

Joshua Mathis
1828 – After 1903

Joshua Mathis was born in 28 October 1828 in Lowndes County, Georgia (1). He is the son of John Mathis and Jemima Lee. Joshua married Rachel Hazel Touchton, a daughter of William Touchton and Sarah Delk (2). The 1900 census states the couple were married for 45 years, however, they had three children born before 1855. The year of their wedding is more likely 1847.

Joshua and Rachel had six children:

Name	Birth	Date	Other
Sarah A	March 3, 1848	February 15 1935	m. Hillery Melton Dec 29, 1875.
Mary A	b. 1850		
Wealthy	b. 1852		
Rachel	b. 1857		
John	b. 1860		
Unity	b. 1864		

The John Mathis family was enumerated in 1830 (7) and 1840 (6) census for Lowndes County, Georgia. Joshua would be toddler during the 1830 census and 11 or 12 years of age during the 1840 enumeration.

POWG Volume III states Joshua's father John moved from Lowndes County to Ware County, Georgia during 1849, so it makes sense that Joshua relocated with his parents and siblings. The now married Joshua and his bride, Rachel, were enumerated in Ware during 1850, ages 22 and 21. Rachel's sister Mary was also in the household during this time. The census shows Joshua was born in Georgia, while Rachel and Mary were born in South Carolina (5).

Listed as Joshua Mathews, during the 1860 Population Schedule, the family now resides in New River County, Florida. His age is shown as 35. Also enumerated were:

Rachel Mathews	F	30	Georgia
Sarah Mathews	F	9	Georgia
Mary Mathews	F	7	Georgia
Wealthy A Mathews	F	5	Georgia
Unity Mathews	F	2	Georgia (4)

Four years later, at the height of the "War of Northern Aggression", Joshua enlisted, in 1864, in Captain James Kings Calvary Company in Columbia County, FL. He was discharged at the end of the War. The Company served under General Joseph E. Johnston (1).

After the cessation of hostilities, Joshua returns to his Florida home where he is found during the 1870 census. The family farm is located in the Benton area of Columbia County.

Household	Gender	Age	Birthplace
Joshua Mathis	M	45	Georgia
Rachel Mathis	F	38	Georgia
Sarah Mathis	F	17	Georgia
Mary A Mathis	F	15	Georgia
Wealthy Mathis	F	13	Georgia
Rachel Mathis	F	11	Georgia
John Mathis	M	9	Georgia
Unity Mathis	F	6	Georgia

Joshua is again enumerated in Benton, Columbia County, during the 1880 Census. Once again his family name is shown as Matthews by the enumerator. His age is given at 58:

Household	Role	Gender	Age	Birthplace
Joshua Mathews	Self	M	58	Georgia, United States
Rachael Mathews	Wife	F	54	Georgia, United States
Wealthy Mathews	Daughter	F	28	Georgia, United States
Martha Mathews	Daughter	F	12	Georgia, United States
Unity Mathews	Daughter	F	20	Georgia, United States
John Mathews	Son	M	16	Georgia, United States (9)

Sometime within the following 20 years, Joshua and Rachel relocate to Suwannee County, Florida. The family home during the 1900 census was Pine Grove, in Suwannee County. At this time, Joshua is age 73 and Rachel 74 (10).

Joshua was living in Suwannee County, Florida on 2 Mar 1903 when he applied for Pension for his service in the CSA. His Pension was approved on 10 Jul 1903. He received \$96 yearly (1). This is the last known record of Joshua Mathis. Neither Joshua nor Rachel is found during the 1910 census. The date of their demise is unknown, as is their final resting place.

Works Cited:

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