

Written In Stone

By Sherry Johnston

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Cunningham Cemetery ~ Part II

The Cunningham name is and should be well known in Conecuh, as one of the Cunningham men moved his family here in 1891 from Tunnel Springs, Monroe County, Alabama. He was the son of Dr. William Cunningham and Sarah Fox Cunningham, born about 1849 in Old Scotland near Kempville, now known as Tunnel Springs. He married first to Sallie Perryman in 1874 and they had 8 sons and one daughter. One of his granddaughters later restored the Old Cunningham Family Cemetery at Old Scotland.

John Cunningham, Sr. wrote an essay entitled "Early Recollections of Burnt Corn, Monroe County, Ala." which was published in the September 1938 edition of The Evergreen Courant. He writes about several of the families who lived in the Burnt Corn community, leaders of social, economic and religious factions, lending their names to schools, churches, and various establishments. Surnames mentioned in the article included Fowler, Cunningham, Mosley, Green, Lett, Clingman, Daughette, Duke, Lee, Nash, Betts, Watkins and Crook. He also included information about the earlier schools, post offices and churches.

In an article in 1893, there was mention of an old colored woman in Evergreen named Hannah Fox, who had been 'in the family' of Dr. Cunningham some 80 years, having nursed four generations of children. "Old Aunt Hannah" was the mother, grandmother, and great grandmother of more than 200 children. Could she have been in the family of Sarah Fox who later married Dr. William Cunningham? In the 1850 Conecuh Census, Mary Fox, Sarah's mother is living with Sarah, Dr. Cunningham and family.

When Mrs. Sarah Fox Cunningham was celebrating her 90th birthday, an article about their family appeared in the newspaper of the day. It stated that she was born on 2 March 1823 and was the only child of John and Mary Fox, pioneer citizens of Monroe County. She celebrated this birthday at the home of her son, John Cunningham of Evergreen. Her marriage to Dr. William Cunningham, a widower with three sons, is mentioned; as well as her memories of the 1860's when she supervised the many servants of their household in spinning and weaving clothes for the 'boys who wore the gray'. After celebrating yet another birthday on May 2, 1914, she passed away and was taken back home to the family burying grounds and interred beside her late husband, and her parents.

For more information about the Cunningham Family, visit the genealogical section of The Evergreen-Conecuh County Public Library located temporarily at 690 West Front St., Evergreen, AL