

Written In Stone

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Brooklyn Baptist Church Cemetery – Part I

The Brooklyn Baptist Church is one of the oldest established churches in Conecuh County. The organization of this historic house of worship dates back to October 1821 when Elder Alexander Travis was pastor of the church. The original structure was a rough log cabin, used both as a school and a union church for the early settlers to Brooklyn. Rev. B.F. Riley, in his book on the '*History of Conecuh County*' states that Elder Travis organized the church and served longer than any succeeding pastor. Ministers taking part in the original ordination service of the church included Travis, a Mr. Sessions, and Noah Parker. The first church clerk was a Mr. Campbell.

Earlier church records were lost, and succeeding members were dependent on the elder members and families of Brooklyn to 'fill in the gaps' of the church's history. The earliest settlers of Brooklyn included many of the names found on the existing church rolls. In 1841, the first known burial in Brooklyn was identified as that of Stephen Floyd. This information is recorded in *Conecuh County Headstones, Vol. 2*; as well as the *Historical Atlas of AL: Cemeteries by Location*.

It wasn't until Sept. 1860 that Mr. Eli Hirschfelder conveyed 3 acres of land for the sum of \$15 to Charles Floyd. It would appear that Charles Floyd gave the lot for the church and school, with the earliest grave being Stephen Floyd, in Brooklyn Baptist Church Cemetery.

There are several unmarked graves which could possibly pre-date this cemetery to the time of young Stephen's death or even before that. Many of the early Floyd family members are buried in this cemetery, near Stephen's grave with equally early dates such as 1851, 1852, 1854 and 1862. As early as 1837, 40.05 acres of land was purchased at the Sparta Land Office by a Charles Floyd. Following that purchase, he also got a little over 39 acres in 1839; with land purchases in 1841 and 1845. The NWSW section 31 of Township 4, Range 13 could possibly include land on which the cemetery now lies, purchased in 1845, and includes 40.11 acres.

Next time, we'll explore some of the other family names one finds in this historic cemetery in Brooklyn.