

# Written In Stone

*By Sherry Johnston*

Evergreen Courant ~ 05 October 2006

## Holland Cemetery

Early settlers of the Castleberry area included the Baggett, Burnett, Castleberry, Davis, Green and Holland families and many others. Visiting the Holland Cemetery on US 31 South in Castleberry, underneath the tall evergreen pines, you will come across descendants of these families as well as many others. You will find simple wooden crosses; elaborate marble headstones; etched granite markers; and plain concrete slabs inscribed with hand-written lettering. There are families grouped together under a canopy of dogwood, cedar and crepe myrtle trees standing guard over those resting in an eternal sleep.

The Holland Cemetery is located in Township 4 North, Range 10 East, Section 25 and in the Historical Atlas of Alabama Cemeteries, it is listed as #95-SW. The Conecuh Headstone Book, Volume II lists approximately seventy-two graves, with at least a dozen or so unmarked ones. The earliest known recorded grave marker belongs to Richard T. Holland, who died in September of 1920. He married Ada B. Castleberry on the 11<sup>th</sup> of Nov. 1891 and she passed away in 1958.

This past Sunday, at least fifteen or more newer graves were observed since the publication of our cemetery books. Placed throughout this serene cemetery, one will find several benches where family members can sit and meditate among the spiritual presence of their loved ones. The cemetery is well taken care of; with grass mown and errant branches trimmed. As in every cemetery, there are always items to tend to and I'm sure that as the weather cools off a bit, we tend to get a little more industrious and will take more time in preserving and maintaining our cemeteries better. If you would like more information about the steps needed to clean a cemetery, please contact me at (251) 578-2670 or email me at [canebrakesociety@yahoo.com](mailto:canebrakesociety@yahoo.com)