

1956

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Recommended Citation

Edwards, Lucy Ames (1956) "Stories in Stone," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 35 : No. 2 , Article 4.
Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol35/iss2/4>

STORIES IN STONE

A Study of Duval County Grave Markers

by LUCY AMES EDWARDS

IF IT IS TRUE, as Hawthorne tells us, that "A grave, wherever found, preaches a short and pithy sermon," then perhaps a gravestone teaches history. That it records facts of history we know, but in the growth of towns and cities, as skyscrapers and subdivisions supplant old homes and scattered farms, some records of facts are being lost. With the thought of preserving family history the attempt was made in the summer of 1940 to compile the records on early gravemarkers in Duval County. An unexpected bonus was the information gained of Duval County families and how they had helped to make Florida history.

Having decided to copy early tombstone inscriptions, we asked ourselves, "what constitutes an early grave marker in Duval County?" It was learned that Jacksonville vital statistics began about 1860 and continued with many breaks until 1880; and thereafter, without breaks. But prior to World War I, Jacksonville was small and many deaths in the county would not have been included in city records. It was learned also that there are only incomplete state vital statistic records prior to January 1917. Therefore it was decided to copy the inscription on all stones before 1917. Negro cemeteries were not checked except where graves of trusted servants or highly respected Negroes of the community were buried in white cemeteries. Colored troops were listed as in colored battalions, although officers of colored battalions were usually white. Since the purpose of the search was to make a record of facts that perhaps were not recorded elsewhere, no attempt was made to copy verses or sentimental and descriptive phrases, unless those phrases had historical or genealogical value.

The next problem was to locate the headstones. Funeral directors had information on cemeteries where present-day interments were being made, but they knew little of old family plots and graveyards. The American Legion, which at that time was sponsoring the Veterans' Grave Registration Project to record the burial places of all deceased veterans, generously shared with us the informa-

tion it had secured on old grave plots. In a few cases we were able to return the favor and direct them to other family graveyards which we had found. But folks everywhere were helpful. Mr. W. F. Hawley, a "live oaker" who stayed to become an early resident in the Arlington area, knew well the Duval County of the latter part of the past century and the first part of this. He gave interesting accounts of the old shipyard on the southside of the river and of the activities of John S. Sammis and Oran Baxter. The latter was buried nearby in Clifton Cemetery near the start of "Baxter's Reach," as the section of the river from Commodore Point to Chaseville Point was called by captains of sailing vessels. Mr. Hawley located for us many family plots on the southside of the St. Johns River. Others recalled cemeteries no longer used, but most of them never ceased to be surprised that anyone should be interested in old graves.

It was learned that several cemeteries began as church burying plots and facts were gleaned about some early churches that no longer exist. The Mandarin Cemetery originally adjoined a Protestant church which was Presbyterian, we were told by Mrs. Essie Coleman of Mandarin. It was at the end of a lane leading from what was probably the earliest boat landing on the St. Johns River at Mandarin, then known as San Antonio. The Church of Our Savior at Mandarin has a tombstone under the church and two in the church yard. These stones, however, antedate the church which, according to Mrs. Coleman, was built in 1883. The graves in the churchyard are those of John M. Bowden, born at Mandarin 1790, died 1871, and of his wife Mary Ann Bowden, born 1790, died 1861, indicating that the church lot had been a part of the Uriah Bowden grant. According to Spanish land grant records, the claim of 200 acres on southside of St. Johns River at San Antonio granted to Uriah Bowden in 1815 was confirmed to his son Moses Bowden, with the note that John Moses Bowden, two year old son of Uriah and Maria Gilbert Bowden, was baptized in 1793 by the vicar of parochial church in St. Augustine. Undoubtedly this is the John M. Bowden buried in the churchyard. The stone under the church is that of Eliza M., wife of George Butler and daughter of Silvester Robinson. She died 23 Feb. 1835, age 26 years. Philips Cemetery in South Jacksonville was in the yard of an early Methodist Church. It was

part of a land grant made to William Hendricks in 1797, confirmed to his son Isaac Hendricks and later inherited by Isaac's daughter Martha Ann, who married Albert Gallatin Phillips, sheriff of Duval County from 1833 to 1836. Sometime during their married life prior to 1844 they gave this piece of land for the site of a Methodist church, a school, and a cemetery. It is believed to have been the first Methodist church in Duval County on the southside of the St. Johns River. Because of need for repairs, services were discontinued after the War Between the States. The cemetery was a free community one, the plat being kept in the nearest Southern Methodist Church. A frame community church formerly stood under the oak trees in front of St. Nicholas Cemetery, also in South Jacksonville. It was not rebuilt after it burned but is remembered by many living today. A non sectarian church, it was served by Protestant ministers of different denominations from Jacksonville. According to T. Frederick Davis, in 1844 the Baptists in Jacksonville erected a small brick church on a plot of ground two miles west of the court house, now Myrtle Avenue between Adams and Duval Street. A few years afterwards Elias G. Joudon bought a piece of ground adjoining the church and donated it for a burial ground. The church building was partially wrecked from the fighting around it during the War Between the States and was never again used by the congregation. Of those buried there, only three stones remained in 1940 and on only two of them were the inscriptions legible. In 1945, due to encroaching business, the city gave permission for those graves to be transferred to Edgewood Cemetery.

In spite of help we were frequently almost lost in this search for old graveyards. Some burial plots were deep in wooded areas with the trails leading to them passing through a thicket, or a swamp, or a cut-over area with many confusing logging roads. We were stuck in sand on Sawpit Bluff. Near Thomas Creek we found that the road we were attempting to follow had no bottom. After a five mile hike and a telephone call, a wrecker lifted us to firm ground. Sometimes we were forced to make a second or third trip before summer rains permitted us to cross a swampy area, and always we fought mosquitoes. However, not all insects we encountered were objectionable. Like most boys, our young sons collected bugs, beetles, butterflies, and what-have-

you. The Old Pablo Cemetery near Mayport is in a dense hammock of oaks, palmettos and vines, and there we had a rich dividend of brilliant spiders and silken webs that shimmered in the broken sunlight.

The family burial plots on former plantations scattered over the county were an introduction to early Duval County families. Some of these family plots are on Spanish land grants, others on land bought by settlers soon after Florida became a part of the United States. Except for the King's Road between Sloan's Landing and Talbot Island, the St. Johns River and its branches furnish the roadway system for the county. At that time the overland King's Road north of Jacksonville was little more than a trail. Dovell tells us that during the territorial period travel and transport north and south was almost always by a water route. Many records of the period refer to this partial water route as the "King's Highway." Most journeys along the coast were made by water, using in part what is today the Inland Waterway. Consequently most of the early family graveyards are on what were once plantations along the river or near some creek. This explains why they are so far away from the main highways of today, and in many cases most difficult to reach. Some of them cannot be reached in an automobile during wet weather. Others require wet weather in order to avoid becoming stuck in dry sand. At times the road ends in an area so desolate that no one can be found to guide one through jungle-like underbrush of palmetto and vines. In many places the graveyard is all that is left to tell one that the area was once inhabited. Sometimes there are old fruit trees, an old rose bush, or the remains of an open well as additional evidence that folks once lived there. This is true of the Houston Cemetery on Big Talbot Island. Talbot Island was once the north end of the King's Road in Duval County, a ferry crossing and a busy hostelry as well as the home of a large family. Here Spicer Christopher acquired a Spanish land grant about 1795, built his home in the center of the island, "raised China oranges," "had \$3000 invested in horses," "shared conveniences with passers by" and "entertained wayfarers." Most of the grave-markers in this cemetery are for descendants of John Houston, a son-in-law of Spicer Christopher. There is little trace today of the orange groves and pastures for fine horses, of the homes and

plantations which once faced along the Nassau River, but this burial plot deep in the woods in the center of the island tells much of the family. Roses and other cherished flowers continue to bloom in the enclosed graveyard. The earliest marker is that of John Houston's first wife Elizabeth, who died in 1824. Elizabeth Houston was the youngest daughter of Spicer Christopher.

Sloan's Landing was the south end of the King's Road in the county and the location of the ferry across Julington Creek. In February 1835 a franchise was granted for a ferry across Julington Creek from New Higham on the south bank in St. Johns County to Sloan's Landing in Duval County. It is probable, however, that Sloan's Landing antedates this franchise. In the list of soldiers in the 2nd Company of St. Johns of the Patriots of East Florida in 1813 there is a Michael Sloan and a John Sloan whose names are signed in company with those of Joseph Hagen, John Creighton, Isaac and Moses Bowden, Roberto Gilbert and William Hartley, all known to have lived in the Julington Creek-Mandarin area and to many of whom Spanish land grants in that area were confirmed later. Also, the name of a James Sloan is carried on the Petition, dated Oct. 10, 1820, from the Inhabitants of the St. Marys-St. Johns District to the Spanish Governor of East Florida, for the organization of a municipality. According to Mrs. Essie Coleman the Hagen and James families, both of whose homes were on Julington Creek, were descendants of the Sloan family, through their maternal lines possibly the founder of Sloan's Landing. Tradition says that the small cemetery at Sloan's Landing dates from about 1835 and the Indian massacre in that neighborhood during the Seminole Indian War. Although there are many graves, no early markers and no printed proof of such interments were found. But it is easy to understand why there are so few headstones for these early settlers. Granite or other stone grave markers placed in the 18th and early part of the 19th centuries had to be hauled overland across Georgia to the St. Marys River and then for a water haul down inland creeks and rivers, or brought by sailing vessel from New England. Many cedar grave markers can still be found in the county with all markings, if there ever had been any, completely worn off. Many of the family names found on the two lists of the Spanish period, which were mentioned above, can be found on tombstones in the county.

It is easy to understand also why modern highways and the automobile have caused the abandonment of burial sites in out of the way places along the river and creeks. But for a while it was difficult to understand why there were so many small family burying grounds on the north side of the river back in oak woods. Then one old man, when directing us to the burying ground of his family, commented on the fact that the black jack oak woods that we were going through was once an open field where he had plowed cotton many times as a boy. Later, it was learned that his case was typical of many. Much of Duval County was homesteaded prior to and shortly after the War Between the States but as cotton was found to be unproductive, the next generation abandoned it and large farms have been overgrown with black jack oaks. The men who homesteaded the land started those cemeteries. Some of them are still used today but many of them are the burial place of only the man himself, his wife and some young children.

In other places the forests were cut by lumber dealers who saw in Florida timber a bonanza, as through the centuries Florida has always appealed to the adventurer and speculator. These timber merchants left behind them pine barrens. When one has driven for miles on narrow winding roads through these stretches of open woodlands, one knows that the term "pine barren" is correctly given. It is while seeking a graveyard in these black jack oak woods and pine barrens that one has difficulty, for aside from the condition of the road, instructions for reaching them are usually vague. One elderly lady said, "Take the dim way," going in a certain direction. It was a new term but one we found to be most descriptive. But the pine barrens and black jack oak woods of the 1940s are fast becoming rich grazing land for good cattle in the 1950s.

A strange custom was noticed in two cemeteries in the county. The usual containers for flowers were missing from all the graves and in their place were utensils or ornaments that might have been used by the deceased. On a child's grave one might see a small teacup, or a small china toy or ornament. On the grave of an old lady were two perfect teacups and saucers and on an old Confederate veteran's grave was a whiskey bottle.

The oldest gravestones in the county are the two on Fort

George Island, dated 1808. The markers are those of the daughter and the sister-in-law of John Houston McIntosh, leader of the Patriots of East Florida. Both of those graves, or tombs as the caretaker on the island calls them, have been broken into by vandals seeking treasure, but yet are mute reminders of what may have been happy, normal lives spent amid the turbulent history of this tiny island. From the day in 1562 when Jean Ribault paused near there to offer the first Protestant prayer in North America, Fort George Island has seemed destined to swing between periods of happiness and of cruel selfishness. Not far from Fort George, at Sawpit Bluff and Cedar Point, William Fitzpatrick and others made history. On Doctors Island in Nassau River Francis Broward, the first of that name in Florida, is reported to have been buried in 1813. But time and tide have left not even cedar headstones to mark this period in Florida history nor their services in the Revolutionary and Patriots Wars. Besides the graves on Fort George and Big Talbot Islands, other early grave markers are those of the young woman buried in St. Josephs Cemetery in the city of Jacksonville in 1827; that of another young woman buried under the church of our Savior at Mandarin in 1835; a stone in the Mandarin Cemetery dated 1836, and the lone grave near St. Johns Bluff of James Buckland, formerly of Ellington, Conn., also dated 1836.

The only grave in the county positively identified as that of a Revolutionary soldier is that of Dr. James Hall of New Hampshire who was buried on Beauclerc Bluff, near Plummer's Cove. According to the marker he died in 1837 at La Grange, E. F. (East Florida), which is the Mandarin of today. According to Dr. Webster Merritt, Dr. Hall is believed to be "the first bona fide American physician to practice medicine in East Florida, probably the first American physician to practice anywhere in Florida." During the Revolution Dr. Hall served as sergeant in the 3rd Regiment, New Hampshire Line. From data in Spanish land grant records it is thought he came to Florida about 1798. It is known that he married Lenore or Eleanor Plummer. In 1828 a grant to Robert Pritchard for 270 acres at Beauclerc Bluff on the St. Johns River was confirmed to his widow Eleanor. It is undoubtedly on this land that she and Dr. Hall lived and there he was buried. Dr. Hall's grave has been marked by a bronze plaque

placed by the Sons of the American Revolution and the grave plot is cared for by Jacksonville Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

There are head stones in the county identified as marking the graves of veterans of the Black Hawk and Seminole Wars. In the north end of the county at what is known as Dees Landing is the burying ground of the Eubanks family. Here is buried William Eubanks, Major, 17th Infantry, Black Hawk War. In 1817 he received a Spanish land grant on Nassau River, on which Dees Landing faces. This grant was confirmed to him in 1825 by the United States with the remark "claimant in actual possession" with himself, wife and five slaves residing on the claim. There are, of course, many stones in the county for veterans of the War Between the States, both Confederate and Federal, for it seems that many Federal troops that served in Florida during the war returned to make it their home. Many Confederates are buried in Old Gravelly Hill Cemetery, which began as a family burying ground on the Miles Price homestead. Price was a Confederate soldier and gave a burial plot to the family of any Confederate veteran which desired it. Twenty Confederate veterans, one veteran with Union Forces, two Spanish American veterans and five World War I veterans are buried there. In Manning Cemetery are markers for six Confederate soldiers, the largest number for its size of any family cemetery in the county. One section of Old City Cemetery was also set apart for the burial of Confederate soldiers. St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery at Loretto was the burying place for many colored soldiers who served with Northern forces during the War Between the States. There was at one time a Catholic school for Negroes in the same vicinity.

Many cemeteries originated as family burying grounds but later lots were given or sold to other families. This was true of St. Nicholas situated in the residential section of Jacksonville known by that name and not far from the site of the Spanish Fort San Nicholas. The cemetery was started by ancestors of the Holmes family. D. S. H. Miller, Surveyor of Florida during the second Spanish occupation and formerly connected with the Spanish outpost, San Nicholas, was the father of the wife of Darius Ferris, whose headstone marks the first recorded burial in the cemetery. Records show that Darius Ferris and David L. Pal-

mer brought property in Duval County in 1841 and H. H. Hoeg of New York, in 1840. All three were active in the early development of the county and all three were buried in St. Nicholas Cemetery, as were many other prominent citizens during the latter part of the past century and the first part of the present century. Many of the markers in this cemetery, both early and late ones, are imposing stones. Elaborate stones can be found in many cemeteries in different parts of the county showing dates after 1875.

Among other southside family plots of interest is that of the Parsons family situated along the river in the Gilmore section of the county. Here is buried Mary Dorcas Parsons Broward, the mother of Gov. Napoleon B. Broward. Also buried there is an early Duval County educator, Mr. D. Milspaugh. The oldest stone in the cemetery is that of Thomas Burke of Eaton, N. H., who died in 1840.

The small burial plot near the present-day Fulton fishing camp immediately brought up many questions. The few graves near the shore of the river were each outlined with granite. But one is grieved to see that the head and foot stones of all but two graves have been hauled away. One of these stones marks the grave of a native of Nova Scotia, the other, a native of England. The latter stone has two names cut on it. They are Harry Chambers and Peter Chamberlain. Early residents told us that the Englishman was Lord "Harry" Peter Chamberlain, a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, who had lived in America under an assumed name. That he was the son of English nobility is questioned by former neighbors, who say he was probably a "remittance man." Correspondence with England after his death, we were told, failed to produce any facts about his family and life in England, except his real name, which his Fulton neighbors had cut on the head stone with the name he had used in America.

In itself Fulton is an interesting and pleasant spot. When we visited the graveyard, magnolia and gordonia trees with their glossy leaves and fragrant blooms were seen along the road leading from the main highway. Brilliant scarlet mallows bloomed in damp spots at the road's edge and luxuriant vines with purple blooms covered the sandy shore. For-hire fishing boats, picnic tables and outdoor ovens flanked a tiny store. "Fishing widows" whiled away the hours with their eyes frequently on the many

small boats anchored out in the river, each with two or more fishermen in it. Farther down the shore crab traps were stacked near the little used building of the Fulton Boat Co.

We were told that this part of the south shore of the St. Johns River just west of St. Johns Bluff had been known by the Indian name "Homoloa." Mrs. G. Graham Dockerell of Jacksonville said that when she and Mr. Dockerell lived there about 1900 they found many Indian arrow heads. It was a part of the Andrew Atkinson Grant and was known as "Shipyard" township. In May 1881 R. Fulton Cutting purchased 475 acres from Margaret I. Wilmerding for \$2000. The tract was described as bounded on the east by Ship Yard Creek, north and west by marshes of St. Johns River and on the south by a line running from a marked live oak due west to the marshes of said river. Today those marshes are white sand and shell, bordered by the white bodies of dead trees encircled with fill dredged up from the river channel. Mr. Bart G. Dockerell has in his possession a letter from Mrs. Mary I. Hole, the wife of H. Frederick Hole, in which she gives the history of Fulton:

Mr. Cutting was a rich, philanthropic New York man whose only son had been sent to Florida some years before, ill with consumption. The cure had been so thorough and remarkable that Mr. Cutting in gratitude resolved to settle up this piece of land, which he bought and called "Fulton," as a thank offering for his son's recovery, making it, he hoped, a sort of mission settlement to educate and do good to the colored people. He therefore cleared the land on the river front, built a nice little wooden church, a large and comfortable house for a clergyman, and another for his agent who was to manage the estate, a good house for a store and post office, and a large packing house, dock, etc., by the river with platforms for drying shad nets, etc. Close to the river were houses where fishermen could be lodged. . . . Except for the fishing, Fulton was not a success in the end. The right people did not get put there and the negroes did not respond. Mr. Cutting was very disappointed with its financial and moral non-success and lost interest in the whole undertaking. When my husband settled there a Mr. Ferrar, an Irishman, was the only person representing Mr. Cutting and looking after the estate. My husband became caretaker and took care of the place for some years until we bought "Fulton" from Mr. Cutting, which ended his connection with it.

Mr. Hole was an Englishman who, according to Mrs. Hole, first came to Fulton in the fall of 1889, starting a small business for making fibre for bedding and upholstery purposes out of dwarf palmettos, "so abundant everywhere." There had been palmetto brush factories in Daytona, Fernandina, and Jacksonville as early as 1882. Mr. Hole ran the store at Fulton and was also interested in shad fishing. In 1889 there was a flourishing shad fishery at Fulton with boats belonging to the Cutting Estate being let out to white men, mostly Swedes and Norwegians. Mrs. Hole says, "If I remember right, the Fulton shad were always the earliest in the New York markets."

About 1896, Mr. G. Graham Dockerell and Mr. B. G. Jarvis bought land in the area and started peach orchards. Later other Englishmen joined them. The church built by Mr. Cutting was used by the English community for Episcopal services, the rectors from Fort George and All Saints taking turns visiting the church. "And," Mrs. Dockerell added, "At times even Bishop Wood conducted services in the little chapel." W. W. Webb says that in 1885 Fulton had a population between 100 and 125. By 1900 the group was small, consisting of only three or four English families and several Swedes. At that time United States, weatherwise, was in a cycle of cold winters, causing the failure of the peach industry. In 1906 the Dockerells moved to Jacksonville. Shortly before World War I a fish fertilizer factory was started at Fulton, which was followed by a boat company and a fishing camp, which is what it is today.

The Ogilvie Cemetery on Thomas Creek in the north end of the county is an excellent illustration of a strictly family cemetery and of how family lines may be traced by grave markers. It is also an illustration of why a genealogist wishes that the stone cutter had made his inscriptions a bit fuller. This cemetery at first seemed to be the burial plot of two distinct families, which is sometimes found, for when a plantation was sold the new owner often used the old burying ground. After searching other records, however, it was found that if the wife's maiden name as well as the husband's name had been cut in one grave stone, the record would have been clear. It seems that in 1840 David Ogilvie, a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, came to Nassau County, Florida, and acquired land on the northside of Thomas Creek in that coun-

ty. He later married Laurantah Geiger, the daughter of a family living on the south side of the creek in Duval County. Her parents and their descendants as well as many Ogilvie descendants were buried in this cemetery.

More than half of the compilation is made up of records from only two cemeteries, Old City Cemetery and Evergreen. "Old City" Cemetery was given to the City of Jacksonville in 1852 and was officially named "Willey Cemetery" in honor of the donor, Capt. Charles Willey. But in the memory of most living persons it has always been known as Old City Cemetery. It is located on one of the highest points of land within the city limits. To the right of Old City Cemetery, and separated by a narrow drive, is St. Joseph Cemetery, the burial ground of early Catholics. Although not a part of Old City Cemetery, the two cemeteries belonged to the same period and were both originally part of the farm of Capt. Charles Willey. In 1858 Rev. P. DeFoe bought from Capt. Willey land for St. Joseph Cemetery for the use of Immaculate Conception Parish. The oldest marker is that of Mariana V. Pons, a native of St. Augustine, E. F., who died Feb. 19, 1827. Inside Old City to the far left, and separated by a low wall, is the section known as the Hebrew Cemetery, which was donated by the city to Jacob Huff, trustee of the Hebrew Benevolent Society, July 13, 1874. Another section of the original Old City area was set apart for use by Negroes. In this area are buried members of early Negro families, many of which had lived in Jacksonville since its founding. Other areas were later set apart for other purposes, one being for ministers and another for Confederate soldiers. Although Old City became the city cemetery officially only in 1852, it had been a burying ground for many years prior to that time. Deep excavations in the Protestant area have revealed several skeletons, all buried with head to the north and feet to the south. Since the cemetery is higher than the surrounding area, it may have been an Indian burial ground. Old City is rich in history of early Jacksonville families. The earliest grave marker in the cemetery is in the Doggett lot, but it is a removal from St. John's Episcopal Church Yard. The Livingston lot, like others in the cemetery, speaks of the heavy toll of the yellow fever epidemic of 1857. Many markers here, and in other cemeteries in the county also, tell us that the deceased was born

in some distant state or foreign country, showing the varied background of Duval County pioneers. One is impressed with the number who were from the north, especially from New York state and New England.

During the latter part of the 19th century several other cemeteries were started in what is now the down-town area of the city. It has been said that if one stood at Laura and Orange Streets at the turn of the century, as far as one could see would be grave markers. After the Jacksonville fire of 1901 most of those graveyards were discontinued and the bodies re-interred in Evergreen Cemetery. Among those re-interments was that of I. D. Hart, the founder of Jacksonville, whose family vault was damaged in the fire. Evergreen Cemetery was established in 1881 as a non-profit organization. Much enlarged today, it and the adjoining St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery and the Hebrew Cemetery, were the chief burial places, other than family grave yards, during the first quarter of the century. Evergreen is the burial place of the first child born in the city of Jacksonville, Sarah Ann Hogan, wife of Uriah Bowden. She was born July 28, 1825. It is also the burial place of many of the builders of present-day Jacksonville.

To even the most callous, tragedies are everywhere evident. Possibly the most poignant is where five or six infants in the same family are buried side by side. Or where whole families are nearly wiped out in a few weeks time. A tragic illustration is that of the Turknett family, which lost five sons from scarlet fever between April 2 and April 19 in 1854. One tragedy, which today might have been read as an automobile or plane accident, raised some questions. Was it a train wreck? A mother of 79, her son of 54 and a daughter of 43 all died on the same day in 1900. Files of the local paper revealed a triple ax murder and robbery.

It has been interesting to note that some names found frequently on old grave markers in the county cannot be found today in the city directory, although they are the names of streets in Jacksonville, which would indicate well known families during the past century. Among such names are Dancy, Oak, McDuff and others.

Of the fifty-four cemeteries and burial plots in the county which have headstones with dates prior to 1917, the Hysler family cemetery is today on land now owned by the U. S. Navy. Shift-

ing sand dunes have nearly covered all graves in the cemetery belonging to the Mayport Catholic Church,, which is also on land now owned by the U. S. Navy. Two family cemeteries in the Arlington area, which were formerly on large wooded lots, are now surrounded by new ranch-type homes.

As the city of Jacksonville grows, reaching more and more into the county, other family graveyards, which were in open fields or wooded sections in 1940, will be absorbed by subdivisions or business and industrial areas and lose their identity as family or group cemeteries as did those in downtown Jacksonville after the turn of the century.