

# Written In Stone

*By Sherry Johnston*

*Evergreen Courant ~ 24 May 2007*

## **Saints Cemetery – Part II**

The families of the Flat Rock community were a close-knit group: attending church services together, celebrating marriages & births, gathering in sorrow when friends, neighbors, and loved ones passed away. They farmed the land together, side by side, helping when the barn needed raising, the roof patching or the beans needed picking. They car-pooled before that was a term—to work in neighboring towns or to the woods in either the logging or turpentine industry prevalent in the area.

Their children played & attended school together; dated and wed each other; and their parents swapped stories; weather predictions; and recipes. Unlike today, when we depend on the internet to tell us our news, these families sat on their porches and hollered across the way to each other; or stood at the clothesline chatting about one thing or another. We text message and call on our cell phones today, where the folks in rural America listened in on their party-lines to catch up on the latest happenings in the community. Their ‘chat rooms’ were more basic, and meant more than ones our younger generation is familiar with today. A simpler time, made twice as hard by the lack of those ‘necessities’ we all take for granted today.

The Peacock line married into the Amerson, the Diamond, the Waller, the McClendon, the Hall, and Johnson lines—you will find these folks buried in the Saints Cemetery at Flat Rock along with many others. Some are in family burial plots, others appear to be alone but for another one down the way with the same surname; or else they sit side by side with “Mother” or “Father” or other identification showing who they were. The Quates and the Quinley, the Hobbs and the Lynch, the Wiggins, all of these still have descendants who live in the same community, some returning after many years heeding the ‘call of the Sepulga’ and retiring here. We welcome them back into the community, where one day, they too will lie among their ancestors in the Saints Cemetery.