

# Written In Stone

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## Patrick Cemetery ~ Part II

A path for horses of post riders was opened circa 1809 from middle GA to lower AL through Indian country in a section of the US previously known as the Old Southwest. This mail path was widened and rerouted several times over the next few years, creating a military lane for transportation of troops, supplies and weaponry. Originally created for soldiers, this path intersected several times with the original post roads, and became a major artery of travel for our earlier pioneers. To read more about the importance of this road, come by the library and look at "*The Federal Road through Georgia, the Creek Nation and Alabama, 1806-1836*" by Henry DeLeon Southerland, Jr. and Jerry E. Brown, published 1989 by the University of Alabama Press.

About 1818, folks were entering into the Creek Indian Territory, meandering down through the Old Federal Road, which was officially opened circa 1811, from west to east. According to many researchers, '*chances are excellent that all who trace their ancestry to anywhere in AL south of the TN valley have an ancestor who came over the Old Federal Road.*' During the time of its' maximum use, "Alabama Fever" was widespread in the Carolinas and GA with pioneers traveling this road southwestward.

Several families traveling the Old Federal Road out of the Carolinas, Georgia, and Virginia to the counties of Conecuh, Monroe and Wilcox included the Brooks, De Loach, Marshall, Patrick, Riley and Stacey ones. According to archival files, the Stacey family can trace their roots to the foothills of Spartanburg, SC, were of Norman English ancestry and were settled in SC prior to the Revolutionary War. By 1833, the Stacey's had moved into Monroe and northern Conecuh counties, raising their families near Midway.

The Riley family had come into the area circa 1818 from Edgefield District, SC and many of these families settled in the area of Midway. Sawyer and Samuel Brooks came out of Jones County, GA and when Sawyer saw the countryside of south Alabama, he convinced his brothers and in-laws, the Mitchell's, to accompany him and start a new life in AL. The Patrick Family came to AL from SC circa late 1700's, settling in Midway to build their home. This first home, built of logs, with two large bedrooms, an open hall and large separated kitchen housed this family. Three sons who married into several well-known Monroe county families, also settled near here, raising their own families. Wiley A. Patrick married Jane Permelia Brooks and they along were parents of 7 children. One of their sons, Samuel married Beatrice Stacey. Another Patrick married first a Hardee, then a Skinner. At the Old Patrick Family Cemetery located in Section 21, Township 9N, Range 10E, off of Fig Tree Road, you can find the following interred, with many unmarked graves. Nancy and Samuel Patrick; Hattie E. Stacey; Jeannette Riley Stacey; William Harvey Stacey; Emma T. Hardee; Wiley E. Skinner; S.A. Goodwin; and a Vickery, first name unknown. There are an additional 9 unknown graves here, with either broken headstones or rocks in their place for headstones.