

# Written In Stone

*By Sherry Johnston*

*Evergreen Courant ~ 10 January 2008*

## Grace Mission Cemetery

Traveling north on AL 83 approximately 9 1/2 miles from Evergreen on the left side of the road is a small African American cemetery with ties to the Grace Family Cemetery. This cemetery is locally known to family researchers as Grace Mission Cemetery, and within this small burial ground, you will find about 44 graves with family names of Evans, Fountain, Johnson, Kyser, Lee and Rankins.

The cemetery is located in a small clearing just opposite the site of the old Lyeffion Saddle Club Arena, with an old oak and cedar tree outlining the drive into the cemetery. There are about 6 rows of graves, many unmarked and several marked ones. The earliest graves appear to belong to John G. Evans and possibly Asters Evans. These slabs seem to be made of a concrete and gravel composite with the names etched into the slab very unevenly, so it's nearly illegible to make out the names and dates. The wife of 'Asters' Evans is at his foot, though she has no slab, a slanted stone indicates she was Minnie L. married to Mr. Asters Evans. There are several WWI and WWII veterans buried here in this cemetery, with Al J. Lee; Ben Evans, Tom Evans and Pompey Evans designated with military markers. The last known grave belongs to June Evans Stewart, giving her 'sunrise' as 1933 and her 'sunset' as 2006.

I'd like to encourage the descendants to dignify this cemetery with a simple sign or marker to remember their loved ones; and also if they have further information about those who are buried here to submit it to me for inclusion in the Historic Register for the State of Alabama. Cemeteries which are at least 40 years old can qualify for registration on the AHC Register; as well as all cemeteries need to be identified in the county for inclusion in our records. For more information on how to record a cemetery, please check your local library for forms and registration information. Contact Sherry S. Johnston at (251) 578-2670.