 1998). The Carlton's are a numerous clan with many branches on the family tree. I have herein focused only on the Tampa line off Albert Carlton of Wauchula.

¹ Armed occupation act permit of Alderman Carlton, DNR, Tallahassee.

² Milton D. Wilson, *The Carlton Family Some Descendants of Thomas Carlton, Revolutionary Soldier of Duplin County, North Carolina* (Polk County Historical Commission, Bartow, 1940s); "Records of Wills, Duplin County, N.C.," Book A, 69.

³ Ibid.

⁴ George W. Hendry, *Family Record of Lydia Moody Nee Hendry Nee Carlton*, (Jacksonville, Florida, 1900), 8-9.

⁵ Spessard Stone, *Lineage of John Carlton*, (Wauchula, 1998), 4-5.

⁶ Richard Livingston, "Alderman Carlton 1803-1856," *South Florida Pioneers* 8, April 1976, 15-18.

⁷ Livingston; Armed Occupation Act permit; Canter Brown, Jr., *Florida's Peace River Frontier*, (Orlando, University of Central Florida Press, 1991), 359; U.S. Original Census Schedules, 7th Census 1850, Hillsborough County, Florida; Elizabeth Chase, *The Pioneer Churches of Florida*, 1976, 33; "Hillsborough County: Early Marks & Brands," *South Florida Pioneers* 8, April 1976, 13.

⁸ *Soldiers of Florida*, 1903, 14-15; Brown, 102,113.

⁹ Livingston; *The Florida Peninsular*, October 4, 1856, July 9, 1859.

¹⁰ Livingston; "Hillsborough County: Early Marks & Brands," *South Florida Pioneers* 10, October 1976, 13

¹¹ Stone, 16-17.

¹² Pension application of Sallie Carlton, N.A.; U.S. Original Census Schedules, 7th Census 1850, Hillsborough County, Florida; *Soldiers of Florida*, 14-15; Brown, 113; Stone, 17-18.

¹³ U.S. Original Census Schedules, 8th Census 1860, Manatee County, Florida; Crane to Woodbury, June 18, 1864; Brown, 169; Co. E records and Co. B pension file of Reuben Carlton, N. A.; Confederate pension application of Wright Carlton, Florida Archives; Co. B pension application of Albert Carlton, Veterans Administration, St. Petersburg; Brown, 209; Charles T. Carlton to Stone, December 21, 1997. See also Stone, "Tories Of The Lower Peace River Valley," *Sunland Tribune* 22, (November, 1996), 55-62, for a more thorough analysis of the Civil War on Daniel, his sons and neighbors. Reuben, of Co. E, 7th Fla., was the son who enlisted in Co. B. His brother, Wright, also of Co. E, continued to serve in the 7th until captured December 16, 1864 at Nashville. Reuben settled at Fort Pierce where he there founded a prominent family, including descendants, Thaddeus H. Carlton (1906-65) who served in the Florida House in 1943 and his son Charles T. Carlton, who in 1997 assumed senior status as a judge of the Circuit Court in Naples, Florida.

¹⁴ 1873 Manatee County Tax Book; Joshua Creek Cemetery.

¹⁵ Stone, 21-22.

¹⁶ Co. B pension application of Albert Carlton, Veterans Administration; Stone, 36. Tom McEwen of *The Tampa Tribune* bears a strong resemblance to his ancestor the Rev. McEwen.

¹⁷ Jean Plowden, *History of Hardee County*, 1929, 69.

¹⁸ Wauchula Cemetery; Stone, 39-40.

¹⁹ Stone, 39-40. Currently serving in the Florida House of Representatives, Lisa Carlton of Osprey, a great-granddaughter of Thomas Newton Carlton.

²⁰ Pension application of Albert Carlton; D. B. McKay, *Pioneer Florida* (3 volumes), Volume III, 1959, 1; Allen Morris, *The Florida Handbook 1977-1978*, 1977, 129-130.

²¹ John B. Phelps, *People of Lawmaking in Florida 1822-1995*, 1995; Leland Hawes, "Deaths of Florida Senators set stage for strange race," *The Tampa Tribune*, July 12, 1986, D, 1-2.

²² Susan Carlton Smith to author, May 1997; McKay.

²³ McKay, Volume III, 30-34; Lindsay Peterson, "David E. Ward dies, noted judge, lawmaker," *The Tampa Tribune*, Florida/ Metro, February 17, 1995, 1, 3; Martha Carlton Ward to author, June 1997; David E. Ward, Jr. to author, June 9, 1997.

²⁴ David E. Ward, Jr. to author, June 9, 1997.

²⁵ McKay, 696; James W. Covington, *The Story of Southwestern Florida*, Volume III, 1957, 346-347; Molly Sweeney, "Doyle Carlton Jr.," *The Tampa Tribune*, November 4, 1991, BayLife, 6; Paul Power Jr., "Doyle Carlton Jr. among 4 inducted into Hall of Fame," *The Tampa Tribune*, February 13, 1991, Florida/Metro, 6; Phelps, *People of Lawmaking in Florida 1822-1995*, 1995.

²⁶ Stone, 70, 71.

²⁷ Covington, 69-71.

²⁸ Covington, 384-385.

²⁹ Lynn Carlton, June 6, 1993; *Florida Advocate*, March 16, April 6, June 8, 1945; Krissa Vance, "Carlton, Southerland Inducted Into Hall Of Fame [Hardee County Schools Hall of Fame], *The Herald Advocate*, May 27, 1993; Renee Garrison, "This Old House," *The Tampa Tribune*, June 16, 1990, 5G, 1.