

tickets and rode the first passenger train to go down the line.

On March 1, 1868, Florence, the second daughter, was married to Harry Smith, a son of the pioneer Smith family who lived near by. Fourteen days later Alma Florence was born to Crawford and Edith Crews. All the family welcomed the first grandchild.

The next year, 1889, sorrow again came to the Hart family. On May 13th Florence died in childbirth, and was laid to rest beside her little brother, James.

On July 17, 1890 Cornelia Hart married Stephen Skipper. The Skipper family was another pioneer family and had at one time lived near Ft. Meade. The father, J. L. Skipper, was an Indian fighter and was wounded in one battle with them.

Harry Lester Crews was born May 8, 1890 to Crawford and Edith Crews. He was the first grandson. In that year Crawford decided to move farther out so his cattle and sheep would have better range. So they settled a homestead seven miles northwest of the little village of Avon Park. They were about six miles from her parents, and only about three miles from the Stephen Skipper home. In 1893 two more grandchildren came to the Hart family. Blanche came to the Crews family June 16th and Clinton Cecil, the first child, came to the Skippers July 6th. The grandchildren now numbered four.

In December, 1894, a little sister, Ida, came to the Stephen Skippers.

January 20, 1895, Bertha, the youngest daughter of the Hart family, and Oscar Skipper, a younger brother of Stephen were married. They went to live 10 or 12 miles to the south near where his parents lived. The year 1896 brought two new grandchildren into the Hart family. In August a son, Lonnie, was born to the Oscar Skippers, and in September a girl, Vera, to the Crawford Crews family. Now there were seven.

In October 1897, Walter Hart married Helen Skipper, eldest daughter of David and Florida (Smith) Skipper. She was a niece of the two Skipper brothers-in-law, Stephen and Oscar. Florida was a member of the pioneer Smith family who had settled east of Zolfo Springs.

May of 1899 brought three new granddaughters into the Hart family. Clara to the Steve Skippers--May 12th. Florrie to the Walter Harts--May 17th, and Estella "Stella" to the Oscar Skippers on May 19th.

In November 1900 a second son, Herman (and fourth child) was born to the Stephen Skippers.

The following January 31, 1901, a fifth child and second son, Howe, joined the Crawford Crews family. Now the Hart grandchildren numbered twelve.

The four families lived near enough to the grandparents that perhaps three or four times a year they would all carry lunch and have a family get-together.

It was the delight of the little cousins to meet up at grandpa's and explore the many strange things--the old shop with its anvil and bellows--where grandpa worked pieces of iron to repair wagons and anything else that was brought in for repair.

Most of these get-togethers were on Sundays and grandpa never worked on Sundays. But on a weekday visit we might find the charcoal hot in the forge and be given the rare privilege of operating the bellows to keep it hot while grandpa reheated the iron he was shaping on the anvil.

The seedling orange trees planted 25 or 30 years before and kept pruned up so they could be plowed under, met between the rows and formed a canopy overhead. It was a nice cool place for us to play, but a disappointment for the climber, for there were but very few limbs