

Written In Stone

By: Sherry Johnston

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Sardis Cemetery – Part II

Continuing on with our exploration of the families who settled the Old Federal Road, inhabited the communities along Duck Creek and the Sepulga Rivers, moving down into Escambia County Alabama and into parts of NW Florida, buried along the Wawbeek community areas, we find the descendants of the Etheridge family of Conecuh. Sardis Baptist Church Cemetery is also the final resting place of those who once frolicked along the creek banks of the Sepulga, lived in the proper town of Evergreen, possibly attended school at the Evergreen Academy, Southwest Agricultural School, lived and worked in various positions both in Conecuh and Escambia County, as well as their father, the matriarch of the family serving as Sheriff at one time.

George Washington Etheridge married Mary Elizabeth Cromartie in 1874 in Monroe County. In the 1900 Conecuh Census, she is shown as having had 11 children and 8 were living at the time. At this time, they lived in the Town of Evergreen. It would be their oldest daughter, Maranda Daisy, who married Peter Horn of Escambia County. Maranda was obviously named for George's mother, Miranda Etheridge, who lived with George and Mary at that time, as well as a brother, Allen F, for whom also a son was named.

At Sardis, there are headstones for Jonathan Nick Etheridge, Sr., born to George and Mary, born in Sep 1884 and died in Feb 1971; Allen B., another son, born Nov 1883 and died Jul 1922; Maranda D. Etheridge Horn, born Apr 1880 and died Nov 1941; Peter Horn, born Jul 1884 and died Dec 1920; Allen Fillmore Etheridge, brother of George W. Etheridge, born Aug 1852 and died Oct 1933; Ola Etheridge McNeill's husband, David W. McNeill, born 1876 & died 1948—Ola was the daughter of Mary E. & George W. Etheridge; as well as Emma Etheridge's husband, Neal Leatherwood, who was born in Aug 1884 and died in Aug 1948.

According to the census records found, George and Mary started off their married life in the Sepulga Beat of Conecuh; found in other census records closer to Evergreen, then by 1920 and 30, Mary Elizabeth Cromartie Etheridge is a widow living with their children in Canoe, Escambia County, Ala. George died May 19, 1902 in Evergreen of Typhoid Fever, and was buried at Asbury Methodist Church Cemetery. He was serving as Sheriff of Conecuh County in 1900.