

# Written In Stone

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## McConnell Cemetery ~ Part II

Saturday afternoon found me wandering the stones in the old McConnell Cemetery in Brewton AL, looking for more clues to the families interred there. There were broken bottles, accumulated pine straw and grass clippings covering many of the graves; and a general unkempt appearance for the majority of the cemetery.

Clustered in groups were the grave markers, many of them broken, for Gideon Mayo and his wife, Sarah Mayo. According to Mrs. Annie Waters' book on Escambia County history, there was a Gideon Mayo, son of Mark Mayo, born about 1833; however, little to no information seems to be available on this Gideon.

Adjacent to them was the grave of W.H. Ellis, born 1816 and died 1899. A little further apart were the two graves belonging to Margaret Jane Smith Hodges, born 1827 and died 1907; and a son, Willie F. Hodges, born 1861 and died 1904. A little further apart were the six headstones for members of the Ogletree family: Warren L., born 1830 & died 1903; his wife, Sallie A., who might have been an Ellis, born 1844 & died 1926; and sons. Warren is born in GA, lives in Tallapoosa Co., AL until his wife is found on the census in Escambia Co., AL. Their neighbors include many of the same names found in the graveyard, giving me the ideas that not only were they neighbors in death, so were they in life. One L.W. Ogletree born 1863 died last in 1948. There are the four unmarked slabs; perhaps these are of the McConnell children who supposedly died in a house fire, and their parents. Stuck off to one side is a veteran of the Spanish-American War, Corpl. Frederick S. Barnhisel, born 1878 and died 1926. It is Barnhisel that has the oldest documented proof that this cemetery was called McConnell Cemetery.

In the 1910 Federal Census for Pueblo CO, I found a Fred Barnhisel, born 1878 in OH, widowed, lodging with a family, along with two young children, Inez & Loma Barnhisel.

Then, there are a couple of others such as Sumpter O'Guynn, born 1854 and died 1884. In the 1860 Monroe County Census in the Burnt Corn Post Office, there was a Sumpter O'Guynn, aged 6 years old which would fit this Sumpter. In the book for Escambia County Cemeteries, "Headstones and Heritages of Escambia County, AL" there is a Sumpter O'Guynn born in 1885 and died in 1907 buried in the May Creek Methodist Church Cemetery, so there might be a connection to 'our Sumpter' buried at McConnell. In the Escambia County Heritage book, there is recorded that Sumpter was married to Mary Rebecca Bell, daughter of Jackson Bell, of our own Bellville, Conecuh, AL.

In researching the CSA graves, I did find a record for an S.H. Pitts, who served in the 34<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry, Company I. This could be 'our Samuel H. Pitts' found buried at McConnell.

