

Written In Stone

By Sherry Johnston

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Spence Family Cemetery ~ Part II

According to a family history booklet written about the Daniel and Sarah Spence Family by Andrew Emmett Spence, Sr. the Spence Family immigrated to America from Great Britain. He suggested that Daniel and Sarah Spence moved to Conecuh County from Wayne County, NC in the 1830's along with his brother and family. They possibly traveled by oxen-pulled covered wagons, journeying over the mountainous regions, fording the rivers on home-made rafts, and finally arriving in Conecuh County, settling about 5 miles east of Evergreen. Daniel Spence is reported to have been born about 1811 in NC and wife, Sarah, in 1808. His brother and his family became dissatisfied with AL, moving back to NC, leaving Daniel and his family here. According to Mr. A.E. Spence, Sr., Daniel and Sarah lost two small children from burns and these children were buried in a field near their home. Some time after this, the little family bought a home from the Joyner family, moving into it and living there until their death. The Joyner's are reputedly buried in the west end of the Spence Family Cemetery on the old Spence place. The story goes that there were some healthy springs bubbling near this Joyner place, and because of the proximity of the springs, the Spence family relocated. There have been 8 or 9 sons named Daniel in the Spence family history; so creates a hardship sometimes for family researchers figuring out the right Daniel for the right time span.

The Spence family was no different from other families living in Conecuh or other parts of AL during this time; for they suffered with the loss of children to accidents, disease and battle. During the WBTS, Daniel Spence visited his two sons on the battlefield; and after this, he died from pneumonia. His two older sons, Timothy and Ingram, both served during the war. Timothy was killed near Richmond; and Ingram survived, though he was injured. In the 1870 Conecuh Census, Sarah Spence is a widow, with a daughter, Mary, age 24, who never married; another daughter, aged 16, named Sarah E., and a son called Daniel, age 19 years old. This young Daniel married Amanda McGraw; and both of them are interred in the Spence Family Cemetery; as well as Mary, his older, spinster sister who died sometime after her 75th year. Sarah, the younger sister was an invalid, and never walked, and both she and her mother passed away sometime after the 1880 census. They are also interred in the family cemetery.

For more information on this family, or if you have information about the cemetery, and possibly the Joyner family members buried there, please give me a call at (251) 578-2670 or email me at canebrakesociety@yahoo.com