

Written In Stone

By Sherry Johnston

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Lee Cemetery

The Historical Atlas of AL, Vol. # 2, Cemetery Locations by County places one Lee Cemetery in Conecuh as # 126-NW in T7N, R9E, S26, with approximately 30 marked and 10 unmarked graves. The cemetery lies underneath a dense canopy of towering pines, large oaks, and is enclosed by an old fence, with its' gate missing. Several old stones piled in one corner either indicates an old burial site, or possibly where some old evergreens could have been planted. Two iron markers stand upright like sentinels guarding the place, no identification of the ones buried there. Markers of various stone, marble and masonry are still standing after nearly 200 years, with the earliest known burial happening around 1836. Elaborate box tombs, table-top slabs inscribed with beautiful epitaphs, iron headstones, marble obelisks, and a Woodmen of the World Memorial Circle Marker, along with flowery script markers inscribed with dates, and names of those lying undisturbed, all attesting to the wealth of one of the first families of Conecuh.

This cemetery represents the Joel Lee Family of Burnt Corn, AL, one of the first families to set foot on what would become Conecuh soil. Other families arriving in Conecuh & Monroe about this time included Betts, Grace, Green, Jones, Kyser, Longmire, Salter, Waldrom, Warren and others.

Joel Lee, Esq., born Johnston Co., NC 4 Jan 1773, married Media Lassiter, of Sampson Co., NC abt. 1795. To this union were born 10 children, nine of which were born before they reached Conecuh; the tenth child, a son, born in Conecuh. Joel Lee chose as his home a parcel of land 3 miles from Burnt Corn, located near the Belleville to Burnt Corn Road. Today, this family cemetery and land sits on Lowery Trust Property, protected from timber development by the Trust. Joel Lee, in his day, was an active member of both his community government and his faith; having been appointed by then Gov. William Bibb to be Conecuh's first Justice of the Peace; and serving as a Deacon at Old Bethany Baptist Church for many years. Three of his sons became men of the gospel.

Another family that is buried here is that of the J.M. Nored family; an elaborate marker for his widow and a marble obelisk for him. Two sons, Minne, born 1871 and died 1874; and Charlie born 1903 & died 1904 also rest near their parents, at the base of the trees surrounding the cemetery. A Dr. John Miller, died at the age of 37 years in 1840; and also the graves of Sarah Waldrom, born 1797-died 1851; and Lucinda Waldrom, born 1832-died 1847, lie undisturbed among the fallen blanket of pine needles, leaves, and decay. Young and old; these early citizens of Conecuh, lost loved ones early; and late; all buried with dignity & grace within a mile of their home where they too once celebrated a Christmas. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas, and hope you will visit your family cemetery during the Holidays.