

Written In Stone

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Green Street Church Graveyards – Part II

Visiting the Green Street AME Zion Church cemeteries a few weeks ago, have had me combing census records and family histories to discover the connections of all the families interred in three separate burial grounds on, or near the church on CR 9.

Several family researchers have been most helpful to share their information, so I don't get involved in the wrong family tree! Many of those families interred there in the cemeteries all had roots from slave families who farmed and worked the lands surrounding the settlement of Green Street, Burnt Corn, Puryearville, Harpers' Store, and other communities.

The second Green Street AME Zion burial ground is across the road from the church, on a small hillside, covered in about 71 graves, many from the late 1930's through '60's and to present day. One of the oldest graves found was for a Martha Ann Salter, born 27 Sep 1875 and died 12 March 1929. She was 54 years old at the time of her death, and perhaps she was the wife of another gentleman found there in the cemetery: Mr. Travis Salter, who supposedly died at the age of 106 years old on 21 April 1947. In researching for Travis Salter and his family, I discovered him in the census years for Conecuh all the way back to 1870, and succeeding years after that, with a wife, Martha and children up till 1930 at aged 70; and Mr. Travis is widowed by that time.

The earliest census I found him with wife, Martha, was 1900 in Precinct 3, Mill Beat, and they'd been married 2 years and had a daughter, Lula. One of the daughters, Lucy A. (possibly named for her grandmother, Lucy Salter) was born about 1902 and died in 1992. She is buried at this cemetery, and on her grave is listed 'an expert quilt maker.'

Her obituary listed her as being the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Travel Salter of Conecuh.

Next week, we'll review some of the other families buried here that were neighbors; family; and friends in this close-knit neighborhood, so involved in their church and community.