

present Winter Beach (then known as Quay) on the Indian River, but still located in Brevard County. They were among the first settlers on the Island, along with Gary's brother, James Roberts and three families named Reams, Poppell and Barker. Gary's remarried mother, Mary Jones, with her new family and her son, Jeremiah Roberts, soon followed from Madison, as did his sister, Christianna Turlington and her family. There soon was a thriving community on the square mile island where the settlers engaged in farming, taking the produce to Quay by boat where it was shipped by railroad. Some families on John's Island were named Knight, Prang, Bobo, Reed, Core, Jeffers, Kersey, Fletcher, Carter, Jenkins, Cail, Grice and others.

They had four more daughters and another son while living at the island. After two bad freezes that killed the vegetable crops, many of the settlers began moving to the mainland at Vero, Florida, now known as Vero Beach in Indian River County.

After moving to the mainland, two more daughters were born, giving them a total of twelve children. Both Gary and Lizzie (Turlington) Roberts died at Vero Beach as did Gary's mother, Mary Roberts Jones. All are buried at Winter Beach cemetery. Gary's younger brother, Jeremiah, died in late 'teens while living on the island during the 1890's. He had gone to Ft. Drum with a companion, a Harris youth, to attend a Church meeting when, in an attempt to jump a ditch, he sustained a broken neck. There being no communications from there to home, the companion had to bury him there in the cemetery with a log marker and then begin the long trek home to notify Jeremiah's family.

The descendants of James Gary Roberts, the first of the family to Florida, are numerous today in the southern section of the state, many of them still living in the Indian River section where James' two sons planted one of the first citrus groves in what became Vero Beach on acreage one mile south of the present city.

REFERENCES: Rev. military & pension records at Natl. Archives; Sumter Co., SC probate records at SC Archives; 1850 Census: Muscogee Co. and Harris Co., Ga., Russell Co., Ala.; Jackson Co., Fl. marriage records; Civil War military records at Natl. Archives; Turlington-Roberts family Bible; personal knowledge of W. Rainey Duncan and Robert Littleberry Roberts; LIFE ALONG THE BEAUTIFUL INDIAN RIVER by Anna Pearl Newman, 1953.

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HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY: OLD WILLS

These wills were abstracted from Hillsborough County's Old Will Book by Mrs. Elizabeth (Stuart) Jones, 3705 San Rafael St., Tampa, Florida 33609 and are continued from Issue #19/20.

Page 142 Hiram RIGLER, Terre Haute, Indiana 14 Sept. 1885
Probated Terre Haute, Ind. 23 Nov. 1885
Recorded Hills. Co., Fl. 18 Jan. 1886
Wife: Elizabeth
To: Sarah J. PAUL
Mary RIGLER daughter of S. J. RIGLER
Catherine BRYANT dau. of Elizabeth BRYANT, my sister
Catherine dau. of W. B. RIGLER, my brother
Elizabeth and Catherine the two daughters of Mrs. STRAYER
my sister