

Written In Stone

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King Cemetery

Exploring along the riverbanks of the Sepulga River which meanders throughout the entire county, one can see the direct correlation between man and the resources found in the land. The Sepulga though used today primarily as recreation, was once known as transportation for the development of our primary resource: timber. Old Town, Flat Rock, Owassa and Brownville were all communities that worked the land, whether it was through forest or field. Still today, one can see the prettiest and healthiest gardens in these areas where generations have known how to work the land.

In the SE portion of AL, just north of the Florida line, along the Georgia line, many early pioneers traveled looking for land such as ours. In its' early history, there were many changes afoot: Spain lost control of West FL to Indians, outlaws and others in the early 1800's; and ceded these lands to the US in 1819. Monroe and Conecuh became a county even before AL became a state. In 1820, much of Conecuh comprised the southeast sections of AL all the way to the GA line. Today, this area is known as Henry, Dale, Coffee, Crenshaw and other SE counties.

Dale County was organized in 1824; Coffee in 1841; and Geneva in 1868; with many of our early AL settlers traveling the plank, post and Indian trails into the forested lands of our Conecuh. West FL had become an AL Territory about 1822; but didn't become a state until 1845; and during this period, lawlessness continued with skirmishes among the Indians, AL & GA militias.

This section of AL was not a very healthy place to live or raise a family, as doctors were few and far between. Diseases like malaria, yellow & typhoid fever, pellagra, and the largest killer in that era was consumption or as we know it today: Tuberculosis or TB.

TB would follow many of these families from Dale County into Conecuh leaving many families stricken with sorrow and heartbreak for years to come.

Along US 31 North, down a dirt road known today as King Cemetery Road, you will find the old King Family Cemetery, which was established about 1890 according to a marker. John Mason King, born in Dale County about 1842, came to Conecuh by way of Dale, Coffee and Covington Counties; enlisting in the Army in 1862 at Old Town. After 3 years of service, he walked back to Conecuh from NC along with many other veterans, three of which would become his brothers-in-law. In 1879, he homesteaded 160 acres near Flat Rock along the Sepulga River. This land helped these families become self-sufficient, with clothing and other household needs made on the farm. King was a true entrepreneur working the land through timber, farming, and lumber; later opening a store called "Kings-Grab-It". Near the store, John set up a family cemetery and built a small chapel which stood for many years, though gone now, the cemetery is still in use by descendants of the families that settled the area. Next week, we'll talk about some of the other families that are interred in this lovely little cemetery hidden away in the scrubby pines and pin oaks.