

After 14 years of marriage the fifth born child of William and Missouri was a son born in 1875. His parents proudly named him after his father. Tragedy struck the family in 1879 and they lost little William. They buried him in the family plot in Gordon Cemetery. A little slave boy named Tobe and owned by Mr. Wood was a faithful friend to little William. Along the driveway of the Wood's home a row of Bay Magnolias had been planted on both sides. Tobe ask Mr. Wood if he could dig up one of the small ones. He expressed a desire to plant it in the middle of the ornate iron fence enclosing the family plot. He explained it would be in memory of his best friend who had gone to Heaven. After withstanding lightning strikes and all the other elements, the proud old Magnolia is still standing after 130 years. It flourishes each year with magnolia blooms the size of two gallon buckets. It cast a protective shade over all the wood family members in the plot.

