

Written In Stone

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Bowman Cemetery – Part II

Modes of transportation have played key roles in the growth of our counties and state. For both Conecuh and Escambia, this can be seen in the histories of our early trails, post and plank roads suitable for horse, ox-cart and wagon travel; our navigable streams and rivers for canoe, flat & keel boats; and our railway systems which split all of our major towns and communities in both areas. Since Escambia County was still within the boundaries of Conecuh till 1868, Canoe Station, Pollard and Brewton were one county throughout the war (1861-65). The railroad played an integral role during wartime—enabling supplies for our troops and communities ravaged by war. The opposing forces made every effort to destroy rails, depots, supply houses, etc during this time, and even Canoe was the site of a March 27, 1865 encampment of Union forces. It was from Canoe Station that Lt. Col. Andrew Spurling wrote his superiors of his successful raids on Gravella (Owassa), Sparta, Brooklyn, Andalusia and his arrival in Pollard.

The 1870s brought the reconstruction era as families recovered; soldiers returned home; widows raised the families and the pioneer spirit once again prevailed. Mrs. A.M. Lowery, Evansville pioneer, had to seize the opportunities that the railroads provided—she and her sons helped supply wood as fuel for the steam engines that still made frequent trips up and down the rails along present-day US 31. Families married into families, bringing familiar names into the communities along this highway. You will find these names presently interred at Bowman and other cemeteries along the wooded communities. At the Bowman Cemetery, one grave house still stands today covering

the remains of the Moyer Family, as several family members married into other family lines there at Wawbeek, Sardis and Canoe. Families from Conecuh settled in northern sections of Escambia County, FL and eventually back into sections of Escambia County AL—you will find them interred at Bowman, Sardis, and Canoe cemeteries. For a complete listing of those interments, check the archives section of The Evergreen-Conecuh County Public Library. Other families that have ties to these areas include the Mullins, Pyburn, Shepard, Smith, and Tolen. There are many new graves in this cemetery, included in the old family plots of those who were the early pioneers of Conecuh-Escambia County.