

# Written In Stone

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## **Spence Family Cemetery ~ Part I**

In researching historic cemeteries to write about, I'm always 'on the prowl' for information pertaining to the burial places of your ancestors. I spend a lot of time reading family histories, obituaries, death records, and listen to our community elders talking about the places where I might find a graveyard. A couple of folks, genealogy students in my classes, have joined me in this quest lately, and coffee hour talk has turned to 'have you checked section\_\_\_' or have you gone to 'such and such field' or talked to 'so and so'. Eventually, one hopes to have that 'eureka' moment and discover a plot of land that no one else has seen for awhile or ever in that person's lifetime!

According to the Alabama Atlas of Cemeteries by Location, the Spence Family Cemetery is located in T6N, R12E, S30, and is now on private property accessible only with permission granted by the landowner. There were at least 11 marked graves and several unmarked graves in the cemetery some years back with the first known interment being Daniel Spence (1851-1882) and the last one being Mary Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Till, of Butler County, Georgiana, AL who married L.D. Spence May 7 1899. Spence was the second son of Daniel and Amanda Spence. L.D. or Lewis Daniel was born 28 September 1875 and died 3 July 1939. L.D. and Lizzie had 11 children in all, 7 boys and 4 girls. Two of their infant sons died at birth, another one, named Daniel, died at age 5 years, 5 months in December 1906. Christmas was a sad affair at the Spence household that year, as this bright little boy was the apple of everyone's eye in the community. He was with his father, riding on the tongue of a timber cart, when he was thrown off, with the large wheels crushing him. The driver of the team expressed in the news article that he saw the little one fall, but not in time to save him from such a horrible death. Lizzie died in May 1921 and was laid to rest, close to her children and other family members, even those who settled here much earlier.

Next week, we'll talk about some of the other family members buried in the cemetery and how they fit in with the settlement of the Brownville Community.