

Written In Stone

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Evergreen Courant ~ 24 July 2008

Cedar Creek Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery

Continuing along from Old Sparta community, in the outlying areas of the section lies another community settled quite early; this community is that of Cedar Creek established circa 1830. Cedar Creek is located about 6 miles east of Castleberry on the Castleberry to Brooklyn Farm Road or CR 6. When the first settlers to the area began to arrive, they had great appreciation for the lovely cedar trees located along a rippling stream. The name of Cedar Creek came naturally with such beauty. Some of the first settlers to the area included Albreast, Baggett, Benefield, Clark, Hardin, Johnston, Jossey, Kirkland, Langford, Monk, Shipp, Simmons, Taylor, and Weaver. They came from the Carolinas, Germany, Houston County and other areas.

Before there were church buildings, many held service under the trees, a brush arbor, or log structures serving double duty as a school, or store. The first church was begun about 1866 in a one room log building named Cedar Creek Missionary Baptist Church; charter members were Mr. Richard Conner and Mr. M.C. Kirkland. Several other structures were built at various times throughout the churches' history, with one in 1958 being a brick building. To the left of the church is a large cemetery where members of the church and community are buried. According to a handwritten history of the church, the first person buried in the cemetery was a little girl, Ella Cockran, who died from burns. In the Alabama Atlas of Cemeteries by Location, and the Conecuh Headstones Volume 2, the first known burial was that of Laura Kirkland, (1864-1867).

The Cemetery is located in Township 4N, Range 11E, and Section 26 and is listed as #105-SE on the Atlas Map. For more history on the early settlement of Cedar Creek, various family histories can be read, such as 'The Conners of Conecuh County' by Thomas Conner, Jr., and 'The History of Cedar Creek'. These documents can be found at The Evergreen-Conecuh County Public Library.