

# Written In Stone

*By Sherry Johnston*

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## Searching for Cemeteries

Searching for cemeteries is sometimes like looking for a needle in a haystack. Many times, I've ridden by one 'hidden in plain sight', and until one of you pointed it out to me, I'd have kept riding by, never knowing its' existence. The last few years, as a member of the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance, I've tried to identify those which are listed in the Alabama Historical Atlas of Cemeteries as 'Unknown' or "not plotted". Several of them, I'm glad to say, have now been identified, but for every one identified, there are that many more still not named or located.

Every column or so, I request help in getting the word out, to ensure that the cemeteries that are hidden away, either in the landholdings, or in your memories, get named, located, preserved and restored, if at all possible.

Of the some 300+ cemeteries located in Conecuh County, in the previous atlas, there were 7 that were of 'unknown name' and at least half of those have now been identified, given a name, and information has been collected. Of the others which are listed in the atlas as 'cemeteries of uncertain location', there were about 45 cemeteries; of these, I can now say that the location has been determined of over three-quarters of these as well, and histories have been collected about these graveyards thanks to our readers.

The resource information used is invaluable, such as the Conecuh Headstones, Volumes 1-3; historical quarterlies; websites; family memoirs; census records; etc We always will need your help in identifying, locating, and recording these cemeteries, so don't hesitate to give me a call about one—I might already have the information, and I might not. There's always so much to learn from the stories in each and every one, and I know that each one of you have a story to tell.

The Conecuh Headstone books don't always have the same ones as the Historical Cemetery Atlas, or they're known as a different name in the publications, so if you have any information about the various spellings, or names of a cemetery, or would be interested in helping me out, please give me a call at 251/578-2670 or email me, with Cemetery Search in the subject line at [canebrakesociety@yahoo.com](mailto:canebrakesociety@yahoo.com)