

Written In Stone

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Welcome Cemetery – Part I

The fall weather conditions are perfect for canvassing and exploring our rural cemeteries. The gnats are almost gone, mosquitoes are not as prevalent, there's a gentle breeze along with the scents and colors of autumn present everywhere.

Sunday found me visiting several cemeteries in the NE section of Conecuh County, all near or above the Travis Bridge area: Welcome; Antioch and New Home Church cemeteries. Everywhere I visited, I kept coming up against some of the same family names. Surnames like Books, Browder, Coleman, Hooks, Howell, Matthews, Merritt, McIntyre, Philyaw, Presley, Pruett, Quates, Sheffield, Travis and many others can be found here.

A place where my two youngest have spent many happy hours was at the River Springs Campground, where they either attended as youth or staffed the Woodmen of the World Youth Camp every year. Just adjacent to the campground is the Welcome Methodist Church Cemetery. This cemetery is located in T6N, R11E, Section 29. In the "Historical Atlas of Alabama, Vol. 2, Cemeteries by Location" this cemetery is listed as # 120-NE.

According to the Atlas, the earliest known grave belongs to Mary Ray (1816-1869).