

when they heard a slight commotion on the porch and rushed out to find grandfather slumped in his chair. They called Edith and Howe, but he was gone when they reached him. The next afternoon all of his five living children, in-laws, all the grandchildren who could be there and his many friends gathered at Hart Cemetery and saw his body laid to rest beside his Mary Jane who died 12 years before.

That, dear reader, is the story of the "Hart Cemetery" and of why it came to be, and of the brave family who left the security of home, family and friends and who came to the wilds of south Florida, where they established a home and reared a family amidst the hardships of pioneer living.

The three daughters, and two sons who lived to rear families contributed to the life of the community, as they lived there for many years. In later life the two sons, Walter and Roy, both moved to other parts of the country.

Walter moved to Orlando, Florida to be near some of his children. He married Matilda Griffin, and survived her a few years. He died in May, 1957, and was buried beside her in Drawdy Cemetery, east of Orlando.

Roy and Bessie too moved away. First to Tampa where they were living in 1921 when grandfather died. From there they moved near Zephyrhills, where they were living in 1924 when their ten year old son Earl died from mastoid infection following measles. He was buried in Dade City Cemetery. He was the first grandchild to be buried away from Hart Cemetery.

In March of 1925, another son William McRae was born to Roy and Bessie. Then their daughter Helen Lucille came in July, 1926. When Bill and Lucille were in their early teens the family moved to Belleview near Ocala.

Bessie died a few months later from a strangulated hernia. She was buried in the McRae plot in McIntosh Cemetery. A few years later Roy married Rachel Everitt from North Carolina. The family went to live in Smithfield, North Carolina where Bill and Lucille finished school. Bill went into the Air Force. Lucille married Clay McCall and went to Charlotte, North Carolina to make her home. Roy was living near her when he was burned to death in a fire which destroyed his living quarters in January, 1956.

But with the five sisters it was different. Florence had been buried in the family cemetery in 1889, so long before Bertha, who died in 1914. The other three lived to ripe old ages in the community where they had grown up and reared their families. Nell Skipper died in 1942, Edith Crews Williams in 1948, and Anne Gandy Lanier in 1949. They were all laid to rest in the family cemetery, near their parents, and only a few steps away from each other.

Because of its permanency, Hart Cemetery has become the last resting place of many large families.

John Levi Skipper and his wife Jane Hollingsworth are buried there, as are both of their daughters; Mat Roberts and Mary Hart, their husbands, and other members of their families. The "Buck" Wingate family who were the nearest neighbors of the Harts. Dolly Skipper's and Molly Wingate's parents Joseph and Caroline Powell, and only brother John who pointed out the spot where he wanted to be buried, less than a month before he was killed by a limb from a falling tree.

The large family of Mrs. Arkansas Williams, of the eight sons, only one is buried in another cemetery. Two of these sons lost their lives in World War I. Two of her daughters also rest here.