

# Written In Stone

*By Sherry Johnston*

*Evergreen Courant ~ 26 October 2006*

## Herbert Cemetery

The Oxford Dictionary defines a 'ghost town' as a community that is in a state of abandonment or partial abandonment. Wikipedia Encyclopedia describes a ghost town as a town that has been abandoned, usually because the economic activity that supported it has failed or because of natural or human-caused disasters. Factors leading to abandonment of towns include natural resources such as water no longer being available, railroads and highways bypassing or no longer accessing the town, shifting economic activity elsewhere.

All of these can apply to towns, villages or country communities in AL and Conecuh County. Watching Westerns on television, images of a western ghost town come to mind, when in reality, all we have to do is explore the country crossroads surrounding us.

In the late 1800's, Herbert was a bustling village — a country community that boasted two doctors, a dentist, ginney, garage, a barber, post office, two story school with Masonic Hall, and a Methodist Church. Timber and farming was the watchword for many of the early settlers of Herbert, with many of the original settlers migrating to Conecuh from SC, living in GA briefly before settling in Conecuh. Early family names include Adams, Deer, Harper, Hudson, King, Mancill, Shaver, Murphy and Wiggins.

When the school was torn down, many of the materials were salvaged and used to build a community center. The center was the meeting place for suppers and singings through the 50-70's. The Community Center is located just off of US 84 East, seen from the busy roadway near the Herbert Cemetery, also known as the Friendship Church Cemetery.

Many well-known community leaders and their descendants lie in this cemetery; some of which include the much loved country physician, Dr. W.B. Shaver, his wife, Martha Ann Thomas Shaver, and other family members. Many of these people were sons, daughters, children, grandparents, service men and women, physicians, farmers, teachers — some known and some not known. One that lies in the cemetery is a younger brother to William Barrett Travis, Hero of the Alamo; and many others who once called Herbert home.

Today, there is a scattering of homes and families within the boundaries of what we once knew as a strong community village. If you'd like to read more about this community, the cemetery or Conecuh, visit the Lucy C. Warren Heritage Section of the Evergreen Public Library. We have a partial listing of those who are interred in the cemetery, as well as some family files and books about the area.