

Written In Stone

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Chitty / Joyner Cemetery

Transportation throughout Conecuh County in the early days was difficult at best; with major roadbeds being cut from traditional horse-trading paths; stagecoach routes; plank roads; and mail routes between the towns and trading posts.

Folks settling the many different points of Conecuh from the NE to the NW; from the SE to the SW; and everywhere in between; had at best a wagon trail leading from church to school to store to home. These early settlers of our county farmed the lands, managed the businesses in their communities; attended church and school; and most times buried their dead just yards away from their homes, as community cemetery plots were practically un-heard of. When the county fathers realized that better transportation for these residents was needed, they heeded the call and began to bargain with the land owners about appropriating land for roadways. Many times, the new roadbed would cut right through the farmland; and later, they would cut through where old, abandoned family cemeteries once were. If there were no descendants left to tell the road crew where the cemetery actually lay, many times, the early workers would literally and unknowingly, dig up those who had been buried many years ago.

A cemetery out on CR 29, just a few miles south of Concord Cemetery, is an example of this. It is known as the Chitty/Joyner Cemetery, and today, it's on a little rise, surrounded by a chain link enclosure, with only four markers present. According to history, this cemetery once was much larger, spread across where the road now leads to Mixonville. There is one large marker for George Chitty, who was born 30 Nov 1848 and died 19 Nov 1909. Beside him lies his wife, Catherine Reid Chitty, no dates available for birth or death. From marriage records, we have their date of marriage as 9 Feb 1871. On the other side of George, there lies their daughter, Nannie T. and her husband, Zack T. Joyner. For Catherine, Nannie and Zack, just a piece of metal with their names inscribed identify who they are. Death records indicate that Nannie and Zack lived at RFD 1, Garland; and that Nannie died at age 46 from Lobar Pneumonia and was buried at Chitty Cemetery. From the Conecuh County Marriage Records, we find that Zack and Nannie were married 6 Apr 1906.

Perhaps there were more Chitty, Joyner/Joiner, Reid families buried in the original cemetery and their allied families who settled in that northern half of Conecuh County on the forks of the Sepulga River. We must now depend on family records to find out if there were others from those families. If you have information about this cemetery, let us know. If you have records of family cemeteries on your property, please help us to locate and document them. Call me at (251) 578-2670 or email at canebrakesociety@yahoo.com