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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, 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 Ochlocknee 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

Rev. J. M. Hayman was the administrator of the estate of Alderman Carlton. A partial inventory included in part: 32-yearold 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 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

Alderman, under provisions of the Armed Occupation Act of 1842, received on May 10, 1843 at Newnan'sville, Fla. Permit #414 for land, which was probably in Alachua County. Alderman later removed to the Alafia
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 (183342); (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

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
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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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

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

Photograph courtesy of Canter Brown.
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 (1897-1983, of Wauchula). 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.
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 chil-
dren: (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
1, 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.

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.


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


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.


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


Susan Carlton Smith to author, May 1997; McKay.

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.

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


Stone, 70, 71.

Covington, 69-71.

Covington, 384-385.

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.