

# Written In Stone

*By Sherry Johnston*

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## **BarlowCemetery – MurphyCemetery – Piggotte Family Cemetery**

Since last week's column, new information has been received regarding three family cemeteries previously unknown or un-plotted. Two of these have been transcribed in the past; however, their exact location remained unknown and inaccessible to many. Efforts are now underway to correct this and begin clean-up and restoration. These three cemeteries located at or near old family home places, were known only to descendants who either had the information recorded in family Bibles or handed down through the generations in family stories.

Many families buried their dead near their old family home; and when they moved away or died away, records were lost as to the exact burial sites. Subsequent owners, sometimes unknowingly, cultivated the fields; completely obliterating any proof a site was ever present.

Two of the three cemeteries are known to be in the Old Town community; one of the earliest towns or villages in Conecuh County. Old Town was the site of an ancient Indian village where tribal councils were held each year for the Native American tribes that inhabited this part of the South. I am sure there are unknown Indian Burial grounds out there near the Old Flag Tree site; however, little records exist today to help us identify those.

Barlow Cemetery, listed as #14-SE in the Historic AL Cemetery Atlas; in the Conecuh Headstones, Vol. II as in T5N, R12E, S13 lists only one interment of a John Barlow with no dates given. Family records indicate that this cemetery might hold more than just Mr. John; and we're working with family members to ascertain this information; to locate and document this previously uncertain location cemetery.

Murphy Cemetery near the Old Town/Herbert communities is another one of Uncertain Location, in T5N, R12E. It is said to be located on what was known as Murphy Hill; where the earlier Murphy families once lived. No visible signs of this cemetery exist today.

Piggotte Family Cemetery is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  NW of Concord Cemetery off CR29 in the Fork of the Sepulga area in northern Conecuh County. The land description has it in T8N, R11E. James Cook born ca. 1813 SC, married Mazella Piggotte, was a Drummer in the Creek Indian War, died ca. 1904 near Garland, Butler County, and was buried in the Piggotte Cemetery. Others known to be buried here are family members of the Wright, Pinkerton, Little, Cook, and others of this once-bustling community. Efforts are presently underway to gain access to this cemetery; to survey, clean, and restore it.

Please continue to contact me with information about your family cemeteries. Email me at [canbrakesociety@yahoo.com](mailto:canbrakesociety@yahoo.com) or call me at (251) 578-2670.