

"He and Demps got into an argument. One accused the other of stealing a pig. Or maybe Lucas thought that Charlie Crews had stolen the pig. It didn't matter now. But they had some words and Crews grabbed his gun and shot Lucas. Lucas fell and Demps went to his horse to leave. Demps had one hand on the saddle and the other hand on his horse's neck, ready to mount, when my uncle John Collier, shouted: 'Look out, Demps, he's going to shoot you.' And Demps turned just in time to catch a load of buckshot in the face. Lucas had raised up to one knee after being shot down. Dempsey Crews fell down and died right there."

Dempsey's will which was dated October 1, 1890 was probated June 18, 1895. It named all of his children living in 1890 and named his brother, Crawford Crews, as their guardian. It named Charles B. Collins and W. C. Crews as executors.

On July 20, 1895, Martha Jane Crews made application for the money which had accrued on her deceased husband's pension certificate from his last payment on May 4, 1895 up to his death.

Martha J. E. Crews married Benjamin L. Crews on July 8, 1897. In the 1900 DeSoto County census, Francis, age 10, Harvey K., age 13, Dempsey D., age 18, Charles W., age 24 and John B., age 22 with his wife & son were living with Edward Crews, age 28. On October 27, 1903 E. E. Crews was appointed guardian of the remaining minors of D. D. Crews, Jr. Thomas W. Crews received his last pension payment as a minor on October 20, 1909.

Martha J. E. (Lanier) Crews died December 22, 1910 and was buried in the Crewsville cemetery near her husband, Dempsey D. Crews, Jr.

REFERENCES: Lola Minton, Orlando, Fl.; Wanda Hamilton, Vero Beach, Fl.; Annabelle W. James, Auburndale, Fl.; The Miami Herald, Oct. 3, 1965, "Bloodshed on the Big 90" by Nixon Smiley; D. D. Crews, Jr. pension application, Natl. Archives; Crews family Bible; W. T. Jackson, Gainesville, Fl.; military records of 2nd Cavalry; Manatee Co. & DeSoto Co. marriages; DeSoto Co. Record of Wills; New Hope & Crewsville cemeteries; Census: 1850 Hamilton Co., 1860, 1880, 1885 Manatee Co., 1900 DeSoto Co.

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WILLIAM HENRY HART AND THE HART CEMETERY

The following history was compiled and written by Vera Crews Bush in collaboration with Blanche Crews Scott, granddaughters of William Henry and Mary Hart. It was contributed by Mrs. Claud S. Hart of Frostproof and Mr. Charles Hart of Okeechobee, and is continued from Issue #23/24.

The John Skippers first child, Vasco, was born on July 14, 1912, so now there were four generations of the family.

Another son, Winston, arrived at the Walter Hart's in May, 1913. In October of that year the eldest grandson, Harry Crews, and Lenora Lanier were married.

During the years of 1912 and 1913 a branch R. R. was built down the sand hill ridge from Haines City through Lake Wales, Frostproof and Avon Park to points south.