

Written In Stone

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Old Sparta Hill Cemetery

The Sparta Hill Cemetery is located in Township 5 North, Range 11 East, Section 5, on land accessed by permission only. The cemetery is known locally as Old Sparta Cemetery; however, the original Sparta Cemetery probably sits back further into the woods than this cemetery still in use by mostly African American citizens of the Sparta community today. The first known interment in this cemetery possibly occurred about 1923; with the names of Gross, Roche, Sanders, Scott, and Whittle common to this cemetery. Several years ago, the cemetery was fully enclosed by a chain-link fence, and can be accessed with permission of the property owners. Many of the graves appear to be unmarked mounds of dirt, some unmarked slabs and a few that are well marked. Even though over half of the cemetery appears to be unused space, we believe that there may be more of this cemetery that has been eradicated over time and no signs remain today. As was the custom in early burial times, many of those buried here could be both black and white, as well as Native American. Without proper documentation such as death certificates or burial records, we may never know for certainty.