

Written In Stone

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Early Cemeteries in Conecuh County

This past August I suggested to our readers to submit entries for an 'earliest marked grave' contest based on information from previous columns, records from our library archives & databases they might be familiar with. With this suggestion, I did receive quite a bit of new information regarding 'hidden away' cemeteries I was heretofore unfamiliar with. Thanks to all of you who have shared with me stories handed down from your ancestors regarding some of the earliest known burial places in and around Conecuh and AL. Though we didn't receive any information regarding earliest marked graves, we have gotten quite a number of tips on the cemeteries themselves. We want to extend our quest for the earliest marked graves within the boundaries of Conecuh, so you now have till spring 2008 to submit a marked grave. Some of our timber and conservation officers are now in the woods on a more regular basis, and may stumble across some unknown cemetery. I want to encourage you all to let me know when you find these cemeteries, graves, or other historical sites otherwise unknown to preservationists.

The Forks of Sepulga area was a well populated area in the early settlement years of Conecuh. Many of the families who settled our communities were neighbors first in places like Edgefield District, SC; Craven County, NC; GA or VA and these folks would move into AL after the new territory opened up more to settlers migrating south. There are many earlier cemeteries tucked in and among the canebrakes along the forks of the Sepulga River, many of them swallowed by the river long ago. If you're looking for an ancestors' final burial place and having trouble locating it, you might want to look around the 'neighborhood' and see where some of their neighbors were laid to rest. Families might not always have had the monies or resources to provide their loved one with a headstone; marking the burial spot with native stone, simple brick or all that might be left is a piece of iron from an old wagon wheel.

To learn how to locate, identify or research cemeteries, visit your local genealogical department at the Evergreen Public Library at 119 Cemetery Avenue in downtown Evergreen Monday thru Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM and on Saturday mornings, from 9 AM to Noon.