

Written In Stone

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Cemetery Names

Gertrude Stein wrote a poem called *Sacred Emily* about 1913; and wrote one line in there that is probably more remembered than the poem itself: ‘*a rose is a rose is a rose is a rose*’. According to one explanation of the line, the sentence expresses the fact that simply using the name of something already invokes the imagery & emotions associated with it. From Shakespeare’s *Romeo & Juliet*, he also expressed something similar: “*what’s in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other word would smell as sweet.*”

Just as in family names, nicknames, or first and last names, as difficult it is to keep up with what each generation calls them, so the same can be said for cemetery names. What your grandfather or great-uncle called it might be completely different than what you know it as today. Names change because of road name changes, boundaries; new church names; and families interred there through the ages or dying out, so those names are no longer there. There are several cemeteries in Conecuh listed with one name; however known by a more common name, within the community itself.

If you look through our records as well as the Historical Atlas of AL: Cemeteries by Location published by the UA Cartography Lab, you might recognize the following cemeteries: Amos (Old Brooklyn); Antioch (Rabb); Ashley (Thomas/Suddith); Beddingfield (Riley/Martin); Brown (Beasley); Brownville Pentecostal Holiness (Mount Herman); Burford (Chapman/Salter); Cohassett (Long Branch); Evergreen City (Greasy Bottom); Herbert (Friendship Church); Monroe (Mt. Rose); New Providence (Old Prov.); Old Brooklyn (Brooklyn Methodist); Robertson (Cleve Ellis); Salter (Powell); Ward (Ward/Witherington); and Warren (New Hope).

If you know of a cemetery within your neighborhood or community which was once known as something else, please give me a call, and let’s make sure that the cemetery is documented on our map and our historical atlas of cemeteries. Call me at (251) 578-2670 or email at canebrakesociety@yahoo.com