

Written In Stone

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Greene Cemetery

Riley's History of Conecuh states that the first school institutionalized in Conecuh County was in Burnt Corn at the home of John Greene, Sr., who came to this area from Jackson County GA about 1816. He was born 1790, SC, moving to GA with his family; and at age 26 removing to AL; leaving a prestigious position as a lawyer to farm in AL. He married Nancy Betts Jones, the only daughter of Thomas P. Jones and Mary (Polly) Betts, the Betts family originating in Delaware. Two Betts brothers, Mary's siblings: Isaac & Joshua already ensconced in Burnt Corn. John Greene obviously didn't leave his quest for knowledge behind in GA as he became involved with the literary needs of the community in which he settled. He and his wife, Nancy had fourteen children, one of which died once they reached AL, only a year old. The other thirteen were all born in Burnt Corn, and many are buried near the old Greene home place. John Greene was active in the political affairs of his adopted home; having been elected as Representative in 1824 & 1829; and at age 85 elected as Delegate to the AL Constitutional Convention. He also gave land for a church which later became Old Bethany Baptist Church, started by the Rev. Alexander Travis.

The John Greene, Sr. Cemetery is located about 16 miles NE of Evergreen, off the old Burnt Corn to Belleville Road, high up on a hill overlooking the thousands of acres of Lowery Trust Lands today. Once surrounded by a four-foot iron fence manufactured and designed by Springfield Iron Works, the fence is now in obvious disrepair by fallen trees. It's just a twisted heap of metal in many places, compounded by the broken headstones of the Greene Family members scattered throughout this once stately cemetery. Many of the headstones bore testament to the allied families the children of John and Nancy married into; many of them instrumental to the foundations of early Burnt Corn and Conecuh/Monroe Counties. The earliest documented grave is that of Jane, a daughter, who died in 1840 at age 2. Possibly, Juliana, the little one who died upon reaching AL is also buried here. With 5 sons and 8 daughters, mostly it is the daughters who are buried here and their spouses and family members. The parents of Nancy are also interred here; her father, Thomas Palmer Jones in 1852 & her mother, in 1857. The last documented grave is that of Capt. W. B. Amos, who died in 1908. He was married to Julia A., who passed away before him in 1856, only 23 years old. One marker is now covered by a fallen tree; as many lie damaged and broken by deterioration and neglect; illegible to those unfamiliar to the family history. One son, whose grave is marked by a beautiful tribute, died by the fall of a tree; and today, many of the headstones of his siblings and community citizens lie, frozen in time, by trees of our century. For more information about the John Greene Family, visit your local public library. If you're interested in learning how to preserve the cemeteries in your care, give me a call at (251) 578-2670 or email me at canebrakesociety@yahoo.com