

# Written In Stone

*By Sherry Johnston*

Evergreen Courant ~ 15 February 2007

## Oak Grove Cemetery

Oak Grove Baptist Church, US84 West at Repton, was organized about 1902. The adjoining cemetery had its' first interment with the death in 1910 of Mr. William H. Ballard, a Confederate veteran. Ballard served in Co. "E", 23<sup>rd</sup> AL Infantry-Conecuh Guards. He was born Aug. 1838 and died Nov. 1910.

The cemetery is listed as #40-SW in "Historical Atlas of AL-Cemeteries Locations by County" in S8, T5N, and R9E. Approximately 140 + graves were recorded in 1981 by the late Mildred McInnis Sasser, a descendant of the early families. Just this past year, Mildred was laid to rest among her family members, including husband Jack and eldest son, Joe.

Had it not been for Aunt Mildred relating to me the various family ties, I might not have connected several generations of these early settlers to Conecuh.

Reading the headstones in this neat, well-maintained cemetery, you'll find the names of Ballard, Brantley, Burt, Grant, Gulley, Ivey, McInnis, Salter, Sasser and others. Families through marriages and births intertwined in the fabric of life, reminding me of this poem, which reads in part: "...families are like quilts, their lives pieced together, stitched with smiles and tears, colored with memories, and bound by love."

There are several veterans, Confederate, WWI & II, Viet Nam and others lying in honor at Oak Grove. Sons, daughters, fathers and mothers, some marked and some unmarked. If you have loved ones who have been buried since 1986 at Oak Grove or any other cemetery in Conecuh, please notify me as I am updating Conecuh burial records.