

birth to a stillborn baby. When the members of the family took the body of the baby to the cemetery, they dug the grave where grandfather told them to. When the mother's grave was dug there was no room to put it by her baby's grave, so several graves separated them.

When the grieving young husband and father saw this he was more heartbroken than ever. Everyone present must have seen the absurdity of this practice by grandfather, but would say nothing. Edith Hart Crews suggested that the baby's grave be opened and the little coffin be placed on top of the mother's, thus burying them in the same grave. When Edith went home from that funeral and told of the incident, she remarked that it was an unreasonable policy of grandfather's, and it had to be stopped. A few years later when she refused to bury her husband where he wanted her to, he was forced to see the unreasonableness of his plan. After that he let some member of each family select the burial place of his loved one.

After Aunt Anne's marriage left grandfather alone Roy and Bessie moved in with him for a little while. He was still hale and hearty at 69, and liked to be independent, so they soon moved away and left him alone to do as he pleased. That was the way he wanted it, he said.

Two or three years later though he became lonely and married Massie Lanier, for companionship, he said. She was quite old and feeble, so her widowed daughter soon came to make her home with them, and do the house-keeping her mother wasn't able to do.

Just before Thanksgiving 1910 Ralph, the 20-month old son of Walter and Helen Hart, became ill of colitis. Doctors then did not know how to treat it, and many small children and sometimes adults died from it. So Walter and Helen Hart lost their only son. He was the first one of the grandchildren to die, so grandfather had his grave put beside Edith's stillborn baby's grave.

Edith's husband, Crawford, was very ill at that time so she was not able to attend the funeral. Crawford had a terminal illness and died the following January 13, 1911. Edith requested that Crawford's grave be put beside her baby's. Then she was told the situation. She then requested it be dug at the head of the grave, and grandfather objected because there was a large blackjack oak there which would have to be cut. That type of oak made very poor shade trees, and stained the stones, but he was reluctant to see any of them cut.

Kind relatives and friends volunteered to cut the oak and dig the grave where she wanted it, but grandfather still objected to it--he couldn't see why she objected to her husband being buried next to her nephew. She took a little time to explain to him her reasons; then told him if he still objected to having the tree cut, she would select a spot in some other part of the cemetery. Then he gave in, for he found his daughter, Edith, was as stubborn as he was.

Although the Hart cemetery was now only about twenty-five years old, many families were bringing their loved ones here for burial because they knew it was a permanent cemetery. Grandfather had attended almost every funeral that had been held there and could point out each separate grave and tell who was buried there, whether there was a marker or not. A few years before his death, when Edith lived near, he taught her and her daughter to identify each grave too.

All the older grandchildren in the Hart family were now grown. March 1, 1911 soon after her father's death, Alma, eldest daughter of Crawford and Edith Hart Crews, was married to John Skipper. He was the eldest son of David and Florida Smith Skipper and brother of Helen Skipper Hart, wife of Walter Hart. This was the fourth member of the Hart family to marry into the Skipper family.

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