

left low enough for us to reach; then too the large thorns were a hazard in seedling trees.

Grandfather at one time owned and operated a saw mill, the first one many of us had ever seen. Everything about it was interesting, seeing the large logs dragged in behind mules, watching the huge circular saw whirling around ready to begin cutting the slab, with bark off each side of the log, then the log going through, getting thinner each time as a long board was cut and dropped and carried away on the belt. This was called "rough lumber", but he also had a planing mill, too, where boards could be "dressed" down smoothly for floors and many other purposes.

It was fun to go to the sawmill on Sunday, while our parents were visiting with our grandparents. We would get the flat-topped lumber carrier, which ran on steel rails like trains, started to rolling then jump on. It was dangerous if we stayed on too long, but knowing just where one could be seen from the house, we always jumped off before that part was reached. We would have gotten more than a scolding had they caught us.

When an unusually large tree was brought into the mill, grandpa marked it and when it was cut he had several boards saved out of the center. They were carefully dressed (planed) on both sides and put up overhead to cure (dry) for the purpose of making "coffins". In those days, Tampa was possibly the nearest place where a casket could be bought, besides pioneer people did not have that kind of money. Grandpa also knew how to make the coffins. The box was nailed together carefully and with the help of Aunt Ann, covered with black cambric if it was for an adult, white if for a child. It was padded on the inside with cotton and lined with white cambric. Sometimes lace was sewn around the top inside.

In 1879 soon after the Hart family settled into their new home they helped constitute a new missionary Baptist Church about three miles east of Zolfo. It was known as New Hope. The entire family were members, but later Crawford and Edith Crews were dismissed-- "turned out" for allowing a group of young friends to dance at their home. Crawford said he saw no evil in what they did and refused to say he was sorry. Dancing was against the rules of the missionary Baptist Church--so he was dismissed and Edith asked to be dismissed too.

Grandmother was a quiet easy-going person, but when grandfather became upset and ready to lose his temper she would say, "Now Henry, just be calm and everything will turn out all right." She seldom called him William. He usually heeded her admonition.

Regardless of how provoked he became, he never used profanity. When provoked beyond endurance he would say, "Oh thunder" or "Thunderation"--then we knew it was time to leave him alone.

He was a very devout man always said "grace" at meals and always went onto his knees to pray. His prayers were never lengthy, perhaps because he was kneeling on the hard floor. But there was a sincerity in them that impressed even a small child.

In 1897 the Hart family along with other Baptist families to the east and south, including the Stephen Skippers and Walter Harts organized a New Missionary Baptist Church called Shady Grove. Grandfather was elected a deacon and Church clerk. It was his duty as clerk to keep all records of the business meetings, which were held on Saturday before the regular meeting time. He served as clerk until his death in 1921. It was so far for most families to drive that they would always take a basket lunch which was spread on a long table, and everyone was invited to partake of the food regardless of whether they