

Written In Stone

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Salter Cemetery

The earliest towns in Conecuh were located along the Federal Road; serving as relay stations for the stagecoaches traveling through. Many of our earliest roads were nothing more than Indian trails or trading paths, with the Stagecoach Road or Federal Road being the main thoroughfare between GA and the western towns such as our own Burnt Corn, which today we recognize the Federal Road as being CR5. Burnt Corn existed as early as 1806 when the Federal Road Project was first initiated.

Early settlers usually constructed their homes near the road, if not directly on it; and subsequently, the family burial grounds were usually just a few feet away from the sites of the original homesteads.

In an old family cemetery down a few dusty roads near Burnt Corn, some of the earliest descendants of a prominent pioneer family lie in eternal rest beneath the spreading branches of a majestic magnolia tree. There are only a dozen or so marked graves within this well-kept, fenced cemetery off CR 4 in T 7N, R 10E. Lying just outside the fence, looking more like a debris-filled gully, is the old roadbed known as the old Stagecoach Road.

Known locally as the Old Salter Family Cemetery, aka Powell-Salter Burial Grounds, there are as many unmarked graves as there are marked ones. According to a descendant, Mr. Bernard Powell, there were probably more that were plowed up when the land was tilled many decades ago. The earliest known grave belongs to William, a son of J. H. & S.D. Salter, who died in August 1886. There are many families associated with this cemetery, some of which include names like Booker, Deplouse, Grace, House, including Powell and Salter. The latest known grave belongs to Mr. O. C. "Geary" Powell, who passed away in October of 2003. Prior to his death, he came to the library one day to make sure that I knew this cemetery existed, because he wanted me to know where his final resting place would be. This past December, thanks to Mr. Bernard Powell, I finally visited his grave and saw that, indeed, he is buried underneath the sheltering arms of that old magnolia beside his beloved friend, "Peanut".