

Written In Stone

By Sherry Johnston

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Greater Nazarene Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery ~ Part I

Wandering along the old roads leading in and out of Old Sparta community, you invariably come into the community of Nymph which is along CR 85. There are several families today who call Nymph home. In all my research, I've yet to come across the origin of the name, so would like to hear from some of the old-timers of the community as to why it's called Nymph.

One of the oldest and still active churches in the area is the Greater Nazarene Missionary Baptist Church, having been established in the community some 140 years ago. They moved into a new building in 2004, having been in their old church for most of the life of the community. The cemetery is located approximately 6 1/2 miles south of Evergreen on the Nymph Road. From Evergreen, you would travel approximately 5 miles on CR 29 South, then, turn right on CR 85 for about 1 1/2 miles. The cemetery is located in T4 N, R11 E, and Section 3; is numbered #100-SE in the UA Historical Atlas of Cemeteries by Location, and listed as a black cemetery of approximately 120 graves.

In researching the families of those interred there, the earliest known grave belonged to a Thomas Ferguson, who passed away in 1903. In the book by Del Jupiter, entitled "Augustina of Spanish West Florida & Her Descendants" the Ferguson line is outlined, with the family of Thomas included. I found a Tom Ferguson in the 1900 Conecuh Census, living as head of household, born in 1855, and he's 44 at the time with wife Lille, and 7 children, ranging in age from 13 to 1 year of age. Later, in 1910 Census, the head of household, Tom is missing; however, some of his children are accounted.

In many of the transcriptions of cemeteries for our Headstone books, we only glean the information from the headstones in the burial grounds; however, if one would only consult the census books, we could fill in the gaps for those lying buried in the cemetery, with only a name on the stone. If you're interested in learning how to look up your family tree, give me a call at The Evergreen Public Library at 251.578.2670 and we'll work on the families together who helped shape our communities here in Conecuh.