

# Written In Stone

*By: Sherry Johnston*

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## Jacob Family Cemetery

Again, I welcome the assistance of Ms. Linda Lett, who has been researching African American cemeteries here in Conecuh and Monroe Counties, AL to guest-write for Written in Stone.

Every community has its own history. Just off Interstate 65 in the Fairview area of Evergreen on Highway 84 East is a small church and cemetery. Residents live a stone's toss to this cemetery which is affectionately known as the Jacob's cemetery by members of the community. I was escorted by Sally Thomas, a resident of the Highway 84 west area. She suggested that we solicit further assistance from Ms. Bernice, who is related to Sally's husband, Leroy. Ms. Bernice's daughter, Gussie, kindly greeted us. After a friendly introduction, Ms. Bernice remained quiet yet attentive while we asked her questions pertaining to the church and cemetery.

Ms. Bernice began by clarifying that the cemetery belonged to the Jacob family. And Jacob Cemetery has a rather unique story behind it. Annie Jacobs, her aunt, and Mrs. Gussie Crosby Jacobs, her mother, knew the story well because they actually donated the Jacob Cemetery property to the Oldfield African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Both are currently buried there. Oldfield was originally located on CR 58, where Fairview COGIC church currently stands. Oldfield bears over 110 years of history. The Jacob cemetery has twenty grave markers in the cemetery, yet only five were marked—Alvin Jacobs (1921-1955), Burnice Jacob (1895-1961), Laura Franklin Thomas (1872-1940), Thomas (1874-1944); and Keziance Floyd who was born and died on the same day, September 10, 2005. Ms. Burnice Jacobs Woods, d/o Gussie Crosby Jacobs and Burnice Jacobs, provided details on the remaining fifteen markers. Of Ms. Bernice's siblings-- Alvin, Evelyn, Calvin (who dies as an infant), and Alonzo-- are buried there. Their mother, Gussie Crosby Jacobs, and father, Burnice Jacobs, are also buried there. Ms. Bernice, d/o Burnice Jacobs, informed us that her father's parent, Lizzie Jacobs and Alex Jacobs, are also buried there. Katie Jacobs, wife of Alvin, is buried there. Katie and Alvin were also active members of Oldfield AMEZ Church—she was a secretary and he was a trustee.

Every year a member of the Jacob family will address the congregation during the church's anniversary. They speak of the history and influence of the Jacob family. I was indeed humbled to help honor the stories of so many, especially with the last member of a family that has had such an impact on the Fairview and Evergreen communities.

For additional information, please contact Linda Lett at [lettstalk2001@yahoo.com](mailto:lettstalk2001@yahoo.com) or by calling 404.406.6899.