

## CEMETERY ISLAND

Location: Sec. 14, Twp. 20S, Rg. 20E  
Researched by Jean Cary, July – December 1980

Cemetery Island – originally called Sand Key is located at the mouth of the Homosassa River. The change of name occurred in the late 1800's when a man named Topliff was found dead on a floating hatch cover by Henry Loennecker while fishing in the gulf off Mason's Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Topliff and another man left the Homosassa area for Tarpon Springs. They said they had encountered a bad storm and Mr. Topliff was lost. Local residents could not recall any such storm.

A young boy, Frankie Hamlin, half brother of Mollie Parker died. His family lived in an old house at the end of Mason's Creek road. Part of the house still stands. Because of the distance to Stage Stand Cemetery, these burials were made on Sand Key as it was the only Island where graves could be dug.

NOTE: Above information from Leona Havens, Born 1902 in Homosassa, who lived with her grandparents on Loennecker Island as a child. She is descended from the Loennecker and Gerock families. Henry L. Loennecker was Leona's father and he found the body as a young man before his marriage.

References: "Back Home" pages 79, 80, and 83 for references to Gerlock and Loennecker families.