

# Written In Stone

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## **New Haven Church of Christ Cemetery – Part I**

The New Haven Church of Christ organized in the summer of 1942, with initial organizers of the church being R. L. Huffman and G.C. Reynolds, Sr. Huffman preached the very first sermon in the new church. Prior to construction of a sanctuary, 30 or so members attended services in private homes. This cemetery and church are located on Old Wells Mill Road off CR 13 and CR 30, in NW Conecuh County, not too far off of the Old Federal Road.

Earlier in Conecuh history, around 1820 or so, many of the families who settled on the banks of the Sepulga, encountered several hardships from frequent flooding, swampy fields for their cattle, and fevers which decimated entire families. Looking for a healthier lifestyle and a prosperous new beginning, these families moved further away from the river, and named their new home, “Prosperity”. By 1895, Prosperity had been renamed “Skinnerton” and family names of Davis, Fields, Booker, Raines, and Salter can all be found in many of the cemeteries that dot this part of the county.

Within the fenced in area of the cemetery across the road from New Haven Church of Christ, you will find about 54 graves, dating from the earliest one of a Jim Davis, born 1893 and died 1923 up to Johnny Ray Mooney, born 1943 and died 2007. There are many unmarked graves, some significantly marked with deer antlers; a tiny garden of pansies, tended by loving hands; or elaborated hand carved markers signifying the love that the surviving family had for their loved one now gone.

In the initial survey of this cemetery in January 2009, we discovered a ‘bench-mark’ noting the date and exact elevation of this ‘fixed point’ in Conecuh County. I’ve only had the opportunity to locate one before now, and was thrilled to discover another one here in Conecuh. For more information about bench-marking, check out the following website-- <http://www.answers.com/topic/united-states-geological-survey> and learn more about the USGS. Next week, we’ll talk about more of the family names found in this cemetery as well as at the New Home Church of Christ Cemetery located on AL 83 North.