

Thomas G. ALBRITTON	April 6th, 1854
Mary E. ALBRITTON	Feb. 19th, 1856
Ann A. ALBRITTON	April 15th, 1859
Arcada M. ALBRITTON	March 6th, 1861
Oregon C. ALBRITTON	Nov. 19th, 1864
William C. ALBRITTON	June 17th, 1877

Deaths:

Frances ALBRITTON	Sept. 15th, 1879
Thomas H. ALBRITTON	Feb. 19th, 1907

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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 and Mary Hart. It was contributed by Mrs. Claud S. Hart of Frostproof and Mr. Charles Hart of Okeechobee.

Go east on Highway 64 out of Wauchula for about twelve miles to the Lemon Grove service station. Turn left on the paved road going north.

Most of the way you will be driving between beautiful well-kept orange groves with neat modern homes. About three miles down this road in an orange grove stands a lonely log house. You will perhaps wonder about its story; but travel on a few yards, and on the left the grove gives way to ten acres of well-kept ground dotted by grave stones.

At first there are only a few, then you see a pavillion-like shelter, containing home-made pews. Clustered closely around are many grave stones; also a large sign saying: "Hart Cemetery" Founded 1885.

Tread lightly, oh! stranger for this is sacred ground at least to the descendants of William Henry and Mary Jane Hart who had settled this land between 1875 and 1880.

Let's go back in time. The Hart forebears came from Ireland, and at least one settled in southwest Georgia near the town of Pavo and reared a family of eleven children.

When the Civil War started William Henry, the 7th child went away to fight for the Confederacy. He was mustered out in North Carolina after Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House. He returned to the family home and married December 1865 Mary Jane Jamison Gandy, a widow with a small daughter, Anne, who was born in 1861.

He farmed like most men did, but he had a trade as well, making and repairing wagon wheels--a wheelwright he was called.

In 1867 a daughter Florence was born to William and Mary Hart, followed two years later, 1869, by another daughter Edith, and two years later, 1871, another daughter Mary Cornelia (Neilie or Nell). In 1873 a brother, Walter, joined the four sisters.

Just why the young Hart family decided to leave Georgia and migrate to south Florida is not known, but they packed supplies in a covered wagon, gathered their little family together and accompanied by two or three other families set out on their journey to the promised land. Edith, who was six at the time had only faint memories of the trip. They slept under the wagon at night. She remembered crossing a dry river with steep banks. The trip extended over a period of many weeks. The first stop was near Fort Meade, where they stayed for a few months then moved on to the south where they stopped again near the frontier settlement of Crewsville which had been settled soon after the D. D. Crews family came from Georgia in 1858.