

# Written In Stone

*By Sherry Johnston*

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## King Cemetery – Part II

Noah G. King, a descendant of the King family, compiled a book about 1992 about his family. The book, entitled “Some Kings and Allied Families of Conecuh County, AL” is not only a family history book for the Kings; it’s also a moving account of the early years of our state and county. A subtitle identifies other families from the area: Wadsworth, Diamond, Harrelson, Hobb, Calloway and Mobley. The book is a thorough account of the families, with photographs, family lore, legend and tradition. Mr. King likened our childhood memories to that of a ‘museum in our mind’ that we can bring out from time to time to review. This exercise gave him energy and renewed desire to pursue his family research. He pointed out that there are two types of kinfolks: ‘blood-kin’ and ‘marriage-kin’. If you visit the King’s Cemetery, you will find a lot of both!

John M. King’s mother, Nancy Calloway King remarried Thomas J. Hobbs, creating a blended family of hers and theirs. J.M. married the sister of his Confederate veteran friends: Mary Matilda Diamond. His other compatriot, Sgt. Thomas Wadsworth, married his sister, Mary Elizabeth King. The oldest sister, Martha Ann King, lost her husband, Albert Jones in the war; and came home to live with the family; helping around the house with all of her nieces and nephews, the farm and community. She came to be known as “Aunt Mott” and was well known and loved by all. All of John M. & Mary M.’s 11 children were born in the Gravella area of Conecuh County; with a first born, Mary Elizabeth dying tragically in 1871. Some of the others married local folks who lived in the communities of Brownville, Flat Rock, Gravella, Peach Bloom, and Spence.

Peacocks married Kings; Kings married Varners; Browns; Hobbs; Johnsons, Wilsons; and Wadsworth family members. All settled in or near the Old Sepulga River or upper Old Town Creek areas of Conecuh. One of the Hobbs: Augustus “Gus” Hobbs wrote poems about his beloved Sepulga River, the river that gave him joy and brought him grief, causing him to leave in the early 1930’s. Tuberculosis claimed many of the family members, including the children; and other family members died a tragic death, whether it was from burns or a horse-drawn wagon; or in childbirth. Somewhere deep in the forests surrounding the Kings’ Cemetery, there are still bushes blooming in the springtime that once surrounded the old home; and the Sepulga River still carries its’ secrets, calling us home over and over again. As Gus Hobbs once wrote in his “Ode to Sepulga...to bring me back to thee; such distances shall no more divide, my native stream from me.”