

Written In Stone

By Sherry Johnston

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Amerson Cemetery

The Amerson Cemetery, located in Section 11, Township 6 North, Range 12 East, is one of those cemeteries which was possibly destroyed by agricultural activities 50 years or so ago. According to a descendant, it is listed incorrectly in both the Conecuh Heritage Book and the Alabama Atlas of Historic Cemeteries as being in Section 13. It is listed as not plotted, in an uncertain location in the Flat Rock Community. The Atlas & the Headstone Book state that it is an unmarked cemetery containing a Creek Indian, his wife and children; the cemetery is virtually lost due to agricultural development.

Without the family history, one cannot discern the names of those buried there, nor when they passed away and were buried in the cemetery. However, Mrs. Lucille (Peacock) Hyde stated in May 1981 that William Amerson, his two wives, three children and a son, Thomas Amerson, are all known to have been buried in this family cemetery.

Tracing the Amerson/Amason Family, it would appear that they moved to Conecuh County in the mid 1800's from GA, with the head of the household listed as being born in NC with the wife born in GA and most of the children are listed as being born in AL. Sandy Nigh, a researcher for the Amason/Amerson Family website of <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/amasonamerson/> suggests that for the years of 1830-1930 branches of this family can be found in the AL counties of Baldwin, Butler, Conecuh, Escambia & Monroe. William Amason/Amerson, born c. 1788, NC, died 1860-1870 probably in Conecuh County and is reported to have been buried on his old home site. He married the first time prior to 1812 in GA; and then moved his family to AL and eventually to Conecuh County. The earliest I have found William and wife, Rhoda are in the 1850 Conecuh Census, with 6 children and they lived near the Family of Chandler Lynch, close to the Sepulga River near what we call today as Flat Rock Fjord.

In the 1860 Census, there are many more families of Amason/Amerson; a Green Amason is a Constable, born in GA and his wife and children all born in AL—their neighbors are the Morrow, Deer, and Brown families of Gravella & Old Town. I have found in the 1866 Census in Township 6 North, Range 12 East a William Amerson, over 20, living alone; next to a Rhoda Amerson, with 2 females over 20, 1 female under 10; 1 male under 10 and 1 over 20 with a total of 5 in the house-hold. As of 1870, I begin to find the children of Rhoda and William living with siblings who have since married and started households of their own. The Amerson family members married into the families of Joiner, Jones, Linam, Hall, Deason, Hardee, Barlow, Covin and Peacock, as well as others in the communities of Gravella (Owassa); Flat Rock; and Old Town.

One begins to see the neighboring families who stayed for an entire lifetime in one area, marrying their neighbor's children, while others in their line moved away from Conecuh, perhaps forgetting about the old home and family burial grounds. A descendant out in CA often reads our Written in Stone column,

bringing to my attention how we needed to remember the Amerson Family and the impact they made upon the lives of those who still call Conecuh home.