

Written In Stone

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Sardis Cemetery – Part I

Sardis Baptist Church Cemetery is located about 5 miles south of Flomaton on US 31 South at the Wawbeek community in Township 1 North, Range 7 East, in sections 22 and 23. The last recorded cemetery survey, published in *Headstones and Heritages of Escambia County*, was dated 1972. At that time, there were 430 burials. The oldest known headstone was recorded as being that of Frances A. Miles, wife of Burgess Miles, Sr. who was born 17 May 1826 and died 22 July 1894 at the age of 68 years, 2 months and 5 days. Her headstone reads as from a child to its' mother: "*Mother, I love thy grave! The violet blooms blue and mild waves o'er thy head. When shall it wave above thy child?*"

Next to Frances Miles is her spouse, Burgess Miles, Sr. who was born 27 November 1825 and died 21 November 1903 at the age of 77 years, 11 months, and 25 days. His headstone reads "*Where crystal stream thru' endless years flow over golden sands, and where the old grow young again, I'll clasp my father's hands.*"

This cemetery is well over 500+ graves today, with several new acres of land added through the years to accommodate the growing population; though the church has fallen in membership attendance, like so many other rural churches. The siblings, the children, the relatives do 'come home again' if only to be buried where they once worshipped with their families.

Some of the families found interred here were once inhabitants of the Duck Creek community in Northwestern Conecuh County, around the Concord Church area--you will find the Cooper, Creamer, Dobbs, Etheridge, Gilmore, and Kendrick families that traveled along the Old Federal Road down into Conecuh, venturing further south into the northwest Florida areas to settle on the 'other' side of the line once more where they now lay in eternal rest, either at the Bowman or Sardis Cemeteries in Escambia County, AL.