

Written In Stone

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Robinson Family Cemetery – Part I

Foreword: Over the next few columns, we will introduce you to the Robinson Family Cemetery near Brooklyn.

Brooklyn, Alabama's Robinson Family Saga begins in the village of Brooklyn CT about 1797 with the birth of Edwin Robinson to Vine & Darcas C. Robinson. The 3rd of 5 children, young Edwin excelled at his studies, earning a certificate to teach at age 17. He taught school, worked the family farm, and dreamed of adventure!

In the fall of 1818, he accompanied his eldest brother, Gurdon, to Claiborne in the Alabama Territory where the latter planned to open a dry goods store. Setting sail from NY, the brothers endured stormy seas, thievery, & a shipwreck before landing in the Port of Mobile in early December. Young Edwin then walked to Claiborne, reaching it after 4 days through swamps & dense forests. His classmate, Ephraim Houghton, joined him in his travels, eventually forming a partnership with young Edwin at Murder Creek in Conecuh County near the place later called Hampden. Ephraim practiced medicine & Edwin minded the store, remaining there till about 1821. In 1820, Edwin had married Amelia F. Hart, the daughter of Benjamin & Margaret Hart, natives of SC, living at Belleville. In the summer of 1821, Edwin again went exploring, this time along the banks of the Sepulga, discovering an unsettled area near the beautiful falls of the river. After the birth of their firstborn son, Julius Gurdon, he packed up his family, settling an area he named Brooklyn in honor of his CT home. He was soon joined by his in-laws, forming a mercantile establishment with Amelia's brother, James Hart.

About 1827, Gurdon Robinson, the brother at Claiborne encouraged Edwin to purchase a steam sawmill. About 1828, Edwin sold his property in Brooklyn, bought the mill and moved his family to Mobile. Tragedy struck the family there, and eventually after the death of his wife, and youngest child in 1831, having suffered the loss of three others, Edwin and Julius went back to CT.

In 1841-42, Julius G. Robinson returned to his native AL. His grandfather, Benjamin Hart and Uncle James assisted Julius in opening a dry goods store in Brooklyn. He served as Postmaster at Brooklyn many years; married in 1843 to Margaret Matilda Bradley, daughter of James Harvey & Margaret Matilda Bradley. Young Margaret was heir to the large estate known as the Bradley Plantation in Covington County; and at her marriage to Julius, was one of the wealthiest persons in the county. Julius & Margaret continued to live at Brooklyn, with him overseeing her property in Covington County.