

Written In Stone

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Melrose Cemetery – Part II

Melrose, AL is situated 18 miles southeast of Evergreen and some 25 miles west of Andalusia. It's a sleepy, still forested, farming community where old southern traditions of hospitality, concern for others, and the spirit of family have kept this community alive through several generations.

At one time, Melrose boasted a millinery shop, black smith, school and store containing the post office. The nearest P.O. listed was named "Braze" Post Office; though nothing remains of that site today. Farming was the occupation of the day unless one was employed by one of the previously named businesses.

Most of the plantations surrounding the community were comprised of 800+ acres; with plantation owners churning out fluffy bales of cotton, tobacco, peanuts and then, corn as their precious commodity. In the old days, hefty bales of cotton were transported downriver by flat boat to Pensacola, with manpower supplying the energy. Timber was also the norm of the day, with the same type of power manning rafts of logs, some 6-8 ft. long and 12 ft. wide.

The Melrose Cemetery is an African American cemetery, with descendants of the Amos, Holmes, Jones, McFerguson, Samuel, and Thomas families buried here. Some attended churches in the Brooklyn, Pleasant Hill, Sandy Grove, Sepulga communities. One family in particular was the Samuel Family, with connections to the Melrose community from the mid 1800's all the way to present day. Looking through the telephone directory today, one finds just as many Samuel names as there once were in the early Conecuh censuses. Thomas is another name prevalent in the same general area, with many of those names found in the cemetery alongside those of the others mentioned.

Prince Samuel, was 45 years old in the 1910 Conecuh Census, with wife, Sarah at age 42, and their children included: Sanford, age 22; Julia, age 18; Charlie, age 16; Jeppie, age 13; Eason, age 11; and Willie May, age 8. They lived in the Brooklyn area of Conecuh. Sanford was born abt. 1888 and his family is listed on the 1920 & 1930 Censuses; with many of his children buried at Melrose. You will find a listing of those buried here with various spellings of Amos, Ammous, Amous as well as Ammons. The Jones and Samuel names appear to have married into families, as well as Thomas, Holmes and Parker. For more information on this cemetery, the families interred here or any other cemetery in the county, contact the Evergreen Public Library at 251.578.2670.