

Written In Stone

By: Sherry Johnston

Evergreen Courant ~ 27 August 009

McGowin Cemetery – Part II

Many of the places we visit or live in are named after the folks who settled the communities before us. We have no way of knowing this unless you're inquisitive like I am and want to know the how, the why, the when and what of everything! I am always learning something, not only from the questions I pose; also, I learn from the ones who call me to ask me about names mentioned in the stories I write. So, it's always enlightening to have my readers share with me some little tidbit of information that will help me piece together the fabric of our shared lives.

The Alexander Blacksher family migrated from Germany to NC; GA & into AL. A son, Abraham was born sometime thereafter and his son, Abraham Blacksher, Jr had a son named Jephtha, circa 1807 in Washington Co., GA who married Martha Mayo, and he died in 1886 in Escambia County, AL. It is one of their sons who has the two daughters buried in the Blow Family Plot of the McGowin Cemetery off Hwy 29 in Escambia County, AL. James Uriah Blacksher, I, son of Jephtha & Martha Mayo, was a lumberman, married Martha E. McGowin and had four children, two of which are buried side by side in this cemetery. James Uriah Blacksher is for whom Uriah, Monroe County, AL is named. His brother, David W. born 1841 and died 1901 was also married to a McGowin and they were in business together. Children so named in Mrs. Annie Waters' book on the History of Escambia County are Mattie Idell Blacksher born 16 Oct 1870 and died at age 4; Erasmus Manford Blacksher born 4 Aug 1878 and died 23 Apr 1957; Margaret Elizabeth Blacksher; and a twin that died in infancy. James Uriah and Martha E. McGowin Blacksher are buried at the Historic Union Cemetery, along with their son, Erasmus M., and his wife, Mary Cockrell Blacksher.

The Blacksher family shows up in the 1850 & 1860 Conecuh Census; along with landholdings both in Escambia and Conecuh Counties. They are associated with the following families: Blow; Evans; Hart; Mason; McGowin and Parker, all of whom you might find one or several of these family members interred in this cemetery.