

# Written In Stone

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## **Patrick Cemetery ~ Part I**

Star Route 83 is known locally as AL 83 North, or according to Wikipedia, an on-line encyclopedia, it's a 23 mile long route in Conecuh and Monroe Counties in the southern part of the state. Wikipedia states that the southern terminus of the route is the junction with highways 31 and 84 at Evergreen, with the northern terminus at State Route 47 in the un-incorporated community of Midway in Monroe County.

Traveling westward from VA, NC, SC and GA, settlers traveled across several plank and federally approved roads into AL, settling communities as they traveled, with many of these settlements at these junctions within our region.

This past Friday, a friend and I traveled AL 83 North towards Midway, and Lone Star, visiting cemeteries along the route, discovering some previously unknown to us. As we kept coming across names that crossed over into lines we were researching, I kept being reminded of the close-knit relationships of those who traveled from afar, married and raised families and stayed in the area, bringing two friends together some 200 years later. Who would have guessed that two individuals from some of these families would find so much in common so many years later?! We had a lot of fun, chatting and making discoveries together about these early families who shared joys, sorrows, laughter and such the same as we all do today. Neighbors helping neighbors, lending a hand when illness and death occurred, or when couples married or a new birth brought joy to the community. We explored the lands, the old homesteads, enjoyed the scenery passing us by, and smelled the fragrance of the dogwoods, azaleas, and old fashioned posies which often marked the old burial grounds found along the way. The churches gave proof that these families worshipped together; the long porches or dog-trots reiterated that families conversed with each other, sharing their lives with other family members, and neighbors.

Skinnerton, or Commerce and Activity, Prosperity, Lone Star, Midway, Turnbull, Riley's Crossing, Old Texas, or Simpkinsville—all these community names were important to our ancestors; as they were located along the old roads and trails they took to get here. One such cemetery we happened across was the Old Patrick Cemetery, which is located off AL 47 on Fig Tree Road. There were all kinds of headstones located in this historic cemetery, with the earliest marked grave that of 1878; including many older, fieldstone markers, as well as early stone ones as well. These families interred here came from SC early in the settlement of our two counties, and we'll talk about these early settlers and their ties to other families within the boundaries next time. Until then, take a stroll through the cemeteries in your neck of the woods, and enjoy what our forefathers found so irresistible about their new home.