

# Written In Stone

*By Sherry Johnston*

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## **Robinson Family Cemetery – Part II**

In the early 1850's, J.G. Robinson, Sr. established a tannery & shoe factory near his home in the Mobley Creek community which later became known as Iris. The Iris Tanyard was one of the largest manufacturing facilities ever established in the area, and in 1862, they contracted with the state to supply shoes for the Confederate Army. Besides the slaves, the tannery employed up to 50 people; many of these are ancestors of those who reside in Brooklyn today.

Julius Robinson was a strong supporter of the Confederacy, which led to his estrangement from his Yankee father for many years. Letters in the family attest to the fact that he and his father did come to terms eventually, after the close of the war. Memoirs of his father also exist as an auto-biography of his life in CT & AL, and these are invaluable in the history of AL including the early settlement of Conecuh County.

Julius & Margaret Bradley Robinson raised 9 children, with six sons and three daughters. Of these children, the son Dudley did not live to adulthood. Their eldest son, named for his grandfather Edwin, was wounded at the Battle of Resaca in 1864. The second oldest son, Julius G., Jr. later became a licensed surveyor and many of our earlier land records were first mapped out by the young Julius.

Julius G. Robinson, Sr. died at the old Steward Place, part of his plantation in Conecuh. He and wife, Margaret and many of their children are buried in the Robinson Family Cemetery near Brooklyn on CR 42. The cemetery is surrounded by azaleas within an old-fashioned wire fence; maintained by a Robinson descendant, the cemetery is neat and clean. Songbirds filled the air, with a beautiful cardinal keeping me company as I strolled through the headstones finding the children and their descendants buried in this family cemetery. The earliest known grave belongs to Margaret A. Robinson, daughter of J.G. & Margaret M. Robinson, wife of Wilson A. McCreary. She was born in 1848 and died in 1868. She is buried beside her husband, who died in 1881. Below a bridal wreath shrub is a small angel statue, giving pause that there may be other unknown graves buried in this cemetery or beyond the fencing. The heads of the family, Julius G. & wife, Margaret are buried on the second row, with other children close by. The last known grave in the cemetery is that of Catherine, wife of Milton Robinson, who died in April of 2002. There are at least 27 known graves in this cemetery, and five of them are marked as veterans, some serving in Korea, Spanish-American War, WWI & II, and Viet Nam. For more information about the Robinson Family of Brooklyn, Conecuh and Covington Counties, please visit the Evergreen-Conecuh County Public Library.