

Written In Stone

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Booker Cemetery

When settlers started arriving in AL on foot or horseback, many of them traveled the old Indian trails or footpaths. By 1811, the first improved road, known as "The Old Federal Road," came from GA thru AL. Originally, this road was known as a "horse path", the U.S. gov'n't got the Creek Nation to give permission for a 'horse path' thru the Creek Nation. This 'horse path' followed two well-known Indian trails, the "Chiaha Alibamo Trail" (near present-day Montgomery, AL) and the famous "Old Wolf Trail". Burnt Corn is situated on the "Old Wolf Trail". Another trail or road that became known was the Lone Star Road.

Settlers migrated to the area in wagons, oxcarts, horseback, pulling hogsheads containing household goods, covered wagons, and in stagecoaches. Many of the old relay stations began as stagecoach stops, and one still exists along the road today, though tumbling down from decay. Not too far off the Old Federal Road, the boundary between Monroe, Conecuh Wilcox & Butler Counties, one finds many old home places and cemeteries. Families migrating here would settle down, creating their own nucleus of families, starting churches, schools and communities.

The Booker Cemetery was established about 1850 with the first burial being that of Mary Booker, the daughter of William and Martha Booker. According to her simple headstone, she passed away in 1851. The cemetery, also known as the Lone Star Booker Family Cemetery, is off of Monroe County Road #9, about ¼ mile NW of the Lone Star Church in Township 8 North, Range 9 East, Section 13. According to the Alabama Atlas of Cemeteries by Location, this cemetery is listed as #134-NE. Families known to be buried here also includes Cook, Harp, McClammy, McPherson and Raines.

Amid the giant oak trees are the gravesites of these families; many of them are children; twelve known to be the infant children of Warren E. & Gatsy Raines, dying in infancy, with only one living to be a teen. Three Confederate soldiers are buried here; with military markers signifying their service in the WBTS. William Barnett Booker was the first person to have a Masonic funeral at this cemetery in 1891. Willis Booker was hung by Union soldiers; yet lived to tell his story only to die later from injuries sustained from the hanging. Warren Thomas Raines died from measles & pneumonia, while in service, in North AL. One young child, Gedie Booker, was killed when a horse stepped on him and he lies beneath the giant oaks. A pastor of the Lone Star Church was accidentally killed by his brother-in-law, and he and his wife occupy a place of honor at the north end of the cemetery. He was Manning Kaleb Harp and wife, Martha J. Booker Harp. There are many others buried in this old family cemetery, with origin from England in the early 1500's; coming first to NC, VA & then settling in AL. Today, many of their descendants have raised their families in the Lone Star Community, and have been leading citizens of our community just like their forefathers before them.