

Written In Stone

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McGowin Cemetery – Part I

Venturing further south towards the communities of Brooklyn and Damascus found us visiting the Albreast Cemetery off CR 6; and down towards US 29 between Brooklyn and Andalusia, we visited the McGowin Cemetery near the McGowin Bridge. Following the lives of those born and raised in Conecuh County, until the establishment of Escambia County, we found the families of Cullin Blow, Reuben Hart, children of Uriah Blacksher, the McGowin families and their descendants.

This cemetery is actually comprised of two separate plots—one for the Blacksher and Blow families; the other for the Hart, Mason, McGowin and Parker families, and those married into the McGowin from the Blow side of the family. The cemetery is well kept, fenced and on private property. The earliest marked grave appears to be the daughters of Uriah & Mattie E. Blacksher, one born and died in Sept 1878 & the other in Sept 1879. The next one would be that of Cullin Blow, born in Wayne County, NC in 1810 and died in Escambia County, AL in 1881. His wife, Celia, was born in SC and died in Butler County, AL in 1884.

The Blow family owned land in Conecuh County and there are family members on the Conecuh Census as early as 1820. A son of Cullin and Celia was John W. Blow, born in Conecuh County on 5 March 1844, and died in Jackson County, FL on 13 Jan 1887. He was listed as a farmer and a physician on much of the census records during his lifetime. He married Mattie G. Funderburk of Butler County, AL 13 November 1867, and they had several children, the girls of which had names like Sparta, Athens, or Genevieve. In the 1910 Census for Jackson County, FL Mrs. Mattie Blow is listed as widowed, with her five children living at home, daughter Sparta is a school teacher; son John is a pharmacist, son Edwin is a lawyer, son Eugene is a book keeper and daughter Florida has no occupation at age 18.