

Written In Stone

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Welcome Cemetery – Part II

A few months ago, I started researching those interred in the Welcome Cemetery located in Beat 8 of Conecuh County. Looking for Adam Henry Presley's grave had led me to Welcome, since so many of his children and descendants are buried in either Welcome or Antioch, and New Home Church cemeteries. The earliest known grave, as previously identified, belongs to Mary Ray, born 1816 and died 1869. The other Ray Family members buried there include a Robert F. Ray, born 1826 and died in 1898. One is John R. Ray, and he was born in 1893, died in 1959 and he served as a Private of Company B, 321 Infantry in WWI. There is a baby girl named Gertrude Ray, born and died in 1905; she lived barely 7 months, and was the daughter of A.M. Ray. I am still looking for the parentage of Mary Ray, or whom she was married to.

Besides the Ray and Presley families of Welcome community is another well-known family: the Travis Family. Mark Augustus Travis lived in the Welcome or Travis Bridge community; he was a contractor, lumberman, served on the County Commission, and also was elected as the first Chairman of the Board of Revenue. He was instrumental in getting US 31 built as a road in his area, along with Travis Bridge built over the Sepulga River. Mark Travis served in his community as an advisor, helping settle disputes over land lines, and other legal matters for his neighbors. At Welcome Cemetery, there lies buried many members of the Travis family. The members of this community might have worshipped at Welcome or Antioch churches; attended school at Welcome School which operated from about 1923 through 1928; and they probably frolicked in the Sepulga River; getting baptized there; and took their corn and had it ground in the nearby Alexander Grist Mill; and bought their groceries at Ray Brother's Store. Members of the Travis family married into the Coxwell; Brown; and Alexander families. Many of these are interred at the Welcome Cemetery.

If you know of how other families connect, and would share that information with me, please give me a call at 251/578-2670 Monday thru Friday.