

Written In Stone

By Sherry Johnston

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Buffington Cemetery

Buffington Cemetery is one of the few cemeteries in Conecuh County which is maintained by a perpetual cemetery care fund established by descendants for whom the cemetery is named. Buffington Cemetery is located in Township 4 North, Range 10 East, Section 23, in Castleberry, AL beside the Conecuh County Junior High School on County Road # 6. In the Alabama Atlas of Cemetery Locations by County, this cemetery is listed as # 94-SW, with the first known interment to be Julia B. Buffington, daughter of Thomas A. & Annie Trice Castleberry Buffington. Julia was born April 27, 1869 and died at the tender age of 2 years old on June 20, 1871. Today, there are well over 655 graves in this cemetery, many of which are directly descended from the pioneer families that settled early Conecuh County and Castleberry, AL.

The Buffington Cemetery, named after the Buffington Family of Castleberry, continues to be maintained by a perpetual care fund set up by the late John Victor Buffington, Sr. who passed away on May 12, 2002 and was laid to rest beside his childhood sweetheart and wife of 66 years, Patricia "Patty" Messer Buffington. A beautiful brick wall was also donated to the cemetery by the Buffington Family. Concrete paved walkways, a paved driveway and beautiful landscaped lawn create a beautiful walk among those in eternal sleep at this unique community cemetery.

Mr. Jim Garrett, of Orlando FL has done some extensive transcriptions of those who are interred in this cemetery. He has photographed many of the gravestones; transcribed the inscriptions; and gathered much family data on those families who have ancestors buried at Buffington. He donated copies of his work to the Evergreen Public Library and continues to keep us updated on newer burials at Buffington. He developed a website and it can be viewed at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~buffington/> if you're interested in seeing what he's created.

If more families and organizations, churches, communities would form a perpetual care fund, or cemetery association, many of our cemeteries could be preserved for future generations. If you're interested in how to organize such an association or fund, please contact me at canbrakesociety@yahoo.com or call me at (251) 578-2670.