

6. Daniel Roberts, born April 8, 1878; died April 25, 1897.
7. Cordelia Roberts, born June 9, 1880; died January 31, 1885.
8. Marion G. Roberts, born November 22, 1881; died April 30, 1965; married Jessie Durrance (born August 11, 1883; died July 13, 1968).
9. Robert Roberts, born February 9, 1884; died May 22, 1963; married Henrie Cordell.

Facing the future without a dollar, Robert spent over two years in Marion County, and then in the winter of 1867 he brought his family to Manatee County, Florida. He was so poor that he could bring his family and all of their belongings in a common ox cart drawn by a single yoke of oxen. He bought a little place in the New Zion settlement (now located in southwestern Hardee County near Ona), built a log house, and cleared the land to farm. In 1870 he was listed as a taxpayer in Manatee County.

In the autumn of 1869 he joined the Maple Branch Baptist Church at Fort Green, which in 1873 was relocated by its pastor Rev. John W. Hendry to the New Zion community and renamed New Zion Baptist Church. Though he was uneducated, Robert had a wealth of good horse sense and an unimpeachable integrity of heart and was thus often entrusted with some of the most important work of the church. He was ever ready to render service, no matter how great the sacrifice, and as the church was small it fell to his lot to travel many miles in attending the regular annual sessions and union meetings of the church's association. He contributed liberally to the New Zion Church, of which he remained a member until his death, at which time he was senior deacon.

The poverty of the post war years was soon put behind him. He farmed, owned cattle which he pastured on his own land and the open range, and also had citrus groves. His property value increased to many thousands of dollars.

A Mason, Robert Roberts was one of 14 charter members of Wauchula Lodge No. 17, which was organized in 1899.

He remained loyal to the "Lost Cause" and often attended reunions of Confederate veterans and organizations of old soldiers that he loved next to the church itself.

Surrounded by his family and friends, Robert Roberts died at his home in the New Zion community on February 21, 1912. With many of the Masonic Fraternity being present and assisting in the last rites, he was buried in New Zion Cemetery. W. D. Payne, J. M. Hendry, C. B. Hendry, L. D. Dupree and J. J. Stephens, the committee appointed by the church to prepare a report on the life and character of Robert Roberts, eulogized, "Bro. Roberts was faithful in all the affairs of life, both as a soldier, a Christian, a Mason and a private citizen."

Mary Elizabeth Roberts continued living in the New Zion settlement until she died May 7, 1925. She was buried beside Robert in New Zion Cemetery.

REFERENCES: W. D. Payne, A Short Sketch of Robert Roberts, 1912; Soldiers of Florida, 1903; CSA record of Robert Roberts, National Archives; Milton D. Wilson, "The Carlton Family", 1944; New Zion Cemetery; Jean Plowden, History of Hardee County, 1929; correspondence with W. D. Roberts, April, 1982; telephone conversation with Zelma May (Roberts) Collins, July 19, 1982.