

Written In Stone

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Evergreen Courant ~ 22 May 2008

Old Sparta Community Cemeteries – Part I

Conecuh's county seat of government was at Old Sparta from 1818 until 1868, when it was removed to the present day community of Evergreen. Sparta won the designation of the county seat after the struggle between Hampden Ridge and those from the old Indian village turned town, after the settlement of the area by Richard Warren and others. According to Riley's History of Conecuh, Malachi Warren acquired 80 acres of land and built a log cabin on the spot where, afterwards, stood the Rankin House. This cabin was reputed to be the first building erected at the site of Old Sparta, which at that period of time, had not been honored with its' classic name. Malachi also opened a mercantile establishment, and began improvements to the area later known as the Cary Plantation. In 1819, it was determined to erect a court house on the east side of Murder Creek, and the place chosen was Sparta. In 1825, a Land Office was established at Sparta.

For years, the site of the actual town of Sparta has been argued by citizens and historians, archaeologists, foresters, hunters, and property owners. Likewise, the site of the earliest burial grounds has also been in controversy. Due to courthouse fires in 1868, 1875, 1885 and 1895, considerable records were lost that might have helped prove where both the town and the old burial grounds were actually located, and who might have been residents of both.

Over the next few weeks, we'll take a journey back in time to the days of Old Sparta to discover some of the old burial grounds where many of our first leaders and their families might have been interred; as well as those who have still always called Old Sparta home.