

He also owned a farm near the present settlement of Marietta; this place he called "Cracker Swamp", and he seems to have cultivated it to a certain extent with slaves and free labor. His homestead was in Jacksonville, first in his log-cabin; then at the northwest corner of Bay and Market Streets, and finally, for many years, at the southeast corner of Laura and Forsyth Streets.

I. D. Hart outlived all of the early settlers. Both he and his wife, Nancy, died in 1861, and were buried in a vault that had already been erected by him for his family, located on a plot of ground on the east side of Laura Street between State and Orange, back from the Laura Street line about 100 feet. His tomb bore this queer inscription:

When I am dead and in my grave,
And these bones are all rotten;
When this you see, remember me,
That I may not be forgotten.

In 1896, the Hart vault was broken into by vandals who removed everything of value, including the silver nameplates. This led to an investigation by a reporter for a local newspaper, who published the fact that there were evidences that nine bodies had been placed in the vault, namely, I. D. Hart, his wife and children, and Mary E. Hart, a favorite niece.

*The children of I. D. and Nancy Hart were: Ossian, Lodusky, Laura, Daniel, Julia, and Nancy. Nancy was an invalid and met the sad fate of being burned to death. Laura and Julia Streets are named for two of these children. It has been said that Ocean was formerly Ossian Street, but the Child map of 1847 designates it as Ocean.

The fire of 1901 greatly damaged the old Hart vault and instead of rebuilding it, the remains it contained were moved to a lot in Evergreen cemetery and the vault in the city demolished.

Bibliography, Chapter IV

*a*History of Florida, Webb; *b*Descriptive article in East Florida Herald (St. Augustine), Dec. 20, 1825; *c*Florida Times-Union and Citizen, Jan. 1, 1900; *d*East Florida Herald (St. Augustine), April 14, 1826; *e*Florida Reports, Vol. VI, p. 491; *f*Memoirs of Florida, Fleming; *g*County (Archibald) records; *h*Early newspaper accounts.