

# Written In Stone

*By Sherry Johnston*

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## Old Middleton Cemetery

There are numerous accounts in both Alabama history books and the library archives about the Ogly/Ogley Massacre and the subsequent Old Middleton Cemetery. This burial ground is located in Range 11 East of Township 9 North, Section 22, along the Old Federal Road on the Conecuh and Monroe County line.

This cemetery plays an important part in the history of Conecuh and Monroe Counties; and the hostilities between the Native Americans and the white settlers. Over 30 burials exist in this cemetery, along with many others of African American race, buried and lost in time; as there were few known records kept. The story of Eli Stroud and the Ogly Family lives on in the history books; and there are records which show how the land for the cemetery was acquired by the Middleton Family from Mr. Eli Stroud, whose wife and daughters were either scalped, killed or left for dead in this horrific tragedy of 1818. The only known survivors were Mr. Stroud, his friend's wife, Mrs. Ogly and a Stroud daughter. In the Alabama Historical Quarterly, it states that three soldiers who, having been ordered to go investigate the attack on the Ogly Homestead, also lost their lives in an ensuing battle with the natives.

Mr. Eli Stroud, 17 years old at the time of his marriage to Elizabeth Derbin/Durbin, both of GA, moved to Conecuh County (then Monroe County) about 1810, before the hostilities between the whites and Indians began to escalate. They built their log cabin in the wilderness beside the wigwams of the natives, feeling safe for awhile. However, when militias were being formed, fearing for the safety of his wife and daughters, Eli placed his family with Mr. & Mrs. Ogly. On one of his visits with his family, the entire homestead was attacked by the Indians, many losing their lives, and subsequent uprisings occurred as a result of this horrible massacre. The Ogly/Ogley Homestead was located about 6 miles southeast of the Old Texas Community. Today, this cemetery is marked by a few headstones, a marker signifying the loss of Eli's wife, Elizabeth; a daughter; and many others who either lived in the area or were descendants of earlier pioneer families. A marker placed by the Bedsole Foundation, Monroe County Heritage Museums, can also be found here at the Old Middleton Family Cemetery. Some of the family names you might find here include, Anderson, Allen, Driscoll, Gasky, Hayes, McNeil, Middleton and Stroud. There were four daughters of Cecil and Myra Hayes buried together; no dates for deaths; as well as the graves of three known Confederate soldiers: C. P. Anderson, Matthew Anderson, and John G. Middleton.

If interested in learning more about this historic cemetery or the families interred here, please visit the Lucy C. Warren Heritage Section of the Evergreen Public Library.