

The wild orange groves in the swamps, bearing mainly sour and bitter-sweet oranges, and probably set out by the Indians, were transplanted, first a few trees for ornament around their places, and soon as the demand for the luscious Florida orange increased in groves, which today rank amongst the finest in Florida.

The merchants of that early period, the Lightseys, Browns, Dzialynski, Wilsons, and a little later Hendry & Carter, E. E. Skipper, J. N. Hooker and the Reif brothers did a large business, second to none done this present day, having their goods hauled by oxcargons from Tampa and sending there, oranges, wool, hides, honey, beeswax, alligator hides, syrup.

After the railroads were built further into south Florida, with the completion of the South Florida Railroad, a narrow guage one from Sanford to Tampa, Fort Meade's shipping point was Lake Parker, on the present site of the thriving city and important railroad center of Lakeland and later on Bartow took the latter's place. Not until the year 1886, when the Florida Southern Railway company built from Pemberton Ferry to Charlotte Harbor, did Fort Meade get a railroad connection of its own. But even before this, in the years of 1883 and 4, there was an influx of Northerners, mainly from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Kansas, all good farmers who bought the lands from the old settlers or homesteaded government land who made a success here, stayed, some of them still living and their progeny turned into solid, intelligent Florida Crackers. These newcomers were followed by colonies of a superior class of Englishmen, mainly young men, who had plenty of money to invest and spend; bought orange groves, drove fine horses and made times generally good. Many of them left Fort Meade after a few years for other fields, but some remained, settled down, took the fair daughters of the land for wives and now, they and their children cannot be distinguished from the natives.

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OSCEOLA COUNTY: KENANSVILLE CEMETERY

This cemetery is located near S-523 off of highway 441 between Yeehaw Junction and Holopaw, Osceola County, Florida. It was copied in April of 1976 and contributed by Mrs. Martha Virt & Mrs. Wanda Hamilton, 1405 6th St., Vero Beach, Fla. 32960.

- Quin J. Bass July 29, 187_ - July 9, 1952
- Callie Bass July 18, 1878 - Oct. 24, 1958
- Rebecca N. Bass 1874 - 1938
- Oliver R. Bass 1872 - 1950
- Gilbert G. Bass Nov. 20, 1920 - Aug. 17, 1934
- Grant Bass Oct. 25, 1887 -
- Leatie A. Bass Sept. 3, 1892 - July 22, 1971
- Nat P. Bass March 9, 1890 - March 12, 1972
- Mattie I. Bass March 15, 1896 - Nov. 8, 1924
- Annie V. Bass Born Clinch Co., Ga. Nov. 5, 1849 - Jan. 14, 1941
- A. C. Bass July 6, 1848 - Feb. 21, 1909
- Clint Bass May 26, 1908 - March 18, 1920
- Nelly A. B. Bass March 9, 1880 - Sept. 22, 1932
- Edith M. Bass Baisden Jan. 31, 1898 - Dec. 13, 1943
- John P. Thomas 1888 - 1939
- Infant girl of Mr. & Mrs. Sol Padgett - (No dates)
- Thomas M. Lybass July 2, 1897 - Aug. 9, 1928
- T. M. Lybass, Jr. Feb. 22, 1922 - June 26, 1926
- Loise Helen Guy Aug. 25, 1921 -
- Barcella Guy 1870 - 1960
- Henry Powell Guy June 26, 1899 - May 11, 1964