

Written In Stone

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Jones Chapel Cemetery

The Flat Rock Community is named for the broad, flat rock used as a crossing by the Creek Indians and early settlers on the Sepulga River. According to the Historical Atlas of AL—Cemetery Locations by County, for Conecuh, in the Flat Rock area alone, there are listed 4 known cemeteries. At least two or more cemeteries are unknown or in uncertain locations; hidden along the river bank, deep in the woods, or lying forgotten in the fields.

Two main community wide cemeteries in the Flat Rock area are known as Flat Rock Church and Jones Chapel Baptist Church. Jones Chapel is listed as #68-NE in T6N, R12E, and S22. There are various reports regarding the history of the name behind Jones Chapel; and if you know the correct one, I'd love to hear it. The cemetery is located behind the church, with graves very close together just like the families and community they represent.

Walking among the stones, it became apparent that many of the men in the community served their country well, as one military marker after another identifies yet another veteran. The headstones range from simple, etched concrete with name and date to elaborately carved black marble ones with pictures and verse. One quote in particular states: "The life given us by nature is short...the memory of a well spent life is eternal." In some instances, where a married couple lies side by side, you will discover their photograph adhered to the stone, which makes it so much easier to 'put a face to the name'.

Families known to be buried here include Bailey, Barlow, Brown, Diamond, Hall, Lynch, Peacock, Potts, Varner, Welch & Wiggins. If you dig deep enough into their genealogies, you'll find that they're related in some fashion; and most of the descendants can explain the closeness in the community with the single word of family.