

identified, but careful investigation has narrowed the most likely locations to two. Church records stated that he died at the home of his son-in-law, Major James Dyer. Major Dyer, then a rather prosperous planter, had a large country home, the location of which has been established by Mrs. John C. Allen of Dallas, a great-great-granddaughter of Stevenson. It was on a farm about six miles east of Homer. In the fall of 1964 Mrs. Allen learned from Mrs. Annie Mae Tooke Hamp-hill, who now lives on part of the Dyer farm, across the road from the old Dyer house, that there were at one time eight or ten graves in a private burying ground near the old house. No markers were left, and signs of the graves are becoming faint. It may well have been here that Stevenson was buried.

The other likely place is the cemetery of Forrest Grove Methodist Church, which was built about 1845 near Dyer's home. The church building was later moved, but the old cemetery remains at the original location. This was the most prominent Methodist church in Claiborne Parish, and the Dyers and Stevensons probably had a big hand in its founding. Thus it would have been logical for the venerable preacher to have been buried there.

Editor's note: We are indebted to Phyllis Frye for calling to our attention the suitability of this material for our publication.

## The Gladden and Todd Families Serve Their Country

By Anna Gladden Berry

The Gladden and Todd pioneer families of Claiborne Parish were united through the marriage of Emma McNeil Todd and Francis Isaiah Gladden.

Emma McNeil Todd was the daughter of Dr. John Williams Todd and Anna Maria Harper. During the Civil War, Dr. Todd served the Confederacy with the rank of Captain in the Cavalry. His eldest daughter, Emma, although a very small child, remembered traveling at night with her mother and a faithful old slave, "Uncle Nove", to meet her father who was to be at a certain location on a given date. At the end of the war, Captain Todd divided what he had left with his slaves who remained faithful. The old carriage driver was given his fine saddle horse, Captain Todd remarking that he, Captain Todd was more able to

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walk than "Uncle Nove". After the war Dr. Todd moved to Flat Lick, then to Homer. He built the two story home that is now the J. L. Moss home. At this time the house faced the Lisbon road, and the acreage from there to the house was the front lawn. Later the present Pine Street was cut through the property and building sites were sold. Dr. Todd lived here with the family until his death. At this time he was Tax Assessor for Claiborne Parish. He died at a Masonic meeting being held in the Court House. He now lies buried, beside his wife, in the Old Homer Cemetery.

Francis Isaiah Gladden was the son of Daniel Webster Gladden and Anna Elizabeth McMeekin. They originally came from Fairfield County, South Carolina, and came first to Arizona in Claiborne Parish, then to Homer. Their home is now the Pat Johnson place. It originally comprised what is now Edgewood Drive, Beverly Drive and the City Park and acreage on either side of the old Haynesville road. Daniel Webster Gladden served the Confederacy as a Captain in the Civil War. His brother, Addley Hogan Gladden, also from Fairfield County, South Carolina, served as Captain in the Mexican War and as Brigadier General in the Confederacy. He was severely wounded in the Battle of Shiloh, April 6, 1862. His left arm had to be amputated and he died several days later, either April 12 or 14, at the Headquarters of General Beauregard, near Corinth, Mississippi. He is buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Mobile, Alabama. Daniel Webster Gladden and his wife, Anna Elizabeth McMeekin lie buried in the Old Homer Cemetery.

Following the family tradition, Captain Daniel Webster Gladden's son, grandson and great grandsons saw service in World War I and World War II and Captain John Williams Todd's grandson and great grandsons all served in World War II.

The great grandson of both Captain John W. Todd and Captain Daniel W. Gladden, Ensign Franklin Pierce Berry, III, of the Naval Air Corps, gave his life in the service of his country. He was a Naval Aviator instructor in dive-bombing and gunnery in World War II. He was awarded posthumously the American Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal. He, too, with his maternal grand parents and his great grand parents lies buried in the Old Homer Cemetery.

(Editor's note: Wills often reflect the times. This is true of "The Last Will and Testament of Samuel B. Harper" and excerpts of it are given here. It has been made available by Anna Gladden Berry.)

Last Will and Testament of Samuel B. Harper  
(Samuel B. Harper was the father of Anna Maria Harper, wife of Dr. John W. Todd)

In the name of God. Amen.  
I Samuel B. Harper, a citizen of Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, being