

Written In Stone

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Puryearville Cemetery

Two weeks ago, I wrote concerning some cemeteries of uncertain location and name. One was identified as the "Privell" Cemetery in the 1937 edition of *The Courant*, and was supposedly located near Burnt Corn. I couldn't find anything close to that name in any of the books or materials available here in the library, so decided to ask my readers if they were familiar with where this person was buried and what the actual name of the cemetery happened to be.

Mr. Arthur Raines of the Fairnelson community came through for me with an answer. The cemetery in question is actually the "Puryearville" Cemetery, which is located near the site of the Puryearville Methodist Church, organized about 1820. This church, according to the late Mary E. Brantley in her book: "Settlers along the Old Federal Road in Monroe & Conecuh County Alabama" states that the church actually started out as a Society near Burnt Corn in 1820. The earliest members of the church were Isaac Betts, George Watson and a Mrs. Puryear. The cemetery consists of two acres of land deeded to the church trustees in 1843 by Richard C. 'Dick' Puryear. According to the Alabama Historical Atlas of Cemeteries published by the University of Alabama: the first known interment was a Bonnette Infant about 1859; however, this is disproved below by another entry. Others in the cemetery include family names of Betts, Brantley, Green, Henderson, Lee, Lowrey, Puryear and Rumbley, among others mentioned in the cemetery surveys found both online and in Mrs. Brantley's book.

Many times, I've had people ask me why certain families chose to be buried in this cemetery or that one, and reading Mrs. Brantley's book about one lady being buried there gives us all an answer. The oldest marked grave in the cemetery shows up as Mrs. Juliet Susan Moore, wife of the Reverend W.M. Moore, and she requested to be buried in this spot because of its' beauty. The church and land was described as being in a beautiful, serene setting because of the trees, and simple lines of the architecture.

Next week, we'll share more about this historic cemetery and the families who are buried there.