James Clayborn Chumney was born in Henry County, Alabama and died in Houston County, Alabama. Note: James was born and died in the same County. (Houston was formed from Henry in 1903). He married Nancy Baxter, daughter of Israel Baxter and Mary Ann Futch on June 12, 1855 in her parents' home at Malone, in Jackson County, Florida.

Concurrently James Clayborn and three brothers: Richard E., William T. and John Tyler served in the Civil War. Military records confirm James Clayborn joined the Confederate War effort on March 1st 1862 and was first assigned to Company E, 25th Georgia Infantry. During the next two years he fought courageously with not only the 25th but also three other Infantry Companies from Georgia as well as one from Alabama. Identifying a few of the engagements he saw action at: Chancellorsville, Cold Harbor, Gaines Mill, Sharpsburg, Gettysburg, Second Manassas and Fredricksburg where he was wounded in battle in 1865. James Clayborn was captured and released after signing the oath of allegiance to the United States of America.

James and Nancy had four children before he went to war: Mary E. Polly was born March 14th 1856, Mildred Ann December 11th 1857, John Abner September 3rd 1859, Georgia Ann April 3rd 1861. After returning from the war Nancy blessed him with another four. Nancy Annabell was born September 14th 1866, Richard Edward December 15th 1868, Elizabeth Betty Ann December 16th 1871 and Emma Lieugene December 1st 1874.

