

Written In Stone

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Old Sparta Community Cemeteries

Sparta was the capital city of the once grand old Conecuh, whose territory extended north to Wilcox County and south to the Florida line. Conecuh once embraced hundreds of acres of the finest pinelands of South Alabama; dotted with some of the most magnificent farms in the state, and the hospitality of the people of Sparta was known far and wide. The public roads leading out of the square of the county seat led to Belleville, Evergreen, Old Town and Brooklyn. Residences along the Brooklyn Road included John D. Cary and Judge A.D. Cary, P.P. Powell, Mrs. A. Autrey, Mrs. Henderson, Dr. & Mrs. John Henderson, Judge J.M. Henderson, R.C. Howard, Dan & Harris Dodson, and S.C. Hancock. On or near the intersection of the roads to the square were the business establishments of S.C. Hancock, George Robbins, Thomas Brothers & Travis, James M. Stuck & others. These and a few others comprised practically the entire population within the 'corporate limits' of Sparta, save the fifty or so slaves of the old families still in residence [1937]. The people of the community would meet in the old Masonic Hall, dancing the hours away, as many of the townsmen played the fiddle. As the town died, many of the residents moved away into other communities, those mentioned above, or into the newer county seat of Evergreen.

If these people were still residents of Conecuh County at the time of their death, indeed we would probably find them interred in the cemetery lots surrounding the community in which they resided. The known cemeteries of Old Sparta includes, but not limited to, Old Sparta; A.D. Cary Plantation, Sparta Hill, Old Beulah, New Hope, Greater Nazarene, and Warren Family Cemetery. Many of these cemeteries only exist through documentation of records, family Bibles, or legend. During the War Between the States, Conecuh had its' only confrontation with the Union in 1865 with the depot and jail of Sparta being burned; and in 1866, the Sparta Courthouse was burned. Sparta went back to the dust from which it had risen, and today, there is practically no sign of the bustling community which once served Conecuh.